

MEMO

To: Karen Press, Instructor

From: Andrew McCrea
(204) 990-0190/hello@andymacdesign.ca

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Re: Adaptation Assignment

Attachments: Treatment (1 page); Script (5 pages)

I have adapted Sara Wasiuta's short story "Her Daily Fix" about a woman who is infatuated with a baker at a donut and coffee joint.

I chose to start the film in Janice's (protagonist) car. I show her personal qualities based on how she behaves in her car by herself, followed by how she is selective in her treatment of other people. In Wasiuta's story, the character internalizes these thoughts and in my version, she externalizes it all.

I felt this method allowed me to keep a lot of the attitude from the original story but also let me explore the character more personally. I think it was also a smart way to show the character's thoughts without narration or prayer.

Overall, I think I managed to stay true to Wasiuta's vision but also conveyed what it's like to be in any of those positions, for example being treated unkindly in a service job or being infatuated with a fast food worker. I kept the original plot and major characters or key pieces of information, like the price of the strange coffee request. I created all the dialogue here to go with my film version.

Her Daily Fix

Treatment

Janice is driving to work this morning. She's playing with social networks and text messaging on her smartphone as she zips through traffic. She is probably sharing pictures of her cat, Philip, and performs vocals and dance moves to the songs she loves.

Janice pulls into a Coffee Place restaurant, which is just like any donut joint with a drive-thru. She chooses to park and go inside, but not before she fixes her make-up in the rear-view mirror.

Inside Coffee Place, every table is taken up by senior citizens. The employees are muddled aged people and most are what we could classify as "completely useless." Janice approaches the counter and is greeted by a dull chunky woman. Janice is probably very rude and offers the woman very little respect. Janice exhibits a bit of a know-it-all behaviour.

Don, a man who works in the bakery in the back, emerges to the front counter. He's listening to music and carrying some of the baked goodies. He sometimes works the front counter, and that is how Janice has become infatuated with him, but he's completely oblivious.

Janice grabs Don over the counter and begs him to make her coffee out of fear the useless employee will mess it up. Don begins to make her coffee and they have what appears to be a flirty conversation to Janice. She's still bitchy but somehow in a likeable way. Janice, now satisfied with her perfect coffee, struts out prominently like a model on a cat walk. She winks and leaves.

Her Daily Fix

By

Andrew McCrea

Based on the short story
"Her Daily Fix" by Sara Wasiuta

INT. JANICE'S CAR - DAY

JANICE is driving her car to work and playing with her phone as she barrels down the city street.

JANICE
Who posts something like that on
BookOfFaces?

We see a status update that reads "John Mayer has the sexiest voice ever!"

JANICE
This is what people want,
cherryChick32. There.

We see her posting a picture of a grinning cat.

JANICE
(baby voice)
What a handsome man. Momma loves
you.

An upbeat, rocking song begins to play on the radio. JANICE cranks it up.

JANICE
I love this song!

JANICE sings along to the song loudly as she checks herself in the rear view mirror and pulls into a Coffee Place. She chooses to go in over the drive-thru.

INT. COFFEE PLACE - DAY

The Coffee Place is packed with senior citizens. Many employees are on duty. Most are bitching with each other.

JANICE walks up to the counter and is greeted by a very dull employee.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE
Good morning, mam. What can I do to
perk you up this morning?

JANICE
Listen carefully.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE
Um, OK.

(CONTINUED)

JANICE

Just a small coffee, half calf, two sweeteners, one milk. Double up the cups and add an ice cube.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE just stares at JANICE.

JANICE

Just a-

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

Medium double double. Got it.

JANICE

No, NO!

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

Lady, this isn't FrappeHouse.

JANICE

Small coffee, half calf, two sweeteners, one milk. Double cupped, one ice cube. Pretty straightforward.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

Is that everything?

JANICE

Yes, here is a dollar forty-five.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

It's a dollar sixty-three.

JANICE

No, it's a dollar forty-five. You did something wrong.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

Oh, I have it punched it as a medium.

JANICE

Yeah, I know.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE works with the cash register a bit, when DON emerges from the bakery in the back.

JANICE

DON! Can you make my coffee?

DON is bobbing his head to the Canadian folk music coming from his headphones. He notices her, but keeps walking by.

(CONTINUED)

JANICE taps his shoulder. She is completely infatuated with his very presence.

JANICE
Hey, this inferior woman is going to screw up my coffee. Can you make it for me?

DON
Oh, hey... Janice? Um, sure. I'll make your coffee.

DON and FEMALE EMPLOYEE exchange a strange look. JANICE is beaming.

JANICE
It's a-

DON
Small coffee, half calf, two sweeteners, one milk. Double up the cups and add an ice cube.

JANICE
You remembered!

DON
I'm good at recalling orders.

JANICE
Wow! That's impressive. What time did you get here this morning?

DON
I'm here every morning at 5:30 A.M.

JANICE
Poor guy. That's early.
(chuckling)
What time are you off?

DON
Two o'clock.

JANICE
Haha! You're so funny.

DON
Yep, well, here you go.

DON hands her the coffee and she blushes.

JANICE

Thanks, Don. You make the best
coffee.

DON

Yeah, I really push the button.

JANICE struts away towards the exit, back turned to us. When she gets to the door, she turns around, winks, flips her hair, puts her sunglasses on, and continues strutting out.

CUT TO BLACK.