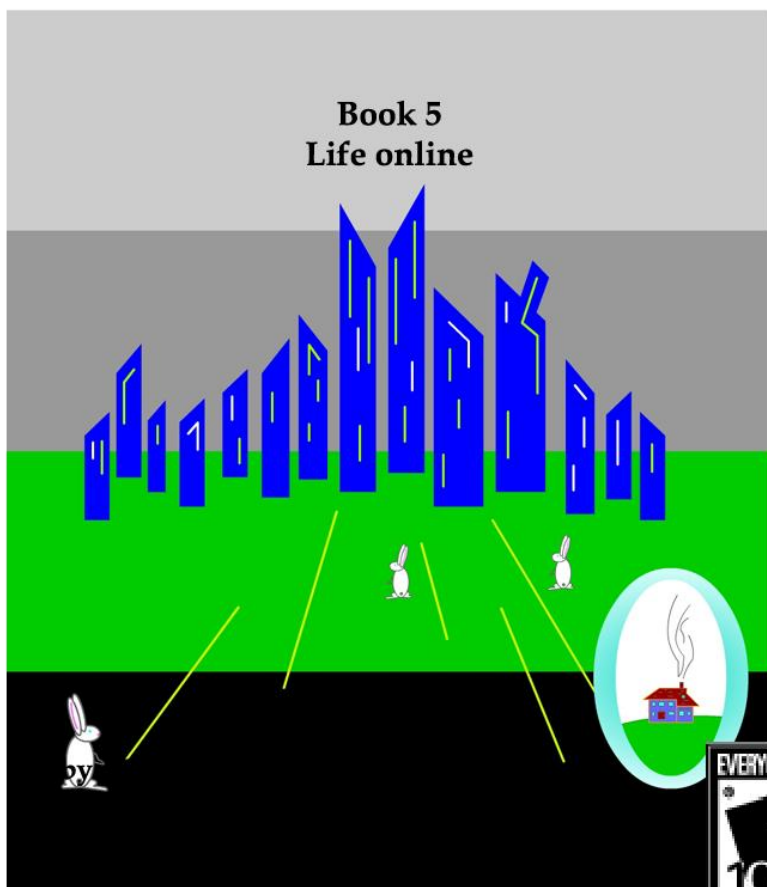


EPIC FAIL

The Journal of a Homeless Gamer

Book 5 Life online



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Epic Fail
The Journal of a Homeless Gamer

Book 5
Life online

By rabb1t
aka Eric Stryker

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Current e-published version – <http://www.rabb1t.com/epicfail/epicfail5pdf.pdf>

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Day 1669 – 1/25 – Another sad day

Day 1670 – 1/26 – Friends for 3 minutes

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Day 1710 – 3/7 – Throwing up
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Week 247

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Day 1731 – 3/28 – Stealth cold
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Day 1734 – 3/31 – Bunny day, but no party
Day 1735 – 4/1 – Almost shorts time
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Day 1740 – 4/6 – Was always lonely
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Day 1764 – 4/30 – Locked in time

Week 253

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Day 1766 – 5/2 – Feeling better, feeling sicker

Day 1767 – 5/3 – Of islands, bows, and ziplines

Day 1768 – 5/4 – A movie

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Day 1771 – 5/7 – Still hurting

Week 254

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Day 1773 – 5/9 – Should have napped

Day 1774 – 5/10 – Nap time

Day 1775 – 5/11 – Lonely day of shows

Day 1776 – 5/12 – An unspecial pizza

Day 1777 – 5/13 – Overly hungry

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Week 255

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Day 1780 – 5/16 – Just a Thursday

Day 1781 – 5/17 – Missing the friends

Day 1782 – 5/18 – Movie day

Day 1783 – 5/19 – Ok day

Day 1784 – 5/20 – Nothing lost

Day 1785 – 5/21 – Strange weather

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Picture series 32

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Day 1797 – 6/2 – Hot day I missed

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Day 1801 – 6/6 – Sore ass

Day 1802 – 6/7 – A Friday off

Day 1803 – 6/8 – Ten degrees hotter

Day 1804 – 6/9 – Short unexpected work

Day 1805 – 6/10 – Sniffles and sneezes

Day 1806 – 6/11 – Gray day

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Day 1808 – 6/13 – Sad day
Day 1809 – 6/14 – End of a week...ish
Day 1810 – 6/15 – Just a Saturday
Day 1811 – 6/16 – Not dad's day
Day 1812 – 6/17 – Feeling like there is no future
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Day 1814 – 6/19 – Displaced seat
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Day 1816 – 6/21 – No better or worse
Day 1817 – 6/22 – A party
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Where did I see it?

Glossary and Links

buff - An in-game benefit which lasts for a certain amount of time, typically boosting statistics or abilities.

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

Champions Online - An online game involving superheroes. [Official site](#)

cheezburger - Cheezeburger. See: [I can has cheezburger](#)

DS - Nintendo DS, a handheld gaming system.

EverQuest or EQ - The first 3d MMORPG, created by 989 Studios and Verant, and distributed by Sony Online Entertainment. Often considered the 'grandfather' to MMOGs although online games (Ultima Online and Meridian 59) existed prior to it, EQ was the first one to really become 'massive' in terms of player population.

Final Fantasy Xi Online or FFXi - A Final Fantasy based MMOG. [Official site](#)

hawt - lolspeak/leetspeak for physically beautiful. Often this also includes general attractiveness.

Free Realms - A child to teen targeted MMOG by Sony Online Entertainment that will be free to download and free to play. [Official site](#)

teh Intarwebs - lolspeak/leetspeak for The Internet.

Klingon - A warrior race in Star Trek (Classic).

LEGO Universe - A child to adult targeted MMOG by NetDevil. [Official site](#)

lolspeak / leetspeak - Originally a language used to hack, and to bypass text filters, this was adopted by gamers (I believe first used in strategy games) to distract and confuse the opponent. It also creates a comradery between players. Today it has become so mainstream in gaming it is often used as a silly or fun thing between some players.

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.

Lynch, David - A director / screenwriter / producer known for making odd films / shows, often just a bit askew from what is considered 'normal life'.

Michael Westen - The main character in Burn Notice.

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.

monies - lolspeak/leetspeak for "money".

Neverwinter - An instanced MMOG set in Dungeons & Dragons 4th edition in the Forgotten Realms campaign setting.

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

nom - To eat, as in the sound you make when eating. Ex: "nom nom nom". See: [I can has cheezburger](#)

Nintendo Wii or Wii - The current Nintendo console.

PS3 - Sony Playstation 3, a console gaming system.

PSP - Sony PSP, a handheld gaming system.

Pure Pwnage - An internet show about a pro-gamer which celebrates, and kind of makes fun of, the entire industry. [Official site](#)

pwn or own - To "own", to be victorious or more successful than another person.

Rift: Planes of Telara - A fantasy MMOG offering new kinds of dynamic content and class creation by Trion Worlds, Inc. . [Official site](#)

r0x0r or roxor - lolspeak/leetspeak for "rock". As per the expression "that rocks".

sex0r - lolspeak/leetspeak for "sex".

skillz - lolspeak/leetspeak for "skills". To have "leet skillz" is to be very skillful or knowledgeable in a particular field or at a particular task.

Star Wars The Old Republic - A massively multiplayer online game by BioWare and LucasArts set in the Star Wars universe. [Official site](#)

teh - lolspeak/leetspeak for "the". Adopted into the language as it is a common typo when typing quickly or without editing.

The Secret World (aka Dark Days are Coming) - A massively multiplayer online FPS game by Funcom set in an alternate present day that mixes magic and technology. [Official site](#)

Tank or Tanking - A role in a MMOG where you are in charge of keeping the attention of critters the group is fighting. Your character has abilities and equipment that are

designed to survive taking high amounts of damage. If you fail at this role the group can quickly get killed.

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.)

Ultima X Odyssey or UXO - The next version of Ultima Online. The game was canceled and never released.

winz - lolspeak/leetspeak for "win". Ex: "Kill teh boss for teh winz."

woot - An expression of joy in lolspeak/leetspeak. Ex: "I just got free cookies, woot!"

World of Warcraft or WoW - Currently the most popular MMORPG. [Official site](#)

Xbox 360 - Microsoft Xbox 360, a console gaming system.

zomg - lolspeak/leetspeak for "oh my god".

TV show links

[24](#) on Fox

[24: Redemption](#) on Fox

[A-Team, the](#) on Hulu

[Big Bang Theory](#) on CBS

[Bones](#) on Fox

[Buffy, the Vampire Slayer](#) not aired, owned by Fox

[Burn Notice](#) on USA network

[Castle](#) on ABC

[Doctor Who](#) originally a series on BBC, now also airing on Sy-Fy (formerly Sci-Fi)

[Dollhouse](#) on Fox

[Eureka](#) on Sy-Fy (formerly Sci-Fi)

[Fringe](#) on Fox

[Ghost Hunters](#) on Sy-Fy (formerly Sci-Fi)

[Greg the Bunny](#) on iTunes and DVD

[the Guild](#) online and DVD

[Hell's Kitchen](#) on Fox

[Heroes](#) on NBC

[House](#) on Fox and USA

[How I Met Your Mother](#) on CBS

[Hulu](#) a place to watch TV shows online

[Knight Rider](#) on NBC network

[Macgyver](#) on CBS

[Monk](#) on USA network

[NCIS](#) on CBS

[No Ordinary Family](#) on ABC

[the Office](#) on NBC

[Psych](#) on USA network

[Sanctuary](#) on Sy-Fy (formerly Sci-Fi)

[Secret Diary of a Call Girl](#) on Showtime

[Supernatural](#) on the CW

[Survivor](#) on CBS

[Star Trek](#) on various networks

[Star Wars: The Clone Wars](#) on the Cartoon Network and the Star Wars website

[Stargate SG-1](#) and [Stargate Atlantis](#) on Sy-Fy (formerly Sci-Fi)

[Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles](#) on Fox

[True Blood](#) on HBO

[Twilight Zone](#) on Sy-Fy (formerly Sci-Fi)

[the Unit](#) on CBS

[Warehouse 13](#) on Sy-Fy (formerly Sci-Fi)

[WCG Ultimate Gamer](#) on Sy-Fy (formerly Sci-Fi)

Other links

[Amazon](#)

[Critical Hit: A Dungeons and Dragons Campaign](#)

[Doctor Horrible's Sing-Along Blog](#)

[euphNET \(gaming center\)](#)

[FilePlanet](#)

[Grey Area Podcast](#)

[Girl Genius](#)

[NewEgg](#)

[The Order of the Stick](#)

[Penny Arcade](#)

[Psycho Donuts](#)

[Rex Barrett and the Eye of God](#)

[the Rift Podcast](#)

[Steampunk Convention](#)

[X-Pearl](#)

Week 209

Day 1457 - 6/27 No games day

Today was ok I guess. It was kind of sad and lonely in that I didn't see friends all day. I didn't feel like gaming before work, so I just watched some shows. I went to work, and before work I did a lot of rambling on podcast 62, so that was good. At work I just spent the evening watching a movie then editing the podcast. I got word from my friend that they were playing and asked if I wanted to play, but I had almost no connection at all, so I couldn't.

It was strange not playing games today. I guess it was a combination of not having anything that really thrilled me to play alone, and feeling sad and just not wanting to play.

Hopefully I can continue to have 'enough' money for 'enough' food and 'enough' games. But as we enter the final days of year four, and as more and more time passes where I am no closer to being in a home, I wonder if I will just get more and more sad if days like today become more common. 😞

Day 1458 - 6/28 Getting ready

Today was ok I guess. I was so asleep during my nap time my snoring woke me up, hehe. 😊 I've been a bit more congested, but I'm coughing much less. I coughed a bit in the morning and that was really it. I haven't coughed since. My throat feels like it still has some of the roughness and odd taste, but I think it's finally getting better.

I ordered an external hard drive for backups. I am worried about all my media for my site; my raw podcast data and event videos. While I can take three DVDs and back up the other info, all the stuff I want to back up that I haven't in quite a while is nearing 40 gig and growing. So, I looked at some 64 gig USB drives and for the price they just weren't worth the cost since, for just a little bit more, I could get an external backup drive

that was 500 gig. It's not only a ton more space, but in theory it won't take hours to back up every time since the software would theoretically only back up the new or changed information, drastically reducing the file count. I guess we'll see. It's set to arrive tomorrow, so that is my big plan during work (to get it up and run the first backup.) I know most of the info really doesn't matter that it's backed up, as I can just pull it offline from my site, but still. I worry about losing info.

Day 1459 - 6/29

Not backing it up

Today was ok I guess. I was surprised at the number of cars at school. It was finals week and I was sure that the lot would be empty, preventing nap time. It wasn't though, and I slept pretty well. 😊

I was supposed to get my backup drive today, but something weird happened with the shipment. I checked at the ex-house at 11 and again at 4 and didn't see it either time. When I got to work the shipment thing said it was delivered at 10:50. I think I saw a truck at that time when I was there, but they didn't stop at the ex-house. So, either it was delivered to the wrong house or they delivered it at some other time. It was there when I checked after work, so I have it now. 😊 It's kind of a little sad though because my main plans for the evening was to set it up where I had lots of room and I'm not disturbed / distracted. Now if I want such conditions I have to wait until Monday. I'll probably wind up doing it at the restaurant, which is not the experience I wanted.

Tomorrow is the last day of year four. I can't think of anything else special to say. I guess in a way I've become kind of numb to it in my acceptance that I seem helpless and unable to change things without some kind of opportunity. I guess the good thing is it doesn't currently feel like I'm in a war zone. Though with all of my stuff in storage for who knows how much longer it becomes less and less useful in some ways, while my body and physical items with me can't be cared for and rot and wither around me with use, I feel like I'm on a timer running down to extinction. While life *is* a natural cycle of wear

and renewal, since I seem to have such low renewal cycles it feels like the 45ish years I should have left may never come to pass. 😞

Day 1460 - 6/30

Another ending

Today is the last day of year four. Unlike the early years, where I felt surprised and shocked, this time I'm not sure if I feel much of anything. If I do, it is a feeling that it is just another day in a string of days that seemingly have no end.

Physically I am better fed, more able to keep myself warm or cool, but I think less healthy overall. My teeth continue to be more and more terrible and a source of great sadness. While my blood pressure is under control, the fact that it is off and has to be balanced with medicine is a sad change. My weight seems to be getting worse with no sign of going back down at all. I get winded and out of breath doing... well, anything. And in recent times this cold / cough / allergies keep cycling between being mostly better and worse. (Though I think it may finally be moving towards truly being better as the odd taste seems gone and congestion is... looser.)

Emotionally... I don't know. While there are times just like a little bit ago when I played online with my friends and I felt happy and almost normal, there are times like the other 11 hours of my day today that I was alone, feeling sad, and doing things that were fun or entertaining enough, but not what I would have done if I were in a home; even a home where I lived alone.

This year's end, while I still hope for recovery, more than anything I feel like what I have is it, and it will be all I ever have. More than anything I want to go home, but this year more than others, I feel I may never have one again. 😞

Year 5

Day 1461 - 7/1 Super best friends

Today was an ok start to year 5. I was at the restaurant feeling kind of tired and sad about things. I was playing my new alone time game and one of my friends said, 'hey, we decided to get this game, want to play with us later?' And I was like, 'Yes, please. 😊'. So I got it pretty quick, but it took about two hours to patch, so I missed the window to play with my super best friends today. 😞 Now we have basically one game of each type. This game is a slower paced MMOG, we have a third person shooter, an arcade style action game, and a somewhat tactical action tower defense game. The only thing we could possibly also get would be some kind of board game, heh. So, I look forward to playing more stuff with them. I guess they had a seasonal something that was keeping them busy, and now it's done, so they should go back to their regular schedule again. 😊

It was a Sunday, so that was really it for today. I put up the last of year four this morning, which is sad. Sad story and life is sad. 😞 But I guess today was ok overall in that nothing went wrong, I have my game system, games to play, games in my budget every few months, a few places to connect that don't mind me hanging out there, I ran my first complete backup last night, and for as sad and terrible as my life is things were ok today. They don't really get much better.

Day 1462 - 7/2 Busy seeming day

Today seemed busy, though not much actually happened. I suppose there was more than usual what with my online work for my friend, updating my site with a bit of news, but the rest of the day was a normal Monday, just laundry and work.

I suppose nothing was truly different, but in the new online game I did mention my podcast to someone (they listened to a bit and said it had good sound quality and they liked it 😊) and I told a few people about my site so they could email me and talk about some computer upgrade questions they had. So, again, not as busy as my tiredness feels, just a regular sort of busy I guess.

Before work I did about eight minutes for the next podcast. And in the evening one of my friends was on and we played for a bit. I had a super awesome connection at work and could play. I can't remember the last time the connection was strong enough to play. The last month or so it wasn't even connecting at all from that location, so that was doubly unexpected.

I guess tomorrow is the end of the first (partial) week of year five. And, so far, I guess it's off to about as good of a start as I can realistically hope for.

Day 1463 - 7/3

Life calming down

Today life is calming down a bit. It's morning time but I got my nap, and don't have work. I'm back to my regular Monday and Friday only shifts. Though with it still being summer I expect I'll still get extra shifts now and then for the next few months. I only had one cough drop yesterday, which is a first in probably months, and only one so far today. I'm feeling a bit better and the cough is down to normal, though congestion is still a bit high.

With no work I look forward to a calm day of playing games, watching shows, possibly playing with friends later, and taking a look at job postings. Today seems pretty promisingly calm so far. 😊

Week 210

Day 1464 - 7/4 No games day

Today was happier than I expected. My day started too early, due to school being closed I couldn't sleep in. I went to the coffee shop and was going to play for a bit, but wound up spending all my time there patching. When I got to the restaurant I got myself a small sausage plate for the holiday. I was a bit sad about it though, thinking I'd have rather cooked the sausage on a BBQ myself, with a quiet gathering of friends, and after everyone had foods maybe we would settle in and have fun with board games and card games. With a heavy sigh I said I have no local friends, and that's just how my life is right now, and I wondered with all the goings on in the day if anyone would think of me. I figured if anyone would it would be my best friends that I play online with. I figured there were probably others too, but with all the busyness I would not be on people's minds, and I'm ok with that.

I settled in for lunch and watched a show. I was in a playing mood, so I logged in to play my new online game. It wasn't much more than about an hour later that one of my bestest friends came on and asked if I wanted to play. 😊 He said that they missed me at their BBQ (they are across the country) and they thought of me and put a plate aside for me. 😊 I almost shed a tear because it really did surprise me that someone thought of me today at their party (even though it was the ones who I figured would, which should not have surprised me.)

So, I had a pretty good day compared to what I thought it would be. I got to be somewhere I could play. I played a bit with one of my friends, and although I am one of a few who has noone to be with and nowhere I can be today, I actually felt pretty ok.

Day 1465 - 7/5

Time with friends

Today was pretty ok. I think my cold is coming back a bit though. This morning when I was napping in the car I was super wheezy and had a raspyness in my lungs. I can still hear and feel it now that it's time to hide for the night. School is open, so I can continue to sleep in during the mornings. I slept really well. I think all the stuff going on last night, the higher alert levels, had my nerves up. I didn't sleep too good before I was at school. I had bad dreams too all last night and this morning. 😞

I watched a show and played my game in the afternoon. When I was about ready to go tke a break my friends came in. 😊 I played for a suuuuper long time with them. It must have been three or possibly even four hours. It's been forever since we played that much. 😊

That was really my day. It would have been nice if I had a regular life, even on good days like today I still feel like a failure and an outsider. 😞 I guess I just have to keep waiting until an opportunity comes along. Imust continue to accept that I can only control for what I can, and the rest is out of my hands.

Day 1466 - 7/6

Like days long past

Today was actually pretty good. I decided to not sleep in, as there were too few cars on campus. Whenever there is a very low car count I have trouble sleeping. I played my new game for a bit in the morning, watched a friend do a podcast video stream in the afternoon, then had work. Before work I did the rest of my podcast for the week. It was mostly sad kind of stuff, so hopefully it won't turn out too negative. During work I edited my podcast. After, work actually had enough bandwidth to play for a bit. The lights in the office are kind of broken, so it's almost dark. I put up the volume to a reasonable level while playing. It was almost like the old days, when I was in a home and played. There wasn't the incessant lout music or people milling around me. I was sort of in my own

private play space. It made me remember how much I miss being me, a me solitary instead of forced to be in public. And, as always, at these times I wonder if I will ever really have that again. 😞

Day 1467 - 7/7

Disappointing spec

Today was ok, but I was so tired and wound up being disappointed. Around noon my friend came in for a bit and told me they had to shut down due to some lightning storms they were having. So, it was sad I didn't really get to see them, but I hope they are all snuggled in safe and sound.

My game was kind of disappointing though. I spent almost all my day playing, a bit more than I otherwise would have. I guess I played about eight hours. The disappointing thing was that the points I got in that time were basically all spent on alternate skills, ones I was hoping to make into a ranged DPS or healing spec. But, I didn't actually like the way that weapon works. It has the highest range, but there is a half second delay on using most of the abilities, so that completely negates its range in most cases. Had I only spent a tiny fraction sampling the first abilities I could have found that out and researched much sooner. So that was very sad and disappointing. I guess it's ok though, since my friends weren't on to play with I didn't want to do too many new quests. Doing new quests are a lot more fun with them than alone.

I couldn't sleep last night. There were about three lost hours of sleep. I've been very sad lately in the back of my mind. The kind of sad that doesn't go away and my distractions won't help me with. I'm sure I'll be ok again soon, but lately, constantly in the back of my mind, I am sad about how my life is with not being in a home, and how everything I do is not the way I would really like to do it. I guess, for now, all I can do is continue to dream of days past and hope that someday my dreams can come true.

Day 1468 - 7/8

Slower experience

Today was ok. It had some fun times, but overall it was... off. I've had a lot of trouble sleeping lately. I lost 2-3 hours last night. I didn't expect anyone to be around in the school parking lot, so I didn't get a nap. And, I was up and about again unable to go back to sleep about an hour earlier than I had to be.

I had an ok time playing my game alone and watching shows. For a few hours my friends were on, and that was a super happy fun time. 😊 I got way faster experience when they were on. I'd say like 3-4 times as much. It's almost so much more it's like not even worth playing solo. I don't really play too much more than I wanted though, even though I did play about five hours solo.

Guaranteed my day would have been very different in a home. But a bed, shower, kitchen, living room area, privacy enough to relax and unwind... these are things I do not have, things which are becoming harder and harder to really remember. 😞

Day 1469 - 7/9

So much sneezing

Today was filled with so much sneezing and sniffing. I've actually been blowing my nose, which is super rare for me. I'm still a bit wheezy in the lungs too, so I guess I could have a full blown cold again (or allergies). This may explain why I haven't slept well lately – I've been fighting a cold. I decided not to sleep in this morning since I had an eye appointment along with all my usual Monday stuff, but I certainly will tomorrow. That should help with the cold quite a bit.

I had to do my friend's work online, check for jobs, and do laundry. I only had a few hours for shows and game playing after my appointment. The appointment actually went a lot quicker than I thought it would, so that was good. I guess it's been about 1.75 years since my last yearly exam. Not having a car for six months really threw that off. Everything was fine though. The change was so minor it's not worth changing my prescription for. The eye doc thinks it will be over two years or more before we should

need to worry about it. He loves me too, and only charged me half what he charges regular customers. 😊

My boss was stupid at me today. I work basically remotely. I never see or interact with her. Today she was all meh meh meh about something dumb that doesn't matter. But, it does mean I have to be careful about not showing up early to work. Seriously? Getting upset about me getting to work early?! Anyways, not worth talking about, as it will likely blow over, as she is super lazy and I really don't think anything will change. But it did serve as a strong reminder that this job is not going anywhere. The most I could hope for is extra hours. Which, speaking of, I indeed got asked to cover Sunday mornings through to the first weekend in August. So, there is a 50% weekly bump in hours/pay. That should be helpful.

I really need to win monies so I can be free. It would be so nice to be truly free to work on my rabbit stuff. With more money/freedom I could go to conventions and other events, film and report on more stuff, and stream or record videos of me playing stuff to entertain or inform. What with no monies, or at least getting into a really nice paying job... I will never be free to really do what I want and enjoy. 😞

Day 1470 - 7/10

A cold, bleh

Today seems like it should be a good day. I have nowhere to be and nothing I need to do, and have a few new games to play that I got lately. It's later morning, just before the restaurant is open. It seems strange now to do my writing for the day when it hasn't happened yet, but I Guess it's ok, as I can always edit important things in later. And, it does mean I am forced to be more reflective of what happened and what's to come. Which is a good thing right now for me I think as there are so many things changing and in flux right now and I'm having to adapt more than usual and try not to forget things. Like I've been forgetting my exercises due to all my colds lately, which is bad, so if I talk about it it helps to remind me.

Outside of my boss being dumb yesterday the week has seemed pretty good, and outside of not getting year five's cover done I think the year seems pretty good so far. 😊

Week 211

Day 1471 - 7/11

No tune-up

Today turned out pretty good for monies. I went to take my nap in the morning, but after an hour of not sleeping I got up and decided to see about the tune-up for the car. It turns out it did *not* need one at 90k miles like my last. It will need new spark plugs in 10k miles, which will be about \$150, but that will be like a year from now. So, instead of the like \$250 I had in the budget, it only cost \$40 for the oil change. 😊

The rest of the day was pretty regular I guess. I went to the restaurant. I watched a few shows. I found no jobs to apply for. I played my game a lot, possibly too much. Sadly my friends didn't come on, nor did I hear anything from them, so that was kinda sad. 😞 If I keep playing like I have been by the end of the weekend I will have just about maxed everything I currently want in the game. You know, there will be tons of skills and stuff left to get, but I'll be so far ahead of my friends in skills I'll have to stop completely or I'll get bored. I'm still not exploring past where we have been, but again, soon I'll have enough skills I could be doing near high-level content. I don't mind waiting for them. Playing with them is what is really fun. Without them I probably wouldn't continue past a month or two. As I've said on my podcast I just don't think I'd be interested in really any MMOG solo with my life as it is.

So that's really it. A super hot day where I didn't feel any of it, but other than that just another sad day in my homeless life where nothing changed. 😞

Day 1472 - 7/12

Reduced sleep

Today was pretty good I guess. I tried to sleep at school, but couldn't. I just rested for about half my nap time, then gave up and went to the coffee shop. I had a pretty

regular day at the restaurant once it opened. No jobs or anything unusual happened. My friends were on for about two hours, so we got to play together for a bit. 😊

I guess it was pretty hot today. My weather thing on the phone shows 81F, but it seemed hotter. I missed it really, what with being in the restaurant all day. It is very similar to my life really. Always the same. No telling if it's hot or cold out really, as I'm inside in a static unchanging environment. But, as weird as it is, it is one of the few (reasonably) stable things in my life. It seems pretty terrible from an outside perspective, and in many ways it is; but in other ways it is one of the few things I have in my sad life.



Day 1473 - 7/13

Big tummy

Today I'm kind of sad. I've started trying to remember to work out again, but due to several factors I'm big again. While not huge, I'm big enough on my tummy that I have to hold part of me and pull the chubby bit back to get a good shave. It wouldn't surprise me if I were near 220 or possibly even 225+. I am currently down to one blood pressure medicine as well. One ran out and had no refills and so far I have not heard back from the pharmacy that they contacted the doctor for refills. I have a feeling when the other runs out the same will happen. I may have to make an appointment at the regular non-school hospital and start the process all over again.

I'm settled in for the night, but my day is not over. Due to things being thrown out of whack at work tonight I have a few hours left of editing for the podcast. I could do it tomorrow, but I think people may be getting used to seeing it Saturday around 8 AM PST, so I didn't want to deviate from that.

During the day I played alone. The friends never showed up, but then I didn't really expect they would.

Today I feel fat. I am sad I am not free to alter and control my diet. I am sad I am not free to sleep in a bed, and undoubtedly rest better. I am sad I do not have the freedom to record or edit my podcast when I want. When I hugged my bunnies for the night Magic

Bunny (the newest in the family, given to me by my online friends) reminded me that magic *does* happen, it *is* found, and I just need to wait for it to happen to me. 😞

Day 1474 - 7/14

A brief moment

Today was kind of depressing I guess you could say. While I put up my podcast in the morning and was very happy about that, the day kind of rapidly went downhill after that. I settled in for my usual hot chocolate and play time at the coffee shop, but the Internet was non-functional, and while it's best speeds are barely game capable, today it was running at about 5-10% of normal, which wasn't even really enough to do simple web browsing

While I found good things to do with my time before the restaurant opened I couldn't help but think of that 1.5 hour chunk of time of doing stuff I didn't plan. I thought how different my day would have been in a home. I could have played without issue. I could have slept in. I could have showered. I could have made a serious effort to eat better and try to get my weight back under control.

At the restaurant things weren't a whole lot better. While I did have a few good games in Mass Effect 3, my play time in The Secret World was plagued with lag lockups, slow frame rate times, and people near by making constant noise.

Most of my day was spent alone, depressed, thinking consciously and subconsciously about how sad my homeless life is due to the restrictions I have. But, I did have some happy moments; my podcast, my Mass Effect 3 time, and a few hours playing with my friends.

I always hope tomorrow will be a better day, but more often of late I just hope it is not as sad, and that my few and rare happy things can distract me from the sad.

Day 1475 - 7/15

Not a window

Today was ok, but there was some sad news. I have basically lost my previous podcast times, and I thought I'd have upwards to 2.5 hours on Sundays through the end of the month, but it turns out that is not an option. So, I have about a 30 minute window Friday and that's really it. 😞 I don't know what I'll do. I guess I have to make windows in alternate spots from my car or something, which is no good.

I suppose, besides a bit of an upset tummy, likely due to only sleeping four hours last night, today was pretty decent. Shortly after my work shift one of my friends came on and we got to play for a bit. 😊 After, I relaxed with some shows and played a bit solo. I'm peeking ahead of where my friends are just a bit. That way the quests I do alone won't set off a timer for the ones we tend to do together. That way we will always hopefully have ones to do together. I will probably slow down a bit too. I've got all the real critical skills I wanted. It's just fine tuning the two builds from here.

Things are pretty ok overall today, but I am still very sad all the time. My life, for the most part, is not what I want. I want to be in a home. I want to be playing on a desktop system with a landline connection. I want to be able to watch TV or movies without headphones on my 5.1 surround system. I want to have a job that pays me 'enough', and be somewhere that I don't feel unappreciated or at least don't feel like it's a dead end. And I want enough freedom to do podcasting or other hobbies as I wish as I see fit, free from time or noise restriction. Such small and basic things, yet I don't know if I will ever have them again. 😞

Day 1476 - 7/16

Tanking differently

Today was fair, though very sad overall. With the theoretical watchful eye of my dumb boss on me, feeling extra fat, thinking back to 12 years ago when I did own my

own home... my life seems extra sad. With everything I don't have it is difficult to think of what I do and appreciate it.

Those I would say are friends now I did get because of things I've done while homeless. I won't say it is impossible to think I would have started podcasting if someone had not suggested it, because it is possible someone would have even if I weren't homeless, or I may have just decided on my own to do it. So I am grateful and glad my paths crossed with new friends because of that and my writing in general. I am glad it has helped at least some so far. (I'm hopeful it has helped more than the half dozen who have told me about how it has touched their lives or helped them.) And I do hope it helps others to avoid my pitfalls though it seems I am likely more the victim of bad circumstances and lack of opportunity than anything else.

Perspective is really key. Like tonight when I was playing I was talking to someone about tanking. He was saying he was a "mediocre tank" and I asked him why. He said that he doesn't use a tanking spec, he does high dps, and has low hit points. I explained "tanking" is more of a philosophy than any particular spec or style. He may be a dps tank, which is very different from a mitigation tank, or an evasion tank, but the style is irrelevant as they are all tanks. I don't think he really understood. I don't know if I can even really explain it. But it struck me as odd that he would kind of insult himself in open chat by saying he was mediocre. Mediocre to me means you aren't fulfilling your role. If he was keeping threat and surviving it doesn't matter how he does it, he is not failing or bad at it.

I guess that really just resonated with my current life. I often feel I am failing at life in many ways, yet I know there are things I am very good at, some even in spite of my limitations. And although I say to people here in Epic Fail, or to my friends, that I feel like I am failing at life, I never feel like a failure as a person. I may feel sad, unworthy of certain things right now, incapable of certain things due to limitations, but I do know at other things I am good, sometimes great, or inspiring. But I do know a person has to be willing to look at those things, and it seems most, in general, are not.

Day 1477 - 7/17

Patching

Today hasn't gone as expected yet. I tried to settle in to get my nap at school, but couldn't sleep. All the stress of losing my podcasting windows and all the constant sad things in my life are getting to me and I just can't settle in to get good sleep.

It seems I have two patches today for different games. I'm sure they will go ok, but now being at the coffee shop and slowly downloading just one was not what I expected after leaving the school spot. I figured since I couldn't sleep that I'd do some podcasting in my car, then get a little play time in while here. It's not bad to be patching and not playing. In fact one patch is new content with new stuff, so I should have cool new things after that's done. But I'm so very tired, yet not sleeping. It seems any disruption from plans these days, however small, messes with my balance.

Hopefully the rest of my day will turn out ok. Soon the restaurant will be open and I'll have all day free to play and relax.

Week 212

Day 1478 - 7/18 **Itchy day**

Today I've been itchy. I don't know why. It was on my wrists, back of my left hand, and right forearm. Now I'm itchy on my legs, back of my knees, and back of my head and neck. It's almost like a minor case of poison oak or ivy, but I've done nothing at all unusual lately outside. There must have been someone close by with perfume on or cologne I am allergic too. Oh, I did go to Panda in the morning. I haven't been there in like a month. But I didn't eat the food that I got until dinner, hours after I'd been itchy.

I couldn't nap this morning. Not really. I slept really good at first, but after only 45 minutes some dumb loud truck scared me awake and I couldn't get back to sleep. I'm still not sleeping great. I couldn't get to sleep until nearly 1 hour after. And the other night I only got four hours sleep total.

Today was decent I suppose. I was alone but I played the games I wanted when I wanted. I didn't really overplay save for a dungeon I expected to take half an hour taking about three times as long.

It seems strange how many know of my troubles, and how few offer to help. Lately the back of my mind is always thinking back to my days in a home and thinking 'what would I be doing now if I were in a home.' Much of it is what I'm doing, just differently, but a lot of things I simply can't do now. And that makes me sad. 😞

Day 1479 - 7/19 **Day of searching**

Today was ok I guess. Things were... not bad, which is always good in my life. I couldn't sleep in the morning, which was sad, but I slept very decently at night, so I guess I didn't really need it.

I'm still unusually itchy and my cough still lingers, though at this point I think my wheeze and cough is just a symptom of my allergies being constantly assaulted by various smells and such since I can't be in a controlled scent-free environment.

I played my online game all day today, well not counting three shows I watched during breaks. I had an ok time, though I'd have rather played only a few hours with my friends. They have been busy though, so I continue to do stuff we've done as daily quests and figure out alternative builds I like or may want to pursue further. It's still pretty fun, and pretty lonely, though I do chat with people a few times during the day.

I've only got one part of my podcast so far. I think some of the passion has been replaced by sadness due to basically my total loss of good recording windows. Though I really can't think up new stuff to talk about. I'm hoping to think up something tonight as I really need to finish it tomorrow, and a great portion of that, if not all, must be done in bad places. 😞

I guess that's really it for today. Another relatively ok, yet alone feeling day, where I drive by homes and think how nice it would be to be in a home having a regular life. 😞

Day 1480 - 7/20

Perhaps on my side

Today turned out pretty good. When I was at the restaurant a guy came up and introduced himself. He was the tech I'd messaged to a few times. I recently said their new connection that had been super stable was becoming unstable and completely dropping me lately. He said he'd been running tests today and found that there are no caps or limits, so what was happening was that any time something that was high priority would run it would completely tap out all the low priority stuff bandwidth. So, people like me would be dropped to zero during high restaurant traffic times. Which, as I expected, mean I have not been the cause of instability. It has, in fact, been the complete opposite. He said he flagged my address (as a standard / target goal / guideline) and he will be setting minimums and maximums so I shouldn't ever be dropped or badly affected anymore. 😊

So, I don't know if that is totally true or if he's just saying that to calm me, but if so it's super cool to know that he's working on the connection kinks and hopefully soon I won't have all the drops and connection issue I've been having the past few weeks.

So, in an otherwise sad time it seems one thing is coming back and they are genuinely trying to watch out for me (and others) and help me have a stable happy time while there.

Day 1481 - 7/21

A day with my friends

Today was pretty good. 😊 I did my usual Saturday morning stuff, which meant no nap time for me. I'm super tired. I've lost a lot of sleep lately.

I had a chance to do the Guild Wars 2 beta today but I only played about an hour. It didn't seem all that interesting knowing that I knew my class to the teens and all of my progress would be lost at midnight on Sunday. I'm still really on the fence about getting it. On the one hand I've already paid for it, so keeping it costs nothing. On the other hand, I have several games I play with my friends, and this is not one of them. Playing an online game is pretty sad. But with it already paid for forever, if they did come in later... I don't know.

I played The Secret World quite a bit today. At around 4 my friends came on. 😊 We played and had fun a super long time, nearly four hours. 😊 It made me super smiley to see them and I had a super good time. We are still working on 'catching one up' as it were. She got some bad experience times and so she got behind a bit, but she is catching up. 😊 Hopefully they don't feel bad about me waiting for them. I keep telling them not to, that I have builds to mess with and stuff to collect while I wait as it were, so it's fine. And, if it ever weren't so I'd either just continue on, or more likely, just stop and play other things in the meantime. 😊

Today is a rare day where, despite my getting reestablished in a home did not move forward at all, I feel pretty good and pretty happy. 😊

Today was ok I guess. I had no opportunity to sleep in as I have the extra work shifts for a few weeks. There was actually bandwidth at work through most of my shift, so I got to play my game. 😊

I may have figured out a possible reason why I've been itchy. It could be due to the soap at the restaurant. It *is* white and I *am* allergic to white soap. I guessed since it was the light foamy kind, not bar or a solid liquid, that I would be ok. I guess either that is not t case or something else is causing it. I am still a bit itchy in places. More oddly though, in the past few days my lymph nodes in my neck have become seriously swollen. My tongue is all fat and sore on the sides from where it is being mashed into my teeth. I'm not sure what's up, but it seems like some pretty serious allergies.

My friends weren't on today. 😞 One came on about an hour before I had to go, and she was doing catch up things, so we didn't group. It's ok though I guess. I had some time to get more points for my main build, as well as mess around with some alternate builds. And, probably more importantly, I talked to some people about tactics and got a few pointers on some abilities I did not have that should prove to be very helpful.

I guess that's it for today. It was ok for a homeless day, but I really wish I were in a home with all the freedoms that come with it. I had a dream about it last night. I was at a school dorm somewhere, but the room was like a condo all to myself. (There were normally supposed to be two living there, but somehow I qualified for it solo.) I had a small living room where my TV stuff, stereo, and movies had been set up. There was a small couch and a chair. There were a few classmates hanging out with one of their girlfriends. We were possibly going to be friends, and they were talking about inviting others over later and we could all have a quiet party. The middle kitchen room wasn't set up yet, it was bare, and there was a spare room with a table that some people were asking me if they could borrow to play their poker game on. (I originally agreed to rent it to them, but then later in the dream changed my mind and told them they could just have the party there, but they had to be quiet and leave by midnight.) What really struck me about the dream was that I was not quite newly arrived. I had been there a few days to a week, yet I was not sleeping in the bed. I was so used to being homeless that I had a homeless bed

across the bed in the reverse direction on top of its bed covers. In the dream while all that was going on I was thinking to myself I should get in to the bed proper to sleep at night, and moved my bunnies onto their proper bed pillow from the homeless bag. I had asked the people in the living room to excuse me while I went off to get this Epic Fail book that I write in, because I had to change the sad homeless day's entry to reflect the good news of an at least temporary good home and possible friends.

I suppose I am glad the dream turned out like it did. So many of my homeless dreams turn to fear, rejection, sadness, being hunted, or focusing on the loss of being kicked out. This time I was celebrating and happy and felt a genuine feeling of hope for the future. I suppose I still hold on to some of those feelings now, but it is fading as quickly as the memory of the dream, and the weight and sadness of real life return.

Day 1483 - 7/23

Feeling bad

Today I feel of poor health. I'm having trouble breathing (tired and panting), my tongue is still super swollen, I haven't slept well, I have almost no energy, I feel really fat, and I still have an odd itchiness in places. Emotionally the good of the dream has faded and it is replaced with a renewed sadness about how trapped, helpless, and alone in my struggle I feel.

I didn't try to sleep in this morning. I barely slept five hours last night and I figured with all my restlessness there was no way I'd settle in to get those extra two hours sleep.

I planned all day to do some car podcasting, but my plans were foiled by some stupid truck making constant pump noises during my planned window. I guess I'll have to find another window, as I have so short of a battery life I need to plan carefully.

Today my life feels like constant failure and nothing but a slide downhill to a place I will never recover my normal weight and health, my normal emotions, or my normal life, ever again. 😞

Day 1484 - 7/24

Feeling good

Today has been different, but good so far. I got some pretty amazing sleep last night, so I was well rested enough that I passed on my nap. I decided to do the podcasting I didn't get a chance to do yesterday. It went pretty well I think. My friend posted he thought it sounded better than at work and I do have to say that it sounded a bit better in that there wasn't the subtle light tone echo that work has. Hopefully it will continue to turn out ok. 😊

After, I had a good dungeon group. People were friendly and polite, so that was super good after the bad experience the other day (which became the subject of my podcast so far.)

Today has been a pretty good day so far and I'm in a pretty good mood, though still tired and a bit itchy. Things seem ok today, and that is a rare something for me these days.

Week 213

Day 1485 - 7/25 New mouse, old mouse

Today was pretty sad. I had a bit of a scare in the morning, so I didn't think I'd be able to nap after moving to school, despite not falling asleep until 2 or 3. I went to the coffee shop and played my game. I was experiencing more weird random scrolling issues and in my game the right button stopped working entirely. With a heavy sigh and heavy heart I went to the store and spent like \$60 replacing the old mouse with a new one of the same type. While the new one fixed the problems (and I only have to press half as hard on the right button) it was yet another reminder that my stuff I'm getting while homeless won't last. I'm not really sad and depressed about the money; I'm ok there or the moment. And I'm not really upset it died. (Though it's apparently only been 1.1 years since I got it.) What upsets me about it is that I know life is about cycles. In fact, most often with computer stuff I welcome and celebrate cycling in new stuff. But with my homeless life what it is, it really feels like I'm cycling and I can't get out. I feel like I'm in a rotating door and I'm stuck going around and around. I can see others coming in and going out, but noone is offering to help me get out.

I'm worried about my laptop as well. Several times programs slowed to a crawl, or went non-responsive entirely. I know it too is only a matter of time before it dies, particularly being a hardcore gaming system. But I really hope it's not soon, as I barely have ¼ what it would take to replace it if it did suddenly completely die. Now I have run a backup, and it is running a defrag now, so hopefully the data is safe and the defrag will repair slowness.

I was alone all day, and despite half a dozen drops from the network I had an ok time gaming. I'm still working on several helping specs and someone even complimented my tanking. 😊

I didn't see my friends, so that was sad and extra lonely, but when one heard about my sad day she sent a message reminding me I am loved and that they worry about me, so that lifted my spirit. And, after all, so far it is just a mouse. While it may remind me of

sad cycles it is just a reminder, and it is not something serious like another broken bone or yet another lost tooth.

I guess that is really it for today. As always, hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

Day 1486 - 7/26

Morning nap at last

This morning I finally settled in for a morning nap at school and actually slept. I think it's been a week or more that I've been too stressed to get back to sleep. Although, the past few nights I've not slept until about 2 AM. I guess, all total, if that is about right for last night, I got about 7.5 hours total. 😞

I woke up early from my nap and had a little over an hour before the restaurant opened, so I decided to do some podcasting. I talked for a bit about my sad thoughts and cycles and the loss of the mouse. It's in my car in its box. I am going to see if it is still under warrantee or something. I doubt it is. I'd guess it would have one year coverage, if that, and it is a month or so past that.

I had a reasonably ok day I guess. I played my game most of the day with pauses for show watching. I've changed my mind on my alt spec again. 😞 I guess it's fine, as I'm holding off on story quests to do with my friends. Running the ones we've done as dailies builds up ok points. I'm trying to peek into higher areas. It's tough, as I'm kind of self-restricting my travels to 1/6 of the map, no story quests, which only gives me a few quests to do so far. That's about half a month of dailies for one set piece in that zone at that rate. I'm hoping upgrade stuff drops too, but so far I've really not seen much of anything. I may need to peek further, but I really do want to save my 'story time' for when my friends are on. One showed up today for about 1.5 hours, so that was fun for a bit.

No jobs to apply to, so that's sad. I'm still in a really bad between spot, being overqualified or under qualified and without experience. Looking is pretty depressing since it's like looking into an abyss with no visible way out. 😞

I guess that's it for today. Hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

Day 1487 - 7/27

Waiting

Today seemed like a day of waiting. Being a Friday I didn't try to sleep in, so that started the day of kinda bad. Overall the day portion of today was fairly ok. I got to play my game quite a bit and watch shows, and my connection didn't waver.

I was waiting for friends to come in, but only one came in, and she could only play for half an hour. 😞 I was in a dungeon when she came on, so I didn't even get to see her. 😞

I got to the work parking lot early to do some podcasting. It went mostly ok, but despite showing 70% battery left the recording got a little weird at the end and a few very small segments disappeared from the recordings. I don't understand why it gets cut down so bad when all my low power settings aren't supposed to kick in until like 10%.

And now is the worst wait of all. I normally get into sanctuary three hours ago. Something is going on and I am displaced. I should be able to get settled and to sleep soon, but unless I do something like nap at school, it seems most likely that I will only get about 5-6 hours of sleep. What with lost sleep on other nights I am completely exhausted.

😞 Though the rest of the day was pretty good, all I can o right now is try and remain calm and fight off tears of complete and utter exhaustion. 😞

Day 1488 - 7/28

Two meds

Today was ok. I'm so exhausted though. I posted my podcast in the morning, as well as an older one that had some off tags. Things went smooth, then I went to play for a bit at the coffee shop. The connection was mostly stable there, which was good, certainly better than most days there.

Oh, I picked up my blood pressure meds the other day. I guess they did get a hold of school and both were refilled. So, I'm back on both again. But, I have roughly a month

to go see a regular doctor, as they won't refill them again. Won't that be a nice birthday time present? 😞

The connection at the restaurant was pretty bad. A few dozen times my bandwidth kicked down, and it even completely disconnected me a few times. I wrote the guy and he actually responded. I guess after watching things they have authorized him to upgrade their total bandwidth. 😊 And, he'll be setting standards at all restaurants so these dips don't keep happening. I guess basically what is happening is it's like I'm on a train track and when a high priority thing happens it's basically telling me to slow down and switch tracks and slow so another train can pass, and that switching time is what the bad hiccups that I see are. He didn't give me any kind of time table, but I'm hoping it's within a week, as it's getting pretty bad. About half the groups I was in I had to bow out of due to bad bandwidth causing deaths or near deaths.

I saw my friends early in the morning when they tested something. 😊 And they said they would be on for play time, but they never showed up. 😞 I don't really mind playing alone, been doing it basically all my life, so I am used to it, but I hope they are ok and nothing 'bad' prevented them from showing up. I worry. 😞

It's sort of mid-evening I guess, and there is some weirdness at the sanctuary, so I'm waiting until it's safe. Things have been really unstable lately and it's really messing me up in terms of sleep and putting me on emotional edge.

Oh, I confirmed the itchiness is an extreme white soap allergy. I got yuck on me yesterday and had to rinse off pretty good. Within an hour the backs of my hands were itchy and red. Within three they were puffy in parts. Within five the right had bits of skin flaking off where I would scratch. Now, more than 24 hours after first use they are almost not itchy, and the redness is almost completely gone. So yeah, my itchy parts are due to that soap for sure.

I guess that's it for today and my sad life is still sad overall, and I'm trying my best to not be overwhelmed by sad. 😞

Day 1489 - 7/29

Doin' whatever

Today was pretty good, though sleepy. I had an extra Sunday morning work shift, so there was no opportunity to sleep in, though I doubt there would have been coverage at school to do so on a Sunday. During work I had super awesome bandwidth and I not only got to play my game, but I streamed something and listened while playing. It was like the best connection ever. I don't know if it's because it was Sunday and noone was on, or if that particular city node has been upgraded. I'll be back at that work location tomorrow, so I'll know more then.

I played a ton by myself, both at work and at the restaurant. But my friends did make it in for a bit, so we got to do some fun stuff for about 2.5 hours I'd guess. 😊 They say things are settling down and they expect to be on quite a bit once again, probably even tomorrow, so yay. 😊

Nothing really different in my life outside of that. While I was distracted today there was always the sadness in the back of my mind. Why am I not showering in a home? Why am I playing wirelessly instead of on a desktop? Why do I need to eat bad food? Why is it my life still at the mercy of everyone around me and not under my own control? All these questions and sad feelings remain. 😞 All I can do is just try and hang in there.




Day 1490 - 7/30


Things not done

Today was pretty good, but I was so exhausted, and so sad, there were things left undone I otherwise would have liked to do. We are coming up on August, and I've been meaning to work on my site and get updated systems ready. And I still have the book five cover to do. But with my sadness hurting my motivation, doing anything is difficult. Added on now is my total exhaustion from all the messed up sleep time, and fooooo.

I guess today was an otherwise busy day. It seems like a blur. I vaguely remember sleeping in at school, doing my online work for my friend, playing for a bit, working, and inputting this week's fail so far. Outside of these vague memories I don't really remember much.

Oh, I heard back from the makers of the mouse that they will send me a new one.

 I don't even have to send the old one back. I guess I'll keep it as extra for when this one breaks or to use as new when I get re-established in a home. That was a very nice surprise.

That was really it for today. I'm so exhausted still. And so very sad my life is not improving. 

Day 1491 - 7/31

Cloudy skies no more

Today seems promising so far. When I got up to move it was cloudy, cold, and my car even had frost on the windows. I settled in at school and got nearly two more/extra hours of sleep before waking up. (Making my total for last night about eight.) Now it's warm and there is a clear sky.

My game I play has a patch, so there's a bit of new stuff. The important things are for maxed or near maxed players, which is both good and bad. It's good as that is where the least amount of content is, but bad in that probably most of the players are already maxed or near maxed. The day hours are almost empty of players in the questing area. If I see someone once every half hour or so it's a pretty big deal. Now only the casual players, those who play in the evening and on weekends, are not maxed. While this is normal for a MMOG, a game that has players maxing within weeks of launch is more rare and not deserving of a subscription. I've said this since my first preview; it doesn't have enough content to justify it, and they are going to lose players interest by having one without enough content. Still, I'm having fun with my friends and the story in the game. Would I be there without my friends? Maybe a month, but not longer if the subscription stays as it is.

Today should be pretty good. I have nothing I need to do and hopefully the restaurant will remain stable so that I can play and distract myself from my sad things.

Day 1492 - 8/1
Overly self critical

Today I've been overly self critical. I suppose it started after my morning nap when I couldn't think of anything to podcast about. I've just got tomorrow and Friday and that's it. 🤔

A friend sent a message offering some help and words of support about jobs. He didn't have a job offer or anything like that, but you never know. Maybe he will reach out to the people he knows and find me some help. There continues to be nothing out there. While the postings aren't getting smaller, the few that are on the boards are a fraction of what they once were a few years ago. My prospects, if I were to ever find any, seem pretty slim. I can't even remember the last time there was something for me to put out a resume to. I thank the Gods my 10 hour a week job still seems solid, that I am getting a few extra shifts here and there, and that I have a few hundred saved for an emergency. Though I grow increasingly worried about my system. It continues to get stuck a few times a day, typically shortly after boot-up, where it kind of doesn't respond for 30-60 seconds seemingly for no reason, yet the mouse can still move. Also, I'm still fairly certain it runs hotter than it did before, and stays hot longer. I suppose that isn't extremely unexpected, as we are about 1/2 way through my projected / hoped for lifespan for it. Though if I were to lose it now there is no way I could replace it. 😞

I suppose the high/low point of my day was another video chat my friend had. She doesn't consider herself successful, but I think she is. She has accomplished a huge amount in the past year. Sure, she's not known by tens of thousands, but she has 425+ followers/friends on one social site. I see her number and see people praising her in chat and can't help but feel like I'm failing. I barely have 20 who follow my page. And while it's not physically / technologically possible for me to make videos for people to watch live, I really have no one praising me. And then there is one of her guests, who is, I believe, working on a Masters dissertation about gender in gaming, the exact thing I thought about doing once upon a time. Here she is, young, beautiful, succeeding, and here I am, apparently too dumb for the ivory tower to let me do that kind of research. I don't

mind not being invited as a guest in the chat, my friend probably doesn't remember I have a Bachelors in (social) psychology focusing on gender and sexuality. It's not something people are likely to remember about me. And I know she knows I can't accept chat offers due to my homeless limitations – and a lot of my thoughts are rusty and out of practice anyways – but still. There they are, succeeding and doing things that, once upon a time, I wanted to do, and still want to do in a way.

I watched the chat and I felt old. I felt like an outsider. I felt like a failure. I felt dumb, out of practice, and unimportant. Captain Dunsel. 😞 Though I know this is not how those in the chat perceive me. How could they? To all but three they have no idea of my age, my homelessness, my school history, or my gaming background. I am just another person in chat. But again, I couldn't help feel like a single parent chaperoning a party. I felt like *they* were connecting. *They* were getting along and making new friends. *They* are the future where change lies. Me? I will leave the party alone, just as I entered, and just as I spent it.

But I know these things are not true. People do value my thoughts. I've mentioned my podcast to a few in game recently who thought I sounded interesting and they are going to listen and check it out. I know there *are* regular listeners. Though as far as I can estimate the subscriber numbers are dwindling. I know people *do* find my site helpful even though I rarely hear anything. The roughly 60k visitors a year is still holding, and that is no small number.

But despite what I know logically, despite what seems a rational assessment of facts and reality, I can't help but *feel* like a failure at times. I do remain single. Noone from the chats ever want to be friends with me. Noone is interested romantically. And while all those in the chat have logged out and are safe in their homes, or soon will be, I am not. I know the logic of what is, and that perception is heavily filtered by my sad life and that it is not the reality of things. But I can't help but feel sad today. I can't help but feel a failure compared to, well, everyone. 😞

Day 1493 - 8/2

No class

Today I felt pretty sad. I guess though I can start with not so sad thoughts. I got to nap at school this morning again, but again in total for both parts of my sleep I've gotten maybe six hours total.

I found out today that I could have signed up for classes on Monday. I guess I'm not really late, and there is really only one good class to take in terms of content and when the class time is. But I'd almost totally forgotten about it. I remember signing up closer to mid-August.

I still haven't come up with anything to talk about on the podcast, so that means tomorrow is it. I must do a session in the morning, then another later, if I want to have one ready for Saturday.

I didn't see my friends this morning, so I spent the day alone. I had an ok time, but still, games designed to play with others played alone seems sad.

I did my new system recommendations this morning, so that was super happy, but with all things lately it is also a bit sad. I still feel like what I do on my site, or what I do my podcast about, basically anything in my life, I am 'just another guy', that I am not special and people don't really care.

Today I feel sad. I feel like a single voice among many, one which is drown out by all the shouting others. At the few events where I've gone to where they were giving away stuff people yell, jump up and down, and often push others with their body. That is not me. I don't do that.

Today I feel unspecial, not unique, not wanted, and like my life will never change. I feel like it is too late for me to start over because noone will give me a chance, and too late to turn back, because what I used to know is no longer how things are done. While I have not yet given up hope, today I feel my life expectancy is very short, and if I do return to a regular life it will never be free enough to have any kind of true happiness. 😞

Day 1494 - 8/3

Turn around

Today was ok, but I was exhausted. Because I had no podcast recorded yet I had to do some in the morning. I only got 4-5 hours of sleep again last night, as per the past few nights, so I tried to check into a nap after. My regular side of school was basically completely empty. The pool side, which I haven't been to in a while, was busy in what seemed a 'bad' way. Someone in their car would not have been a normal sight. So, I toughed it out and went on without.

At the restaurant I played my game. I was alone nearly all day. My friends came in about half an hour before I had to leave. I thought we were having an ok time but I heard one getting very upset and frustrated. 😞 I think she's now decided to quit. That's fine. If she's not having fun with it she absolutely shouldn't play. I know she was feeling kind of lost about what direction to take, as I warned may happen on my podcast, and I think just looking at the estimated time to get where she wanted to be was depressing her. I don't blame her if that's part of it. They only have, from what I can tell, 5-8 hours a week to play stuff. And building points in that game is very time consuming. I've seen enough that I'm ok with leaving. I probably will look at what story stuff I can before my subscription runs out. But without my friends I just wouldn't have much interest. There just isn't enough content for me to be thrilled with a subscription. Besides, I've put in over seven played days already, which is a ton of time.

I guess that's the only real news today. I didn't really do much, and motivation is pretty low. I've been extra sad lately with some recent reminders of how I'm not succeeding compared to others around me who are, and other reminders of my frail physical position, such as gaining a lot of weight and having zero endurance.

