

MY FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP

written by

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The panel descriptions and the number of panels on each page present a basic structure for the story. If you wish to tweak them a bit, go for it. You are the visual artist, after all. I would, however, like to preserve the flow of the individual pages, the story beats on them, and what happens before and after a page turn.

PAGE 1 - PANELS: 3

PANEL 1

EXTERIOR. A MAN, either with a backpack or a laptop bag, enters a coffee shop. It's a sunny day and through big windows we can already see happy customers sitting inside.

NARRATION Creative work is all about **habit and rituals**.

PANEL 2

INTERIOR. The MAN is standing over the countertop, ordering his coffee from a smiling BARISTA. There are other baristas around, attending to the numerous customers. The shop is buzzing with healthy life.

NARRATION It could be about working at the same time, or while drinking the same beverage, or while listening to the same music.

Pretty much anything to get you **into the groove**.

PANEL 3

The MAN is sitting down at a table for one, putting down his laptop and taking a sip from his fresh coffee.

NARRATION For me it's not really about when I work or what I drink or listen to while doing it.

For me it's more about **where** I work.

PAGE TURN

PAGE 2 - PANELS: 4

PANEL 1

EXTERIOR. Through a window from the outside we see the MAN sitting in the coffee shop and working on his laptop, looking very focused and driven. He can also have a simple notebook opened on a table where he scribbles notes and/or sketches.

NARRATION I found this coffee shop a couple of months ago and it quickly became my favorite place to work at.
It's kind of **strange** how good it feels in here.

PANEL 2

INTERIOR, FOCUS on a BARISTA talking to another CUSTOMER.

NARRATION In my writing and drawing I usually focus on some **macabre stuff**.
Stories about **vampires, werewolves, zombies...**
Things like that.

PANEL 3

FOCUS on a happy COUPLE sitting at one of the other tables.

NARRATION It's as if the happier this place is, the darker stories I am able to visualize.

PANEL 4

BIG PANEL. The MAN is still sitting at his table and writing/drawing. In the background we can see the BARISTA, the happy COUPLE, some other personnel, and people coming and going into the coffee shop. An ideal creative workspace, as it may seem.

NARRATION Or at least that's how it **used to be**.

PAGE 3 - PANELS: 3

So my idea was that the second half of this story could mirror the first half. With the same number of panels on each page and with very similar contents for each panel, only with some small but important changes.

PANEL 1

EXTERIOR. The MAN, either with a backpack or a laptop back, enters the coffee shop. It's a dark stormy day and there aren't many people around.

NARRATION It's like the coffee shop started to slowly **lose its charm** about a week ago.

PANEL 2

INTERIOR. The MAN is standing over the countertop, ordering his coffee from a visibly tired and stressed BARISTA. There is something strange about them and also there's seemingly no one else around and the whole coffee shop is dimly lit, which, mixed with the rain outside, creates an unnerving atmosphere.

NARRATION Over time most of the usual customers stopped coming here. Or at least I stopped meeting them.
They also must have cut the staff short.

PANEL 3

The MAN is sitting down at the table for one, putting down his laptop and taking a sip from his coffee.

NARRATION Even the coffee doesn't **taste like it used to.**

PAGE TURN

PAGE 4 - PANELS: 4

PANEL 1

EXTERIOR. Through the window from the rainy exterior we see the MAN trying to work on his laptop, but it doesn't seem to go anywhere.

NARRATION What's worse, it seems like **my ideas dried up.**

PANEL 2

FOCUS on the counter, but there is nobody there. Though we might catch a glimpse of something weird in the kitchen area behind the counter. A person or... something else?

NARRATION It's almost funny because the more unsettling this place starts to look, the harder it gets for me to actually come up with my own unsettling stories.

PANEL 3

FOCUS on other tables of the coffee shop, but there is nobody there. A sudden lightning from the outside produces some strange harsh shadows.

SFX: **KRAAAK**

NARRATION First I thought it might be that I sucked all the good mood out of this place with my writing.

But now I wonder...

PANEL 4

BIG PANEL. The MAN is still sitting at his table, not writing or drawing, but looking nervously around himself. In the background we can see some strange creatures creeping in. Maybe something like a WEREWOLF crawling up on the counter. Maybe a ZOMBIE outside one of the windows. The point is that you can draw whatever scary characters or creatures you like and then alter the story to fit them better. So for example if you like to draw mummies, witches, and scary clowns, you can alter the monologue on PAGE 2, PANEL 2 to foreshadow just that.

NARRATION **...if it might be the other way around.**

THE END