

# Thirteen ways poetry

Literature



BIRCH COFFEE al Affiliation Manhattan Subway Introduction 6th JAN, TIME: 5.00pm LOCATION: BIRCH COFFEE, 27 STREET MANHATTAN

If something outstands in New York then it would be coffee. New Yorkers consider their coffee seriously. Street corners and lanes are dominated by cafes. Starbucks, and city favorites include Stumptown Coffee, Birch coffee, East Village espresso In and Blue Bottle Coffee. But the enthusiasm is not just in the coffee but also the service providers and atmosphere in which you have your cup. I take my time to check out Birch coffee because of high recommendations from my friend. Most of my time is spent locating the place since it is rush hour and everyone seems too preoccupied to help me. Located in the Gershwin Hotel, the cafe offers quirky atmosphere. The counter is packed so I walk past a smiling usher who advices me to proceed to the lobby. She wears the smile professionally though it appears forced. As I proceed to the lobby I notice that it is not as packed as the counter. I quickly grab a chair behind two middle aged men who appear to be in the legal profession as depicted by the nature of their language.

We will file the Affidavit tomorrow don't worry there is still time

I doubt if the Judge will allow it to stand

The first waitress passes by ignoring me to serve the two men

The second one

The third one

Till finally a beautiful and talkative lady strolls to me and takes my order. It takes me about thirty seconds to realize that she is a waitress since I am distracted by her beauty and sense of concern. Calling her by name- tagged on her yellow dress.

Jane, I will have a cup of coffee please

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Sitting down enjoying my coffee I begin to notice the unique design of the place- mismatched chairs and couches. Strategically placed nude sculptors. I place my 20 dollar bill on the table wondering why everybody insisted that I should try the place. Perhaps it is the level of hospitality or maybe it is the artistic design lay out of the place. This questions linger in my mind as I walk out of the place.

DATE: 7th JAN, 2015

TIME: 3. 00pm

LOCATION: BIRCH COFFEE, 27 STREET MANHATTAN

I find myself making my way to Birth for the second time. I notice modernity in the art complemented by extreme creativity. The sculptors appear more realistic today.

The waiters appear more concerned than yesterday. Each of them struggling to have my attention. They overuse hospitable words today. (How may I help you today sir, what will you be having sir). It is Jane who gets my attention by her soft voice as she asks for my order.

Several customers stroll in eyes glued to the statues.

Jane brings my coffee and engages me in a little chat. Her intention is to find out how I feel about the place. She quickly notices how the sculptors have my attention and nods, asking if I need anything else. With sun`s rays still reaching the lobby, the natural interior lighting is superb.

DATE: 8th JAN, 2015

TIME: 7. 00pm

LOCATION: BIRCH COFFEE, 27 STREET MANHATTAN

Contrary to my belief that the place would be empty at night.

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The place is packed. Corporate figures, casually dressed individuals. Seems that the sculptors give the place a unique sense being a museum. Everybody walking in seems to be staring at them, including me. Every day I seem to notice a new one like it was not there before.

On this particular day I realize that Jane`s outstanding treatment is a key reason why I keep coming back. She displays utmost professionalism in her waiting. Smiles, polite inquiries and in-time service delivery all sums up my definition of hospitable treatment.

The central chandelier sends out its beams which are reflected by the brown paintings on the wall. One particular painting, a replica of the famous Monalisa stands out. The Monalisa seems to be smiling widely while she stares at me as I walk out of the place.

DATE: 9th JAN, 2015

TIME: 5. 00pm

LOCATION: BIRCH COFFEE, 27 STREET MANHATTAN

I sit at my usual spot waiting for Jane. She comes and takes my order. On this particular day I order sandwich and a glass of milk. Adjacent to me are the same individuals who I met here on my first day. They seem particularly content with their day, seems the judge agreed to whatever it is they wanted.

With a curious eye I stare across the room looking for a new sculptor.

Surprisingly there are no new ones. The postures of the sculptors seem to be adjusted.

I realize that the sculptors have not been adjusted but the lighting bulbs have been, thereby creating an illusion of movement.

DATE: 10th JAN, 2015

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TIME: 4. 00pm

LOCATION: BIRCH COFFEE, 27 STREET MANHATTAN

The place seems different today. At first it all seems the same. There are few people on the café. I notice Jane's absence from the floor. Looking at my cell phone I realize that it is a Saturday. Most people are away for the weekend breaks. The new waiters seem more serious. The unique sculptures and art does not help cloud up their hospitality or lack thereof.

First their service is delayed.

The tone in their voices is more authoritative

They seem impatient with customers and are loud

I walk out of the place wondering if Jane was all there was to this place. The Mona Lisa painting stares at me but by now I have lost all my interest in her.

The Poem

Birch`s Mona Lisa

I

Among the many stands Birch,

First amongst equals

Measurable to none

II

On recommendation,

I doubt the warmth promised by the referees

There is warmth indeed.

III

She owns the place,

Her service is superb,

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Forget Monalisa,

Forget Leonardo DaVinci,

She is Monalisa.

IV

She serves

The place.

The place should serve her

She is her highness.

V

I know why they

Keep coming

She owns the show,

Everyone wants their turn with her

VI

She reflects hospitality

She is an ambassador of hospitality

VII

Why do you doubt her appeal?

When it is availed to you,

Try the next palace

Then you will appreciate her appeal

VIII

Many palaces are known to me

But her palace still stands the tallest;

Magnificence in her voice,

As she leans to address your concerns

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Oh blessed me.

IX

As the palace lights up

Impatience sets in

You wait for your turn

To air your cravings

X

She compliments the chandelier.

She compliments Monalisa.

She compliments the Leonardo`s work

She is the Monalisa

XI

She strolled to me.

And there was my answer,

All my cravings were gone,

By just her proximity.

XII

Time flies.

When you close to her

She is an angel.

Who serves all humanity.

XIII

When her time came,

She departed the place.

You almost fill the emptiness

Of the void she lives

She is Birch

References

Mayes, F. (2001). *The discovery of poetry: A field guide to reading and writing poems*. San Diego: Harcourt.