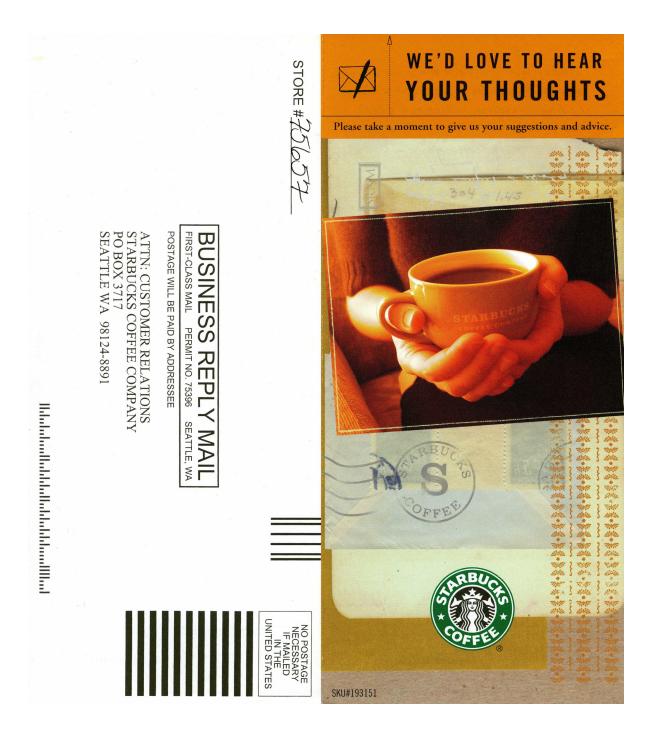


This book is dedicated to Ryan, Jared, Elizabeth, Bronwyn, Maggie, Mindy, Dave, Lisa, Katie, Matthew, Mariah, Kelly, Rebecca, Destiny, Shy, Paul and everyone who wrote me back.

Thanks for your time!



# Dear You,

It's hard to believe a decade has passed since I walked into a Starbucks store and noticed that their customer feedback cards read, "We'd love to hear your thoughts..." Despite being a congenial phrase, it seemed a bit intimate for corporate literature. In addition to coffee and biscotti, I happened to be in the market for an endurance art challenge that day and this invitation struck me as serendipitous. I think it was the "..." that got me. I decided on the spot to write a letter to Starbucks Coffee Company on their own (postage pre-paid) comment cards once a day for one year.

At the time, I was striving to make art while juggling three waitressing jobs. I had been painting for years but was somewhat lost and unable to find my individual voice. I either had time to work in my studio or money enough to survive, but never both. This time vs. money conundrum frustrated me. I felt powerless, as an artist in a productdriven culture, to engage with the greater social conversation. I took a conceptual art class in which we studied Tehching Hsieh and Marina Abramovic - seminal performance artists whose primary medium is the passing of time. This idea took my breath away, as I value time as the most precious "commodity" in life. The work of these artists inspired me to radically change my approach to art-making, which brings me back to the moment I found myself standing in Starbucks, dot dot dot.

After having written one letter a day to the ubiquitous coffee chain for one year and having received several polite but formal letters in return, the project was now complete. However, around that time my life went through a period of upheaval and misfortune and I began to receive letters of a slightly more personal nature from Starbucks. I realized that my daily ritual or my "Starbux Diary" as I had come to call it, had developed into a means of expression that was crucial to me. So, I decided to keep my side of the correspondence going... for nine more years.

And, sometimes, Starbucks writes back.

Christine Ferrera Artist/Diarist February 14, 2015

# Coffee

Coffee

# Grounds



# Predict



Dark



# Turbulent



# Future







Caution, muffins often happen for no reason.

8

# **Chapter 1**

Do you think that life is totally random or we choose our own fate?

I know questions like this are annoying and your answer will most likely be, "A little of both."

> See! I just did it! Self-fulfilling prophecy...

Sometimes, I feel so pathetic. But usually, I just want to grab life by the scones, kick it in the Frappuccino and let the biscotti fall where they may.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN??

# -- Christine Ferrera

This is the author's opinion, and not necessarily that of Starbux. To read more or respond, go to www.starbuxdiary.com

# Other Ways to Contact Us

→ Call us at 1-800-23-LATTE.

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- -> E-mail us through our Web site at Starbucks.com.
- -> By mail: Starbucks Coffee Company PO Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-8878

# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Broad \$

Bowe

Which store did you visit?

