



A Day in Sam's Life

#ImWithSam

Sam is an adult with a learning disability. This is an account of one day in Sam's life.

08:00	Sam leaves the house in the morning to catch the bus to work. Walking down the street to the bus stop, Sam counts the houses and checks the colours of all the front doors to make sure that everything is the same as yesterday.
08:10	Sam waits at the bus stop for the #34 bus. Three buses arrive before the 34, and as they pull in Sam says their numbers and destinations out loud. Two teenagers in school uniform stare at Sam and start to laugh.
08:15	The bus arrives and Sam gets on it. "Hello Sam, how are you today?" asks the driver. Sam replies, "I'm fine thank you." The bus is busy. Sam doesn't like sitting next to strangers but takes a deep breath and sits in the last empty seat next to a man. "I am going to work," Sam says, but the man just turns away and looks out of the window. The man gets off at the next stop, but although there are still people standing up, no-one sits down next to Sam.
08:30	After a few miles there are some roadworks with one-way traffic signals. This delays the bus, which means Sam won't arrive at work at the usual time. "We're going to be late," he says to the woman standing up next to him. "Just ignore the weirdo," the woman says to her child.
12:30	Sam has made sandwiches for lunch, but walks to the supermarket close by. Sam walks around all the aisles but doesn't see anything else to buy. As Sam leaves the supermarket the security guard demands to see what is in Sam's bag. Sam doesn't want to open the bag but the security guard forces it open. Inside are the sandwiches Sam brought from home, a book and Sam's phone. The security guard says, "If you bring that bag in here again I'll have you for shoplifting."
14:30	Sam finishes work in the afternoon, and goes to catch the bus home. "The bus might be late because of the road works," Sam says to a lady with a pram. "That's ok," she says, "I'm not in a rush." There are plenty of empty seats on the bus so Sam doesn't have to sit next to anyone. The lady with the pram smiles at Sam as she gets on.
15:00	The bus drops Sam off in town. The teenagers from the morning are at the bus stop again. As Sam gets off the bus one of them shouts, "Retard." People have said that word to Sam before.
15:05	Walking back down the street to home, Sam thinks about the friend who is coming over later for a film night. Sam remembers that it is the friend's turn to choose the film this time. Sam's sister is waiting outside the house with her baby boy. She hands the baby to Sam, who smiles, and gives him a big kiss and a cuddle.