

DAY 1

1:05-1:30- [Arrival](#). I am just absolutely peeing myself and crying. [The Safety video made me cry](#). I try not to absolutely lose it as the transport takes us up to the ship. The music makes this more difficult. I feel like Charlie Bucket stepping into the Imagination Room as we walk into the Atrium. Maybe Dorothy stepping into Oz is a more apt comparison, but I won't realize the extent of that until later. We're shown to [our cabin](#) and [I make base camp in the top bunk](#). I talk to D3-O9 using the in-room droid link panel. Our conversation feels shockingly natural. *I still can't believe all of this exists*. I love D3. When she asks why we're here I lie and say "Uh...Birthday" because she deserves to have plausible deniability and I am actually trying to lay low from First Order interest in my droid repair/customization business back home on Corellia. I'm also a not very subtle droid rights activist. (full character backstory can be found [here](#).)

1:30-2:00- Lunch. The CM outside the dining room tells my mom to mind the porg perched on her shoulder. We promise her he is well-trained. I offer a pinky-promise and she doesn't know what that is. I teach her and tell her it represents a blood pact. She is pleased. I am pleased. I get a big cup of blue milk and more food than I will reasonably eat. My dad is stunned to see me behaving like an extrovert and admits he feels unusually sheepish. This is me and mom's time to shine. Once we sit down, another CM sits a little dish of [oil with a small straw down next to me for my droid](#), he asks her name and I tell him it's L3-LA. *I realize this place is Disney's greatest achievement*. [I savor the space food](#), enjoy the mood music and feel at peace with the universe.

2:05- I screw with a terminal. [I get my first message from Raithe](#). I get into the engineering room and play with all the levers. Raithe says he may need my help later. I am noncommittal about helping him further, I'd rather meet him first. While I am staunchly Pro-Resistance and Anti-First Order, crime has much more nuance. Some other CMs ask me about my droid. This time I tell them her name and also tell them "she's a rescue." They coo over this and I'm glad they seem trustworthy.

2:05-3:30- Ship tour, [exploration](#) and [more slack jawed awe](#). I buy a ship model and a small SK-620 droid in the gift shop. I stare at the child sized blue jumpsuits hanging on the wall while I try to convince myself I want a woman sized jacket instead. (It's hard to find a nice jumpsuit when you're 5'2")

3:30- At some point I realize SK is sequestered to the mezzanine for reasons unknown and won't be interacting with us up close. I feel a pang of disappointment, but that is ok. Humans on board will more than make it up to me, multiple times. [Sublight lounge beverages with mom and dad](#). I try a Cloud of Bespin. I don't drink much and I feel it immediately, so I sip it. I need to stay sharp.

4:00-5:00- I chug the remainder of my beverage just as muster begins, so much for sipping it. Despite my excitement, and the alcohol I've just chugged, I try to focus on what everyone is saying bc I'm [hype to meet these characters](#). The Captain's voice is both commanding and kind. Lenka is obviously cool bc her bestie is SK-620. I can feel it in my bones that Sammie will probably be my favorite. I boo very loudly at Lt. Croy bc I can't believe these jerks showed up on our trip to get away from them. I guess choosing a Resistance friendly ship to run away on assumes that risk. Either way, I've just about had it. [Ouannii plays an absolute banger](#) for us bc Gaya, her frontwoman and the galactic popstar who will be

performing for us later, is fashionably late. We enjoy the ambiance until I can no longer deny my urge to wander around. Croy sends me some comms probing for info [and I tell him to kick rocks](#).

5:05- I encounter Saja Tyser and a “fellow passenger/aspiring musician” named Sandro talking to a family outside the climate simulator. They think their son might be the Chosen One. [Sandro makes up a song about this](#). I’m extremely impressed. I notice my familiarity with the Saja has gone up in the datapad. Neat! At some point in here we actually have to go and pick Gaya up, which is incredibly Gaya of her to make us do. I see them rolling out the carpet, but I miss her arrival because I am wandering around.

