By Quang Huynh

**A Journey**

would lose. So yeah, we played that for a while, for at least 15 minutes. I blurred out, “Get rekt’d!” Then Hanson replied with “Well, gg, I will wreck you next time!” I think I won 8 rounds and lost 4 rounds. Finally, our parents were done with these papers. The register clerk gave us our room numbers and some cards to get into our rooms. “Have fun!” He said, as we went out the door. Since it is July 3, when we were watching TV, me and my mom heard fireworks. It was beautiful, but quite annoying. Then, we slept, and again, we had to wake up very early at 5:00 am. I had a very strange dream. It was about some Doritos eating Doritos. It was cannibalism. It kept repeating over and over, very strange dream. Then, all of a sudden, BOOM! An explosion. I woke up, shocked it

“No! I don’t want to go!” I said, rolling my eyes after. I thought New York City was going to be boring. Places being crowded, old, people stealing and all the traffic. “Why not?” My mom asked. I thought about it. Then I replied, “Well.. because I think it’s not going to be fun!” But I was wrong.. “Oh, look, there’s Tammy’s car! Let’s go.” Mom said. “Also, did you get your bags ready?” I responded with “Yes, I did.”

After that, my mom and I were heading towards Tammy’s car. I opened the back doors and went in. I saw Tammy, her husband, Will, and also her mom and dad, and a surprise. “Hi there.” Hanson Chau said. “How’s life?” Then I automatically said “Great. How was seventh grade?” I asked Hanson. Then I think he was thinking for a response because it took 8 seconds for him to finally talk. “It was good. Our class was good and not talking that much. Well… how do are you going to feel middle school”? I thought about it, then I said “Hmm.. probably going to be hard. Dude, I toured it this summer on a field trip. It was pretty big, how do you even get around without getting lost?” Hanson then said, “You will get used to it, I was pretty confused on my first day of middle school. I still remember the struggle.” The talking went on and on, us taking turns and taking time to listen, until we reached the bridge to Pennsylvania. It was beautiful! So beautiful that Hanson and I were taking pictures of the beautiful hills and the lakes with our phones. That meant we were talking for about three hours straight, non-stop. Well, after when we were finished taking pictures of the beautiful landscapes, and the lakes, me and Hanson were tired, so we just slept.

While Tammy was still driving, we suddenly woke to up the sound of… car noises and music. I wondered where the music came from. I definitely knew where the car noises were from, duh, the outside traffic that was occurring. I started to open my eyes and we were at the McDonald drive thru, also, the person in front of me had their speakers on full volume. That was probably why there was music. I looked to my right, Hanson was beginning to wake up. “Awaaaahhhhh!!!” Hanson screeched. “Dude, where’s that music coming from?” Wow, I thought in my head. He was thinking the same thing as me when I woke up. “Dude, that’s the car in front of us.” Hanson face changed, “What is that song? Barbie??” Then, I laughed, “Probably..” Meanwhile, my mom and Tammy looked at the morning menu of McDonalds. Then, they both looked at us. Then Hanson looked at me, it was my choice. I finally blurred out “Umm, can we get McGriddles?” Afterward, Tammy responded in a sweet voice, “Yes!” So, after when my mom paid for the food, Hanson passed his Tater Tots to his grandpa and grandma in the car. Then, after when Hanson gave his Tater Tots away, Tammy gave us our McGriddles. We started to unwrap the wrapping. Bliingg! A Fresh, Delicious McGriddle, with bacon, an egg, and cheese. We took one bite. I started to ask Hanson, “Dude, why are McGriddles so sweet?” Hanson then looked at the bread, he saw glimpses of syrup. “It is probably syrup, I even see some.” Hanson replied. I started to look closely at the bun, “Ohh.. there is!” All of a sudden, thirty seconds passed, and both of us already finished our sandwiches. Meanwhile, the car went out of the drive thru and into the highway, Tammy was driving us somewhere, and we didn’t know where. “Mommmii! Where are we going??” Hanson yelled. “We’re going to the hotel” Tammy said. In between the ride from McDonalds to the Red Inn, we talked about some spicy memes, such as Donald Trump, which was currently blowing up, and some vines.

