

“A Day of Sal in Coelary”

By DethBen

8:45 AM

be-be-be-beep, be-be-be-beep The incessant sounds of the alarm were enough to wake the nearby neighbors as Sal quickly slammed their hand over the button, the alarm finally quieting down and the annoying flashing of the clock timer ceasing as well.

“Ughhhh, time to get up I suppose...” Sal groaned as they dragged themselves out of bed almost bumping into the snoozing pet pillbug by their feet.

Cutting off the chill breeze from the fan, they threw on some clothes, and groomed themselves properly to prepare for the day ahead of them. “Hmmm, where should I go for breakfast today?” Sal thought to themselves as they poured some food out for their pet, bringing them over to their kind neighbor while Sal is out and about.

9:07 AM

The air was chilled today with the breeze of the cool wind as Sal slipped on their Scott Pillbug hoodie, and placed their favorite headphones over their ears as they prepped some relaxing music for their stroll through town. With a slight smile on their face they took a deep breath and began their stride sticking a letter they conjured up earlier into the apartment mailbox as they walked out the door. “What a beautiful day it is. I wonder who I could run into today?” Sal thought as they waved over at bugs they were most familiar with as they continued their stroll, stopping to talk to a few.

9:26 AM

Arriving at their favorite fast food joint Sal wrapped their headphones around their neck and, thankfully, was the first one up to the counter. “I’d like a fried mushroom biscuit with jelly and a large sweet tea please.” Sal requested the cashier. They exchanged currency, Sal received their food and drink and was looking for a place to sit when they noticed a lone fly with brown hair, and gentle blue eyes sitting by themselves at a corner table.

“Excuse me, mind if I take a seat here?” Sal asked with a soft smile on their face.

“Oh... Sure go ahead...” the reserved fly softly responded, his gaze peering up to the stranger fly sitting across from him. Sal realized then that he was perhaps introverted just like themselves.

“I take it you don’t speak much either? That’s alright, I’m a bit of a wallflower myself though I’ve been trying to break out of that for a while now..” Sal said gently as they took a bite into their mushroom biscuit.

“Heh... yeah I suppose you could say that.” He responded softly.

Sal nodded slowly and asked, “I suppose it wouldn’t hurt to ask for your name right? I’m Salacia, but you can call me Sal.”

“Tavvox...or Tav for short if you prefer. Salacia is a nice name by the way.” Tav told them.

“Hehe thanks. I’m glad I legally changed my name to this as well, much better than my birth name blech...” Sal replied with a hint of disgust, rubbing their shoulder as they talk.

“Oh? Sal wasn’t always your name?” Tav asked as he took a sip of his drink.

“Mhm... I don’t really talk about my old name anymore since it doesn’t reflect who I really am. I decided to change my name after I had come out to my family about me being genderfluid. Some took it well, the others not as much.” Sal explained as their eyes pivoted down to look at their hands resting on the table, fingers intertwined.

“Oh I see... Sorry to hear about those that didn’t respect you for who you are.. So you’re genderfluid too? Hehe... Nice to meet someone else like that as well.” Tav replied with a bit of relief in their voice.

“It’s quite alright really, those times are behind me now. I live by myself here in Coelary now and I only have what’s ahead of me to look to now... And yeah I am. Even though I go more by agendered pronouns now then before I still have days where I feel male and the others female and sometimes neither. It is nice to know someone like that too... I go by They/Them currently. What about yourself?” Sal asked.

“My gender usually changes depending on whatever my physical sex is at the time. Since I’m a Laphria my sex changes every six months which *sigh* can be real taxing on me what with the extreme dysphoria caused by the constant changes my body undergoes...Anyways, currently I identify as male.” Tav answered back, looking down as he talked.

“Ah... I’m sorry to hear you have to go through such drastic changes...I don’t know what that could possibly be like myself.. Is there any medicine to help you with that condition?” Sal responded.

“...Sadly not right now, but I have been going through medical trials for a long time now to help with this kind of thing. It’s not easy... but I’ll do anything to help those just like me..” Tav spoke softly, frowning a bit at the thought of all the trials they’ve gone through, but in the end he know it would all be worth it.

“It’s good to see the help this will bring to other bugs like you as well. I apologize though if bringing something like that up is not something you like... Please let me know if I happen to step out of your comfort zone alright? You’re a strong bug, Tav.” Sal said with a soft smile.

“Heh, it’s alright...Thanks though.” Tav replied with a small smile.

“Hehe that’s good to hear..” Sal said as they finished up their meal. “Well hey I have to go for now, got a rather busy day ahead of me. Do you ever want to hangout some time dude? I’d totally love to get to know you more and perhaps be friends.” They further added.

“I’d like that actually... It may be hard though as there will be times that I’ll be immunocompromised and thus forced to be bedridden for days or weeks at a time, but... it was nice having a chat with you regardless and I’d like to do it again. Thank you Sal.”