5:30- Dinner is delicious. I could probably eat a truckload of that steak. Gaya’s performance is great and her talent is undeniable. In her first song, she belts “Welcome to the new world” and I get goosebumps bc it really does feel like I have exited reality and in this room really is a beautiful collage of faces. I’m not the biggest fan of pop. I wasn’t sure how much I would enjoy these songs, but each one is helping to build this world through both sheer vibes and themes in the lyrics so well that I am totally into it. Also, they all happen to slap. She sings a whole song about the stone sitting upstairs that they’re going to steal later. The audacity. I love her. One song has a dance that goes with it. Everyone jumps up from their meals to learn it and it reminds me juuuust a little of everyone in a theater scrambling out of their seats to do the time warp, but Star Wars. [I am truly happy](#). Croy interrupts her performance because of course he does. One of Gaya’s songs has illegal lyrical content. Her sass and unwillingness to kowtow to him is an inspiration. He is clearly terrified of/slightly in love with her.

7:00- [Chilling in the Atrium](#). I see Raithe in person. He sees my droid, asks “if I trust that thing” and I decide that I am not going to help him. I angrily tell him that I absolutely trust her. More than many humans. [Mom and I participate in the Outer Rim Regalia](#) fashion show after being gently badgered into doing so and have more fun than anticipated. *These CMs are the ultimate hypemen*. They’ve got us all cheering wildly for each other. It’s wholesome. Parents go hang in the Sublight and befriend the bartenders. My dad is in search of the most delicious beer on board. I wander.

7:30-8:00- I stumble into [Saja Tyser sneaking Chewbacca around](#) and decide to help. We’re told to call him “Bill” as a code name. We sneak him up and down the stairs. [We put Chewie in the cargo hold](#), but he won’t stay put. He ends up in the Sublight lounge, but Stormtroopers are in the Atrium. I decide to antagonize them a little. I let them know they won’t get away with violating our rights on this ship bc there are so many witnesses. I don’t do this for too long before they are interrupted by something else and I turn around to notice Sammie is hovering around the Sublight. Sammie sneaks Chewie down to engineering and I follow.

8:00- [Secret meeting with Sammie and Chewie in engineering](#). I had an inkling Sammie might end up my favorite, and he absolutely is. So relatable. While he is talking in no uncertain terms about helping the Resistance, [he turns around to see](#) an [Imperial Officer and a Sith Lord](#) standing to his far right. They swear they won’t tattle. We are forced to believe them. *This is just a little silly and I love that*. I introduce myself to Sammie as he gives me the hyperspace tracking program that is part of our secret plan. As I tap my M-band to the terminal, I look him dead in the eye and tell him I’ll do anything I can to

help take the bastards down. I don't know it yet, but he will really take this to heart. *I quietly hope saying "bastards" was ok as I walk back upstairs.*

8:15-8:30- I rejoin my parents in the Sublight. I meet the bartenders. They're aggressively friendly. Sandro approaches us. We complain about the First Order together. They interrupted Gaya's dinner performance and he is incredibly offended by that. He is here expressly to meet her and try to impress her with his musical skills. He asks me what I think of all this, and I tell him I'd throw them out the airlock if it was up to me. We briefly ponder the ethics of murdering fascists, then write a protest song about throwing them out the airlock. He spots Stormtroopers entering the Atrium and says "Let's show them our song." *Ok I guess this is happening.* I shove my fear of singing in public to the back of my mind and follow him. [We sing the protest song at the Stormtroopers](#) until Croy appears and they drag my new friend to the brig. I follow, yelling that he was doing nothing wrong and that singing isn't illegal but [they blow me off](#) and drag him away anyway.

8:50- [Captain Keevan chats with my dad and I am very proud of him.](#)

9:00- Bridge Training. We are split into teams and the teams cycle around to all the different ship systems and learn to use them. I love all these consoles, this is so much fun. [Red Rathtars 4ever.](#)

Sammie interrupts our bridge training. *Score.* He needs to do some important stuff for the Resistance. We've gotta jump to a new location to send a transmission and he needs help to do that [bc the console has two levers](#). I am blithely gazing out at space, just happy to be here. Surely he is about to call the name of some small child and absolutely make their year.