45 Minutes Later

It was 10:00, we checked our phones, then 10:01. When Tammy picked us up, it was only 5:30 am. About 5 hours passed, and now, finally, we have arrived at the hotel. Hanson, me, my mom, Tammy, Will, and also Hanson’s grandparents, packed up our stuff and went inside. The hotel was very cool, about 45 degrees, even though it was July 2th, the summer. So we chilled out and played some video games while the adults did some forms and paper. Also, I had a Captain America hat, it was cool. We sat in these very comfy chairs and played some Would You Rather. Based on which question has a larger percent, that question wins, and the lower percent loses. For example, Would You Rather: Be invincible or invisible, and you chose be invisible, (Invisible = 45% 450,000 votes ; Invincible = 55% 550,000 votes) you would lose. So yeah, we played that for a while, for at least 15 minutes. I blurred out, “Get rekt’d!” Then Hanson replied with “Well, gg, I will wreck you next time!” I think I won 8 rounds and lost 4 rounds. Finally, our parents were done with these papers. The register clerk gave us our room numbers and some cards to get into our rooms. “Have fun!” He said, as we went out the door. Since it is tttttttttt 3, when we were watching TV, me and my mom heard fireworks. It was beautiful, but quite annoying. Then, we slept, and again, we had to wake up very early at 5:00 am.

RUM… RUM!!! SWOOSH! “Ahhhh!!” Zoom… That was the day I was brave, going down 3.60 G-Force, going 51 miles per hour. Sheeh. Pamp, Pamp! “Woah! What an amazing view!” At 90 feet high.

was only a dream. Then my mom said to pack all our bags up because we are going somewhere else. “C’mon, let’s pack all our stuff up!” Mom said. I just woke up, so I was tired. “Ookkayy! I’m going to brush my teeth first.” Mom responded with “Ok, get ready when your done!” So, when I was done brushing my teeth, I packed up, and then double checked if I left anything behind. Nothing, great! Let’s move on! So we regrouped at the car. Tammy unlocked the car and we all got in, when we got in though, Hanson asked a question. “Where are we going now?” Then all of a sudden, Tammy’s voice got more gentle, as if her voice wasn’t already gentle enough, “We’re going to Hershey’s Park...!” Just after when Tammy said that, I saw a lightbulb sprung off Hanson’s head. “Ohh! I remember now! Dude, Quang, Hershey Park is an amusement park. I’ve been there before, it is awesome! The rollercoasters were sky high!” As soon as he said “sky high” I imagined me on a rollercoaster. “Scary..” I said. Then, Hanson said, “I’ve been on this ride, and it drops 105 feet, and you had to stand up! It was so fun!” I thought about that. Fun huh, you meant death.. I said under my breath. “What?” Hanson asked. “Nothing…” I said.

