

October 21, 2012 (Leaving Home)

I don't know what I was thinking when I bought these plane tickets. I have 2 overnight flights to get to Helsinki, Finland.

My wife has brought me to the airport for my midnight flight to Detroit. I've received a free first class upgrade so I expect I'll get 3 hours of adequate sleep. The plane boards on time and I'm successful at getting a few hours of sleep.

I arrive in Detroit around 5:30 AM. I have over 10 hours until my flight departs for Amsterdam. I find a quiet place in an unused gate and try to get more sleep. The chairs all have armrests so it's impossible to get comfortable and I really don't want to lie down on the floor. I do manage a few more hours of sleep, 15 minutes at a time.

I walk around the airport for awhile. With the Detroit Tigers winning the American League earlier in the week and advancing to the World Series, every store in the airport is selling Detroit Tigers American League Champions t-shirts. But \$29 is a bit expensive. I'll wait and buy a World Series Championship t-shirt.

I walk down to Taco Bell for lunch. I'm really having an exciting day.

One added responsibility for this trip is to bring Flat Stanley with me and take pictures of her at various points during my trip. Flat Stanley is a paper cutout of a girl that my niece made as part of a school project. It's a great school project for her as I'm doing all the work. I take a picture of Flat Stanley at my departure gate.

I'm hoping that the plane to Amsterdam will be full and I'll be bumped up to business class. But as the plane boards, my name is not called. I'm stuck in coach.

The plane departs Detroit on time. It's a full plane. An hour into the flight dinner is served, some sort of chicken with mashed potatoes and over-cooked broccoli. I then do my best to get some sleep as I'm already behind in my sleep going into this flight.