What was the date of your visit? 2-14 2005

What time of day did you visit us? Morning Afternoon Evening

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

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FOLD, SEAL AND MAIL PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS Dar Starbucks coffee. Visi your MOISTEN, ly set evac 01 the Same dairy selection: 10. Agh 0c your , 2%, etc. lalways 3 Na 150 nice have an to MIA tor way mo 50 cotteeshop around loca SP Ned. a make 000 R An CI come Th Q De War 2an 10 a Our partners (employees) are here to help. Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know

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- -> By mail: Starbucks Coffee Company PO Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-8878

# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? 9th St \$ 2nd Ave.

What was the date of your visit? 7 18 2005

MAI

11

What time of day did you visit us? Evening Afternoon Morning

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

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AND I PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US: SEAL MOISTEN, FOLD, and TV N as Kn Sarcasm SOOM. be me A US Our partners (employees) are here to help. Char Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know. excl en 13 © 2002 Starbucks Coffee Company. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. J106801 Your comments may be used for training purposes.

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT Which store did you visit? Broad way \$ 114th

What was the date of your visit? 2 19 2005

What time of day did you visit us? X Afternoon Evening Morning

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments. terrera hnist The Ummyache 698 potmail Nº 1St St.

STEN, FOLD, SEAL AND MAIL PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS US: Dear Starbuc Il n New York. I drauk a last night in sti ton a terrible hangover. In trying too have doing dund things. SMOKING and not Smoking. (in Hungarian 00 at having coffee and a Drune ache. Sometimes, it CLOUS seems impossi b Dast. hung oul and alon CONV Sed how 10 lat Sh D.S. wa NOT 1840 Dr 01 answe 02 Our partners (employees) are here to help. XOI Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know © 2002 Starbucks Coffee Company. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. J106801 Your of

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? Broadway \$114th, NYC What was the date of your visit? 2 10 2005

What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

Christine Ferrera tumnyachilege hotmail 527 N. 1st St. RVA 23219. (804) 648-7007

IOISTEN, FOLD, SEAL AND MAI PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US: lear Tank r about relationships thing wonde ratoundly m love Someone with NOU Ma mean at Truo Wa 17 la you on anone Ca Nou ¢u. hasicalle ati a me Alla hanceab lur R ame pornia WOUR 001 Oł a - that tically 8 v -ng 0 0 podu 11 al proken a 10 Can. ever OSSOM nor Our partners (employees) are here to help. Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know. © 2002 Starbucks Coffee Company. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. J106801 Your comments may be used for training purposes

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#### SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

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What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

Christine Ferrera 527 n. 15 st. RVA 23219 BO4) 648-7007 timmyachelege hotmail

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PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOU Dear Starbucks To you think that in order to be creative to be in a constant state of longing one has tation? Or do you think the oppo be totally shou ld Fen Orneither 400 is guestion some sincere thought me. Any answer 40 land illuminating your stores war cinhamon. ve of Huat and am some ZOMT them but KNOW US COL dont. Come to thin this reason lings tor OU oon Our partners (employees) are here to help. is Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know © 2002 Starbucks Coffee Company. All rights reserved. Pr 01 Your comments ma



Starbucks Coffee Company Customer Relations

P.O. Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-3717 800/235-2883 (800/23-LATTE)

March 05, 2005

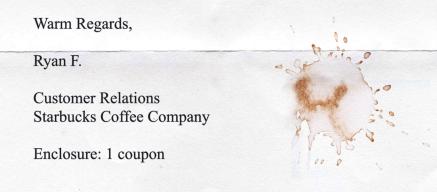
Christine Ferrera 527 W. 1st St. Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Christine Ferrera,

Thank you for contacting Starbucks Coffee Company. It is always a sincere pleasure to hear from valued customers.

Providing premium coffee and customer service is Starbucks ongoing goal, so we are glad to hear that your experiences reflect just that. We shared your comments with the Retail Operations department to ensure that the appropriate partners (employees) receive the praise and recognition they deserve.

Thank you for acknowledging Starbucks efforts. We hope you will enjoy Starbucks coffee for years to come.



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- → By mail: Starbucks Coffee Company PO Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-8878

## SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? Broad

What was the date of your visit? 3 10 2005

Bowe

What time of day did you visit us? X Morning Afternoon Evening

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments. hristine. Ferrera 527 N. 1st Street RIA 23219 04 48-7007 mmyache 69@ hotmail

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THO UGHTS WITH Jean Sta bicks got your letter today! Thanks for writing me back! you didn't respond to my questions about the nature of love and relationship VitaDAV ) or you believe in true love? I wonder namy people have not and tal len more at I'm not usually th proccupied I am this week because NP Imat Somore but it didn't work out Scared 90 him away. I mean 1 ra lly pus but we were s tand my So sinther le so he fel au ia Now I feel like I'll ne I'll always be an Derson and no. part Our partners (employees) are here to help. MOST 0 201 If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know. Hau alle a χC

© 2002 Starbucks Coffee Company. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. J106801 Your comment

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? Bro ad \$ Bowe

What was the date of your visit? 3



What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

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Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

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address if you want us to respond to your comments.