Sad life seems extra sad lately. But, as always, all I can do is try to endure until things get better.

Day 1495 - 8/4

Full party

Today ended pretty good, but for most of the day I was tired and out of it and I don't really remember it. In the morning I uploaded my podcast, as usual lately. I know there would be no chance to try and nap after, which is sad because I'm so very tired.

My friends decided to stop playing the Secret World. I thought I would go ahead and see what of the content I could before canceling, but after today I'm just not sure how interested I'd be. I took a few quests and it was like I died, and I died, and I died, like 15-20 times an hour probably, doing pretty much all 1-1 fights of stuff that was my level. It made no sense and it was not fun at all. I did finish out that area though, so I will 'give it a second chance' in the newer area tomorrow and see how I feel. I was very interested to see the skill system, which I've done. Now with about seven played days I've played it more than most of the other MMOs I've played. So if I do continue being frustrated I'll just move on immediately instead of waiting out my time.

In the late afternoon / early evening my friends came on. 😊 And it wasn't just my regular two, there was also the friend from a different country. 😊 We had a 'full group.' Since the time change I haven't seen him during our game playing time. When we moved one way he moved the other. So what are my late evenings / early night time when we typically play, is early morning for him. I think he's not always up 'that early'. I had a super fun time with my friends. 😊 I think they did too.

I guess that's it for today. Overall I'm still pretty sad. There are many reminders my life is not what it should be, and I am in poor health with little I can do about it. So, there is much I would have done differently today, but I cannot. I hope someday I can be free again. 😞

Day 1496 - 8/5

Frail form

Today I am so totally out of it. I was pretty ok during my work shift in the morning, but shortly after I started fading fast. Most of the day, and quite a bit yesterday, I was fading in and out. At one point yesterday I could swear I fell asleep for a few minutes while sitting up.

It's possible not all of my exhaustion is due to lack of sleep. As of today I've been sneezing and sniffing a lot, exhausted, and a bit wheezy. For a few days now I've had breathing issues, but that isn't entirely unusual with my being constantly exposed to allergens. I've also had a lot of tiny scars, mostly on my arms, calve areas, and my tummy. They are like 1/8"-1/4" big. I don't even remember where I got them from or why. They have been there about a week. They probably are from a white soap allergy attack. Also, I've got tiny blisters on the bottom of my poor feet. 😞 They have to be in shoes almost all the time and I almost never get to be barefoot the way my flat feet like. 😞

I was thinking about exercising and mood today. Well, have been off and on for a while, and there are tons of things I don't do anymore. I guess I'd consider those things micro exercises. I'm a bit silly, and so sometimes I'd hop about places, like to the bathroom or kitchen, or be like a five-year-old and put my arms out and go 'meeearrr' like a plane when walking somewhere, sometimes dance in my chair, or even just make silly noises while walking. While these don't seem like a big deal, since I do none of these things now, that's a very big workout routine gone from my life. Walking and talking now is extremely difficult, and while making silly noises while walking doesn't seem like a big deal, it is a workout I no longer do, one among many. Even though it's only a small one I don't even have the energy for that. Take all those little things, the more serious walks back and forth to the kitchen to cook or ready food, to the bathroom to shower and back, or even just here and there in my room for various reasons, and all of that 'micro exercise' is now lost to me.

I miss the old me. 😞 I miss the few freedoms I had. 😞 I miss what little health I once possessed. 😞

Day 1497 - 8/6

Pondering

Today was, I suppose, ok. I got to sleep in at school, and I slept really well. In total today I got maybe 9-10 hours of sleep. So that is a huge change from the 4-5 of the past few nights.

There really wasn't much different today in term of routine. The only thing really different was that school sent m a reminder that I only have a few days to pay for my class. I didn't Friday when I signed up for it because apparently I forgot to do my financial aid application. It should be fine, but school is currently showing I have no financial aid. So, I guess I have to talk to someone about that tomorrow. My financial aid is only a 'fee waiver' but as far as I know I only have to be low income to qualify. It drops all my fees for each quarter down to ~\$55, making it affordable. With just this one class I'm currently showing nearly \$200. I can't afford a \$600 increase a year for *one* class, let alone \$1200 for two if I could find two to take. So I don't know. If there really is some kind of cap on the fee waiver I'll have to seriously consider if it's worth it. The past four years of child development classes have yielded exactly zero. Not only do I not have a job, I can't even apply for one because noone will touch a male with zero experience. Maybe someday those can carry over to something in teaching, but I don't know. School was all dumb about me getting in at *any* advanced level, and getting certified to teach is apparently the same level as a Masters, so I don't even know how I'd apply since they kept running me in circles on how to get back in.

I don't know. Today I still feel very sad, like my life is a total disaster, because it is, and all my paths seem blocked or impossible without someone to help me. While I know there are some out there who would like to, without a real opportunity (such as hooking me up with an interview) I feel like I will never make it on my own, and in time I will be gone and forgotten. 😞

Day 1498 - 8/7

Phew

It's mid morning around 9. I got a short nap then got up early to do financial aid stuff. I guess I got about 8 hours total, which while not as much as I could have if I didn't need to get up, is still more than I have been getting lately. Phew. It is looking very likely that I was right. The stuff I qualify for should only be dependent on income level. But, it will take a few weeks to show up, which is why it hasn't already (since Friday). So, the school will get to hold ~\$150 more than normal until it shows up and they pay me back. I guess it's ok. I had a few hundred in savings. Not enough to save me from a big car emergency, let alone a laptop emergency, but enough for something like this.

I guess I feel a bit less sad now that I'm getting a bit caught up on sleep. I'm still very sad though all the time. As I'm staring year five I really didn't expect to be out this long, and I had hoped my new classes would have helped me get some kind of job, if even just part time and low pay. Yet it's gained me nothing. While my gaming life has stabilized and recovered just about as much as it can while homeless, I am still on my own, alone much of the time, and seemingly no closer to recovery than when this journey started. 😞 All I can do is hope the connections I've made and things I do manage to do touch people's lives, and hopefully make them a little less sad in their own lives.

Week 215

Day 1499 - 8/8 Sleepy, slow day

Today, for the first time in I don't know how long, I slept in until my alarm went off. I think, counting my regular night sleep and nap sleep together, I still only managed about 8 hours total, but it's good that I slept longer. Lately I've been waking up an hour or 1.5 hours before I needed and have been unable to get back to sleep.

After, it was kind of a slow day. I've just about completely run out of shows to watch. For some reason it seems they are all in break, leaving me with no shows during lunch or dinner to watch.

I decided to play my canceled game a bit. The stuff I'm doing is less frustrating and back to normal difficulty, so it's cool to see the stories. A few hours after I started one of my friends came on. 😊 We played together for quite a while. I'd guess about three hours, which is a long time for him. But, he was sick and on the phone a bit, so he probably only got two actual hours of play. Which is extra sad since he can't play often and he's been fairly sick lately. 😞 But I had a super fun time when he was on, even though, like the rest of the day, it moved very slowly.

After he left I grabbed some dinner, but again had nothing to watch. So time moved very very slowly with a few very short shows I found.

I spent a little time searching for jobs, but still found nothing. And it again really depressed me while looking. It is getting harder and harder to look. Things are either things I'm overqualified for, or like a few research jobs today, things I don't have experience in. (Research work is not something people are flexible on missing experience on.) There was a counseling position that only required a Bachelors, which boggles my mind to see, but again, it required 1-2 years of previous counseling experience, and with disabled people. So I doubly didn't qualify.

I try to hang on, but as more time passes it seems more and more that this life I am viewing through an open window is neither open, nor a window, and what I am seeing is a movie of things I cannot have. 😞

Day 1500 - 8/9

This and that

Today I guess I can say I did this and that. I napped, almost as long as I could have. (I probably got about 10 hours sleep total.) I did a little bit of work for my site that could be used on my podcast, did some work for something for a friend's podcast, played my game I canceled for a bit, well need to cancel, watched some shows, played two other games for a bit, and watched a friend do a video stream of her podcast.

Nothing terribly different today. I have a game test survey thing in the morning, so that will alter my usual day, but that's really it. No job stuff, and nothing really noteworthy to say.

I think it's all the little things I miss most, those things you just do without thinking. Like I've needed to trim my nails for a while now. In a home I could just get up, go get the stuff, set it out, and in any one of half a dozen quiet moments during my day I could just do it. I want to do my stretching / small workout, but can't. I'd like to tweak my site a bit, but with slow wireless and constant distractions around me, getting into a creative research type state is difficult at the best of times. Straightening my room would be nice too. Though I'm very Spartan and super organized, so it's almost always neat and tidy, but I actually miss going around and looking at my things and being sure everything is in its place and there is no clutter. Even just doing laundry where I don't have to put quarters in a machine and where I can dump all the clean laundry onto the bed and put it straight into the drawers. So many things I miss that people take for granted every day.



Day 1501 - 8/10

Odd day

Today was an odd day. I did a bit of podcasting in the morning. I didn't have anything recorded yet. 😞 After, I had a game test, so that was very difficult. It wasn't too far, about a half hour drive, and it let out 30 minutes before I was told it would. When I got back to my regular area I played some games for a bit, then headed off to work. I

finished my podcast before work, but it was kind of short on content. During my shift my friends streamed their podcast, so I got to see them, though we couldn't talk or anything.

I guess all in all today was ok. It was mostly well paced and I don't remember too many parts where I was overly sad. There were a few though; being on the school lot recording instead of sleeping in and doing it at home, playing at the restaurant because I have no home to cook or play at, recording at work in a sealed car in 90F weather. I suppose overall the day was tolerable, but I still hope tomorrow is a better day.

Day 1502 - 8/11

Gas attack

Today was a bit odd. In the morning I went to shop for a few things before my podcast drop. After, I played for a bit at the restaurant. They overcooked the burger and partly burnt the bun for the third week in a row. I don't understand how you can have like two or three orders up and overcook / burn something. It's not like a rush. If they do it again I'll complain. They used to get it right every time, but their consistency is getting really terrible again. I played for a bit and watched a show. At around 3 someone said there was a gas leak and they had to close the store. It was very weird and I'd never heard of that happening to anyone I knew. It was fine I guess. I just went across the street and instead had thin pizza for dinner. My day was basically unaffected.

I didn't see my friend until about 6:30, but I only saw one as they needed to install the game we are going to play on the other system. He spent basically the next two hours trying to fix stuff, then poofed offline due to inactivity. I guessed they were having trouble fixing something, and at that point my time was running out, so I just left for the night.

I suppose it wasn't a terrible day in that I could upload my podcast. I could play my games and watch my shows. I could have played with friends. But I couldn't help but think I'd have liked to have slept in. I'm soooooo tired. I'd have loved a shower. I'd have liked to have had a hot dog and maybe chips for lunch. I'd have liked to have had citrus lemon with rice for dinner. I'd have maybe liked to have been watching a TV show or movie

while my friends figured out what was wrong with their game. So many everyday things I can't do, yet miss so much. 😞

Day 1503 - 8/12

"I'm all right."

Today was a bit different, but all day, ever since I got up until even now, it feels like I've been forgetting something. I went to work, so I didn't forget that, so I don't know what it could be.

At work there was zero connection. I spent half my shift inputting this week's fail, and the other half doing a podcast something for a friend. I had no real time left over for playing, but that was fine, as I had no connectivity at any point during the nearly 6 hours I was there.

The restaurant was fine, so I went there after work. The manager guy said something like a knob had come off an oven and the manager who was on shift yesterday had completely overreacted. I guess better safe than sorry, but that likely cut their income for the entire day by 50%.

I still had nothing to watch, so I decided to try a rental service I used to use. They have online streaming, so I would be limited to only when I can get a good connection unless I paid more, but most of the time when I'm not at work I can be somewhere with a good enough connection. And, bonus thing, they offered me a free month, so I don't even have to pay anything at all for the first month. When I do, it's just \$8 a month. I have like 2.5 seasons of Doctor Who I can finally catch up on. 😎 After, or if I want a break, there are a few other series I haven't been able to get that I can get caught up on as well. I shouldn't need more than a month or two to get caught up on stuff I'm interested in. Most stuff I'm current on because it shows online free close to when it airs. (Most show up online a week after.) It's really just special channel's stuff I can't watch.

My friend came on at about 7:30, and we played for about an hour with another friend I don't really talk with anymore. So, while brief, that was super fun. 😊

It was super hot today. It's still even now. I hear crickets going here and there. Times like today make me think back to when I was young at my grandparents in Phoenix's place. When I was five things were so much simpler. Outside of morning cartoons or prime time there was literally nothing on TV because most channels didn't broadcast. Radio and records were king. There was one phone in the entire place, with a rotary dial, and a land line. Entertainment for me consisted of playing with toy cars, making tracks out of some old tiles, or playing with log or puzzle sets. Now someone who is five has a thousand things screaming for their attention, half a dozen devices streaming information at them constantly, like it or not. Things were so much simpler when I was young. I don't know that I want the simplicity back in place of my current entertainment and game possibilities, but I certainly would like a much simpler job life, and at times, I absolutely would like the peace and quiet back.

Day 1504 - 8/13

The between time

Today I am sleepy. I tried to sleep in at school, and while I did get some rest I woke up after a sad dream. It was only 8:30 when I woke, some nearly two hours before I expected to, but I was awake. It seems last week classes ended. We are now in the dead between time at school. There are contractors doing stuff, but I likely will skip many of these mornings, as there are too few cars, and I am out of place. But for middle schools, and I presume high schools as well, classes start next week. It still seems so strange now being on the outside of the loop. There is no transition for me, no yearly rest times. The days just go on and on one after the next. While I am grateful my days *do* go on there is no rest, no regeneration, no big change to look forward to after a milestone has been met. I am in the between time. And for as long as I can remember it's felt like I am stuck here for good.

Day 1505 - 8/14

Birthdays past

Once upon a time this weekend Friends would have come over with presents. We would have had pizza or gone out to a fancy dinner somewhere. We'd have come back to cupcakes or cake, maybe seen a movie, and probably played games. But not this weekend. This weekend I will be alone. Though some may send gifts and wish me well there will be no one who comes over. We will not go out to eat or see a movie. I have no house to gather at. There are no friends I hang out or play with who live close to me.

But I suppose I can do these things alone. People can send gifts and I can open them alone. Maybe people will be online and I can play stuff online. And this birthday, like so many others for as long as I can remember, will pass, alone physically but maybe not in spirit.

Week 216

Day 1506 - 8/15 So so tired

Today I am soooooo very tired. I'm rapidly being beaten down by no nap at school. I may have to find an alternate spot. Most shopping sites are fine. A guy in the passenger seat fairly upright napping is typically considered just a guy waiting on his girl and not wanting to shop with her, so that's an option if things get bad. I'm hoping since it's usually safe to get settled early I can just 'go to bed' a few hours earlier to compensate through the next month I won't have school to nap.

I didn't really do much of anything today. I checked for jobs, played a few hours, but I was so extremely exhausted I could barely keep my eyes open. So mostly I just watched shows. In fact, a few times I actually nodded off for a few minutes during shows.

Maybe tomorrow I'll have more interesting things to say, but for now I can barely think straight. 😞

Day 1507 - 8/16 Comfortable silence and other things

Today was ok, but pretty slow. I was originally going to try and nap, I only got 5 hours of sleep, but there was a graphic card launch, so I decided not to nap and update my site. I am going to have to catch some alternate location naps soon though because I'm just getting so completely tired. Mentally I'm still going. As a homeless person I often need to. But physically if my mind allowed, I'd likely fall asleep in about one second. 😞

I've been thinking a lot about being in a relationship lately. It's likely a combination of the shows I'm watching and other factors, but as strange as it sounds it seems the more likely reason why I'd get back into a home. (Between that and being re-established due to higher income.) I do very much miss that 'comfortable silence' with someone you love. Maybe you are out at dinner, or maybe you are at home doing separate things, but having someone around and you are both quiet, no need to say anything

because that love, trust, and support is there while you do your things, even when unspoken. That gentle touch or kiss as they pass by speaks volumes.

I don't know how to date. I'm as bad as it as I suppose everything else. I am, however, a master at flirting, at reading body language, the unspoken things. But it seems so strange to think, even if there were someone interested in me, because it will obviously be someone I don't yet know, I would have to get to know her. I would have to spend time in this awkward phase of talking and being unsure, or simply not knowing her stance on a particular topic. I do not look forward to the awkwardness, even if I do accept the possibility that someone like me could find someone.

I suppose it's always possible I could find that one rare person who is a match, that someone who I share chemistry with and we do 'just get each other'. But I don't know. Like so much of everything in my life it seems I am so far out of normal, so much an alien and outsider from the normal world, that it seems unlikely to ever happen without completely and totally altering everything that 'is me' in order to conform to something I am not just to regain what was lost.

Day 1508 - 8/17

Super fat

Today I was extremely tired. I was going to take a nap at school, but it was just about entirely empty. I decided instead to just do some podcast recording. The day was ok I guess, but very slow, and I felt really out of sorts is the only way I can think to describe it.

During my shower in the evening I got a good look at myself sideways. I see myself from the front pretty often, and of course anytime I look down. I don't look too bad from those angles. But from the side... it really highlighted how fat I've become. 😞 I still am not near a scale, but 260-275 wouldn't surprise me. From pinching the fat I'd guess it's four times the fattest I've been. Reaching all the way with my fingers to where my hip area goes flat, wrapping my hand around the fat if I put my fingers and thumb straight, nearly everything in my hand is fat. 😞 Previously, my fattest time would maybe have been one finger worth. Some 75% of this has shown up in the last year. I can only

assume it is due to all the fast / fried foods I'm eating at the restaurant. I'm going to have to make an extremely serious effort to get back to good weight because this is just terrible. 😞 My back hurts often, and I'm out of breath when I do just about anything. I get winded if I have to do more than basic walking. My skin feels tight in many areas, and I have very little energy and I'm so tired and hungry much of the time. The only things they have that are not fried is soup, chicken, and sausage. Hum. I guess really the only fried things I eat are the hamburgers, maybe grilled cheese, and fries. Though growing up I used to eat fries all the time, same during my twenties, and even my thirties. I will try very hard to have salad with dinner as the side, or start sneaking in healthier lunch meat sandwiches to have. I should probably try and cut down a lot of soda, but that is always a struggle for some reason. My throat, especially lately, gets very dry and I feel like coughing. It likely is due to being constantly hit by allergies. I'm not in filtered air, so I'm constantly battling perfumes and outdoor allergies.

Well, I can try as best I can to keep exercising and stretching when I can, but there is little I can do for my sleep and diet. I suppose though, since my average during my homeless time has been probably 50-75 pounds less that proves recent diet change is the most likely cause. Hopefully I can work some of this off, as it makes me very very sad to see it and be this out of shape. 😞

Day 1509 - 8/18

At risk

Today didn't go as I'd have hoped. Last night when I finished my podcast my system had 85% power. This morning when I tried to upload the next rabbIt ramblings it took forever to boot, and the hard drive was constantly running for like 5 minutes after it had gotten to the desktop. Also, in one view it did not see anything in the podcast folder, while in other views it did. A few minutes later it shut down like it had completely run out of power. It should have had enough to last 20-30 minutes, not 5-8. When I plugged in and rebooted things seemed mostly ok, but again the hard drive was showing 100% lit for more than 5 minutes. A bit later it did the freeze but leave the mouse active thing while again the hard drive was running at full speed. After a few minutes it blue screen crashed.

It had another pause later in the day, so I decided since it looked hard drive related to see if I could make the drive not full. Through great effort I got it down to about 15% free space, and the drive no longer shows red in the explorer. The rest of the day things seemed normal, but I worried.

I was going to do a fancy dinner and movie, but my mind was constantly worried about the system. I decided to do that tomorrow night after I got a chance to run a backup. I think I'll run it once a week from now on.

With my data backed up I won't worry so much. I can reinstall games and programs easy enough, but my site stuff, my podcast stuff, that would be difficult to impossible to retrieve without a backup.

I pray my system doesn't die. It's barely 1.5 years old. If even that old yet. I was expecting it to last 2-3 years and hoped to save up enough for that replacement in that time. If it were to go now I don't even have barely 1/3 of what it would cost to replace it, leaving me with only the non-gaming netbook.

Hopefully it was just fluke symptoms due to the hard drive being full. Once I delete the game I've canceled off I'll be up to about 25-30% empty and shouldn't need to worry so much. I guess only time will tell, but until it's backed up in the morning I'll worry. And even once it is backed up I'll only stop worrying about data loss, I could still lose the system at any time. 😞

Day 1510 - 8/19

Almost feels like a birthday

Today was ok. It was a bit slow to start in the morning and most of the day I was at the restaurant. I did the backup first thing. I also decided to let the system settle before doing anything. Once upon a time it would take about 30 seconds post boot before the hard drive stopped. Today, twice, it was about 10-12 minutes. But there were no weird symptoms other than that. Well, on the first boot the CPU was at 30-50% load while doing nothing at all, so that seemed extremely strange. But all day things ran normal with no real issues. So, it seems I just have to let it settle before using it, and currently that time takes about 10-20 times longer than it should. Maybe it's just due to the fullness of

the drive, or one of the beta clients I have installed, who knows. I'll have to keep an eye on it.

My time at the restaurant was ok. I spent nearly all of it catching up on shows. I do like the streaming rental service thingy, but I really don't think there are enough things I need to catch up on. In a home, sure, it would be totally worth the like \$8 a month or whatever it is. But needing to watch costs, not so much.

I tried to play the game I canceled, but I just really wasn't that into it. I played for maybe an hour then was like, meh, and stopped.

In the evening I went to do my proper birthday things. I had a fancier dinner, which was super yummy and did not upset my tummy like so many other meals do lately. But it sure was lonely. I mean, it's how my life is, but surrounded by people on dates or with families, it was tough to ignore that I *am* alone. I *don't* have people to celebrate with me physically. I *can't* go back home and rest in a bed after. Dark Knight Rises was super awesome. I am very happy not everything was spoiled about it by others. I am satisfied with what they did with it since it was a three movie deal. Though a few character origins got altered a bit, but that was ok. It wasn't terrible like what some other movies have done to character origins.

For the past few hours it's almost seemed like a regular birthday. One like several I had when I was in a home. But it's not. Now I am hiding. Homeless. Not in a bed. And try as I might to forget, not at any point did I ever really forget that I had noone to share my fun times with, nor a home to go to when the fun was over.

Day 1511 - 8/20

Actual birthday

Today was ok I suppose. I wanted to sleep in this morning, but I forgot it was laundry day. That meant, in addition to a medium sized bag of garbage in the back, a couple of things of cans to recycle, that I'd also have a bag of laundry. I decided to pass on the nap, even though it is very unlikely I'd be bothered on campus. I'll try for a nap tomorrow.

It was my actual birthday today, but there really wasn't anything besides well wishing ("happy birthday") on my Facebook wall thingy. One person said they sent a something, but that won't be here for a few days. Other than that today passed as a normal day.

There were some nice things in the morning though. Someone said hi to me, and I didn't recognize him at first, but it turns out he was someone I chatted with about gaming and his system. His power supply went out and I said to check the warrantee and if he needed help with finding a new one to check my site and send me a message. He was super happy I was right and his power supply is covered (for five years) and he said my site was well done and super helpful. 😊 When I was at the pizza by the slice place a super attractive beautiful cutie chatted with me for a bit. 😍 She was someone that also works at the coffee shop, so it was odd to see her there too. It was super nice to chat, as she seemed to be genuinely being friendly. Though, I have given her my card and flirted a little before, so if she were interested she'd have said something by now. 😞

The day overall was pretty sad and regular, but the unusual things seemed a nice surprise, especially on my actual birthday.

Day 1512 - 8/21

So good a nap

Today is pretty good so far, though it's only late morning. I have been so tired I had to see if I could nap at school. There was almost noone there when I got there, but about 2.5 hours later when I woke up there were a dozen cars in the area, so it should be fine to nap. It will be a bit before my body catches up though. (If it ever really can.)

For the past few days the side of my right wrist, near the big bone bump, has felt a little hurt. It is sometimes fussy about turning or putting pressure on it. It's kind of like it has a super thin hairline fracture or something, though I've no idea when or why it could have been damaged, let alone been broken in some way.

No plans for today and my friends I play with have been out of town on vacation, so whatever I do today it will be alone. I'm still very glad there are things I can do. I do

still have my gaming laptop, so I have my games and shows, and with a car I have places I can go to do that. But still there are no job prospects, no sweetie, no friends I can hang out with offline, and it still seems what I have today may be all I ever can have. 🙄

Day 1513 - 8/22

Not by much

Today was lonely and sad. I'm having a harder and harder time dealing with my sads lately. The limitations are ever-present. Though I am basically able to do everything I normally would everything is restricted. Gaming is not on a desktop, suffers from disconnects or lag, and I'm forced to use headphones. Sleep is bad overall, even on days like today where I get nearly 3 extra hours at school. TV shows in many cases are behind, some by several seasons. Food is, well, bad for nearly all my choices. Exercise is difficult to impossible. And for all the things I do have, all the things I can try to do, I have to take advantage of resources which aren't mine, over and over and over again.

One of the roses from the restaurant, the most attractive one, who I haven't seen in I don't recall how long, probably about since Valentine's day, was visiting today. I paused to say, 'OMG how are you. I haven't seen you in forever.' She asked how I was and I replied that since I was still here I am meh at best, that sad life is sad. She said, "Well, it could be worse." And I replied in all honesty, "Yeah, but not by much."

While it is true that several things could be worse; I could be dead, I could have no car, needed to have gotten rid of all my stuff, and be laying in a gutter somewhere; emotionally I couldn't be much worse off. I am holding it together for now, but just barely. Anyone else in my position would likely be breaking down crying all the time, or completely mentally unstable, or like one lady at the food store I saw not too long ago, wandering around in a bathrobe.

Yeah, here in America, in the Bay Area in Silicon Valley, just with most of my health, a car, and a laptop, I have far more than some could. But I often wonder if here in this place that I do. All it takes is the opportunity to pull myself back up again. But it feels like I am at the bottom of a sheer cliff, and try as I may to find handholds to start scaling the impossible cliff once more, I see nothing. With no opportunity I have no way out. And as such what I do have seems like very little.

Today I'm feeling pretty sad. Things were ok overall though I guess. In the morning I tried to think up a podcast topic but couldn't. I did get a lot of good nap time though. I got about 2 of the 3 total extra hours I could. I woke up from a bad dream, so it was unlikely I could settle back down for the third hour. I had a strange call from the refill line that my prescriptions were ready a few days ago, so since I had time I went off to see what that was about. It made no sense since my prescriptions had no refills and I was told I'd have to see a doctor before I was given more. It was indeed my blood pressure meds, so those have now been refilled when it should have otherwise been impossible without a doctor's visit.

When I was having lunch I got a call from my boss' boss, as my boss is out of town. She asked if I worked last Thursday and was working tonight. I was like, 'uhhh... I'm not scheduled for Thursdays and haven't seen a schedule since like January?' Apparently my boss put me on a schedule then gave that to her boss before she left, without telling me, the regular Thursday guy, or anyone else. I told her I thought so-n-so was on Thursdays and to see if he knew what was up. Not surprisingly he had no clue what was up. So it seems my dumb boss, who has not put the every other week time cards out in nearly a year, not done a schedule since about January, caused all this confusion. I'm just glad stuff got sorted out before I'd gotten a micro dinner and driven up there. Doing that then driving right back would have been a huge pain. (That happened before.)

But a few things are making me sad lately. First, a friend has an old system that can't be upgraded and he's now so far behind that he can't play his favorite game (it's getting an expansion), let alone any of the awesome new games that launched recently or which are coming soon. I posted a lengthy post on his podcast page as a call to arms to help him. I linked an example system at \$850 which would easily play all current games and all future games for as long as possibly five years with no changes. I thought if even 25% of the 50 fans donated just \$25 each that's \$250, or roughly 30% of the system *and* monitor cost. I thought maybe that would be enough to get him enough that he could afford the rest. Hell, I'm ok enough I may have sent him \$20 plus a pre-order of XCOM: Enemy Unknown (due out in early October.) And, I had hopes there would be two or

three who said, 'I will help. In fact, I'll send \$1 for every episode so far in thanks!' That would have been closer to 60% of the total. But no, there were really no replies. My bestest friends replied (as I expected), but that was it. Not one of any of the others said anything. 😞 That makes me very sad. I hope it's that they can't afford it. But to think that of the ~47 other people that noone was willing to help... that makes me very disappointed in people.

That has made me more sad for me lately. I too seem to get no donations these days and it really makes me wonder if people don't care enough to send a smile to others, or are they really so egocentric that they are simply unwilling to help. Am I really so rare a person that I am the *only* one to say, 'What you have done has made me smile and lifted my spirit. It's not much, but here is \$5', or \$10, or whatever. It again makes me worried that noone is likely to help others and that I will never be helped with finding an opportunity to get me into a position to recover. But it also makes me worry that I am simply too kind and empathic to be able to truly survive on my own (in America) 😞.

Day 1515 - 8/24

Taking too long

I suppose today was ok all things considered. I got a chance to do all my podcasting, so that was good. And it was a good length, so that was surprising for not having any ideas on what to talk about prior to today. Hopefully people will like the content ok. I felt like I was extra rambly about stuff that people may not care about.

I did have trouble with the system in the evening though. I turned it on to finish podcasting stuff, maybe 5 minutes worth of work, and it was doing the spin the hard drive forever thing. I took a chance and also decided to move some files to get some space, something that normally what would be about a five minutes. But to finish what I was trying to do took not five minutes of multi-tasking, not 10 minutes of single thread swapping, but 45 minutes. It was insane. And at the end it was *still* running the hard drive at full speed non-stop. I looked at the processes running and there were dozens of threads on the disk for a Microsoft Anti-Virus? I didn't ask it to do that. I'll try and verify that tomorrow, maybe just turn off all Microsoft security stuff since I have another type

running, but it's either that which is the cause of all the craziness (which it wasn't before a few weeks ago), or something to do with the backup software. That or the hard drive is failing, which I ran nearly all the tests I could to check that. Things are ok with the system other than that. The only time it has issues are when the hard drive is doing its post-boot crazy hard drive stuff. So, if I can track it down and stop it that would be great. Still, I worry about my system. 😞

Day 1516 - 8/25

Friends return

Today was pretty good I guess, though a bit odd. It started with no nap, as I have no real opportunities on the weekend, particularly Saturday. I uploaded my podcast, then went to do my online messing around. When I got to the restaurant some 3 hours later I discovered that I had *not* actually gotten the file up. It went through its load and showed it working as normal, but I guess for some reason it never actually got uploaded. (Probably that dumb hard drive issue.) So, I had to do that again. I guess it wasn't too bad, as it only took about 10 minutes, but still.

I watched some shows and started a few Guild Wars 2 characters. To my surprise the person I didn't think I'd see showed up online. I guess my account still had him friended. 😊 We chatted briefly, but only super briefly. After a few lines he kinda stopped responding. I think he's the kinda guy who can't really follow multiple things.

Later, during a gaming break, right before I was going to play a different game after my show finished, my friends came back on. 😊 Well, one did. I heard the other in the background. I'm surprised they did, as they were exhausted from their vacation and only got something like 4 hours sleep. 🙄 They worry 'cause of my sad life and they care about me. 😊 I said sad life was sad, but overall I was ok. It's tough to sum up the week's sad things quickly, and I'm not sure it is really important he knows every last detail of why I'm sad. My sad shifts often, and my life won't stop being sad until, well, until I'm out of this situation and it stops being sad. Plus, they listen to my podcast, and I talk a bit about my important recent sad things in there, so I know he'll hear it at some point. The

weirdest part of the day was that, after we'd been playing and chatted (probably 2.5 hours together) I had completely forgotten what day it was and what I was doing. It was as if I'd just woken up from some crazy dream after an unusually timed mid-day nap.

In the evening I decided to do a second birthday movie, so that was fun. But again, being alone it was kind of sad.

All in all today was ok. Some parts seemed extremely slow and lonely, while others moved at a normal pace and seemed ok. Of course I'd have rather been in a home, slept in, gotten a shower, and eaten regular foods. I'm so very exhausted and so tired of not being able to go home. 😞

Day 1517 - 8/26

Kind of smiley

Today I was kind of smiley. I had an extra work shift in the morning, so that was good. I had enough bandwidth there I decided to watch some shows. I watched a few then decided to play a game. For some reason, maybe due to the buffering of the videos instead of needing a constant stable connection, it couldn't properly connect to the game. I decided instead to do some Epic Fail work that I would otherwise do tomorrow during work.

In the evening I played one of my games and had an ok time. One of my friends came in around 6 and we played together and chatted a bit about stuff. 😊 I was being silly with the game and we had a super good time for about 1.5 hours before she needed to go.

After, I just watched another show, then my time was up. I guess today was pretty ok all things considered.

Day 1518 - 8/27

Something is definitely wrong

Today was a super sleepy day. I was going to nap in the morning, but at the time I wasn't sleepy. Later I regretted that decision, as I was almost nodding off while driving and kind of did at work.

Something is definitely wrong with my system hard drive though, but no scan detects bad sectors or faults. I tried to do a backup today and the software showed 3/4 of the files in a warning state, saying they weren't there, and the backup progress bar never goes past 30% complete. I ran a backup on DVD and I'll move the rest (about 20 gig) onto a USB in the morning.

I guess today was fair. I really just did my online work, watched a live stream of some XCOM: Enemy Unknown gameplay and watched some shows. I really wish I knew what was wrong with my hard drive / system. If I were on a landline I'd just swap the drive positions and do a full system wipe / reinstall. (I'd be tempted to replace them with a solid state drive, but that'd be \$250+.) Maybe something is left over or installed that shouldn't be and that's messing things up. (Ever since I got in the Secret World beta there have been random crashes and lockups. And they never happen on days I don't load the client.) Whatever the problem is it has me very worried I'll lose important site or podcast data, or that the system as a whole will just mysteriously fail. There is a physical shop that could do repairs, but I'm afraid if my tests showed nothing wrong they too possibly wouldn't know what is wrong.

Well... I guess, as always, my life will continue as it does, and i will manage as best as I can until something breaks beyond repair. 🙄

Day 1519 - 8/28
"I think I'm in a tragedy."

Today has just started. I was very much looking forward to a nap at school today, but there were signs up for a special event and I saw tents set up in a grassy area. I decided to be safe and pass.

Yesterday at the laundromat I noticed a pay to get your weigh machine. Assuming it is accurate I'm only 220 pounds. It worries me because I feel and I'm moving like I'm closer to 260. I think what may be going on is that some muscle has converted to fat at a ratio that has retained my same weight. I guess that's good news in that I'm only 40 pounds over my homeless average weight instead of the 75+ I thought I was. But with a bigger tummy, fat in other places it hasn't been before, a noticeably more chubby face and neck, tighter fitting shorts and pants... it worries me since I can do little to control things.

I looked at a nutrition thing for the restaurant a few days ago. Someone had one out. I'd forgotten places here are like required to have them accessible. I will probably try and have salad and soups more often than I have been. It seems the fries are almost as many calories and other stuff as a cheeseburger! 🍔 Sausage and turkey aren't too terrible being about half from what I recall, so I can do them for times I'm hungrier. Chicken, which I do like and normally do quite often, but don't get there because it often turns out dry, is also not nearly as bad as a burger. I don't really get burgers all that often, once, maybe twice a week, but knowing that's the primary source of my bad food is good.

Things continue to be bad and I am very sad. I saw the super beautiful attractive young cutie at the by the slice place yesterday. She smiled at me a few times. If I were in a romance or comedy she'd have sat down and snuggled up next to me at some point and said, "What are we watching 😊?" But that isn't terribly likely to happen. And I wonder if I will ever have someone who does that ever again. I'm beginning to think I'm in a tragedy. 😞

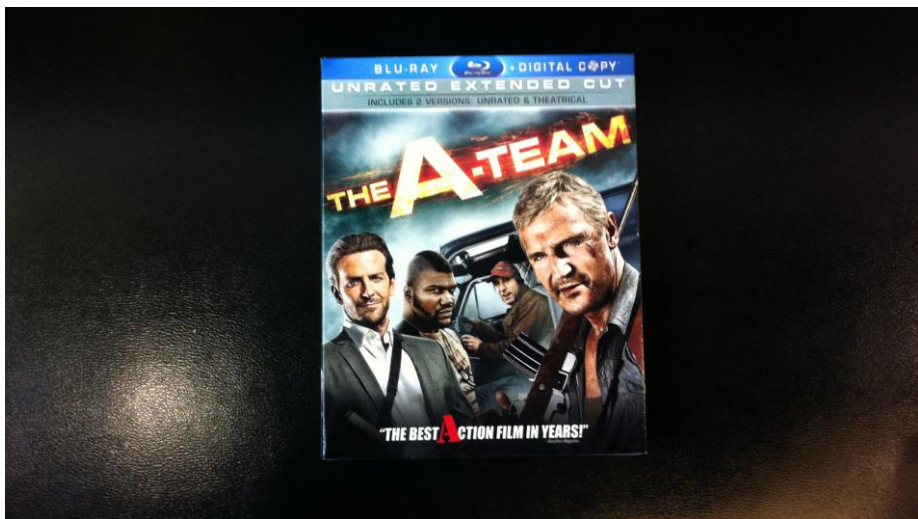
Picture series 30



Back it up, and a game to kill some alone time with.



The secrets are out.



Perhaps you can call...



Om nom nom tasty pizza.



Yummy b-day dinner noms.



Cool b-day envelope.



A b-day somethings.

Week 218

Day 1520 - 8/29 **Still an event**

Today was ok, but again there was an event and I didn't want to risk sleeping in at school. I'm not as bad as past days for lost sleep, but I'm still so very ready to sleep. It looks like it should not be happening tomorrow, but they may not have cleaned up, so I still may not get a chance to sleep in in the morning, we'll see.

I spent the rest of the day split between show watching and playing my new game. The game is ok, but I still wonder how interested I'll be with noone to play with.

My friend has been sick, so I didn't get to play with her yesterday or today. I watched her do a video though and she seemed a bit better, so that's good.

I looked for jobs and there were none, though there were two good ones I applied for yesterday.

I suppose during these homeless times this is really the best I can hope for; A job application now and then and access to enough entertainment and shows that I keep from going totally crazy. 😞

Day 1521 - 8/30 **Universal pain chart**

Today was ok with a very sad part. It started with sleeping in at school, which I very much needed. I didn't think I would get much extra sleep then as I snuck in to sleep early and had 8 hours by the time it was time to move to the school lot, but I did. It seemed safe and I slept 3 more hours. I feel not sleepy for the first time in I don't know how long.

I played my game a bit today. I'm still very casual about it. I think I played maybe 3 hours total all day. But it was pretty good and I had an ok time.

I saw my friend. We chatted for a bit, but she couldn't play as she had a meeting then some play time with her friends. Which is super good, as she was saying not too long ago how she was sad she never did anything with her real life friends anymore.

The sad part was when I was watching one of my shows. One of the characters was in the hospital and they showed this "universal pain chart", which I'd never heard of. I looked it up online and was sad because I'd rate myself during these homeless times as between 2 and 4 most days. And on a few occasions when I've been sick, as high as 9 or 10. It made me think about how bad my life has become, and as an outsider looking at someone else how terrible that would be. Only a few other times in my entire life have I been as bad as I am now. I had to pause the show because seeing that chart and thinking about it made me cry a bit. 😞 I had to sort of hug myself and then put the thoughts to the side. Little will change as long as things continue like they are, yet they have been going on so long it seems, for whatever reason or combination of reasons, they are unlikely to change without help. I just have to try and hang on to my days where I am 1-2 and wait for a significant change to get out, or for someone to come along who can truly help. 😞

Day 1522 - 8/31

Podcasts

Today was ok I suppose. I was going to nap in the morning, but I still feel weird with noone around even though I know I'd be safe. So, even though I only got about 6 hours of sleep I passed. The afternoon went ok. It was actually kind of funny when I left the restaurant because the manager person I've known the longest (and who is probably the nicest) said in a surprised tone, "You're leaving?" I was like, 'heh, I have to work.' She's one of the ones who knows I'm homeless and really don't have many places to be.

I did podcasting before work. My weirdness on my system is causing the fans that go to the main vents to go high, which creeps in to the background noise in a way that can't be cleared out, so that's annoying. It didn't used to do that. I guess it went ok, though there isn't much to it and it went kind of short. In the evening I watched my friends do their podcast. Before it really started two people in the chat said they started listening to

my podcast and liked it. 😊 Yay for new listeners. Though I still wonder how many regular listeners there are since I hear from so few. I guess, along with everything else in my life I have to assume I'm mostly doing it for me and there are only a few out there it will really help or touch in some way. I suppose though as long as it touches one that is good enough for me. 😊

Day 1523 - 9/1

Another scare

Today started out good but pretty quickly went to poo. 😞 I did my podcast upload and that went fine (by avoiding the avoidable weirdness). My friend came on super early and we played for about an hour. At that point my screen went black, as if someone unplugged the monitor. I could still do everything, but since I couldn't see I had to force shut it down. (It's done this before within the past week.) The system did not react when I pushed the power button to turn back on. It didn't even show as being in a ready state. Zero reaction, seemingly zero power, flat dead. I unplugged everything and took out the battery and put it back in. When I plugged the power back in it showed the ready light. It turned back on and seemed to work fine. Though I went the rest of the day watching videos and playing my game for a few hours I was worried. I am still worried.

I still don't know if my system is slowly dying or if it's just having minor issues with different parts that look like it's dying. It still runs the hard drive 100% speed for 10-15 minutes post boot-up unless I force shut down Microsoft Security. It still, seemingly randomly, pauses for 1-2 minutes and only lets the mouse move for seemingly no reason, and it's dropped the monitor feed twice now. It seems to run hot and kick the fans to high for no reason at all when unplugged, and the graphics chip is running a fair bit hotter than a post by someone with the same system (+10c idle, +20-40c under load). So today was a bad day. And likely as long as issues persist it will likely continue to be bad days. While I could still do Internet stuff, record my podcast, update my site, and *try* to watch videos with my netbook, should my system die gaming would be completely out of the question. And there is no way I would be able to afford the \$1500 for a new system. 😞

Day 1524 - 9/2

Hot day, cold me

Today was bleh. I had a work shift, which is more money at least. Since school is in it's basically sitting in an empty gym alone for nearly 3 hours, then a regular 2.5 hours. I had decent bandwidth most of the time, so I split the time between playing my game and watching some shows.

My friend was supposed to come on and play, but she wound up doing different things, so I didn't see her.

Today was, I would guess, 75F+ out. But in the restaurant I've been cold the past few days, on the verge of shivering cold. I don't know what is up with that. 😞

I tried to do a backup on my system. After all day of running ok, when I turned it on to start the backup it did the crazy DOS 'something is wrong with my disk' check. That burnt up an extra half hour of time I wasn't expecting to spend. After it restarted when it had finished the hard disk wouldn't stop. And when I tried to run the backup it was showing the backup disk errors. I restarted and tried again and it finished the backup in 5-10 minutes as normal. I am still worried it will keel over dead at some point. If it's just the one boot drive I expect that would be manageable, as I have two in there, but still. I suppose though at this point there is no getting around the fact that chances are extremely high that it will not make it to my recovery. I just hope it doesn't die too soon. I have effectively no money to replace it if it does.

Mostly today I was sad. It was a long holiday weekend for everyone but me. I have too much time off. While days off are the rare exception for most, days working are the rare exception for me. All weekend in the back of my mind has been the thought of people making plans with loved ones, friends, families; going to movies, hanging out, doing BBQs, or other things. To me it is a day like any other. One spent alone. One where I do not wake up in a bed after sleeping in. One where I do not plan special meals for holidays. One where I do not expect friends over for games, movies, or BBQ. And most of all, one I do not feel extra restful flopping into bed at the end of the night's festivities.

Day 1525 - 9/3

Cold start, hot end

Today was ok I suppose. It was certainly less sad than I expected. In the morning my car had genuine frost. Very very small ice, but it seems winter is most defiantly on its way. The rest of the day, and the evening, seemed to contradict that. It was pretty hot. I don't know how hot, but I think my app thing estimated it was supposed to get up to 80F+.

I didn't get to sleep in. Due to the holiday I knew school would be extremely empty. I didn't try. I considered going to the mall, but I decided against it. I figured it would be far too busy (as opposed to a moderate busy that would allow for cover.)

I stayed at the pizza place today. The beautiful cute blonde was there again. 😍 She had super cute / sexy jeans on with big ripped parts that made peek-a-boo spots to her thighs. I told her they were super cute. 😍

Things were slow during the day due to the holiday, as was work. But I had good bandwidth, so I watched a show, a movie, and played my game for a bit. Added to a show and some playing I did at the pizza place, I guess today wasn't too terrible.

Day 1526 - 9/4

Screech

Today is just starting, but it seems ok so far. I got to sleep in, and slept the whole time. So, for the first time since Thursday I've gotten more than 6 hours of sleep.

It was warmer this morning, and it's decently warm now at nearly 11. I guess it's supposed to be warm around 80F again.

Speaking of heat I've decided to check in on what it would cost to check my laptop. I think I mentioned it's been running seemingly way hotter than someone said it should, so I've got an email to the repair shop ready to go. I have a feeling they will say a number that is too high, meaning I'd have to risk doing it myself. I have no real fear of the process, but being a laptop it's way more complex to take apart, and if I did botch the job it's not a quick fix. (The post mentioned it would be a few hours.)

This week has been extra worrisome, but also a few good things happened. I still hope everything will turn out ok, but I've been homeless so long thinking of how my life will be, what my routines will be, once I do get re-established, is basically an impossibility. I know who I was. I know who I am forced to be now. But I have no idea who I will need to become. 😞

Time passes

Well, the day has gone to poo. When I got to the restaurant and turned on the system it just hung on boot up. I force shut it down and tried to re-boot. It said I had no boot disk. I tried again, same, and again, same. I took the plug and battery out and tired again. It again did the DOS style disk check. It did boot up after, but it took FOREVER. And all the while, I heard a very faint electronic screech from under the keyboard. It seems to be running ok now, but there are most certainly indications of a hard disk failure or death. And now too it doesn't even see the second disk at all. It looks like I may have to give serious consideration to replacing the hard drives. Though, that could explain some of the heat issues. Being a physical disk, when it spins and runs it generates heat in a confined space. What with its tendency to keep running that may be why heat isn't dissipating very well. I'm going to have to give serious consideration to replacing it, and have already put one on my Amazon wish list. Once the restaurant quiets back down again I'll listen for the screeches. And if anything else happens, particularly today, I'll go ahead and make the purchase. It's a lot more than I'd like to spend, but it is the kind of hard drive I'd use in a desktop system, so it could be seen as an investment should it survive until I recover to a home. And I suppose, if it does wind up being just the hard drive, that's not too terrible. As with so many things in my life it isn't a cost I wanted to spend, but it seems necessary to try and hang on. 😞

Week 219

Day 1527 - 9/5 Blue screen of doom

Today was pretty bad, but not like physically bad, emotionally sad kind of bad. The system is still having some critically bad issues. It booted up in the morning fine the first time. No odd sounds, no issues. I napped, so my pre-restaurant time was short. But it ran web stuff and my game as normal for about 2 hours. I packed up and moved to the restaurant. Again it seemed to boot up fine. It wasn't until 8 hours later that it did it's 'pause for a minute and do nothing' thing. I sighed, but it seemed to pass without too much issue. But a few minutes later it blue screen crashed and said it could not correctly dump the memory. So, something is definitely up. I'm still not ready to give up and order a new hard drive. The fact that the tests come back all clean make me worried that it's not a hard drive issue. I guess I can run some memory tests tomorrow and see if they come back clean. Things are pointing towards hard drive, so I do have that on my wish list ready to go.

I'm also hesitant to do the change because of how flakey laptop drivers are. I'm worried that a full rebuild of the software may miss something, or something won't work right. I suppose I will still have the old drive to go back to if I need unless, of course, they suffer final death before I do the swap.

When the system was running normally it was an ok day. There were no jobs to apply for, but it's not terribly surprising due to the holiday. There were a few I looked at, which is rare. I watched some shows and played my game for a bit. Outside of the worry and crash it was a fairly regular day.

Oh, I did finally go tell school to give me my money back. Though I guess they have some dumb rule about keeping it until two weeks after the semester has started, so I won't get it until mid-October. 😞

I did pick up an air can and blow out the system's vents. I did just see a video on how someone blew out his system just a bit ago, but it was the total opposite of how you'd think to do it. But he was right and a few dust bunnies popped out when I did it, where they had not previously been blown out with the blowing I did this morning. It took two

tries, but I also managed to get another backup run. I'll definitely run that once a week or so until things are stable again.

I guess all I can hope is that tomorrow is a better day. 😞

Day 1528 - 9/6

Could have been sparks

Today was actually pretty good in that nothing bad happened. It started with a lot of extra rest at school. I was still worried about my system, so sleep overall last night / this morning was difficult. But in total I probably got about 9 hours. So I got a little caught up, which I'll need as I can't sleep in the morning for the next three days basically.

I got to the restaurant and the system started normally, within the normal amount of time. It wasn't slow, it wasn't making noises, and it didn't fail. As the day went on and I monitored temperatures several things were different. Web stuff ranged from as low as the 60c range to highs of low 70s, whereas before it was basically around 75c no matter what. In gaming it only hit a high of 85c, vastly down from the average 100c with highs of 110c+. So it was a *huge* improvement. Also, when I tabbed out it rapidly cooled off, which it didn't used to do. Within about two minutes it would drop from it's about 85c to about 75c, whereas before when I would tab, regardless of how long I tabbed for, it would never drop below 80c. So, it seems temperatures are vastly improved.

There were no hard drive issues or other weirdness at all. Temperatures on the keyboard barely got above warm for the entire 10 hours the system was on, and the rear of the system was blowing air that was barely warm. So, it is possible the dust bunnies that got pushed out of the system were causing some kind of short, or they were slowing down the fans bad enough that heat just made things in the system terrible overall. If it was heat or a short caused by the dust we may never know, but if things remain trouble free that's all that matters. 😊

Day 1529 - 9/7

Just in case

Today went surprisingly well. I did my podcasting in the morning, and since the laptop has been acting normally I did it on that instead of the netbook like I thought I might. Everything went smooth, and temperatures were down while the fans also stayed super quiet. It was like the old days.

After, I went to the coffee shop. I played my game and had a pretty fun time doing crafting things. I watched shows and played my game more from the restaurant. A quick job check revealed nothing new.

At work the laptop again booted and acted normally for the most part. There was a bit of the very very faint screeching when the hard drive would run, but I can't entirely discount the possibility of that being poor line noise on the power at work. Screeching does happen with bad power on even perfect systems. So, the screeching, which was barely audible to even my super ears, may be nothing. I edited the podcast and made a second copy of it and other necessary files for posting, just in case something did go bad before it was up.

But, this is now the second day after blowing out the system that it seems to be back to normal. While I am still ready for it to die I don't know that I'm quite so worried that it may happen soon.

Day 1530 - 9/8

Coughing up yuck

Today was pretty good. 😊 I put up my podcast and it went fine. I played and stuff and the system was up for about 11 hours total and there were zero errors. It was booted three times, and it is currently running a backup. The only issues there were was one backup showed corrupt data, but I've narrowed that down to also being a conflict with that very same Microsoft anti-virus that causes the other issues. If it weren't a base feature of Windows I'd just uninstall it completely instead of manually shutting it down when I need to.

Part of my play time was even with my friends who I haven't seen in forever. 😊 They showed up around, I think, 4:30 my time and left about 7:30. So that was lot of fun. I think it's been nearly two weeks since I saw them last. 😞

I guess emotionally today was ok when I was alone. I was very sad though that I'm still homeless. 😞 Food is not agreeing with me much lately, and I have to eat foods when I'd rather cook different food. Physically I think I am getting sick. I was sneezing the past few days, and yesterday for about half the day I'd get dizzy if I was standing up. Today I've started coughing up yuck, so that seems bad.

I guess though for a homeless day today was pretty good. My system seems fine again, so I can watch my shows and play my games seemingly without fear. (It was even cold when watching a show something that hasn't happened since it was new.) And, I got to see my friends for a bit. 😊

Day 1531 - 9/9

Ability spam

Today was ok. It was a blur pretty much. I did watch a movie (online) and a show, but the rest of the day I basically played my game. It was reasonably fun, but I played more than I really wanted because I had to do something. The sad was continually in the back of my mind, so I had to stay distracted. I did the first two dungeons in the easy mode, and as I feared there didn't really seem to be any strategy. It just seemed like everyone was spamming abilities. The biggest strategy was when people did too much melee damage you just stay at range. I think it has to do with the overall pace of the game, but I guess I'll see if I do more. So far, not a fan of the dungeon design.

Mostly today I was sad. I wanted to be in a home not wearing outside cloths, not wearing headphones. Since I'm still sick it would have been nice to sleep in, take a nice relaxing shower, rest on my bed and watch stuff on TV, and most of all cook just the right amount of healthy foods. It would have been nice to have peace and quiet with noone walking around causing allergy attacks. But I don't know how long it will be before I can change into house cloths, before I can feel fresh foods in my hands to prepare, before I

have a shower that is in a small private space, where I can play on a desktop system and have good audio quality on voice chat with no background noise. In a regular life these are things you don't ever give a thought too, but in mine they are all distant memories that may never be part of my life again. 😞

Day 1532 - 9/10

So tired, no nap

Today I am so very tired. I was going to settle in to sleep extra at school, but some dumb maintenance guy was close by talking into one of the things that beeps every time. When he did finally shut it someone arrived and they went into the shop room and started making saw noise. I decided at that point I'd lost nearly half my possible napping time and just gave up.

I got into a big event with Guild Wars 2 today. Much like the dungeons I didn't agree with the up and down style of play. Action style is fine, but abilities cycle so fast that you really just spam them. And with 15-25 others around, forget it. Everything is just a big splat of abilities and you can barely keep track of who is where, let alone what is going on. I most certainly prefer a slower, more strategic, more calculable, and accurate style. I really think something like Neverwinter, which combines action with strategic playing, will be the 'next big MMO' for me. When I heard the Guild Wars 2 devs say they expected and planned for you to die a lot during dungeons I had my doubts. Sure, it's a fun game and all, but I don't think it's strategic enough to hold my attention for long.

I got a different dinner than I wanted because it was super hot out and I couldn't keep cold stuff in my car. I suppose I could have taken it in to the laundry with me. I guess maybe next week I'll do that. I had planned on watching a movie if I had bandwidth, which I did, but it turns out I'd actually already seen the movie.

I guess today was ok. The system worked totally fine, but I am so completely tired, and I am very sad my life is not really very close to what I would like it to be. 😞

Day 1533 - 9/11

Remembrance Day

Today is just starting, but kind of sad already. First, it's 9/11, so there's that. 😞

But I just did some podcasting and the system was being weird again. It was taking forever to boot and get set up and I heard the disk doing weird incorrectly running things. It would go, 'woop... EEEEEeeehhhhh' like it was being kicked into starting spinning the drive, but it just couldn't engage / hold proper speed. (Much like the noise when you put in a DVD and it can't read it.) After maybe 5 minutes of it not fully loading the desktop I restarted it. It complained it wanted to do the DOS disk check after, but I skipped that because it was unplugged and would have taken too much power. It did seem normal after that though, and I did do some quick podcast stuff.

I'm very tired today. I had strange dreams. I did sleep in at school, but I woke up after only one hour of a possible 3 I could have slept. I got maybe 7 hours total all night (and probably fewer than 6 last night.)

Today should be an official holiday. It should be 'Remembrance Day'; a day to remember the fallen, like how Memorial Day is for soldiers, but for everyone.

Hopefully the system just had a hiccup and will be fine again. But this is about the sixth time it's had hard drive issues bad enough that it wanted to do a check. While it would be nice to have an awesome solid state drive that I could pull into a desktop, should I recover from being homeless soon enough, the thought of needing to fully recover on a laptop worries me. I've had far too many driver issues to not fear the process. Plus, I really don't have the money. 😞 It would take all of my savings.

I'm still pretty sick. Lately I've been coughing and there is yuck in my throat and lungs. There is little I can do besides take decongestant type cold medicine.

So tired. My ramblings probably don't make much sense. 😞 Hopefully the rest of the day will be ok, and hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

Day 1534 - 9/12

Sore and swollen

Today was ok I guess, though I felt very sad and lonely. I couldn't sleep in at school, as it seemed something may have been going on. There were event parking signs up, which may have been left from last night, but a fire truck was driving in right before me, which is extremely unusual. I passed on the nap 'just to be safe'.

I did play my game and actually watched some shows without issue, but I didn't really talk to anyone. And, with all my sad feelings and thoughts of not being in a home, I felt very alone and lost.

The system was mostly fine. The only issue it had was it didn't seem to be shutting down when I went to leave the restaurant. It sat at 'shutting down' for a good 5 minutes or more before I pushed the button to force shut it down. I've decided, since I have heard a few screeches, that if there is even just one more boot up failure, of any kind, I'll go ahead and get the solid state disk and restore everything. It will be a huge pain, but it really seems more of a question of when will the hard drive fail than if.

