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## The Disney Cruise.

We have been vacationing in Disney World. We visited there for the past three days. In the 25 years I lived in Florida, I have never had it rain all day, never mind two days in a row, unless there was a hurricane, until yesterday, the two days we had for the theme parks. We have our daughter, Lisa; Son-in-law, Dave; and granddaughter, Abbie, here for the Disney cruise. The cruise includes three days at the park and four days at sea. As I mentioned, the first days were dampened by the rain. It is hard to deal with a two-year-old, never mind a wet, two-year old, but we survived and generally happy. We went to the Magic Kingdom first and saw the Tomorrowland section and a small part of Fantasyland before we were too wet to continue. We went back to the hotel for a nap and then went to Quest, Disney's interactive, indoor playground. Dave and I designed our own virtual roller coaster then we experienced it in a simulator. There was a simulated white water raft trip through the jungle and a war with Hercules and Pegasus with three D glasses. You gather lightning bolts during the first phase and then through them at Hades in the second phase. It was fun. *Circe du Soleil* was fantastic! Even Abbie said that she enjoyed the clowns the best. The acrobats and tumblers were all very good and the presentation splendid. I am sure that you have seen it because PBS often shows parts of it. It is even better in person where the colors are vivid and the spectacle is full sized.

Yesterday we went to the Disney MGM park because we thought most of it happened inside, even though you go from place to place outside. The rain continued but we enjoyed the attractions.

Sunday we had a half day and sunshine, the Florida, I know and love. We returned to the Magic Kingdom to finish Fantasyland. We had brunch in the Cinderella Buffet with all of the Winnie the Pooh characters. Abbie loved it and Lisa and Judy got quite a kick out it too. It was worth the money and the food was excellent.

Our second half of the day was travel from Orlando to Port Canaveral to board the cruise, the afternoon buffet and the first meal, the evening at the Animator's Palate. The food was very good as we are accustomed to getting on cruises. Fine food and plentiful. Our wait staff is accommodating and amiable. I know that this will be an excellent experience. This evening we saw the musical show, *Hercules*, that was presented by the crew. It has much of the quality of a Broadway production. The lady who sat next to me was one of the singer's mother. I was so excited to see her daughter performing. "Knowing" one of the crew made it even more special. We had a good time and enjoyed the singing and dancing.

I'll continue this as the week progresses.

This morning we went shopping in Nassau. We had no real agenda except that Judy thought she might find some perfume that she used to buy. After checking a few stores, many of which had more different perfumes than I had ever seen, I concluded that the product was no longer made.

I had been wanting to go to our neighborhood jeweler who had serviced our family faithfully for many years to pick out a piece for Judy for Christmas. Alas, my schedule had been so hectic this week that I barely had time for restroom never mind Christmas shopping. Judy had remarked that a bridge player's choker was particularly attractive so I had such a gaudy piece in mind for her. It seemed much more romantic than a used treadmill. As we entered and left store after store here at the port, I suggested that SHE pick out something that she liked for Christmas. I am sure that if I selected something for her, she would say it was wonderful and she would wear it, albeit with clenched teeth, from time to time. She picked out a ring that was quite different from that which I would have selected. Unfortunately, she wanted an emerald instead of Tanzanite. Tanzanite looks much like amethyst, and she already has some amethyst jewelry, being born in February. After trying to find the setting she wanted in the stone she wanted, we reluctantly bought the Tanzanite and considered trading it with our favorite jeweler for an emerald when we returned home. The prices were promised to be considerably less here and even if they were the same, we would not have to pay sales tax.

The afternoon was spent at the pool, lounging in the sun, relaxing and reading the rest of a book I had started. It's nice to not have to do anything from time to time.

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Today we docked at Disney's own island, Castaway Cay, in the Bahamas. I enjoyed playing volleyball however with a coordination factor of 1.7 on a 10 point scale, my best shots are the ones that I let go out of bounds. Ha! Dave and I had fun while Judy and Lisa cared for Abbie at the beach. We all got together for barbecue lunch and then went back to the ship for shower and nap. The weather was very good, the water, a bit too cool for me. Kids and Yankees don't know any better.

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Today is a "day at sea," generally my favorite time. Everyone is sick with a cold except me. They show first run Disney movies on the ship. Today we saw Bicentennial Man with Robin Williams. It was an excellent movie, I highly recommend it. After a light lunch, Judy went to

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rest in the room and sniffle some, I went to the pool to watch the pool festivities and an ice carving demonstration. After the scrumptious dinner, the grand finale presentation was called, "Disney Dreams" a take off from Peter Pan but with each of the most popular Disney animated shows represented in the little girl's dreams. It was splendid. Abbie enjoyed it so much she asked to watch another show after the hour long event was over.

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This morning we prepared to disembark, packing our final things into our carryon bag. We were surprised at breakfast that our servers had a gift for Abbie, a little stuffed bunny with chocolates in it. We looked around to see if others had received such a gift but found that our servers had done this especially for us. Abbie was thrilled. As our server was serving the orange and grapefruit juice from a tray, he lost his balance and dropped the whole tray of juices on Judy's head. The orange juice ran down through her hair, down her neck and across her back. She was well drenched. The poor guy was completely embarrassed. As they were drying her off, she gave him a hug which reassured him. These things happen. The inconvenient part was that all of the clothes were packed and off the ship, even if she returned to the room, there were no clothes to change to. The headwaiter kindly brought her a brand new, clean shirt. While the replacement juices were being arranged, Judy went to the restroom to wash up and change. All was well but an experience that she will not readily forget.

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