00 mme otma SEAL AND MAIL PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US: a cappuccino, Went 10 a man in 2000 Said SAL Sac wi C om IL Our partners (employees) are here to help Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know.

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Starbucks Coffee Company Customer Relations

P.O. Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-3717 800/235-2883 (800/23-LATTE)



March 12, 2005

Christine Ferrera 527 W. 1st St. Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Christine Ferrera,

Thank you for contacting Starbucks Coffee Company. We always appreciate hearing feedback from valued customers.

We were sorry to hear about your experience at Starbucks. Providing courteous and professional customer service is a top priority at Starbucks, so your comments are of great concern to us.

All partners (employees) attend 24 hours of training where delivering premium service is stressed as one of the main goals. We shared your comments with the store manager and district manager, as customer feeback is a critical measure of Starbucks success in exceeding customer expectations. If you return to any Starbucks location and do not have an enjoyable experience, we invite you to speak directly with the store manager.

Please accept the enclosed beverage coupon with our apologies for your experience. We hope all your future visits to Starbucks bring you nothing but pleasure.

Warm Regards,

Jared S.

Customer Relations Starbucks Coffee Company

Enclosure: 1 coupon

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? Broad Bowe

What was the date of your visit? 3

What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

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address if you want us to respond to your comments.

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FOLD, SEAL AND MAI PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US: par war AOISTEN, Tha Tor had 0 ne 0 10 0 a 0 Dea 0 ON Our partners (employees) are here to help. na 1 Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

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# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

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tumingache 69 Chotmail
PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US:
Dear Starbucks
Livst had a lovely chat with one of your
customer service representatives. I wish I bould
remember her name. She was so sweet and =
I felt like she really "got me." We talked
about love and relationships. She said there
is a dating website called starbuckesingles. com
that someone created who is not actually
a filiated with Starbucks, She also said
you've received several letters and calls from
people who is met their husband or wife
at Starbucks. It I ever meet the right
fella, maybe we could have our wedding
reception at Starbucks. Just think about it.
Our partners (employees) are here to help. If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know. Thanks for your time!
If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know.

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- -> E-mail us through our Web site at Starbucks.com.
- -> By mail: Starbucks Coffee Company PO Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-8878

# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? Broad \$Bowe

What was the date of your visit? 5 23 2005

What time of day did you visit us? Morning Afternoon Evening

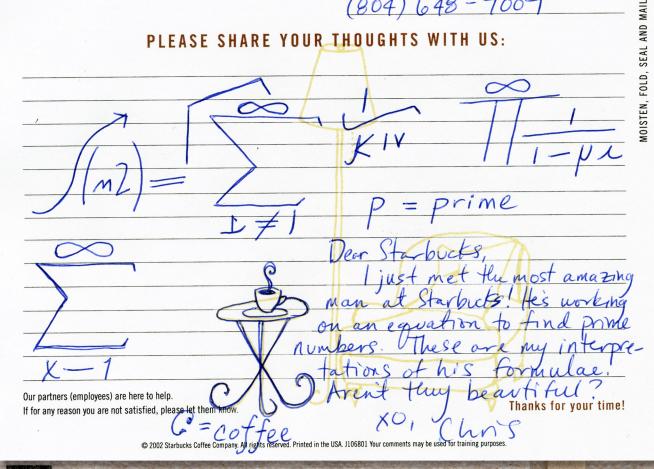
# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

Instine. Ferrera Vmmyach 69@ hotmain

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US:



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- → *By mail:* Starbucks Coffee Company PO Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-8878

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What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments. hristing ferrera 527 N. 1St St. RVA 23219 (804) 648 - 7007 mmy a che 69 Chotman

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PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUG Dear Starbucks ( like the biggest piece of ga Oh, the ban regula d this 7 at him Jin the tace. He is alway at the ting trouts oar and in Mto back his makeshi boxing ring. in annoying honestly d ont Know u but wash bar int MO tending. at stopped a d veen hopping. 201001 2200 a Ze to a Sa book and said goodbye. me an ancis management punches triends in the In the asshole but am tace Our partners (employees) are here to help. XO Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? Broad

What was the date of your visit? 5 10 2005

What time of day did you visit us? Morning Afternoon Evening

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

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address if you want us to respond to your comments.