“You’re welcome Tav. I’ll be seeing you!” Said Sal, exchanging numbers with Tav and offering him a hug to which Tav hesitated for a bit, but gave back in return. They waved Tav goodbye and made their way out the door, a smile softly glowing on their face. Putting their headphones back on and resuming their music they walked out of the restaurant.

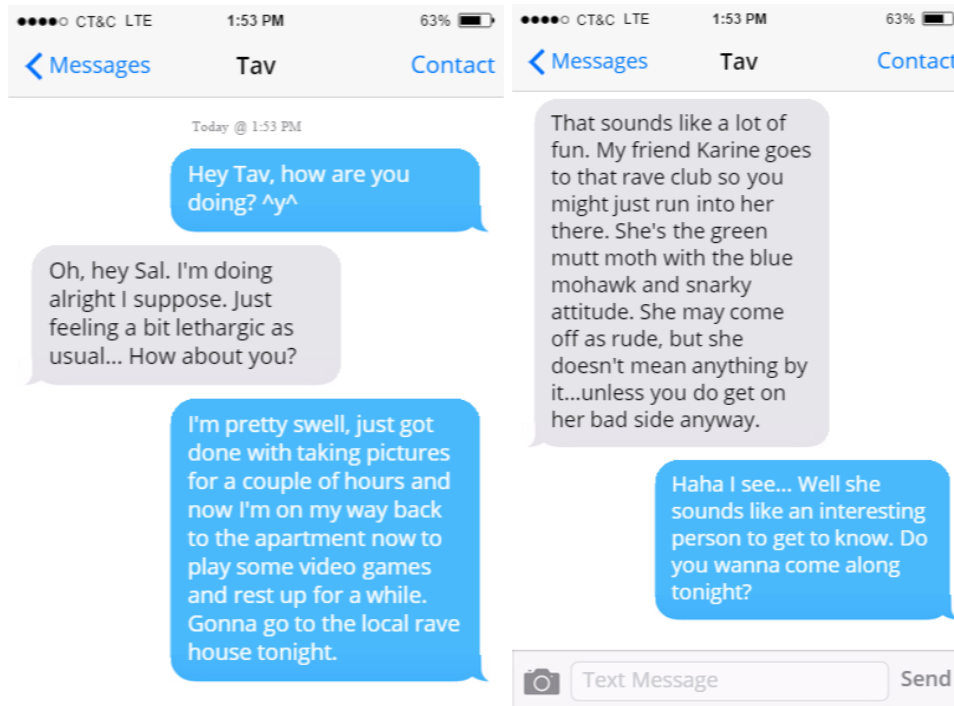
“Hmm, where to next?” Sal pondered to themselves, before finally deciding on their next destination.

10:02 AM

Next on Sal’s route was the park and it was a such a pleasant day there today that surely the wildlife would be just as lively and out and about. With their camera in hand they found a good spot in the grass to sit and began taking pictures of the flora and fauna crawling about. A few hours passed as they continued to capture all sorts of amazing photographs of nature, encountering more enthusiastic photographers as well and even posing for a few pictures themselves.

1:27 PM

“Hmmm, I’ve taken every good shot I can think of the wildlife out here for today. About time I head home and prepare for tonight, maybe even play a few games.” Sal thought to themselves as they started making their way for the subway station. They arrived and made their way into the next available train finding a seat to themselves, they started browsing through their preferred social media account seeing what was going on in their friend’s day. Sal went to their messages and soon the sound of clicking from a virtual keyboard were heard.





The train soon stopped at Sal's destination and they disembarked waving to the friendly blue jumping spider they had meet with once before on the train and started walking back to their apartment. Sal always loved taking the public transit as it was such a nice and rather easy way to meet other bugs. Arriving back at their apartment they stopped by their neighbors and picked up their pet pillbug. They walked in and sat down on the couch, Sal getting a game started up and unwinding after a long day. After a few hours they finished up and prepared to nap for tonight.

"C'mon Scuttles, let's get you fed and then head off to bed." Sal said as they prepped some food for their pet and themselves. Soon afterwards they finished and got ready for a nice proper nap, setting their alarm clock for 9:30 P.M.

9:30 PM

The time had arrived, the clock flashing and beeping without end as Sal's hand slammed down on the button silencing the irritating alarm. Lugging themselves out of bed, they tipped toed to the kitchen so as to not wake their pet. Prepping some food for themselves and their pet while they're away they ate and get dressed and prettied up for some fun at the rave club tonight. Soon after finishing up Sal grabbed their keys and headed out. The club was only a couple of blocks from the apartment so it was a short enough distance that allowed for Sal to easily walk there.

As they arrived at the club they could see a rather large line outside the entrance as bugs slowly started entering. After a couple of minutes of waiting in line they were finally entering the building and soon could hear the intense pounding of the song's bassline being played by the DJ and were eager to get out onto the dance floor.

Click link for immersion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0begvhoP-c>

The club was soon filled to the brim with ecstatic bugs of all kinds, piling onto the dance floor and bouncing to the beat of the music. Sal made their way to the dance floor and soon the energy of the atmosphere took over their body.