He says **my name?!** I blink, I turn around to see he's already looking at me. *I feel just a little like a princess.* Turns out, I am the person whose year was just made. I walk up the small ramp and place my hand on the right lever. We look at each other, he counts to three and we pull those damn levers in perfect synchronization. The ship jumps to Hyperspace and the way the blue light swirls around the room is legitimately enchanting. I focus very hard to mirror how he releases the lever as we pop back into the blackness of non-hyperspace. *Nailed it.* He thanks me and I return to my console, some of the magic of this place now permanently rubbed off on me. *Now I can die happy.*

We've gotta make contact with the Resistance about our next mission, which involves hacking into Kylo Ren's ship on Batau tomorrow. It's [R2 and 3PO](#). *Maybe I'm already dead and this is heaven.* Details are hashed out. The transmission ends. Sammie asks if we understand the TIE Echelon mission tomorrow and nobody says anything. He asks me directly. In my head, I'm yelling "We gotta steal the ship!" but I am too giddy to make the words come out. That's fine, somebody else says roughly that a moment later. *Sammie, I promise I am not an idiot.*

9:50- I FLOAT out of bridge training and we enjoy the evening toast aside from Croy being a big jerk and Sammie having to do awful stuff like bolting SK in the name of deep cover. (He similarly had to turn Chewie in earlier, which I neglected to mention.) People are jeering at him as he does this and I'm honestly a little rankled by it even if it does strengthen his cover. No matter, we will fix this mess tomorrow and I have complete faith in all of us. [Don't worry Sammie, I trust you implicitly.](#)

11:00- I'm already in my jammies when I get [a comm from Lenka](#). She needs me to go to a terminal and scramble some data to protect SK, who has just been bolted, from the probing of the First Order. I'd love to, I'm elated. I sneak to the terminal at the end of the hall in my jammies, giggling the whole time. I complete the mission and nonchalantly walk back to my cabin. Some other comms come through...Oh I am **totally** in the Resistance now. The Saja want my help too. It will be a busy day tomorrow. I get one final comm from Croy asking what I was doing with Sammie on the bridge and I leave him on read for the remainder of my voyage.

11:15- I use the droidlink panel and D3 tells me a bedtime story. It's A New Hope but with R2 as the hero. I feel like someone wrote this just for me. My eyes leak a little. I snuggle into my bunk. I feverishly write some notes about things that have happened to me. I recount these highlights to my boyfriend in the style of an excited 5 year old. He has very little context to understand anything I am saying, but he's glad I'm having such a good time.

[DAY 2](#)

6:20-7:30- My eyes pop open after maybe 6 hours of sleep. My parents are habitual early risers, and are already moving around. My mom opens the space window. I sit for a few minutes [enjoying the coziness of the bunk and its view of the cabin](#). I check my datapad.

I already have new comms from [Sammie](#) and the [Saja](#). Sammie's says "Are you ready to steal a ship today?" I struggle to put into words how this makes me feel, *but I feel a little like I am actually going to help this dude steal a ship*. The excitement I feel surely represents the apex of immersive entertainment, beyond what I imagined could be accomplished. I am so excited I skip the last couple of ladder rungs as I exit my bunk and jump down, giggling the whole way.

7:30-8:30- The light on the droidlink panel is flashing, so I use it after I get dressed. D3 gives me some information and advice about Batuu. We go down to the [breakfast buffet](#) and plan just a little while we eat, although we also talk about how blown all our minds are. [We review our missions](#). A CM comes by and asks if we're going to stay out of trouble on Batuu. I tell him probably not. He gives me a knowing smile and says "Maybe some good trouble." I nod. I am moved by his sincerity. We proceed to the transport and our pilot has an excellent playlist. This transport might be making me a little queasy but I'm too excited to care. Our feet touch Batuu at 8:30.