For a few days now, possibly a week or more, my joints have felt swollen, particularly where my lymph nodes are. I'm hoping it's just due to the cold, but I can't help but worry if it's some kind of allergy that has gone beyond the itchiness. Also, for at least a week, my muscles seem to cramp easily. As example, my fingers and shoulder are pretty sore from just the 10 minutes so far I've been holding my phone as a light. It seems lately if I stretch wrong I could cramp something. Again, I worry if it's connected to the swelling / itchiness.

There were no jobs to apply to today, and that doesn't help with my sad feelings. While very fun, I don't really like to stay at the restaurant all day. It still feels weird 'living there'. But then what else am I to do? My only other options are be somewhere (with inferior connections) or just sit in my car somewhere. But I have to keep myself distracted. I have to be playing something, or watch something, or doing something. I suppose it's a form of self-soothing, showing myself that everything is 'still normal', that 'I'm ok', etc..

I don't know how long my life will remain stable. How long my hard drive will last. How long my stuff can stay at the ex-garage. How long I really will be welcome to spend those 10 hour days at the restaurant. How long my job will hold. How long my car will last. While I am thankful these things are stable, none of them will last forever. But so far it seems my homelessness will. And the combination of those things worry me greatly.

Day 1535 - 9/13

More signs

This morning I was disappointed by there again being signs at school for an event. I'd have ignored it as just something they forgot to take down, but they were in different places than before, so they had to be new. It seems unlikely that I'll get to nap and get extra sleep until Monday. Not only can I not get some at school on the weekend these days, but I have extra shifts both Saturday and Sunday morning.

The system was mostly fine with just a touch of weirdness. It did take extra long to boot and shut down, and iTunes seemingly completely forgot where all its data was (thus wiping nearly everything off my phone when it synced.) Other than that it was ok. As bad as this sounds, it's kind of like a cancer patient. I know it will die eventually, but as long as the symptoms are in remission I'd like to have as many good days as I can. While my life seems unlikely to change I always try and keep my hopes up that change is just around the corner.

I guess today was ok. I got to play my game most of the day. There was only one show to watch, so I checked a few episodes of Big Bang Theory season 5 which I recently got. (So far I've seen them all before, but it's ok.) There were no jobs to apply to, so that was sad.

I was again pretty lonely. There weren't many people online and my friends were busy. Oh, there was some PC hardware news, so I got to update my site with some cool info about that. I guess that was it. Still kind of sick. Congestion in my lungs, ears are ringing a bit, pretty tired and low energy, but there isn't anything I can really do to help

recover. All I can do is try and keep myself distracted and dream of a better tomorrow.



Day 1536 - 9/14

Almost ordered

Today was unusual. I was really hoping to nap at school, but again there were event signs. Added to that fact that normally on a Friday noone is there, I decided to skip my nap. I decided since I needed to post the podcast early I would try and record it, and then at the coffee shop I edited it. The system was weird and a few times I almost ordered the new hard drive. Things really seem tied to that Microsoft anti-virus though. I don't know if it's become corrupt somehow or if it just is that my system's hard drive just isn't taxed enough to present issues outside of that. I suppose that is all the more reason to get it replaced sooner. There seem to be many small hints that it has been dying for as long as a few months now. I think a big decision point will be in about three weeks when I'm expecting two new games. I have one coming Tuesday, but I expect I'll finish it pretty quick, so if I need to replace the drive and lost any save games it probably wouldn't be an issue.

I guess today was ok. Outside of the morning it was a pretty average work day.

As always, how different my life would be in a home is always on my mind. It is getting harder and harder to keep sad things at bay. 😞

Day 1537 - 9/15

Even happy times are sad

Today was ok, but pretty sad. It started with an extra work shift, so that was good. Though most of the shift there was enough bandwidth to play my game and I had fun. I couldn't help but think though I shouldn't have this job. I should be sleeping in. I should have a bed. I should be able to get up when I want on the weekend. I should be able to shower and play and have regular breakfast and lunch foods when I want. And when I

break for dinner and maybe a movie or show I should be able to watch it on my entertainment system.

I got to see my friends for a bit today, which made me smiley. 😊 But... my sads are so sad lately. Even though my friends were on and we were having fun I was still sad.

😞 I was reminded my voice chat sounds bad. There were people around me making noise. I was not able to eat good food that I cooked myself. I still have swollen parts and am congested, and I did not get to sleep in and rest.

While there are some happy times and things in my life, for which I am super grateful, there are still so many sad things. And lately it seems no matter how happy the happy things are, I cannot stop thinking about the sad things. 😞

Day 1538 - 9/16

Ok to sad to ok

Today was okish overall I guess. At work I had bandwidth, so I played my game. After work, when I got to the restaurant, there were people at my table. Their stuff was packed up, so instead of unpacking my stuff I just waited for them to leave. And waited. Aaannndddd waited more. It wasn't until 45 minutes later that they finally left. By then I was sad and my day was kind of ruined. I certainly wouldn't have waited if I knew it was going to be that long. After finally getting my spot I watched some shows and did general web stuff. My friends came on and we got to play together for about two hours. 😊

I guess today was more ok than not, but again it was a day where I was not happy with things and I felt like nothing will ever change and my life will just continue to slowly deteriorate. 😞

Day 1539 - 9/17

A chore

Today felt like a chore. Though all I had today was laundry and a work shift, things seemed like extra work and effort. It started with no nap. Again there were event signs. I wouldn't be surprised if there were orientations all this week. While I don't mind regular students possibly seeing me sleep, irregular ones coming to events would be disruptive and worrisome. The one chore of laundry seemed quickly ruined. Any nice smells generated by the clean clothes are quickly masked by smells of work, people around me with various scents, and the smells of any location I go to. Driving places seemed a bother today. I'm always moving, always driving. I don't get to stop, stay, and not worry about moving. Even places I can stay longer I must eventually move on before the night is over.

Today seemed sad. Today seemed yet another reminder of what I don't have and how very differently my life must be because of that.

Day 1540 - 9/18

The final straw; time to order

It's early. Again there were signs at school that there was an event, so no sleeping in. It seems today was the final straw with my hard drive. But why did it have to be today? The day I'm set to get a new game. I settled in at the coffee shop and it immediately came up with the DOS style disk check error. Outside of failing to install an iTunes update correctly the past few days the system has been running fine. Well, when it's done I'll hope that is indeed all that is wrong and order the solid state drive. It probably won't get here until Thursday. All I can do is hope my game installs ok in the meantime and that the disk goes back to being mostly functional.

Outside of the system failures and apparent required replacement / upgrade I suppose things are as ok as they can be. I am very unhappy with where my life is these days. Though I have had more friends lately than I probably have in the past 15 years, everything else in my life seems sad. I am not in a good job (in that it's only a few hours

with zero growth potential), and I'm beginning to wonder if I ever will be. Because of that I have no health insurance, which means medicines are difficult and there is no dental or other coverage at all. And because of those I have no home at all right now, and for the most part I am sick all the time. I'm starting to worry about me all the time, even with my happy distractions. But there is nothing I can do about it until I get an opportunity and it is done... or I am done. 😞

Week 221

Day 1541 - 9/19 **The final backup**

Today was ok, hopeful, but still very sad. I saw that my new hard drive was set to arrive today, but decided to not go to the ex-house to wait for it, as I didn't know when it would be delivered. Instead I decided to see if the system held out, and if it did, just take the day off as it were. It was a weird day, as the day was pretty fun but I know tomorrow forward may have some trouble spots. (Though again I could just switch drives back if there was big trouble of some kind.)

The final backup is being run, and my life has entirely been put on hold. I've stopped my email from auto checking and forwarded things to myself to pick up on the new install. (Rebuilding email filters is such a pain.) And any work I do on my site, Epic Fail, or my ramblings, now must go on hold until the system is stabilized. (Though if it doesn't look like it will before Friday afternoon I'll record on the netbook so people don't have to wait.) Hopefully everything will go well and I will entirely be recovered by the late afternoon, but I guess we'll see what happens when it happens.

As with everything in my life I remain hopeful, but it seems the reality of my experience will be flawed or stumble in some way. As I always ask myself though, 'Why not me?' (In terms of why can't I be the guy things that go right for.)

Day 1542 - 9/20 **Delayed paths**

Today and last night have gone weirdly. After writing last night it took three hours to gather what I needed to be ready for the transfer and swap to the new disk. There were some setbacks. First, there were no disks at all in the laptop box. Uh... what? Where is the Windows disk? Where is the laptop driver disk? There apparently are none. So, after discovering that I decided to hook up the drive in the secondary bay to do the format and be ready to do a disk copy in the morning. The system did not recognize the disk at all.

It's not seen in Windows, nor in BIOS, at all. Through various conversations with the manufacturer today it is their guess that the drive is D.O.A. (dead on arrival.) I guess that happens sometimes, and in all of my past 12+ years building systems I have had one other part arrive D.O.A., so I have experienced it before. But it's like, now what? That's a \$225 investment. (Though extra work shifts will recover it within a few weeks.) I guess I have to look into shipping it tomorrow, which for it to mail out and come back will likely take a week or more. I guess the system seems ok in the meantime, but still.

I don't really remember today. All I remember is a blur of side tracking. I expected to copy my drive and change. That didn't happen. As I was leaving, one of the gamers that works at the coffee shop talked to me about Borderlands 2, which was fun, but again an unexpected side track. At the restaurant someone was outside and needed a ride maybe, so talking with her for a minute was a side track. Throughout my day there were things I thought of, but my mind wandered and side tracked. Today I felt lost in a sea of things I'm only doing because my life is unbalanced, and I wonder if eventually it will become so unbalanced I lose it. 😞

Day 1543 - 9/21

Nose hairs

My nose hairs are driving me insane. It's such a simple thing. Trim them. But not for me. I have to go to the ex-garage to get the stuff to do it. And often times I just forget. So it goes on and on and on until they are so long it drives me insane. 😞

I guess today was ok. I did my podcast in the morning and it went fine. I actually rambled for longer than I thought I would. I edited it and then posted early for fear of it being lost in hard drive corruption.

Speaking of which I've decided to go ahead and RMA the drive and hope the new one works. Unfortunately it could take weeks to process and get a new one, putting any kind of return to get my money back at risk if a new one still doesn't work.

Today my life seems troubled. I don't understand why it seems all these little things happen to me. I guess I should be thankful that nothing bad that's big has happened again.

Day 1544 - 9/22

Lost

Today I feel sad, though I suppose the day was ok. I've been watching a show lately. It's an older show that I never watched when it was on. I was still in a home when it started, so I'm not sure why I didn't. Maybe it was on opposite something. Maybe it's because I didn't really know what it was about. At any rate, the show is about some people stranded on an island. In the episode I last watched they'd been stranded for about a month and a half. They got into some kind of bunker and found food, showers, and beds. It made me very sad. Their lives are a lot like mine. In a flash everything they had was gone. And now they have been living completely differently, trying to hold on to who they were while being forced to be something different. I know how it feels to not have your regular life things. And I can relate to how they felt at getting regular food and even a simple thing like a shower. They only had a little food, so they decided to have a party instead of rationing it. I can't imagine how nice it would be to suddenly have a bed again. To have good healthy(ish) food. To be able to shower. And have someone say, 'Hey you don't have to worry today. At least for today you are taken care of and safe.'

Day 1545 - 9/23

No boot disk

Today started bad, but ended pretty good I suppose. When I went to start up, the system said it couldn't find a boot disk at all. I pushed the try again button and it started fine. After moving to the restaurant it again gave the error. It took several tries to finally get it to boot correctly. Hopefully it will keep going and work ok long enough for me to get the replacement disk and copy it over. I suppose it wouldn't entirely be bad if I had to reinstall from scratch off whatever is on the web, as I did a recent backup, so everything is current. But still, if the data is good I'd rather just copy it to the new disk and have a (semi) functional original just in case. After the system was running it ran fine, no other hiccups.

My friends came on for about an hour at about 4:30 my time. So I had a fun time playing with them. 😊 And they left early enough I decided to go see Dredd. 😊 It was pretty awesome, but I'd definitely say it is for a pretty hardcore comic movie fan or someone familiar with the original comic. I think there are too many things they too lightly touch on for someone not familiar with it. They may feel lost or confused by many of those things.

I had fun with my friends, fun with the movie, and fun with my games. I just pray my RMA goes quickly. It should be there tomorrow or Tuesday, but it may be weeks before I get on back. I just hope my system holds out until then and the transfer goes smoothly. I guess time will tell.

Day 1546 - 9/24

A good day among bad

Today was actually a pretty good day among bad. I guess I can go chronologically, as I'd be less likely to forget anything that way.

It was the first day for school, so a ton of people were in the lot. A surprising number for the time I was there actually. I'm sure the number will drop a lot in a few weeks though. The first week or so is extra busy from people trying to add. But, despite the noise, I got really awesome sleep for the 1.5 extra hours that I could. I think it's been like two weeks since I slept in. Class went ok. The teacher seemed good, unlike the terrible one I had last time I started this class. (Last semester when I got real sick and she was doing forced lab time for a night class.) Not only is there no forced lab time, but it may turn out I can skip the Wednesday class entirely. The class is mostly online, and Wednesdays are reserved for lab time and online quizzes. If I can do that stuff 'from home' I'll just do it from the restaurant at times I feel like doing them.

I had a doctor appointment at noon. It took extra long because it was a busy day, but it went well I think. She renewed my prescription for the blood pressure meds, and gave me one for an inhaler, which apparently are not sold over the counter anymore. We talked about my bumps that have been on my legs forever. And it seems that asthma, allergies, and eczema are all on the same gene, so if you have one you likely have the

others. She told me the body wash I'm using is actually bad for me as it has some ingredient that dries out my skin, so I have to change that. My cold I have is apparently not really a cold, it's just hyperactive allergies. That would explain why I have cold-like symptoms so much of the time. Sadly, or maybe not sadly depending on how you look at it, she said my getting fatter is likely just age more than diet or blood pressure meds. I hate the shape I'm in, but while homeless there isn't really anything I can do.

The happiest thin was that the system worked fine. Not only was it fine all day, but it started up three total times. There was a minor screeching on the third start up, but that was at the work location I heard it before, and I didn't hear it at the other two. Hopefully the system will continue to be ok. Now that school is on if I sleep in until the restaurant opens then that means I'm cutting down the number of start ups by as much as 40% as I otherwise would. So that may help prolong its life until the new drives if I can do that. At this point though I'm just keeping my fingers crossed and going one day at a time. No word on the RMA, but I can check on that tomorrow.

Speaking of tomorrow, an XCOM: Enemy Unknown demo is out. 🤓 I didn't have the time or bandwidth to download it what with class, the appointment, laundry, and work, which is sad, but I'll get to it tomorrow I'm sure.

My nose is super sniffly and sneezy now, but hopefully I can sleep soon and tomorrow will be another good day.

Day 1547 - 9/25

Hopeful

Today has just started. I couldn't really sleep in at school. I'm too worried about my system and hard drive. The tracking shows that it's out for delivery, so it will be there soon. (Though I still don't understand why it's taken so long to go 15 miles.)

I guess, at least so far, things seem ok. And for me lately, that is something.

Day 1548 - 9/26 Sad feelings on a good day

Today was a pretty good day. Got some really great sleep at school, though it was only an hour extra past what I'd already gotten. Tomorrow hopefully I can get all three extra hours. Class was ok. She's a good teacher, so that helps a lot. I guess I can't totally skip Wednesdays. They won't go the full time, so I should still be able to get to the restaurant before they open and grab my spot, but I guess there is enough we will do that is not the quiz or lab that the day can't entirely be skipped.

My system worked fine all day. I didn't turn it on during class despite how much I'd have liked to. Hopefully reduced start-ups will help. I spent my restaurant time playing my new game, watching shows, and did a job check. There was no change on the RMA status. Though they did receive it yesterday. I'll probably check in tomorrow or Friday if I don't see a change on the RMA status page.

Despite my day being good. I felt alone, and I felt sad, because I'm out in public instead of in a home or at a work shift. I suppose my day wouldn't have been very different, but there would not have been constant worry about the hard drive, I could have eaten exactly what I wanted, and most of all I could have showered in a private warm shower. Days like today, when I have cold-like symptoms it's nice to take a shower before bed, to get all clean, to get into a bed with clean sheets (still warm is even better.) I can remember how nice and relaxed I felt. But now it's been years since I had a room of my own. Longer still since I had a home with just me, or me and a sweetie. And although I remember what that shower and comfort felt and smelt like, I don't know how long it's been since I've felt it. And I don't know how long it will be before I can again. 😞

Day 1549 - 9/27

Disappointed

Today I was sad and disappointed. I was surprise and overjoyed to see my replacement disk was delivered. I grabbed the disk and have been trying to get things set up for the past hour. (It's now just past midnight.) It looks like it has the exact same issues as the last. It doesn't see the disk in bios nor Windows no matter what I do. There must be an incompatibility of some kind. There are new controllers on the disk, and for some reason it may not be compatible with my laptop.

In the morning I'm going to surrender and order one from a different manufacturer. It will be a bit bigger, so that will be good, but it means all my money will be out and I'll be down roughly \$225 until the RAM on the original one is processed in possibly a few weeks. (Plus the \$140 school still has, plus money for the new drive.)

I hope the new one works. I hope this is a test from Fate. I've been feeling very sad lately, like everything in my life is in a state of decline, falling apart, failure. If this is a test, then what I have to prove is that I *can* rely on my experience and knowledge to work through my troubles, and that I *can* rely on myself to improve the troubles I'm having, and maybe even in doing so wind up actually stepping forward and improving something.

I guess we will know the answer to that in time, but for the moment it looks like that time will not be until Tuesday. All I can do until then is hope it is the right step, and that everything crumbling around me will turn out ok in the end.

Day 1550 - 9/28

No more micro

Today I had too much pizza. When I tried to cook my dinner it just went around and around forever. It never got defrosted. Thankfully I'd only spent \$2.50 on it. I guess the work microwave, after years of dying, is finally completely dead. I decided to call out and order a pizza instead of starving for the next five hours until I could get something. It

was pretty expensive, and I ate too much, but I guess divided by the number of meals it will be it's not too pricy. It was kind of burnt, so that was really disappointing.

I slept for a bit at school in the morning. It wasn't as much sleep as I could have gotten because it was weird sleep. There were people making noise, so I was half in and out of sleep. I probably only slept half as much as I could have.

After, I kind of rush did my podcast. It wasn't until I was half done editing it at the restaurant that I realized I didn't actually need to do it in the morning. I had set it into my brain that I did, as I was going to do the hard drive swap at work, but I discovered last night that it didn't work, so there was no reason to rush the podcast. I decided to just finish and put it out since the system was already running fine at the time.

After, there wasn't much time left. I had just a few hours to watch shows and play for just a little bit before I had to be off. I had to print some stuff to do the RMA for the first SSD to start to get my money back for it. The new type is ordered and set to arrive Tuesday. Hopefully it will do so before I lose too much time to get settled in at the restaurant. It wouldn't be the end of the world if it didn't, but if the lunch rush gets there before me it's almost not worth going, as there is a very high chance the few tables with power access would be taken.

Today was lonely and still a bit sad due to all the hard drive juggling. There is so much of life I'm sad about lately, but at least today I was distracted and couldn't focus as much on sad things.

Hopefully everything will get sorted out, but only time will tell.

Day 1551 - 9/29

Not playing with me

There was weirdness today. Since about Tuesday I've been looking forward to playing with my best friends. They asked if I wanted to play and I said I should be around all day. Last night I was in a text chat, and there was some regular life chat, and I accidentally said something indirectly they didn't want people to know. 🙄 There were only about two others in the chat who could have seen, and chat was erased pretty quickly, so they probably didn't even see it nor would remember what was said. But since

then things have been weird. One of my friends showed up in a chat thing I think around 1 my time, about 3-4 hours earlier than they usually do. They were on do not disturb mode, so I didn't think much of it. I saw my other friend come on about 5:30 my time I think. Again, they didn't say anything about playing. Normally they'd start up chat and stuff right away, but today, nothing. I was watching a show and having dinner, so I just waited to see what was up. At about half way through the show I checked the game thing. It showed they were both in the game and playing. There was still no word from them, nor an invite to play. An hour passed as I watched more shows, still nothing. So I don't know what is up with that. Maybe they are deciding what they think. Maybe they are deciding if they still want to be friends or not. I don't know what is going on. 😞

Even without that weirdness today was pretty sad and lonely. I did play Guild Wars 2 for a bit, after having kind of rage quit for the past week after a quest had upset me. There were between two and a dozen guildies on during the time I played, but noone said anything in the 4.5 hours I was on.

Today I don't know if I am alone or not. My friends I was supposed to play with seem to currently be ignoring me, and guildies who were on and playing when I was on were I guess just soloing and not talking. If I were to just go by what happened today, I guess I am still on my own and alone even when others are around. 😞

Day 1552 - 9/30

Sad and sick feeling

Today was very sad. I suppose it was good in that I got two extra shifts, which doubles my income for this week, but I still don't know what's going on with my friends. There has still been no contact or explanation of why they didn't say anything all yesterday when they were on, or why they didn't invite me to play. I don't know if they are still my friends or not. 😞 The last time I thought they weren't my friends anymore my friend was very sorry and it was a big misunderstanding and she said just to talk if anything seemed weird. But now... with them not talking... with the opportunity for them

to say hey and have play time with me and then when the time came they just pretended like I was dead... this seems very off. 😞

I feel sick. It's probably from all this stress and worry about my friends and about my system. The system seems fine still, so hopefully all will go well and things will be fine on Tuesday.

But as to my friends... I don't know. After being at work for 11 hours and watching shows almost all day and then playing for a bit, I had an ok time but I'm very tired. I am hidden, hopefully for the night, I have a dinner to eat (I thought the shift was only 8 hours, so I didn't have enough food), but I feel sick from worry and I'm not very hungry. I'm going to probably pick at my food for the next few hours and try to relax and cheer myself up a bit. But I doubt I can.

Day 1553 - 10/1

Good start, bad end

Today started out promising. I discovered my SSD had already been delivered. (It wasn't estimated to arrive until Tuesday.) I had class, which was good, and during class I downloaded and burnt the software to disk that I'd need to do the cloning.

When I got set up for lunch I changed the drive to be ready for the transfer and see how things looked. The disk was seen in bios without issue. And after booting Windows it automatically detected it and got it ready to be used. So I was 100% right that there must have been some kind of conflict with the other disk due to the new controller it uses. Speaking of which, I got notice the return is being processed and I will have my money back, including tax, in a few days.

At work I decided to go ahead and try to do the cloning. At first it only saw the new disk and didn't see the original. I kind of panicked, but upon restart and a second try it saw everything fine. I told it to copy. It said there was some kind of error, failed, and stopped before it had really started. Clicking the program to try again didn't work. And every time I've tried to use the boot CD program to try again has resulted in what seems like a blank CD disk.

So now things are on hold. The disk is fine and ready to go, but here at work with no bandwidth I can't get to other software to try a different copy program. I just have to wait until morning.

Day 1554 - 10/2

Eventually should be ok

Today seems very sad so far. Last night I spent some time again trying to do the clone. Every time it failed. The base disk may be too damaged to do anything with it other than basic things. (Basically just run it as it is and not do big file moves.)

It's early. I couldn't sleep at school due to my worries. I only got about 5 hours sleep last night. I'm downloading something people have said they have successfully cloned their G73s with, so maybe that will work. If that software fails I'll be left with no choice but to try a fresh install from the image disks online. I will do that only as a last resort. With a desktop it wouldn't even be a second thought, I'd do a fresh install. With the disk not being included, with there being specialized drivers because this is a laptop, and all my previous driver issues, I worry. But I'm not too worried, as the system sees the SSD, so a fresh install is basically guaranteed to work. And it rarely takes as much time to do that as I think. I always think it will be forever, I usually reserve a 6 hour chunk of time, but it usually only takes a few hours.

I still haven't heard what's going on with my best friends. 😞 It certainly seems like they are ignoring me on purpose and don't want to be friends anymore. I haven't said anything to give them time to be mad and figure things out or whatever, but I don't know what's going on.

My life is not what I'd like it to be, particularly right now. I guess I am lucky in that I can be ok on my own when I need to be. It seems I may be there again now. I suppose though, however things work out with my system and friends, somehow I will manage, and eventually things should be back to some form of ok. 😞

Week 223

Day 1555 - 10/3

Plan B

Today didn't quite go as well as I hoped. Some parts were sad, some frustrating, some ok. In the morning, even though I only had a brief window for extra sleep, I got none. I think in total I got about 5 hours due to various reasons. Class was good, though I'm spacing out a bit too much, not focusing. Once the hard drive stuff is settled I should be better able to focus.

My friends are still my friends, so that's good. Though ouchies stay with me for a long time, so things still feel strange.

I saw that I got my hard drive refund back, so that was awesome as monies were very tight.

Researching on the web though I just found more and more and more posts of people who had trouble cloning their primary drive. It really frustrated me because it means no matter what I do I'm going to eventually have to get a copy of Windows, all the specific laptop drivers, and be ready for the drive to fail. I've decided that since I can't clone the disk to just strip it to bare minimum and use the SSD for everything other than the operating system. Since it's been fine for I think two weeks now, I think reducing the work the main drive does may remove the symptoms long enough that I can keep it until something more critical fails (that can't be fixed.) I tried to copy something over that was 13 gig and it failed. The system was saying 40 minutes, but then changed to 12 hours, and basically got stuck there. I tried to cancel the operation and data was missing after that, so I just deleted it. I'm now slowly taking things off one at a time and re-installing to the new drive. So far things look good. Texture lag in Borderlands 2 isn't entirely eliminated, but it has almost been. That may be a connection issue, I'm not sure. The drive can't go 100% full speed due to the laptop having an older connection type, so this isn't even as fast as it can go. One program I use is about a 10 second load now, where it was about, I'd guess, a minute before. Another is 4 seconds, where I'd guess it used to be 30. I still have lots to move, but I'll do that slowly over the next few days. I feel like it's like taking apart a Jenga block tower with a bomb on top.

I suppose today wasn't too bad, but I miss my old life. I miss being on a desktop with easier to solve system troubles. I miss going into a closet 10 feet away to get something instead of driving to the ex-garage and gathering stuff from boxes. I miss not having to worry about what time it is instead of always having to watch out for windows at certain places, always having to keep moving when those windows close. I miss being able to focus and think clearly and feeling rested. I can't remember a time when I was free of worry, stress, and sadness. It's always there now.

Day 1556 - 10/4

Lonely times

Today was pretty lonely. I did get to sleep a bit extra at school but it would have gone a lot better if someone hadn't parked right next to me and played house music for what was probably an hour. I don't understand why they didn't just stay home longer.

The afternoon had a bit of a surprise. My friend I do online work for visited me at the restaurant. Nothing has really changed for us though, so we didn't really know what to say.

My move to the new drive is going well enough I suppose. I'm nearly done moving stuff and I'll feel a lot safer when it's done. Though I can't help but feel a lot of this was completely unnecessary since the system has seemed mostly fine and I'm not using the disk as a primary drive. Looking at my bills, spending nothing on games after next week, for almost 6 months out I'm barely going to squeak by. It even dips a bit negative at the end of the year, but that's ok as some income isn't accounted for. I will just barely eek by. So any other emergencies would have no money to cover them. Even something like going to a movie will have to be very carefully considered. I'll have to very carefully monitor my spending, which is always ridiculously stressful. 😞

Despite my friend's visit I was very lonely today. I suppose being lonely wouldn't be so bad if I weren't also so very sad. My friends I play games with are all basically playing different things. Even the guild I'm in wasn't on at all today. I peeked in for an hour or two and I was the only one. If I were rich and in a home that's big and empty I don't think it would be so bad to be alone. At least then I could eat healthy, probably do

some kind of exercise, sleep well, and have lots of physical and emotional space from the general public. Not to mention being able to filter my air and be in an allergy free environment. I think it's the combination of being lonely and so very sad that is making me so terribly depressed lately. But there is nothing I can do but keep putting out applications and keep trying to be friendly to people and hope that things change in time.



Day 1557 - 10/5

A microwave miracle

Today was a microwave miracle. I didn't expect the work micro to be replaced in anything less than a year's time, but there was a new one already there when I got to work. So, although I had junk tonight, I guess I can return to my weight healthy choices next week.

I guess today went ok. I did my podcast in the morning. At the restaurant I mostly watched shows. I did play for a few hours. Work had enough bandwidth I watched shows most of my shift while data was moving in the background. The disk is definitely messed up somehow. It took about 1.25 hours to copy 45 gig to the backup disk, but less than half that to move to the new disk. I'm pretty sure that was not due to the SSD speeds. Plus, it took about 30 minutes to delete it when it should have probably only been a few minutes. There are still some things to do, as I barely did any of what I planned because it took so long for that first thing, but all of the big moves are done. Though I don't understand what is taking so much space on the original disk. About 115 gig are being used, and I can't really think of what there is on there besides Windows. I'll have to look around and see what is taking up so much space. I'd think Windows would only be 30-40 gig.

I guess I feel ok. Since I was doing stuff today I didn't feel as lonely through much of the day, as my mind was preoccupied. But, as always, I hope tomorrow is a better day.

Day 1558 - 10/6

So long a day

Today felt very long, and kind of sad. I didn't really do anything special. I just mostly watched shows. I played for a bit. I moved a few programs onto the new drive. In the evening my friends were on for a few hours.

But things seemed sad. Even though my friends were on, even though I talked to people at the restaurant, I felt lonely and it was not the way I would have liked my day to be. I cannot say I slept in. I cannot say I watched my Saturday night movie. I can't say tomorrow I'll sleep in again, and while others are watching football things I will have quiet gaming time. I can't because I am not in a home. And because of that my entire life and how I do things are different. And I am beginning to wonder if that will ever change.



Day 1559 - 10/7

Felt like crying all day

Today I felt like crying all day. Nothing bad happened or anything like that. In fact, the day started out kind of good. I got to sleep a bit longer since I didn't have work. I decided to stop at a fast food place and get a sausage breakfast, which I probably haven't done in like a year. I saw a cute baby bunny video. And for the rest of the day I played games and watched shows.

But lately, despite what I thought about having a gaming system in the early days of being homeless, it seems everything I have in my life, all around me, just reminds me of everything I don't have. Beautiful girls at the coffee shop remind me I'm single, and if they are just getting a single coffee I'm reminded how many younger and more fit stale guys there are out there who they would be attracted to. Games like a demo I just got today, or the beta client I got yesterday, remind me how I don't have a good connection, and they take hours longer to do, and they interfere with doing other things if I try and do them at the same time. Things like my show I'm mostly watching now, which is on a tropical island, remind me what beautiful sound I'm missing by being limited to my

headphones instead of being on my 5.1 system. And, of course, every time I eat I am reminded of how I'm eating bad food, and not able to cook.

While my life is so much more than it was while I have a working car and a gaming system, without a place to stay, without a way to get into a better place, things seem so tragically sad. I should not be constantly reminded of what I don't have and can't control. I should not need to be in the places I am. I should not feel on the verge of crying at the loss of me. Yet, as long as these troubles persist, because I am seemingly powerless to change them, it is something I can't help but feel. 😞

Day 1560 - 10/8

It was a day

Today was a day. I barely remember it. I slept some at school in the morning, but I had strange and sad dreams, and they woke me up shortly after having fallen asleep, so I didn't get much extra sleep. Class went ok. I focused a bit better and it was pretty basic stuff. It's all very similar to DOS style stuff, so none of it should be terribly difficult. My time before work and during was ok, but not memorable.

I think I may have found out why the tech guy who did the stuff for the restaurant is ignoring me. I think their company may not exist anymore. The other day I sent some messages to a generic company email address. They bounced and came back today. I sent the restaurant a message informing them the service has gone bad and if they were still with that company they need to smack them in the ass, and if not if I could please get an update on who took over and what is going on.

With my new games on the way I guess I feel a bit better. But my life is still bad and sad. Yes, there are things that I have that are more than others, but there are a great many things the average person has that I don't. I am always grateful for what I do have, but there is still so much missing I want back, and still so much missing I may never have. A friend posted he was sad today. While I am not the type to say someone 'doesn't have the right to be sad' I can't help but think; he has a home, a beautiful young wife, a daughter; all things I may never have in my life since I am so far behind. If I were in such a position I suppose there are things that could happen to make me sad or worried, but

having none of those things, and wanting them for so many years now, it isn't a world I can imagine myself being in anymore.

Day 1561 - 10/9

Good so far

Today seems pretty good so far. I got some extra sleep at school. It has been chilly in the mornings, down from the 90F it was just a few days ago, so it's been tough to sleep at school. I may have to start carrying towels or a blanket as much as I'd not like to for stealth reasons.

I did a bit of podcasting, so this week may be extra long. My system was a bit weird when I did, but after I canceled that Microsoft thing everything was fine. I wish they would fix that. They recently patched and now one of its two parts can't be stopped, so I think they are aware of the issue.

It's, I guess, late morning around 10:30. I'm in front of the ex-house waiting for my games to get here. I got a healthier dinner. I may try and do something similar once a week. I got some mixed fruit, a little bit of lunch meat, and a single serving bread. I should probably do vitamins, but they are expensive and I tend to forget to take them.

Well... waiting now. Hopefully my games will get here soon and my day will be super fun. 😊

Week 224

Day 1562 - 10/10

Hello old friend

Today was pretty good. I didn't get any extra sleep at school, which is sad as it means I only got 6 hours sleep total. But it was ok, as I spent a bit of the time playing my new game. 😊 Class was ok, but pretty boring as she just went over stuff we turned in. Since it's so basic I spaced out a lot.

I spent my time at the restaurant mostly playing my new games. Both are like old friends. XCOM is very much just about a perfect restart with new school flair added in. I set it super hard, so so far I've failed about 1.5 hours in. Dishonored is very much an evolution of the Thief series, but they have added some stuff that's new, as they kind of had to since they don't own the Thief I.P. There are enough old-school Thief elements that it very much feels like a next game in the series. So, even though they are both brand new they both have an old-school familiar style that makes me feel like they are old friends.

Speaking of friends, one of my friends I play with came on and said hi and stuff and checked if I was ok. 😊 I'm feeling much better with my new games and all, certainly more distracted and 'feeling like my old self', but there are still so many things I can't ignore. And even if I could, things like two people who were visiting the restaurant saying it seems like I'm there all the time remind me of how out of place I am. (Though both seemed amused by it more than shocked or freaked out by it.)

I guess my life of recent times is pretty ok, but still, I can't help but think of what I'm missing, and how sad I am for that, even in the best of times. 😞

Day 1563 - 10/11

Crunch time

Today was pretty good. I slept for a bit at school in the morning. I didn't sleep as much extra as I could have though. I again had odd dreams. Since I was up early I did some podcasting. This week will likely be pretty huge since I have two new games and a demo to talk about. At the restaurant I just watched I think one show, then spent the rest of the day playing. Well, I checked for jobs too, but the few that looked close to what I could do were ones that turned out I wasn't qualified for. And I watched a friend stream a podcast in the evening.

Lately I did some crunches, which are like fast half sit-ups. I figure if I do 50 to start that might work better than the 10s of various things I have been doing. It's not all at once, that's a total for the entire day, done in sets of 15-25. I figure a few times a week may get better results. But now my tummy goes 'ooch' every time I sneeze, heh.

Not a terribly exciting day to read about, but nothing went wrong, I did some productive stuff with my podcast and a site update, and I got to play my new games, so I guess today was pretty good despite my homeless limitations.

Day 1564 - 10/12

Exhaustedly tired

Today I am so very tired. I probably should have slept at school, but I decided just to stay up and do some podcasting stuff.

I guess today was pretty good for being homeless. Nothing went wrong, I played my new games, I watched a show or two, I rented a movie to watch at work, and I finished and posted my podcast. There were my constant sad things, but they seem a bit less sad. But as the day went on I got more and more tired. And now I want nothing more than to be able to sleep in until I wake up... but I can't. 😞

Day 1565 - 10/13

Pretty good day

Today was a pretty good day I guess. I got ok sleep. Though I was super tired the first half of the day, and got a headache, the day was ok. I pretty much played my new games all day. I did watch a show when I had lunch, and again when I had dinner, but that was it.

I suppose for a homeless day it was about as good as it can get, but being a homeless day always in the back of my mind is the thought that no matter how good it is, until things improve I am slowly sinking, as if I were in quick sand.

Day 1566 - 10/14

Feeling kinda sick

Today I feel kinda sick. My tummy and digestion are all upset, my ears are ringing, and yesterday I had a bad headache. I think mostly it was undercooked food tonight. I didn't feel so bad until after dinner.

I suppose today, on the surface, everything was pretty good. I did an extra work shift, and I played games during my shift undisturbed. When I got to the restaurant I watched a few shows and played more.

Deeper down though, I am sad. I wish my life could be free, truly free. All I want is a simple home, in a peaceful and quiet neighborhood. I want to be free from work, so my rabbit stuff can be my work. I could sleep when I wanted, work on stuff when I wanted, shower, and eat healthy. I would like to be free to go to conventions, like the comic con that happened this weekend, and free to talk about it and post videos. With that freedom I could be well rested. I could be healthy. But, most of all, I may finally be able to think clearly again, and have this mental haze, depression, confusion, and worry finally lifted from my spirit.

I doubt I will ever have the life I really want, but I don't think I will ever stop dreaming and wishing for it. 😞

Day 1567 - 10/15

Still feel icky

My tummy and stuff still feel icky. I don't really feel sick, as an upset tummy and digestion issues are really all I have, but it's not happy. I suppose it could be a real cold. What with my sneezing, coughing up yuck, headaches, eye aches, sleepiness, and extra hunger. Speaking of which, if I didn't know any better I'd say my tummy feels even bigger. I guess I'm probably just getting more depressed about my physical shape, or lack thereof and it feels bigger.

I suppose today was ok. All of class was how to use a text editor, so I just spaced out and played my game muted. It's a weird class since there is no textbook and it's all based on the professor's notes that are online, and quizzes / tests are all open everything. It's like I don't ever feel worried or stressed because it's all procedural stuff I can look up.

I guess the day was ok. I watched some shows, played some games, and had class that went ok. I got a call to cover an extra shift tomorrow, so that's good. I guess for what my life is, today was ok. Though I'm so very exhausted and unstable icky feeling and want to sleep undisturbed, but that is unlikely to happen. 😞

Day 1568 - 10/16

Sad future

Today my future seems sad. It is early morning time. I am so very tired, but not at all sleepy. When I got up to move I guess I just woke up. By the time I was half way to the school lo I wasn't at all sleepy. I'm in the library and it is super quiet and there is noone around me. Even when they are here they won't care what I'm doing for the most part.

My future seems sad because my path has become so clear. Playing, talking about playing, game systems, and hardware tech has always been the most fun and what I was best at. When I was young I always tried to find something "I could do for a living", but nothing truly fit, and no job has kept me long, and those like the one I have now which have kept me for years have done exactly zero for my resume. I've been going to school

for more than 12 years now and it's gained me nothing. I have an Associates, a Bachelors, and I'm basically a practicum(?) away from a second Associates. (Though I can't afford to work 20 hours a week and not be paid for it, which is what that basically is.) To seemingly everyone else in the world these mean something. They have gotten into places with such degrees even if it's not in the field they got into. But for me it's seemingly meant nothing, helped nothing.

All I can do is hope that Fate is putting me in the right place, and that all of my sadness, suffering, and struggling is 'for a reason', and that reason is that I am where I need to be for it to happen, or I am on my way towards it, if not for myself then for someone else.

Day 1569 - 10/17

Unusual things

Today had some very unusual things, but I suppose no real change. I slept a bit extra before class, which was good, as I really needed it. It felt like much longer than it was. It felt like hours and hours, but it was barely 1.5. In class I was talking to a friendly class person about 'what I want to do for a job' and he was saying that a Greek philosopher said to do what you love. I mentioned what I loved isn't making me any money and showed him my site. He seemed pretty impressed. 😊 One of my super best friends sent a message to see how I was doing and that he had been super busy lately and missed me, so that was super nice. 😊 I usually don't message friends when they seem busy. I know things... move... differently... for me, and 'normal people' don't miss others as much and often don't feel weird going weeks at a time not talking if they get busy. So I never want to seem overly needy or whatever.

My time having fun and stuff at the restaurant was ok I guess. I wanted to do a project, but things were... disruptive... which made me think of if I were in a home I could just control my environment / surroundings and *bam* it would be done super fast and super efficiently. With my time and windows being what they are it is very hard to focus at times. During different parts of the day or night I feel different; I'm more or less sleepy, I'm more or less playful, I'm more or less thoughtful. Having forced windows instead of matching what I'm doing to how I feel ... is sad, frustrating, and in many cases kills my productivity and creativity. I am still very thankful for what I have managed to still hold on to, but I am always saddened by how much more I could be if I had my freedom once more. 😞

Day 1570 - 10/18

Skip the homework for today

Today was ok, though pretty odd in things I did. I slept ok at school, but only got an hour more than I did during the night. I was only half asleep there really and some ass face called me at 8:30. I'd guess a robot for a creditor. They hung up when I picked up. I tried to get back to sleep, but couldn't. I decided to do the bits of podcasting that I had. After, I still had time before the restaurant opened, so I tried to go to the coffee shop. Both plug spaces were taken, there are really only two, so after waiting five minutes for them to open I just left. Since I had just under an hour to kill I just listened to a friend's podcast while I sat in my car. At the restaurant I tried to watch shows. The commercials (which don't buffer) were taking 7-10x as long as normal. I decided to call the supposed company since the guy hasn't replied to my emails. Apparently they do still exist, and he does still work there, so I told him the receptionist to tell him to check his emails. I again sent him a message saying the past two days the restaurant has hit hours of 5-10% of the bandwidth that it should, and that yesterday I got disconnected no less than 10 times in the first hour. He said the same B.S. about that he didn't reply because he's gathering info and they were still running tests to get limits set. Really? Like two months later and you are still testing things? Two weeks should be a sufficient sample I'd think. Sounds more like he doesn't know his head from his ass on how to fix the issues and he's just stalling and hoping I stop going. After, I watched shows as best as bandwidth would allow and played games. After a bit I felt odd, possibly from my theoretical cold, so I took a game break, looked for jobs (applied for a part-time one), and updated my RAM recommendations on my site. I guess it's time to redo the system recommendations to be ready for the holiday shoppers, so I should do that. I kind of wanted to do my school project, but I knew my limitations with the restaurant would frustrate me, so I decided to try and do that tomorrow at work and do the online portion on Saturday, probably from the slower coffee shop connection I'd be at in the morning.

One of my best friends came on or a bit and we chatted for just a minute, so that was nice. 😊 I posted some stuff on Facebook, but really noone replied. That and all the rest of my day made me feel kind of lonely.

I feel kind of sick still. Today my ears are very tired of headphones, though I didn't wear them any more or less than usual. And I am still very exhausted and tired, but rarely sleepy enough to get the rest I need. I did another day of 50 crunch type sit-ups, so so far that's about three sets each week these past two weeks. My tummy isn't as ouchie was when I started and it feels more in shape, though I doubt there has been any real change yet.

I guess, as always, all I can really do is be thankful for what I can still hold on to and hope that tomorrow is a better day.

Day 1571 - 10/19

Warm sprinkles

Today was all kinds of odd, but not in a really unusual way. I didn't try to sleep at school. I wanted to get my podcast done so I could do 'homework' during my shift in the morning. It was unusually warm, and when I was in my car doing the recording I had taken my hoodie off. By the time the restaurant had opened I had taken off my long sleeve shirt as well.

The day was ok other than finishing Dishonored. Normally finishing a game isn't too terrible an event, but this was after only playing for about 6 hours. So, that was nearly 1/3 of what I expected it to take me to complete. Needless to say it seemed quite disappointing.

Bandwidth at work was total poo, so I couldn't do any of the stuff I really wanted. My friends streamed their podcast, but my bandwidth was so bad I couldn't see it. I was getting between 1-3 seconds out of about every 30-60. After 15 minutes of trying to watch I just gave up. It was so very sad because I wanted to share in the fun and see my friends and hang out with people in the chat, but it was just so bad it made me feel like crying. It was like being invited to a party, getting half a block from it, then the car dies where you can see the party, but you can't leave your car.

At night the warm day had turned into a light sprinkle. The usually warm weather had me thinking of being in a home. If I were I could have opened the window and gotten

fresh warm air. The night would have cooled nicely and I could have had the fresh smell of plants in the rain. Or, I guess more accurately heavy sprinkle.

But I'm not in a home. And, as usual, found no jobs to apply to today. So it is unlikely that will change anytime soon. I can't remember the last time I was able to be in a room in a home where I could decide how much warmth there is, and how I could wear what I wanted, or even go around naked. 😏 I don't know how long it will be before I'm in a home again. It may even turn out I never make it back before this terrible journey ends me. 😞

Day 1572 - 10/20 Families

Today there was an unusually high number of people with little ones at the restaurant. They made me smile and laugh because they were all having a good time it seemed, but it made me sad too. One of the things I'm most sad about, and have been for probably 10 or more years now, is I have no little ones. I don't even have a sweetie. While I suppose anything is possible, and I'm not *that* old yet, it seems less and less likely I will have little ones of my own. I suppose, while that would be nice, little ones to care for who are not biological children would be fine too. But the reality is, with the average age of having children at 20 (even though many are waiting these days) at 'my age' that means someone I would get together with 'who is my age' would have grown kids with newborns of their own. (Though it's highly unlikely to find a sweetie my age, as there just aren't any around, and for the most part people I find attractive are in their mid to late 20s, and in reverse I likely would not seem attractive to women my age.)

But it just seemed extra sad today to be surrounded by a high number of people who have what I've been missing in my life, and the persistent reality that not only do I not have that, I don't have any connections to create or find any ways towards getting that. So it seems, with the way my life has gone... well, for my whole life... that it shall remain as it is, and I will forever be single and never hear little ones call me dad. 😞

Day 1573 - 10/21

Brain gone

Today it felt like my brains had left me. When I was on my way to my extra work shift I thought up a couple of things I could do during the shift, but when it came down to it my brain spaced out and forgot about both things until I had shut my system down and it was only about 20 minutes until I was done for the day. I could have done them at the restaurant, but I don't know. By then I just felt sad that I'd forgotten them and didn't want to do them. They are things I kind of have to be in a neutral or specific mood for, and being sad about forgetting them was not a good place for it.

In a home I'd just make myself notes and put them on my desk where I'd see them all the time. They would stay a few days, maybe a week, until I did them. But not these days. These days I can't. I either do something, or I forget. I suppose I could note them on my phone and just check now and then, but these are kind of unusual things.

I feel sad at my chance to be productive, but more sad at the loss of one of my entire systems of keeping productivity up. Doing things for others makes me happy, whether I see results of it or not, and losing an opportunity, even if it's just this time and it just means it's postponed, makes me sad. And since this is a forced life change because of the homelessness, it makes me even more sad, as it's one of those things I may never get back.

I still feel kinda sick. I sneezed on my arm at some point and yuck was there. I'm suuuper tired, but not really sleepy. Which could be in part due to lack of a real opportunity to sleep in.

But, despite how I feel I can't stop. I have to hide at night. I have to move when the sun comes up. School sleep is difficult with all the movement this year. (There are classes starting at 7:30 now, which is much sooner than before.) What I can do that I'd like to do for others is limited by my funds, and heavily limited by my other life limitations. What I have is what I have, and I can do so little to change it. 😞

Day 1574 - 10/22

Free lunch

Today I got free stuff. 😊 I didn't sleep in during the morning. I only had a 1.5 hour window after my morning move, so there really wasn't time. I did my online work in the library, so it was time well spent I suppose. Class was ok, but the entire class was how to change directories and copy or move files. Really? I suppose for a pure Windows (or Mac) user this could be complex, but as someone who used to use DOS, as the saying goes 'I've forgotten more than they learned.' heh. I kind of spaced out and played a phone game and did some news surfing. It was all super basic stuff I pretty much knew already.

I had a check-up for my blood pressure. The good news is that my blood pressure was awesome. The bad is that I'm heavier at 225. 😞 The doc did give me an inhaler for teh free, so that was awesome.

I'd been seriously craving a hot dog lately. School, or gas stations, are the only places I can get them. It's probably been 2/3 of a year since I had one. I grabbed one on my way off campus. I was going to eat it with my typical Monday lunch pizza, but it didn't last that long. I nommed it on the way out of the parking garage. I've been so hungry lately. 😞 When I got to the pizza place I had one of those punch card coupons and it had gotten to a free slice. I got a slice and a drink and the guy said don't even worry about the drink, so I got a lunch totally free. 😊

Work was ok, pretty much a regular shift. I did watch a movie I'd rented during it and after I worked on my new system recommendations, so I feel pretty good about that.

It rained today, the first serious rain of the season. It started pretty hard last night, then was mostly just a sprinkle in the morning. It cleared up for the day, but now that it is later night it's back. I guess it's supposed to stick around all week. The world has that fresh rain smell I like. I want to get t smell it more though, but what with my being in public places that's not possible because they are closed buildings. I guess it's ok though. Better that than like previous years where I was in a soft-top with roof leaks. I suppose this is better, and that's something.

Today seems pretty good so far. When I got up to move to school I decided not to go. I was tired, but not sleepy. Oddly too it seemed just too sad, like extra homeless, to be sleeping in my car today. It is probably due to the rain and extra cloths. I just stayed up and finished this generation of system recommendations so those could be up for people for their holiday shopping that's coming soon.

My friend I do online work for sent an email with an odd offer. She has a spare room (full of stuff in storage) and she was thinking lately that her little one is taking up too much of her time. (He's about three.) She said she worries about me and I could probably come stay there a few times a week. (She hadn't discussed it with her husband, who is a super private guy, typically hides upstairs during most of their parties.) I told her I'd keep it in mind. From her description I think it would probably be a bad idea. It sounds like she wants a companion for him, a friend and sort of sitter. She was looking for company too, but more so freedom to do house things. It sounds like a bad idea because he's so young and someone who is a playmate who stays over would become *very* important to him emotionally.

Back when I was with C&H I became very attached to their little one. (He had turned six during the time I was there.) Very often I feel sad and worried about him. He'd become very attached to me and picked up some of my habits and manners. His parents were very stern with discipline (one reason I don't mind not being friends anymore) and I was a caring and compassionate source of love and affection for him. I worry that missing that in his life he'll grow up like I did, with a parent (in his case two) pushing him away and always disapproving in some way. They aren't as bad as my dad was, but still, without someone always moving with compassion and understanding first (instead of frustration and disappointment) that he won't get the base feelings of support that he'll need later in life.

I wouldn't want to be put in that situation with my friend. While it's unlikely we'd stop being friends, the reality is that my life is pretty unstable. I don't know where I may take a new job, how it could change my hours, or my personality, or where I may have to move to in the future, especially if I get my own family with a new sweetie.

I'll keep it in mind, but I think my life is more complicated than taking any shelter that I find. There are others to consider besides just me and I'm not the type to take such a thing lightly since I've had so much trouble and sadness in my own life without growing up with the right support.

Week 226

Day 1576 - 10/24

TV time

Today was ok I suppose. In the morning it was pretty rainy. I slept in a little, but part o the time I could have I was not sleepy. I'm pretty tired, but it's not too bad today.

Class was ok I guess, I barely remember it. It was kind of a review of Monday. Only about 15 minutes of class was new. On Wednesdays we have extra time for lab, so it's only half as long as Monday's class.

At the restaurant today and yesterday I just watched shows all day. I only played a game for about 2.5 hours. It's one I haven't played for a while. It was super fun, but felt odd because I haven't played in probably a few weeks.

Today was kind of odd because I got word that one of the higher up people at the restaurant was 'looking for me' on Monday. (He's someone who isn't at the restaurant. He's like a corporate guy or something.) I haven't sent a message to them in weeks, so it seems unlikely to be a reply to that, and it's been at least a week since I talked to the tech. (Their bandwidth was better today, but a low point I tested was 15% of what it should be. It's like normally being on a freeway with a 60 MPH limit being changed to about 10 MPH.) I can't help but worry that it's some kind of bad news, like he's going to ban me from the chain, or say to quit bugging the tech about poor bandwidth and this is what I get take it or leave it. But the logical side of me thinks if it were something like that he would have sent me a note, or leave a physical one at the shop, or have a manager tell me whatever it was. Monday is the only day I'm never there, so it may have just been a passing curiosity. Like, 'hey, that guy that's always here isn't here, I wonder where he is.' I suppose it doesn't matter either way. I've been homeless for years even before I started hanging out at the restaurant and I could be even if I were told not to come back. Honestly I'll probably forget all about it in a few weeks if he never comes forward to meet me. (If he were super mad or something he'd probably have stopped by yesterday or today or just have a manager say whatever. Logically it must just have been in the passing curiosity category.)

I don't know. The people here are all nice to me and nearly all know my sad story. (The one manager who didn't seem to like me much left for a different store. A super nice one is in his place.) Though probably more have forgotten my sad story than those who remember at his point.

My life is what it is. All I can do is try and have the most things to keep me physically and emotionally safe for as long as I can. If things become unsafe, or broken, or I'm not wanted or allowed to be somewhere, so it must be. It is yet another thing I can't control. There are other shops I can go to if need be, and now school is open again, so I'll be fine either way.

But for now, as with everything in my life, I have to let it go and not worry about it. If something comes of it then it does, and if not I have to assume it wasn't something important and retain my regular routine, or change it based on my choice. All I can do is keep hoping that someday I will be back in a home and won't have to worry about such decisions anymore.

Day 1577 - 10/25

Loss for words

Today I'm at a loss for words. I don't know what to say for my podcast, leaving only tomorrow to record or it will be late.

This morning I slept in for a bit, then went to get Halloween candies for next week. I, of course, can't give them out to proper trick-or-treaters, but I can give them to school people.

I haven't been in much of a game playing mood lately. I was going to play one that has some Halloween content, but the restaurant connection has been total crap lately. It's been about 15% of what it should be, meaning I can do just about zero downloading at all there and it's barely enough to run video at poor settings. It's been stuck like this for a while, so if this is some kind of permanent cap I'm going to have to seriously consider going other places more, as this is now half the speed of other connections in the area and far far less than it used to be.

In the evening I watched my friends do their podcast. They had some guests on and it was a super fun time. 😊 I got all excited and was kinda a pest, so I'm sad about that, but I don't think anyone's feelings were hurt or anything.

I don't really know what to say other than that though. No jobs to reply to today. There was a part-time one I applied to the other day, but I've really not heard back from any of these people. I can't remember how long it's been since I've had any kind of interview. Probably years.

I'm worried about my podcast in the morning. I've got nothing I can think of to say. I want to do another Halloween time one, but can't remember any stories. 😞 Well, there is still a bit before I go to sleep. Maybe I can think up something.

Day 1578 - 10/26

Bad start, ok end

Today had a really disappointing and sad start. All I wanted to accomplish today was to do my podcast. I got set up at my usual spot and there was nothing but trouble after. First, there was a constant street cleaner noise. I decided that it should be quiet enough to not be heard so I went ahead and got set up. Immediately after a flock of birds came by and were all 'ack ack ack'. I had to burn up battery charge waiting for things to quiet down. When they did and I started recording the recording program kept going non-responsive and nothing in the system would respond for 5 minutes. Then, when it got free of that, the street cleaner noise would get closer and get really loud. With this repeating in cycles I'd burnt up 75% of my charge in about 30 minutes for only 10-15 minutes of recording. I decided I'd had enough and changed location. After I'd set up the lockups persisted, so I got no podcasting done at the second location. On top of that the system shut down from no power. On restart it did the forced DOS style disk check. For the next half hour at the coffee shop I tried to do editing and tried to let it charge up. I was met with repeated locks and it always showed 0% charge. I gave up completely and shut down and just let it charge and do nothing else for 30 minutes.

I went to the pizza place and things seemed mostly normal. It slowly was charging. There were still lockups with the recording program, so I saved it as a different

file name and stopped trying for a while. Once I opened the new file things seemed fine again, and they remained fine for the rest of the night.

This is how bad my life is. I had no expectations or hopes for today except to do my podcasting and post it early. But I couldn't without repeated trouble and missing my window for today. I don't need a great life. I just want a good one, a simple one, one where I can plan to do a podcast and do it trouble free. Most of the day I felt like I was going to lose it and break down crying. My life is bad enough without more trouble, yet more trouble always seems to find me, and all I can do is try and persevere.

Day 1579 - 10/27

A big scare

Today was pretty bad. It started off disappointing, as I'd done a backup last night on battery, so I had no charge for posting this morning. (I'd forgotten I'd need it.) It wasn't a huge delay, but things didn't get posted until about 1.5 hours later than I would have liked. The afternoon was the bad part of my day. At about 3 the system was doing a lot of non-responsive times and the 'bbbbzzzzzztttt... doooooo... wheeeeee'. When it got into a game it just shut down and blue screened saying it had to do an emergency shutdown. On the next two restarts it gave errors saying Windows can't restart normally. I waited a bit and tried a third time. Thankfully everything seemed fine again.

I remain cautiously optimistic, but after Friday morning's issues on top of today I worry. There is no way I could afford to replace the whole system. At last check a solid mid-range replacement would be about \$1500. Even a new copy of Windows (if it were only the faulty hard drive) would still be more than I have since only \$50 remains of my savings for *any* emergencies that may come up.