Dancing into the night they couldn't keep control of themselves, their abdomen bumping into a nearby bug almost causing them to tumble over.

"Oof! Hey dumbass watch where you're swinging your abdomen or you'll be the one on the ground next!" The stranger blurted out.

"Oh fuuuck... I'm really really sorry about that! Please forgive me!" Sal said, turning around and hiding their face in embarrassment.

"Yeah you better be sorry... Oh, a small fly I see?" The stranger questioned as they looked down at Sal.

"Heh yeah I am..." Sal admitted pressing their index fingers together as they looked up at the towering bug standing in front of them. Amidst the lighting of the club they could make out the green chitin of their body and the blue mohawk the bug was sporting. "S...say, are you Karine by any chance?" Sal asked.

"Hmm? How do you even know my name? Who told you?" Karine questioned them intently, her eyes fixed on the small fly, an eyebrow raised.

"A....a small brown haired fly I met this morning told me about you once I told him my plans about going to the rave club tonight. I asked if he wanted to join, but he wasn't able to so he told me about you then." Sal replied with caution.

"Oh, **him** huh? That little fly boy's gonna get it **so** hard in the ass later..." Karine whispered under her breath. Averting her attention back to Sal she asked "So what do I call you? Besides 'clumsy-ass twink' I mean."

"I'm Salacia, but you can call me Sal." They replied.

"Sal huh? You wanna chill?" She asked. Before Sal could even form words to speak out Karine firmly added, "Hold that thought. I'm still too sober." She started walking towards where the bar

is located, Sal looked at them confused. Shortly thereafter Karine turned back around and questioned them, "What are ya waiting for, a cab? Get over here." She gestured for Sal to follow which they did quickly catching up to her. Sitting down at the bar Karine ordered a regular pint of beer while Sal got themselves a lemon daiquiri.

"Hehe girly drinks huh? Oh I'm just yanking your chain!" blurted out Karine, poking an elbow at Sal and consuming her beer, getting slightly more and more drunk.

"Alcohol isn't really much of my thing, the most I can stand of it being this. I much prefer weed to be honest." Sal replied, taking another slow sip of their beverage.

"You smoke too? That's dope dude, let's smoke a bowl one day." Karine chuckled, making a puff puff gesture at Sal. "Anyway, what's a shrimp like you doing in the slums?" She asked them.

"I come here to this club almost every night unwind after a long day, and probably meet more people, depending on how my day went anyway." Sal said, take a bigger gulp.

Taking a big gulp of her drink Karine replied, "Oh that's cool. Arsenia is working overtime tonight at her lame company so I'm out here for now I guess."

"Oh? I take it Arsenia is a girlfriend of yours?" Sal asked.

"Yup. Wouldn't trade her for all the wealth in the world." Karine said, finishing up her drink. "Hey barkeep! Fill 'er up!" Karine said, ending her sentence with a slight chuckle. "Heh, you two would get along like tits in a lace bra."

"You really think so? I'd love to meet her and chill with you two one day." Sal said with a smile, finishing up their drink.

"I bet your sweet ass you two would!" Karine's phone started ringing. "Well shit speaking of sugar tits that must be her." Answering her phone she talked on it for a while, laughing and blurting out sexual innuendos to which you could hear "KARINE!" blurted out from the phone followed with even more laughter. After a few minutes they finished up, "Well the babe's almost home so I need to get the fuck and get some fuck." Karine said, writing down something on a torn piece of paper. "Here, let's all fucking hang out with our cocks out one day. See ya shrimp!" She gave Sal the paper with her cell number written down and gave them a noogie as well. Waving goodbye and giddy as every Sal programmed the number into their phone and went back to the dance floor for an hour or two more.

1:13 AM

It was a late night, but Sal finally managed to make their way back to the apartment still a bit tipsy from all those daiquiris. Today has been a busy day but it was time to rest and see what tomorrow brings.

“What an interesting set of characters I’ve met today.” Sal thought and then added. “Hmm, I think I’ll go check on *him* and see how he’s holding up later.”

Taking a few sleeping meds Sal was finally able to slowly drift to sleep, thinking of the experiences they had today.

10:47 AM

Arriving at the door steps to an apartment building they had been given the address to the other day, a get well card in hand they walked up the steps and rang the buzzer to a specific apartment. After a few moments of waiting there was a reply followed by the sound of a throat being cleared.

“Yes... Who is it?” The familiar voice asked.

“Hey Tav, it’s Sal. I came over to see how you were doing and possibly play a video game or a few and hang with you.” Sal replied.

“Oh Sal! Sure let me buzz you in.” Tav said, opening the door for them.

“It’s good to see you today, I got you a get well card dude.” Sal said with a smile.

“Thank you Sal. Oh here put this on please, my immune system’s shot today...” Tav handed them a surgical face mask. Putting it on, Sal finally greeted Tav with a hug, and the chatter between the two flies could be heard as the apartment door behind closed behind them and they spent most of the day together.

~Fin~