

Just a Coffee.

It was cold and so was I. I spotted a Starbucks a little way ahead and thought that a coffee would ease my potential hypothermia.

The café was warm and the aroma of fresh coffee filled the air in a most pleasant way. The café was only partly full and I made my way to a queue-less counter.

“Yes sir, what can I get for you?”

“A cup of coffee please”, I replied and that’s when the problems started.

“What sort of coffee would that be sir?”

“One with coffee and a bit of cold milk.”

“Was that a latte, an Americano, a Cappuccino, an Espresso?”

“No it was a cup of coffee with a bit of cold milk.”

“OK sir could we decide on what blend of coffee you would like?”

“We? I thought it was my coffee, are you wanting to share?”

“Well sir I don’t want to share but I do want to ensure that you get the coffee that will best provide you with a taste experience that will not be forgotten.”

“Oh.”

“Now do you want a blend from Guatemala, Java, Kenya, Ethiopia, Colombia, or Brazil?”

“Oh dear, Brazil sounds good.”

“Do you want that as an Italian blend, a House blend, a Breakfast blend, a Verona or a Veranda?”

“You choose, you seem to know your stuff.”

“Well I am a barista.”

“All that study in the law and you’re working here?”

“No sir a Barista, a coffee expert, not a lawyer.”

“Oh.”

“I think a Verona multiple will ring your bell.”

“Be careful mate, my bell is not in need of ringing but I would dearly love a cup of coffee.”

“OK sir what size would you like?”

“Well a cup size is what I want, just a normal cup. Would that be a regular?”

“Do you want a regular, a Grande, a superior, a special or a New Yorker?”

“Regular sounds OK.”

“OK sir I’ll put your order together. Any pastries?”

“No thanks, I have to be home in four hours.”

“I see sir. I have passed your order to the end counter where you may collect your drink. That will be £3.30 sir. Do you want to pay by MasterCard, Visa, cheque, PayPal.....”

“No I have the cash here.”

“Thank you Sir, Oh the exact amount, how helpful.”

“Is that my coffee?” I asked the end of counter tattooed young woman.

“Is yours the Brazilian with a Veranda blend and a regular size?”

“I believe so.”

“Thank you sir.”

“Do you have cold milk and a spoon?”

“Milk is on the small side server table together with fine sugars, brown, white, Demerara or muscavado. Milk is in the chromium flask and the wooden spatulas are to the left of the sugars selection.”

“Thanks.”

“Thank you sir, hope to see you again soon.”

“I don’t think I could do this twice – Oh that’s two times. Bye”.