I continue to remain hopeful that my system, and I, will last until change begins to happen. But it continually seems less and less likely. 🙄

Day 1580 - 10/28

Some tears with my bunnies

Today was warm. It was rainy and cold for about a week, but yesterday and today seem unusually warm again. My system ran fine with no issues. It's possible whatever issues it has are related to the buzzing and whirring I can hear over the headphones. I guess in the future if I hear it I can try shutting off the system and restarting. Hopefully it's just some sort of corrupt start that can be avoided.

There was the crazy homeless guy in the restaurant today. He arrived a few hours before I left. He wasn't very crazy today, just drunk (he drank about three beers in the 5 or so hours he was there and he and his friend reeked of alcohol when I passed by to pee.) For at least half of that time he and his friend were talking openly about being homeless. Most of the time the back area was empty save for us, but still. I guess it's good to share your story with someone. I have been worried I may someday become that guy (though I'm pretty sure he needs meds to remain mentally balanced.) Today though I think Fate helped me see that won't happen. They have given up. What they were saying implied they were happy with being homeless, with having nothing. He said once he had a car, but didn't want to keep paying for insurance and gas, that he was "tired of pan handling". I get that. I wouldn't want to do that either. But then he voluntarily sold the car for the cash. So, he voluntarily dropped himself down to just a bike and this is somehow better? I understand reducing costs, but what, now he's living in a tent somewhere, or in a cardboard box? With a seriously reduced ability to travel to potential jobs? I think Fate helped me to realize I won't be him because I won't give up. I want to bring my stuff out of storage and set it up in a home. I want to keep my car and get places I want to go, or need to go. I don't want to be forced to go to public places to do basic things.

I spent the day alone. I watched shows. I played a game for a bit. I thought about doing my online game, as there is Halloween content, but I feared I'd just be there alone. And it's like, what's the point if I'm alone.

I visited my stuff in the ex-garage. I hugged my stuffed bunnies goodnight before getting some socks from their bag. I kept hugging them as I cried for a little bit. 😞 I'm so very sad all the time these days. While I may be surviving and blending in for the most part, that is not what I want my life to be. I just want a little space to put my stuff, privacy

and space from the public, and quiet and freedom to play games, watch shows, or do my site updates or podcasting. I don't want a lot, just a little, and I don't understand why it seems Fate is keeping it from me. 😞 I don't know what I did wrong, or why it seems I am unworthy or undeserving to have it. 😞

Day 1581 - 10/29

An ok day for a change

Today was an ok day for a change. I didn't nap in the morning. Often there isn't enough time to be worth it on Monday and Wednesdays what with the early class. Some people took candy, but nowhere near as many as I thought would. I've got probably 75% of what I bought still. Maybe more will take some Wednesday. That's way too much left over for me to eat.

I was alone today, but not extremely sad. My system had no issues and I watched shows. I found a new game for my phone, so that's cool, as it's something new to do while I'm hiding. It was free even.

I guess work was ok. Nothing special today. The sadness of my days of late still linger and I'm still very fragile emotionally. I guess all I can really do is what I do every day, hope that tomorrow is a better day.

Day 1582 - 10/30

Pretty good so far

Today is actually pretty good so far. It's late morning, almost time for the restaurant to open. I got a bit of extra sleep at school, but noises woke me up and I couldn't get back to sleep. It's ok though, as I spent the extra time working on my podcast. Everything was fine with the system. No hiccups or weirdness. 😊 And, more importantly, because it is *not* Friday, anything I forget or think to add to the sections that I

did, I can. That is what makes me most sad and frustrated about my recording windows now. I have so few I don't always get the chance.

So, so far today I feel pretty ok. Nothing new has really changed or improved in my life, but those little things, things like having candy to pass out, is something. And until big changes come it will have to be enough.

Day 1583 - 10/31

One trick, a few treats

Today was actually kind of ok. I rested before class but figured I wouldn't be able to sleep, so I never fully settled. I probably would have if I did, as I was very close to falling asleep for 15 minutes of the one hour I had between moving and class. It seems the power strip in class decided to play a trick on me. About 30 minutes after class started my system started really slowing down. I noticed the plug had no 'receiving power' light. I looked to see if it got unplugged or something and it turns out there are switches on each plug of the power strip. I've never seen that. Mine was off. 😞 I shut down and let it charge for about 5 minutes before leaving so I could have some more charge. I had enough time I did about 15 minutes of podcasting before it was down to 8% power. (I really wish I had the money to upgrade. Not only to avoid full system death, but so I could have a system with a battery that lasts more than effectively 30 minutes.)

At the restaurant I played games for a short bit, but mostly watched shows. I thought about doing my online game but decided to pass, choosing to instead edit the morning's podcasting recording I'd done.

All in all I suppose the day was ok. Class was ok. I got to watch shows and play games. (Though the restaurant bandwidth is still total crap. I emailed the guy to again tell that.) And I have quite a bit of candy left, so I even had a few treats for me. The system had no issues today and no weirdness, so that seems like a blessing with all the recent bad trouble.

But now I am not visited by trick-or-treaters. I am hiding for the night. Alone. Sad. And as much as I do not want this to be how my life is I seem unable to change it. So, at least for now, this is what it must be. 😞

Day 1584 - 11/1

Feel like someone else

Today was a bit sad. I tried to sleep in at school. There was a 3 hour window I could have, but I wasn't sleepy. I rested for 30 minutes, but I was no closer to sleeping then when I started. I probably got 7 hours sleep last night, so it's probably fine. I did my podcast since I couldn't sleep. There were a few non-responsive times while at the coffee shop, but the system was fine at the restaurant. I am still very concerned it may completely fail soon and I'd be left with no system.

Despite feeling good about finishing and posting my podcast early I felt a bit sad all day. But more so than that, from the moment I left my night time hiding spot I've felt out of place. Not like my usual feelings, but something far greater. The only way to describe it is I've felt like this is not my life. Like I should be in an apartment laughing and snuggling with my sweetie, or at a job somewhere, or in a different city where I've never been, or even in a different state. And it wasn't a light, 'gee, I wish,' kind of feeling, but a really serious, 'this is not my life, what is happening?' kind of feeling. It's almost as if my consciousness was willingly moved from my body to watch someone else's life as a sort of observer. I look out at this life with odd curiosity, watching this body go through these routines and motions and they seem so foreign, so strange, so very opposite and different from my life elsewhere.

I don't know how to describe it. It's new. But a few times in my life I've felt an overwhelming feeling of being in the wrong place, or something is not the right or wrong decision that I'm about to make. Today I don't feel like I belong here at all. Not that I shouldn't be alive, but like I'm in a hotel visiting somewhere, and I wonder why I haven't left and gone back home yet, where my regular life is waiting for me.

Day 1585 - 11/2

Sad and bad day

Today has been bad and sad. It's mid evening now at work and I'm running all kinds of backups. For nearly 2 hours my system was non-responsive. I kept stopping stuff,

well trying to, then restarting, and it kept going non-responsive in less than 5 minutes. In the morning before it was doing that it had done not one, but two, DOS style disk checks. So, I'm preparing to see if Windows can create a recovery file on my backup disk and if I can restore from that to my secondary drive. Someone that replied to my sad post has a point though; even though I'm past my one year coverage I should go ahead and see if they can fix my issues and at least send a copy of Windows to install from (so I can swap out the main disk for the second one that came with the system.) I suppose there is no harm in trying. The worst they would do is say no, leaving me exactly where I am now.

I wish I had the money to just replace the system and be done with it and stop worrying. 😞 But I don't. What is more worrisome is will this happen again? Is this a fluke that the system is dying after only 1.65 years? Or will this short lifespan continue? Normally I only have that much in the budget for system upgrades over about 3 years.

Lasting half as long is terrible. 😞

But it seems over the last 5 years it has been a repeated cycle. Usually it's car stuff. This year it may be my system. I've never in my life lost so much over such a short time as I have since I've been homeless. And it seems if I want to try and stay somewhat sane and have these things, I have no better choice. 😞

Day 1586 - 11/3

Sad day, ok day, hopeful day

Today started off kind of sad. Within minutes of starting up the system started doing its non-responsive times. It was tolerable though, and I avoided it by watching shows online. It didn't seem to interrupt them if I kept them maximized. I also managed to record one of the events on my phone, which caught all of the main problems, so I can show that to the tech support people if need be.

The tech support people sent back a reply to my request to get the laptop fixed. In it they said to update this, that, and the other driver. My replies on those was basically, 'uh, the most recent drivers were all over a year old when I bought my system back in February of 2011. If I could update them they are far newer drivers than what is on the

site.' I remain hopeful though, as the last line of the email said if those didn't work we could set up an RMA. Hopefully that means I can send in my system and they will swap it out for either a new one of that type, or what I'm hoping for more, they say they can't replace it and offer me some choices on current models at very cheap prices. I guess time will tell.

I felt pretty lonely and sad today. I think that is worry about my system more than anything. I also didn't feel like playing games at all. I think that is due to the fact that if I do send my system away it could be weeks before it gets back. I can still do regular web stuff on my netbook, and my site stuff and podcasts can be run off the SSD if I get an external housing. (Which is like \$25.) So I wouldn't be out everything if I did send it away, I just couldn't game. It would be sad, but I'd rather be out a system for a few weeks than possibly forever.

All I can do is the same thing as always... wait and see if I have any real options. And if I do, can I afford any of them.

Day 1587 - 11/4

Late assignment is ok to be late

Today was a depressed day for me. It's been harder and harder for me lately to stay emotionally ok feeling what with all of my constant sads about my being homeless, a nowhere job that's barely any hours, and no friends I can see in person. And recently the restaurant bandwidth, one of the only positive constants in my life, has gone to poo, and on top of that my system seems to be more and more rapidly failing.

I've had an almost impossible time feeling happy and good about things. I've had an assignment for class coming up for a few weeks now and I haven't been able to motivate to get into a good space emotionally to do it. It's due tomorrow and I was going to try today, but I just couldn't. The professor is being super nice though and I'll have until the end of Tuesday to finish. And she said if my other stuff is on time it wouldn't even matter in terms of points lost even if she didn't give me the extra time.

The replies to tech support are continuing. They seem focused on the possibility of a bad drive, just like I was, so I again impressed upon them that backup times on the SSD

and USB are also seriously affected. I'm still hopeful for a replacement and they seem understandably hesitant to rush to that.

But, it makes me think back on things. It makes me wonder why it had to be something I couldn't solve. What is Fate showing me? That my skills don't matter? 😞 That trusting my instincts and knowledge is a mistake? 😞 That I just can't have things that help me feel normal and happy? 😞 I don't understand. And while I remain hopeful they will help with a replacement I can't help but wonder why it seems I can't hang on to, or rebuild, anything in my life. While my use of the system is different from others, it seems like about a 1.65 year life span is unusually short. And, like everything else in my life, it feels like I am being punished or kept in a bad and sad place for reasons I don't understand. 😞

Day 1588 - 11/5

The void approaches

Today may be the start of a major victory. After a few more emails to tech support they are convinced I should RMA the system. So yay for possible victory. Yay for possibly a fixed system. I am still concerned they will not see the issues, claim its fine, and send it back weeks from now just as it is. But, I did get a video capture of the issues, so hopefully that will convince them it's bad, or whatever tests they run show as bad. Every test I've run it has shown fine, I think because the system is either working fine or doing nothing at all. Thus, any test being run would have to already be active before and then during the event. Since the system just fully locks and just about stops doing anything *and* some things seem to run fine once fully in memory I have my doubts they will find anything wrong by tests. I guess time will tell though.

Tomorrow I'll keep the system as-is. I'll run backups and in the later portion of the evening swap the SSD out for the basic hard drive. Wednesday early afternoon after class I'll take the system to the shipping place. That way I have lots of time tomorrow to prepare everything, and if I forget something I have time to remember and add that in. Oh, and although it could take weeks for them to test the system the place they told me to

send it is right across the bay, maybe 20 miles away, so shipping time should just be a few days.

It seems this week may be ending on a fairly positive note for a change.

Day 1589 - 11/6

Back that thang up

Today has been a mix of happy and sad so far. I am actually happy the system has had three or four non-responsive periods in the past 2 hours, as that increases the chances the techs will see the issues. But I'm sad for a few reasons. Mostly I'm sad because I saw a few lines in the RMA email indicating that the facility I'm sending it to will basically just do a free exam of the system. (Which is at least something, as most places around here would charge \$150 for that.) One line states that systems out of the coverage period are subject to repair costs. That can easily get up to a few hundred very quickly. Also, it implies they may just say, 'Sorry. Your system is dying. We are sending it back.' And that would be the end of that. And, of course, the reality of my life these past few years makes me sad that I will be sending away my gaming system and that will be the end of my PC gaming until I can get a new one.

The day is still mostly ahead of me. There is still a bit of backing up to do, moving a few things to the netbook, and getting the system ready for the RMA. While I still remain hopeful, the reality of basic selfishness and greed makes me worried they will want far too much money to fix the problems. 😞

Week 228

Day 1590 - 11/7 Sad start, happy end

Today had a pretty sad start. I again thought I wasn't tired enough to nap at school after my morning move, and then I was pretty zonked out for 15 minutes, so I guess I should have tried to sleep earlier. (There was a lot of construction noise, then skaters, so that would have been tough to sleep through.)

Class was pretty ok. It was nearly all review for a test Wednesday. I'll study some but it's open notes, so it will really just be 'do I know the procedure for this? Yes/no. If no, look it up in the notes.' It shouldn't be a problem.

Tomorrow I think I'll sleep in at school with no alarm for the first time in I don't know how long. We are rapidly approaching the weekend, and I don't sleep at school on the weekends now, and I think Monday and Tuesday are holidays, so I won't get a chance to sleep in then. I'll have to get caught up as much as I can Thursday and Friday.

After class I had the very sad duty of going to send my system away for the RMA check. The shipping was free, they covered it, but the stupid box was \$25. That's pretty overpriced for a box with foam in it. It should get there Monday. The next step was to go get an external housing for my SSD so I could continue to use it as my main disk. It was pretty cheap at half what I expected it to cost, so that was great. Like the old homeless days I didn't have much to do, so I wound up wandering in the store for about half an hour. It was very sad to think I've no gaming system now, and may not see my system again.

I remembered I should get my oil changed, so I finally did that. After, since I'd mostly set up the netbook last night, I did some podcasting. The external housing worked fine, so that shouldn't be an issue. Though when I set up the laptop last night I couldn't get a signal from the desk I normally sit at. I'd forgotten how weak its wireless was. I'll have to do more tests to see if I can see the signal. If not there is really almost no point in going to the restaurant with my netbook. In a quick test it saw school ok, and food is much cheaper there.

In the afternoon I got quite a surprise when I checked my email. There was an email reply from the RMA people saying they don't cover swapping out a system for a new model, and my system shouldn't cost anything for repairs because according to their records it's covered until the 19th of this month. Whuuuutttt? I don't know how it's covered, as I got it mid February 2011, and the sticker on the back says it has one year coverage, but I'm not going to argue or do anything to change their mind. (They didn't ask for a receipt I don't think.) So now I'm super excited at the possibility they *must* replace the damaged stuff. I won't hold my breath, or even believe it until the system is back in my hands. But with the coverage past when it was supposed to expire, and it going in 12 days before they think it expires, that's got to be a message from Fate to never give up trying and accept what seems to be a position of failure, and to instead just go ahead and try.

In the evening I watched a video of a friend's podcast, which was ok. A friend in chat told me she likes a game I mentioned on my last podcast, so that made me smile to think I made her happy, if even just for a little bit.

I'm still getting used to the limitations of the netbook, and I'm so very exhausted, but it seems today may have ended on a hopeful note. 😊

Day 1591 - 11/8

Forgotten day

Today was ok. I've actually forgotten most of what I did. I know I tried to sleep in for a bit. I think after I was planning to do more testing at school, but it was getting updates and that took nearly all the bandwidth. I couldn't do anything else. I went to see Wreck-It Ralph, which started more than 30 minutes late for some reason. And after, I think I just spent the rest of the day trying to test the netbook at the restaurant. So far the tests seem to be revealing it can do low res YouTube ok because it buffers the video, but things with smaller buffers, like Hulu, really can't run well at all even at lower settings. It was jerky no matter what I tried. I'll do more tests tomorrow. Who knows, maybe it was just a symptom of bad bandwidth at the restaurant, but it seems more likely that the

netbook can barely handle modern web sites, and for the most part can't handle running videos that aren't on DVD.

Well, my life is what it is and I just have to try and adapt as best as I can. I still remain hopeful I'll get my system back all fixed up, but for some reason I still feel like it is more likely I'll never see it again. 😞

Day 1592 - 11/9

Long day

Today was long and slow. And it was mostly forgetful. I didn't sleep in at school because I wanted to finish the podcast. I didn't need to really, but still dealing with unknown quantities I figured it was better to have it ready than not. I guess it was ok that I decided to do it because I discovered the netbook wireless is too weak to see the place I normally upload it from. (I normally do it from outside a store while it's closed.) It did, however, connect to the school fireside room just fine. And it even transferred the files at what seemed like a faster speed than the normal place. I may spend more time at school again since the restaurant speeds are poo. Though I can't game from school, as it's firewalled, so we'll see how I feel when my gaming system is back. More tests do also seem to indicate it can really only handle YouTube well. Many websites are tough for it as well. They drag and scroll extremely slowly.

My weekends without my gaming system are going to get extremely boring extremely quickly, especially with not even being able to watch most of my videos.

I guess though there isn't anything I can do about it, and my system should get fixed for free, so I suppose things should be back to homeless normal quickly enough. It would be nice to think my life will be back to true normal someday – to have a shower, a bed, a kitchen, my desktop, my home theater stuff – but as my memories of such times fade more and more, the possibility of that happening seems to fade along with the memories.

Day 1593 - 11/10

Pop it out

Today was really pretty uninteresting. I didn't sleep in at school, though I probably should have since it will be closed Monday and, I think, Tuesday. Ever since not having my car this past time I've felt weird about sleeping in at school, particularly on the weekends.

Really the only thing of interest today was that I discovered if I 'pop out' a video player from the Hulu site it's much smaller than the default size in the web page, but it can run smoothly if I keep it at 7" or smaller. The default size on this system is maybe 10", which makes it jerky and unwatchable. At the smaller popped out size though it's smooth and fine.

That was really it. My day was really boring. I only had a few hours of shows to watch and that was really it. I studied a bit for my test and then had nothing else to do. I expect tomorrow will be more of the same. And, I suppose, many days following until my laptop is back. 😞

Day 1594 - 11/11

The prisoner

Today was slow and strange feeling. I watched a few shows and studied a bit, but that was it. Mostly I felt like a prisoner. Once upon a time going out to a restaurant was a big deal. It was like, 'Woah. Where should I/we go? What kind of food do I/we want? When should I/we go?' And all the sights and sounds of the restaurant would be memorable for a while. But now it is a place. A place I must be as there are no better choices. And, I must be out, whether I want to be or not. The size of the cage doesn't matter. It may be the world, a set of parking lots, a set of restaurants, or a single restaurant. It doesn't matter. Where I go is limited. What I can do right now, even more so. Even in the best of times I am going somewhere because I must be somewhere. I may choose a movie. I may choose to go to spend time at school, either resting or hanging out. I may choose to go to a restaurant. But none are really a choice because this life I live, the

places I can go, the way I do the things that I do are not the ways and places I would choose if I had my choice of everything. I am a prisoner, and my jailer is the world itself.



Day 1595 - 11/12

By candlelight

Today was sad and a bit frustrating. I went to do my friend's online work and I had most of the info, but not all. Apparently the file I saved her online work info in did not get transferred to the netbook, so I had to wait for her to email that over. What's worse though is that even *in* the pizza place the netbook couldn't really connect right. I tried to watch a video and it kept disconnecting, or connecting at such a slow speed it was pausing every other second. I simply gave up and went back to the coffee shop. But, then I'd gotten the info from my friend to do her online work, so I did that and then it was time to do laundry and go to work.

It's getting colder at night (though oddly during the day it was almost warm enough to drop down to just one shirt layer.) As I took off my house shirt, my T-shirt, and my undershirt to swap them out for clean stuff I thought back to when I was in a home. In a home just the house shirt would have really been enough to keep me warm. And if it wasn't I'd light between two to five little tea lights. Since I have awesome night vision I usually don't have any light on at night, and it reminded me how cool just one or two tea lights can be in the chilly times. Five is downright blinding and not so fun, but sometimes necessary when it's very cold. But since they are so small and have their own holder I never really worried about anything catching on fire. They would last usually about 4 hours, so I would often time it so they were done just before or shortly after I went to bed. Lights bug me when trying to sleep, but tonight I was reminded of those few nights where I was snuggled in bed watching the last of the candlelight burn out as I listened to the gentle rain on the roof.

Day 1596 - 11/13

Waiting

Today officially begins waiting to hear something on the laptop. Yesterday was a holiday, and though they got it Friday I doubt it was actually opened, so I expect maybe today they will actually open it and take a look at it. It would be nice to hear something before Friday on what's wrong, as it will probably take a few days to fix, but I guess all I can do is wait as it is out of my hands.

It's later morning, just after 10. I am outside of the restaurant readying the close of this week. I at least got some extra sleep at school, about 1.5 hours. There kept being construction like noises, like sheets of plastic being slapped around, or steel pipes being dropped, so it kept interrupting me and finally I just couldn't fall back to sleep again.

Nothing really much to look forward to today. I expect I'll hang out at the restaurant all day and watch videos in the small 7" size. It's not great, but I suppose in a way it's not so terrible either. I could go to school and check out a system and watch it at 15", but I don't know. In a way it can sometimes be more distracting there. Like last time there was a guy who was constantly tapping his hands and feet the entire like 3 hours I was there. I thought about requesting a spot change it was so bad.

Well, things are what they are. As always I will try to change them (look for jobs, study for my test, etc.), but, as always, it seems I am mostly waiting for things beyond my control.

Week 229

Day 1597 - 11/14 Feeling more homeless

Today I feel even more homeless than usual. I spent all day at school and I think I'd forgotten how that made me feel. There were groups of friends laughing and having fun. There were people coming and going. And there were people just starting careers or getting ready to start them. But not me. I am stuck. I am out of place. Without opportunity I seem unable to help myself. I am reminded that, in a big way, I have always been an outsider. I have never felt that I've really belonged save for a few brief times and places in my life.

I know friends are out there who like me. I know they would play games with me and have fun. Maybe there is even a sweetie somewhere out there. And I know there are a few jobs in industries that would welcome my experience, creativity, and different way of thinking.

But today seemed like a reminder to me – that there, wherever that may be, is not here. I can't find my way there. And what's worse is I don't know that I ever will, despite how hard I try to find the path. 😞

Day 1598 - 11/15 Sad realization

Today was a bit different than planned. I slept in at school, which was pretty good, and I was surprised to be woken up nearly 3 full hours later by my alarm. I usually can't stay asleep for more than an hour or so due to noise. I had a little bit of time to do podcasting before a move, so I did that. I had been waiting to see The Man with the Iron Fists, but apparently there was something wrong with the projector. Since it's only in one theater I had to see something else. I saw Skyfall which was better than I expected, though I'm not a huge Bond fan.

Later in the day I was finishing up my podcast and realized that next week is Thanksgiving, which means if the repairs on my laptop aren't started basically tomorrow then there is no way I'd have it back before Thanksgiving time. And, even if it was done in the next few days they would have to let me drive over to pick it up. If it were shipped it would be at least three more days instead of a like 30 minute drive.

I stayed on school grounds most of the day again. It's nice to get a landline system to watch stuff on. It's higher quality and has no pauses. I may not go to the restaurant so much once I get my laptop back. I don't know. I would rather watch stuff on my system, but the restaurant connection is such crap now. But at school I can't get good speeds wirelessly during most of the day due to how many people are on, so it may not be much better. I can't game at school, but there isn't blaring music. I guess there are pluses and minuses to each. I will have to weigh things in the future.

Again today nothing changed. While the world was alive around me, I felt very stuck, very isolated, and very alone. With being at school around so many I am again starting to feel like a ghost in a world where I am no longer alive.

Day 1599 - 11/16

Return of the system

Today had a pretty huge surprise. While I was at work I got word from my ex-roomie that there was a 'big, heavy, signature required package from Asus' that arrived. Wiggeda whuuut? Apparently Asus did repairs on my system and sent it back without confirming anything with me, nor notifying me it was on the way. As I feared for such a quick turnaround time it looks like the Blu-ray, keyboard, and the 'top casing' (the top layer of the system which includes the keyboard) were the only things replaced. The hard drives are the original hard drives. There was no mention of a change to the motherboard, CPU, or controllers. There was notation of 'a lot of dust around the CPU and VGA', which they apparently cleaned out. So I suppose it's possible that my theory of some kind of short was what was going on. I guess recovering will be super quick. In theory I just have to swap back in the SSD and it's ready. But I will certainly keep my fingers crossed with so few things changed. And I guess I will get into the habit of blowing it out maybe

once a month. I didn't know you could for laptops since they are so small and tightly packed, but it may seem so, and so I'll be super careful to treat my system super nice in the future.

Day 1600 - 11/17

Restored

Today at work I restored the system. It indeed took just about no time at all. In fact, after I finished I let it run a backup. It backed up about 75 gig in maybe 10 minutes or so. Previously in broken form it was taking over an hour for not even 55 gig. So things seem as speedy as they should be again. It's weird that it is implied they are blaming evil dust bunnies on the problems, but as long as there aren't failures I'll accept it.

After, I went to the restaurant. I think a great part of my sad mood about gaming has to do with the crap connection there. It's stable most of the time, but slow as hell. It was the one spot I could be and play without disruption by people or online ads possibly cutting me off. At $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ the speed of what is really needed I'm worried it may not be enough bandwidth to really play on. I suppose since video is mostly ok it should be, but still. It makes me very sad I don't feel free anymore. Single player offline games are fine, of course, but lately they haven't felt as much fun.

It's pouring rain out. It's nice to hear and see, but being out in it instead of being in a home... it makes me sad. It makes me feel like those pictures of dogs sitting in the middle of the street drenched because they have nowhere to go. 😞

Day 1601 - 11/18

Kinda sad

Today started off kinda sad. I was going to try and play some Guild Wars 2 but it wanted to verify the client. Something glitched and it started downloading like 255,000 files. I looked at the folder and it was effectively empty. For some reason it didn't recognize the like 15 gig client it had and it had been deleted down to nothing. So, instead

of a small patch to the client I guess I'll have to spend a week or two re-downloading the entire client because I no longer have access to a decent connection speed. I again contacted the supposed tech for the restaurant, as I was disconnected four times and it was even slower than the 40% speed of everywhere else around them. (It was down to about 4% of the connections true potential, which is about 15% of everyone around them.) If he replies with 'it's what they want, too bad for you', I am seriously considering messaging the company again. They seriously can't want a connection that is so much slower than everyone around them. And if they do, well, sad as it may seem it may be time to find another place to connect and give my business.

In the evening for a very brief bit I got to play with my friends. 🥳 It's been like a month, so that was super happy. They are busier than expected with things, so I only got to see them for about an hour. 😞

It's hiding time now and I am running a backup and the system is being weird. What should be like 10 minutes has been running for more than 30. I don't know why. Last time was super quick but this time it's taking forever for some reason. It was taking so long it actually nearly completely drained the battery. I'll let it go for a bit more but not much longer. This is crazy and it's not supposed to take this long. So, I'm worried. The system has been fine other than this though. No signs of the previous troubles. But this, this seems suspicious. 😞

Day 1602 - 11/19

A day

Today was a day. I don't really remember it. I slept pretty good, then slept for about an hour before class. Class was ok, but much more complicated than before. I did my online work after then only had about an hour before leaving for laundry and work, so I tried to download a test client. (I say try because all my wireless connections are so slow now.) At work I watched a movie I rented. That was really it. Nothing new or interesting. Today was a day.

As I took my shower I was so very tired. It reminded me of times I used to shower, get all clean and warm, then basically immediately go to sleep in clean bed sheets. It's got to be probably five or more years since I could do that. 😞

Day 1603 - 11/20

Maybe ok

Today should be ok. I couldn't sleep in at school, there was too much noise and I really wasn't tired. It was ok, in that I went and did a little bit of rambling for my podcast about my system being back. The system seems ok, so that's good. I've been really super tired lately, and last night I had more than double the normal amount of food. I wonder if I'm fighting off a little cold. I am occasionally sneezing, but that and being super extremely tired are my only real symptoms. I've been pretty stressed out by the system stuff lately, so I've been forgetting my mini-workouts, but I have been pretty good about having less soda. I think on average it's down by about half of what I was drinking. On some days it's almost down to 25%, which is really at the level it should be. (That's about 1-2 cans per 24 hour period.)

My friends asked me to do a special project, so that will take up a lot of time, but it's fun. Also I haven't really felt much like gaming lately due to how tired I am. I think maybe that's in part due to the stress of everything, worrying about what may explode if I do game and whatnot. As I use the system more and it seems fine I'll probably become more and more my old homeless self. I suppose that's the best I can hope for these days, a homeless normal, and that makes me sad.

Day 1604 - 11/21

Sad normal

Today seemed like a sad normal. I slept in a bit in the morning, but there was some unexpected stuff last night, so I didn't get all that much sleep total. Before class I went to drop off that something for the possible internship, but I currently don't qualify because I only have one class. Maybe next semester I'll have enough units to qualify. Class went ok, but it was really just reviewing the test. After, I went to the restaurant to give them sort of one last chance. The bandwidth was still total crap. I'm currently doing a lot of offline stuff, so it currently doesn't matter, but if this is how it's going to be I almost certainly want to scout some other spots for playing online from, as it really doesn't cut it anymore.

I feel pretty sad lately. I was hoping that internship thing could help me out and it seems it is unable to. Job postings were nonexistent, as expected. And, I don't even qualify for a few paid depression studies. It seems like lately nothing I do to try and help my situation helps. It seems the only things I'm still succeeding at is my rabbit life, and that's not something that generates money. I feel very sad, as it seems my future... well, doesn't exist.

Tomorrow will be tough. Nearly everything will be closed, and those few places which aren't will close by early evening. I think at that point I'll hide in a movie. Then all I can do is hope my hiding spot for the night is safe. While others are feasting I'll be fasting. Not because I can't afford food, but because I am one of the few who will be alone. And, even more than usual, I will have to be extra careful with everything shut down and everyone in their homes. It is the holidays like this that someone out of place becomes *very* obvious.

Day 1605 - 11/22

Not turkey today for me

Today is turkey day, but not for me. Because of limitations of what is open or closed when, because of my choices of what kind of turkey I could have, I am passing. It seems so sad that I am one of the only ones not celebrating, but this is how it is. In part this is how I choose it to be, as there are places I could go to get free turkey day food, but I choose not to go to them. Instead, while everyone else is in warm homes with loved ones and friends, I am alone in the cold. I do have a single serving pie to have to celebrate, but that is a far cry from what I would have cooked for myself if I were in a home. I can't recall when I last had a turkey day like I wanted, and I don't know when, or if, it will ever be again.

I got to sleep in for a bit in the morning. Not as much as if school were open, but enough I am not completely exhausted. The day passed much quicker than I thought it would. I looked at an alternative restaurant. A few menu items looked pretty good, so I checked their wireless today. They were closed. I guess it didn't matter though, as they have some lame limitation that you can only use the connection for 30 minutes. That would be ok in some kind of emergency, but I'll just do the coffee shop instead if I had to. The people there know I have nowhere to go, so being there a few hours is no big deal. Plus, they are so busy they wouldn't even really notice.

I spent most of the day at the coffee shop since nothing else was open. I worked on a special thing for my friends' podcast. Though I really need to get off my butt and do another class assignment. It's due Monday, so I only have a few days left.

Now it is early evening and everything is closed. I'm hiding extra early tonight. I'll probably continue to do podcasting stuff, but I may do some game stuff. At this point I really just hope to do a bit of podcasting, have my single serving pie, then go to "bed" early. Tomorrow things are open, so it will be a 'normal' Friday. Hopefully I'll feel normal again then. 🙄

Day 1606 - 11/23

Ignoring homework

Today I was pretty sad. I got to sleep in a little, which is good, but because nearly everyone else was at home for the holiday I was sad that I was not. What's worse is the restaurant. The only thing close to a home-like environment and it still has crap connection speed. It seems like it's not going to change and that the promise that I specifically would be granted enough bandwidth is a total lie. I'm certainly going to have to consider going other places when I want to game, which is lame. I guess it's a good thing my time I play online with others is so rare these days.

My bestest friends sent me two games we may play together, so that's super happy. It has taken like two days to get one and an estimated five more for the other if I were to do it at the restaurant. I'll spend some time at the pizza place, which is about 3x as fast, so maybe that will help. I've also asked the Internet gaming place I used to go to if they would get me a copy of the client, so we'll see. Who knows, maybe they will burn me a copy so I don't have to download it.

I've been ignoring the lab that's due Monday. I should have started it. I had all Thursday and today, but I just haven't been in the mood. I've been sad about things and it's very difficult to motivate because of that. It needs to be done though, so I'll have to get very serious about it tomorrow. Who knows, maybe it will be easy and go quickly.

I guess that's it for today. Nothing really special or interesting other than that stuff.

Day 1607 - 11/24

Sad tire news

Today was sad tire news day. I went to the tire place to see if they could swap my tire to the spare and I was told two bad things. First, apparently the spare is a small emergency size. It's apparently not full sized. Second, not only can you not have one bad one and one good one in front, but apparently both front tires are really bad. I asked how much it would be to replace them and even with the cheapest tires it would be nearly \$200.

☹️ Even with all my money after I got paid Thursday *and* everything in savings I would

still be short by \$50. 😞 And my winter budget only goes down from there. So, I have no idea how long they will last, nor how long it will be before I can replace them. I will have to hope dad sent money for turkey day or I get donations, otherwise there is just no way unless I did things like cut my food budget down to 1/3 of what it is for two weeks or something else crazy like that.

I suppose in opposite news I asked Euphnet if I could grab the game client I needed from them and they said yes. 😊 What's more is the nice Brian person remembered me. Woah. It's been apparently two years since I was last there and closer to three since I was a regular. I still remember those days. It doesn't seem anywhere near that long ago. So, now the new things my bestest friends got me is ready to go. No like 20 estimated hours of download for that one. 😊

I guess that's it for today. Some bad news that will continually worry me until it's taken care of, which I can't afford 😞, and a bit of nice news that I was remembered (and trusted to be hooked up to his network for direct client file copying.) Not sure what to make of today, but it seems a reminder that I am not in control. 😞

Day 1608 - 11/25

Tires eventually maybe

Today was ok, but seemed slow. I slept in a tiny bit, which was good. I had to finish my school lab homework thing, and that took up all of my morning. Most of the day I worked on the special podcast project for my friends. In the evening though I got to play a game with them for a bit. Yaaay. 😊 One fell asleep early though, and another was having issues with his system overheating and shutting down, so that was kind of sad. 😞

I did get some money from dad for turkey day, but it was only half of normal. Also, someone asked me to cover a shift next Sunday. So, in about 2.5 weeks or so when I'm paid for that day, if I'm super careful, and drain everything I have including savings, I should be able to just barely cover the tires. But that will make things extremely to almost impossibly tight for winter. With no savings and my budget zeroing out I'll be in real

trouble if anything else happens. But I guess, as it always seems, things are out of my control.

That was really my day though. Nothing really all that different. Mostly it was slow, and I missed all the simple things of being in a home; sleeping in, showering, cooking what I want, doing laundry, being able to do school work without distraction. But those things are not my life anymore.

Day 1609 - 11/26

Bad bandwidth all around

Today was kinda bad, but more disappointing. I went to the pizza place to have more bandwidth than the regular restaurant (and to eat something different now and then) and the bandwidth was just as bad. I was limited to one thing and when I tried to also do a download, which usually works there, the video didn't get enough bandwidth. It seems I may have no choice but to just take what I can get and if the place I'm at isn't enough I just have to try somewhere else. There is a new restaurant opening soon close to school, which is just a few minutes drive from the other restaurant, so maybe they will have better bandwidth. When I played with friends yesterday it wasn't completely unbearable, but it was barely enough. There were times of lag where I was worried it would disconnect me.

Today was a pretty regular Monday. Though I did forget to do the final thing for the lab. I was waiting to get the answer on something, so it was held, so I had to finish this morning. I'll try and be good and start the next one due in two weeks this week so I have lots of time. I guess class is just about over.

That's really it. Still very sad about all my limitations. They seem extra crushing lately. 😊

Day 1610 - 11/27

Has a cold

Today the cold I've had has gotten pretty bad. It was really mild the past few days until now. Starting yesterday my sneezes are pretty common, there is always congestion and yuck in my throat and lungs, and my eyes are having trouble seeing. (They are blurry like they are sleepy, though it's more likely extra yuck on the contacts, which can happen when you are congested.) I'll have to try and remember to check my ex-storage for that tea some ex-guildies got me. Hopefully it hasn't expired yet. It seems so long ago they sent it to me.

I'm very tired, but wasn't sleepy this morning, and there was lots of noise at the school lot. Some stuff was going on that disturbed me last night, so I've only gotten about 7 hours of sleep, and it was interrupted a few times.

Today should be a pretty regular day. Though I expect there will be fewer jobs to look through, as places commonly shut down between Halloween and about February for winter. If anything happens I'll always update things, but I expect it will be a slow boring day.

Day 1611 - 11/28

Slow, blurry, and sick

Today was meh. I'm still pretty sick, so I'm suuupper tired. I didn't have a chance to really sleep in at school as there wasn't enough time before class. I'm kind of lost on the current material, so that's bad, but I'm sure I can figure it out. I'm pretty sick, so I think that's part of it. My brain is slow and confused. My eyes are often blurry and can't really focus. I had some of the lemon zinger tea which helped, but now my nose is still congested. I really wanted to take a nap today. In a home I probably would have slept quite a bit. But I didn't nap. Things are not peaceful enough. School seems very busy this quarter with people driving and making noise, and I didn't want to nap anywhere else because it's been raining much of the day.

The poor bandwidth at the restaurant has really been stressing me out lately. My back is all tight and messed up. I wrote as polite of a message as I could while still informing them they are being idiots for having a service that is 35% as good as all the competition around them. The connection can go to 6 whatevers, so capping it at 0.9 (which means it really goes 0.5-0.7 most of the time) is just lame and embarrassing for them. If I worked there I'd be ashamed of how bad the connection is, and I know a few who do work there and are ashamed of it. It just doesn't make sense. I expect they won't care and won't reply to my message, forcing me to go back to something like the days before I was going there of being at school and offline for gaming most of my time. I guess it wouldn't be too bad as mostly I don't do online things these days, but because this is stressing me out so much and making me depressed I am ignoring several game tests I could be participating in. It's like I just don't want to do as much.

No jobs to apply to lately, as expected, so no change there. I guess, as always, my life is what it is, and I just have to keep trying to manage with the little I have as best as I can and try to keep my spirits up despite feeling so sad about things all the time. 😞

Day 1612 - 11/29

Fun day ignoring wireless

Today was a pretty fun day as long as I ignored the wireless connection. I keep saying it but I'm definitely going to have to seriously consider not going to the restaurant as my main place anymore. The connection is still total crap. It dropped me four times in the first few hours being there, and it was running at 0.5-0.7 speed the whole time. It takes twice as long to watch shows. I decided to ignore it and play single player stuff so the connection wouldn't matter. I've got two new things that were cheap that I'm having fun with, so that's good.

I checked my paycheck and there was a touch more than expected. So, I set an appointment for Monday to get the tires. If I drain everything I have it will be enough. I couldn't do it sooner than that because they are apparently out of stock and have no open appointment times. Some former guildies sent me some help too, so I may be able to keep a little bit in savings. Supposedly someone else sent some help too, but I haven't gotten that yet.

It was pouring rain today. Oddly that makes me miss being in a home more. I think because I used to have candles going for warmth and would open my window blinds so I could see the rain. I don't know why but it always seems peaceful to me. I think because I like things clean, and it's a form of cleaning. Maybe it's just because I'm a 'fire sign', heh. 😊

That's really it for today. I did some podcasting in the morning and it's just about done, so it can go out early tomorrow. There were no jobs to apply to, and it is still very difficult for me to be in a school mood with all my sad things. And now the one single home-like thing is going to crap and I probably will have to change my routine. Well, I guess as always, I will have to adapt and hope that tomorrow is a better day.

Day 1613 - 11/30

Nearly covered

Today was extremely slow. I decided I was sick of the crap connection speed at the restaurant, so I didn't go today. I just stuck around at school. Though I couldn't play stuff online the stuff I'm currently playing can be played offline. It's single player stuff, so it doesn't really matter if I'm online or not. I can't describe how good it was to watch some shows, on my own system even, that were not intolerably jerky. Commercial breaks were just that, not 10 minute jerkfests. The closest thing I could think to describe it would be if your hot water heater broke and you had to take cold showers for a few weeks. I will definitely hang out there on Fridays in the future. On other days I probably won't though, as there are so many people there the network gets really slow.

My day was super slow though I did a lot. I finished and posted my podcast. I played my game. I watched some shows. And in the evening I went to work and watched a movie that I rented and played for a bit after inputting some Epic Fail. I even stopped to download a game for a bit at the church (at 10x the restaurant's speed.) It must be due to my cold that I feel like the day was long and trying.

I got the second donation today. It was pretty big. So that, plus the first, plus my extra work shift will all cover the tire cost. I won't have to cut into savings at all. So, phew. At least I'm not worse off than my budget has set. Of course, with only two days a week pay my budget is really terrible as it is, soooooo... 🙄

Day 1614 - 12/1

Meh and slow

Today was meh and slow. I didn't really do much. I found an old show I used to watch that I'd lost track of during my homeless times, so I watched a few shows of that. I played my games. I was actually feeling pretty good so I stopped and did some of the lab that's due soon. Maybe I'll try and do the rest tomorrow, but it's material that we haven't gone over, so it will probably just confuse me.

The restaurant connection was still terrible and disconnected me a few times. If I had anywhere else to go on Saturday, or my battery wasn't just 30 minutes, I'd have more options. But I guess I'm just fated to suffer through it. Even if it were a better connection it would still be a restaurant and not a home. I would still be sad and miss many things. In some ways I am more free than I would be with a home. But in so very many more I am a prisoner. 😞

Day 1615 - 12/2

A sad not future

Today I am very sad. The day started ok enough I suppose. I had an "extra" work shift. I played a game most of the time. After, I went to the restaurant and watched some shows.

But I couldn't help but think the money from the shift is already gone. It needs to go to paying for the tires. Even though with the help I get to keep my \$75 in savings, that really isn't a savings for the future. And this is yet another disaster barely avoided by just a few people helping and my spending just about everything I have.

Another big holiday is coming. Holidays are times of visiting grandparents, then when you are an adult celebrating with your children, and when old with your grandchildren. I am alone. I don't even have close friends to celebrate with because the only real friends I have are online. (Not counting the one I do online work for, who I think I've seen maybe once a year since we reconnected.) There are no close friends I hang out with in person, no sweetie, no family, and thus there currently will never be more, like children, nieces/nephews, or grandchildren. With no people in my life besides those I know online, with no money in savings, I have no future. All I have is today. Sometimes that is enough, but most of the time it just makes me sad. 😞

Day 1616 - 12/3

Odd day

Today was a bit odd. I was kind of spacey during class, but it was a basic concept that, for some reason, people had a hard time grasping. The teacher went over each bit basically 3-4 times. After, my class friend and I were chatting and he wondered what I was doing, so we hung out for a bit. It's kind of funny that he is Russian, like my previous class friend, and when I asked what he wanted for lunch he had the same difficulty deciding. 😊 hehe. He bought me a pizza by the slice pizza, so that was nice. After a bit he left and I had just barely enough time to watch a show before going to get my tires. They were done early and super quick, so I was nearly an hour early for doing laundry. (It's across the street from the tire place.) I didn't have much else to do but listen to a podcast for that time.

That was really it for the day. Pretty regular besides that. Still sick, so everything seems slow and I'm super tired.

Day 1617 - 12/4

Next quarter

Today I am sleepy. I couldn't get to sleep until about 1:30 for some reason, so when I got to school after my move I slept until just now. I'm going to torture myself with the slow restaurant connection. I don't need Internet to be fast today, so it's ok. I don't like to be at school on regular population days because it makes me sad. Friday and other low population days are ok. I can be in my own space and the people around me are few enough I'm not sad.

I need to finish my lab thing today. It's due Monday and that is the last day of class. It's over already. There is a final on Friday after that, but it's done already. It doesn't seem like that much time has passed. I could sign up for classes last week, so I really need to make my plans for next quarter and get signed up.

My life is the same really. Very little has changed these past homeless years. I keep trying to take classes to get a new job and certification is either so far off, or the jobs

so few, that it seems like it will never matter. I have few friends, which are only online. I never seem to meet people in person, and it's been more than a dozen years since I've had a sweetie. I can't even remember how long it's been since there was a girl that was friendly with me and I got even just a hug. But it is what it is. And, as sad as my life makes me, I seem unable to change it on my own. All I can do is keep trying and hope that tomorrow is a better day.

Week 232

Day 1618 - 12/5

Too much walking, too much driving

Today was, I guess, ok emotionally, but very bad physically. I had planned on staying at school today, but everywhere was packed. All the library spots I could use on both floors were packed. The lab was packed. I decided to do some podcasting, then go try another coffee shop in the area. It has an insane wireless connection. It connects at 25 whatevers, which is about 8x the fast church speed, 10x the average connections in the area, and more than 25x the speed of the crap restaurant. It's probably the speed of what a landline would be. Sadly there are only two drink things here I would ever possibly order. So, it's not somewhere I'd probably stay for more than a few hours. The two guys working here kinda seem like zombies too. They don't seem at all interested in the shop or the people. I went to go do more podcasting then have dinner. I tried school again and it was finally pretty cleared out.

I guess overall emotionally today was ok. I thought of what to say for the podcast and finished, so I've got extra time to tweak it if need be. I got to watch my shows, not only basically uninterrupted (it only dropped me like twice), but in high-def quality. And, I got to spend some time with two games I got for super cheap, one of which I'd been waiting for for a while and talk about on the podcast.

But physically, fooooo. I'm so tired. I walked around on campus looking for a place to hang out and walked maybe 5x as much as I do on a normal day, plus when I left campus there was more walking and driving. I'm so very tired of not having a home and having a nice life being all settled in somewhere. 😞

Day 1619 - 12/6

Trying to have a nice day off

Today I tried to have a nice day off. It partly worked. I got to sleep in a bit at school, though weird dreams prevented me from sleeping as much as I could have. I went

to the restaurant since I was going to mostly do offline stuff. It's a very tough call between the frustration of the crap connection and the overcrowding at school. Some days I'm not sure which is worse. I played a few games, but I spent a bit of time working on my podcast. I actually wound up needing to do some extra research because I discovered something I'd said was wrong. I had to re-record that bit after spending some more time with the game in question.

I guess it was a pretty regular day. I played some stuff, watched some stuff, found no jobs to apply to. I got word that in about a week I should get a package from my bestest friends. 😊 I have no idea what it is. 😊 It's probably an early xmas thing or something. 😊

I'm still very sad lately about how sick I am. And it seems lately I am getting more reminders that time is passing and things are not getting better; my hoodie has holes and the wrist parts are all frayed, my boots have holes, my tires being bad, for the past few days I've had pretty bad tooth pain where my gum is poking through on one, and today when I turned sideways and saw myself in a mirror I looked absolutely huge. So many things lately seem to be falling apart and slipping through my fingers. And what I think is most sad is that they all seem to be things that money can fix, yet a way to get steady money continues to elude me. 😞

Day 1620 - 12/7

Ending with smiles

Today was an ok day I guess. I tried to sleep in without an alarm, but some dummy had some radio show going in their car for like an hour. So that slowly crept into my sleepy brain, gave me weird dreams, then woke me up.

School was mostly empty. Fridays are usually slow and this was the last class Friday of the quarter. I mostly watched shows and messed around, but I did spend a few hours on my lab homework. I found more things wrong than I thought, so that was good, and it's as done as it can be just about. There is a teeny bit more to do, but it shouldn't be more than about 5 minutes.

Going to work seemed weird. Even though it's only been a week since I last worked on a Friday it seems like it's been more like three. I don't know why, but this week has been very long. I have made myself a bad promise to always look at myself sideways in the mirror when I shower. I look huge. 😞 I am, at last check, about 30% over my normal weight, so I actually am pretty huge. I stayed super in control of my soda drinking and only had about two cans. One more over night will make three, which is pretty low for me, especially since I probably have been hitting 6-8 due to the unlimited restaurant drinks. Although, by not being at the restaurant I can't do my mini-workouts, which is maybe 40-80 something I'm missing per day that I am diligent about doing them. Though with sodas being like 150 calories a pop, going down to half is really 500-750 fewer calories per day. The fries at the restaurant probably don't help either. Anyways... hopefully with the sad mirror checks I can be more committed. I feel super fat and unattractive. 😞

My day did end on a good note though. My friends did their podcast, so I got to watch that and that was fun. And there were a few laughs, so I smiled a bit.

That's it for my day though. No jobs to apply to. No replies from any. I did fill out a survey for a chance at \$250, so that's something. I also got another extra shift, so that's a little something in a few weeks. That's it though. No real change. 😞

Day 1621 - 12/8

Lonely day

Today was ok I guess, but super slow. I couldn't sleep in because I just don't feel comfortable at school on weekends anymore. Plus, during winter it's tougher due to less activity to blend in with.

I spent most of the day watching shows. I did play a game for a few hours but really I just felt kind of sad and lonely I guess. In a home I'd have more to preoccupy myself with – shower, picking what to eat for lunch and dinner, setting it out, preparing it, watching a movie at night if there are no online friends to play with, maybe researching for a site update, doing a bit of stretching or exercising to get rid of weight – but while

homeless all of my limitations make me feel very sad. So often I just didn't really feel like doing many of the things I enjoy, especially since of my long list of things I enjoy only a few are actually doable while homeless. I guess, at least, most weekends it seems the restaurant bandwidth is tolerable. Slowdowns aren't as bad as on weekdays, though streaming (like on commercials) can still take two or three times as long, but sometimes it runs at almost normal speed. I guess that's at least something.

Mostly today I think I felt lonely. While there are people who are friendly to me at the restaurant my friends are all online. Today I would have liked to have called people over to eat around 6, then from 7 on play games, maybe even a regular pen and paper type game, but I couldn't. Not only do I have no home, I have no friends I game with that aren't online. Today I felt extra isolated and alone. 😞

Day 1622 - 12/9

Feeling strange

Today was tolerable and ended ok, but I felt a bit strange. I had an extra work shift this morning, so I got to shower, and I played for a bit and watched a few shows while the connection held.

After work though I wondered what to do. I didn't really want to go to the restaurant as it's so slow and kind of expensive unless I get soup. I don't mind upping my food budget and giving it to them for housing me and having good Internet, but if it's barely functional Internet and the back room is often chilly... I don't know. I'd rather not give them as much as I have been. I couldn't think of where else to go really though, particularly since I'm usually alone in the back room and undisturbed. I stopped by the potential new restaurant. I guess it won't be replacing the current one. I checked the speed and it only has about 1.5 whatevers compared to the restaurant's 0.9. While that is better it certainly isn't the 2.5 average of most places around here. And there was a note that they limit you to 2 hours. That isn't in place yet, if it ever will be, but that seems pretty limiting to my life. I may just use them as a place to occasionally eat.

My day seemed similar to yesterday; sad, lonely, and with limitations. It ended ok though. My bestest friends came on and another new person we play online with was on,

and we had a lot of laughs. I smiled and laughed a lot and I think I made them laugh too.



Day 1623 - 12/10

Not starving

Today was ok I guess. It was pretty busy so it went by pretty quick. I had the last class in the morning. Even though I was pretty spacey it was kind of a waste of time. People asked stuff it would take a minute to look up, so it wasn't a proper review for the final on Friday. Hopefully I won't forget. It's not a usual class day, which is dumb.

I did a few hours of work on stuff for my best friends. It was a nice change of pace. I like to do different things now and then to keep things feeling fresh. The thing is nearly done, and fun and silly. It isn't nearly as cool looking as I'd imagined. But then, things rarely are. I'm more of a manipulator of stuff than I am a creator from nothing.

I ate about double the normal amount for dinner on purpose. I have to get poked for a blood test in the morning, so I have to not eat or drink anything but water. I figured over-stuffing myself would hold my tummy long enough to fall asleep. Then the time should hopefully pass quickly. I really hate getting blood drawn, but I guess it's ok as it checks to make sure my levels are all ok. But, I'm so fat now I'm feeling more balanced than over-full. I really need to get back into shape. This extra like 50 pounds over where I should be is terrible. I think I may try some multivitamins and see if that helps. I remember them being pretty expensive, and the better ones are, but the ones that are just meh should be pretty cheap. I'll try and see if any of my symptoms get better (hunger levels, tiredness, energy, tendon or muscle aches, etc.)

Well, my day was really nothing special. I need to try and sleep before I start to get hungry or start coughing (since I can't do cough drops.)

Day 1624 - 12/11

Another break

Today started out different. I had to get poked and blood drawn for the check. Hopefully everything is fine. It took an hour longer than I expected, so my day is thrown off a touch.

I'm settled in at the restaurant now, though I gave serious consideration to not coming with the Internet being so bad and food being more expensive than other places I could go if I just wanted to grab food and go.

School is on another break now. Though I still have to do the test Friday it is odd to be at another break point. Yet another change where many anticipate moving on and progressing, yet for me it's meaningless. For me it's just another pause in something that feels endless. Another renewal of a cycle that must continue despite how I feel about my life because I really have no choice.

Week 233

Day 1625 - 12/12

Wishing

Today I wished my life was more free. It's a strange saying for me to say what with only working 10-15 hours a week and being single. But my suffering traps me. While I did do a bit of podcasting in the morning I don't feel like I was at the top of my game, as the saying goes. I was tired. Because of where I need to go at certain times, I was not free to wait and do it later. Because I am homeless I was not free to take a hot private shower and warm up first. I was not free to spend a few hours with another game and then talk about it. While it doesn't seem like it, thinking about my podcast, figuring out what to say, playing the games to have the experience to talk about; it all takes up quite a bit of time. For the 15 or so minutes I've recorded so far I have probably spent 5-6 hours in playing, thinking, planning, and recording. And I haven't edited it yet. And if I were free, I'd have spent even more time on it.

I don't feel like I'm doing my best. I'm so tired much of the time. I'm so pressured in what I do when I do it (unless I add on possibly hours of driving here and there during each day.) And I can't eat or sleep properly to feel physically balanced.

I know I've said I wish I were free to live my rabbit life before, so this is nothing new, but it's really what I've always been good at. It's what I am truly happy doing. And lately, as good as it may seem to others I often feel I am just doing ok, or as it is many times, that I am performing so much below what I could with basic freedom, safety, and comfort, that it just makes me feel sad, mediocre, and like I am failing at everything. 🙄

Day 1626 - 12/13

Shifting routines

Today I shifted my routine a bit. Instead of the old coffee shop I went to the new one. I'd known about this one probably 20 years ago, or more, so it's a bit odd I didn't check it during my homeless times sooner. Maybe if I had they wouldn't have had

Internet, or something else that caused me to avoid it in the later homeless times. At any rate, it is ridiculously fast (faster today at 30 whatever's vs. the average 2.5 of most places around here, and vastly faster than the 0.9 of the restaurant.) I also immediately got to pick from several spots to sit with plugs. (The old coffee shop had only three really viable spots. Though once school is back on this spot may become more busy.) It was really nice to not have people crowding around me and standing literally one to two feet from me and/or watching over my shoulder. I think I will go there a lot more even though there are only two things I'd drink.

I think I'm getting tired of the crap restaurant speed. I'd really almost rather have half or two thirds of a day at something like the new coffee shop and just go wherever to eat than hang out at the restaurant with a barely functioning connection. It was fricken' 68F in the main room today, which meant the side room was likely 66F or so, which is cold like all of the time. I think I'll probably try the new restaurant that opened tomorrow (depending on their prices.) Although I shouldn't eat many, I noticed their menu says they have free fry refills. Woah. I've never seen that around here. If their burgers are reasonably priced that could be a really good deal. I'd laugh a bit at the old restaurant if the new place kills them. In the like year I've gone there the food has not been consistent, it's meh overall, and they have done zero advertising to the local college to fill out the empty times. It's like from 1:30-6:00 the place is empty. Sure, many restaurants get really slow in those off hours, but the place is completely dead most days. I've been telling them for months to beef up their Internet and advertise to students. There are tons who would come to study, game, and have noms. It's probably something like less than a 5 minute drive from the college. But whatever, they don't seem to care about the Internet, marketing to the college, or making better food to prevent other local shops from being better choices.

It seems my routine may be shifting and I guess I'll just go where things feel right. I'm sticking to the old restaurant longer than I should because I don't like instability, the people are friendly, and I can hang out without many other people around me. But the disadvantages are starting to outweigh the advantages.

I put up about four resumes today, so that was good. It's been probably years since anyone has returned my app with a phone call or even an email, so I won't hold my breath.

