

I am charmed by the title coffee girl, and I must confess that I was drawn to the story for that reason. I want to be clear from the outset that my goal with these comments is not to get you to write longer but to write more deeply, with more showing and less exposition. Further, and most of all, I want to know from you what your point is thematically in this piece. I want to focus my comments on three moments in the text. First, we have the sort of stereotypically asshole-ish customer. I know that happens, and I believe it, but there are certainly more subtle and for that reason more ugly encounters that women have. So that's something I would be interested in seeing you develop—a more subtle scene of misogyny. Also, you might allow the character to run through in her mind the many, many other encounters with this type of thing—a sort of all-star/greatest hits of jerkiness. These can be funny and idiosyncratic. Some can be stereotypical and some can be wholly original. It's an opportunity to show us this woman's work like without having to tell us about her worklife. Similarly, there is that large paragraph of exposition about why she keeps the job. Why not just tell us about her life. What she will do after she is done working. Who she will see. What she will say and do with them. She can be thinking about this in terms of what she does every day. Here again, rather than telling us she does this for the money, you'd be showing us in ways that elucidate character rather than force us to read in one direction. My biggest issue is the closing scene. For the life of me, I can't see how this is any different an encounter than any of the other scenes of men hitting on her—except that he is young and handsome and she welcomes the encounter. Thus, my big question is, thematically, what are you trying to explore here? What am I supposed to learn about this woman and her life and this moment? What should I think about my own life? I feel like how she engages with the young man tells us something about her—but something beyond waiting for her someday my prince will come moment, I'm not sure what that is. These are genuine questions I'm asking. You perhaps know the answer. In answering them you might be able to help me help you move the piece forward.