

Name: Brendan Lancaster
Grade: 6th
Title: Colony

June 6, 2252

Dear Journal,

Today I found out it was the twelfth year I have been living inside of the subaquatic vessels. There are fifteen other pods in my Colony. Today was totally normal, my mom was in the factory as usual, and I spent the day walking around the connection tubes. Not much more for a boy my age to do except look at fish all day.

I saw a big red fish outside the glass tube hallway and it had seriously big teeth. They had to be at least a foot long each. I ran away from there, even though that glass is basically immune to breaking, and nothing could happen; it was pretty scary looking. I told mom about it, she said it was fine, just that the glass wouldn't break anytime soon. I sure hope that it won't!

June 7, 2252

You won't believe this! When I was walking outside of my pod, Ryku ran over and said that scientists are working to let us go up to the surface. I've never been up there! Since world war 3 in 2193 of China and Korea against just about everyone, the air was poisoned with radiation. Everyone, and everything, that didn't get away soon after died a slow death of radiation. Except for cockroaches, which don't get affected from radiation. Things that did survive- were mutated into monsters.

All of the survivors were forced to live underwater in the subaquatic vessels. Down here there's filtered air, but it's a limited supply. We've been down here for forty years. My mom and dad were born down here, and so was I. My dad was lost when he was working on the air chutes though, a long time ago, just after I was born.

I can't wait to see the surface! It would be so amazing, and mom says we can see a Sun! She has heard that it's beautiful, and that it's yellow. She hasn't seen it herself though, so we both get to find out!

June 13, 2252

Early this morning I started coughing. I don't know why; diseases were killed off a long time ago, or we found the vaccines for them. Not that it really matters that I would have a cough, anyway.

Mom was coughing too, and so was Ryku, my friend.

I saw the fish again. There were two of them this time, which is even scarier. Mom says it's okay though.

June 14, 2252

We learned why we were coughing. One of the eighteen air vents broke down. It was bound to happen sometime or later, given that it is 40 years old. Our filtering system couldn't handle all the smoke at once. We're fine now, but everyone is still coughing. The grown ups are worried that if one has broken down, the other ones will have to work harder and might break down too. That could make things a lot worse. I talked to Ryku and he's scared too. But it's probably like the big fish; we are probably safe so I will try not to worry about it.

June 15, 2522

The nutrient pills from the meal factory chute started to have a funny taste. They were a little bit salty. My mom and I both noticed it. She says that it must be a good thing because it means the factory is starting to grow new food.

But the only thing is, she works at the factory that supplies all of our meal pills, and no one mentioned growing new food. She was confused, but she said that there's no reason to argue over it and we ate our B and D pills for dinner.

June 18, 2522

We heard there's three more broken air vents, and double as much coughing. There was even more smoke today; about double as much as five days ago. There are only 14 functioning air vents now. Everyone in the Colony is worried.

So much has gone on in the last few days that its making my head spin. I really hate this, and I hope this all stops. I wish we could just go to the surface, then we won't need to eat pills for dinner, see scary fish and live on the sea floor in these tiny pods.

Speaking of scary fish, I saw more of those creepy fish, with a swarm gathered behind it. It looked at me with its empty black eyes. I'll probably have a nightmare. It had a big light on its head like our portable Hard Light sticks. I wish they would leave.

June 19, 2522

I went to Ryku's pod and saw that they had a few boxes of meal pills. I asked him why they had so many and he said that his dad just brought them home. His dad is the leader of the Colony. I asked him why his dad got extra meal pill boxes, but he didn't answer me. His dad always seems to know things before the rest of our Colony does...

I think it's weird. Mom can't get extra pills, and she works at the factory! I don't see any reason to stockpile the pills, we get new deliveries from the chute every day, and just one of the pills gives us all the nutrition that we need.

June 20, 2522

A fifth air vent broke down today, and no one in our Colony can fix it. We heard an announcement on the intercom that scientists were preparing our elevator to the surface. We will be the first Colony to the surface. I'm scared, but I'm glad because the smoke is really getting to me. It's getting harder to breathe.

We got fewer pills today; we only got one for each meal. I had a D, E and C pill for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

June 21, 2522

I think Ryku's Dad got those pills to keep them safe until we can reach surface. Mom said that food growth has been slow at the factory since the air vents started crashing. Two air vents crashed overnight, and a third crashed today. Our Colony is suffocating. Going to the surface is our only option... if the scientists don't open our elevator soon we will all die. Mom says I shouldn't write so much and "conserve my strength". I still write in secret, when she's in her chamber.

I'm starting to think the fish might be breaking the air vents somehow; they are the only

vulnerable point on our subaquatic vessels. There seems to be more and more of those sharp-toothed fish every time I look out of the window. They just stare back at me with their hungry eyes.

June 25, 2522

Five whole air vents broke down today; FIVE! I can't run there's so little air. Mom got about 25 pills from the factory and she's locked our pod door. She says I can't let anyone in our pod and I can't go out- no matter what- until the elevator is finished...*if* it gets finished.

June 26, 2522

We heard an announcement that surface elevators could be running as soon as tomorrow. I can't wait, I'm so excited! I wanted to sleep this time away, but I can't sleep. It's so exciting! I'm scared too, because no one knows for sure if we will be able to survive at the surface.

We only have three air vents now. Mom and I are down to 20 pills.

June 27, 2522

Turns out they messed up on the calculations of when the elevator will be done, and we still have to wait another day until we can go up to the surface. We have no more air vents. I can barely breathe, and mom is coughing in her sleep. I never knew that was possible.

Only a few more pills until we're out. Better finish soon on that elevator!

June 28, 2522

The elevator is finished. We could barely make it into the elevator before it went to the surface, and everyone was in there. We were last to get to the elevator, mom and me, and everyone else almost left.

It went up, and everyone was silent. All of us were too excited, and some of us scared, like me. Everyone was nervous of what was to come.

The seconds passed by as what seemed like hours. I started to think the elevator stopped. It didn't though, and the elevator continued.

Then the doors opened.

Light blinded my eyes. I couldn't see, and I stumbled about. I heard a cracking. I knew it was dirt because of a book I read. I finally opened my eyes, and I saw so many new colors I had never seen before.

I took a breath and fresh air filled my lungs. I felt like singing, I was so happy! Real light warmed my body and made me feel better than I ever had. It felt like paradise.

There's no reason to keep writing in this diary any longer. It holds haunting memories of what life was like in the subaquatic Colony. We will build a new Colony now, above ground. We will remember the War and our life underwater. I'm ready to start our new lives. Thank you for reading my journal, whomever you are.