

Coffee and a Donut

By

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FADE IN:

1 INT. DINER - MORNING

1

Typical "American" diner. Moderately busy.

PABLO- mid 20s - a young Hispanic immigrant, stands at the door waiting to be seated.

The WAITRESS, a Caucasian woman, pens in hair, messy apron, very busy... zips past him. He waits. She passes him again.

A CUSTOMER walks in. Waitress comes to him immediately.

WAITRESS

Hey Honey!

CUSTOMER

Busy today?

WAITRESS

Ah, you know!

Customer takes a seat at the counter. Waitress zips to another table. Pablo continues to wait.

Waitress zips by again. Sees Pablo.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

PABLO

Eh... One please.

WAITRESS

Just sit anywhere, sweetie.

Pablo smiles and nods, not moving. She points at the counter.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Sit, sit!

Pablo approaches the counter and sits.

PABLO

Gracias.

She gives him a menu. He stares blankly at it, then listens intently as she approaches the other customer.

CUSTOMER

Coffee and a donut.

WAITRESS

Okay, honey. Coffee and a donut.

Pablo looks up to her to order. She passes him and goes to the register to take a BUSINESSMAN's payment, then comes back to Pablo.

PABLO

Coffee.... and... a donut.

WAITRESS

Got it, sweetie.

A donut and coffee are placed in front of Pablo.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Coffee and a donut.

PABLO

Gra-.... Thank you.

2 INT. DINER - NEXT MORNING

2

Waitress is at the counter holding a plate of eggs and toast talking to customer, deep in conversation.

Pablo comes in, sits at the counter and waits.

He sees the plate of eggs and toast and eyes it hungrily.

Waitress puts the plate down in front of customer and finally notices Pablo.

WAITRESS

Oh hey, what're ya having, sweetie?

PABLO

Eh... coffee and... a donut.

WAITRESS

You got it!

Pablo stares at the donut as his coffee is being poured.

3 INT. DINER - ANOTHER MORNING

3

Pablo sits at the counter as he flips through a book titled, "Spanish to English Dictionary." The waitress comes by holding two plates.. one full of a tall stack of pancakes, the other with French toast, eggs, and bacon.

WAITRESS

What'll it be, sweetie?

Pablo starts to point at one of the plates. Her cellphone rings in her pocket. She answers.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

What's up? I'm at work.

Pablo quickly flips through the pages of his book.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

What? It's on the third shelf above the sink, why are you bothering me? Hey I gotta go, bye.

She hangs up and puts her phone back in her pocket.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Come on, this food is getting cold.

Pablo closes his book.

PABLO

Coffee and a... donut.

WAITRESS

What a surprise.

CAMILA, 20s - Hispanic woman sits at the counter. Waitress puts a menu in front of her.

CAMILA

Oh, it's okay. I'm ready.

WAITRESS

Gimme one sec...

Waitress rushes away.

Camila reaches over to the register to the call bell.

DING!DING!DING!

Waitress comes back.

CAMILA

What's better, the banana pancakes or the eggs benedict?

WAITRESS

Oh geez, I don't know.. What do you like?

CAMILA

Um... okay... I'll go with the
steak and eggs... over easy... no,
I'll have them scrambled.

WAITRESS

Sure thing.

Waitress rushes away.

CAMILA

No wait, I'll have blueberry crepes
with hash-browns. Coffee and orange
juice... fresh squeezed. Thanks.

WAITRESS

Got it.

CAMILA

Make sure it's fresh squeezed.

WAITRESS

Got it!

Waitress serves Pablo his coffee and donut. Camila looks over
and smiles at him.

4 INT. DINER - ANOTHER DAY

4

Pablo walks in and approaches the counter. Camila is already
there with her breakfast.

Pablo sits, the waitress heads to her tables with three
plates... one with French toast and fruit piled on top, one
with eggs Benedict and a side of sausage, and one with
scrambled eggs with lox and cream cheese. Pablo eyes each
plate intensely.

WAITRESS

The usual?

PABLO

Eh....

WAITRESS

Coffee and a donut!

PABLO

Coffee and a donut.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Coming right up.

CAMILA

Hello.

Pablo nods to her. Waitress serves him the donut and pours his coffee.

CAMILA (CONT'D)

Is that what you always have for breakfast?

PABLO

I... I... do not speak English.

CAMILA

Oh! ¿Hablas Español?

PABLO

Sí, sí!

She extends her hand.

CAMILA

Camila.

He shakes her hand.

PABLO

Pablo.

She holds on a tad longer than expected and smiles.

They converse in Spanish.

CAMILA

Siempre desayunas lo mismo?

CAMILA

Is that what you always have for breakfast?

PABLO

Es lo único que se pedir.

PABLO

It's the only thing I really know how to order!

CAMILA

Yo te puedo ordenar lo que quieras.

CAMILA

I can order something else for you, if you'd like.

PABLO

No, no, gracias. Yo tengo que aprender.

PABLO

Oh no, no... I have to learn for myself, thank you.

CAMILA

Entonces te puedo ayudar con eso.