8:30-9:30- I receive a comm from Captain Keevan and we decide to hit up the Resistance base for her first.

...well, actually, I hack this TIE Echelon first because [we happen to be standing right in front of it](#). :) This is also a helpful tutorial for my parents in using the datapad on Batuu. I install the illicit program on the TIE. It makes a rumbly noise and I feel an immense sense of satisfaction. Then we head to the Resistance base. [Captain Keevan says we'll use our M-bands to transfer a message to General Organa](#) and I get warm fuzzies when I tap it to enter Rise of the Resistance.

This is my first time here and on this ride, wow!!!!!!!

9:30-10:30- After narrowly escaping the First Order and completing that mission, we head to the Falcon to steal Coaxium for Captain Keevan. She mentions we'll be picking up the coaxium on Corellia and I laugh because we have now failed to avoid both the First Order and Corellia for any meaningful length of time. We enter Smuggler's Run and now I need to tell you I'm pretty sure my mom's first love was Han Solo. She is an ultimate OG fan. I will never forget her reaction when we stepped into the cockpit. Just a look of absolute wonderment and a little gasp. It's priceless. We're pilot and co-pilot. My dad tries to convince my mom to swap with him and she shuts him down quicker than I've ever seen her shut anything down. Mom says it's good I have practice jumping to lightspeed. We are kind of terrible but we still get the job done.

10:30-12:00- We shop a little, we soak in the atmosphere. I want everything at Droid Depot, but I don't buy anything just yet. We circle around the outpost finishing the rest of our quests and sweating our butts off.

My mom has an appointment at Savi's at 11:30 and we scan crates to retrieve the Jedi artifacts for the Saja before checking in. I offer to let my dad accompany her but he insists I go. We check in and she chooses the Peace and Justice style scrap metal. As we wait to be let inside, we chat with other scrap metal enthusiasts. A CM comes over to talk to me. My bag says "Droid Rights" in aurebesh and he tells me he loves it. He has a couple of pit droids at home, rescues, just like my L3-LA. I tell him how nice it is to meet someone else who supports the cause. We chat for another moment and soon it is time to go inside. I watch my mom build her lightsaber and feel certain there is nobody on the planet who deserves this more. It's a wonderful experience. We head back to the Halcyon. I have never been so grateful for a complimentary water bottle.

12:15-2:00- Back on the ship, back to the lunch buffet, then back to the room to freshen up for our portraits later. The droidlink panel is flashing again, so I check on D3. A Stormtrooper harasses her mid-conversation and I tell him to come back with a warrant. I antagonize him to draw his ire away from her and it seems to work. My pie-in-the-sky Star Wars fantasy definitely involves mouthing off to Stormtroopers and I'm astonished at how frequently I'm getting to do that. I get a comm from Sammie asking me to do something in the cargo hold. I celebrate because I'll have access to it now and I've been wanting to poke around in there. I go back to the gift shop and stare even harder at the blue jumpsuits. I hold an XL up to myself and think it will probably fit, but put it back for now.

2:00-2:30- I am incredibly antsy about unbolting SK later. I go down and get another big cup of blue milk, then head to the climate simulator to pass some time. Saja Grace is there and he starts talking to me about The Force and serendipity and how it is significant that we are all here at this moment, together. I love his insights, but have a tough time conjuring something meaningful to say. Perhaps I am not force sensitive, but simply full of piss and vinegar. I decide that I'm good with that.

About that time, a family with a couple of kids walks in and Saja Grace draws them into our conversation. He tells us to gather around and he coaches their young daughter to focus on one stack of rocks. She does and they scatter. I flip out bc holy crap this kid has force powers. Saja Grace glows with pride. The

kid's face is plastered with a big, bashful grin. *It is absolutely incredible that a place like this exists and it is restoring my faith in humanity.*

