Bayley - Age 16

March 29, 2020

Corona Virus

The only word I'd use to describe this whole thing is fake. Nothing feels real because it all seems like one big joke. The thing is, I know this is all very real and very scary for the elderly and vulnerable, but laughing at the jokes that have come out of this situation is all I have. I live in a generation where we have 18 months to save the planet from irreversible climate changes and a global pandemic at the same time. Basically, the odds of the world ending in my lifetime seem kind of high, so laughing feels like a good way to stop myself from seeing how depressing that really is.

People have taken to calling this quarantine experience "coronacation" and, honestly, I relate to that. Going to sleep at 3am has become a normal thing for me and going to sleep earlier than that just doesn't feel right. I still wake up early for school, but now it starts at 8:45 which means I wake up at 8:45.

Being on my computer for hours at a time has become super normalized and it's weird. My mom doesn't get mad at me for staring at a screen endlessly because she knows it's probably school related because she knows every teacher is piling on work due to the extra free time they think we have now. I just want to go back to school and I never thought I'd say that. I didn't realize how much of my social life relied on physically going to school, but now that I've had this experience I miss leaving the house.

What really sucks is that I haven't seen my grandpa in a month and probably won't for a really long time. He's 86 years old which means he's incredibly susceptible to the virus and my dad is scared that me and my siblings are asymptomatic carriers. It's weird to go so long without talking to him in person after seeing him once a week for my whole life. My cousins were supposed to come in from out of town, but because of this outbreak, they can't. I just never realized that someone eating bat soup would cause such a great and widespread tragedy. But that's why it feels so fake. Someone ate a bat, got a virus and it got so bad, people starting dying. It sounds like a plot straight out of a cheesy dystopian teen movie.