

Etta and Ida at Starbucks

Michael A. Stang





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ETTA AND IDA AT STARBUCKS

By Michael A. Stang

CAST

ETTA: Older Jewish woman

IDA: Older Jewish woman

BARISTA: Man in his 20s or 30s (may be rewritten for woman)

Place

Starbucks.

Time

The Present.

ETTA AND IDA AT STARBUCKS

Setting: *A typical Starbucks coffee shop.*

At Rise: *Etta and Ida enter Starbucks. They look around, confused, then sit at a table and wait, impatiently. Barista stands behind counter taking orders. He is not heard until he engages Etta and IDA.*

ETTA: You said *everybody* comes here.

IDA: They say this is "The Place."

ETTA: (*looking around*) I don't care if it is "The Place." The service is a shande.*

IDA: I don't even see a waitress.

ETTA: Maybe you need to bring a computer to get served here.

IDA: (*looking at the counter*) Look, Etta. They're ordering up there.

ETTA: (*looks at counter*) You go up there and order first. I'll hold the table.

IDA: I'm not going up there alone.

(*They leave the table and are at the end of a long line. They move slowly closer to the counter.*)

ETTA: Have you ever seen such a line?

IDA: At the banks during the Depression.

ETTA: At the White Sale at Bloomingdale's.

(*They arrive at the counter. They jostle each other not to be the first. Ida pushes Etta to the front.*)

ETTA: I'd like a cup of coffee.

BARISTA: Tall, Grande, or Venti?

ETTA: (*looking at Ida who shrugs*) I just want a cup of coffee.

BARISTA: Tall, Grande or Venti?

IDA: *(stage whisper to Etta)* Maybe he doesn't speak English?

ETTA: *(stage whisper to Ida)* He sounds Italian. You speak some Italian. *(Ida nods)*

IDA: Buon giorno. Un cuppa di caffè?

BARISTA: English, lady. We speak English in this country.

ETTA: Isn't that wonderful! He speaks English. *(to the Barista)* Where are you from young man?

BARISTA: Two blocks from here. Please. What can I get you? There are a lot of people waiting.

(Etta and Ida look back and see the line.)

ETTA/IDA: Oy.

ETTA: I would like a nice cup of coffee.

BARISTA: Tall, Grande or Venti?

ETTA: I'm sorry. I don't know that means?

BARISTA: Those are the sizes.

ETTA: I would like a *small* cup of coffee. What's "small?"

BARISTA: Tall.

ETTA: Tall?

BARISTA: Tall.

ETTA: *(stage whisper to Ida)* Is he meshuge*? Since when is small tall?

IDA: *(shrugs. In stage whisper to Etta)* He looks like the kind who could get a temper. Just say "tall."

ETTA: Tall. Please.

BARISTA: Hot or cold?

IDA: *(to Etta)* Who would want cold coffee?

ETTA:*(to Ida)* Shhh! *(to Barista)* Hot.

BARISTA: Which blend?

ETTA: *(looks at Ida, who shrugs)* Umm...black?

BARISTA: Decaf?

ETTA: No. Regular. *(she turns to Ida and they give each other smiles and a congratulatory hug.)*

BARISTA: *(points to menu overhead. Etta then Ida look up.)* Blonde Roast, Misto, Pike, Mocha?

(they stop smiling and drop their arms in resignation.)

ETTA: Young man. I turn eighty-five in three days. I ordered a cake and have invited a few friends over.

BARISTA: My grandmother is—

ETTA: *(raises her forefinger. The Barista is immediately silent.)* All I want to know is this. In three days, will I be celebrating my birthday, or will I still be here ordering a farkakte* cup of coffee?

BARISTA: If you like a milder cup, go with Blonde.

ETTA: OK. OK. I'd like a...tall...blonde. Hot.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!