

SINGLE SCENE

INT. NEW YORK CITY CAFE- MORNING

It is a busy Monday morning in the cafe. Nichole is pacing back & forth making drinks & ringing up customers while her boss is sitting at a table with paper work with a new employee. Nichole remains with a smile on her face regardless of the line forming out the door.

ALEX

Awaiting his drink by the espresso bar, checking his watch

Hey lady I'm running a little late here, can I get my drink?

NICHOLE

Yes sir, just one moment please!

She jogs to the cash register to help the next customer. HE has his arms crossed & holds an upset look on his face.

NICHOLE

Good morning! How can i-

The MAN cuts her off.

JACK

Yeah, give me just a black coffee. Large. For Jack.

NICHOLE

Alright, that will be \$3.25

NICHOLE writes his name on the cup and sets it next to the previous customer's cup. JACK gets upset from this.

JACK

Are you serious? It's a cup of coffee, I can pour it myself for crying out loud! Your job isn't that hard hunny, just pour it in a cup & hand it to me. Some of us have actual jobs to get to.

NICHOLE's eyes get glossy, she looks over to her boss but the boss ignores the situation. NICHOLE forces out a smile back at the customer.

NICHOLE

I'm sorry for the inconvenience sir, but the cafe's policy is that I have to serve-

JACK interrupts NICHOLE again

JACK

I honestly could care less about your policy. Here? Will this help?

JACK tosses a 20 dollar bill in the tip jar.
ALEX sees the distress in NICHOLE's eyes & feels empathy.

ALEX

It's okay...

LOOKS for her name tag

"Nichole"... that's my daughter's name.

He chuckles. NICHOLE cracks a small smile. JACK starts tapping his foot.

ALEX

It's okay, you can make his drink first & here (looks at JACK) it's on me today.

JACK holds an embarrassed look on his face.

JACK
Oh... well alright then.

NICHOLE pours the cup of coffee & hands it to JACK. JACK nods at ALEX & walks out of the cafe silently.

NICHOLE
Um, okay that will be \$3.25 I guess.

NICHOLE holds a confused yet a grateful look on her face.

ALEX
Perfect, do you take checks?

NICHOLE
We do!

ALEX smiles. NICHOLE smiles back.

(In a timid voice)

NICHOLE
Thank you by the way. You didn't have to step in back there, just another uncaffeinated customer & a lack of employees.

She lets out a small laugh & rolls her eyes. ALEX is still writing a check.

ALEX
You have a great work ethic. I can tell, I see you in this cafe almost every day & you're the hardest working barista here.

NICHOLE
I love it, it's kinda my dream to manage it one day.

She looks around & shakes her head in defeat.

ALEX
What about owning it?

NICHOLE lets out a loud laugh then gets stops when she sees that ALEX continues to hold a serious look.

NICHOLE

Considering you know I work here almost everyday, you can probably guess that I don't have the money for that.

ALEX

Now you do.

ALEX hands her the check. NICHOLE looks confused. She looks down at the check & her eyes widen and her jaw drops in disbelief.

CAMERA pans to the check- it read 53 thousand dollars and .25 cents. Signed Alex Jamison.

NICHOLE

Mr. Jamison... I can't-

NICHOLE looks up and sees ALEX walking away.

ALEX

Oh, & I'll come back for that coffee when your name is on that sign.

HE points to the *54th ST. CAFE* sign and gives NICHOLE a wink. A tear runs down her face, puts the check in her pocket, wipes away the tear and smiles at the next customer.

NICHOLE

Good morning! What can I get started for you this morning? Oh, & this ones on me.

CUSTOMER and NICHOLE both smile.

FADE OUT.