hnethe evera 527 N. 155 St. RVA 23219 (804) 648 - 700may acho 69 Chotmail

SEAL AND MAI STEN, FOLD,

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THO UGHTS WITH US: Dear Starbucks was working at the diner today and I told my co-worker that I feel like the warst the world because of my drunken scene She assured me that ast night. I am not the rst person in the world and that she has done more horrific things. Of wanted Course. Know what so I tried to suess. asked her if had ever killed any one and shockingly, She SILO MS. seems years ago when She was ong t of drugs, she sold some bad brom guy and he died. yikes! cant magne with that. 1 have to say ihaving ula little better about myself. bit Re me Our partners (employees) are here to help. Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT Which store did you visit? Broad & Bowe

What was the date of your visit? 6 8 2005

What time of day did you visit us? Morning Afternoon Evening

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments. hristing terrena

7 N. 15 Street FVA 23219 ummyachelge hotmail.

ADISTEN, FOLD, SEAL AND MAIL

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US: Dear Starbucks enjoying an iced In sitting on your patio comes the manager! Hesa hatting away d-taced man the re on of those hos so reor 5 one ser exhiberantly friend lu 5.50 Ha an manaper becom 1 a Voil a the pottom have to art nt. Dickho cottee the reans unde hot Sun it, provided ITZ into hal INI "manade nie name em Proide red ona Volo and materia 1 " all over un Hen you hi worked at KS Stal buc 1'd dn N drinks cotte icious a day long un Ser Our partners (employees) are here to help. had an aneurysan. In your time! XO, self-control. have NO © 2002 Starbucks Coffee Company. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. J106801 Your comments may be used for training purples V1 S



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P.O. Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-3717 800/235-2883 (800/23-LATTE)

June 13, 2005

Christine Ferrera 527 W. 1st St. Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Christine Ferrera,

Thank you for contacting Starbucks Coffee Company. It is always a sincere pleasure to hear from valued customers.

Providing premium coffee and customer service is Starbucks ongoing goal, so we are glad to hear that your experiences reflect just that. We shared your comments with the Retail Operations department to ensure that the appropriate partners (employees) receive the praise and recognition they deserve.

Thank you for acknowledging Starbucks efforts. We hope you will enjoy Starbucks coffee for years to come.

Warm Regards,

Elizabeth G.

Customer Relations Starbucks Coffee Company

Enclosure: 1 coupon



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Dear Star

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Our partners (employees) are here to help

If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know

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→ E-mail us through our Web site at Starbucks.com.

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→ *By mail:* Starbucks Coffee Company PO Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-8878

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Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

Christine Ferrera 527 N. 19 St. RIA 23219 (804) 648-7007 tummyachilege hotmail

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Thanks for your time!

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit?\_\_\_\_

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What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

institle femera 155F. RVA 23219 04)648-7007 mmyache 69 e hotmail

PLEASE SHARE YOUR TH Ilear Starbucks, Whoa. Our manager didn't show up for brunch she called to say she was having day. Bam, are-up. I tried to convince her nert day off but she was deap the. Shelshowed in in the midd coming in. I wanted to see asked i and ling her I had drinks to make. Kent 4 the other waitresses went in the She du ackroom. Fre Why would anyone want to see the same womand who wa is no underwear and bends over tables creepy dudes so they can look up her Actually, she 22 ly SK Mage most Our partners (employees) are here to help. popula vr Θ If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know XO, © 2002 Starbucks Coffee Company. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. J10

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT Which store did you visit? Broad \$

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What was the date of your visit? 7

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# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

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PLEASE SHARE YOUR TH Dear S I went on a date th that oday. UMMEr me flowers! He's brought pretty of a topless has picture allphone. on That his seems ni on like, it live made it Daid SI an experimenta iazz mean, nosh! Capricious summer fling know ful romant a/ht7 C VO hed' but attac it nover ceem here are always WORK St rmly attach are a luaus d. ast t capricious litt ed ever Our partners (employees) are here to help. 110 ovo If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know

