

COFFEE HAZILLY

By Barbara Maloutas

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i.

In every American town. There is a town. In every American. American town. There is a town. An American constantly in town. In every American. In a star. Starbucks. Starbucks, the only constant. In town. In starbucks. Every American. With constant parking. In parking. In starbucks. Every American with parking. For parking. American Starbucks. The only constant. Parking.

ii.

I. I am. Hooked. I am hooked. On one. One bean. A little bean. I am hooked on ground. I am blended. I am into. Into. Ground on starbucks. I am blending. Blended. On a little blended. Hooked. Into. Bean.

iii.

The starbuck. Marks. The employee. The employee cup. –starbucks.
–employee. –cup. –marks. Grande starbucks. Grande cup. Marked.
Caramel. Caramel employee. Caramel bucks. Caramel. Macchiato.
Machete macchiato. –Employee. –Marks.

Inside in. Side in. In corners. In chairs. Overstuffed. I. I linger.
Corners overstuffed. In. In. A cup. 3 in a cup. In a cup 7. 5 in a
cup. Lingering. In star corners and star chair. Overstuffed in bucks.
Bucks in corners.

I. I do not. Not know. To sit near. Near who. The who writer. The girls who talk. Women who lap. Or. Women talk. The real men. The bucks. Lap talk. Or. Loner. The not star. Near meeting. Try talking.

Sunlight. Glancing off sunlight. Off. Stainless. Little pitchers. And steel. Hiss of forced air. Pipes. Milking and milk and foaming. Fills us. Forcing us. With. Noise and the aroma. Of little pitchers. The branding of. Forced branding. And stainless. Without stain. Sunlight. Glance.

vii.

Hey. Hey. And hey. Sitting. Old couple. Each reading. Each book. If you knew. In the midst. Of reading. Of each. Of the book. Separate. In advance. If days were numbered. In advance. Where. In the midst of your advance. Your bustle. And reading your book. Would you. Hey. Each.

I know about. I know about sizes and nothing. About nothing. Of logic. The logic. The. Of. Of nothing. Of nothing about. About logic. Of. Logic of. Grande. Grande and tall. Tall. Of logic. Tall logic. Of nothing grande. But I know too. Too grande and too tall. Too logical. About sizes. Sizes of nothing. Starbucks sell. Sells. Grande. Nothing of logic and scones. Selling starbucks and nothing. Sizes of tall. Tall scones and grande. Cranberries of grande. Blueberries of tall. And raisins. Raisins of nothing. That. I know. Too. Too raisin. Too nothing. Too logic. Starbucks logic. Too tall.

ix.

If. If ten. If clearing. By. Starbucks later. It is a lull. A ten lull. A clearing lull. A lunchtime. Before. A lull. Only a lull. Only before. Lunchtime. Customers. Only customers. Only clearing. Before it is. Time.

x.

Among. Among there is. Products. There is music. Later music products. For later. Starbucks later. And. Either coast. Either later coast. From either. Favorite coasts. Still later. Still favorite. Thermal favorites. Either coffee from. Still. The thermal cup. The coffee coast. Thermal newspapers and cups. Taken. For later.

xi.

Pipes. Hissing. Star pipes. Must be. Must being. Bucks and stars.
And foaming. Are and being.

In summer. In stars. Concocting. Bucks. In summer the blending. Blending in summer. Summer blending. Concocting in summer blending. Blending blended. Frappuccino blending. Blended. Concocting of blended. Air and ice. Yet. Air. Yet. Ice. Yet worth. Still. Still blended. Still summer. Summer still. Yet still and worth. Still every summer worth and more. Every cent. Every. Ice. Ever. Air. Cent. Every cent blended. And more. More.

BARBARA MALOUTAS is the author of *In a Combination of Practices* (New Issues 2004) and a chapbook, *Practices* (New Michigan/Diagram 2003). Her work has appeared in *Aufgabe*, *FreeVerse*, *Segue*, *Tarpaulin Sky*, *The New Review of Literature*, *Good Foot*, *bird dog*, *dusie*, *Greatcoat* and elsewhere. Her work is anthologized in *Intersections: Innovative Poets of Southern California* (Green Integer) and *Segue's* Fifth Anniversary Issue. She teaches in the book arts program at Otis College of Art and Design and lives in Los Angeles.

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