2:30-3:45- Unbolting SK is maybe the most important mission of the day to me. I'm supposed to meet Lenka in the Atrium at 3:15 for this and honestly I've wanted to interact with her a little more. I am pumped. I am hype. I am in the Atrium early. It is mostly empty. [SK is restrained on the mezzanine and I look longingly at them.](#) There is one kid in here [driving his droid around](#), periodically crashing into stuff. He tells me about his droid maybe 5 different times, and I'm thankful this is a topic I can handle. He keeps taking the dome off and he has a really hard time getting it back on every time. *I am frankly a little worried for the droid.*

The Atrium slowly starts to fill up. Stormtroopers show up right around 3. Lenka appears just before 3:15 and I begin tailing her around as surreptitiously as possible. She dithers around a bit, presumably trying to avoid the troopers. Before I get the chance to say anything to her, I hear my name from behind me. I turn around. It's Sammie. He wants my help luring those Stormtroopers to the brig. *Ok I guess this is happening.* Perhaps I will never get to see SK up close, but this is a vital element of their rescue and I'm honored to assist. Also, Sammie is the [mf homie](#) so, yeah. As we walk towards the troopers, he whispers to me "Tell them you saw the wookie in the brig." I do tell them this. I tell them he is definitely down there and I can smell him from my cabin. We guide them downstairs and continue to spin lies about this wookie that is most certainly not in the brig. Sammie's deep cover antics must have worked very well because not only do they view him as an ally, but they believe the things I'm saying despite my near constant harassment of them up until this point.

The Stormtroopers glance inside the empty brig. Sammie and I tell them to go all the way in there, he's definitely in there. I sidle up to the door and subtly grab the handle. We continue to insist they check harder. Maybe he's trying to climb out through engineering, but he is totally in there. They foolishly believe us. Once they are all the way inside the room, Sammie says "Elizabeth, now." and I slam the door with such vigor it bounces back open just a lil bit and I gotta quickly correct for that.

The Stormtroopers are successfully trapped in the brig. They are dumbfounded. Sammie really takes advantage of the fact that these folks underestimate him and pretends to have no idea how this could've happened. Like, Oops, guess we gotta go get somebody to open this door because none of us can do it. He heads off to do that. I assure them someone will be there soon to let them out and walk away too.

I [start walking back upstairs](#) and run into my parents partway. They're talking to Sandro.

He's asking them for relationship advice. He and Ouannii are on the verge of being an item, but he has upset her. I stop and he tells me that Ouannii is super mad at him for talking about how Gaya could help his career. I say it's her loss if she doesn't see his value but he insists it would be entirely his loss. I really consider his predicament. I tell him to talk to her again. That, as an artist, she should be able to understand how much the opportunity means to him. She should support him. My dad assures him that all men screw up and my mom agrees. He thanks us. I really hope it all works out for that crazy kid, but I have Resistance business to attend to.

I walk into the Atrium to see Lt. Croy surrounded by people and remote controlled droids. SK is no longer on the mezzanine. I circle the group and eavesdrop. Croy is mad. Croy wants to know where SK has gone. I am hanging back, watching Croy be thwarted by an army of miniature rc droids, when Lenka walks up behind me and whispers in my ear. "Tell him they had babies." Now, at this point I've had more than I consider to be my fair share of cool moments. I was really intending to just observe, but Lenka gave me a task and by god I am not letting her down. *Do they somehow know I really wanted to meet SK and are they making it up to me on purpose?*

I scoot into the crowd until I'm [right next to Croy](#) and wait for a pause. I tell him SK had babies. He hates this explanation. "...It had BABIES?" He says in a way that is both extremely incredulous and extremely British.

I say "Yes, they had babies and must be...receiving aftercare." He looks at me like I am the biggest idiot to ever live. I cannot stop giggling.

Another guest piggybacks off this and says, "...Yeah it works like osmosis. It's just these droids now."

I run with this, "Yeah, like osmosis. Everybody knows that."

We mock Croy for not knowing this obvious droid fact. Through my guffaws, I double down, "Yeah Croy it's not our fault you don't know anything about droids." We are laughing at him as a group and he clearly does not like that. Other guests [continue to give him further conflicting information](#). A good time was had by everyone except Lt. Croy. This diversion ends when he becomes too frustrated to tolerate our nonsense anymore. I glide back downstairs to get more blue milk and check out the action, but it's pretty quiet. This is fine, because our portraits are soon.