CAMILA

I can help you...

PABLO
Gracias, eso me encantaría.

PABLO
Thank you, that would be very nice.

They smile at each other and continue eating.

5 INT. DINER - ANOTHER MORNING

5

Pablo and Camila sit in a booth. She holds up a flash card with a picture of a carton of milk.

PABLO
Leche...eh... Milk!

CAMILA
Bien! Good!

She holds up another card.

PABLO
Bread!

CAMILA
Perfecto!

The waitress arrives at the table. She places a donut and a cup of coffee in front of Pablo. Then places a large plate with a stuffed omelette and toast, along with coffee and orange juice in front of Camila.

Pablo stares at her food and salivates.

CAMILA (CONT'D)
Hey, dijiste que querias
aprender por ti mismo.

CAMILA (CONT'D)
*Hey, you said you wanted to
learn for yourself!*

Pablo watches as Camila reaches over and tears off a piece of his donut and eats it.

6 INT. DINER - ANOTHER MORNING

6

They sit at a table. Books open.

PABLO
She ate after I go.

CAMILA
No... after I went...

PABLO
Ahhhh! Mierda!

CAMILA
 Ei, papi, tranquilo. Se toma
 tiempo para aprender.

CAMILA
*Take it easy, papi! It's
 okay.. it takes time to
 learn.*

PABLO
 She ate after I went.

CAMILA
 Muy, bien. Ahora puedes
 ordenar por ti mismo.

CAMILA
*Bueno! Now, what are you
 going to order for yourself?*

PABLO
 Eh.... one Southwest
 omelette...eh...

CAMILA
 With...

PABLO
 With... hash..with
 hashhh...grounds.

CAMILLA
 Hashbrowns.

PABLO
 Hash...browns.

CAMILA
 Southwest omelette with hashbrowns.

PABLO
 Southwest omelette with
 hashbrowns.. southwest omelette
 with hashbrowns...

Waitress arrives at the table.

WAITRESS
 Okey doke... what're we having?

CAMILA
 (to Pablo)
 You go ahead first!

WAITRESS
 Oh, I know what he wants... coffee
 and a donut. He always gets a
 coffee and a donut...right,
 sweetie? Coffee and a donut!

CAMILA
 Coffee and a donut?

PABLO

Ehhh...

WAITRESS

Coffee and a donut for him, and how 'bout you?

CAMILA

Southwest omelette with hashbrowns. How about you, Pablo?

WAITRESS

I got him. Coffee and a donut.

PABLO

Coffee and a donut.

Waitress rushes away.

CAMILA

Oh, Pablo....

PABLO

Esto es una locura ! Yo he terminado con esto! Usted es un maestro MALO!

PABLO

THIS IS CRAZY! I'M FINISHED WITH THIS! YOU ARE A BAD TEACHER!

Pablo storms out. Waitress arrives with his donut. Camila eats it.

7 INT. DINER - ANOTHER MORNING

7

Pablo sits at the counter staring at his coffee and donut, which remain untouched. He looks over to the seat in which Camila sat when they first met. It is empty. He sighs, lays his payment on the counter, and leaves.

8 INT. DINER - ANOTHER MORNING

8

Pablo sits at one end of the counter, Camila is at the other.

Each pretend not to notice the other.

The waitress puts down a donut and pours coffee. Pablo takes a breath to speak, the waitress moves on, spills some coffee on the counter but doesn't notice or even look at him.

PABLO

Excuse me.

Waitress goes to another table, takes their order, and zips back past Pablo.

PABLO (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

Customer comes into the diner.

WAITRESS

Hey doll! How are you?

CUSTOMER

Good morning!

WAITRESS

Nice to see you! Go sit wherever...
I'll be right over.

Waitress zips past Pablo, still not looking at him.

PABLO

Excuse me...

WAITRESS

One sec.

Waitress goes to the Man's table and starts chatting with him. Pablo stands up, goes to the counter, and rings the call bell loudly.

DING! DING! DING!

Silence. Everyone in the diner stops what they're doing and looks to Pablo.

PABLO

Excuse me...eh... For me... one...
two eggs..

Waitress hurries to Pablo, writes down his order.

WAITRESS

Oh, sweetie! Is that what you
wanted? Why didn't you say so?! How
would you like your eggs?

PABLO

Scramble.... one toast...

WAITRESS

Some butter and jam?

Waitress serves the last of half a dozen plates of food to Pablo who looks at it all wide eyed with a huge smile.

PABLO
Ay dios mio!

WAITRESS
Look at you with all this food!

Pablo looks over to Camila.

PABLO
I have a... good teacher.

Pablo and Camila exchange smiles. She moves closer to him.

CAMILA
Y yo tengo un buen
estudiante.

CAMILA
I have a very good student!

PABLO
I is... sorry.

CAMILA
I *am* sorry.

PABLO
I... accept.

They laugh.

PABLO (CONT'D)
¿Ayuadame?

CAMILA
Of course!

She reaches for the donut, he snatches it first.

PABLO
Mine!

He tears the donut in half and shares.

FADE OUT.