Finally, we were there, at Hershey’s Park. Above the high walls were.. rollercoasters, and I hated rollercoasters. So, we were at the parking lot. Hanson then put on some sunscreen, same with me. “You see that yellow one?” Hanson said, “Let’s go on that! That one seems fun!” I gulped, “Ss..ure…” I said, shaking. I followed Hanson into the entrance, I didn’t know where it was since that was my first time there. We went in, and I saw a giant pond, it looked awesome. “Look! A pond, or a lake?” I asked Hanson. Hanson then said, “I don’t know, probably a pond.” We then went to the ticket booth and bought some tickets. We looked at the receipt. “WHAT? $63 FOR EACH TICKET?” Hanson yelled. “Woah, that means if there is 6 people..” Then I did some math. 6 x 3 = 18, 60 x 6 = 360, 360 + 18 = 378. “That means we have to pay $378 dollars…” I sighed.. So we split up, Will went with his parents, so that means I went with Hanson, my mom, and Tammy. Hanson wanted to go on the yellow one, so we did. We walked over there. I looked up. “Wooah…” I said, gently. “That is one tall rollercoaster…” Hanson said ”Yeah, about 105 feet, the one I told you about” Well, if Hanson said it was fun, maybe it is for me. I looked, there was no line! Maybe that was because we arrived so early. It was currently 6:00 am. I got in, standing up, and promised myself not to close my eyes, because every other rollercoaster I’ve been in, I closed my eyes. Then I said “You wann-“ PPSSHH!! Off It goes! “Aahhh!!” As I promised myself, I would not close my eyes and enjoy the view. Bump. Bump. Bump. We were going up. Cssshh. “Dude, we’re going down!” Hanson yelled. “AAHHHHH!!!” The two of us screamed, because we were the only ones on the ride. There were some loopy-loops too. WRROOOP. “Dude, that was awesome! Let’s go on that one now!” Hanson said, wobbling. “Sure!” I said. At that point, I thought rollercoasters were awesome. I now wondered why I didn’t like them before. So, we ran over to the “Lightning Racer” and rode on it, there were only two people this time. Me, Hanson, my mom, and Tammy. We all rode it together. Then we sat. “3.. 2... 1.. Launch!” PSSSHHHHH!!! Off we go, and we took a left turn, leading up to a right curve. Bump, Bump, Bump, we were going up. We’re going to drop 90 feet, a little slightly to the right. “AAAAHHHHHH!” We all yelled, as it went around to the left, going up and down again. “Aaahh!! Woo-woo!” After that, we went into a tunnel, where it took a picture of our reactions. Then ended with a bump, guess what, we won! There we’re two different carts, one to the left and one to the right, we took the one to the left, and we won! Then, we rode it again, this time, Hanson said “Dude, you know in that tunnel it takes a picture? Well, when we go into the tunnel, dab!” So I accepted the challenge. We went on it, we were winning, again! We were starting to enter the tunnel, DAB! My elbow was crooked, but my elbow didn’t make it around the frame. When the ride was over, me and Hanson won again. We got off into the exit. There it was, a picture of me dabbing and Hanson briefly whipping or nae-nae-ing, I don’t know. After that, we went on 6 more rides, next we went to the Hershey’s Park Water Playground. It was basically a playground, a very tall playground, about 125 feet. We went up and up, the first “floor” there was a kiddie slide, then a trap. There was a button, Hanson pressed it, the button made the bucket tilt and all the water went on me! I laughed. Then, we went through a bridge, next, we climbed a ladder. We saw a button, and pressed it. SHUUSSHHH!! We tilted the giant bucket, and by the way, it was a secret area too, the Giant Bucket button. So we waited for the Giant Bucket to fill up again. Then, Hanson sees someone. He waits for the perfect time, and BEEP. Splash! Water goes all over the teenager. Suddenly, he went somewhere, into a secret cave, and pulled out some water guns! He sprayed us, but then, Hanson went into the Giant Bucket button room, and looked at the cameras, then at the right time, SSSHHUUUUSSHHH!!! Water came everywhere! The teenager was soaked, but I was on the top floor, shooting these Water Torrents at Hanson. “What was that?” Hanson wondered. Then I yelled “It was me! Imma rekt you!!” Then, Hanson said, “Are you sure a’boot dat?” Immediately, Hanson ran up, to the other side of me, and got into a “Water Torrent” and tried to shot me. It was not far enough. Then, he thought of an idea. He aimed up a little, and it got me all wet! “Ha!” Hanson yelled, “How you like that?” It went on and on, we went on the water slides too, it was so fun! In fact, we went on all of the water slides at the Water Playground. After all of that, at least 1 hour passed, and our group went into the wave pool. We were just chilling, and then a huge wave came. Hanson and I did operation “Butt-Ground,” basically, you had to make your bottom touch the bottom of the pool, and stay there until the wave is over. Of course, we went up to the surface, getting air. All of a sudden, the life guards told us to evacuate the pool. I wondered why? Then, a life guard said “Attention All Swimmers! You Must Evacuate The Pool! Somebody Did An Accident There!” Then we both laughed. “Poop or pee?” We both said. After all that drama, we went on the log ride, It was tall as the 90 feet rollercoaster we went on before. It was so tall! I thought it was going to be fun. We tried to go on it, but the entrance was actually through the gate, thus we had to go all the way around the park and ride it, in our swimming