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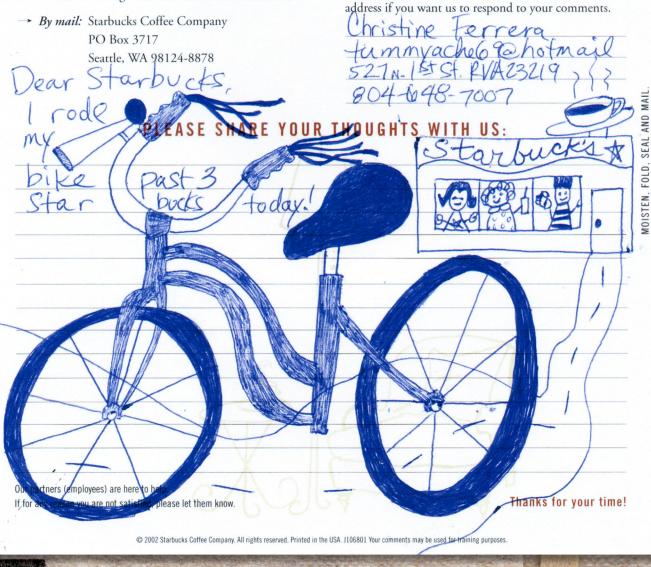
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# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail



# Other Ways to Contact Us

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If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know.

Our partners (employees) are here to help. NO

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# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

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address if you want us to respond to your comments. hristing Ferrera N. 1ST St. KIA 23219 1804)648-700

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Thanks for your time!

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# Other Ways to Contact Us

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- → *E-mail* us through our Web site at Starbucks.com.

# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT Which store did you visit? Broad \$

Rowe

What was the date of your visit? 8 15 2005

What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

→ By mail: Starbucks Coffee Company Christine Ferrera 527 N. 1st St. KVA 23219 PO Box 3717 (804) 648 - 7007 tummyache 69@gniail Seattle, WA 98124-8878 Sad De Sise Your THOUGHTS WITH Loneliness Feelings of Insignificance Inertia Regret Past Regret Past Fear Future Self-loathing Existential Angst Our partners (employees) are here to help. If for any reason you are not satisfied, assessed them know. Dystopian World View Thanks for your time! \* chins

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- → *By mail:* Starbucks Coffee Company PO Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-8878

# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit?\_\_\_\_\_\_

What was the date of your visit? 9 21 2005

What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

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ADISTEN, FOLD, SEAL AND MAIL. PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US: Doar an Tad ra Can Or ting 00 Our partners (employees) are here to help Thanks for your time! If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know head m No, Thank 100 for training po MC



# Starbucks Coffee Company Customer Relations

P.O. Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-3717 800/235-2883 (800/23-LATTE)

September 30, 2005

Christine Ferrera 527 North 1st Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Christine Ferrera,

Thanks so much for your encouraging words.

It's so exciting to hear you had a great experience that reflects our core values and supports our efforts to enrich your day. I forwarded your compliments to our management team to share the good news with them.

If you have any other questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Warm Regards,

Lisa H. Customer Relations Starbucks Coffee Company

Enclosure: 1 coupon

# Other Ways to Contact Us

- → *Call* us at 1-800-23-LATTE.
- → E-mail us through our Web site at Starbucks.com.

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→ *By mail:* Starbucks Coffee Company PO Box 3717 Seattle, WA 98124-8878

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Our partners (employees) are here to help.

If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know

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Which store did you visit? Broad \$

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What time of day did you visit us?

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Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments. hristike Ferrera N. 155+. RVA 23219 804) 648-7007 mmyache 67 Chotmail

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address if you want us to respond to your comments.

Invistine Femera 0. Box #4589 RVA 23220 mmyache 690 hotmail.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US: Dear Starbucks the rimmer and 1 broke up 11/2 las bou my mor a 10 no ina Ceen P here enouve 4 lason ike ć Ives WONK. ho CILLOO 211 Ma Whon Dare never even in don cause pprove a uclim nonale ind Ma P tud Someone was ma au ly star ac 1111 NC 80 vemmer all Wi Our partners (employees) are here to help. 0 If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know anks for your time!

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? 1010

What was the date of your visit? 2 25 2005

What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

hristine terrera D. O. Box #4589 RNA 23220 tunnyache 69@ hotmail

SEAL AND

PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US: Dear Starbuck I can't believe this is the idays! H ast one m See my tanuly going U ing Jabou some one 1 can't Mar. ying Some thing how ble happen no while Lide other in.sane ivo made Christmas it was VMA Ħ dessert. m sti and hungr Jas my Dad wish all OW Co nucl to deal with her. now omplain about mo ly awful. NC MIN my tandy are 0 leade M Our partners (employees) are here to help. Wato If for any reason you are not satisfied, please let them know anks for your time!

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# SPECIFICS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Which store did you visit? Brady St.

What was the date of your visit? 12 18 1005

What time of day did you visit us?

# MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

Please leave your name, address, phone number or e-mail

address if you want us to respond to your comments.

Christine terrera P.O. Box #4589 RVA 23220 tommy a chelle hotmail

