

## Diary in Minecraft

Dear Charlie,

This is the first day after my parachute first landed in the morning on a secluded hill. I had been prepared for a scenario similar to this back at Army boot camp. Finding wood and freshwater were my top priorities.

After making wood planks from logs of a tree, I built a craft table. This enables me to build a wider range of tools including a pickaxe. Using the wooden pickaxe, I set off to find stone for a more permanent shelter.

I am not sure what happened next. Maybe it was because I was overconfident after all my accomplishments. I honestly don't know. But one second I was on firm ground gazing at the big mountain in the distance, and the next I had apparently fallen thirty feet or more in a dark cave.

I lay for what seemed like hours. Then, it was finally when hope seemed lost that a human-like figure hobbled out of the darkness towards me. At first, I welcomed the visitor, but I soon realized he meant no kindness to me. He started swinging at me with his long arms. Using only my bare fists, I pummeled the unwelcome guest back into the darkness. The native retreated but soon recovered to attack a second time. This time the devilish creature overcame me. I fell unconscious.

I woke up not far from my first makeshift shelter. The sun was setting, and I didn't want another encounter with the so far hostile natives. I quickly finished the walls

and closed the door to my home. As the sun fell under the horizon, I settled in for the night.

Dear Charlie,

Unfortunately, I had another hostile encounter with these barbaric natives. I must have woken up too early, yet I decided to venture outside. Now, by now I knew that the natives thrived in dark spaces or can appear only at night. Well, dawn was approaching, so I thought it would be safe to go exploring again. Regrettably, I was too early to be hitting the trail, and my encounter with this creature was brief. The only thing I saw was this creep's disfigured face as he charged at me:

After being thrashed to a pulp, I awoke on the other side of the mountain from where my old shelter was. For some reason, my luck was not good that morning; for, a spider as big as a small car pounced on me. After a few seconds of futile struggling, I fell unconSCIOUS.

My first sense was that of hopefulness. I hoped that I might be safe for once. I looked around. This time, I did not have the blessing of knowing where my old shelter lay hidden. I was lost. Truly lost. A bird cawed in the distance. I observed and smelled the fragrance of the flowers around me. This place could be a Utopia if it weren't for the unreceptive native population.

Now, I felt frustrated and angered at the local residents. After all, I hadn't done anything to them! Channeling my fury into work, I collected tree logs to make a work bench. On this work bench, I crafted a wooden pick. Using the pick, I hacked away at some stone to my left. After the dust settled, I collected some cobblestone to make a

strong pick and most importantly, a sword. These inhabitants wouldn't have it so easy if they tried anything.

After a hard day's work, I completed a furnace to make coal from wood. Maybe if I had torches to light my shelter, monsters could not gain entrance to my new stronghold. I also had my sword.

Dear Charlie,

Today was a success. I lasted the night peacefully in my sheepskin bed. When I woke up, I tentatively peered outside, sword in hand. There were no inhabitants in sight. Immediately, I began exploring the area around me. I found a waterfall to my left; now I had plenty of freshwater at my disposal.. Then, I mined for a while on a mountain with my new stone tools. I collected more stone, sand, and even one gold piece.

After exploring the mountain, I found a lush meadow full of trees, ponds, and livestock. I collected more sheep wool perhaps to craft a chair. I cut down more wood to operate my furnace. I was starving so I stopped for a meal. I took out a hunk of cooked meat from yesterday's hunt. The smell tasted like I was just about to start digging in on leftover barbecue from yesterday's cookout back at home. In other words, it smelled like heaven. After satisfying my hunger, I thought of my life back in the Army. Would they be missing me? And Charlie, my brother, would definitely be worried sick about me.

I dived into an ice cold pool of water to refresh me. In the distance, I could vaguely make out by shelter built into a hill. Now, it was early afternoon, so I had some time. I decided to go on a hunt for fresh meat. I found my objective in two pigs at one end of the meadow. After packing the pork in my bag, I set off for home. That was when I realized that I actually had no idea which way I was headed. I turned around in a circle but to no avail. I was lost for what must have been the third time! At least I still had my materials. Looking warily around, I dug a shallow entrenchment in the ground. Then I piled wood and stone around me like a madman. I dug some more. The sunlight was fading. It was after I had put the last stone on the roof and had ignited a torch when I heard it. A moan carried its way over to me. I clenched my sword tightly, shivering. Eventually, once I had the means,

something had to be done about these unruly natives. But for now, I lay hidden.

Dear Charlie,

After I woke up, I decided to construct a beacon that could be seen from above. Now, a tall tower of dirt can be seen for miles around, night or day. I also reinforced my new shelter. Also, in case I find myself lost again, I have left a path of piles of sand wherever I go so I can follow them back to my shelter. Using wood as fuel for the furnace, I created glass from sand. I placed the glass on the entrance of my shelter so I could see out. Now, when the time is right, I will strike back at the aggressive inhabitants.

That time came during the dark of night. I saw an awkward figure creeping through the blackness. I burst out of my fortress and fell upon the creature like a madman. Its end came swiftly as I made quick work of it. I bashed it over the head with my sword, and it crumpled to the ground. Apparently, one of its friends noticed what had happened. Behind him strode a massive giant. This death duo was definitely too much for my stone sword and me. I retired back into my shelter and barred the door. Their yowls could be heard throughout the night.

Morning came, it seemed, right when I had fallen asleep. Rubbing the sleep from my eyes, I strode outside. The body of the native was gone, probably carried off. I went to collect some wood for my furnace.

Then, I grabbed my stone tools to mine for more stone and coal. What I actually found was far more important than either of those materials. Oh the way to the cave, I

heard a faint humming in the air. To the untrained ear, it might have just been an annoying bug. But to a veteran marine, that sound meant one thing. Help from above. I dashed back to my shelter. I could barely see a helicopter in the distance heading toward me. Going inside, I grabbed all my wood and ~~thre~~it on the ground. I covered it with all the coal I had in my possession. Then, I set to work lighting it with a cigarette lighter. The helicopter came closer. Suddenly, the pile burst into flames, and I had a roaring fire. The only question was, would the helicopter see the smoke. Once I could see visible smoke in the air, I put my skills in smoke signaling to work. I repeated the universal "SOS" until the helicopter was right above me. It passed me. I screamed after it. The helicopter continued onward towards the horizon. I pounded my fist in the earth, crying out to the helicopter. Then, it slowly veered back my way. It had seen me!

When it landed, four marines rushed me into the aircraft. I was asked if I was hurt, and I said I was fine. The relief was so overwhelming that I almost passed out. As we flew away, I looked back down at the lush green fields and trees. I decided that this place could definitely be a wonderful place to live since it was rich with resources. That concluded, I would give a full report about all my adventures in that new, different world.