suits, which were shorts, and a water-proof shirt. When we finally went around the park and into the entrance, there was a whole line! We had to wait, for about 10 minutes. “Finally! It is our turn. How are you going to feel about this ride?” Hanson said, curiously. I then replied “Dude, I think it’s going to be awesome!!” We went over the line, and got into the log. It was very uncomfortable. Then, streams of water pushed us upward, into the curve that would soon lead us down, making a giant splash. We we’re going up, and there were fences surrounding the green slide, making not a perfect view, but the view was okay. Now, we were at the curve, and just about to go down, making a huge wave. “Aaahhhhh! Hanson screeched, as the log speeded through the water. There were some people looking above on the bridge, soaked. “Dude, that was awesome!” Hanson said. “Where do you want to go next?” I thought about it, then said “Let’s go to the lazy river!” So, we did. We either had these really clear transparent tubes, or these blurry transparent tubes. But either way, they were basically the same. So we took at least 3 laps around, and we stopped. We then went to our moms. “It’s time to leave! Pack all of your stuff up and change your clothes.” Tammy said. That is what we did. We went into the men’s bathroom and changed in the stalls. Then, we packed our swimming clothes into a plastic bag, and regrouped at the entrance of Hershey’s Park. Me, Hanson, my mom, Tammy, Will, and Will’s parents, were all at the pond. Then, after a few moments of silence, Will finally said “Want to go into the Hershey Building?” All of us said “Yes” at the same time. Let me tell you this, it was awesome there! The employees over there gave out free Hershey’s chocolate bars to everyone that went to Hershey’s Park, at least that’s what I think. Then, we bought some chocolate chip muffins. We saved them in the car to eat when we were hungry. “What did you do at Hershey’s Park, Will?” Hanson asked. Will responded with “I went to the zoo.” Hanson was confused, thus he yelled “YOU WENT TO THE ZOO THE WHOLE TIME?? YOU WASTED MONNEYY!” At that time, my face was probably like ( ͡° ͜ʖ ͡°), just watching them argue. It was strange and weird. After all of that, we bought some popcorn with chocolate pudding and marshmallows inside. When we bought the biscuits, there was a “cute” Hershey’s Kisses. “Let’s take a picture!” My mom exclaimed. “Sure..” I said. There was someone in front of me, so I had to wait. When she and her son just finished with the shoot, I stepped forward, then somebody had cut me. I was mad inside, but was just calm on the outside. After when they were finished, I tried to step forward again, and another person had cut me. I was furious, so this was what I said to my mom, “Let’s leave, people here think I’m invisible and just cut me.”