Day 1627 - 12/14

Not a new restaurant

Today was my final. Things were super hard so hopefully I did ok. I'm pretty worried. 😞 I was getting a B- so far, so hopefully that won't go down. I'm really beginning to think no traditional career is for me, but everything I like to do, everything I'm good at, is too non-mainstream to get me a job on its own. Well, unless it was doing game reviews or something, and I don't have a writing degree nor the official experience to back that up. (I tried once for a very low position which didn't need a full writing degree and still got turned away.) It's very sad because even though I spend maybe 10-15 hours per podcast for everything, I think they could be even better if I had the freedom to do just that. And too there is my site updating. While that doesn't take up as much time week-to-week there are still sections I could go over monthly for a dozen or more hours to keep it really totally updated and every link current with the best parts. But, until I win my lottery money I won't have these freedoms. 😞

Today I checked out the new restaurant. Sadly it isn't viable. It is much *bigger* than it appeared from the drive by checks. It's a sit down with wait staff and a host type restaurant. And, the person checked and saw no plugs at the tables anywhere, which I suppose doesn't really surprise me for a place with a wait staff. I didn't check prices because there is no point. It wouldn't be viable and if that's the case, and if I'm going somewhere like that, I'll just go to Outback and spend like \$10-15 on a steak with rice and veggies.

I guess the day was ok. It was fairly chaotic what with no sleeping in, the test, the checking the restaurant, deciding on the fly somewhere else to go to eat, then being at the new coffee shop. Mostly I remember the test being scary and finishing my podcast. And, as always, even though I appreciated 'the space' while I was doing my podcast, I felt very lonely all day. I didn't really speak to anyone, and for most of the day I was effectively invisible to everyone.

Day 1628 - 12/15

Many things

Today was kind of a day of many things, though I don't really remember it. I did some free time with World of Warcraft, which I haven't played in years. The pet battle stuff is pretty cool, but I don't know that I'll be pulled back in for the new expansion and a subscription. With noone to play with and an unstable life things are less than ideal. Though it ran extremely fast on high settings, so specs should be no concern if I do make a return on my laptop. I tried a beta later in the day. It was ok, but it's just PvP, so it wasn't something that would really hold my interest. I'll look at it a bit more later, maybe enough to talk about on the podcast, but it didn't really thrill me to see people as high as level 20 against my noob level 1 self. That didn't seem like a fair fight.

Overall I guess today was ok, but it felt pretty lonely. More and more lately I've wanted to have friends to play stuff with in person or video games of a specific type which don't really exist right now. (Just their category, not an impossible idea that can't be matched. I just feel like I'm having much fun with what I could play.)

Despite the things I lack or miss in my life, much like the rain that has been pouring down all day, in time it will pass and things will go back to being clear. They may not be warm or sunny, but it will stop eventually.

Day 1629 - 12/16

Almost couldn't reach

Today was ok overall I guess, though at the end of the day I went to trim my toe nails and my tummy is so big I almost couldn't. I can still mostly bend over that far, but the chubby tummy pushes in on my ribs and I can barely breathe. If it continues to get worse I'm going to have to get very serious about it. I've been eating a bit less food lately and drinking more water, so that's good. I've again forgotten about the vitamins though, so hopefully when I go to shop for work food tomorrow I won't forget again.

I guess overall today was ok though. I had an extra work shift and I decided to try a few betas I have. They are similar games, so I'll have to play more to compare them on my podcast.

The new restaurant is right out. One of the manager people at the old/regular restaurant had a menu, so I got to see prices. Some buffalo wings with carrots and celery, the top of the healthy food that I'd eat there, was nearly \$11. That's insane. It should be like \$6-7. At \$11 that's nearly all of my entire higher food budget for an entire day. Same with burgers; just about \$9. And adding cheese, which is hilarious, is an additional \$1.10. Really? While vastly inferior in quality, a double cheeseburger at a fast food place is \$1.50-3.50 depending where you go. So, if I go anywhere new it will be the new coffee shop.

My routine is going to be strange for the next three weeks or so. I won't be able to sleep in at school since it's closed, nor do I have classes. I've had to basically be out for an additional 3+ hours nearly every day. Well, I've managed in the past and I suppose I'll manage this year too. I'm actually kind of glad I don't have a cute Jeep-like car with a soft-top. The hard-top is so much warmer and there is no risk of it getting over saturated and leaking. Though I do wish I could get a Jeep-like car with a removable hard-top. That would be the best, especially if it were sectioned so I could just take some off and put it in the back seat.

I guess today passed quickly and peacefully enough, but again I was alone, and I would have preferred to have been having fun with friends, at least for a little while. But, I haven't had any friends I have wanted to game with in person and hang out with in basically more years than I can easily count. 😞

Day 1630 - 12/17

Sick

Today I think I am pretty sick. I don't have a lot of symptoms, but over the past few days I've been sneezing, super congested, my lymph nodes in my neck are all swollen, and probably worst of all there is an occasional cough that just won't leave. It's

like I have to constantly take cough drops, which is terrible for my tummy if I'm not careful.

Today was a bit odd. I went to see an early movie, which threw off my lunch time, so I didn't eat until 2, about 3 hours later than normal. Then I only had like an hour before going to do laundry and work. I suppose the good thing was that was really my day. I didn't really have a lot of non-busy time to feel sad and lonely, though I always do these days.

Nothing really special to report other than my cold has me pretty beat. My throat is messed up, my eyes are sore, my feet are sore, and I lost a couple of hours sleep in the middle of last night to it. I hope the cold will get fought off quickly because with losing sleeping in potential (unless I go somewhere I'd be out of place) I won't have the extra rest to recover well. 😞

Day 1631 - 12/18

Winter

Today it's pretty chilly. Winter is here and while I'm warm enough in my covers, sometimes at night my parts will peek out of the covers and get chilly, or after I've taken them off to change to day cloths I get chilly and my hands and feet may go a bit numb before I can get to a somewhere or build up heat in the car from driving. It doesn't seem as cold as past years, maybe that's because the world is going to end in a few days, I don't know. It doesn't get coldest until late January / February, so we'll see how the weather goes.

Lately it seems I can't go more than a couple of days before I see one of the local homeless. Every time I've come to the coffee shop there's been this lady, I'd guess in her early to mid 40s. She doesn't look 'bad' in terms of cloths, like me probably noone would guess, but she has this thousand yard stare, the same one I had sitting in my car in parking lots when I had nothing to do most of the day. Sometimes, besides blinking, it seems she won't move for 15 minutes or more. I've never seen her across the street at college, where she could look for jobs and do other things (there is a handful of open systems you don't need an ID for), so I hope she's not just coming here and doing nothing every day. There's

the crazy old guy at the restaurant too. It seems he's starting to show up a few times a week some weeks. I saw him at a fast food place the other day too. The ones who confuse me most are the ones who lie. I mean, sure, I get not wanting to let people know you are homeless, but some of the lies make no sense. Like this one I guy I call Charlie Brown, due to his always wearing striped sweaters. I overheard him once tell someone he's a tech and his house is full of server stuff, so he prefers to be out. Ok, believable enough I suppose, but it becomes far less so since I've seen him at the mall in past years watching sport games with no sound. And in recent times I've seen him walking around in the cold as early as 7 AM. (I guess his car is dead. He used to have this convertible he'd park near where he was spotted.) Or a guy on a bike that goes to the old coffee shop. I overheard him once tell someone he's rich, lives at such-and-such, a place some 25-30 miles south of the area, and that he's married. Really? So, you regularly bike 25-30 miles, away from a wealthy home and wife, to get a coffee and then go to sit in a public library *all* day?

As the days and weeks go on, as I lose more and more to wear and tear and being really unable to keep up with the loss, I wonder if someday I may be like one of them, and if I will become entirely lost as well.

Week 234

Day 1632 - 12/19

More sick

Today I think I am more sick. I didn't feel bad, per say, but my throat is super dry, I'm coughing, sneezing, my eyes hurt, I think I had a fever at some points during the day, and there is a lot of congestion.

Today was pretty lonely, but I guess it was ok. I did some podcasting in the morning. I played one of the betas a bit. I got caught up on some web shows (which have sort of random release times), and that was really about it. There were no jobs to apply for, and no replies from any.

It was super cold this morning. The car was frosted over pretty heavily on the front window and I could see my breath. It took a while to defrost it to be safe to move. Thankfully such days are rare here and I shouldn't see too many more like it, but it does concern me being sick and nothing changing really. I got my vitamins. I ordered them online because there wasn't really a choice here locally. Plus, they were pretty cheap online for ones that were ok rated on a chart in an article I saw. Hopefully they will help. I've gotten more serious about my mini-work-outs again. I can feel a bit of tightening on the back of my thigh and butt, so hopefully all of everything helps thin me down and gets me back in shape a bit. I guess only time will tell. 😞

Day 1633 - 12/20

Xmas sadness

Today I was pretty sad and lonely. I think it's because I'm sick. When I'm sick I want very few things; a hot shower if I feel well enough to help my congestion, a quiet environment, and chicken soup. (Meds are also pretty nice, but not always required.) With being homeless I have none of those. I can't sleep in with school not in session without being somewhere they don't expect to see me napping (even if I did go to school.) I have almost no control at all over my environment. Work is really the only place I've found to

shower, which isn't close or convenient. School could work, but ever since about 3 years ago they've started turning off hot water unless student events are happening. And although a few places serve soup very few serve genuine chicken soup. It's all pretty much variants of what I'd really like. So... I have to try as best as I can to survive my ills without comforts which are really just basic components of everyday life (when you don't have to work that day.)

I guess I should feel pretty good because I finished the podcast early and it's all ready to go. I haven't finished a podcast early and have it felt complete (in that it's not missing something) in I don't know how long.

I took my vitamin today. Wow is my pee yellow. Not pee yellow, but like super bright crayon yellow, maybe even highlighter yellow. It's pretty weird. I didn't expect any real change for at least a week, but I'll try and monitor my weight and see if it gets better. Oh, but the scale I use is at the laundry place, where I may not go to since it's near work and I'll be off for a few weeks. Hum. It doesn't really seem to have had much of an effect for today. I'm still the same overall hungry as I have been. I guess we'll see what's what in time.

Oh, I was sad that this is my last podcast before Xmas. I guess that snuck up on me. I did wish everyone a happy Xmas time, but I didn't remember sooner to remind people of donation options. I guess people will do it or not regardless. Mostly it just makes me sad because I'm in such a position that holidays are so meaningless to me, so full of pain and sadness when they shouldn't be, that it just makes me sad that maybe my mind is avoiding keeping track of it on purpose. I really hope someday I can win enough lottery money to be set up in a home without worry, live my rabbit life, and have enough left over that at Xmas I can help those in need and help make sure all the little ones with no presents can have at least a little something. It is, of course extremely unlikely I'd ever have enough to make a huge difference, but knowing I can make some difference would be nice.

Day 1634 - 12/21

New hoodie

Today I got a new hoodie. It was expensive in that it was unplanned money and I had to use up some of my tiny savings, but it was only \$20, a lot less than I thought they were. I'm ok with that because it seems quite a bit warmer than the other. The old one had so many holes and the sleeves were all frayed. My budget kind of goes below zero in a few months though, so that is super bad. I'm hoping for some Xmas time monies or donations will balance it out again.

The restaurant is doing something kind of dumb. They were selling \$35 gift cards and you get a coupon for \$10 more. So... I hand you \$35 and you effectively hand me back \$45 in foods? Um... ok. I'll use that in probably a week with school closed.

I watched my friends do their podcast tonight and there were extra lols, so that was fun. 😊

I tried to download a game I haven't played in like 1.5 years, but it wasn't downloading for some reason. I'll try again tomorrow. I'm not sure I really want to play again though. It's online PvP and I was just terrible at it. It wasn't any fun. I suppose I'll do just as badly now, but part of me wonders if I'll see things differently, or if balance will have changed and I won't be as bad.

That was really my day. I posted my podcast in the morning, bought a hoodie and it seems to keep me more warm 😊, then saw my friend's podcast at night 😊. I suppose all in all not a terrible day. But still... just about everything I did, be it the timing of it or the reason doing it, was because I'm homeless. And that makes me sad. 😞

Day 1635 - 12/22

Raining and sad

Today was rainy and I was sad. Nothing special happened. It was just a regular Saturday for me. But that is why it was so sad, it was not a regular Saturday for everyone

else. For everyone else it is only a few days until Xmas. They are going to parties, seeing friends, or doing last minute shopping. Everyone is excited and busy – everyone but me.

I have a few weeks off now. Just a day or so short of two full weeks. But I am not on vacation. I cannot sleep in. I cannot stay up as late as I want. I can't not worry about food or what I spend during a day. There are no new fun activities for me to occupy myself with, and certainly no tours of interesting exotic places.

This year is extra sad. I have no money to get myself or others anything. There are only a tiny handful of people I would get anything for, which is also sad. But today I feel extra alone. There still aren't any games that thrill me. It's like I'm missing something. So not only is there no one to see in real life, there is no one online. Especially since the few I do interact with online are off doing other things with family or friends.

As always these past years the holidays are not really all that sad for me not because I have no one to celebrate with, that has really been the case for the better part of probably the last 15 years or so, but it is sad because basically everyone but me is something special; something rare and exciting. But for me, it is just a time when places close early and I have an extra tough time with resources.

Day 1636 - 12/23

Xmas eve's eve

Today was pretty sad. Much like yesterday everyone was out celebrating. I was one of only a few not. Nothing different or special happened. I just tried to get by as best as I could.

Well, there was a torrential downpour of rain. It rained so hard that even with your wipers on full blast you still couldn't see more than a few feet. I think in all of my life I've only see in it rain this much like four times total.

I actually seem to rarely see the woman I thought was homeless at the new coffee shop I go to. I've probably only seen her 1/3 of the times I've been there now. Which is good, as that means she either has other places to be, or maybe hopefully she isn't homeless. It is still odd that she sits for hours with that thousand yard stare. Why would someone come and sit for hours with nothing to do? I'd think she'd be incredibly bored.

It was sad and lonely today. I felt out of place, and even if I went to a different place I would still be out of place. It didn't help that the crazy drinker homeless guy and his friend were at the restaurant. I don't blame them and homeless have few places to go, but what does bother me is they talk about homeless things; where to go for food and shelter, what they are doing for Xmas, etc. Again, I don't blame them; they likely have noone else to talk to about such things. But it makes it extra hard for me to be homeless trying to occupy my time and mind with regular life things and they are there talking about being homeless.

It's night and soon I'll settle in. I have made it through yet another day, but I shed a few tears hugging my bunnies. I should not be out all the time. They should not be in a bag in storage in a garage. We should be safe and sound in a home. But we are not. And the longer I am not the more I think the odds will continue to stack against me, and that we may never be in a home again. 😞

Day 1637 - 12/24

Eve proper

Today I am more sad. There really isn't anything I can think to say. It was a sad day where I was lonely and continued to feel lost in more ways than one.

I played a bit of a game that is free and a bit of a beta of a game that is basically the same thing. It's fun, but I don't know if I'll stick with either since they are really intended for team PvP. It seems more strategic than not of an 'if A then B' type formula. It will probably be fun for a bit, but with noone to regularly play with I think it would just be too chaotic feeling in an I never know who I'll be playing with or their skill level way.

Once upon a time I probably would have gone to my grandparent's house today. I'd have seen cousins and people either that I hadn't seen in a year or never met. I don't know if I would really call that family though. I don't really ever knew them, having only seen them a few times a year, and after my mom died they never really contacted me. Well, they never really did before either. The visits got fewer and far between. It seems strange, and good, that I hear online friends and people's guilds are replacing, I guess I could say dysfunctional families. It's not like my family was ever really dysfunctional in a

violent or destructive way, never had those yearly gatherings where things were broken or police called, they just never really seemed to connect or form the bonds you'd normally associate with a connected family. It's good to hear people with both good and bad families can find these bonds and support through online gaming connections.

But I don't really have anything right now. I suppose I haven't more years than I have at this point. I wish I had strong family ties to people I cared about. I wish I was in a home and had the chance to form these strong in game connections again. I suppose these holiday times are the most isolated I feel, and it won't get any worse, but still. I may have nothing, but it's good to know those who are not homeless who do have online friends at least have something.

Day 1638 - 12/25

Xmas that wasn't

Today is super sad for me. I'm so off my normal routine and thoughts that I almost forgot to close out the week and post today.

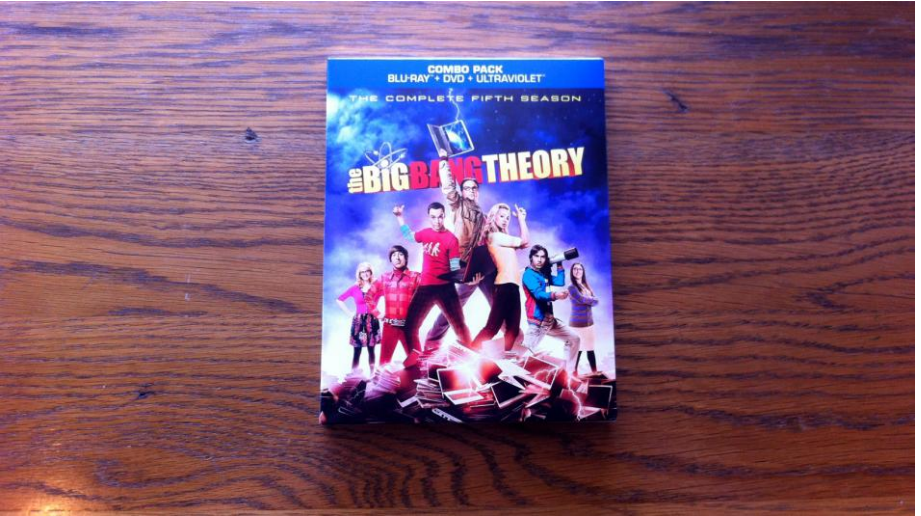
It's early afternoon at the (new) coffee shop. There are a surprising number of people here. I suppose because nothing at all is really open and these people are either on their way somewhere, or like me have nothing else to do. Though if I had a home I'd much rather spend my time there, especially if I had an Internet connection.

Today all over the world little ones and adults alike got up with things to look forward to and excitement that, in some cases, may be barely contained. But not me. For me this day is like any other day. While there are a few who wish me well, for the most part I am sad, alone, and nothing about the holiday is a part of my life. Of course I wouldn't want happy people worrying about me. It's nearly 5 hours past when I normally post and I've heard nothing from people being worried, which is good. People with happy lives should be doing happy things.

I suppose I should be happy I still do have some things, and I am. I have a working car, my laptop, and a handful of hours at work, so there is a moderate amount of food. Though still sick and generally starting to feel the effects of being older (or undernourished, I'm still not sure what's causing the joint and muscle tiring), I am, in general,

healthy enough I think. Some are not. And some have less than me. And for a sad number of people they will not see Xmas at all due to recent tragedies. But, as always, all I can do is hope my days change for the better soon, and that my sad story helps some in some way.

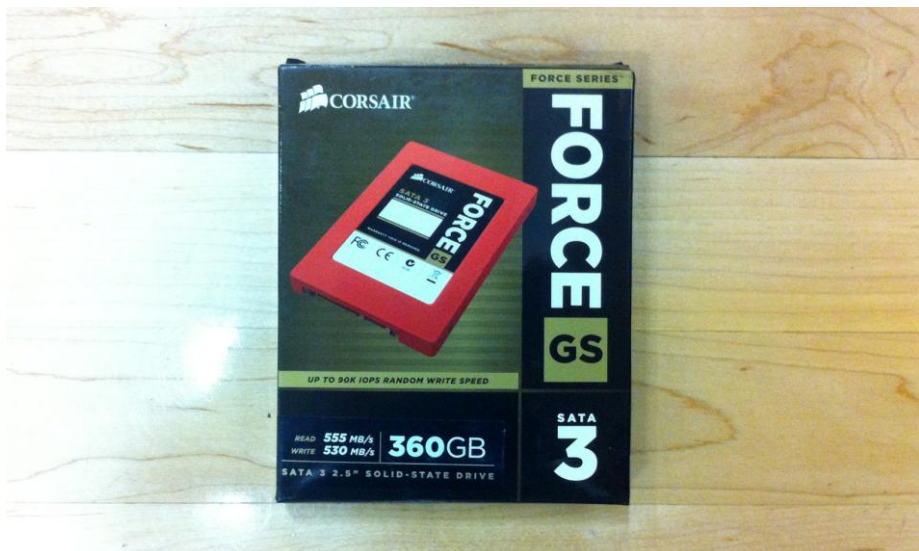
Picture series 31



Big Bang Theory season 5 for the collection.



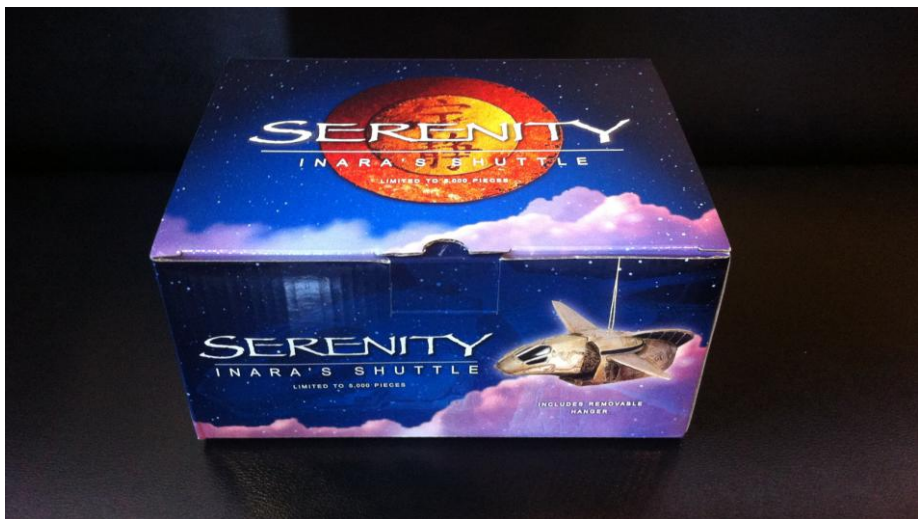
Time for more pew pew with Borderlands 2.



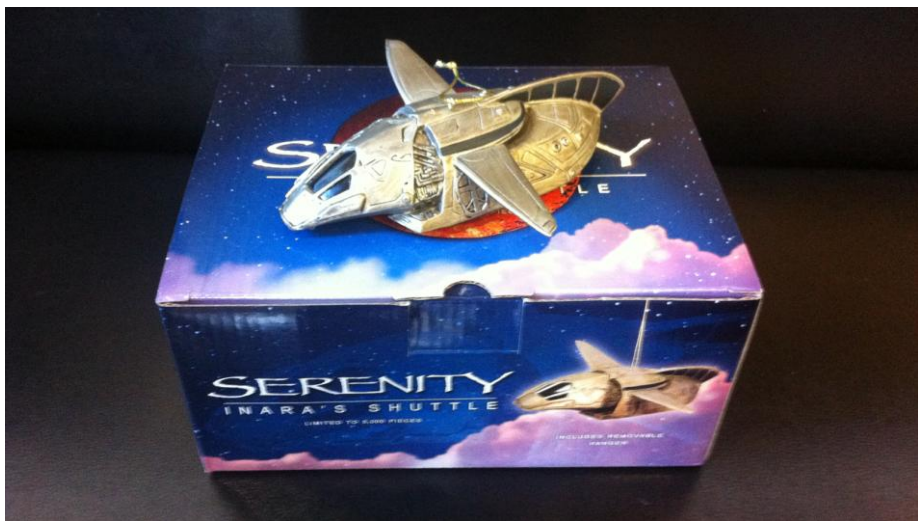
Hard drive replacement, a new hope and possibly more speed.



Hello old friends who are new; Dishonored and XCOM.



Bestest ornament ever. (Box)



Bestest ornament ever. (meeeerrr space ship)

Week 235

Day 1639 - 12/26 Eyes and ears hurt

Today was ok I guess. I was just on my own really. Noone was around online and nothing special happened.

I played my new free game and the beta that's like it. I do like it better than the beta, but they are both based on this game that has a single map. I played maybe half a dozen times today and again half a dozen yesterday and it's kinda starting to get boring. I see how some may like it. It's like video game chess, but really fast, so the fact that it's the same map every time seems pretty... repetitive and boring. I will probably continue to peek at them until people start coming back and things are less lonely. Long-term though it just would be too repetitive for me I think. The only thing to focus on is micro managing your character and what gear they get, and I've never really been into that.

Just these past few hours my eyes and ears have really started hurting. I think it's maybe over stimulus or something, so I'll try to be extra restful, but it could just be my cold is focusing on these systems instead of sneezing and congestion.

Hopefully everyone had a good Xmas time. For me... well, things are still so very sad. 😞

Day 1640 - 12/27 Snack for dinner

Today was ok I guess. In the morning I did my podcast. It went ok, though there really won't be much content this time. I'm kind of running out of stuff to play, and being the end of the year holiday time everyone is out doing stuff, so I've noone to play with.

Overall I feel ok today, though oddly I wasn't very hungry. I didn't finish lunch (which isn't surprising with how much food it is) but then I just wasn't really hungry for dinner. I got a small size snack I'll eat in a bit, but that's it. I suppose it's closer to my normal amount of food for the day, which is good. But I don't know if that is due to cold

symptoms or if it's the vitamins helping calm things down and I'm genuinely not hungry. I really don't feel different from having the vitamins compared to before when I wasn't. But I'll continue until either they run out or I get a chance to check my weight and stuff and see if there is any noticeable change there.

No real change for today. Pretty much the same as any other day lately. 😞

Day 1641 - 12/28

Not at work

Today was weird. It's always super weird when it's a day I normally work, but don't. I guess the day was ok though, I occupied my time with playing a few different games. I was about to go hide for the night and noticed my friends were doing their podcast. It made me super sad I'd missed some because Skype should have alerted me they came on and I'd have known. I guess the game I was playing blocked the messages so I didn't see the alert. 😞 I saw some though and we had some laughs. 😊

That was really my day though. Even though I had an ok time with my game and didn't play more than I actually wanted, I do still think I'm missing something. I had more fun sitting and talking with someone for like 10 minutes outside of the game talking about strategies than I did playing. I hope a more social game comes along for me if that's what I'm really missing. 😞 I guess until then I'll keep doing single player stuff and occasional online time and keep thinking and talking about my thoughts about stuff.

Day 1642 - 12/29

Shower at last

Today was a bit different. School often has their swim practice on Saturday, sometimes regardless of holidays, so I took a chance. They were indeed open when I went to look. The water started on the better side of warm, which was good enough. I got to shower and get things shaved, which I haven't done in a week and a day. (Well, I've

shaved my face since then, but that was it.) About 15 minutes in when I was pretty much effectively done with showering it started to get genuinely hot, so I just stuck around for a bit longer.

Really the shower was the high point of my day, a few online friends posted or replied to posts, so they were sort of around, but I didn't talk to anyone, and I didn't play with anyone I knew. I played games I wanted to play, but I didn't over play.

Things are still super sad, as I still have all my sad things, and now there are the holidays and winter on top of that. But, I guess I will survive one day and get through it. The world overall certainly wouldn't notice if I didn't, and all that I am would fade away in less than six months, but a small handful would miss me, and I guess that is something to hold on to. 😞

Day 1643 - 12/30

Not mini-workout

Today was meh. Nothing special happened, nor did I really expect anything to. I played some games and watched some shows and that was really about it.

I'm trying to get more tough on my mini-workouts. I checked my weight yesterday at the school showers and while I was 4 pounds lighter than I have been, I was also totally naked. Cloths and stuff could easily have accounted for that weight difference. So, I'm trying to double or triple my mini-workout numbers. It's still not a lot, maybe 15 minutes if all added up through the whole day, but I'm hoping something is better than nothing. I hope I can eventually drop this extra like 50 pounds and get back to about 175. Being 220ish, when I've lived half my life literally at half my weight. I feel slow, fat, tired, and I think I look terrible in the mirror. (I hit about 125 at 16 and stayed that weight up until I was probably about 20. Then I wasn't a whole lot heavier at maybe 150 up until my early 30s. Only recently at about 35+ have I been 175 and higher.) I breathed so much easier, moved so much easier, and had a lot less muscle ache and allergy problems when I was 165 and lighter. I'm beginning to worry it's not so much my diet, but all the extra depression and slow pace I have to keep due to my homeless life. And with a solid career

and stable life nowhere in sight for my future I worry I will just keep getting bigger until it finally ends me. 😞

Day 1644 - 12/31

Last day

Today was different than what I planned. Originally I thought I'd go to the coffee shop, get lunch at an oriental place around the corner, then move to the restaurant in the late afternoon. Since I had to shave again I decided to check school in the morning. It was still open, so I took a shower. The water was its usual cold to barely luke warm, so I took only the most minimal of showers. I decided for lunch I'd splurge and treat myself to pizza. It was super expensive at like \$15, so that was sad, but it was something I haven't had since my birthday. Sure, I have single slices at various places, but those are not from the place I got this pizza. In the early afternoon I went to the restaurant. So, I guess really just my morning was different, but it was kind of odd. It was slightly warm, and without a wireless connection it kind of felt like the early homeless days before I had a system.

I guess it's the last day of 2012, New Year's Eve. Normally this would be a big deal for everyone, a moderate deal for me, and I'd watch whatever cool marathon was on TV and play games. But this year, it is just like any other homeless day, and I have no marathon I can watch. 😞

Day 1645 - 1/1/13

New Year, new things

Today I feel, I guess, out of sorts. I'm super tired, and despite my 'new regular routine' for a school is not open day, I forgot today was Tuesday. I guess a few things will be new this year. I have the new coffee shop, and one of the main people there seems nice to me. (He peeked over my shoulder the other day at what I was playing and we chatted for a bit.) And a few doors down from there at that mall is a place to eat that has a couple of things I like. So I can ease off the painfully slow restaurant connection. My podcast is a

bit different with adding iOS stuff and TV/movie stuff. Though I always said I'd do that in the description I hadn't until recently. I also said I'd do pen and paper and board game stuff, but sadly I don't have the opportunity for that.

I guess overall things are just the same as they have been these past years, but at least for today I am hopeful these changes may mean something greater could happen because of them.

Day 1646 - 1/2
Sad reflective day

Today turned out to be sad and reflective. I don't know exactly why, but for whatever reason one particular birthday event has been standing out in my mind. Looking at some dates this was probably on my birthday in 2007, so almost 5.5 years ago now. My ex-roomie / friend had gotten me a game, which was super happy, but I'd read some reviews that, from what I recall of that time, said it was pretty bad and very short. I spent the day agonizing over if I should open it and play, or if I should exchange it. (She'd ordered it online.) I felt completely terrible about wanting to exchange it because only a few weeks earlier she'd asked for a list (old school hand written style). I finally went to ask if she would be ok with that, and she was fine with it. She even thought I was silly for worrying and being all, "uh... um... would it be ok... er... could I..." Looking at the wiki just now reviews for it were actually really good, so I don't know why I changed my mind back then. I don't even recall what I exchanged it for, which makes me even more sad.

I guess maybe I'm just sad because of the loss of experiencing it at that time. The loss of being in such a position that I had to pick. I couldn't just get the other stuff I wanted in addition to that one. Or maybe I'm sad over it because it's the holidays and besides one gift I got nothing this year. (Though a few others did send cards or well wishing.)

Maybe it is the combination, that I have noone in my life I can expect to celebrate things with and give gifts. Maybe it's because this year, for the first time, she got me nothing, finally possibly turning her back on me as it were after my being put out and homeless so many years ago now. Maybe I am feeling like everyone is pretty much turning their backs on me and I am becoming more and more alone, and times like this, times of celebration and gift giving will simply become more and more empty. And as my memories of such times fade the cold I feel physically will be felt more and more as the warmth I have in my heart becomes more and more extinguished.

Day 1647 - 1/3

Feeling bleh

Today I feel pretty bleh. The day passed ok, but I'm feeling... bad. My cold has me super congested, I sound bad, my throat is coughing up yuck, on rare occasion I'm sneezing, I'm confused, and I'm very very sleepy.

The day was pretty lonely. Noone was around, so I didn't really talk to anyone. I finished the podcast, so that is all ready to go in the morning. Mostly today though I just played a game I got recently that I talk about on the podcast.

I'm so very tired. I'm tired of not getting enough good sleep. Tired of being cold. Tired of being congested and wheezy. Tired of not having a job I really like and feel at least somewhat fulfilled doing. Tired of not being able to watch my movies on a nice screen with my stereo stuff. Tired of not being able to cook healthy foods and eat portions that are just the right size. Tired of not being able to shower and always having freshly cleaned cloths. Tired of being scared and worried all the time. ... So very tired. 😞

Day 1648 - 1/4

Hotdog

Today was ok I guess. I'm still sick, so mostly I just was out of it and on autopilot most of the day. I don't even remember much of it. Things were a bit different in that I did laundry. I normally do it before work, but since I haven't worked Monday in forever I left it until today. It was kind of nice to have a regular work day to watch a movie, have a micro dinner, and have a regular day. I have my vacation time off, but since I'm homeless it's not really the blessing it otherwise would be.

I'm having a bugles snack. I don't recall how many months it's been since I got them. Strange thing is when I took my first bite I suddenly tasted hotdog. I guess it's just my brain matrixing meals, as I often would have chips or bugles with a hotdog at lunch, possibly triggered by the saltiness of the bugles. It seemed strange though to be reminded of something so common, something I used to have a few times a week, is now extremely rare. I can get them at school, and likely will once it's open again, but it seemed an

unexpected reminder of what is so common for everyone else is so different and unusual for me. 😞

Day 1649 - 1/5

Backing up all day

Today was sad, but more so disappointing. It's been a while since I've done a backup. Because it was taking longer and longer my weekly backups became more and more often skipped. I don't remember the last time I did a backup and it showed complete. So, I took my backup disk with me today to do that. After more than three hours I simply gave up. It should be like 15 minutes, 30 tops. While I can do whatever I want while it backs up, that is not right. I tried updating the drivers and software and let it try again. After two hours I just gave up again. Using it as a USB disk copying the stuff I want backed up would take 30-45 minutes, tops, less if I skipped non-essentials that only very rarely changed. If I don't hear a good reply from the company I'll just start doing it that way.

So that kind of put a damper on my day. Instead of feeling safe in that what I sort of pride myself on is backed up, I went the entire day wondering why it wasn't working, and now I'm worried 'what if'.

I saw something else that made me sad. I was watching something which led to a female gamer who talks about stuff on YouTube. In just like two years she's gotten over 21 million views. That's just insane. I can't hope to get that popular. It would be a miracle. It makes me sad that I can't do as much as I'd like for my rabb1t life, but also makes me again wonder if it would matter. I'm just yet another guy talking about gaming stuff. There are tons of us. I'm not terribly unique in my views, opinions, or perspective. It's really sad to say, but there are so many guys like me it's very tough for anyone to really care. If I could 100% live my rabb1t life, sure, I could stand out more based on events I cover, how I cover them, etc. But seeing someone that 'regular' have a few hundred thousand followers... it makes me feel small, insignificant, and even if I could get out from under my restrictions that I may never 'really matter'.

I suppose though, in the end, I don't really care if I have hundreds of thousands of followers and millions of hits / views / whatever, because what matters to me is if I make a difference in someone's life. Do I make people feel or think differently in a better way than they did without me? Do I help them live happier, better, and richer lives with my gaming and hardware suggestions? That is what really matters. Knowing I affect lots and lots of people's lives would be awesome and really happy, but knowing I have an effect at all... well, that is what matters most. And I guess I just have to try to remember that even if I only affect a few lives, that's not such a small achievement after all.

Day 1650 - 1/6

Laughing at night

Today was unexpectedly ok. The morning was a bit slow. I was at the coffee shop and playing games alone. I did a few of the online things I'm doing and people were friendly, so that was ok. I decided to check out a different restaurant for lunch though. They had super tasty low calorie healthy chicken soup, plus a small roll (or chips or a third choice of a something). I'll probably go there once a week for that. Though I don't think they have any plugs, and supposedly they limit Internet connection time anyways, so I probably won't go there a whole lot.

In the morning when I was walking to my car I saw a cute striped black and grey kitty. 😊 Sadly she scampered off before I could get close to pet her. 😞 She may have been a stray. I don't recall seeing a collar. I hope she has a warm place to be. 😞

In the afternoon I got an email from someone who used to know me from a forum. He was checking in to see if my life was any better and asked about my podcast, so that was a nice thing that was unexpected. In the early evening my best friends came on. 😊 We played an online something for a bit and we were being silly and everyone was laughing a lot. 😊

So I guess today ended ok. Though, as I told the person who emailed me, my life is still sad and really unchanged since he last saw me a few years ago. 😞

Day 1651 - 1/7

Possible drug interaction

Today I did a lot of stuff for my site. In the morning I did a write up for a new tech thingy, which I can also talk about on the podcast. And in the evening at work I edited more than a couple hundred pages to remove something, add a regular email button, and updated some pages to say 2013. It is still sad when I do a site update and there are only a dozen or less site pages, then there are hundreds for Epic Fail. 😞 Well, maybe someday, like 5 years after I recover I can delete the bulk of it and cut it down to just the pdfs or something. At the rate I'm going that day will never come. 😞

Today was also the first day of new classes. One class is online and all we had to do was read some rules. The class is pretty much just watching videos, so that will be weird. The other class is with a teacher I liked a lot who I haven't had a class with for 2 years. It's crazy to think it's been that long. He asked how I was doing, though I don't know if he remembers that I'm homeless after all this time. I told him I was still terrible and nothing has changed. He said, "Well, you are here." I sort of shrugged and replied, 'Yeah, I suppose as long as I'm still alive that's at least something.' The room the class is in is pretty crazy. It's got this huge screen, several white boards, remote control shades, laptops at every seat (leashed to the desk), and apparently a sound system built into the room. The building is brand new, just finished less than a year ago. I found this one spot that has clear tiles in part of the floor on the second floor. I dared myself to stand on it and it was like woaaaaahhh so scary. 😊

I wonder if my drugs are causing my extra hunger. I was off of one of the meds for about 3-4 days and I was eating normal amounts. Now that it's been like 3-4 days after I started again I've started to be extremely hungry again. I'll send the doc a email in the morning. It didn't seem related back in the day because the 50 pound gain happened probably over 4 months. But if it is the medication, and I've only been over 185 since I've been on it, then I need to either drop one and very carefully monitor my blood pressure, or see if it can be changed. Being so hungry that I eat like 40% more and carry an extra 20% of my total wight is not ok. 😞

Day 1652 - 1/8

No Internet morning

Today is starting off sad. I have the big site update to launch and the Internet here at the coffee shop is down. 😞 I guess maybe that's why the ping was going bad lately compared to a few weeks ago when I first got here and it was totally stable. I guess the morning isn't a total loss. I can do my writing, the input, and get it all ready for when I'm at the restaurant. It may be 1/25th of the speed, but it's pretty much always on. Since I had work last night the main games I play are already in offline mode, so that's ready to go too. (Though they fixed that and it's ok if it's not set that way in advance now.)

Overall this week I've felt sad. I've felt like even though my rabbit life is doing better (site updated, and if stats are correct my podcast subscribers may be up to over 400.

😄) I still feel like, compared to others, I will never make it; that I'll never really matter to more than just a few, that I'm just another non-special voice in the noise.

Maybe the New Year will bring change. One can always hope. But I still can't help but feel like nothing I do matters, that change must come from an outside, as yet unknown, source. And that the change that is meant to happen is entirely in Fate's hands and all I can do is continue to do my best to hang on.

Week 237

Day 1653 - 1/9 Whacky Wednesday

Today was a bit whacky. I slept in at school in the morning. It was ok. There are 7:30 classes now, so it was really just that half sleep because background noise is constant and I heard it the entire time I was sleeping. Hopefully that will settle down soon. It's still just the first week so things are extra crazy. Class was ok, but I was really spacey.

I haven't quite figured out a Wednesday routine yet. I should probably just stick around school, do the class reading, and try and do homework assignments. I have that online class too. I should watch videos for that maybe. I guess I'll figure something out and start to settle in next week.

Today though, since I had no class stuff to do or otherwise couldn't do, I decided to go to Panera Bread and get the super yummy chicken soup. After, I had to grab some cough drops. And I'd been collecting cans for a while, so I really had to dump those at the recycling place. I did podcasting for a bit after that. I'm happy that it's about 30 minutes so far, but sad that it's really more review based lately than I'd like. There hasn't been that much psychological / sociological / philosophical / metaphysical stuff to talk about. The rest of the night I was at the restaurant. Which, as usual, was meh because the connection is so bad that watching a show takes nearly twice as long as it should. If it were warmer I wouldn't mind moving around so much, but since it's cold, and today is rainy on top of that, I kind of like to just stay in one place. So it makes going to other / better connection points difficult since I don't like to stay at other places more than a few hours.

I suppose though, now at the end of the day, today was really just a day like any other homeless day. It was made different in that I did a lot of this week's podcast, so I'm happy about that, and at my last stats estimate I may have 400 listeners now, so that's awesome. But really today at its core was still sad, and still full of things I would not have done, or done in the way I did them, if I were not homeless. 😞

Day 1654 - 1/10

So much editing

Today was ok I guess. I didn't sleep in at school because it was already pretty crowded when I got there. I didn't want another repeat of yesterday's half sleep. I decided to go do the last bits for the podcast. I spent a bit of time at the coffee shop then nommed over at the restaurant. I watched a show during lunch and after I spent about 4.5 hours editing and getting the podcast totally ready. So, that's all ready to go in the morning. 😊 I also decided to try it in stereo to see how much bigger it would be, and for some reason the stereo and the mono file were the same size. So, from now on they will all be in stereo. Though only the music will be, my voice will still be mono.

Almost right after that my friends came on and we played for just a little bit, about 45 minutes I'd guess, but it was good times. 😊

I guess my day overall was pretty good. Though, as with all days, I would have liked to have slept in. It would have been nice if my shows didn't take 50% longer to watch due to really crappy bandwidth. It would have been nice to have showered and eaten better. And it would have been nice to have those extra 4 or more hours to play on a landline instead of hiding in the dark. My life is what it is though and all I can do is try and hang on. 😞

Day 1655 - 1/11

Terrified of death

Today was pretty sad. Sometime in the afternoon I had a sort of panic attack. I suddenly became very terrified of death. I felt cold and tingly-ish, like when you have hurt yourself real badly or had a 'near death' scare. I thought about how I don't remember anything before I was born, and thus, theoretically there would be nothing after. If I am just a collection of thoughts and consciousness only in this body, my death would end it. At the rate I am going the next 4 years will be very difficult to survive, let alone the next

44 that I should have. I worry so much about what kind of permanent damage my homeless time is doing to my lifespan.

I suppose all I can do is try and calm myself down and think that if I don't remember and continue after I die, then I suppose it won't matter. I won't think back and be sad about what I am missing. And if I do wake up in a new body, well, then it will be like now. I will remember only what that life has and what came before won't worry me.

Day 1656 - 1/12

Extra extra work

Today was unusual. Right after I'd finished eating lunch and I was getting ready to play something my boss called and asked me to work an extra shift. It shot my entire day, but it was really fine as I'd accomplished all the 'important things' in the day already. After work was sad though. What would have been about a 7 hour window in a home, during which I'd have played, cooked a good dinner, watched a movie or special show, then played for a bit more; turned into a very sad time since I'm homeless. I got a healthy chicken soup, but the wireless there was so bad it couldn't connect at all. Even if I could I would have been limited to 30 minutes. So, I didn't get to watch anything and just ate and left. After, I had time for one game. I could have stayed longer at the coffee shop, but since I could go home and have private quiet time I really feel I need to get as much as I can before spring and summer hit. Once they do everywhere will be very active and I'll probably lose 4 or more hours of private time per day (that I have now.)

I feel like I have a broken heart lately. It's more likely I am not sleeping well and I'm just folding myself badly, but it feels like my heart is aching and the ribs around that part in the middle is all broken and out of place. I am supposed to see my online friends and play tomorrow night, which is happy, but they are all I have really. I have no offline friends. I don't even have a room in a home with roommates. Lately things seem very sad and lonely. 😞

Day 1657 - 1/13

Absent friends

Today turned out sad. I had an ok time at my extra morning shift, but the rest of my day was slow, lonely, and sad. My friends were supposed to be on to play, but they never showed up. I guess they got busy or something. I was looking forward to that, but they have regular lives and it just happens sometimes that they get busy.

I'm still feeling very sad. Maybe it's the extra cold and yet another new quarter starting where I don't feel like anything I do matters. I don't know. 🙄

I wrote to the doc about the weight gain a while ago. I haven't heard back, so I looked up the med online. It indeed lists rapid weight gain as a possible side-effect. I think next week I'll carefully do an experiment. I'll stop taking that med on Monday. Then, on Wednesday I'll check if my blood pressure looks ok. I'll try to remember to keep an eye on it on Monday and Wednesdays before class. Last time my appetite reduced a ton within three days, so I'm sure my blood pressure wouldn't go bad that fast. Who knows, I may even not need both. For that first whole year or so I was just fine on the one.

Anyways... if my theory is correct it is this med that's causing like 30-40% more hunger that has led to an increase of 20% of my previous weight total. Being this big... is too much. Depression was also listed, so that could help too if that's happening. Though for me weight and depression are linked. My life would be a lot easier to deal with if it were like the early days and healthy in terms of weight and general movement is not a concern. I guess maybe we'll see Wednesday, though I don't expect this weight to start to disappear for a week or two at least. But, if appetite is down and I see even just a 5 pound drop by the end of a month that will definitely be proof. I'm not saying I'm sure that self-medicating is the way to go, but if dropping the med reduces appetite back to normal, loses weight, and blood pressure is ok, then I think it must be a good thing. Besides, I had that funny feeling in my heart when I was on the higher dose of the first med, and that turned out to be me feeling a kidney at risk, so I trust my body's warning feelings. And this level of hunger... well, it's felt bad for more than a year.

Day 1658 - 1/14

The experiment begins

Today was kind of sad for morale. I guess the first lab for one of my classes is due by Friday. I still don't have a book, or the software I need. And, at \$90, I won't be buying it. What will have to happen is I'll have to check out a book Wednesday and focus on doing it in the morning before class. It seems really simple, as the class is sort of scripting, so it's elements that are somewhat common in HTML and other programs I use. So, hopefully it will go quick.

Today was the start of the 'fattening med experiment'. I do feel a bit less hungry than normal even just today. My snacks have been small as opposed to full meal sized. And, although I'd gotten a single serving apple pie junk food snack, when I started eating it I didn't wolf it down. In fact, by the fourth bite or so I'd kind of regretted getting it. I did eventually finish it though, about 30 minutes later. I had an odd salami craving too, so I picked up a few slices of that. I've only snacked on a few pieces so far. I guess we'll see how the experiment goes as time goes on.

Nothing else really for the day. No jobs to apply to. I did work. I did something not so interesting for my friend's podcast (a regular thing I said I'd do), and I got to do a special super fun thing too which was like yaaay. 😊 But that was really it. All in all a pretty normal homeless day. I'm not sleeping in Mondays so I have time to do my friend's online work and try to study, so I'm super tired. Maybe I can pick a spot specifically to nap in the morning. Though the lot is crazy busy in the morning, so it may be too noisy until later in the quarter. I guess we'll see. Hopefully I'll sleep better tonight. I've been sleeping weird due to congestion and the cold weather. At least it seems to be warming up a touch. That's something I guess.

Day 1659 - 1/15

Feeling slightly better

Today I am feeling slightly better. I liked the thing I did for my bestest friend's podcast. It's a new sound for the current soundtrack. I like doing that stuff. I guess in a

way I always have. As far back as I can remember, all the way back to when I was maybe 6 years old, I was using my Star Trek tricorder tape recorder to record stuff on the radio and adding silly things to it. I'd even recorded some of my favorite TV shows. Back then that was the only way to record stuff, video recording stuff didn't come out until about 10 years later.

I guess I'm feeling slightly better about my sad thoughts of death. All I can really do is try to control for what I can. Things like doing my mini-workout when I get a few minutes in the bathroom, try to not worry so much when I sleep so I can hopefully sleep better, make more of an effort to not eat crap all of the time since I have to 'eat out' all the time. I guess overall my life is still pretty stable, though things get a bit tougher and sadder every year. All I can do is hope I still have a while before I'm gone. And while I do I guess all I can really do is try and be as happy as I can, make as many as I can happy, and if possible help them live better lives so that even if I don't get all of the rest of my life maybe I can help others to have theirs.

Day 1660 - 1/16
Feeling bad

Today was kind of sad. It started in the morning with my blood pressure being pretty bad at 140/90. If it's still bad on Friday I will be forced to call off the experiment and carefully check to be sure it goes back down to the like 130/85 it should be near. Next, the book voucher I qualified for to pay for the \$95 book and software didn't actually cover the book. Apparently that price was the used price and new it was nearly \$140, which meant I still had to pay \$40 for it. 😞 My only hope is I recover most of that selling it back in two months. I suppose though I have the book and software, which means I can do stuff at work which is very helpful since they are 5 hour shifts. Lastly, it seems there is yuck on my sleeve, like sneeze stuff or something. 😞 I'm not scheduled to do laundry again until Monday.

I had kind of a sad time with my game too. I did a PvP fight, like how you are supposed to, but when we were beating them by quite a bit I just felt sad. It's like we are breaking all their stuff, killing all their guys, and they are getting more and more behind. I just felt really sad for them. I know I'd be very sad if people were beating my team like that. So, I doubt I'll do PvP games much, if at all. I don't like feeling sad like that.

I guess today was more ok than I thought in terms of class though. I tried to do the lab and it's sort of working. The stuff in the foreground isn't changing, but the background is. The only problem is that is reverse of what it is supposed to do. So, I have 1.5 days to figure out why. I'll be ok I'm sure. But at the start of the day it was so confusing that I thought I'd never make it. I felt a lot better a few hours later when it was working in reverse.

Guess that's really it for today. Nothing special really. Nothing changed, but I suppose nothing bad happened or came under threat, so at least things didn't get worse I suppose.

Day 1661 - 1/17

Experiment failure

Today was ok I guess. In the morning I still couldn't figure out what was wrong with my lab, so I set it aside. I played a game I haven't played in a while. It's a bit different, some new stuff in there now, but basically the same. I went to the restaurant at lunch. After, I looked around online and found some examples and figured out where/how my lab thing was wrong, so I was able to fix that pretty quick. I got a reply from a work person about Saturday's shift, so I'll be covering that again. I tried to play my game I haven't played in a while again, but I got disconnected and the Internet was dead for a bit. I'm so ridiculously tired of it being crap or broken. I'm down to only being there four days and it's really tempting to be there less. The problem is I feel compelled to spend almost \$3 on a drink when I go to the new coffee shop because the wireless is so awesome. Going there could get pricey if I go too much. I said F the restaurant and left before dinner. I dropped off my lab at school. On the way I paused at the health center. My weight is even heavier than it was when I was on the med 😞. I guess the fattening medicine experiment is a failure. And on top of that my blood pressure was still really bad. So, I took a half pill when I got back to the car and I'll resume full pills in the morning. After that I went to close out this week's podcast and then had a healthy chicken soup and bread. And now just a short while later I'm here.

I guess even though there was some pretty bad news today I guess I feel ok. I have my games. I have my podcast. For the most part at least I am still somewhat my old self. As I get fatter and less healthy, as I can afford fewer games, or my system or car breaks, I will lose more and more of me. But, at least for the moment, I'm still managing to hang on to some things.

Day 1662 - 1/18

A bad day

Today was a pretty bad day. 😞 It started out with a stupid \$55 parking ticket for being like one foot into a red zone. The stupid red zone is in some walkway ramp into the

middle of a turn on a private street. Noone would use that. It is in the *worst* place to cross on the entire block. A bit later in the day when I went to check if iTunes was not being dumb anymore I discovered they still are, and the stupid guy again told me that the way I should fix it is to change the name and do all this dumb stuff so it's updated, then change it back. And after that, every single game I tried to play at the super fast coffee shop disconnected. It's like everything I was trying to do went bad.

Today is one of those days it would be nice to have a sweetie. She could hug me and comfort me. She would get me a yummy pepperoni thick crust pizza for dinner as a surprise to cheer me up and we could watch a movie. But I have no sweetie. I have no home. I even had to work tonight. And what is worst, I don't even have the extra money to get myself a pizza to cheer myself up. 😞

Day 1663 - 1/19

Not studying day

Today I had an extra work shift that took up much of my awake time. During work I had just enough bandwidth to mostly play a game uninterrupted, so I did. I'd taken in my book to study, but I just didn't feel much like studying. I guess I was still pretty sad from how things went yesterday. It's ok, over tomorrow and Monday I have more than 10 hours at work to study, so there is plenty of time to read the like one chapter to get current.

My day was very... mundane I guess. There wasn't anything about it remotely special or unusual. I did not have a fancy dinner I'd made. I did not watch a movie on my home theater stuff. I did not game on a new triple monitor desktop. I did not hang out and play games with friends. I did not even spruce myself up, get all nervous, and go out on a date. What I did today I did because I had to. If I were not homeless, if I had a better job, my day may have gone very differently. Today more than usual my mind wandered to what could be; Things that I wouldn't need to be rich to enjoy; Things that I would have if I had an average salary for an office person with my skills in this area. But as the imagined smell from a game hen with carrots and rice for dinner faded from my thoughts, as the sounds of laughter and feigned frustration of friends gaming die down, as the gentle

caress and kiss from a sweetie who does not exist fade from my cheek and arm... I hear the sound of the street, feel the cold of the night, and am reminded that these simple things may never come to be. 😞

Day 1664 - 1/20

Not study alone time

Today was ok-ish I guess. It started with an extra work shift. Due to the holiday nearly the entire time the place was empty. I also had a decent enough wireless signal that I could watch shows and play games. The last 1.5 hours of my shift had been set aside to study, but the chapter we should be reading is really just code stuff. That tells me nothing. I need to know the goal, or the use, not the form. Form teaches me nothing. It's not how I learn, so I just skimmed.

After work I played some stuff and watched for friends to come on and play. They never showed up. I guess they were too tired from doing stuff. A different friend did some checking in / hi messages, so that was nice.

I guess today passed without much harm. I had my system, had a connection to entertainment stuff, and I guess overall things weren't too bad. But even with these freedoms there are still so many things I am without, and those things constantly drag me back down, physically and emotionally. 😞

Day 1665 - 1/21

The sad routine

Today seemed sad. I suppose it was because it was a holiday and many had it off, but it may have seemed sad because it was the same routine for me. The same pattern that so many times before has yielded nothing new, found no opportunities, and felt like I've gained so little, if anything at all.

I guess too I missed some chances to chat with one of my best friends. I guess both times I just missed her post and did other things oblivious to the fact she was around.

Today I felt sad. I felt isolated. I felt poor of health. I feel closer to death than I should. And I still feel like no matter what the appearances are, everything around me is falling apart and it will never get better for me. 😞

Day 1666 - 1/22

Sad times

Today seems sad so far. I'm hoping it will get happier as time goes on but things seem sad, and everything seems to remind me of the things I don't have lately. I don't have a job with enough money to have a home. Because of that I don't have a kitchen and place to store foods to have healthy meals. I don't have a bed to sleep well, so often I am tired. I don't have a space to stretch out and lose weight. I don't have a desktop or my home theater, so I have to have a laptop and use headphones. And as spring and summer approach couples and groups of friends are becoming a more common sight, reminding me I'm single and alone.

I have a few things, which keep me from going completely crazy. I have most of my health I suppose, nothing is broken at least, not counting teeth anyways. And later this evening I will watch some people and be in a chat room, so that should be fun.

But for right now, and it seems most of the times these days, I feel sad, alone, isolated, like nothing I'm doing is going to ever change anything, and that what should have been a very long time left to live is now at great risk of being cut short due to all of my limitations. 😞

Week 239

Day 1667 - 1/23 **Around and around**

Today starts another week of fail. But really it is no different than any other. I had class, I had to be very careful to not spend too much on food (especially since all I have is the few dollars in my wallet and about \$8 in the bank), I applied to a job that was just more junk, not a career or something that could really lead anywhere, and I flirted just a tiny bit with a super cute attractive girl who is way too young for me at Panera Bread. (She works there. I have a free fancy drink thing that I wouldn't use and told her she could have it.)

It's not that I don't want things stable this week, but I am not looking forward to the same-ness. There is nothing special to watch for and with how things have been for me, that seems unlikely to change.

Day 1668 - 1/24 **Bad to worse**

Today was a bad day. I checked my iTunes last night and all of my podcasts completely disappeared from iTunes. You can't find anything searching for it. There is still no reason why. Again, the only solution they have given so far is to change the name, the rss, rename it, resubmit it, wait for it to be re-approved, then change everything back. No thanks. That's way too disruptive to current listeners. So, I don't know how long it will be off if that can't be fixed. I spent about two to three hours trying to see if it was anything on my end, but it's not. The rss checks out as ok on a validator thingy.

As if that weren't bad enough, later in the day I spilled a nearly totally full drink on my table, my pants, and a bit on my system. It seems to have not gotten anything important and my pants seem fine, but still.

Also, the coffee shop seems to be getting more and more unstable. I played one game and it got stuck more than once and nearly disconnected me completely.

