



On the 7th of August 2016, the time had finally come. Time for what? For fulfilling one of my biggest wishes: going to London, this cosmopolitan city full of wondrous shops, splendid monuments, numerous parks, luxurious avenues as well as lovely little streets. Who has never dreamed of going shopping on Oxford Street, taking a walk in Hyde Park, visiting Buckingham Palace or taking pictures in front of Big Ben? Because I have, for many years.

Sunday, arriving at the airport, I was incredibly happy to be there, and I felt even more exalted when I found out that a minimarket in the airport was selling «The cursed child» by J.K. Rowling! In spite of giving 80 pounds to the taxi driver who had obviously scammed us, my mother, my sister and I arrived at the hotel perfectly well. It even turned out that the receptionist was from North Africa, like us. After informing all my friends of where I had just landed and tidying my belongs. I went to bed.

We spent our first day shopping in Regent Street and Oxford Street. We entered Hamley's, one of the world's biggest toy stores with its five floors. It was spectacular! It looked like a big fair full of every imaginable toy. I bought Harry Potter's wand - of course - and some other items for my little cousins. The cashier was so nice! As every person in the city actually. Afterward, we had lunch and went to Top Shop. Its shoe floor astonished me! It was huge and full of amazing shoes. What a pleasant view there was!

On the second day in London, we first went to buy tickets to visit Buckingham Palace. As we had some time left, we bought tickets for a musical at the Phoenix Theatre named «Guys and Dolls», starring Rebel Wilson. Then, we ate the famous fish & chips and finally visited the Palace. To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, there was an exhibition of all her dresses. As my sister is passionate about fashion, she was thrilled. The next day, we went to Camden Market and found great shirts to buy as presents for our friends. My sister also hit upon a gorgeous sixty like dress. We then had lunch in an Indian restaurant (their curry was delicious) and took the tube to Hyde Park. It is truly a beautiful park. Unfortunately, we couldn't use bicycles because credit cards were required to rent them.

Thursday, we went to see «Guys and Dolls». It was wonderful and hilarious. I was overjoyed to see Rebel Wilson live! She is such a good actress and singer. But before seeing it, we had lunch at Chipotle. There was a really cute cashier who tried to read our bill in French, as he heard us talking in French. After the musical, we took a walk in Charing Cross Road, and found ourselves in front of the Palace Theater, where «The Cursed Child» was being played! Being a great fan of Harry Potter, I was exceedingly happy. But it turned out that Rupert Grint, Aka Ron Weasley in Harry Potter, came to see the play the next day. Seriously?

Friday, we went to a thrift store in Stepney Green, twenty metro stops from our hotel. It was worth it! Indeed, the concept was really original: we did not buy the clothes as items, but by bags costing 10 or 20 pounds. That is to say, if you fill one «10 pound» bag with clothes, everything costs only ten pounds! We then went to the British Museum. It was huge and there were too many things to see, so that was a bit exhausting.

Finally, the last day before our departure, we went to King's Cross Station, where most of Harry Potter movies had been filmed. As I recognized the places where some scenes had been shot, I was moved. There was a huge line of people wanting to take pictures in front of the «9 3/4 platform» wall. Next to it was the official Harry Potter shop. It was truly magical, full of great items like Hogwarts houses' themed merchandise. My sister and I bought pens and necklaces. We then spent the afternoon looking for shoes in every Oxford Street store, because my sister absolutely wanted to buy sandals. She eventually found a pair she liked and we returned to our hotel early, as we were very tired. In the end, I found this trip to London absolutely fantastic. This city was far beyond my expectations. I know it sounds really stereotypical, but - almost - all its inhabitants are kind and charming. Every single seller, cashier and waiter I encountered was extremely nice and joyful. But what fascinated me most was the fact that its citizens were so diversified. I could not go outside without hearing a dozen different languages. It is sad to say, but I was so pleased to see a Muslim saleswoman wearing a hijab and working peacefully with her coworkers. I was also pleased to see mixed couples walking side by side, without everyone staring at them like it was funny or abnormal. I was pleased to see everyone getting along with each other, putting aside their skin color, their religion, their origins. I did not have the impression I was in London, or in England, or in the United Kingdom, I just felt like I was in... the world. And that is how I want to feel everywhere else. Of course, we do not have to take what I said too seriously. I naturally felt like I was in England, and I loved its culture. To conclude, as mentioned, I loved London. But more than that, after this trip, I realized that I had a new dream to fulfill: someday, I want to live in this city, even if only for six months. Wish me luck!