So we left, went into the car, and drove off, taking one last picture before we went out of the parking lot. “Mommy, where are we going now?” Hanson said. “We’re now going to New York City.” Said Tammy. We were at Hershey’s Park for at least 4 hours, it was 10:05 AM. We headed for downtown New Jersey, which we and Hanson thought we saw a tornado. “Dude!! I think I see a tornado!” I exclaimed. Hanson took a look, “Oh my gosh! I think it may be a tornado!!” Both of us, took a zoomed in picture, and realized it was only a cloud. We started laughing. “Hahahahaaa!!” We both laughed. “Mom, we both thought that a twisting cloud was a tornado!” Hanson said to his mom. After that statement, we and Hanson were so tired, that during a sentence, we slept. It went something like this: “So yeah, I took a picture of it, and we real..ized.. it was… a.. tornad… ZZzzzzZZZ” So, meanwhile when we were sleeping, we didn’t know what was happening, because we aren’t aware. It was about 2 hours later when we woke up. Meanwhile Hanson was still sleeping, I reached out my phone, and played some games while Hanson was snoozing, listening to music as he did, with his iPod. When Hanson finally woke up, he made this high pitched yell, every time he woke up. “AAAaaaawwwwhhhh!!!” Hanson screeched. “What time is it?” Then, I took a look on my phone. “It is 12:42 PM.” Hanson stayed in this poker face, and calmly said, “Okay, thanks, you want to play some…” Then he yelled “GOOGLE?” Now im wondering, Google is now a “game?” I asked him, “Wait, what you mean by that?” He replied confidently, “Just search up things on Google.” Well, at this point, I thought he lost his mind. “Okay… sure.” Then he immediately said, “Sake, boi. Let’s actually play Minecraft though.” So we did, I took out my tablet and turned on multiplayer. Hanson joined. We played for a while until we reached a tunnel. “What is this?” Hanson asked. “This is the tunnel leading to New York City.” Tammy replied. “Ooohh…” Hanson responded. It took like 12 minutes until we actually reached the other side, mostly because of traffic. I looked up, and BAM! There were highways, tall buildings, and even taller ones behind those ones, helicopters, and more! It was an amazing sight. After about 5 minutes, we went to a parking a lot, next to the hotel where we were going to stay. It was called, “24-Hr Parking,” so, we parked, got “tickets” to confirm later that if we came back, it would be us. “Let’s get all of your stuff, we’re going to walk!” Tammy said. “A very long one…” I looked at Hanson, “Dude, have you been here before?” I asked, then Hanson responded with “Yeah, it is awesome here… very awesome..” He sounded so bold, maybe sarcastic-ness? So, we walked over there to the hotel we were going to stay. “Where is this ‘hotel’ your talking of?” Hanson said. Then, Hanson saw a homeless person. He pulled out a $20 Dollar Bill and gave it to him. “Here you go, have fun.” Hanson said, then the homeless person responded with “Oh my gosh! Thank you so much! You are blessed, so blessed. Thank you so much.. you don’t know how much this means to me. Bless you.” Hanson then said, “No problem.” Very generous of him. Finally, we saw the hotel. It was next to a highly graffiti-ed wall. It was beautiful. So, that was how I had to make sure it was really our hotel, with the pink, red, and orange, slight green and blue, graffiti on the walls on the building on the other side of the hotel. “You see that over there? That is the hotel, with the flowers and bushes at the entrance” Will said. What I saw was a ton of flowers, not literally, but just a whole line of flowers, bushes and two trees. There was a red carpet leading to the door. “Wow.. so complex and futuristic.” I said. It truly was, not really, but in my mind, it was. “I sorta agree with you.” Hanson said, “But the owners are wealthy. ”We had all of our bags, and put them in the storage. “Where is the storage?” I asked, then Will responded with “You have to put your stuff near the bar, and you probably have to ask someone.” So I chilled out with Hanson, sitting in some very comfortable