3:45-5:00- I come back upstairs and see my parents have been roped into [playing Space Newlywed Game](#). This is amusing. They lose and are eliminated mere moments after I sit down. Our portraits are at 4:30, so we go back to the room for last looks and then head back down to meet our photographers. The photographer is nice, but extremely efficient. Her assistant is a bit of a jokester and they strike a great balance. It would've been nice to get some photos on the bridge, but I'm finding it impossible to experience any feelings of disappointment with all the gifts the sweet Lady H has bestowed upon me thus far. At some point during all this chaos, I see Rey is aboard the ship. I am happy to see her. I wish I'd had a character like her when I was a little kid, but I'm very glad she's here now.

5:00-5:30- We [end our portrait session](#) and head directly to lightsaber training. Saja Kyr leads the training and, frankly, she kicks a lot of ass. She shows us the basic forms of course, but I'm slightly taken aback when she begins twirling her saber around effortlessly and touches on some advanced techniques we definitely will not try today. I have as much fun [watching my parents](#) take their turns as I have taking mine. We exit the training pod and head to dinner. Another passenger offers me death sticks, and I'm so in character that I refuse without considering that it would be cool to keep one.

5:30-7:00- Another excellent dinner. I eat [cold shrimp](#) on purpose for the first time. The courses are themed to different planets and the lighting in the Crown of Corellia changes for every course. That

lighting deserves a raise, inanimate object or not. You really start to lose your sense of time on a spaceship, and it hits me just how late it's getting. I am still trying to soak in every moment of this experience and I am starting to wish it would slow down just a little. Gonna have to enjoy it while it lasts.

7:10-7:20- I enter the Lightsaber training room for the uncrating of the Jedi relics we helped retrieve earlier, my parents are doing this at a different time so I'm here alone. [I see SK in the corner](#) and I am really about to cry bc it's the closest I've been to them the whole cruise. I started feeling a bit like a fraud doing so much on the Jedi track when I might not even be force sensitive, but now I feel it was meant for me to come here. I'm one of the first people in the room and I sit down on a random bench without thinking about it. Rey approaches me and I'm definitely beaming up at her like an idiot, ready to do anything she needs.

She asks me to move *one seat* to the left and I happily oblige.

[Rey and Saja Kyr](#) open the crate to reveal a Holocron. It's too difficult for anyone to open alone, so we all center ourselves, focus on our presence in the moment and open the Holocron together. A hologram of Yoda bestows wisdom upon us. He talks about the uncertain times we find ourselves in, but says he can feel our connection to The Force and that we are never alone. I look at Yoda and then at Rey and Saja Kyr. I feel utterly connected to the fabric of Star Wars, like it all intersects right at this moment and it's crazy that I happen to be here too. It hits me in full force for the first time that I am existing directly after the events of the Star Wars film that means the most to me, personally. My brain flirted with this concept upon hearing the words "hyperspace tracking" at that first secret engineering room meeting, but now it's really sinking in and it's significant in ways I am unable to articulate. **For the first time in a minute, I really *don't* feel alone.** After the Holocron message ends, Rey gets quite serious for a minute. She and Kyr talk about how dangerous it would be if Kylo Ren got ahold of this, but that we can definitely beat him together. SK bleeps reassuringly at Rey and I cry just a little. This event has provided a brief moment of reflection. I am **truly sad** for anyone who will not meet the wonderful characters populating this ship and feel this little corner of Star Wars. I did not think it was possible for me to love Star Wars any more than I already did, but my one-sided relationship with the media has begun to feel reciprocal in a very unexpected way. I will never look at Star Wars quite the same and I know I'll have a hell of a time explaining that to anyone who can't see how special this place is with their own eyeballs.

7:25-8:10 - I've got a little bit until I'm supposed to meet Sammie on the Bridge at 8:15, so I consider catching my breath for a moment. This evening is becoming a blur. It's such a blur that I know the following things happened, but the exact sequence may not be correct.