It seems no matter what I do, no matter what I find that is better or achieve in time, it always goes to poop and I'm right back where I started. 😞

Day 1669 - 1/25

Another sad day

Today is another very sad day. The new coffee shop continues to have an unstable connection, so much so that it is actually more unstable than the restaurant which is only 1/25th of its speed. It took hours to finish editing my podcast for posting, and still iTunes shows nothing. It's possible one of my best friends helped me figure out what is wrong, so it may be fixable, but it may still need to be re-submitted as new before it shows up. There is supposedly a way to get iTunes to see a new feed location, so I'll try that first and see if anything happens. It needs at least 48 hours though.

In the evening I had almost no bandwidth. Again I've looked forward to seeing my friend's podcast live and be in the chat room and again my bandwidth was so bad I couldn't. It's like going to a party and then being forced to sit outside in the car alone. I got so sad I just left. I couldn't see or hear anything.

I'm so tired of my life being so sad and having so many problems. 😞

Day 1670 - 1/26

Friends for 3 minutes

Today was a bit different. The coffee shop time was filled with adjustments to my site for what I could do for the podcast for now. I tried to play a couple of games, but as usual lately the connection was unstable. I went to the restaurant for half-off burger day, but had to leave pretty quickly. I had one of those paid test things in the early afternoon.

The game I tested was pretty bad. A chubby, but very attractive and cute redhead sat next to me, and her boyfriend she arrived with next to her. A few times during the 2 hours we were there testing we chatted. They seemed nice. 😊 After the test was over

they were walking near me and they were talking about how bad the combat in the game seemed, and we were like 'it would have been better if...' The chat trailed off and I went to my car. I noticed they continued walking way deep into the parking lot. I wondered if they parked really far out or were on foot and needed a ride somewhere. I exited that side to see more. They were still walking, so I pulled over next to them and asked if they needed a lift somewhere. They pondered, shrugged, and said sure, they were headed to BART. They asked if I knew where it was as they settled in and I replied, 'Nope. I assumed you would know here you were going'. We laughed. 😊 We found our way there pretty quick, but for about three minutes I was just a guy taking some friends to BART. It was nice. It's been like months since I was with someone in my car being friendly, and years before that time. When we arrived they introduced themselves and I told them I go by rabb1t online and have a domain. I said, 'bye friendly people,' and they said bye and we parted ways.

I doubt I will see them at another test thing. And too I doubt they will try to look me up online to maybe be friends. (Which is made even tougher since I don't think I specified it was with a 1, nor did I give them one of my cards. They seemed hesitant to trust me and I didn't want to seem pushy.) But for a few brief minutes it was nice to have people who were like real life friends. It seemed normal. It seemed like having friends is the way things should be. It seemed like maybe someday I can be normal and have a normal life again. For the moment I am happy for a brief time that I felt normal being around people. But I know the feeling and memory will fade all too quickly. 😞

Day 1671 - 1/27

Long day, quick day

Today seems like it was really long, but passed really quickly. I got an extra work shift, so that was good. During the shift I tweaked some code for my podcast, though I don't think it was really necessary to do it. It looks more code-like, so maybe that will help (machines), but I'm pretty sure it is just invisible user stuff that doesn't really affect the code.

After work I only had a few hours to play before friends came on. My lag was pretty bad though, so play was difficult. 😞 My friends have been having terrible trouble though, and tonight was even worse for them. 😞 Calls and voice chat were being dropped and the game dropped them. It was sad. 😞 They got pretty frustrated and kinda mad. 😞

I guess for me though today was meh. Nothing new has changed. My not being able to play on a good connection with my friends was sad though. 😞 And because things were sad on their side things were extra sad overall. 😞

Day 1672 - 1/28

Unreliable

Today was pretty sad. It started promising in that there were a lot less cars and activity in the lot. It could be people have dropped from morning classes. That is good news for days I want to try and sleep in. But after class I was going to try to do my homework lab thing that's due Friday. I had a hard time focusing. I would have gone to the library, but it was packed and the network was too slow by 11, so after class at 1:15 it just would have been worse.

The worst part of the day came after. I had about 1.5 hours between class before laundry. I decided to try and play. Everything I played at the coffee shop got disconnected due to lag and instability. For the past week or so there has not been a period of 15 minutes where it hasn't gotten ridiculously laggy. You wouldn't be likely to notice on the web or with video as much, but it is extremely deadly to games lately. So that really leaves just the restaurant, which is slow as hell, the pizza place by the slice, which forces ads on you that can interrupt stuff, or the old coffee shop, which only has three spots with power and everyone in the whole place can see what I'm doing.

It seems my only options for a happy gaming life are almost non-existent. With what my options are the ridiculously slow restaurant is really the only viable option. And with how slow that is, and the foods not being really good for me there, I'm really trying to not go there very often. As it is I still wind up there four times a week.

Today things were yet again not what I wanted. But then, as always, I guess I don't really have a choice. 😞

Day 1673 - 1/29

Feeling unbalanced

Today I feel... unbalanced. There are things I'd like to do, but everything seems... difficult. I was hoping to try and sleep in today, but the car was too cold in the morning. I would like to do my lab thing today, and while I still really have all day, due to my being so very tired it seems unlikely I'll be thinking clearly enough anytime soon. I'd like to get my podcast being back on iTunes into motion, but I'm waiting to hear from a friend how he did it. I'd like to do my system build updates, and I probably will, but wireless on a laptop the process feels very tedious. And I'd like to play games uninterrupted, but here at the coffee shop, at least for the past week, it seems unlikely due to the instability of the connection.

The day is still just starting, and everything will likely turn out fine, but, so far, I feel, due to my limitations, I am already failing. I suppose though, as always, all I can do is try my best in spite of them.

Day 1674 - 1/30
Lab done

Today was more ok than I thought it would turn out. I made no progress on my lab in the hours before class, so I set it aside. Class material seemed somewhat easy in comparison to before. After class I showed a fellow student and he saw nothing wrong, and when the professor looked he didn't either. He copied the code, deleted the 'project', started a new one, and we found out that somehow a necessary line of code created by default had been lost in my version. So, over the next maybe 30 minutes at the restaurant I recreated some parts, pasted the code back in, and with a few minor tweaks it worked as intended. 😊 So, phew, that's done. I was worried that would take tomorrow and potentially Friday. There is other stuff I still need to worry about and do, but it either isn't due for a while, or it's something I should have plenty of time for doing at work.

The cutie was at the healthy restaurant again. I again offered her my free fancy drink thing. She said she thought of me earlier in the day and wondered if I would show up. 😊 I was kind of sad though because she didn't immediately recognize me, and it was a regular kind of thank you. I suppose I shouldn't be too sad though. She's certainly 'way too young for me', so not getting a flirty thank you isn't a surprise.

Overall I'm not really sure how I feel today. I guess I feel somewhat free having finished the lab. I'm happy I found something yummy to eat at the healthy restaurant. My tummy never feels bad or heavy in an unpleasant way here.

Some friend/ex-guildies sent me encouraging words. Some people 'liked' my post about the system builds, which even just that small gesture made me feel appreciated. And, I got to play a few games after my lab. Someone was kind of being a jerk and I called them out, and someone else said 'well said' and appreciated my defending others by saying if that person is going to be like x this is not the game for them. So that made me feel appreciated and like at least some people's play time was made better because I was there.

I suppose even though only seemingly a few lives are touched by me, I guess today I feel a bit happier to know there is at least that.

Day 1675 - 1/31

Feeling like I'm forgetting something

Today was odd. I guess it went decently enough. I recorded my podcast in the morning. I edited it in the morning / afternoon. I watched some shows and I played some games that I didn't lag out of.

Oddly though I've felt like I've been forgetting something all day. Like I had an appointment or was supposed to do something and just totally forgot what it was. I can't think of anything. The only due thing was the lab, which I finished and dropped off yesterday.

My iTunes listing still isn't working. It's been five days since the re-direct pointer line was added. It was supposed to have taken effect by now. There were several references that it, and other features, were removed. My friend who had to change his feed's address also seems doubtful I can change mine since it is 100% gone from view. It's like a ghost though in that iTunes still thinks one exists with its name. I guess he could still see his podcast to 'delete it'. I can't see mine at all, so I have no way to manipulate anything. He did suggest talking to a person at the store, so I have an appointment to do that, but the appointment site referenced hardware, so it may be they can't help with it either.

I feel kind of icky lately too. My tummy has been upset and my parts feel bad when I move certain ways. I don't know if I'd call it strain or fatigue. My body is crying out to eat more healthy, so that is probably it, but it is so difficult for me. There isn't much I can control for without costs going through the roof.

Well, despite still feeling like I'm missing something the answer will not be found here, so I'll put away my writing for tonight.

Day 1676 - 2/1

Possible help

Today was kinda sad but I may have gotten help for my podcast. The people at the store found an internal article the previous guy I've talked to, twice, *should have* seen and

used to escalate me to a higher help tier. So, maybe that can get me some help in a few days.

Other than that though my day was pretty regular, though I didn't get to play much because the game server was down for half the day.

I guess the day was ok overall, but I am still cold, still not feeling too good, still wish I had a regular career, and had regular play hours in a home. I don't know how I missed getting to where everyone else is. There are so many I know younger even who are in better life positions than me in terms of stability and future prospects. I hope things turn out ok for me in time. 😞

Day 1677 - 2/2

Surprise play time

Today turned out ok I guess. I don't remember much of the morning. I did random things I think. The one game I tried to play at the coffee shop didn't lag too badly, but it did lag, so that was sad since it used to be so stable there.

In the afternoon I got quite a surprise though. It looks like a German site is linking to my podcast. At first I was going to be mad because I can't track subscribers and stuff if it's not at my site, but upon clicking around I found out they actually are linking everything back to me. So, yay. That helps get my podcast out there. That might even explain the sudden jump to hundreds of listeners. Odd though they would follow an English speaking podcast. It was also super happy that it had an overall rating of 4/5, and skimming through it looked like individual podcasts got anywhere from 3 to 5 out of 5. There were no bad ratings. (Though there were some with no ratings.) It was odd and cool to see a foreign site but see me there. I hope other sites are nice and link back to me like they do instead of copying the podcast and keeping hits for themselves. I suppose as long as donations and stuff do come back to me I'm sort of ok with it though, even if I can't count all the subscribers. Of course, I haven't gotten a donation in forever. 😞

In the evening my friends came on for some unexpected play time, so that was super fun and super happy. 😊

I guess today had some pretty good stuff going on. 😊

Day 1678 - 2/3

Money in, money out

Today overall was ok, but it felt very lonely. I got an extra work shift, so that was good, but overall I felt very lonely. Everyone is doing super bowl things. I don't really care that I don't have anyone to do parties with for that, but the fact I have noone to do anything with today seems very sad. Once upon a time I would have gamer friends over and we would play board games or card games and the game would be on, but it was muted. We would only un-mute to see the funny new commercials. All my friends are online now, and those I do 'see' I don't see very often. While being in a home guarantees nothing beyond that it feels like I am missing so very much lately.

I noticed my tax money came in. So that is pretty awesome that it came so fast. The sad reality is that it is at least half gone already. I have to pay for that lame parking ticket for being one foot into the red zone, I really should get new boots as the ones I got 1.5 years ago have holes that are doing bad things to my heels, and pushing my budget out to July, with zero money for games, it shows that it's slowly draining at about \$50 a month. While it is likely that my hours may double from May through August that isn't guaranteed and so it looks like this boost to savings won't be likely to make it through summer, let alone sit happily in savings and be 1/3 of a new laptop, or 1/4 of a replacement car, or money for other emergencies.

Even though I claw my way forward, it still feels like I'm forever slipping further and further back and will never recover. 😞

Day 1679 - 2/4

Sad times

Though today was ok, things seem like sad times lately. The day started with the online work I do for my friend and a fancy lunch. Class went ok, and actually got out

early. I decided to go to the coffee shop and play a bit before laundry, but there were a few guys being poo heads, and on top of that the connection was really horrible again. Work went ok, and I did a bit chunk of my lab thing during my shift. I still have to finish it, but it shouldn't be too tough.

Despite things being fairly ok I still feel very sad. Nothing is changing. No classes I've taken have helped me find a job of any kind. With my job attractiveness being no better I am likely stuck where I am; not minimum wage, but at jobs teens and recent college grads do for the most part, where I'm getting half the pay my skills are really worth (or less) and zero benefits. With no change in my income my budget will continue to remain at zero, or fall below. My prospects don't look good, and with little to no recognition for anything I'm doing my future doesn't *feel* very hopeful. 😞

Day 1680 - 2/5

Wet socks

Today has just started but I'm super tired. I guess yesterday my socks didn't quite get 100% dry. When I was putting them away after work both pair I'd washed were just a little wet. I put one back into the dirty cloths bag and I'm wearing the other now. This one should dry out in hopefully an hour or so.

Hopefully today will turn out ok. I will go do some podcasting soon, and then I'll wait for Dead Space 3 to show up. Hopefully delivery won't be later than its usual 11 AM. It looks like I got into a beta weekend for this weekend, so that should be fun. After waiting for the delivery I don't have any plans outside of the usual Tuesday, so hopefully I can relax a bit and have some fun. With as sad and lonely as I've felt lately I could really use a good day. 😞

Day 1681 - 2/6 Almost cried at dinner

Today was a big failure. I took my book with me in the morning and was going to try and finish my lab. I was way too tired. I ordered a kind of expensive lunch because the sliced pizza I wanted wasn't even started yet, and the guy put something on what I ordered that was not listed. I questioned him and got him to take off as much as possible. After lunch I had class. We got out early and I did some podcasting. I guess that was the only part that wasn't bad. But I sat there in the car for the longest time. Just sitting. Thinking this is what my life is like. I have to be out somewhere, doing unusual things, because I have to be out. Because I have no job to be at during the day. I went to the coffee shop after and again thought I'd try and do homework. I edited my podcast, but again I just really wasn't interested in homework. I looked for jobs and played some more. Right when I was starting to be motivated and in a mood to do homework my night was over. In a home I'd have easily had 4-6 more hours, but homeless I had to go eat and then try and hide for the night.

At the restaurant I nearly cried. While it was nice the cutie remembered me and smiled and waved I couldn't help but stare out the window and think about all the people driving by. People were going home. People were getting off work. People were going to the shops to shop. But not me. I had nowhere to go. I didn't just get off work. I had nothing I needed to buy, even if I could have afforded it. And it made me wonder.

It feels like things will never change. Even if I get recovered enough to get a room, or a miracle happens and I can afford a place of my own, I am still single with zero prospects. I have no sweetie, let alone a wife. I am not starting a family. I have no friends to share adventures with like movies or pen and paper, board, or card gaming. In a home I would still have no future prospects. My life, while free from stress, worry, and fear, would likely be filled with grinding at work day after day doing something unfulfilling. I would go to work and return home to an empty place. All the things I am sad about every day would be happy. But long-term, the things I *really* want, the things I feel are *really*

missing in life, still would be. And even if I can recover, these things may elude me to the end of my days. 😞

Day 1682 - 2/7

Don't understand the lab

Today was kinda bad, kinda good. I finished my podcast in the morning, so that is all ready to go. That was fun. After, I tried to do my lab. I don't understand it at all. 😞 I guess I have to go over the slides and reading again over the weekend. If I still don't get it there is Monday and Tuesday to ask for help before it's due on Wednesday. In the evening my friends came online and we had fun. 😊 That was a nice surprise.

I guess overall I feel ok about the day, though I am still limited by being homeless. I'd have 4 hours more every day to do school stuff or whatever. There is so much I could have also done today that I kind of wanted to do, or any day before today as well. But I guess, since no change or opportunities seem to come my way, that I am meant to suffer and remain where I am.

Day 1683 - 2/8

The worst sad

Today was a very bad day. Last night started hopeful in that I saw the 'shell' for my podcast back on iTunes. This morning though I got word that iTunes still can't find a particular thing. That thing, as I feared, apparently is something that may change due to my being on a shared server plan. In order for that to remain static I'd have to pay \$250 a year vs. my current \$75. I just don't think that is really affordable. I'll have to think about it.

I tried to relax in the morning with play, but the connection was horribly unstable. I tried to do my lab but I really don't get the syntax at all. It's like trying to learn a foreign language by being dropped into that country. There are some things I can try before

Monday, but it seems I am at square one and in need of serious help. I got a yummy pizza and some cookies to cheer myself up at work. During work I was hoping to see my friends do their podcast and be in the chat room, but the work bandwidth was so bad I couldn't connect at all, leaving me very few options on what to do. I tried to play an older game I haven't finished and it was locking up every 5 minutes.

Today I have the worst sads. Every place I've gone the connection has failed. All my attempts to do homework failed. Trying to play and have fun failed. And unless I drop \$250 a year for my web hosting it seems I'm now permanently off iTunes (as any return would equally be at risk of losing connection again.) And, by the time it came to watch my friend's podcast and I couldn't, I just about broke down in tears. 🙄 A few slipped out, but I managed to hold them back for the most part.

There *are* other places I can *try* to connect from to be stable. I *can* try to see if \$250 a year is affordable. And not seeing my friends this week *isn't* the last time I could. But *everything* feels like it's collapsing around me. And when you have so little left it is not easy to shrug problems off like a normal person could. To me it feels like everything I have left, what little there is, is being lost and taken away from me, and I am not being allowed to participate in anything. And no matter how much I try to succeed and recover all those efforts are ripped away by things I can't control.

Day 1684 - 2/9

Sad options and not options

Today was pretty sad. I did check out a beta I'm in a bit more, so that was fun. But due to how slow the restaurant was it took twice as long to watch shows. In nearly 3 hours I'd barely watched 1.5 hours of show.

While the beta I have access to this weekend is pretty fun, I spent a fair bit of time watching the Neverwinter streams of the weekend beta they have going on. I am very tempted to pay for a founders pack. The reality is though only the \$200 is really "worth buying", and I don't have that much to spend. Sure, the \$60 one would get me weekend beta access, but at this point that's only 6 days, during which about 1/3 of that time I'd have no access or be asleep. It would get me a 3 day head start too, but let's be honest and

consider I potentially have 8 hours easily to play per day when I'm not at school or working. If it does come out next quarter I may have classes, but if it's late and comes out in late July or after I'd not have school. So really only the extra playable race, extra character slots, foundry access, and in-game money are worth it, which are all restricted to the \$200 pack. However, I just don't realistically have that option. That's probably close to an entire year's budget for games if I don't get extra summer hours.

There is also the sad reality that it looks like a return to the iTunes store is not possible without spending \$250 a year on web hosting. Maybe I could find a different web host for cheaper which does conform to Apple's new standards, but for some reason it's looking for a server address in addition to the URL. And that address isn't static and won't be found on a shared server space if the web host moves my site behind the scenes.

So today was sad for me. I want to be in Neverwinter having fun and running video and getting info to podcast about, but I really can't afford to get the package that is really worth it for me. (Nor is streaming even an option on my laptop wirelessly.) I'd also love to secure my space and get back onto iTunes so more people can hear my podcast (and I'd never have to worry about bandwidth limitations), but again my life is not a happy rabbit life. I can't afford that either. Today seemed like a reminder that my options are far less than optimal, and none of them seem to be allowing me to have the happy rabbit life I want to live. 😞

Day 1685 - 2/10

Another terribly sad day

Today was another terribly sad day. I wanted to try and do some homework at work, but was too tired and too sad. I had some bandwidth so I was able to watch a few shows and play for just a little while. At the restaurant the connection was slow, but not intolerably slow like it was the other day. (Well, not more than its usual 0.9 whatever, compared to like 60.0 on a land-line.) I played for just a little while then tried to do some of the lab homework. To my surprise I got some of it to work right, though some still generates an error and I don't understand why.

I guess in a way I feel more ok than usual, but as often happens lately I have felt super sad and depressed all day. While my podcast has more listeners and I'm very happy for that, I'm still getting zero donations and no feedback or interaction. While I did get a shower, it was at work. While I had plenty of food, it was all pretty bad for me, and not what I'd have enjoyed cooking. While it was a touch warmer today, because I'm homeless I had to stay indoors in public places that were noisy and cold.

Today again feels like one of those days where I'm the one left over doggy or kitty at the pound that noone wants. I am alone in my cage; cold, lonely, and forgotten. 😞

Day 1686 - 2/11

Slightly better day

Today is a slightly better day. I took the morning off and did my online work for my friend then played for a bit. In class the professor helped me figure out what was wrong with my lab. I went and did some podcasting after class and played for a bit before work. During work I watched a movie and finished the lab. So that one is finally done and I can move on to the next.

With my lab done and being able to move on, with my podcast being back on iTunes, things seem to be looking up a bit. I feel a bit better, but still feel constantly constrained by my sad homeless life. 😞

Day 1687 - 2/12

Owie jaw

Today seems like it may be ok. My jaw is really hurting when I open it though. I must have yawned and sprained it or something. Hopefully I can eat ok later. With my week being so bad I had a tough time lately. Though I haven't slept in at school in a while the crowd seems to be thinning out, so maybe I can if need be soon. With it being winter though activity at night is down, so I can usually 'be safe' and get a few more hours sleep.

The bad times seem to be turning away ever so slightly. Things are still not 'better' in any real sense, but things which have been extra sad lately seem to be resolved, and with that my mood is lifting a touch. The weather seems to be on the verge of warming up. Some days, mid-day, the weather is genuinely warm. Yesterday I had my hoodie off for a few hours for the first time in months. Maybe soon I can feel not so super sad anymore and things can begin to go back to my balanced homeless 'normal'.

Week 242

Day 1688 - 2/13

Hello and goodbye new boots

Last night I grabbed my new boots before hiding for the night. Trying them on they weren't too bad, but they were a little pinchy in a few places. However, they kind of slipped around as I tested them out. Upon inspecting the bottom it seemed to be a hard plastic instead of the medium density rubber a shoe should have. I decided to take the small loss in shipping costs and send it back for a refund. I am not going to risk my paws and other parts, especially since my paw is just now getting to the point that I can go up and down stairs fairly confidently without holding on to the hand rail.

Today was ok I guess. I messed around a bit in the morning. I had class, which ran very short as it was the last one before a test. After, I went to record my podcast. So that got mostly done. I'd like to get some more content in there, but I don't know if I really have anything left to talk about this week. After, I only had a short while to play for a bit more before watching some friends stream some stuff.

I guess all in all things weren't bad. But if I were in a home, wow, things would have been very different. I'd have had much more fun with playing, had 3.5 more hours due to not needing travel or needing to hide for the night. I would have been able to shower, do better podcasting, played more, eaten healthy, and generally been more productive. Years ago I said having a gaming system would make me happy. And I am, but I am still sad about all the basic things I am missing from my life that people take for granted every day. 😞

Day 1689 - 2/14

Sad not Valentines Thursday

Today was very sad for several reasons. It started with bad news at my oil change. The oil change went fine, but a nail/screw was discovered in one of my old tires. The guy at the tire place said they couldn't fix it. It was so worn out it was unlikely to be safe even

if it did survive the process. So, since just getting one tire is unbalancing and unsafe, I had to get two... again. I guess technically it's a cost that I needed to spend anyways, but for how little I drive they could have lasted 1-1.5 more years before I needed to really change them. So there went *another* \$175 I wasn't really expecting to spend on top of the other tires I just replaced a few months ago. That ate up like 90% of the remaining tax money I planned to put into savings. I guess the only thing to be thankful for was that I had the money to spend.

The rest of the day was pretty much a sad not Valentine's day. That cost and loss of time threw off most of the rest of my day emotionally. If it were just a lonely Valentines that wouldn't be anything new. My last like 15 years I haven't had a Valentines, so it's nothing new to me.

I saw my friends and played for a few hours, so that was nice. 😊

But at the end of the day when I am sad, much poorer, alone, and heading off to hide for the night, for some it is just beginning.

Day 1690 - 2/15

Feeling sad again

Today was mostly ok, but I am feeling sad again. In the morning I uploaded my podcast, but I haven't gotten a confirmation from iTunes that it is looking at the new URL yet. In their 'we got it back up' notice they specifically mentioned the old URL. I really don't understand why we don't have better control. Having all information invisible and not controllable after the podcast has been approved is just... silly.

I got some pretty bad news. One class is having the test next week, a week sooner than I thought it was. And I haven't been watching the shows because they are the most boring ever. (It's a watching the lecture online thing.) Nor do I have the book because they are really just too expensive. I'll have only about half a day to cram for the test if a book is in the library. I'll try to watch the videos and get caught up, but they are the most boring 1.5 hours ever, and there are like two per week.

I decided to stay at the new coffee shop instead of moving elsewhere before work. Lately I just haven't felt right or welcome at the restaurant. Bandwidth was ok, but there

were more than a few times I lost connection or things got so lagged they got stuck. It made me sad about needing to use public connections and that my life is still unchanging.

At work I watched a movie, which was better than I expected it to be. But I was ridiculously hungry and ate like double or more than usual. I started my next lab thing and it's going ok, but part of it isn't doing anything at all.

After that my friends did their podcast stream. It went ok, I could see most of it, but there were issues with it not working right away, and several parts got stuck and I couldn't see anything. After it was over my friend said people were annoyed at me for talking about my problems. It made me sad because apparently people were leaving because of it. 😞 And it made me sad that people didn't seem to want me around because I was talking about it. 😞

Tonight I feel like nothing is ever going to change, like noone wants me around. I feel like I should just pack my car, shut all my online stuff down, and just disappear. It's like if noone cares about me maybe I should just go away.

But where would I go? Without money I couldn't go far. I certainly couldn't just live on savings. I'd run out in just a few weeks, even if all I had to worry about was food. Even if I did go somewhere, whatever it is about me that pushes people away... there still would be people.

I don't understand how, all my life, I have been the one to care for others. I have always been the one to stand up to bad things when others wouldn't. I was the one who counseled people during (emotional) pain. I was the one who took in not just one, but three friends over the years who were down on their luck and needed a lot of help to get back on their feet.

I have a few friends who do care, so I know there are some people out there. And I know a few others do find what I do on my site and podcast helpful. And I know there are a few who are helped by my words and thoughts. But I wonder why so many people I meet or who see me treat me like this dark shadow they fear to be near and they run away. I don't understand why I am still out in the cold. Why after so many years I am so single. Why it seems every night lately I go to sleep and feel like if I don't wake up noone would truly miss me or feel the absence of my presence.

Day 1691 - 2/16

Goodnight, bear

Today was actually pretty good, but as I left work and night came I got pretty sad. There is a stuffed bear at work someone lost. I guess a girl by the smell of the bear and the slight glitter on the fur. I think it was maybe three weeks ago now. It makes me very sad to think how much the bear's family must miss them. 😞 The other staff in the office has not kept the bear in the window despite my leaving a note that they should help them find the bear's home. When I left from work I set up a spot on one of the cushioned chairs in the office and covered them up with a towel. I hugged them and gave them a goodnight kiss since they'd been missing so many from their family. I think tomorrow I'll bring bear with me to the ex-storage to prevent further abuse at work. I promised bear weeks ago that if we couldn't find their family I would take them and drop them off at a donation place so they could find a new home. It makes me so sad. 😞

I feel very sad and alone tonight. Maybe it's because the weather lately has been a bit warmer. Maybe it's because I've worked a few days extra now. For some reason, maybe because of so many young teens around me, I find myself thinking back to my teens and 20s and how lonely I was on weekends, and how I'd have so much fun with friends when I did have them.

I guess it just ties back to my sad thoughts of the past few weeks of how I will, more than likely, end up with a job I don't like, one that grinds the time and my spirit away, and even if I do get into my own apartment there will likely be neighbors I either don't like or who are non-interactive towards me. Doomed to live an unfulfilled life in a small space never really having enough freedom to really pursue my hobby in a way that truly makes me happy. In some ways I fear that what I may recover may wind up being more of a prison than I am in now, particularly emotionally, since I no longer have support of possible roommates that I know, and I am truly on my own. 😞

Day 1692 - 2/17

Bear with me

Today seemed sad. I had an extra work shift this morning, which was good.

Noone was there most of the time, so it was super quiet. It was supposed to be a day of mostly studying, but I could barely keep my eyes open. I was not awake enough to study for more than about an hour.

After work I brought the bear with me. She's been without a family for about three weeks now and it makes me very sad to think she is lost without a home too. 😞 It makes me sad to think how terribly her little girl must miss her. 😞 I don't quite know what to do with her yet, but for now she can be in my ex-storage with my bunnies where she won't be alone.

I got to see my friends and play online for about an hour, but that was really all I played. The rest of what little connection I had at work, and a few hours after, I mostly spent watching shows. Mostly my mind keeps wandering to being a GM in Neverwinter and making campaigns in the foundry. I suppose, in theory, I will only have to wait two months for that. I'd still love to get the \$200 founders pack and get immediate access, five days before launch even, but with the tires costing me nearly \$400 in the past few months that has really become an impossibility unless someone gets it for me as a gift. I can afford the \$60 one, which gets me in three days early, but I don't get instant foundry access among other things I'd like to get. I am entering all the contests I can to win one, but odds don't seem favorable.

Today overall I feel sad for me. Sad I don't have a real career to earn decent money. At the rate I'm going I may never. Sad for the bear and the girl who lost them. Sad that after so many years of trying and suffering things seem no better for me then when I started. And sad that, in my gaming hobby life, as an older male, I am just 'yet another' voice among a crowd of so many that noone cares; I am not considered special or unique, and noone really seems interested in supporting me for it. (A few have helped now and then, but certainly nowhere near the kind of numbers I'd need to 'make a living at it.') And I feel sad for everyone else who, like me, may never achieve their dreams, or worse, truly wind up like me and don't even achieve what everyone else seems to have. I have become

like a shadow. Noone considers me out of place when they see me, yet noone looks for me or cares that I'm there unless I'm in their way.

Day 1693 - 2/18

The parallel shadow world

Today has been lonely. There is a greater and greater feeling of depression always within me. Though there are brief moments of happiness – playing online with my friends, talking to ex-guildies or others, playing a new game, working on my site or my podcast – nearly all of the rest of the time I feel ... beaten. I feel like nothing I do will matter. I feel like I *have* failed at life and there will never be a way out. I feel like, more and more, the memories of being in an apartment, being in a home, cooking, sleeping in a bed, playing at my desktop, watching movies in my chair, all of these memories will fade and all that will remain is the permanent ringing in my ears from fluorescent lights and constant unwanted music.

I've never been an ambitious guy. I tend to stay in the same job spot and home for years and years and years. Maybe that has slowed me down too much. Maybe getting 'just enough' and being satisfied has caused me to be perceived as someone not worth having around.

Whatever the reasons or causes for where I am and why I can't get out, lately I feel that this terrible world I've been forced into has no exit. It may exist in parallel with the normal world, but lately it feels like I will never again be able to be a part of that world.

Day 1694 - 2/19

Worried for tomorrow

Today is just starting. I'm super tired. My eyes have that tired sore feeling. I've been super sniffly, sneezy, and have yuck in my throat and lungs. 😞

I'm worried for tomorrow. I don't like cramming for tests, let alone one I haven't liked. And what makes it more dangerous is I haven't watched all of the boring videos. I'll

have to spend too much time doing that today. Hopefully there will be a book in the library I can skim and take notes from. I should probably go check that today, maybe I will, I'm not sure yet. It's open book, open notes, do it online, so the questions would have to be impossibly hard to not be able to find help online should there not be a book to check out. I'm bad at reading and reading last minute, well, a few hours tomorrow would likely be as good as a few hours today. Besides, it's probably better to try to focus on the boring videos today and worry about the book tomorrow. There may not even be a book on hold for the class. I should have not been lazy and been doing that all along, both watching the videos and keeping up with reading, but the weeks have gone quickly, and lately motivation and feeling ok has been very difficult.

Even though I have things that do make me happy lately, these past few months have seemed the toughest. I've had huge losses with the car tire poop. My health hasn't been terrible, but it's not been great either. More and more as we approach the end of year five I feel like nothing is ever changing, like I am trapped at the level I am, and that while things are tolerable now, as time goes on I will just continue to lose more and more and that recovery is becoming less and less likely.

Day 1695 - 2/20 Tears at night

Today was... difficult. There was no book on hold in the library. Plus, it seems the professor posted his slides with descriptive text at some point. I learned more from those in 5 minutes of skimming than I did in the like 15 hours of video they came from. Also something I didn't know, the test wasn't online in the 'it's through a website and you have one hour to complete it' sense. It was a 'download it here and answer the questions and email it back' form. So I could have spent time with it at work Monday, had it all day Tuesday, and done a lot more with it. So that was pretty frustrating finding all that out. It's so lame the class has two tests and that's it. There's nothing to get used to the class with. I probably did pretty bad, so all I'm hoping for is a C.

My other class, the one with the professor that I like and had before, went pretty good I think. Only 2 out of 20 questions were ones I wasn't sure on, so I probably got an 85-90% I think.

After the test I tried to do some podcasting, but the place I've been going to was full. I tried somewhere else and it was too noisy. I tried a second other place and again it was too noisy. And I went back to my usual spot and it was still all full.

I decided to say forget it and go to maybe relax and play some stuff. But at the coffee shop I was dropped and stuck about once an hour for several minutes each time. And I wasn't even doing bandwidth intense stuff; I was just doing regular web stuff.

I said F that and went to the restaurant. I could barely watch the stream I wanted to watch there. It barely had any bandwidth.

In the evening I settled in to watch a friend's stream. I got a message that was similar to the one on Friday. I suddenly felt very sad and unwanted, so I left. I don't even think anyone noticed, nor did anyone ask if I was ok when I did not return.

I watched another person's stream for a bit and it was ok. The chat there was super quiet. It was like noone was talking.

My friend invited me to play online, and while I said yes I felt very sad. I didn't talk. I didn't act silly. I guess noone cared or thought anything of it.

When I went to say goodnight to my bunnies in the ex-storage I shed a few tears. I don't want people to treat me bad. I don't want to be where I'm not wanted. I don't want to be lonely, but if people continue to not want me in the chats then I guess I'll just have to stop going. With people treating me badly or being asshats towards me in online games, maybe I will just have to stop going to the places I have previously enjoyed. Maybe some places are becoming places that hurt me and I'll have to start considering if there will be more potential pain than potential happiness. And if so, I'll have to stop going, even if that means I wind up more alone. I'd rather be by myself and lonely than somewhere I'm unwanted to treated badly.

Day 1696 - 2/21

Not so many

Today was kind of sad. I took the day off, so to speak, and didn't do any school or work/job hunting stuff. In the morning I researched some stuff for my podcast. After, I did all the recording. When I got to the restaurant I watched a show during lunch, then edited the podcast. It turned out to be much longer than I expected; basically regular length, so that was good. After, I discovered a pretty sad fact though. I decided to check my stats again and noticed it has been tracking since 2011, not 2012. So when I redid the math for the much longer time it worked out to be that I have, if averaged out, 125-135 subscribers, not 400-500 like I thought. I guess that explains why there was a sudden jump. I wasn't correctly noticing the reported time period. So that made me pretty sad. I'm still happy with its increase from the 40s that it basically started with, but that is still a super tiny number overall.

In the early afternoon I did get word that I got a 75% on the test I was worried about, so that is ok. It's not great but for how bad the videos were and not having a book I'm fine with it.

I also decided to contact one of the smaller gaming news people I'd found lately. It seemed like it was just two people, and they have 250 subscribers at the YouTube page and only about 25 at their Facebook page (about the same as me). So I asked how they managed to be given two \$200 Neverwinter's founders packs and get early press entry. I

guess they have several PR contacts at several companies and are asking for them to give them stuff for reviews. I feel a bit less sad since I got that answer. I haven't been trying to make contacts like that because I can't stream my videos, I don't even really have enough power or opportunity to make them, and I don't feel like a real news agent with that and other limitations. So it made me... I guess feel a bit better... to know that the limitations of my homeless life *are* what is holding me back. (Not something like I suck at what I do and noone likes it, and thus that is why I get no rewards.) In theory once I can stream and put out more stuff and don't have to worry about system power or recording conditions I could start making connections and reaching out. Though, I would still like to be reached out to in recognition of what I've done, or because people think I'm awesome and would be honored to have me look at x, rather than feeling like I'm asking people for favors / hand-outs.

I've been feeling very sad lately though about my limitations as well as not feeling appreciated or like people care about me. Due to the recent sad things with people not wanting me in chat, and seeing several succeeding at things that I'm trying to do, where I seem to be not getting any recognition or appreciation... well, that on top of all my regular homeless stuff has made me feel very sad lately.

Day 1697 - 2/22

Nothing to write home about

Today really doesn't have much of interest. I uploaded my podcast in the morning. I purposely only updated the new .xml page. It showed up on iTunes almost immediately in a general search (not through my subscription), so that proved iTunes is looking at the new feed. So that was happy. I haven't gotten a reply through customer support about that, so I'm glad I came up with a way to test and verify it for myself. I got dropped at the coffee shop several times, and had trouble staying connected at the restaurant too. So both of my main connection points are becoming pretty unstable again. So, I didn't play or watch my shows much. In the evening I watched a movie. After I tried to watch my friend's stream, but I had no bandwidth. I'm still not sure how I feel about that though. Still feel a bit unwelcome and I wasn't even sure I actually wanted to watch even if I

could have. I tried to do the next lab, but it looked like stuff I don't know yet. It's not due for like three weeks, so I'm not worried. Besides, I have extra shifts on both Saturday and Sunday to try and to it if I want.

That was really my day. A whole lot of not much due to not being able to get a connection that I could count on. I was pretty sad, but I guess not quite as bad as I have been, so that was good I suppose.

Day 1698 - 2/23

You cannot play at this time

Today was mostly sad. In the morning I picked up the \$60 founders pack for Neverwinter. I want to support them and get peeks at stuff as quick as I can. The game will actually load to the loading screen, but it displays the message "you cannot play at this time". Oddly though the client is tiny at just around 3 gig. Most MMOGs are closer to 10-15. At 3 it's closer to a single player game size, so that seems worrisome. I decided I just don't have the \$200 for the more expensive one, and I'm ok with 'earning it' by people donating for my adventures and stuff.

My bestest friend checked in with me today. I guess she did notice I disappeared Wednesday and couldn't stay on last night, so they were worried about me. I have an ex-guildie who checks in weekly too most weeks, so it's always good to be worried about.

I still feel very sad though. I still feel sort of unwanted, I certainly haven't been feeling appreciated for work on my site and podcast lately. And I still feel that I will never be paid for doing something I at least somewhat enjoy as a job. And it seems unlikely I'll ever be back to earning 'enough'. Everywhere I look there are people younger, in better shape, and more successful than me. Even though I *know* I have a unique perspective, experience, and understanding, I really don't *feel* like it is acknowledged or desired.

Day 1699 - 2/24

Writing the script

Today was ok I guess. I had another shift to cover, so I've been pretty busy with work lately. During most of the shift I didn't have any bandwidth, so I worked on what is effectively most of the 'script' for one of my adventures in Neverwinter. Hopefully I'll have the chance to put it in and hopefully the game will be fun enough that it was worth my time. With my now having spent \$60 on it I figure I have to play a minimum of 10 hours for it to be worth the cost, as most single player games last about that long. I guess I'll find out in two Fridays from now, as that is the next beta weekend.

Later in the day bandwidth cleared a bit and I was able to watch a show and play for a bit. After work I went to the restaurant and the connection wasn't too bad. I watched another show and again played for a little bit.

I wasn't too sad today. I felt productive and happy working on the adventure, something I haven't been able to do in a very long time. It's not the same as a pen and paper game, but I haven't had any pen and paper friends in forever. I was pretty lonely, but the time passed quickly enough so it didn't seem too bad.

I'm hiding for the night now, and as things quiet down, and my ears eventually stop ringing from being constantly bombarded by noise all day, the sadness is beginning to return. I still feel trapped, helpless, and like nothing will ever really improve for me.



And with each activity I decide to do alone, I wonder how many more things I will have to continue to do alone.

Day 1700 - 2/25

Tired, hungry, blurry

Today was ok I think. I'm feeling a bit less sad from all my things. I still have the sad, it's always there, but my happy things seem to make me a bit happier lately.

Today I'm suuuppper tired. I'm extra hungry lately for some reason. And my eyes have been really blurry at times and unable to focus.

I guess overall the week is ending better than it started. While nothing has really changed I don't feel quite as sad and depressed as I did at the start of the week. My outlook is about the same, as that is influenced far more by external factors than not.

Not much to say for today really. Still alone, still lonely, still feel like I'm unwanted or unwelcome more than not lately, still feel like the things I am doing are not how I should be doing them, my connection points are still more unstable than not, and my prospects for change still seem slim to none. 😞

Day 1701 - 2/26

Homesick

Today I don't feel quite so depressed emotionally, but the day is just starting. I have been feeling very sick lately. I miss all the things people take for granted all the time.

I miss being able to not wear shoes. I miss not being able to cook. I miss not being able to take a shower and just get into house cloths. I miss being able to do laundry and have warm clothes or bed sheets. I miss being able to control the temperature at least a little. I miss being able to control the volume of sounds around me, or how many lights are on.

I miss so many things. Some might be considered luxuries, but so many more are just everyday things I may never have again. 😞

Week 244

Day 1702 - 2/27 **Sadness returns**

Today seemed like it would start ok, but it took a sad turn. Usually now on Monday and Wednesday I'll be in the side room from the cafeteria. It often has decent connection speeds and, unlike the library, I can eat there. But today, even though I'd found a new show I wanted to watch, I thought about those around me and became sad.

There are people laughing and having fun. Noone there is struggling without a place to stay. They are all focusing on their classes and opportunities for the future. They are finding friends and playing games. (There are always card games and video games running in that room.) And some are finding love. I think of their futures, being with their friends, finding good jobs, starting families.

I think of me. I am stuck. The few friends I've made have not led to other new friends, nor love. They aren't even offline where I can do stuff with them in person. My classes, going well or not, don't seem to be leading me to a bright future. I am older. Most my age are hoping to retire in about 20 years, and wishing it to be sooner.

I still feel very sad lately. I feel very depressed and my future looks bleak. When I do have something to enjoy, I have noone to share it with. I am alone. And the longer it continues, the more it feels like this is the way it will always be.

Day 1703 - 2/28 **More fruit**

Today I had an orange for a snack. I was super proud of myself for doing it until I got so hungry I had a chip/pretzel snack not long after. I even had a second snack like that not long after that. I don't know why, but lately I've been really really tired and really hungry. Maybe they are linked. Maybe I should try and sleep in more at school. I used to pretty frequently, but this quarter it's been too noisy, so I started spending Monday and Wednesday before class doing stuff. And on other days I started doing other things too;

Tuesday I do last minute Epic Fail entry and posting, Thursday recording and editing of my podcast, Friday finishing and posting the podcast. Many weekends lately I've worked extra shifts, so I stopped weekend naps too. I'm not really short on sleep though. Since it's winter things get very quiet and still just after nightfall, so I can usually get about 8-9 hours of sleep most nights, which is plenty.

Today my friends sent me a message saying they were sad that I felt unwanted and unappreciated. They said they miss me and my things I do. So that was nice. I think really it was the fact that people didn't seem to care about my problems that got me the most sad and that they would rather see me gone. It's like, sure, people helping is super rare, and if anyone were in a position to truly help me it would be a miracle, but wanting me gone and not wanting to hear about my problems... I get it, but when I hear someone is having trouble or sad I always feel a little bad for them. Even just a sad face emote or seeing if I can help is usually the least I do. It seems lately though noone save for a very small number of my friends are willing to make any kind of gesture. Like with donations, people don't realize that while even just \$5 may not seem like much, that is basically a whole meal, and it really is a huge gesture of appreciation. Or even just saying they are sorry and feel sad for me is a huge gesture.

I guess I just really feel like noone cares at all, and that makes me feel truly alone, isolated, unwelcome, and that since it seems change must come from outside for me to recover, that change will never come.

Day 1704 - 3/1

The forever edit

Today was ok I guess. I stayed at the coffee shop until work. I had the hardest time editing the podcast. It took over an hour to decide on opening music, then several to edit. It was almost triple the normal time I spend on it for some reason. Maybe because I'm so depressed and sad lately I wanted something exact and couldn't find it.

The coffee shop connection was kind of crappy and it dropped me several times. It's getting really bad. I didn't want to go to the restaurant though. I'm trying to cut down

on its bad foods, as well as being different places for a change of pace. But with such a terrible connection as my main alternative, it's tough.

I'm so extremely tired today. It's weird. I started off feeling extremely well rested and up until about 2 PM I stayed that way. Not long after I started to crash, and by the time it was about 6 I could barely keep my eyes open.

Not much else to say today. No real change for today.

Day 1705 - 3/2

Displaced

Today was pretty terrible. The day wasn't too bad. I was alone and lonely, but I played games and had some fun. Night was bad though. Where I usually go at night to sleep things were out of place. So I had to be careful and not sleep. I waited. And waited. And waited. At 3 AM I decided to sneak up for a closer inspection. It turns out I was waiting for no reason. Because of the perception of it being unsafe I'd lost half of my night's sleep.

Routine is important to stay balanced in life. Even people who claim it's untrue and who thrive in chaos don't realize it. Even in chaos there is order. At some point things settle down, and even with things being variable, if you enjoy that, having that variance and unpredictability or change is a predictable state. It would be like flipping a coin in the air and it spins. It may seem chaotic in its spinning, but that is a predictable outcome. If it didn't spin, if it stayed flat along one plane, that would be against the routine of the flip.

But tonight was a reminder that I *am* still homeless. I may have settled in to a routine lately, but with that disruption I was quickly reminded. I had to spend time in a 24 hour food store. The days displays were put away, the lights lower, the music quieter, echoes could be heard from the lack of people, only a few were walking around the store. It felt wrong. It felt as out of place as I did. The night was warm, so it wasn't so bad to be in my car. I waited and waited. The more time that passed the more I felt like the car; unchanging, some parts wearing out, unable to move or progress without someone helping to give direction, and my color progressively becoming fading as the night went on.

I'd almost forgotten how I feel almost normal during the day, and how you can feel truly outcast and alone when you have nowhere to go at night. 😞

Day 1706 - 3/3

Half asleep

Today I was half asleep basically all day. I only got about 5 hours of sleep, and since I felt mostly ok in the morning I didn't try to sleep in. I may tomorrow though. I played my games and watched a few shows. I tried to study twice, but was so tired I stopped before I'd started.

Everything about today would have gone differently in a home. I could do so much better. I'd have been able to sleep in, showered, eaten better, studied, and had much more fun with my play time. Everything I'd have done would have been so much more successful and I'd have been able to do so much more. There are so many missed opportunities to be what I am capable of, and what makes me most sad is I seem unable to change it to try and become the better me. 😞

Day 1707 - 3/4

Alone

Lately I feel very alone. When I was growing up, and even still now in my classes, there is this huge focus to do things on your own. You should be capable of x and y. You should 'not ask for handouts'. You should not need others. But as more and more time passes, as I see and hear more stories from 'successful people', it seems they *all* had help. They all turned to others and made their way with that help. They all got help to become what they were, and if they were standing alone, it was only after prolonged periods of being with others.

I can do things on my own. I have many strengths, and over the years people have said they were amazed by it. And in some cases I have inspired them to find their own strength.

When I started this terrible journey I thought I would be able to make it alone. I thought I'd find my way back without help. I thought I'd be ok and grow and change and be viewed as more desirable. But it hasn't happened. Who I was, what I was and held within the core of myself, has not changed. It hasn't needed to change. All the stuff around that, the seemingly trivial stuff that some perceive as 'good skills' or 'proof of' whatever, that seems unaffected no matter what I do. It seems the undesirable stuff seems unable to be changed. I haven't gotten a new job. My classes haven't helped me one bit in getting a new job or progressing towards a career. And all the stuff that makes me stronger through these terrible times doesn't seem to help. It seems to only be that trivial superficial stuff people want to see, and it seems I am unable to change that.

What I thought would be a few months has become what seems a never-ending saga. Now nearing the end of the 5th year, I wonder if anything will ever change for me.



Day 1708 - 3/5

Forgiving yourself, or not

Lately I've been very sad about something that happened 20 years ago. I think I told this story before; the story of Spices the kitty. She was an older kitty, like 7 when I got together with her owner. When we were first together she was in a decent sized three bedroom home. Although I was pretty allergic to Spices it was ok. She loved me so much. She would sit on my lap all the time, go up to my face and push on me, or be close by. As all cat owners know, the cat picks you. If they don't like you, they never will. But if they love you they always will. After, I think a year, we moved out to our own place. It was a tiny one bedroom apartment. My eyes were getting red and swollen often and I was sneezing a lot. Maybe a year later that person broke up with me. She moved somewhere else but we agreed since Spices loved me so much she would stay. But I got worse. I was so bad I was constantly on about triple the max dose for allergy meds and out of it all the time. She said she would take Spices back. A few more weeks went by and she hadn't. I was forced to put Spices out on the balcony all the time so I could try and recover. I remember going to visit her out there and crying. I remember seeing her eyes goopy with

yuck from when she was crying. After maybe a week she was picked up. The person didn't keep Spices though; I guess she had to give Spices to a shelter.

Lately, since I've been homeless, I've missed Spices terribly. I think of her out there at night, and even though she had food, her box, and her favorite scratching house to sleep in, I knew she cried. I knew she missed me and was patient and didn't cry at the window. She just stayed in her box house. But even until the last day when I put her up on my lap and cried, she purred so much.

I don't know if I can ever forgive myself. 😞

Week 245

Day 1709 - 3/6 Almost threw up

Today I am pretty sick. I thought I wasn't too bad at first, been congested and coughing for a few days now, but just a bit ago I almost threw up. 😞 Now my ears are ringing and I feel a bit dizzy. I guess I'm pretty bad. If I had a regular job I'd call in sick and stay out the rest of the week. The good news is the podcast is done and ready to go. So I could, if I wanted, try to get an extra couple of hours sleep tomorrow and Friday morning and not miss out on anything. I guess we'll see. I'm hiding for the night now to get extra rest and it's a few hours earlier than usual, so maybe I can get some extra sleep during the night if all goes well.

The rest of my day was pretty regular. I had class, did podcasting, then edited and tried to play for a bit. The coffee shop connection has turned to total crap lately. It dropped me consistently every 15 to 30 minutes. It is now completely incapable of getting through an online game without horrible lag or disconnecting entirely. It's sad because only a few months ago it was 100% stable. I don't understand it.

I really wished I was a regular person today. All day I wanted nothing more than to skip class, sleep in, drink my tea someone sent to me, and eat super healthy and try to get better. But without a home I could really do none of that. 😞

Day 1710 - 3/7 Throwing up

Today I threw up for the first time in years. 😞 It was one instance, but three throwing ups. I was in my car and the first was small and I kind of controlled it. I stayed calm and opened the window. Thank the gods it was at night or I'd have seen / smelled it and kept throwing up non-stop. It's raining pretty good, so really all the evidence should be gone from my car when I go back out to it in the morning. I feel a bit better though

now than I did before. It felt sort of like someone was strangling me from all the congestion. I think congestion was the main cause; just too much of it in my system. Though I did sort of overdose on decongestant meds and cough drops. That may have had something to do with it. I'll for sure have to be extremely careful what I eat over the next few days. I'll probably go for healthy soup for dinner every night for a while.

Tonight is one of those nights I'm quickly reminded of how alone and helpless my position is. I have no one to shop for me, no one to get me any medicine I need, no one to do any chores for me, no one to take my cloths that may have been messed up when I got sick and immediately go wash them and get them out of my sight. I am alone. If I need something I have to make my way there. If I want to change, I can try, but I only have the one hoodie. What evidence there is will still be there if it does not get washed away.

Day 1711 - 3/8

Sick day

Today was ok I guess. I'm still very sick. I tried to stay as still as I could through the day and relax. I was achy, shivery, and feverish feeling all day. The cough was really bad and hurt my muscles, throat, and gave me headaches. Hopefully I'll get better soon. Being sick is bad enough when you are in a home. Being sick while homeless and subjected to constant noise, lights, and temperatures you can't control is terrible. 🙄

Day 1712 - 3/9

Peeing clear

Today was ok I guess. All I really remember clearly was coughing, feeling cold at times, feeling like I'm being choked at times, and playing the Neverwinter beta. I wish I was well so I could be doing more analysis of it and work on my homework for the next lab, but that just isn't going to happen. I drank so much today I was peeing clear. I can't remember how many years it's been since I've seen clear pee. Unfortunately most of what I drank was soda. When I'm sick and coughing I need the sugars to coat my throat to try

and help alleviate my cough. In a home where the air can be filtered and it doesn't affect my allergies so much I could have done more water, but I'd guess I probably drank 4 'cans' worth of water compared to 8-10 of soda. Maybe it's a good sign I drank so much. Normally I drink about 40% of that much.

Hopefully soon things will turn out ok and my terrible story will be over and I will be back in a home safe and sound. But sadly that seems even further off than normal when I'm sick and lack the ability to think clearly enough to really do anything.

Day 1713 - 3/10

Recovering

Today I feel super sad. I am starting to recover from my cold though. My cough is mostly gone, my confusion is starting to clear, though I'm still extremely tired, congested, and sneezing. My coughing bouts can get really rough though. I'll cough so bad my muscles are all locked up, my ears ring, and my vision gets super blurry.

It makes me super scared to lose control like that. It's like, when death comes, it will more than likely be like that, a time where I lose control and wonder what is going on with my body. I think that is why I'm so sad today. There is noone to help me if that happened. Noone would come to pick me up if I fell. If I lose control, noone would be there to call an ambulance or take me to the hospital.

I am getting better slowly, so I will likely recover from this cold. But what if a day comes where I do not? Will I recover from being homeless even if I do recover from this and other colds? Will there be someone who loves me, or friends around me, if I should need help in the future? Or will it be like now, where the only ones who care about me may not even know I'm gone when I do go?

Day 1714 - 3/11

Still recovering

Today I feel a bit better, though I couldn't hardly sleep last night for some reason. I still have a coughing fit now and then, and I'm sneezing now more than ever; but my congestion is lessening, I don't get headaches, and it feels like the fever and chills are finally leaving. My confusion is going too, so tomorrow may be mostly normal. Tomorrow is a rest day, so I should be able to recover quite a bit. Though being in the restaurant I'll be disadvantaged by all the noise and artificial lighting, and by anyone who gets close who has too much perfume or cologne.

I'm still very sad about my health and the recent scare. It looks like I'll pull out and be ok very soon, though my throat and voice sound terrible. I still wonder though; will I ever have a normal life in a home again? I suppose my life has never really been normal. I'm used to being alone, doing things by myself, not having people around to talk to or do stuff with. I'm ok with that most days. But if I could at least get back into a home, that would be something.

Day 1715 - 3/12

Seems off

Today seems... off. It seems like one of those days I'm out of place, almost like I'm in a different town for a convention and today is a between day where I'm just waiting after one has ended and for the next to begin.

I'm still pretty sick; coughing and congested. I still sneeze now and then. Mostly I'm sleepy though. I don't feel so bad as I do out of place, at least when I'm not having a coughing fit. When I do, it feels like I'm coughing flaking ash, or a big glob of yuck.

I guess it's mostly that things are settling back into place. As my congestion clears and my health returns back to normal it's like a window that had the drapes drawn is being opened again. Outside I see all the things that had always been there, and all the things that are in the way of nicer things I once could see.

As time goes on my opportunities to get out of this terrible situation seem to get smaller and smaller. The other day I looked at the jobs for the past two weeks in one section and it was a single page. Back a few years ago when this started that would have been a single day's posting. What was a few hours of searching back then can be done in a matter of a few minutes now. I suppose I can cling to the hopes that the economy will get better and that I will find more work someday, that what I do enjoy doing will eventually find its way to someone who can help me get a job I enjoy. But until then I wonder if anything will ever change for me. 😞

Day 1716 - 3/13 Sprained back

Today was pretty good I guess. I was still sick and pretty tired in the morning. Class was ok. I went to do podcasting and it was actually super warm out. It was almost like summer. I had just my t-shirt and house shirt on top, no sweater or trench was needed. And even then, about half way through I was starting to sweat.

I went to the restaurant to do some editing and tried to play. The game kept crashing, so that was super frustrating. I ignored it and went back to finish editing. After, I watched a show during dinner and played for a bit. They were good groups, so it was pretty fun.

One sad thing for today was I was working out in the bathroom, as I usually try to do every few days. I looked in the mirror and became sad as I saw the pregnant look belly. (Seriously. At the right angle that my parts don't show, my shadow looks like I'm a pregnant lady.) I started working out a bit more vigorously, as the 200-300 various reps I'm doing a few times a week doesn't seem to be enough. Something happened. I didn't hear a noise or anything, but when I went to straighten up and walk out I found I couldn't. I could only go about 90% of straight, and beyond about 85% straight there is a bit of pain. It's... tolerable, but something certainly seems to have been sprained in my lower and mid back.

My cold is quite a bit better, but I still have terrible coughing fits. I'm still coughing up and breathing yuck, and I'm still having to drink way more than usual. In fact, my lips are chapped and odd feeling/tasting from all the drinks and cough drop medicine. Hopefully in a few days I'll be like fine again though.

That's really it. Lately I've done a lot of podcast stuff for friends, as well as my own podcast stuff, so I've been feeling a bit less depressed lately I guess. Though all my sad things are unchanged, and always in the back of my mind. 😞

Day 1717 - 3/14

Slightly better

Today I'm feeling slightly better. I'm still super congested, sneezing quite a bit, and pretty tired, but the confusion is starting to lift and I'm starting to be in the mood to want to be productive.

