

A Morning Routine

I greet the sewer rats every morning before work, right when the first city garbage truck starts to make its rounds. They go about their business as I do; more often than not they'll ignore me in favor of whatever breakfast has caught their sights, like fruit post mortem, indigestible things. And I can't say I blame them, because I never leave the house without a good breakfast sandwich.

When I say hello to them I practically give names away, names that would've went to pets and kids. I honestly can't remember which rat is which, which means that yesterday's Jeraldine isn't today's Jeraldine, and maybe that the me today, will be a different me tomorrow, a better me, with a better job, and a grade-A hunk of a husband. I bet today's Jeraldine, fur matted by swill and smelly, has a husband who bakes. I bet his name is Todd.

Speaking of, Jeraldine was very rude to me today. I left the house right on schedule, right before the rats ruby eyes are visible from the sewer. If you don't get ahead of them, or know where to step, you'll be drowning in whip-like tails and disease. They walked parallel to me, as they usually do. I was a little embarrassed; see, me and Jeraldine were wearing the same outfit- a blue blazer with matching pants, pearl earrings. She even had the same style of eyeliner.

"Hi Jeraldine," I said, examining how her outfit was pressed and her fur immaculate, glossy from trash swill and the like. "Looks like we're both wearing the same thing! How funny!"

Jeraldine scurried ahead of the rest of her pack and onto the sidewalk, stopping in front of me. "Oh no no no, this will not do," she sighed, dramatically waving her paws around. "I have

places to go, garbage to eat, and I am not getting caught wearing the same outfit as you. One of us has to change, and it's not gonna be me.”

I wasn't going to argue because I knew she was right, blue just looked so slimming on when she wore it. And I guess it caught on. Every morning I see waves of fur and pearls. I haven't worn that suit since.