

another pSecret pSociety pshort pstory



Drama and Kale by Mike Bozart (Agent 33) | NOV
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Drama and Kale
by Mike Bozart
[1313 edition]
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It was a mild November Friday afternoon in Charlotte (NC, USA) when I arrived home from work on my one-gear, \$69, rebuilt bicycle. The six-mile trek had no traffic incidents worthy of mention. The time of day was 4:51. After three knocks on the back door, my wife, Monique (Agent 32), let me in to the basement area to park the bike.

“Thanks, mahal,” [love in Tagalog] I said. “You look great in that beige dress. So, where did you want to go tonight for dinner?”

“It’s up to you, bana. [husband in Cebuano] Surprise me!”

“Taco Bell?”

Monique frowned.

“Hey, I’m just kidding,” I said with a grin.

She chuckled. “You really got me, hon!” She then sighed. “I’ll take a Cantina Bowl tomorrow, though.”

“Sure. Say, let’s finally try that vegetarian restaurant on Independence [Boulevard] – the one we pass when we head out to the mountains.”

“Bean?”

“Yes, that’s it. Bean Vegan.” *Bean vegan ... how long?*

“Ok, let’s do it!”

Neither of us were currently vegans, but I liked going animal-less several days a week (stopped eating pork and beef decades ago) and Monique loves tofu if it’s cooked to her

preferred firmness. Thus, we got in our old Kia hatchback and tootled over to Bean (only four miles – 6.44 km – away). We were in the sparsely occupied parking lot in 11 minutes.

We entered the building that appeared to have once been a Mexican restaurant (the giveaway: widely arched portals). Then we went through another set of doors to arrive at the front desk. We were seated promptly and given menus, which we began to study.

“What were you thinking of eating, dearest asawa?” [wife in Tagalog and Cebuano]

“Oh, maybe a salad,” Monique replied.

“Hey, they have something called the Bean Bowl. It has kale, mushrooms, red beans and rice, plus tofu.”

“Where is that?”

I pointed to it on her menu.

“Oh my, that’s \$13, hon.”

“That’s not bad for a Friday night entrée.” *Actually, it seems kind of high for greens and beans on the eastside. / I bet they only have two dollars of food in that bowl.*

“Ok, I’ll try it. What will you have?”

“I don’t see any soups on the menu, mahal. And, I really don’t want a \$10 veggie burger. I’ll just pick some sides.” *This place sure is heavy on the burgers. / What’s wrong with him? I bet his stomach is gurgling again.*

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