

*'A Day in the Life...of a coffee shop barista'*

*by Con McCarthy*

06:30

The sound of the empty street is rudely disrupted by an English Barista, opening up shop. Before stepping inside of the coffee shop, the barista stops and stares down the street, watching the dark, cold bitter night being eaten alive by the warm, pink sunrise. The barista steps inside to begin his day, and turns over a plastic sign on the glass door that says '*OPEN.*'

The barista fills a tank with more dark, rich coffee beans and then looks at the clock and waits for the first customer of the day to wander in through the door. In the meantime, he carries out the morning routine by wiping the crumbs off the tables and wiping down the windows.

06:45

The first customer bursts through the doors and exclaims "*one double shot cappuccino.*" The barista works his magic. Then two minutes later, when he turns around to hand over the coffee, there is a line out the door of business men and women desperate for their ritual dose of caffeine, with a little chocolate on the side of course.

06:50

The barista knows how the daily system works, 7am to 9am is the morning rush, when, before work, people get a coffee and the line for the store is out the door. 9am to 3pm is usually calm, with grannies, stay-at-home moms and people on their lunch breaks, sitting in and getting a cup of coffee with a cake or a sandwich. 3pm to 6pm the shop is usually empty apart from the odd couple of people coming in, looking for a cup of coffee. The barista usually uses this time to get ahead on clearing and cleaning the whole shop.

18:30

The barista is finally finished with his long, slaving shift, and prepares to go home. He puts on his coat, his scarf and his hat. Then, he turns over the plastic sign that now reads '*CLOSED.*' The barista steps out of the shop and locks the door behind him. He glances upwards at the sky; the cold winter's night eats away at the bright orange and red sunset. With that, he trudges home, to sleep, to rest, before it all starts again tomorrow.