I go back to the room and watch the lousy tie fighter blockade [whiz around the ship](#).

I catch some of Sandro's apology song to Ouannii. She seems charmed. When he looks over, I give him a thumbs up from across the atrium which he returns.

My parents and I eat the spicy popcorn from the snack station at Passenger Services. It says "Starcruiser popcorn" on the label.

[Croy crashes the party once again](#) to let us know they found the coaxium we stole on Smuggler's Run. (Don't worry, he doesn't manage to keep all of it) If I boo any louder I will lose my voice. A Saja tries to take the fall for having it aboard, but then random guests start claiming it, Spartacus style. *Technically, none of them are wrong.* Watching Croy lose his patience when we decide to be confusing will never get old.

During Gaya's acoustic set, I jump in the dancing horde for a minute because using a dancing crowd to hide stuff is fun. This dancing horde is a front for sneaking some coaxium away from Croy, Raithe is crouched in the middle of the horde. I admire the simplicity and effectiveness of this technique which allows for such a flexible number of guests to participate. (In fact, many of the "Cruise Activities" on the schedule have a dual function. Guests who take them at face value may enjoy them, but they're also usually a distraction as well.)

I sit and chat with a guest who has a service dog. She is very nice. She tells me that long Covid had some devastating effects on her health, that even if she's not 100% on what's happening in the story sometimes because of the brain fog she's still having such a wonderful and warm time. She tells me how significant it is for her to just relax in a pleasant environment and that she's glad she got to come. The kid with the droid from earlier keeps harassing her dog with his droid and she has the patience of a saint.

I go back into the Sublight with my parents for a minute and the bartenders say they're glad to see I am safe, because they thought I may have been thrown in the brig. I genuinely appreciate their concern. *My brain plays a snippet of the Cheers theme song without my permission.*

8:10-9:10- Sammie shows up in the Atrium, by the left Bridge entrance. I beeline over to him. I see the kid with the force powers and her family over here too. I'm glad she is on our side. She has a cute little round purple case that I recognize as part of Gaya's luggage and, obviously, it contains the coaxium Raithe artfully snagged earlier when Croy wasn't paying attention. The kid has a older sister and they are both minding the case. Sammie sees me and motions for me to come closer. He places a hand on my shoulder and tells me to get my family because, while other people stay on the bridge, he is gonna take us down to Engineering for something special. *I wonder if I have actually achieved my lifelong impossible dream of befriending a fictional character.* My mom is right behind me and I tell her to collect dad. She does and Sammie tells me to help the kids protect the case as we all start to file onto the Bridge. The kid is sorta fiddling with the case and I tell her to be careful because it might explode. She laughs mischievously and quickly takes her hands away from it.

Sammie is talking to us all on the Bridge when Lenka shows up. [She seems very slightly concerned](#) about executing such a [dangerous plan with passengers aboard](#), but everybody here agrees the risk is worth it. *I would definitely die for these characters at this point.* So we're all kind of in the Resistance now, yay!

They discuss the plan. Lenka will lead the bridge. Sammie grabs the few of us he picked, along with some other folks from the Bridge and takes us down to Engineering. Some other people follow as we head down there, but that's ok we will totally need some more people. [Chewie is there](#) when we arrive and we talk more in detail about the risky trick we are about to pull, resetting the systems and [using the remaining coaxium](#) to circumvent a potential First Order shutdown of the ship.

Sammie also delivers one hell of a rousing monologue about it all in which he talks about how none of us are really trained for this but we can definitely do it together. [I am standing more or less directly in front of him](#). We occasionally lock eyes while he is delivering this monologue and I am quite honestly completely shook by how authentic this feels. *Am I a Star Wars? I never feel this important in real life. What even is this place and how do they make it feel like this?* He finishes his speech and everyone is pumped up. He starts distributing datatapes and hands me one. I look at it like it's an enchanted object and scoot off to life support. We insert the datatapes, we reset the systems.