A friend sent a message in the morning that I'm loved and cared for, so that was super nice. It made me feel a bit less sad. They are 'small words' to most, but they can have a very big impact. I had some good games during the day and watched some shows, so by the end of the day I was feeling pretty good.

In a home I may have done more. I may have started to do my lab, I may have started on the next system build set for posting in April. I might have even done laundry early. (I sometimes do that when I'm getting better from a cold as warm fresh laundry and sheets help me feel better.)

I guess today was pretty good, though I was mostly in my own space emotionally and not really affected by where I was. Though not being in a home is still ever-present in my mind. 😞

Day 1718 - 3/15

Messed up

Today can probably be best described as messed up. My throat is still messed up. There is still the ash / yuck in my lungs. There is still sneezing. I lost some sleep last night and was stressed and still sick, so my sleep was messed up. And though I knew it was a risk, the connection at the coffee shop was messed up. I don't think I got through even half the games I tried to play online. I think I'm going to have to declare it not a playable location and always leave for the restaurant when it's open. I may have 1/25th of the speed, but it is, sadly, a *far* more a reliable gaming connection these days.

I'm starting to feel better, though I'm still heavily congested, coughing, and sneezing. I'm still eating and drinking way more than usual though. I ate almost double

my normal amount for dinner, and I'm at double or triple the normal liquid amount. I'm pretty tired too. Even when I can sleep ok my sleep is disturbed.

I'd like to start on the lab things I need to do and start studying for my finals in a few weeks, but motivation is tough. I'm still a bit hazy from my cold a lot of the time, and even when I'm not I'm *always* out in public. Things are *never* my environment that I can control and set to a peaceful studying-like atmosphere. But my life is what it is. It seems despite how much I want it to change I am unable to change it. And as much as I am trying to survive and adapt how I can, some things are extremely difficult even at the best of times.

Day 1719 - 3/16

Tracking all the things

Today was ok I guess. I was supposed to study and do lab stuff, but I didn't. I'll get serious tomorrow and on, when I'm feeling a bit better. I don't feel as terrible as I have been feeling, but my throat is still scratchy, my nose and lungs still congested, still occasionally sneezing, but I've almost entirely stopped coughing, which is amazing. Hopefully in a few days I'll be totally better again.

Today I was again very sad and depressed about my weight. I had to undo my pants and these are even the bigger ones. I decided to try and help motivate myself a bit by getting a free app for my phone. It lets me track all the things. I put in my current weight, the weight I'd like to get to, told it a rough speed, and it shows me a page with a bar with total calories for the day to reach that goal. It's not much, but maybe seeing where I am will help discourage bad foods and allow my brain to do sort of negotiating tradeoffs with better food. Like I had three pieces of pizza which were a huge chunk of calories. If I were feeling better I probably would have seen that and traded one piece for a healthy snack like an apple or orange.

I won't go to crazy about the diet checking right away. There will, no doubt, be an adjustment period. Plus, with my still being sick I'll be way over on drinks and food for at least a few days. But who knows, nothing else seems to work. Maybe seeing the calories will help.

Day 1720 - 3/17

More alone surrounded by people

Today was sad. I got to sleep in, which was super good, and still being pretty sick super helpful. I got to watch some shows and playing online was ok. But in the early afternoon I started to get sad. I had planned on doing my homework stuff, but the music was so loud I couldn't think at all. If my battery in my laptop didn't run out so fast I'd just go find somewhere to park where I wouldn't get too warm and just go study in my car. But that's not an option. I double checked dates and next week is really it for doing the lab assignments and studying for the final. It all basically ends next Monday.

I thought about my environment and surroundings, how I'm never in a private space, and don't know if I ever will be again. People certainly can study and do ok in non-private spaces, people with siblings or large families do it all the time I'm sure. But for me, it's really difficult to study outside of a private, calm, quiet space.

I started to feel very sad about my lack of control and possibly never regaining it. I also started to feel very helpless and alone. But the oddest thing is I felt that if I were alone, truly alone, and had that private space, not only could I study without issues, but I would feel less lonely. It seems odd to think I would feel more lonely when surrounded by people, but I guess due to the fact that they are all strangers who ignore me they are really nothing more than a distraction.

I guess the only really good thing about today was I was super good about my soda and what foods I ate and stayed under my calorie budget on my phone app. I likely won't see results for a few weeks, after all, I only told it to target 1.5 pounds lost per week. But at least I feel much better for being slightly under than how I ended yesterday at about 50% over.

Overall a sad day, but it seems there is so much out of control lately. 😞

Day 1721 - 3/18

Just do it

Today wasn't very memorable. I did sleep in for a bit, so that was good. I'm still fighting my cold, so I'm sure that helped. Class was ok, if a bit confusing. It's not stuff I'll use in this class, so it's ok I did laundry. And at work I had several hours alone, so I did my lab. It only took an hour, which I had been fearing it would be more complicated to achieve than it was, so I had kept putting it off. I guess I won't worry so much about the next if this one took much less time than I thought.

I did pretty good on my calorie diet thing. It was about 30% under, so that's good. Other days when I am not near a microwave will be tougher to manage, as I really have to be careful about the restaurant foods. They can be a ton of my daily percent. But it's helping. I am negotiating with myself about when to be over or under instead of just having whatever. I am also being more careful to consider if I'm really as hungry as I think or if I can manage on less. Hopefully it will help me to lose this weight that isn't going away. I was down about 1/2 pound from normal this week, so maybe that's something. It has a weight tracker in addition to the food tracker, so I can see if I'm losing the 1.5 pounds per week I'd hoped to or not.

That was really it for my day. I suppose not really sad, but certainly not spent how/where I'd have liked to. But until my life changes so much of what I once was simply can't be. 😞

Day 1722 - 3/19

Nearly better

Today I'm feeling mostly over my cold. I have a bit of sniffing and sneezing, but the cough is almost completely gone and congestion seems much more manageable.

I decided to re-download StarCraft 2. I've been thinking of getting the expansion and thought I'd peek at multiplayer. Though I'd probably get it mostly for the single player campaign, if I'm still terrible at multiplayer I should probably wait for the price to drop. I recall the first being a very quick play-through. Multiplayer is updated to the same

version for everyone, so I'd always have the newest even if my core single player game isn't. I'll probably play that a bit later today. It's still got a bit to finish downloading.

I got into the Neverwinter foundry beta this morning, so that should be cool to check out making dungeons. However, I probably won't check that out until the weekend. I have another lab thing to do, and all the studying. With both finals Monday I should really try and focus on that.

I guess today may be ok. I'm going to take a bit of a rest from doing too much school stuff today though. I'm very tired and only got about 5 hours sleep, and my cold has still beaten me up pretty good. I still feel very sad that nothing seems to really be changing for me. While I love doing my podcasts and having the ability to play games, and do have a few friends that I do interact with (online), I still feel very sad all the time about the loss of my private space, the lack of opportunity for recovery, and what seems the possible permanent loss of so much of... well, me. 😞

Week 247

Day 1723 - 3/20

Not studying

Today was ok I guess. It started with my trying to study, but the stuff was so boring I hardly got through any of it. I'm going to try and be committed to reading the like 4-5 chapters by the end of Friday so I can review them over the weekend.

I played some StarCraft 2 online and decided to pick up the expansion. It was only \$40 and I had a \$20 coupon, so it was super cheap. I was having a tough time with my games, but at the end of the day I won one and it boosted my rank a bunch. It seems to be though that bronze people (the lowest rank) mostly aren't online. I guess most just give up. So I'm getting put up against higher ranked people quite a bit. If I lose I gain no rank or level, so that really hurts getting better. If I find it's still not for me I'll probably stop playing online again. At \$20 if I play more than 6-8 hours I will have gotten my monies worth, so I'm ok with not continuing with multiplayer if I don't like it.

I've been kind of tired and had a big headache lately, yesterday too. I'm not really sure why. I don't know if my cold has mutated and that's causing it or what. I have had a few sneezes and only had two cough drops all day, so the cold symptoms are nearly gone.

I guess today was ok, but I am still always very sad about my loss. 🙄

Day 1724 - 3/21

Sad for dinner

Today was kind of sad. I guess the day was ok overall. I played games, watched shows, and checked for jobs, but I was very sad. When I went to get dinner the item I wanted was out. They didn't ask if I wanted to wait, so I just got something else and left. About a mile away I started feeling really sad, like I was going to cry. All day I wanted that specific dish, and because I didn't wait and ask they make it, now I feel like I'm going to cry? It didn't make much sense at the time, but now that I've thought about it a bit I guess it does. All my days are filled with not choice or forced choice. A simple thing like

getting a food item should be something that always goes right. But today it didn't. Just like the rest of my day, it wasn't what I really wanted. It was what I was forced to pick because what I wanted was denied.

I am still very much always the outsider; physically, and probably more so, emotionally. I can never escape what I don't have - not really. I may have 'good days' like today, where I watch my shows, play my games, and look for jobs, but these are always dragged down by the *way* I do them. I watch my shows with lag, in low-res, with headphones. I play games, also with lag, and headphones, on a laptop instead of a desktop. And jobs are simply extremely rare to find, even more rare to find ones to actually apply for.

I suppose, in a way, no matter how good my day goes I am always on the verge of tears. 😞

Day 1725 - 3/22

Icky tummy

Today was ok I guess. I had an ok-ish time before work. Lots of news from a convention about some cool games that are coming, or news about stuff I've been interested in, so that's good. My tummy feels pretty icky though. I think my dinner isn't agreeing with me. It was a different one, so I just won't have that one again.

I've felt really incredibly tired today. I think I'm mostly over my cold, but a bit of lost sleep and the last bits of the cold are beating me up pretty badly I think.

Sooooo tired. Sooooo sad about my life. 😞

Day 1726 - 3/23

Work work

Today all I remember was work. I was at the coffee shop for a few hours in the morning, but the rest of the day I covered someone's shift. It's always odd to work on a Saturday, as nearly my entire awake time is at work. I guess it went fine. I did my last lab

for the one class and had almost an hour to play. I got an extra shower too, which always helps.

I'm still super tired and have a headache. It's possible that it's from dropping my soda intake way down. I'm having like half or less what I was having lately. It's where it used to be years ago when I could barely afford to get them at the start of my homeless time. It's certainly not my lowest amount, but being far down from what I've been having lately might be part of why I have headaches. I am doing pretty good on the calorie diet though. I can usually stay under my total available for the day and I'm nearly a full day down for this week. So, maybe that will help me get thin faster. Hopefully the calories will actually help. Without being able to control sleep or the healthiness of my foods there is little I can do. Maybe I'll know more in a few days when I weigh myself again. It would be nice to see an improvement.

Day 1727 - 3/24

Special projects

Today was a bit different. My morning went as usual, even the early afternoon, but in the late afternoon I changed things up. I decided to leave the restaurant early, go do podcasting, and get sandwich stuff to have that for dinner and lunch tomorrow. (There was a guy at the store who needed a job and money for his little ones. 🙄 I gave him \$3. 😊)

While I was productive and did my podcast it doesn't feel like I did stuff I wanted to do today. Today was bad emotionally, despite having a pretty good day, and it's just been one of those days that felt as long and as draining as three days. I don't know why.

Today felt like I was out when I should have been going home. Like I could have come home, flopped on my bed for a bit of rest, then made a healthy dinner after I'd rested for a bit.

I miss my old life. I miss the old me. Maybe it's because we are coming up on the end of year five, maybe it's because we are coming up on yet another birthday I'll be homeless, but I miss the me that was. And I fear he may never be able to return. 🙄

Day 1728 - 3/25

Another cycle

Today sort of ended another cycle. My one class in the morning went fine. I feel pretty good about the test. My stupid class posted the test when I was at work and I spent nearly the whole time working on it. I didn't feel too good about that one, as it asks questions that are like super mathy engineering crap. Like you have to calculate the bandwidth of x long of a line based on the speed of light and crap, or figure out what this thing is in hexadecimal (which is NOT explained in the class). It is WAY beyond what should be taught at this level. This is heavy engineering stuff. I didn't want to learn engineering and electrical crap in building the backbone of the LAN structure. I wanted to know how to physically set one up. Anyways...

Even though I am glad to be moving on to what is next I still can't help but feel *none* of it is helping. None of my original degree stuff has gotten me a better job. None of the child development stuff has helped. And none of this programming / networking stuff is helping. It's like I feel like quitting school and saying F the student loans and F the government and 'you guys' (the government) need to get me a job if you want me to pay you back because it sure as hell hasn't helped at all in my searching.

I trust that Fate and Destiny have me on the right path, but it would be really nice if I found something that paid enough. Better still if it wound up I could do my gaming news / philosophy stuff that makes me happy.

Until my path is made more clear all I can do is suffer through it and try to hang on.

Day 1729 - 3/26

Perpetual purgatory

Today I am pretty tired. Not just physically from only getting like 6 hours of sleep, but more so emotionally. As we are at the end of another cycle I feel as if noone cares. None of my school stuff has mattered in getting me a job. While it once felt like I

was nearing a career, as each quarter goes by and I am not helped it feels less and less like a career will ever happen regardless of what I do.

I really enjoy my games, talking about them, discussing them, talking about social, psychological, or philosophical aspects, but there are so few with jobs in the industry that I likely will never 'make a living' at it. I have a new game my friends are interested in playing online together, and another single player one coming in the mail in a few hours. But despite if anyone cares about my thoughts and opinions on stuff, despite how much people say I help with their system builds, that too may never have any real impact on a career since there are so few who do care.

I am not giving up hope. I don't feel as if there will never be a recovery. But lately I certainly feel as if I am in perpetual purgatory. For every thing that goes right, something seems to go wrong to knock it back down. I can't seem to ever gain anything back, and it is such a struggle to hold on to what little is left. 🙄

Week 248

Day 1730 - 3/27 **Sooooo tired**

Today I am super tired. I don't know why, but I've been borderline falling asleep at any second tired. Maybe it is due to some lost sleep over the weekend. Maybe it was due to higher stress due to the dumb class, and it's final. Maybe I have a cold. I don't know why, but I've been super tired. I am fully functional. People who knew me would just say I'm unusually quiet. But everything I did today is kind of hazy. Of course nothing I did is worth talking about. 😞

Day 1731 - 3/28 **Stealth cold**

Today I think I have a stealth cold. It's probably why I've been feeling so tired. This morning I started coughing with heavy congestion and had super huge yuck come out. But outside of those I'm not showing any symptoms.

I guess today was ok though. I did my podcast stuff in the morning. I played my games. I checked for jobs, but there were no jobs to be found. Oh, and that stupid class I didn't like, I got like a B on the test, so apparently a B is my final grade too, which is just crazy.

Today was pretty ok overall I suppose, but my life is still full of things I don't want, and missing so very many things that I do. 😞

Day 1732 - 3/29

A sad day

Today was kind of sad. The morning and afternoon were ok. I watched shows and played my games and things weren't too laggy. I had just a shirt on for most of the day instead of shirt, house shirt over that, and hoodie.

Though I played and had fun, I was alone. I felt lonely. And being in public (and homeless) just made it worse. In the evening my friends did their podcast, something I'd been looking forward to seeing for basically three weeks now. It's really one of the few times I see them. It's been weeks since we really got a chance to play. But I could barely watch it. My bandwidth was crap, and although I found a better spot on the desk that seems a bit better, I only saw about 85% of one hour of who knows how long they were on for. After that first hour I just couldn't really connect to anything. So again, the one thing I really look forward to, one of only a few chances to be with people, and because of my sad life that was lost.

I wonder if my sad life will ever stop limiting what I want to do and how I do it.

☹️ The memories of doing things I wanted without limitations seem so distant and seem little more than a fading dream. ☹️

Day 1733 - 3/30

Disappointed, but not surprised

Today I almost did something different. Some people are trying to start a new thing called Table Top day, where people get together at various places to game. Well, it turned out a couple of places locally said they would offer that. So at about 11 AM I went to the close place to check out. I was disappointed, but not surprised at what I found. This was a place you can game all the time (which I didn't know about.) But as such this wasn't any different of a Saturday than any other. There were only about eight people when I got there, and I'd guess their ages ranged between 16-20. I sat and ate my lunch waiting to see if anyone else showed up. A few did with some other games. I felt like an outsider and like these guys were being somewhat territorial sticking just with people they knew. Not

surprising, gaming circles are very protective of their group. Well, since I'd overheard 'other games' would be 'in the back room' I decided to go look after lunch. I tried to make conversation with the guy and he was like, 'Yeah, I took a small table because I'm just playing with a friend today.' This was a game that can easily accommodate between 6-8 people. I said, 'I see,' and walked away. I remained for a bit, meandering around the tables looking around at the posters, but decided to just leave.

When I was like 12-17 I used to go to a club that met Friday nights and game with people for a few hours every week. I didn't mind gaming with strangers at times. But it felt weird being *so* much older than everyone there today. Plus, noone invited me in. Noone asked if I was there for Table Top day. While I felt welcome enough to be there, there was nothing for the event outside of what is there on a normal Saturday.

It would have been nice to not be alone. It would have been nice to maybe make new friends. But, as always, I felt like an outsider. While I may regret not going back to check later, they didn't seem to care about the day. If I would have to work my way into something, without already knowing anyone there and noone inviting me in... I don't know. That doesn't seem like a thing for me.

Day 1734 - 3/31

Bunny day, but no party

Today was the first time in I don't know how many years I didn't really celebrate Easter. It's like my favorite holiday. There are candies, like Halloween. There are toys and games (or movies for older people), like Xmas. And for those with sweeties there are loves and snuggles, like Valentine's Day. It's the best of all three put together. But as the years have gone on, homeless or not, I seemingly have had less reason to celebrate and be happy. This time I got one small thing of candy and that's really it. I sent a few things to a friend's little ones, but I don't know if I can really count that as celebrating.

As each year of homelessness pass, more and more holidays seem strange, impossible, or not worth celebrating because I am alone. Without holidays the days become unspecial and all blur into one another – one long unending sad homeless day.

There were people online that wished me well, but a real life celebration, being in a home where I *could* celebrate, if even alone, seems so foreign to me now. And the more days that pass where I am alone, the more I actually fear being suddenly thrown into a regular life. I am becoming wild, and while the wild becomes home, home seems to become wild. I find myself becoming more and more distrustful at the thought of suddenly living in a home with strangers. Who can I trust? Can I trust anyone? I've lost so much, if I ever did have a chance to regain a foothold would I trust people enough not to hurt me to actually make the step. ... I don't know anymore. 😞

Day 1735 - 4/1

Almost shorts time

Today was a bit odd in weather. Yesterday and this morning it rained, but most of the day it was warm. It was just about shorts weather again. From about 10 on I just had a single shirt on. I was at the coffee shop, which isn't freezing like the restaurant, so that may have been part of it. But I think it was in the low 70s most of the day.

I guess today was ok-ish. I watched a show or two, but mostly tried to relax and enjoy my time between classes. I played online with friends for a bit, so that was super awesome. 😊 I haven't been able to play with them in weeks. I did game online multiplayer too. As usual I did bad, but it seemed every match they went for cheap, not really fair victory paths. If people are going to play by basically cheating and going for cheap victory that requires no strategy which is really just harassment I'll just not bother and wait a few months until Hearthstone. It looks like the kind of player vs. player card game I've been waiting years to play. So maybe I'll just stop playing real-time strategy and shooter PvP games completely and wait. (Not that I do PvP shooters right now.)

That was really my day. Not much to it. As usual though I don't think there was a minute of the day I wasn't sad and homesick. 😞

Day 1736 - 4/2

No title

Today is ok so far I guess, but it's only just started. I had kind of a lot of trouble sleeping last night, so I'm running on maybe 6 hours of sleep, but I feel mostly ok. My eyes are super tired, but my body doesn't feel too tired.

I decided since I'd already noted what to talk about for my next podcast I'd do that today. There was a stupid gardener noise through a lot of my time. My system went from full to 60% while I waited for the guy to go away. Thankfully I still had enough charge to barely finish in time. There was like 9% left.

Today should be ok. My system is running fine and although I've finished most of my games there are still things to play. I've got half a dozen shows to watch as well. They have piled up lately, so that's good. Often I have nothing to watch.

But still... I am out in public. I will be forced to be out somewhere all day. While there are places I can be, and it's ok for me to stay all day in a few places, it doesn't feel comfortable. I don't want to be out all day. I don't want to be forced to be in public places.

But as so many years past, it seems I have no choice. 😞

Week 249

Day 1737 - 4/3

Did what I wanted, but not

Today was good, I guess. I checked for jobs. I did my final edit check on my podcast. I played games for quite a long time. And, I watched a few shows. In a way I guess I did what I wanted today. But I was still out in public. People were smoking near me. The chair wasn't very comfortable. Food choices were good, but not great, and nearly double what it would cost myself to cook at home. Even on my good days I can't help but be constantly and painfully reminded of what I can't control, what I don't have, and what is missing from my life.

I see and hear people saying and doing things; things for jobs or in industries I could have worked in once upon a time. But I feel slow. I feel I have forgotten a lot of what the topic is they are discussing. And most of all I feel it is too late for me, even if I were given a chance in that field. I wonder, is my mind really too slow and old now for the fields I thought I might want to enter into when I started school 14 years ago? Is it really too late and now I'm just stuck with menial jobs someone who is 18 is looking for? Have I missed out on life, and now and forever will I only just barely be able to hold on? I suppose only time will tell.

I do still believe someday I will find my pot of gold and be able to live my happy rabbit life. But if for some reason I don't... I feel I am doomed to never have more than I have now, and one day I will die and no one will know the difference. 🙄

Day 1738 - 4/4

The island

Today was ok, but I have felt very lonely. I don't know why. I guess it's because I so rarely play with my online friends these days. Or possibly too because lately I've been thinking a lot about how I miss having friends to do pen and paper and board games with.

I guess too there was Easter. And every Easter that passes is another year I am reminded I am single and have no little ones of my own.

Even though I got to check for jobs, played a lot of games, and watched shows, the day still had sad overtones I can never fully escape.

Day 1739 - 4/5

Feeling odd

Today was ok I guess. I spent most of it playing my game and watching a few shows. Lately I've been feeling odd though. I guess it's just that I want to do more with my life. I wouldn't say it's a desire to work more, unless that work is something I enjoy that is either productive or fulfilling. I wouldn't say it is a desire to be more productive with my site or podcast. I am really not sure. I want to do more, yet at the same time I cannot. And in a strange way I want to be alone and have private time and just be sad and alone and do nothing.

I guess lately I am feeling again like I am mourning the loss of me. 😞

Day 1740 - 4/6

Was always lonely

Today was pretty good actually. For the most part I got to play and watch what I wanted without too much lag or people around disturbing me. I was pretty lonely though. I'm supposed to play online with my friends this weekend, but no word on when that will be, and it's usually on Sunday.

I guess I've been lonely on weekends for a very long time even when I did have a home though. I remember many days of wishing I had friends to play with online, or real life friends to play with or do movies with. I remember having my room peaceful and quiet much of the time. But in some ways it was too quiet. And I remember many many days of playing *too much* of something because I had nothing else to do and if I did nothing I would just be super sad and even more lonely feeling.

I guess, in many ways, my days have always been how they are now. 😞

Day 1741 - 4/7

Tears for no home

Today was ok I guess up until the night. I had an extra shift at work, so that was good. Work went ok and I even had bandwidth to play games. I actually managed to do a homework assignment that was due soon. (Which is crazy to have homework suggested to be finished before class has even started.) After, I decided to be bad and get a pizza. I don't know how long it's been since I got one. It feels like months. I was actually good though and managed to stay within my calorie budget. I was supposed to play with friends online, but they got busy with important stuff.

But the night was sad. When I visited my stuff and hugged my bunnies good night I shed some tears. I am so tired of needing to be out in public all the time. (Especially on days like tonight when there are a lot of smokers leaving the door open to the coffee shop and I can smell smoke for hours.) I am so sad about not having a desk to sit and play at, a kitchen to cook in, a bed to sleep in and snuggle my bunnies when sad. It's the little things, like having TV to kill time watching Wheel while cooking that really get to you. You would think that it's the big things that make you most sad, but it is really all the little things that define you that you miss the most.

I just want my simple small life back. And I don't know how to get it back, or if I ever will.

Day 1742 - 4/8

Sad start

Today was pretty sad. It's lame because it likely wouldn't have been so sad if something hadn't happened at the coffee shop. There was a new clerk there who I've only seen during the afternoon shift before. Without giving details, he basically was an ass to me and tried to push my buttons for no reason. Had we been anywhere else and he said

one more bad thing I likely would have been very tempted to pop him in the face to show him button pushing can very easily lead to negative results. It was just two statements and who knows if he was having a bad day or if that is his normal attitude, so I'm willing to try and forget that happened. But, that set a precedence for the rest of the day. Why did he feel the need to indirectly insult me? Why did he do it a second time? If I weren't homeless and needed that coffee shop as a resource I'd have happily challenged and insulted him back. But I couldn't. All I could do was squint stare at him for a few seconds and walk away.

But that one thing so early in my day made me sad. And it made me homesick. I don't like taking advantage of resources. And it made me yet again wonder if someday I will no longer need these resources and not be forced to be around so many inconsiderate people.

Day 1743 - 4/9

Beginning again

Today seems ok so far. I decided to just post in the morning since my class may disrupt my brain to the point I may forget to do it after. I doubt anything interesting will happen, and as always if it does I can always edit it in later.

I slept pretty well, which is unusual. Lately I've been off for some reason and have had a lot of trouble sleeping and getting to sleep. I'm a bit congested and coughing, but then it seems that isn't going to go away until I'm no longer homeless. I discovered yesterday that my new SSD was almost full. I have cleared off a few games I don't play, I'll push to finish a few other games I don't expect to play again after I'm done, and there is about 50 gig of backup stuff for my podcasts I can clear off to elsewhere. I should be fine again after some cleaning, but with games taking upwards to 15-20 gig for the really big ones these days, and 5-10 on average, space is eaten up fast.

The day is warm and it's only just starting. Hope is in the air as the last real quarter of the school year starts. (I don't count summer, as hardly anyone goes.) Me... I suppose I feel hopeful in a way too. After all, any day can change your life forever. But deep down... It feels like it is just another day like any other before in these sad years. 🙄

Week 250

Day 1744 - 4/10

A day off

Today was truly ok I guess. I mean, yeah, I'm always sad, and things like not being able to shower, sleep in, do homework in a quiet calm environment, or cook, always bother me, but it was a nice warm day and things seemed to bother me a little less.

I stayed at the coffee shop all day and decided to have a day off. I could have done homework, but I'll wait for a refresher tomorrow and skim read the book. Also, I've got three work shifts between now and when they are due, so that is practically 15 hours of offline time to do 2, maybe 3 hours, of work.

I watched shows, played games, and did a bit of web surfing. All in all things were ok, though the game I wanted to play has been having server trouble lately.

I did check for jobs before closing out my day. But, as usual, I found nothing to apply to. I keep hoping things will turn out ok and I can live a happy rabbit life, but eyeing the six or so regulars I see at the coffee shop I've come to the conclusion they are unemployed and/or homeless. It is tough to really feel like things will turn out ok for me.



Day 1745 - 4/11

Group project

Today was actually pretty good. I finished my podcast in the morning, though I had to do it somewhere unusual. Class was actually pretty good. There was good info and a class project where we had to work with others and I felt ok. I didn't feel like they were uncomfortable with my being older and whatnot. It is like they didn't notice, which is good. After class it took forever to leave the parking lot. (Seriously. It was like 30 minutes when it should be about one without traffic.) I may start studying after class if that doesn't thin out next week. And after, I watched shows and played games and tried to

relax. I do have a couple of assignments due for class, but I've got all shift Friday, Sunday, and Monday, so that's 15+ hours to do stuff that should only take 2-3 hours.

Today I felt pretty good, other than my orange juice getting a bit too warm in the car. As night settles in though I am always made more aware of everything I don't have, and I feel a bit more sad and homesick as I wonder if I will ever have a home to drive home to at night ever again. 😞

Day 1746 - 4/12

A bunny, a bus guy, a close call

Today will hopefully turn out ok. There was a close call with being discovered in sanctuary this morning. I don't think anything bad will happen, it hasn't before, but each time I'm discovered or nearly discovered I worry I will lose it forever.

I got a super cute and soft bunny from the food store. He was the only one left from Easter and he was all alone. 😞 I saw him and hugged him for the very first time maybe a week ago. I don't really have a spot for him while homeless, so I passed. I saw him again early this week. Again I hugged and kissed him and promised if I saw him again I would buy him. Wednesday morning I was there at the store, but forgot to check. He was still there this morning though, so I grabbed him and took him back to my other bunnies. It was so sad to think such a cute and soft bunny was left alone with no home.

😞 I don't know if my storage is any better, particularly with no room in my bag with my bunnies. He may have to go into an overflow box. 😞 I don't know if that is a better life for him. 😞 I do know from working there years ago such a lost critter is usually fated to go into the back in a big pile, usually never to be seen again. But the thought of him missing out on a proper home with a child who would love him and play with him makes me sad. 😞 But then, like April Bear who I also got recently, I guess he was left discarded and alone. 😞

After I left the store a guy asked for \$0.75 for the bus. I looked at him, felt distrustful and almost said no. But I saw in his other hand he was holding \$1, presumably

having taken it out and noticed it was not the \$2 he expected to find. I decided to help the guy out.

At work I did one of the two homework things I have to do. It took about 1.75 hours though, longer than I'd expected. The other isn't due until Tuesday, so I'll do that Sunday at work. I didn't have a connection, so I played an offline game. I had almost all day to play online, and watched some shows when I wasn't playing, so I guess it was ok.

All day I kept thinking about how the bunny has no home to be taken to, and how different my day would have gone without worry or activities done because I'm homeless.

Day 1747 - 4/13

Take a pass on the restaurant

Today was ok I guess emotionally. I don't really remember much of it. I do recall being very sleepy. I played games and watched shows. I turned in my homework from last night. I'd nearly forgotten to do that.

I think I'm going to pass on the restaurant from now on. The food is just meh and the Internet has been intolerably slow for I don't know how long now. It will be a very rare day I go back. The coffee shop is way better in terms of speed and food pretty much anywhere is better quality than the restaurant. Plus, any meal there is like 60% of my entire day's calories. When I left I nearly threw up again. I think it's the Saturday burgers. For several weeks now, always on Saturday, it's happened. That can't be a coincidence. I never coughed and felt like throwing up in previous years unless I was really sick, so I think that pretty much seals the deal on the restaurant.

I don't know where I'll go instead. While the coffee shop people (for the most part) don't seem to care that I'm there nearly all the time, I still feel odd staying in any one place more than 4 hours. It is getting warmer, so maybe I'll do picnic type lunches in my car, or just spend an hour or two getting quiet semi-private time. I don't know. I do think the blaring music and nearly throwing up tonight leaving the restaurant pretty much put a stop to my visits there. It is no longer worth going for the cost outside of rare trips.

Day 1748 - 4/14

Sad and tired

Today I was basically sad and soooooo tired. I had a work shift in the morning. I started out trying to do my homework, but rapidly got stuck on something I didn't know how to do. It's due Tuesday, so I'll have to go to the library tomorrow and see if I can get an answer from the book. I haven't read it yet, but this assignment technically is from stuff we learned in a previous class. For some reason after work I was so hungry I basically had to get a second lunch. I played and watched a show, but it was very lonely. My friends are out doing stuff, so I'm on my own all the time. 😞 It was ok I guess, I'm used to it, but it made me sad. When I went to get dinner I guess I went too late. The place I wanted to eat at was already closed, so I was forced to get dinner somewhere else. It was not what I'd been looking forward to all day. It's not a big deal though. I eat it a few times a week and may tomorrow, so missing it tonight wasn't tragic.

I'm so very tired. What with the scare a few days ago I've lost sleep. And when I do sleep it's troubled. As always with a scare I'm worried and stressed now. My eyes are sore and tired. My poor feet are sore nearly all of the time from being forced to always wear shoes. My back is tired and stressed from sitting and not having a bed to lay flat on. My immune system is tired from fighting smoke, perfume, flower smells, and everything else all the time. I'm so very very tired. 😞

Day 1749 - 4/15

A terrible day

Today was one of those days my future looked very sad. It started late last night, getting notice one of my assignments got a zero. That kind of implies the one before it will also be zero. The comment from the teacher was not the least helpful. In fact, it was insulting. She wrote, 'What made you think this would work?' Gee, I don't know, maybe the fact that I pushed compile and run and the code did what it was supposed to? That wasn't the first time she insulted me either. About three other times she's been insulting towards me like that. And she is the head of the department. You'd think she'd be better.

This morning I tried to get some solutions for the homework that's due tomorrow. I spent an hour with the book and it was no help at all. So all day I was worried if I'd need to drop the class. I found a solution during work and the homework is nearly done. I have to do some polishing up in the morning but it should be fine. Though, by the time I'm done it will have taken 4 or 5 hours total instead of the 1-2 I'd estimated it should take.

But in all my stress, worry, anger, sadness, I looked around a bit. If I drop the class or not there are only about three or four more total that I can take. That's it. I'd be surprised if that got me anything. But then what? I can't really afford a four-year college. (When I left about 7 years ago it was about \$1250 for tuition each quarter *with* financial aid.) And even if I did get some kind of degree, what then? None of my degrees have helped my job search at all. Have I wasted the last 14 years? Am I no better off now than when I started? If they never help am I stuck with menial jobs forever, never able to get past the kind of job someone half my age should get?

I will wait and see what the teacher says about homework tomorrow. I'll see what grade I get on a quiz. But it may turn out that I'll be dropping the class in less than a week. Not because I can't do the work, but because the teacher failed me by failing to encourage and help.

And what of my life? Stay or go in the class, it seems nothing has changed for the better, and I may rapidly wind up exactly where I was 14 years ago, only far worse off due to now being homeless and having so much debt.

Day 1750 - 4/16

Still unsure

Today had a pretty terrible start. 🙄 I had already spent 3 hours on the third lab thing yesterday, and this morning I spent 3 more trying to get it into the final form it's supposed to be. I couldn't figure it out. It worked fine in the simpler form, but hardly at all in the form it's supposed to be. I did get full points for the first one, so even if I got no points on this one that would only be about 3% of my total grade lost. My concern though is I may not understand the core syntax behind how to do it. It's not explained in the books well, nor online. And, so far, the teacher has been the reverse of helpful. I'll wait

though and see what she says about the bit I turned in today and a quiz we took. If I am missing core understanding maybe it would be best to drop her and take it in the future. This is the last time the class will be taught like this, so in the future maybe I would get a different explanation of things.

I don't know. I am so very sad about my life lately. What I love to do, what I like and enjoy, what I am good at but not formally qualified for, they are all things people won't hire me for. Either the industry in question is so small that only an elite few have the positions or they require degrees I don't have and/or can't get. These new directions I have been trying don't seem to be panning out and it seems I may be in a far worse position in life after going to school than when I started. 😞

Week 251

Day 1751 - 4/17 So very very tired

Today I am so very extremely tired. In the morning I took a look at the school stuff. No update on my last assignment nor quiz have come in. I did take a look at the next assignment. While it isn't due for 2.5 weeks I fear it is still too complicated for me to do quickly. I may indeed need to drop the class and retake the one before it in its new form, or maybe over the summer try and find some kind of information on what I'm stuck on that re-explains it. What is in the book and found by online searches doesn't help me at all. I fear I may need a re-introduction to those concepts. For now I'll still just wait and see if she says anything. I have until Sunday to drop, so there is class tomorrow and Friday after to see if anything is said. With her lack of helpful comments so far though I doubt she will say anything helpful in the future. And that really baffles me the most. On the very first day she had us fill out a survey of how strong and weak we felt on various subjects, and I specifically noted I'm not very good with this exact concept. So why she ignored my explanations of my weaknesses, why she insulted me, why she didn't instead say, 'try reviewing x to y pages in chapter z', why she didn't seem to look at that survey at all... it's all beyond me. Again, if this were a masters level course, sure, but reviewing and fixing hundreds of lines of code a week in an *intro* class... no. That doesn't seem right.

I guess my day was ok other than being stressed about that all day. I am extremely exhausted and was half asleep most of the day. I think at a few points when my game was paused I actually was asleep for a few seconds here and there.

Well... nothing really I can do about things but hope that tomorrow is a better day.



Day 1752 - 4/18

No better off

Today I was sad. Class in the morning was interesting. Everything that she talked about I got. I had heard most of it before. However, I got a 50% on the quiz. Which is, obviously, terrible. She had not at all graded the lab from Tuesday. Apparently she has some family crisis stuff going on and has no time for anything really. Well, I can understand, sympathize, and forgive her for that. She said we should talk for a few minutes after class. The talk confused me. On the one hand she praised me in a way, saying parts of my code were 'beautiful' and 'really well thought out', yet the parts I don't get obviously don't work, and something is wrong. I explained I make code in a single block, make sure it does what it's supposed to, then pull it into functions. When I do there seems to be a 50/50 chance the code will no longer work. She asked if I have a learning disability, if some things made perfect sense while others confuse me. I don't know. I've never been tested, and because of how I fail in life I've often wondered if I do. She told me to try and do the quiz problem and see if I could sort out the lab that we turned in. After class I spent some time working on it. I smiled at getting the quiz problem to work, but it took 1.5 hours. That portion of the quiz would have had about 10 minutes allotted, without the program. Doing it by hand on paper as we did there is no way I could replicate that in that amount of time. The lab, well, I tried adjusting it but after 45 minutes I was no closer than before. I had code that showed no errors, but when I pushed run it did absolutely nothing but generate an empty code result window.

So, the meeting confused me. Her parting words were that she thought I could do it and expected an A+, which implied she felt my grades weren't yet so bad I couldn't get that. But I don't see how that would be possible with things like it taking me 1.5 hours *with* the program to do something she thinks should people should be able to do in 5-10 minutes on a quiz. She obviously didn't read how my last lab took me 3 hours to get running in the incorrect form. I don't know. I wrote her another email saying, 'here is the code for the quiz, is this right', and explained how long it took. If she responds positively I'll stay. If I hear nothing before Saturday I'll drop. It seems like even if I did get why it works and other code doesn't work I may just perform too slowly to proceed.

After class I did my podcast. I tried to be not sad and do the best I could, so hopefully it turned out ok. But like my life, I may be laughing and sounding ok, while really what I'm feeling is lost, lonely, and very sad. 😞

Day 1753 - 4/19

Pondering moving on

Today I was extremely tired, and sad as always. There was still no reply from the teacher on what she thought about it taking me 1.5 hours to do something I basically was supposed to do in 10 minutes without the program. I've been pondering if I should move on. I'm really happy doing editing work. Maybe that's what I should look for a degree in. Last I recall, checking the Jr. Colleges didn't really have much that would help. Audio work doesn't really seem to exist, and film seems to be more on the theory of film than the creation and editing of it. (Creation in terms of the technical aspects, not the art / design / philosophy of it.) But I think, in terms of my experience, my hobby currently shows greater strength in editing as something that could help me get a job than my hardware stuff. Everyone in computers knows that stuff, but very few I think know editing. I've always been creative and such and maybe there will be more opportunity there. I don't know. I guess the first step is wait until late afternoon tomorrow and see if she replies.

And sleep. I so very need to sleep. 😞

Day 1754 - 4/20

Heart feels broken

Today my heart feels broken. Most of the day went by with no word from the teacher about the assignments. But in late afternoon I got a message that she corrected / graded it. I went to the site and looked. It was indeed zero points for the new part I turned in, as expected. But she put, 'this should be bla bla and this should be bla bla. Turn it in late bla bla.' Which seemed like encouraging words, if brief and rushed. I inputted the first changes. Woah. What do you know it kind of worked and those errors were gone.

And, I could maybe see the logic. However, I'm running on only 6 hours of sleep, so I didn't really grasp it yet. Things were looking up. I inputted the second changes. Now I have 25+ errors. And what's worse, I don't understand why. Right back to being confused and not understanding a major concept.

I went to the drop page and hesitated over the button. I am homeless. I do have lots of time to see tutors. I could try and get tutoring to understand my problems. I went back to the calendar for the class. There is a like 300 lines of code thing due Tuesday, no way I could do that. I don't understand enough of what's wrong with it or how to fix it in time. Another lab is due in a few weeks – exactly the same kind of issues on it that I don't get now. Another quiz in a few weeks, no doubt more testing of these same concepts. So, I could have stayed, tried to get tutoring and be pressured by more and more things due. Or, I could surrender, do practice things on my own and maybe visit the library and try and re-read a book and tutor myself over the next 4 months before the school shuts down for a month before starting for the next quarter. Practice problems without help is less than ideal. But, I have the program (it's free), and the book, as long as I'm not denied access at the library. (Which they probably will cut me off shortly after dropping, which means I could only look at stuff which is not on reserve.) I decided studying on my own and trying to gain understanding without the pressure of more and more deadlines was the way to go. I went back to the page and dropped. When I pushed the button something strange happened. I felt a cold chill pass over me, as if my heart were suddenly broken because something really incredibly terrible had just happened.

I've never given up before. I've never felt so lost and helpless that stopping entirely would be the better option. (Hopefully this doesn't affect financial aid and they don't come after me for loan stuff.) Am I really not smart enough? Is it because this is so against how I normally think I simply will never get these concepts? Now that I have quit, do I just try again after practicing on my own during the summer? Or is this it, being that this is a gateway class, are the others beyond me and I am now lost in my direction in life?

Sometimes I wish I lived in one of those small towns. Those with only a few thousand people where everyone knows each other and you seemingly find a place in life and you do ok. Maybe such a time and place no longer exists. Maybe I am just lost and will never find my way back. 😞

Day 1755 - 4/21

Gotta tape it

Today feels weird. I still feel odd that I had to drop the class. When I pushed the cancel button and felt the chill come over me, a feeling I've only felt a few times in my whole life... it was as if I'd seen someone shot and killed. But it was the logical thing to do. I really was very unlikely to get enough help *and* keep up with the new material. And, if I do practice and try and learn what it is I'm missing over the summer I won't be giving up on myself.

Today was a strange mix of emotions. I was sad because now school is on hold until basically September. But realistically none of the last 14 years of school have helped me get a job. It hasn't even helped me get interviews. I feel relieved, as if a great weight has been lifted from my shoulders. I don't have assignments to worry about. I don't have tests to worry about. I don't have past due assignments lingering behind me pushing against assignments coming up. For now, I have no worries about needing to do anything but my regular work. And what with all my lost sleep lately I may just go back to trying to get more sleep at school in the mornings.

Today at work there was a snap from my headphones. What was left holding the left side gave up. The left ear was dangling from a single cord. I put it back in place as best as I could and taped it. It's held ok for the rest of the night. I didn't know if it will make it all the way through tomorrow or not, but my new ones should arrive by 10, so I should be ok.

It was nice working today and then not having anything requiring my time or attention when I was done. But, as has been for several years now, I had no home to go back to when I was done. I had to go somewhere public, somewhere crowded. And while it was ok, I was not sitting comfortably, I was too hot, and people's fragrances around me made me sneeze. I wonder if I will ever be able to go home again. 🙄

Day 1756 - 4/22

Wondering

Today was sad. I spent much of it wondering if I will find my way. Even if I pick new classes when next quarter starts, will it be the right path? I've been trying for so long, turning when a path is blocked, choosing a new one, yet they never lead back home. They only seem to take me deeper and deeper, becoming more and more lost.

I suppose I am used to it. I've always felt like an outsider. Even when I was on a regular path others took I was still the one who fell through the cracks and got in through loop-holes or ways I shouldn't. I know I may never have a normal or regular life, but it would be nice to have enough I can find my way home. 😞

Day 1757 - 4/23

End of a terrible week

Today is going to feel odd. I have no class. I have no worries about class or assignments due. I can do my regular playing, watching shows, looking for jobs, and maybe think about my next podcast.

I suppose everything will work out, but I can't help but wonder if financial aid will come after me. Will there be any difference in my life now taking a class later? Will studying on my own actually work? Will this be the right path, or still wrong in a seemingly series of wrong paths?

I suppose there is good news for work. Yesterday someone asked if I'd cover his Thursday shift, as he can't do it anymore. So that's an implied permanent +1 shift every week. It wouldn't normally seem like much, and really since it won't be enough to get into a home it isn't much, but it is a 50% income increase, which actually is kind of huge right now. If all goes well that means I can have a real savings. And, if my calculations are correct, and not too much is lost, by Halloween I should have enough (\$1500) for a new system or car should either fail. I won't have to worry about either being lost from then on and not being able to replace them. Yearly I should be able to put double that into savings if it's not spent. So that is a something. I'd still need *double* my new hours before I could

consider living in a home again, but at least it will remove the worry of loss of my important things. Although, I did start work with three shifts a week and was dropped down to one, so I won't count on anything lasting forever.

I suppose though, as it has been for nearly five years now, I can only take life one day at a time. I can try and find work. I can try and relax with games, shows, and movies. And I can try and not be so sad about all the things in my life. As always though, it seems I have little to no control, and that is what keeps me the most trapped.

Day 1758 - 4/24
Just a taste

Today was ok I guess. All day I was super tired. I should have napped at school, but when I got up to move in the morning I didn't really feel tired. It wasn't until the afternoon that I felt exhaustedly tired. I just did regular stuff today. I looked for jobs, played my games, and watched a few shows. It felt weird not being in class and all. And I am worried for my future.

With nothing to do and little to look forward to in terms of life change I worry I will wind up like this guy people call 'Dougie'. He's this homeless guy that hangs out in the area. I see him different places, but he's pretty much near school. He's got like one bag of stuff and a sleeping bag. His hair and beard are wild. His cloths probably haven't been washed in weeks, if not months. He probably needs some kind of medication because he is always withdrawn, alone, and seems to have no desire to reintegrate into society. Granted, he's probably between 55 and 65, so it might be very difficult, but still. When I hit low times like I have recently I think how close I am to being Dougie. If I lost my job I'd rapidly be unable to keep up with gas and other car related costs. If I weren't in school I wouldn't have a free bus pass should I need one. (I'm glad they do that now. It's good for emergencies.) Without a place to store my stuff for free my life would be forced to be sheered down to just one travel bag (and my backpack). Nearly everything I own would have to be sold or given away. With as difficult and troubled as my life can get, I at least know that at any moment I could get my stuff and move in somewhere. But if I lost a key piece of what little is left, it would rapidly collapse into Dougie's world. With my difficulties now I can't imagine how I would recover from genuinely losing everything. While it is all in storage now, at least that means it is only a spiritual loss. It may challenge my psyche to deal with that loss on a daily basis, it may cause me to question who I am without access to it; but it is still there, ready to go back to its proper place when the time comes. But when times get extra tough... it is difficult to know how I will avoid not entering Dougie's world at some point.

While today seems extra sad, I am really not. Well, no more sad than every day. I'm really just more exhausted than anything else. As summer approaches my sleeping hours are forced to change. More times are more dangerous, causing more stress. In time I may need to go back to taking naps in the morning at school to keep up with sleep, but for now I am trying to adjust.

Today was actually kind of good. I was low on calories before dinner, so I decided to get a yummy cinnamon crumbly cake slice. Now that I have it though, my tummy doesn't want all of it. It just wants a taste. So, I'll compromise and have half in a bit and half in the morning for breakfast. I think the diet is still working, but I seem to be losing weight very slowly. I guess it will be close to my birthday in a handful of months before any real progress has been made.

But like all days I worry I may never recover, and what little I have left will eventually be lost and never recovered. 😞

Day 1759 - 4/25

Rebalancing

Today was ok I guess. I was pretty lonely and tired much of the day though. I did my podcast in the afternoon, which was a mistake. I originally was going to do it in the morning, but I thought it was too chilly. It was a mistake because in the afternoon I was baking. I was pouring sweat by about half way through.

Today I guess I was rebalancing. It was odd to again not be in class. I was dealing with some of the lingering emotions about that. I again was sad I get just about nothing for my site and podcast and need to keep going to school and have my current job instead of doing that for a living. I am balancing to new meals since I am no longer going to the restaurant. (That may change depending on connection needs, we'll see.) And I suppose I am balancing around my new Thursday shift.

Today wasn't too bad. I wasn't too tired. But that may be because I'm so completely sleepy and exhausted by afternoon these days.

Day 1760 - 4/26

Had to nap

Today was ok I guess, but it felt lonely. Noone was around that I knew online. It's been quiet for days. Not many people at the coffee shop either, so it was pretty quiet. I wasn't too tired in the morning, so I finished the podcast editing to post it. But by the afternoon I was just about falling asleep while sitting up. I went over to school and zonked out for a few hours before coming to work. I think in the morning if I haven't gotten a lot of sleep I'll have to sleep in at school.

Nothing special happened today, just like every day. Tomorrow the Steampunk convention is happening in my local area again. Well, I guess I lost track of it and it started today. I guess it's ok I didn't plan on a pass. Not only would it be \$65, which prior to my extra shifts would have been very pricey (even now it is still kind of pricy), I work tonight and Sunday, so that is about 10 hours of the weekend I'd not have been able to attend. I am sort of considering going to the open public areas tomorrow, but it would basically just be the dealer room and museum. While I may see some cool stuff I couldn't go to panels, nor would I be there long enough to make any connections with the people. It could be cool, but I think more likely, as it was the first year I happened upon it, that it would just remind me of the connections I'm missing out on due to my sad life. Even with my new income, conventions not in my area would typically be \$500 or more, as each would require air fare, hotel costs, food cost, etc.

Maybe someday my life can be normal again, but sadly it seems less and less likely as time goes on. 😞

Day 1761 - 4/27

Imaginary ground

Today was pretty sad. In the morning I did play with someone online. It was an unexpected surprise, as he's an ex-guildie I rarely see, but it was fun. 😊

In the afternoon I pondered if I should go to the Steampunk convention. I wouldn't be able to go to the panels, so I would just be visiting the dealer room and museum, like I

stumbled upon years ago near the start of my terrible journey. I decided not to go, that it would make me sad. Once upon a time when I was young (later teen years) I went to a couple of gaming conventions regularly. It was a weekend away from home. A weekend I had a certain amount of money allotted for food and other things. A taste of freedom and vacations I would have in my adult life. It took all day to get familiar with people at the con. People were all slow to warm, particularly back then. I'd do games and hang out with friends. Though I always hoped I would, I never made new friends during the convention. At least none that ever lasted past the weekend. But this con, this one day, for these few hours, would not gain me what I have been longing for. I would have no costumes to wear. I would have nothing to offer for conversation. My common ground would not exist. It would only be imaginary. While I suppose it is possible people would reach out to me, and now that I'm not going I may never know, I felt there would instead be too much sadness about everything I could not do. My adult life, as imagined in my youth seemingly so long ago, would not come to be. I can't afford conventions anymore. I have no friends to go with to share the experience. I would be no less lonely there, but almost certainly more so after.

Day 1762 - 4/28

Blistered paws

Today I am tired. I am sad. I am lonely. Though my online friends did check in with me, so that was unexpected and nice. 😊

My poor paws have blisters on the sides and backs of my feet. I don't know why. It's as if I'm walking more, but, if anything what with dropping class, I'm now walking less. I don't understand. They aren't too bad yet, but my feet are tired and sore all the time. They are so fragile and I can't ever really take them out to rest for more than a few hours at night and a few hours at work. I guess it is just yet another thing I must endure. 😞

Day 1763 - 4/29

Scorching heat

Today was super hot. I avoided most of it by being in the coffee shop most of the day. Even in the morning though when I went to move locations just after sunrise it was already a touch on the warm side. I was a bit uncomfortable wearing my hoodie. My car was almost too hot to drive in the afternoon when I left for laundry and work. My sodas in the trunk had been warmed so much the one I drank for dinner was nearly soup. Hopefully those still in the trunk will recover and taste ok. Once soda gets truly hot it rarely returns to its former state.

I think my feet are overly dry and cracking. I think that is where the blisters are coming from. I know that for a very long time now the bottom of my heels have been so hard that poking them with my fingernails results in no feeling. They have never been this tired and sore, let alone turned to such hard leather they could resist pain and not feel anything in that area.

Nothing special or interesting happened today. I put out a resume, which is rare, but I can't even remember the last time I got a reply in the form of an email or call. It's probably been at least two years, if not more.

I'm exhausted. My eyelids have been half open for days. I've been starving too, likely from the extra energy used these few more hours every day. To compensate in my app I'm now counting every hour of lost sleep (less than 8 hours) as 15 minutes of calisthenics. That seems to be a good balance for the extra calories I eat. I don't know if that's an accurate balance, not that it really matters if it shows as over or not, as the weight lost is all that really matters. Sadly the lost weight is still hovering at 3-5 pounds lost for this entire time. The diet doesn't seem to be working, and I may need to wait to make a serious effort when I'm re-established and can exercise. But for now I will continue to persist for a while.

So many sad things to consider, yet I am too tired to go over them again. Maybe in the morning.

Today I am feeling lonely, and alone. I know I am not. There are several online friends I've made during my terrible journey, some of which care about me very much. But I feel sad about how my life has gone. I had few friends when I was a young teen, and they all moved on in time. I never really gained new friends. My days, particularly these ones while homeless, are lonely and there are no friendly voices around me. When I was young I thought I'd marry and have little ones, and the voices of friends around me would fade as the voices of the little ones and their friends grew stronger. These days, particularly lately as we approach summer, there are fewer and fewer voices interacting around me. I see young people. People I, once upon a time, may have been friends with or possibly dated; young people who may, in a different world, be friends of my kids or my kids. But none of that has come to pass. In almost every way it seems I have become locked in time. I spend my days much as I did when I was 12. I do what is required of me to the minimal satisfactory amount, and I spend the rest of my time hoping to see friends, but most often simply wind up alone and try to entertain and occupy myself until better days come.

I don't know if I really want to be mainstream in every way. It is probably impossible for me to be that way even if I tried. I love being around young people. I can see and hear about things that interest them, what gives them hope and what they look forward to, what perhaps in their lives may come to be which has not in my life. But I am not in their lives. I am stuck outside looking in. It is as if I have become time itself, seeing life change and move around me, evolving, cycling. But I lie outside of it, unable to interact. I am little more than a whisper on the wind, a passing shadow. Though I may manage to live and linger here a bit more, I think in time even that will fade, and to others I will be little more than a fading memory.

Day 1765 - 5/1 The missing link

Today I'm pretty sad. The combination of having to drop the class, a few disappointing games lately, and my lack of sleep, has really got me depressed feeling. I may have to start trying to sleep in at school to try and catch up. It still feels weird to do that now though for some reason, so I'm trying not to. I wonder more if it's just the thought of if I was working a 40 hour work week I'd have to get up this early. I don't have to though, so for the sake of my sanity I probably shouldn't deprive myself of sleep.

I've been getting very sad about my game as well lately. I still feel like something is missing – a social connectedness with people which isn't there. Maybe it's a change in how video games encourage or discourage player interaction. Maybe I just really miss having real life friends to play stuff with, and so I miss the combination of that friendly social interaction and banter. I'm hoping that will be an option with Hearthstone, but I won't be able to see for at least 1.5 more months. 😞

In general I feel more like a failure lately. I haven't found a better job. And at the rate I've been going in the past, well, forever, it seems I may never have a real job or one that I am at least happy doing. A few podcasts I've listened to lately have made me feel bad about myself too. Not that they did it on purpose. It's things I might like to do, but those people make me feel odd, lost, not on-par in terms of knowledge and understanding, and that even if I had a chance to do what they are doing I simply wouldn't be as good, or as desirable, to listeners. I'm very happy and thankful for my 200-ish listeners, but at nearly 2.5 years now I'd have thought I'd have had a lot more. And for the past 3 or so years my site has been oddly around the same numbers. I suppose it's good I'm not losing anyone, but I'm not gaining a huge number either.

Lately I feel more and more like my future holds nothing for me, and what I am doing that I love just isn't good enough to gain any real kind of audience. I feel like, sooner than I think, I will fail more and simply fall into oblivion without more than a handful of people even noticing I'm gone. 😞

Day 1766 - 5/2

Feeling better, feeling sicker

Today was, I guess, a mixed day. On the one hand I talked for a bit with my online friend, so that was good. On the other hand I am super tired and I think I have a cold. I'm sneezing and sniffing quite a bit. I probably should have tried to get extra rest at school, but I didn't start to really get tired until the afternoon.

I do feel slightly less sad today. In the morning I worked on a silly thing for a friend's podcast and I edited my podcast. That always puts me into a happier mood, even if I don't really say anything important or special on the podcast. It looks like my listeners may be up a bit, maybe around 225 if the reporting and wibbly-wobbly math is accurate. Which it probably isn't since I'm taking a huge time period of more than a year and simply dividing by the number of podcasts during that time. I expect it's a curve over time as more listeners add on. I may never get accurate numbers. I got a cheap silly game to play as well, so that's good fun.

I put out a resume in the late afternoon, but it's for less pay than I make now, for basically an entry level position that isn't likely to go anywhere. So, that is good and bad I guess.