your stuff near the bar, and you probably have to ask someone.” So I chilled out with Hanson, sitting in some very comfortable chairs over near the bar. “It is ready” Will said, “Put all of your stuff over here,” then he leaded me and Hanson to the storage area. “Welcome sir, how may I help you?” An employee said. Will said, “Well, we have our cards now, can we put our bags here?” The employee then said, “Show us your cards, please” Then, Will showed him our room card. “Okay, place your stuff here, have fun!” The employee finally said, and placed our stuff safety on the shelf, also, you can’t even get into the storage room unless a security guard was there, they have access to getting in, so no one plans on stealing anything. We explored the hotel, and found out there was a whole restaurant! Next to the restaurant were the bathrooms. Apparently, everyone needed to go to the bathroom. There were only two rooms for the bathroom, the women’s, and the men’s restrooms. We took turns. When we were finished, we went to the elevators and went to our floors. I slept with Hanson, Tammy, and my mom. Will slept with his parents. So, me and Hanson’s room had a TV, with a remote control. So, we watched some cartoons, eating the popcorn filled with chocolate that we bought from Hershey’s Park. Hanson and I mostly ate the marshmallow, but also ate the popcorn as well. It was great. I stared out the window. The Empire State Building was glowing red, white, and blue. It was an amazing view. I took some pictures, and told Hanson about it. He took a look, and said, “Woah! That looks cool! Let me take my phone out.” I replied with “I know right! Such a beautiful view from where we are.” Hanson finally found his phone and took pictures of the “rainbow” Empire State Building, as we called it. So now, we brushed our teeth, took showers, and now slept. The next morning, we woke up at 6:00 am, I brushed my teeth first. Then Hanson screeched and went out of bed. “Dude, you brushed your teeth already? What time did you wake up?” Then, I said, “The same time as you. You were too busy looking at your phone.” So, Hanson brushed his teeth. We got our shoes on, and went outside, regrouped at the front entrance, and then walked around New York, taking pictures and videos. Firstly, we went past some very fat pigeons. We took some pictures of them. Next, we went to a corner of the street, and went underground. “Where are we going?” I asked Will, then Will said, “We are going to the Statue of Liberty. But, it is going to be quicker if we ride in a subway than actually walking there.” I nodded my head, “Ohh.. okay, thank you.” So we went down to the subways and each bought a ticket. We were given out cards, to the adults at least. Then, Will swiped the card over these circular spiky things that you can walk through, like in at Seabreeze, when you had to push through the object that I am talking about to get through to the Wave Pool. So that, but the thing was, you had to swipe a card into these lines that apparently detected the card, and we pushed. Nothing happened. “Wait, what happened? I thought if we push it, it was going to let us through.” Hanson said, curiously. Will thought about a response, then said, “We probably did it incorrectly. Let’s try again.” Will swiped the card again, and we pushed. I watched in amazement as when Hanson walked through. I tried to walk through, it was locked. So, Will handed me the card and I tried, “So, what do you do again?” I asked, confused. Will said, “You have to swipe the card in this position, and it will unlock.” I tried at least 7 times, and it finally unlocked. “Yes! I did it, Will!” Will said, “Nice!” So now, we waited for a train. We stood on the yellow line, taking a video as the train passes, and stepped back, took another picture, and got on. It was my first time on a train/subway ever. “Dude, it is this weird motion. Trains are weird.” All of a sudden, Hanson just yelled in a weird voice, “I like trainz!” So, when the train ride was over, we got off, and realized we were at the wrong stop, and weren’t the place that we were supposed to be. “I think we went the wrong way.” Will said. Then Tammy said, “Yes, but cant we just take a taxi?” Will did not respond. Hanson asked the same thing. “I know, cant we just take the taxi there?” Will seemed frustrated, and finally said, “The subway is faster than a taxi.” So, after 3 more failed attempts to get to the State of Liberty, we finally made it. We went out, and saw the One World Trade Center. It was so tall! So, as you would know, Hanson and I took some pictures. “Let’s hurry! We can’t be late.” Then I wondered, late to what?

About 1,250 Steps Later

We were finally at somewhere we did not know. “Yes! We are at the dock.” Tammy said. “Why?” I asked. Will then responded with “..because we are taking a cruise to the Statue of Liberty! We are currently buying tickets.” I was shocked. “We are going on a cruise!” I yelled. Hanson confusingly said, “We are?” As he looked into his phone, checking his grades. When our parents bought the tickets, they all said at the same time, “We’re ready!” So, as you probably guessed, he took pictures, again. But this time, it was luxurious. Very. “Wow, such a fancy boat!” I said. Hanson added with, “Yes, very fine exterior.” We went on the boat, there were four floors. The base, the second floor, which was pretty such a living room, the third floor, or the storage, and finally, the top floor. Which was basically where people sat, and listen to the tour instructor. “Welcome aboard! Welcome to the(I forgot the name of the cruise)! And today, we are going to take a tour around New York! Let’s begin! Psst.. also, no phones allowed!” I then said under my breath, “Pretty humorous guy.” Then apparently Hanson heard me, “Yes.. I agree.” I then rose my voice, “How did you hear me..?” Hanson responded with, “Wait, what did you say?” I mumbled “Nothing..” So, I believe the tour guide’s name was Joe, or John. Let’s just call him John. So, John started with the helicopters, there was a floating platform where helicopters took off, and there were tourists inside of the helicopter, along with a pilot. Next, John showed us the Brooklyn Bridge, and even though John said not to pull your phone out, the people on the boat did, so, if they did and didn’t get in trouble, that means I wouldn’t get in trouble. So, I took my phone out and took pictures of the Brooklyn Bridge, and also the upcoming Statue of Liberty.