We screw up the first time.

I'm not too sure who screws up, but not all the systems turn blue on the ship map. That's ok, Sammie and Chewie still believe in us and we just gotta try it again. We complete our second attempt and you could hear a pin drop while we wait for the little blue lights on the ship map to come on. They all illuminate this time and everyone cheers. [We all celebrate](#) and Sammie and Chewie thank us. My mind is extremely blown. My dad cheerfully tells us that Chewie patted him on the back while he was minding the levers in his section. This is the most enthusiastic I have ever heard him be about Star Wars.

I'm not even really sure what to do with myself after that. We hang out in the atrium for a bit, but eventually I succumb to the urge to go back downstairs and look for trouble. I see Rey talking to a group of guests. One woman is obviously a First Order supporter and Rey is really, earnestly trying to have a conversation with her about it. I watch this woman struggle with her own life decisions as she tries to argue her point. I say she's a fool if she believes the First Order wouldn't sacrifice her in an instant. She looks at me and I hope that wasn't too out-of-pocket. Some other people agree and Rey pleads again for the woman to just hear her out. I think she is starting to cave. I listen for a little longer before I head back upstairs again and I wonder if we could make more headway in the real world if we all just agreed to play pretend all the time.

9:10-11:00- I hang out with my parents in the atrium until the shipwide alert alarm goes off. We watch the finale and it's great but it's also a blur. I cheer so hard that my throat hurts. It starts to sink in that this is almost over and my brain kind of can't handle that.

The finale concludes and I make the biggest error of my entire life by thinking to myself, "I'll wait for people to clear out a little bit before I get any holoscans with the characters." I now believe this was my brain's very unsophisticated way of trying to deny that the story was over. I went to the room for a minute and then went downstairs for a minute and when I came back everyone was gone already. What the heck. It felt like an instant. I did not get holoscans with anybody, but most of all I did not get a holoscan with Sammie, nor did I get to properly say bye, and **I. am. a. Moron.** I assure myself that a holoscan is not as important as the memories I have. *Maybe someone took pictures of us doing something cool and will post them online.* I go back downstairs and watch Sandro and Ouannii perform while [I drink more blue milk](#) and shove brightly colored desserts into my face to stave off the hint of sadness creeping up. Then it is time for bed. I stand in the hallway and enjoy the ambient spaceship rumble outside the cabin for a minute. My dad is already asleep when I go inside and my mom is getting

into bed. I turn the volume down on D3 as low as I can and whisper to her. I take a shower, put on jammies and climb into my bunk. I'll miss you, bunk.

DAY 3

6:15-7:30- I wake up and am immediately hit with the sensation that I don't want to leave. It's still impossible to feel too sad because this whole trip has been so wonderful. I drag just a little bit of ass getting my luggage together and putting it outside the cabin. I was gonna wear regular clothes today, but I just can't stomach the thought so I wear my vest, my bag and L3-LA with a different shirt/pair of shorts as a compromise. I talk to D3 for the last time. She thanks me for saving her from the Stormtrooper yesterday and says that she was inspired by my bravery. I am actually crying. This conversation is absurdly heartfelt and *I feel so much like a Star Wars*.

We head downstairs and I'm a little surprised to see that the gift shop is open. I know what I must do. I grab the XL child's blue jumpsuit and place it on the counter. I buy the hell out of that jumpsuit.

7:30-8:30- We eat breakfast and I screencap all the info from my datapad. [I'm happy with what I've accomplished](#). I enjoy the [vibes of the Crown of Corellia](#) one last time. I get another big cup of blue milk even though I just drank a big cup of coffee. I try all the different juices in an effort to stretch out my time here as much as possible. We finally get up and drag our butts back upstairs. We visit the bridge one last time and I take some selfies looking sad, because I don't know how else to process my current emotions. We soak it all in for just a few more minutes and then take the transport back down to reality.

I'm thankful we're going back to Batuu today. As soon as we get to our next hotel room, I try on the jumpsuit and it fits pretty great, yay.