I decided to splurge a bit and get two new pairs of shorts. What with my being bigger, my tummy has outgrown the other ones. Again, I saw myself sideways in the mirror and got sad. My tummy and cheeks are so big compared to just a few years ago. It's hard to believe I only weighed about 175 pounds when this terrible journey started. Now, only 5 years later, I'm 50 pounds heavier. 😞

I guess that's really it for today. I should really try to sleep in if I don't get at least 8 hours of rest. It's rare for me outside of winter, but I'm losing too much lately that not sleeping in at school may not be an option for long. I may start to randomly fall asleep. I did yesterday for a few minutes in the afternoon. 😞

Speaking of yesterday, I looked for some tutorials on what stuff there was in the class that confuses me. I guess I may just have to wait. The tutorials did not explain it any better, nor help my understanding at all. I still have time to try and maybe check the

library, but I'll have to get more sleep before my brain can think. I'm barely able to function lately with as little sleep as I've been getting lately. 😞

Day 1767 - 5/3

Of islands, bows, and ziplines

Today was pretty good I guess. I mostly don't remember. I'm still super sleep deprived, so most days lately are a blur.

I got two new games today. One was on sale because it's already older. It was \$25. One was a downloadable cheap one for \$15. But this one makes me feel ok with being older. It's sort of this crazy tribute to the 80s style cartoons and sci-fi movies. It's got a post-apocalyptic 'future' with cyber-soldiers who are part ninja and there are dinosaurs that shoot lasers from their eyes and mouth. It's like the most epic game ever for my 12-year-old self. It's hilarious and super fun. But why it makes me feel ok about being older is that all these ideas are pretty ridiculous these days, but they get them *so* right in the style of the day that everyone loves the game. Reviewers are raving, and several of my friends play it and love it. So, for possibly the only time ever, I feel ok being older. All these people are having a super good time with a game based on concepts I grew up with. And that is something. 😊

Day 1768 - 5/4

A movie

Today was ok I guess. I got a touch more sleep; around 8 hours. I actually woke up a touch before my alarm, so that was sad, but I guess I caught up as much as I could for one day.

The day was lonely, but ok. I played my games and watched a couple of shows. Despite it being opening weekend for a movie that I wanted to see, and nearly 80F outside, I decided to check if there was space. There was plenty; only about 40% of the

tickets were sold when I got mine. So, that was good. And although there were some younglings there, everyone was super quiet. 😊

I guess it was an ok day. But, as always, it didn't go how it would have if I were in a home. Though I did get some more sleep, I couldn't stay and catch up as much as I needed. I had to have headphones on all the time. And my day ended hours earlier than it would have if I had my own space, as well as staying up and go to bed when I wanted instead of when I needed.

Day 1769 - 5/5

Meh day

Today was fair. The weather has gone from hot to chilly and breezy, which is odd. I had a shift in the morning. I got Sundays all this month, so that is a decent something extra.

I didn't really do much today. I played my games, watched a show, and that was really it. I did get super sleepy later in the day, and my eyes were blurry. I think though that is due to my cold more than anything. I've been sneezing and feeling tired all day. My brain isn't really working right. Normal thought is difficult. It's like sleepy time thoughts brain. It can't do much that would be taxing.

That's really it for today. Yet another sad day, but the promise of eventually having *some* savings is something at least.

Day 1770 - 5/6

Mysterious pain

Today I've had a mysterious pain. I woke up with it, so I'm not sure why it came about. It feels like a few of my teeth, the area in the gum above them, and a quarter of the area behind my nose, are all numb. It's like circulation has been cut off. Or maybe if I bit into something so hard it jammed my teeth into my gum. It's got that weird pain / throbbing / tingly waking up after losing circulation feeling. I haven't sneezed all day, and

it does feel like it's in that area, so it could be what is referred to as sinus pressure. I suppose it could also be that front tooth's root has gone corrupt. Either way, it's very painful and I hope it goes away soon. Overdosing on generic aspirin doesn't seem to be helping at all.

I guess the day was ok other than that. It started off with my watching shows. I didn't really feel like playing my games. In the early afternoon I did do some podcasting. I have to remember not to be at the park where I normally record if I'm going to do it in the afternoon. Fooooo was it hot. I was heavily sweating and my mouse and metal bits on the popper stopper nearly burnt me they got so hot in the sun. After, I did laundry and work. And that was really it. Just a regular Monday for the most part. Well, outside of the constant high pain levels. Thankfully I've had so much pain in my life, both physical pain (mostly tooth related) and emotional, I can sort of mentally shut it off. As I think I mentioned during my broken paw hospital visit, my rating of 5 of 10 is probably what most would rate at around 8, so I've got a pretty high tolerance.

Day 1771 - 5/7

Still hurting

The pain is still here. It's not as bad, but it's not a whole lot less. Hopefully it will get better soon. It may be, at least in part, from grinding my teeth in my sleep. If I press my jaw closed it does poke my front teeth up. It's possible a night of that made the gums above sensitive. Though I'd think the jaw muscles would hurt too. I still think it is from some build up of nose pressure. I did use some decongestant nose spray the other day. It seems when those are more than a month old they do more harm than good, so that could be it.

I feel like I'm forgetting something; like I am supposed to go somewhere or something is supposed to happen today. Outside of posting Epic Fail I can't think of anything I need to do or have possibly planned. It's always a weird feeling when this happens. I guess today should be ok. It will be a day at the coffee shop unless plans change. I guess it's good I have a few places to be. But, as always, more than anything I wish I could be back in a good home. 🙄

Day 1772 - 5/8 Not working tonight

I don't have work tonight. That was odd. I'd left early from the coffee shop, got a micro dinner, and made the drive to work. Before opening someone else showed up. I was like, 'uhhh... hi?' Apparently the new extra shift I am supposed to cover is Tuesdays, not Wednesday. So that was a bit confusing. This one is a temporary one though, only lasting through May and June. But still, with this and my Sundays, my savings will now hit \$1500+ in I think it was about 4 months. So that is a lot quicker than the previous estimate of late October. So that is good news since no other summer increases have been mentioned yet.

I got a sort of surprising email from a moderator at Blizzard. He was sending thanks for all my help on the Hearthstone Facebook page. 🤗 This likely means early beta entry for me, which will be awesome. 😊 I did it though because helpful bunnah likes to help, and I know that I don't like to be left hanging when I ask a question on a site. Even if it's not an answer I want to hear I'd rather get a reply within a few hours than not. Will it lead to more? I suppose one never knows. In one universe I'm sure he'll reply tomorrow to my reply and it leads to an interview at the main headquarters down south, and within a year I'm in a full-time moderator position, and I have new friends, and I'm living a happy life in a new town and all my troubles are gone for good. Within 5 years I'm a head moderator and my opinion on stuff in development is sought after by programmers and developers within the company. Will that be what happens in *this* universe? Highly unlikely. It probably just means I'll be short-listed for early beta entry or Friends and Family alpha.

But whatever the result, it was nice to get a message acknowledging my help. It happens so rarely, especially from people within the companies themselves. Even though today may otherwise have been a sad average day for me, at least that was different, and I have one more item that validates my thoughts, feelings, predictions, and actions, *are* noticed and appreciated.

Day 1773 - 5/9

Should have napped

Today was pretty good I guess. I didn't really play games. In fact, I don't clearly recall playing any today save for a few minutes on my phone. I must have a cold because I'm suuuppper tired, and unusually hungry. I didn't really feel like playing either. I just watched some shows and saw a cool stream of some Hearthstone games. I did edit my podcast too, so that is ready to go. I was so tired by the afternoon though. I should have napped today. I think I'll definitely try tomorrow morning. It's Friday, so the parking lot should be at a low activity level, making it easier for me to be undisturbed.

Not really anything new besides that. It was still nice to be appreciated the other day. I am still happy from that. But now I'm so very tired. The shift in sleeping times and being unable to get to sleep easily some nights is really getting to me. 😞

Day 1774 - 5/10

Nap time

Today was a pretty regular Friday. Nothing really of interest happened. I didn't sleep in in the morning, but I did decide to nap before work. Oddly, of the two hours I could have slept I think I only slept one. Hopefully that means I didn't need as much sleep as I feel like I do.

I do feel a bit sick, bad feelings in my tummy. But it's subsiding now, so it likely was just tummy not agreeing with my different lunch.

Maybe tomorrow will be a better day.

Day 1775 - 5/11

Lonely day of shows

Today was lonely feeling. I guess it was ok though. As I said in the early days, with a laptop I can at least watch shows and stuff even if I don't play games. And that's

just what I did today. I watched shows and just messed around looking at a few forums. It wasn't bad. Earlier days were certainly far worse. Though I was super cold. I guess the coffee shop was blasting the air conditioning all day. It was nice and warm in the morning, so I guess it must have been hot for them to blast the cooling like that. It's evening now and it's still warm, but not at all uncomfortable.

I guess my life isn't too terrible now. With more hours and my laptop I can still do many of the things I like to do. But with still so much of what I had missing, with so many restrictions, with some things in life never achieved... I am still very sad all the time.



Day 1776 - 5/12

An unspecial pizza

Once upon a time when I would get pizza chances were it became a special occasion. It was a happy thing. Rarely was it to celebrate anything special. More often it was to simply celebrate life and enjoy these moments. I would call for delivery, then take a shower or a quick bath. When the pizza arrived I would get out if I hadn't already, set up some drinks, put the lights into low movie mode, and watch a movie while I ate. As I often got a large on sale I would try not to eat too much, and I often succeeded, sometimes I didn't, but it didn't matter. This night I was celebrating ... me.

Tonight was not such a night. I wanted pizza, so I got one after work. My shower was in a public place in the morning. I had no option for special lighting or volume of things. My shows were on a laptop. My sound came through my headphones. The temperature, a high warm outside, overly air conditioned chilly inside.

My life has gone from little everyday things being put together in combination to celebrate life, to simply being everyday things and nothing more. The pizza was just food; to be wrapped and counted out by meals. The shower was quick, and little more than to get clean. No additional relaxing was done. And the way I watched my shows was the same as I did every day.

The things I do can no longer be made special. Everything intrudes on them. Everything disrupts what they are. I can never have more than everyday things. The

special things are no longer special. They have become rare, for sure, but they are nothing more than that.

Day 1777 - 5/13

Overly hungry

Today, and yesterday too, I've been overly hungry. I suppose too I'm overly tired and congested, so I suppose it's possible I'm fighting off a cold.

Today seemed like it was moving extremely slowly moment-to-moment, but overall it passed quickly. As so often these days I am in a sort of mental haze. I expect my attempt to sleep in days will be Wednesday and Thursday, as I have nothing important in the mornings those days. Maybe I need more sleep. Maybe it's just a cold. I don't know.

All I know is it's times like this when my homelessness feels the most damaging. Back in a home I could sleep as early or late as I wished. There was no stress about what to do or my needing to carry something around with me. I would just leave at the last minute to go somewhere and take only what was absolutely necessary. I am so extremely tired, and I have no idea if I will ever be able to stop and truly recover ever again. 🙄

Day 1778 - 5/14

Feeling awake

Today I actually feel awake, almost not sleepy even. I got pretty good rest, but I hope it wasn't because I totally overate. I was so tired and so hungry yesterday that I decided to just eat and not be hungry. It looks like the day closed way over budget at 30% over calories from max. My managing things doesn't seem to be making any difference though. When I weighed myself I was the same as I've ever been. I'm going to try stretching and doing mini-workouts during my work shift, but it really looks like about 220 is my minimum homeless weight. 🙄 Well, unless things go back to the early days where I was literally starving and could only afford one small soup and one can of soda for an entire day.

Today seems ok, but it is still early. I will likely just sit at the coffee shop and do nothing really special, then leave for the extra work shift in the early evening.

Week 255

Day 1779 - 5/15

Meh

Today was meh I guess. I decided to record my podcast in the morning because I only have one thing to talk about this week. I edited it pretty quickly and it was ready and done by late morning. I was pretty tired after that. I should have gone to nap, but I didn't. The rest of the day was pretty regular. I watched shows, but didn't play games. I've been feeling sad and just not in a gaming mood lately.

Day 1780 - 5/16

Just a Thursday

Today was meh. I didn't really feel like I needed to sleep extra, as I got some extra morning sleep. In total I got 9-9.5 hours of sleep. I'm still tired, obviously still down from never being able to sleep and be undisturbed from waking up naturally. I don't know how long it will be until I can do that enough to catch up. 😞 I'd guess it would take nearly a week to get caught up and re-balanced.

I really just watched shows, then had a work shift. A pretty regular Thursday these days I guess.

Day 1781 - 5/17

Missing the friends

Today was kind of sad. I guess my friends went to play online instead of doing their podcast. But, because I still have no bandwidth at work (haven't in months) I couldn't play with them. 😞

I got ok sleep, so I didn't sleep extra. I really should try to Wednesday and Thursday. I'm just so tired all the time. I did do a paid game survey thing today. So that's like an extra shift in half the time. I can put that to the just in case savings.

That was really my day; Quick, and kind of sad.

Day 1782 - 5/18

Movie day

Today was good I suppose. I got probably 9 hours of sleep, so I have only been just a little tired. The early afternoon was a bit odd, as I guess someone misplaced something at the coffee shop and is theorizing someone found it and stole it instead of turning it in. That makes me a bit worried for leaving my stuff when I spend 10 minutes getting lunch. 😞

The only big deal for the day was that I went to see the new Star Trek. 😎 Sooooo good. Again, they got just the right amount of classic elements in there combined with new stuff. If anyone is even partly a Star Trek fan I can't recommend it enough. 😊

That was really it. The day was a bit nicer than usual, but at its core I never forgot how different my day is because I am homeless. 😞

Day 1783 - 5/19

Ok day

Today started out ok. I got an extra work shift. I showered. I got to play my game all shift. After work was ok too, I suppose. I just went to the coffee shop and watched a few shows.

I must be getting tweaked by all this warm weather lately. For the past few days I've had ridiculous cravings for chips. Though the chips I tend to get aren't as bad as others, the common theme is the ones I want are higher in salt compared to my other foods. I was super low on calories yesterday, so I went ahead and didn't bother stressing

out today. Actually though it was a breakfast that threw today off. I got a micro thing with potatoes, egg, and sausage. I haven't had breakfast foods in probably years.

I guess today ended up ok. I have basically all I can ask for with my sad life; my laptop, my car, enough money for food, and a connection to watch my shows and play my games.

Of course, as always, I want just that little bit more that everyone else has; a home, a bed, a kitchen. But lately I am beginning to think it is too late for me, that noone will take me in and I'll never find that solid job that gives me the opportunity to get re-established. 😞

Day 1784 - 5/20

Nothing lost

I checked my app the other night and I've been doing my diet for 10 weeks now. There has been zero weight loss. While I haven't been a whole lot below my target daily / weekly calories, I haven't really been over. I may go over on individual days, but as a whole weekly I'm under by half a day to even. I would think, with supposedly targeting 15 pounds lost in that time there should be *some* loss. (Yes, I even checked that the scale wasn't broken by weighing just my leg.) I suppose the good news is I haven't gained anything either. While that won't directly make me happy, it's good to know I'm not getting worse. I guess I'll have to redouble my efforts if I want to lose any weight. I will probably try to be very serious about at least doing 5-10 minutes of stretching / light exercise at work. I know I really need to do a lot more, but I'm so out of shape there is no way I really could. I may have to resign myself to the fact I just don't have a comfortable opportunity to lose the weight while homeless. Without a place to feel safe, secure, and comfortable emotionally it is very difficult to rest or to be in a mood to exercise and do either the serious level of exercises that would really cut the weight down, or to at least have the freedom to ease into it with less serious / silly exercises.

I guess, outside of not being happy with my weight, things aren't so terrible. I have the gaming laptop I always wanted in the early homeless days, and I have a few

connection points I know where I can watch shows or game. I guess that is about as good as my sad life can be right now. As sad as it is, I suppose it is more than some have. 🙄

Day 1785 - 5/21

Strange weather

Today the weather is very strange. Yesterday it was 90F, but this morning it's sprinkling. I guess that kind of describes how I feel about my life. It just doesn't make any sense. One day it's too much one day, the next too much in a different way. There is no mild even pace. Everything has its window and timing, and if I miss it it seems I have to move on.

I suppose things seem ok other than that. I got a bit of extra sleep the past few days (not last night though), so I'm a bit less sleepy. The extra work certainly helps, and my savings is finally less than zero. I got a TV series yesterday that I can't watch online, so I can get current on another of my shows.

But still, as long as I am homeless things are pretty terrible and stressful emotionally. All I can say for sure is that I am still alive and I guess I just have to suffer through until better times.

Week 256

Day 1786 - 5/22 Feeling dizzy and sick

Today I feel pretty sick. I'm feeling a bit better now that it's night. Yesterday I was sneezing and coughing. Today I had a bit of sneezing throughout the day, but after lunch I started feeling super sick. I got the worst headache at the back of my skull. I started to feel like I was going to throw up. And I was feeling a bit dizzy. I was almost dizzy enough that I had to stop gaming and watching shows. Hopefully I won't get worse. I was pretty bad. I feel ok-ish now, so hopefully it's passed.

Other than that the day was pretty lonely. It was kind of odd because I thought I had work last night, but when I got there the school had stuff set up. So I had to turn right around again. (I did micro the dinner I'd bought though so that wouldn't go to waste.) So, all day today I've felt a day off, like it's Thursday. I was supposed to play with my online friends who I haven't seen in forever, but I guess there was a sudden storm and they had to stay offline.

A pretty sad day I guess. Certainly one I would have much preferred to be in a home during. 😞

Day 1787 - 5/23 Teeth are doomed

Today started out well, but it became very sad in the early afternoon. I was having an apple snack and it felt like part of the skin stuck to one of my teeth. Feeling it more that was not the case. It was, in fact, that the tooth skin had come off and I was feeling a large section of that layer now missing. I took a picture and it looked like the front top teeth were a lot worse than I remembered them being. I went to the bathroom to investigate further. If I were to guess, based on what little that is left of the front two, I'll be missing all four top front teeth completely in a few short years. 😞 I doubt I will shed any tears over it (today). After all, this is an issue I've been sort of dealing with the past

25 years, and has been ever-present on my mind for the past 15. So it is really no surprise. I've had 'monster teeth' for quite some time.

But it is tragically sad. Had my life gone differently, had my parents given me alternate ways to brush my teeth since toothpaste and brushing made me gag and feel like throwing up, had my dentists not been totally insulting towards me during visits, I may have been ok. Had I been told, even better encouraged, to just brush my teeth really well with water and flossed really well my teeth likely would be fine now. But now... it certainly looks like it is too late. Back 15 years ago I was told it would take more than \$10,000 to fix what was wrong, and I suppose now that figure is tripled at least.

It's been 20 years or more since I did not fear smiling in public in a way people could see my teeth. And now it seems I will never smile that way again. 😞

Day 1788 - 5/24

Still sad

Today I was pretty sad. It was actually an ok-ish day, but because of my teeth... I guess all the years my dad and the dentists put me down about it really damaged my self-worth. Since I've basically been alone most of my life I never really paid attention to taking care of myself until now. And now... for those teeth at least it is too late. 😞 I suppose of all the things of my body to go wrong to the point of no return my teeth are... acceptable. They can be replaced. Modern dentistry can at least give me false ones when and if I ever get re-established. But still... I don't want surgery, particularly surgery that is a permanent thing like that. I suppose all I can do is wish that genetic regrowth is possible soon, and that I can eventually recover and have that option. 😞

Day 1789 - 5/25

Sooooo tired

Today I was so tired that I took a nap. Nothing really special other than that. It was just a regular Saturday. I'm still extra sad about my teeth, but overall my other sad things are coming more back into focus.

Things seem to be quieting down at the coffee shop. It will likely start being pretty empty for the summer. At least that will be nice.

Day 1790 - 5/26

Sad not BBQ holiday

Today everyone is talking about BBQs or their family / friends activities they are doing. They are having fun and having special foods and celebrating having time off from work. Once upon a time I would have too. Typically I was the one who invited people over. I'd straighten up the place, though living a Spartan / obsessive life it was always pretty tidy, and I'd be sure everything was right for the afternoon / evening. Depending on when it was in my life we looked at we would either play games, go running around shooting each other with Nerf guns, and watch movies while we did BBQ in the evening.

But not this year. This year I am alone. There are no friends with me. I have no BBQ. And no games will be played with others. It has been this way for more years than I can count easily, certainly more years than I *did* have fun times like that. And that is a very sad thing indeed. 😞

Day 1791 - 5/27

Single serving life

Today I have been pretty sad. There have been a lot of talk about people doing BBQs and being with friends or family and having fun. That made me pretty sad in general this weekend. But when I went to the store to get my food for having at work I got very sad. My tummy wanted several things, but because I have no way to cook, because I have no fridge, because I have no way to store food, because my life is basically a single serving life, I could not do any of those options.

I miss cooking. I miss buying foods to have for snacks and not needing to worry about portion size because I have somewhere to store the extra. I miss being able to get good rest and sleep in, and feeling alert and awake when I did. I miss the excitement of my games or movies knowing that I can fully enjoy them and not be disturbed while I play, as well as having the freedom to put them down or pick them back up whenever I wished. I miss having friends to do fun games and share special meals with. I miss... what used to be my life.

Day 1792 - 5/28

Rainy day

Today and last night it's been raining off and on. It reminded me that, more years than not, it used to rain on this weekend when I used to go to a local convention. It's odd how I'd forgotten that. At this point I haven't gone in so many years those going who are young adults now would be the same age I was when I was going. I don't really miss that particular convention. It was more book focused than not, and not being a reader there wasn't much for me to do there. Though I'm sure over the years it's changed. While I don't miss the con I do miss the people and experiences. I do miss friends introducing me to people who may become new friends. I miss being free and on vacation. And I miss seeing all the crazy things people do.

But now, I wouldn't have that experience even if I did go. I have noone I know that would be with me. I would not form new bonds. There, as I am in everyday life, I would be an outsider to all groups, left alone and seemingly unwelcome by others.

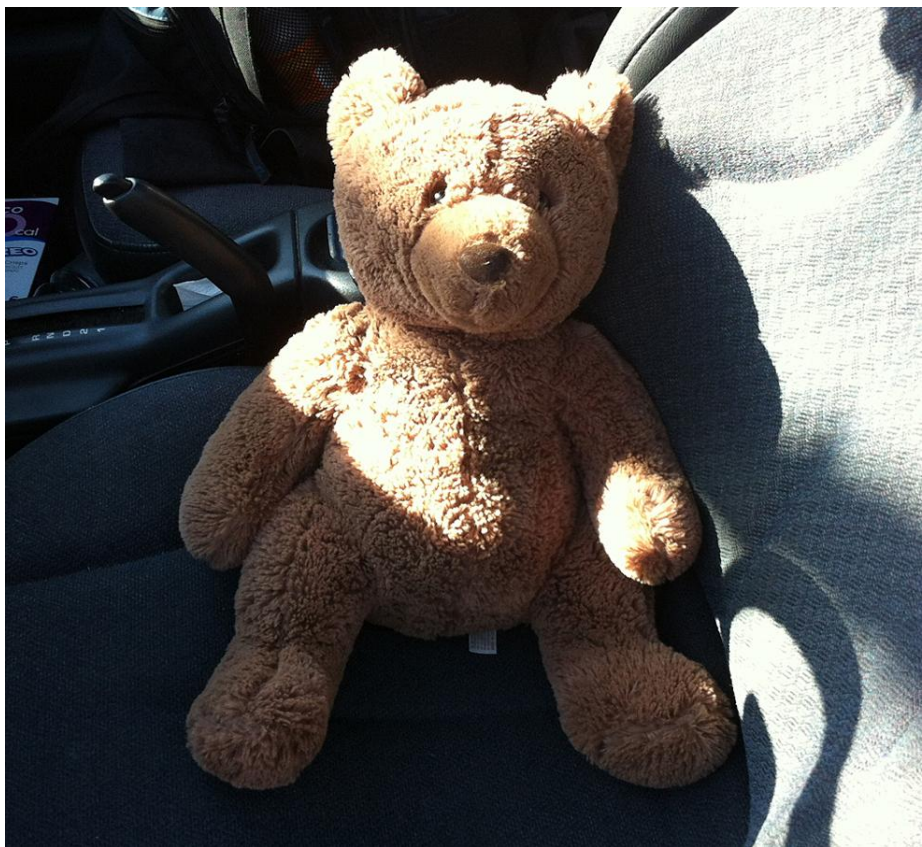
Pictures, series 32
Week 235 to 256



Frosted window is froooooooooennn.



Dead Space 3.



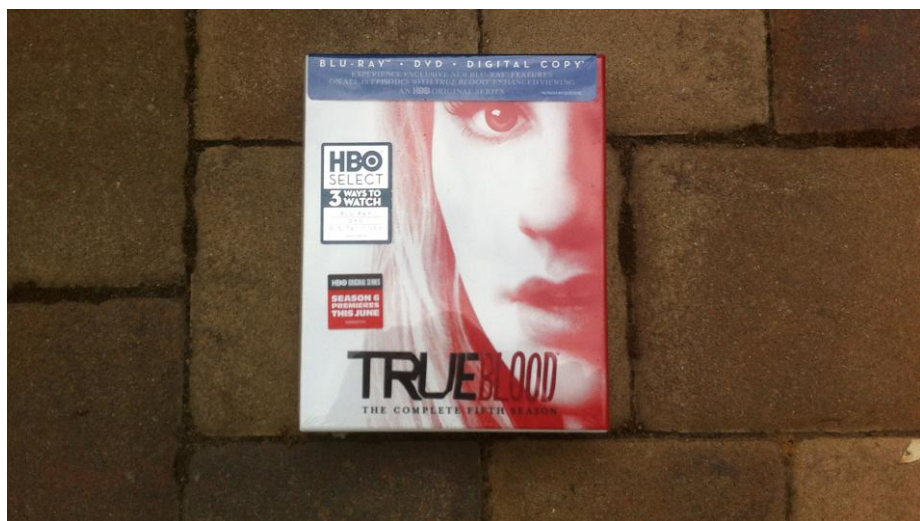
April Bear.



White Bunny.



New headphones.



Keeping up with True Blood.

Week 257

Day 1793 - 5/29 Luxury foods

Today my tummy was too sad from the weekend. I bought some pound cake in the morning to snack on. I can't remember how long it's been since I last had one. I think maybe 1.5 years. And in the evening for dinner I got a pizza. At first I was good and didn't eat too much, but then I did. The day ended about 15% over my max calories. However, I wonder if part of my being so hungry was due to fighting off this cold. I'm *still* sneezing and congested, and my eyes feel extra tired and itchy. More notably, I drank about 4-5 times as much water as I normally do. Normally I hardly have any, but at lunch I got two small bottle sized worth, and in the evening three more. Normally I have about 0.5 to 1 bottle in the entire day.

My friends asked if I wanted to play online, but I was at work and I had no connection, so I couldn't. It was sad because they rarely play these days, but more importantly work is basically a private space, so I can speak and act however I want without worrying about people near me overhearing. I don't know why work has had no bandwidth. For at least 4 months I haven't barely had any connection, but prior to that, and in previous years, there are times I'd game or watch shows with no problem at all.

Of course the saddest things of all is that with a normal job I'd have been done with my work day, been able to play with my friends, and been in a private home space. But I don't know when, or if, I will ever have that kind of life ever again. 😞

Day 1794 - 5/30 Eat how I want

Today was ok I guess. Mostly the day seemed sad. Nothing new is going on in my life, so that still seems stagnant and unchanging.

In the evening I did my podcast, so that cheered me up a bit. I also decided to not worry too much about what I ate. It made me a bit sad to hit my max for the day, but it

was nice to not worry. I don't know why, possibly due to my cold, lack of sleep, or both, but I've been pretty hungry lately. I'm in sanctuary a bit early, and things seem safe, so hopefully I can get a bit extra private time, rest, and maybe even an hour or two of 'extra' sleep.

Day 1795 - 5/31

Trying to stay under

Today was ok. It seemed to go pretty quick. In the morning I uploaded my podcast. I watched shows after. In the afternoon I looked for jobs. I posted on the forums a few times and I'm helping someone out with some laptop stuff, so that always makes me happy to know I'm helping. 😊

That's it really, besides feeling sad and homesick. 😞

Day 1796 - 6/1

Took my spot all day

Today was kind of sad. It was really just the same old stuff. I was alone. I didn't say more than half a dozen words out loud. I was very homesick. Maybe part of it was because this guy was sitting in 'my spot' at the coffee shop all day and night. It's like there are half a dozen or so who spend too much time there, but we each have our spot.

I've been extra homesick again lately. I don't know why, but lately I've been thinking of all the things I've forgotten. Like I had to struggle to remember what my glasses looked like. I think I remember what my bowls and plates look like, but I'm not sure. I miss the basic things; a shower, making lunch from many choices, many snack choices, sitting on my desk chair, watching or playing stuff without headphones, not needing to wear shoes all the time, and most of all, being able to cook dinner. I like to prepare and cook foods. I really miss that. This single serving life with no appliances... it makes me sad how many basic things there are that I like that can't be done. 😞

Day 1797 - 6/2

Hot day I missed

Today I guess it was pretty hot. It's been in the like 80s the past few days. But I've been in the coffee shop, which past a certain point blasts the air conditioning. I was, in fact, a bit chilly for a portion of the day.

Nothing special happened today. Well, unless we count the guy who kept touching himself. He was grabbing and flapping himself like 30% of the time. It was kind of disturbing. It's like once or twice, maybe he has new shorts and no underwear, that's understandable, but repeatedly and the entire time he was there... not so much. I guess he had an issue or something, as I saw him do it even when he was standing up at the water thing. I don't think he had any idea he was doing it as much as he was.

I'm super hungry today. I have been lately. I am still managing to be really close to my allotted calories, but still, I should be losing weight if that was the right amount for my 1.5 pounds lost a week target. I don't know. I may have to just give up and not worry about it while homeless. I hate being fatter, but I just can't really control very much. There are so many things I can't that would help, and so many I don't have much choice. Well, I'll still keep track and try to exercise at least a few more weeks, but it seems, like so many things in my life, that I may just have to accept that it is what it is and it can't be changed while homeless. 😞

Day 1798 - 6/3

Forced vacation

Today was the first day of my forced vacation. I only work tomorrow this week and that's it. I guess it's ok. I did some podcasting, so that was good. I am still waking up in a not bed after not sleeping in. I still have no shower if I don't make a special trip. I can't watch TV or play games extra loud or do stuff I normally wouldn't. I still am limited in what I can eat. I am still limited in when I can 'go to bed'. My windows of opportunity do not change, nor do the kinds of opportunities themselves. For me, as long as I am homeless, there can never truly be vacation. 😞

Day 1799 - 6/4

Hungry morning

Today seems ok so far, though for some reason I'm super hungry and I just got up a little while ago. It's warm, but a bit cloudy. It's been super hot lately, so today may be a bit cooler. I got some 'extra sleep', so that's good. I don't feel tired, at least for the moment. And, one of the cutest girls that comes in to the coffee shop is here next to me, so I suppose that's something. 😊

I have work tonight, but I did a lot of recording for my podcast already, so I can get that started early. I updated my site yesterday because there is some new Intel stuff, so that's got the newest shiniest stuff. So, I guess my rabbit life seems ok today, and that's about all I can hope for these days. 😞

Week 258

Day 1800 - 6/5 Odd days

My days off have felt odd. I'm not doing anything special with them. If anything they are more empty due to not being occupied for 5 hours a day. But it feels weird not working. I guess it's more that I work so little any time off is a big deal, and as such I feel very odd not having those few days a week. I don't know... I guess it's nice to not need to worry about getting ready for work and going to the right work locations. But it's not like I can really ever not worry.

I did the rest of this week's podcast. It was nice to have that time earlier in the week, and then now, and still have time tomorrow and I suppose Friday too if I need to do more recording. I always hope things will turn out ok and people enjoy the podcasts and find them interesting or helpful. I know my style is different from mainstream reviewers and descriptive styles, so I worry. But it still seems I have probably 200-250 listeners, so I guess some like it. I have to take the number of downloads over the period of like 1.5 years and divide by the number of podcasts. It's probably not accurate at all, particularly if there has been exponential growth, though I guess if I check every three or so months and it's about the same there couldn't be such growth.

Today was ok I guess, but as always I miss so many things. I got up a few hours earlier than I otherwise would have, and my day ended probably 4-5 hours earlier. I could do so much more, and be so much more awesome at all my things if I had a home. But then, I suppose if I had a home I'd also have to work more, which would mean a loss of hours in comparison to now. Sad life is so sad. 😞

Day 1801 - 6/6 Sore ass

Today my butt was sore. Staying at the coffee shop as much as I have been has been hard on my butt. While the spot I sit is padded, I'd guess it's only about one inch of

padding with that cheap faux leather that makes you kind of sweaty. And, I'd guess under that layer is wood. Because of my extra hours sitting my poor butt gets pretty sore by early afternoon. Well, only a few more days off and I'll be back to my regular schedule.

I spent quite a bit of the day editing my next podcast. It's not a lot bigger than normal, maybe only 50% bigger, but it was recorded in two sessions, so I had to make bits to add in pieces to sections, edit new sections, and make sure everything flowed right since the sections were recorded out of order. It was a fair bit closer to what they would be like if I had a happy rabbit life.

Nothing unusual besides that. The rest of my day was regular. I've been trying super hard to stay under calories for my diet, but it's very tough. Needing to eat out all the time there is very little I can do to cut down on calories. And, often times when I do I wind up being so hungry later that I must eat something extra, and that puts me back to my cap. Well, as I said, if my weight is unchanged maybe two more weeks I'll probably stop inputting it into the app and stop worrying about it.

It's so very sad not being able to control my life. Sadder too that I have time off of work and yet gain no real hours to do anything extra. What would otherwise be 6 extra hours in a home is really only about 2-3 due to my limitations. And those are not free. I'm surrounded by people by being forced to be out in public. 🙄

Day 1802 - 6/7

A Friday off

Today was ok I guess. I got a bit of extra rest, so that was good. And, I found a something that if I reposition it just a bit I sleep better. So, hopefully the good sleep I've been getting can continue.

The day really wasn't all that different from usual though. I uploaded my podcast in the morning. I messed around on forums for a bit. I watched some shows. I played a few games for a bit. I did get to see most of my friend's podcast, which was awesome as I can't remember the last time I could see it. It's been so many months that I've gotten a connection at work that I actually almost completely forgot that I'd be *able* to watch tonight.

I also went to get a shower at school since I didn't have work. It was actually burningly hot. I literally had to not stay under the water for more than about two minutes after turning it on or it felt like it would burn me. (There are like eight shower heads per side, so it was easy to keep switching.) I did check a secondary shower area on my way out and noticed that they seemed to be the right temperature. If I need another shower before my next work shift I can go there if it's open.

I didn't eat too much today either. My tummy feels smaller, though the scale seems to tell me differently. I actually tossed half my rice from dinner. It was only about \$1 of food, but I just wasn't hungry for it. Also, I drank a ton of water today. I actually have been lately when I think to, so that's good as soda is pretty terrible for me and a ton of calories. Maybe someday I can get this weight back under control. 😞

Day 1803 - 6/8

Ten degrees hotter

Today feels 10 degrees hotter than my temperature thing says. I feel like I'm almost sweating, yet it only shows as 75F.

Today was a quiet Saturday. My friends weren't around to talk to or play with, and the movie I wanted to see this weekend isn't showing in my area.

I'm not very hungry lately either. I mean, I do get hungry, but like last night, I don't think I'm eating much. Maybe my temperature and tummy being off is a sign I have some kind of bad cold. 😞 I have been sneezing and sniffing lately.

Day 1804 - 6/9

Short unexpected work

Today was only slightly different. At just after noon I got a call saying noone was at the gym. I was like, so-n-so is supposed to be there. He didn't ask for me to cover for him, so it's his shift. I kind of did expect him to call last week or yesterday and ask me to

cover, but he never did. The boss person asked me to drive up and cover a partial shift, just two hours.

Speaking of extra work shifts, tomorrow is my first day of what is almost two weeks working every day. I have these Tuesdays through the end of the month, Thursdays permanent, and for the next two weeks extra Wednesdays. Add that to my previous regular Monday and Fridays and I should get a decent paycheck. Someone asked me to cover a shift next Sunday as well, so there's that too.

Other than that it was really just a normal lonely Sunday. Nothing really to talk about. Oh, but I am sneezing a ton today with a pretty runny nose, so that's new.

Day 1805 - 6/10

Sniffles and sneezes

Today I was sniffing and sneezing quite a bit. There really wasn't much else different. I did not eat all of my lunch. I wonder if that's because I'm less hungry from my cold or if my tummy is finally becoming more it's old self and is less hungry overall.

Today E3 started. That kind of has made me sad lately. It is the one convention I've always wanted to go to and get coverage for as long as it's been around. Some people post about plans to go, or that they've arrived, or game companies have posted cool things they are doing, making me feel left out. And, as always, it's one of those things I may never get to do. 😞

Day 1806 - 6/11

Gray day

Today is a gray day. It rained yesterday morning and today again looks rainy. It's weird weather. It was like mid 80s before it rained.

I'm a bit sleepy, but not tired. I got enough sleep last night for the most part. I am sad about my sad life, but with some 'extra' work and the excitement of what cool looking

gaming stuff could be announced today, or what was shown yesterday after I had to go offline, has me excited about what's to come.

My life, while still terrible is stable again for the moment, and I have my games and shows, so I guess it's not so bad. 😊 It certainly could be worse. 😞

Day 1807 - 6/12
Very sad, very congested

Today I am very sad. I'm also very congested and sneezy. I've been oddly hungry. Up through lunch though I wasn't hungry. I was good on calories until even dinner. But after, I got super hungry, and I still am, and I had a second dinner.

The first sad thing was that a bird got trapped in the coffee shop. It was so tiny and cute, not even really the size of your palm from beak to tail. It flew up high into a skylight area where I couldn't help in getting him/her out. After being there a few hours they bird started chirping and fluttering around. 😞 I saw others of their species on the other side of the skylight glass. It reminded me of my own situation; being trapped, noone really helping, unable to get back home. I became very sad at the thought of them being stuck and starving because none of the people seemed to care but me. 😞 Thankfully the bird eventually came down to a table. I grabbed my house shirt to try and capture them to take them out, but they made a hop towards the door, and there must have felt the breeze, as they flew out through the door that was open. (The doors and walls are all glass, so birds can't see how to get back outside.) I was very happy the bird finally made it out, but sad at all the fear and sadness they must have felt while trapped. 😞

And I'm sad because I will, very likely, again miss out on a huge game thing that I'm looking forward to. The next new console and several games I want to play are set to launch at the end of this year. One of the games is something I would absolutely love to play, and it's a kind of game I've been looking for, well, forever. But I won't be able to play. And although the developers plan to support the game for 10 years, I may miss out on playing with my friends even if I do eventually play, as they all very likely will get it right at launch and then stop playing by the time I can play. 😞

While very close to being able to look at renting a room, I still can't. I need another job to have the missing income and hours. But the reality is I've been looking for another job with more hours for more than 5 years, and haven't yet found one. Even though a second job at about 10-15 hours a week would be enough, I just haven't found it.

And, on top of that, in order to even possibly have enough to move in I'd basically have to find something in the next two months to be able to get enough in savings to make it before the end of this year. If someone would ever let me move in with my credit being what it is.

It seems silly to think of games as milestones and launch dates as targets, but really they are one of the only things I have. And really they are the only thing I have in tracking the passage of time. I have no vacation to look forward to. I have no one to celebrate holidays or birthdays with. I have no children to watch grow up. I am basically alone with my games, with only a few friends here and there to play with. Yet it seems, at least so far, the few really big game targets I've tried to get re-established by I've missed. It seems yet again I'm going to miss out because there are several games I'd like to play yet can't because I'm homeless. It makes me feel like I will never recover. I will never have a truly stable Internet connection again. And the rest of my days will be filled with suffering and missing out on what I would love to do. 😞

Day 1808 - 6/13

Sad day

Today on the surface was ok. I got to watch shows, check news, and relax during the day. During work I watched a movie and did final editing for my podcast. But overall it was sad. I miss being in a home. Simple things like showering every day have reminded me how much I miss clean cloths every day after a shower, how the carpet felt on my bare feet, how I can relax and play and do different things without interruption. And with all of the news about E3 and talking about it and looking at laptops I'd like to upgrade too, today feels like one of those days where my future seems empty. Many of the games I saw are ones I can't play because they are console only. And thinking about upgrading my laptop feels like I have to again surrender to the reality that I won't be in a home anytime soon. The things I do or do not do in my day seem to totally revolve around being homeless, and I can't escape that sad reminder. 😞

Day 1809 - 6/14

End of a week...ish

Today is the end of the week. I guess. I work again Sunday, so I don't really have a weekend. It feels like so much time has passed. The weird thing is even with all the extra work and working 6 days this week, it will still only be around 30 hours. Though, if I could regularly get 30 hours I would be set. I think my math worked out to 25-30 hours would be enough to be back in a home depending on the exact pay per hour, bills, and how much rent was. (That was based on a room price, which a place on my own would be 3-4x as expensive.) But once we get to July in a few weeks I'll basically be back to my regular 15 hours a week.

I ate a lot today, though I'll still be about 7% under budget for the day. For the week I'm about 15% over, but hopefully that will even out over the weekend. Still, even if I was 15% over every week I don't think that would be enough to eliminate all 1.5 pounds I should lose. And over 12 weeks... well, I certainly should have seen *some* loss by now. I remain sad about it, as I'm easily 30% bigger than I'd like to be when looking at the mirror sideways, but, like everything else in my sad life, I seem unable to change it, despite having a plan and sticking as close to it as I can. 😞

Day 1810 - 6/15

Just a Saturday

Today was ok I guess. The people I play with are out on vacation, so I was alone all day, as usual. The coffee shop was really empty all day, which is good. I watched a few shows and played a game for a bit. Mostly I was alone and sad about how limited my homeless life is and how little is under my control to change. 😞

Day 1811 - 6/16

Not a dad's day

Today was dad's day. I've always imagined what it would be like to be a dad and have little ones and a wife who loved me, even more so curious what they would do on dad's day since I don't care about so many of the traditional things. But I'm not a dad. I am single. I am alone in life. And, like so many things in life, it seems this may be one thing I've waited for that may never happen. 😞

Day 1812 - 6/17

Feeling like there is no future

Today I am pretty sad. I was sad to begin with really, then checked my weight and saw no real loss for another week. And just now, after entering the week's fail, I feel more sad. There is so much I am missing out on in life. And, in so many ways, my life has not been able to progress since I was 20. But I am no longer 20. The odds of my finding things like a solid career, wife who wants to start a family, having kids, seeing them grow up, all seem extremely unlikely.

The reality of what has happened for me, or more accurately not happened, seems like even if I do happen to get re-established my life will continue as it had been. I would continue to be alone. I would not find love, and if I did, it is very likely any kids I could have helped raise would already be grown and moved out of the home. It is most likely my job would be no better than something people who are just out of college would get, or people with no experience. And even though I may make enough to get my own apartment I would struggle financially and miss out emotionally on so much for the rest of my days.

More and more I am feeling like for me there is no future, and I will never have the things I have wished for for so long. 😞

Day 1813 - 6/18

Movie and oil change

Today should be different. It kind of already is. I'm going to a movie (before it's gone from the nice theater in 3D) and then doing an oil change and smog check. I didn't think I'd get a chance to write and post before then, but I am up earlier than expected.

The week was extra sad. There were lots of reminders about what I'm missing out on in life. And too, we are nearly at the end of year 5. One more week and after that I'll be starting year 6 of being homeless. Once upon a time I thought it would be 60, maybe 90 days, and I'd recover. But now, after so long, it seems it will never end. And what I have is all I ever will have not only physically, but emotionally as well, and my life will never be more. 😞

Week 260

Day 1814 - 6/19

Displaced seat

Today was weird. When I got to the coffee shop there was an unplugged laptop with a coiled plug on my table. It was sad, but I sat next to it and waited. It seemed like the person had packed up to go and probably just stopped at the bathroom before leaving. I waited and waited. About 4.5 hours later I turned it in to the coffee shop people. The person never returned. At that point there was really no reason to change tables as I only had a few hours left to go and do podcasting and get to work. At the time I left the system would have been abandoned for more than 6 hours. I don't get how someone could just leave their system like that.

The rest of the day was regular. Work was ok and I played games and watched a movie. I was a bit extra hungry and I decided to ignore my calorie budget. If I'm over, if I'm under, it won't be likely to make a difference. And if I am over I can see if my weight shifts up. It's really been unchanged the whole time, so I'm really ready to just stop tracking it altogether.

Day 1815 - 6/20

Missing out on life, maybe an alternative

Today I have been super sad. I've been thinking a lot about the games I've been missing. And thinking too about ones I may miss in the future. For me, these are my life. They are the worlds I live in. They are the lives I live. And while there haven't been many (console games) I've missed in the past I'm getting very sad at the prospect of the new consoles coming and missing out on what is to come after I've been missing so much already. (Particularly since it seems there really aren't more than two PC games I'd buy in the next 6 months or so. It seems PC gaming is drying up for the time being.)

After hours of searching online today I may have found a possible solution. There are a few smaller monitors, like 15" big. It wouldn't be much more space than my laptop

takes up. While it would be an extra thing to carry around, not even counting the console, I could set that up at work and play the offline games I've been missing. I could, in theory, get the new console which has WiFi and play online console games at the coffee shop. The monitor would be the only true loss in money, as the console is something I'd like when I'm in a new home anyways, but the main one I'm looking at is only \$100. And, at least short-term, that would work for a tiny HDTV in a new place while I saved up enough for a proper one. (Which the one I looked at the other day was only \$800, considerably cheaper than the about \$2500 something like it used to be only a few years ago.)

My hesitation is this though; by saying to myself 'this is the only way' it seems like I am also admitting I will not make it into a home. It's as if the 5 years my current console has been in storage is just the start, and that the new one would be in storage just as long, if not longer. By doing this I could at least get *some* play. I could stop missing out on console games and set it up at least a few days a week.

I don't know what I'll do. It's such a small investment for such a potentially big gain. Yet it feels so much like I'm giving up hope of being back in a home and that this is just one of many things that must change, must be, and I must accept, in order to keep that part of me alive. 😞

Day 1816 - 6/21

No better or worse

Today was no better or worse than any other Friday, but it seemed extra sad and lonely. Maybe it's because I'm still so far from being in a home after so many years. Maybe it's because I'm not losing weight regardless of if I make my calorie goal or not. Maybe it's because lately noone seems to care about anything I'm doing or how I'm feeling.

I guess it all just adds up to my feeling extra isolated and alone, and that makes me feel like I have no future, or at the very least like things around me may change over time, but they will essentially be no better or worse than now. I feel like I am all I have. And that makes me very sad. 😞

Day 1817 - 6/22

A party

Today was a bit different. I don't think I mentioned, but a friend who I haven't seen in like 15 years invited me to a party. We were never as close as I'd have liked. We had many common interests, but it seemed he was always too busy to really hang out. We'd see each other about once a year at a convention and then he was off back to where he was living his fancy life in L.A. (He worked network security for one of the bigger studios, so he was literally hanging out with the stars.) When I stopped going to that convention we kind of lost touch. A little while ago he added me on Facebook and now, after maybe just over a year after that, he invited me to a party.

Having never been to his place before, and his inviting like 115 people, I didn't know what to expect. I had gotten him a movie not off his wish list, grabbed some chips to share, and off I went in the early evening. I was the first one there, not really a surprise as I got there right when it started, but surprisingly noone really showed up. Mostly the party was him, his new wife, their roommate, me, and two other people his wife and their roomie worked with. Someone else showed up with two little ones, but they left after a few hours. It wasn't so much a party as really a gathering and BBQ. We talked a bit about game stuff, a bit about old times and old stories, but mostly his wife, roomie, and the two coworkers talked office politics / drama story type stuff. It was pretty cool though, and a fun time. Noone smoked or drank, so that was awesome. He actually loved the movie gift. I had it on his list of things to watch, so I guess he hasn't seen it yet even though it's around 2 years old. I had a super good time seeing him again and the people seemed nice. It was very different to be in a home. (It was a 2 bedroom apartment.) Very different remembering all the things I'm missing and seeing them all right there before me. I was reminded of all the very simple things in life; doing dishes, cooking, taking out the trash, how white-ish rugs get stained, the smells of different furniture in the room, how tedious it seems going back and forth from one room to the next for the littlest things. And while I could easily see myself settling right back into a room and what was my life, it all seemed so far away, such an alien concept and world to me now.

Will I be invited back to do things with them again? I don't know. In the past he always seemed less interested in being friends than I would have liked. When he did live

near me I'd invite him to gatherings, or say we should hang out more often, but we never did. But after 15 years of not seeing him and him reaching out to me, something must be there. But I don't know. I don't seem to have good luck connecting with people, new friends or old, and it seems every meeting comes and goes and is seemingly forgotten afterwards, never to repeat again. I guess time will tell.

My online friends asked if I was around to play. I was sad I couldn't play with them. They asked if I could play the other day too, but I was working with no connectivity. I miss my online friends. 😞 It seems like forever since we played a something together. 😞

Day 1818 - 6/23

Smells like pee

My car smells terrible. 😞 I guess about three or four days ago I left a pee bottle in there. I guess it fell over and during the hot day it leaked out a bit. I think it's stuck in the carpet now. When I am in my car the smell at first is overwhelming. It smells like an unflushed toilet. 😞 If I blast the fan it's tolerable after a few minutes, but at first I usually feel pretty close to throwing up. I may have to cut that section of carpet out, which will lower the value a lot should I ever need to sell it. 😞 Of course the pee smell will too. 😞

I guess today was ok other than that. With work in the morning and all my time at the party yesterday – not counting all my extra shifts – I've felt a bit off today. But I'm slowly balancing towards normal, but then again I don't really know what normal is for me anymore. 😞 It's been so long since I could truly be me. 😞

Day 1819 - 6/24

No more counting

Today I decided to delete my calorie counting app. It's been like 13 weeks and I've lost nothing. The week started low, but got high very quickly. I decided to not worry and

let it be what it was. It ended at about 12% over budget. It seems 10% over or under doesn't make a difference. It is extremely difficult for me to get more than 10% under. I just get too hungry. And I'm supposed to be losing 1.5 pounds if I match, I shouldn't need to be under at all. At zero lost, or maybe 0.5 pounds a week if I make my goal (assuming I've re-gained that on weeks I'm over), it would be 2 years or more to reach my goal. That would just be too stressful. I will still try to get back to my regular weight. I will still try to eat healthy. But I will no longer track it, and I will likely only check my weight every 2-3 weeks instead of every week.

I guess it was an ok day other than that. It has been raining, which is super weird for this area. I also started using a pet odor cleaner on the car. It's a lot better, but it will probably be a week of applying and reapplying to fully clean out the pee smell. At least I don't feel like throwing up anymore.

My lack of a future seems very sad, and ultimately if I see online friends or not I still wind up being alone. I guess I should just focus on controlling what I can, and do what seems best so that I can be at least a little happy and feel like I am still holding on to as much as I can of me. 😞

Day 1820 - 6/25

Feel ok

Today I am a bit sleepy, but I guess I feel ok. There is a new download for a game I like, so I can play a new something. I also got a something yesterday for \$3.50, so I have two new somethings to play. Some stuff I posted about had a few comments, so though it's not much I do feel somewhat acknowledged.

I do think, although it's a ton of money, I will get the new console I want. I don't want to miss out on the new games. Had I thought of the small monitor sooner I may have done it for my old console. Though my old console has no wireless, so it didn't seem a feasible option for that one. It doesn't come out for nearly 6 months, so plans to buy will be nothing more than that for a while. Even if I pre-ordered right now my money would stay in my account until it releases, so it could still be canceled if something bad came up and I needed the money.

I am tired. I am sleepy. I am so very sad to not be in a home. At least now though I do have ways to play my games, watch movies and shows, and while pretty terrible, things seem fairly safe and stable. I suppose that is something.

Week 261

Day 1821 - 6/26 Pee smell lessening

Today was ok I guess. I didn't have to cover an extra shift tonight, and this week was the last Tuesday coverage, so things settle back down to 3 regular days, sometimes Sundays.

I played games much of the day and watched some shows. In the evening I went to see a movie. I guess it was ok to have sort of a regular day off. But, as always, I was alone, I was sad, and what I did for my day was dictated by my being homeless.

Day 1822 - 6/27 So hot

Today was so hot. I was very lightly sweating and worried that my laptop was going to overheat. My phone app said it was 81F when I checked, and it had been too warm for hours by that point. It wasn't until about an hour after that the air conditioning finally came on in the coffee shop.

I did a lot of stuff with my podcast today, so that made me happy. I didn't finish yet, so I'm probably going to have to spend my morning up until lunch to finish. I think from now on if I do it Thursday at work I should not watch a movie so I can have plenty of time.

I've gotten a few resumes out so far. Lesser positions really, but, as usual, I haven't even seen a 'thank you for applying' auto-reply email back.

A few friends are sending encouraging words, so that's good. And I did get to have an ok time with all my hobby stuff today, so that's good. The pee smell is almost all gone too. I don't feel terrible anymore from the smell. In fact, unless it's a super hot time I don't even really smell anything off.

I guess today was not a terrible day, but as good as my mood was I still couldn't help but think of at least a dozen sad things that were there because I am homeless. 😞

Day 1823 - 6/28

Wierdness

Today I am super tired. It's been in the 80s lately, and supposed to hit the 90s next week. I think it's tweaked my sleep.

This morning I did the smog thing for my car. I kind of had to wait a long while for it. For some reason, with no cars in front of me at the shop, I had to wait like 45 minutes before they started. And I got there just about right after they'd opened for the morning. It was weird.

Another weird thing I discovered is that I couldn't post on one of my super close friends Facebook wall. I sent messages to see what was up because it says we aren't friends anymore. Nothing has been said since Saturday nearly a week ago, and we only ever talk every few weeks lately, so I have no clue what is up. It seems like he's blocked me. I don't yet know if that was on purpose or if something has glitched. It would seem odd if he just unfriended me without saying anything since we have mutual friends. I hope it wasn't on purpose, but if it was it would be very confusing.

Today seems extra sad what with the weirdness with my friend, being thrown off by having to wait for my car, the heat, and being so sleepy. Hopefully I'll go back to homeless normal soon. 😞

Day 1824 - 6/29

Sad and confused

Today I am very sad and confused. I got confirmation that my friend unfriended / blocked me on purpose. It makes no sense to me. A few months ago we were grouping pretty often to play. We would joke with each other and laugh and have a good time. Just a week ago was the most recent time the friends asked if I wanted to play. I was out at the party, said I couldn't play, and that I missed playing with them. It's probably been a few months since we played together. But, for some unknown reason, between then and now he blocked me and doesn't want to be friends anymore. It seems odd that someone I

thought was such a close friend would abandon me, not want to be friends, and apparently doesn't want to discuss why or say that he thought there was a problem.

I guess why ultimately doesn't matter. If he doesn't want to talk about things and feels so strongly about it as to just block me and become basically invisible to me, then he obviously wouldn't want to sort things out and continue being friends.

Online friends come and go, that really isn't a surprise. But being someone who I seemed to get along with so well, and knew quite a bit about, and nothing really seemed off a week ago, seems very odd. Something deeper must have been lurking for quite a while. But again, why was nothing said?

I guess I may never know. Those who choose to stay around me will. And those who don't... well... I suppose people will always come and go, but someone who seemed so close just disappearing like that... has left me sad and confused.

Day 1825 - 6/30

Last calendar day of year 5

Today is the last calendar day of year 5. I reflect back on the year and it feels like there is more sad than there is to be happy about. Though I have a small bit of savings to get back into a home, I am still only earning about 50% of what I'd need monthly to consider even the cheapest single rooms in a home. Since I had no interviews I feel no closer to being in a home now than when the year started, even though my income is 50% more at the time of this writing.

In terms of friends, I did get a bit closer with a few online friends, but with the recent loss of one of the two people I considered my best / closest friends has left me feeling pretty heartbroken, and abandoned. And, since he is one of the couple I would usually play online stuff with, it seems the potential for offline play with friends is gone along with that friendship, as it is unlikely I would be invited to play if they were grouped together. And if I were invited, and he were in the group, I would feel weird and uncomfortable.

A new console was announced, and with it (along with a small investment in a monitor) I could get back into console gaming. I've missed out on several with my

console being in storage. But with my recent discovery of the monitor, and the new console's built-in wireless, it is worth considering. (My old one was limited to land-line only, meaning games would have had to be single player, and able to run on an operating system that hasn't been updated in years.) But again, it seems unlikely I would have anyone to play with online due to having so few friends.

My health has gotten worse too over the year. Though I suppose that's always been in decline and not really any different. Trying a few things to lose the 50 pounds I've gained in the past 2-3 years has been futile, making me feel that without extreme change my health is only going to get worse and worse.

There is still a lot of me in storage. I still have access to my storage when I like, but I fear as time continues to move on more and more of what is in storage becomes less and less viable for use, it seems my future does not exist. And as the time goes on it is harder and harder to cling to what little of me is left, and I am fading away more and more with each year. 😞

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YouTube	1591, 1592, 1649, 1696
World of Warcraft or WoW	1628
Wreck-It Ralph	1591
XCOM: Enemy Unknown	1514, 1518, 1546, 1562

Where did I see it?

Wondering where you may have seen my day subtitles before? Here's a list. 😊

Day 1503 – TV: Doctor Who (2008), Season 4, Episode 10, “Forest of the Dead”, line by Doctor Who to Donna

Day 1519 – Movie: Stranger than Fiction (2006), Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) to Ana Pascal (Maggie Gyllenhaal)