

**COFFEE WITH SQUID**

by

Alex Hadley

**ALEX HADLEY**  
11872 Washington Place  
Suite 201  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
937.369.1771  
alexanderhadley91@gmail.com

WGAw 2020  
Copyright 2020

EXT. SEAFOOD DELIVERY TRUCK / HINOKI SUSHI RESTAURANT - DAY

A delivery truck pulls away revealing a sushi restaurant.

INT. HINOKI SUSHI RESTAURANT - DAY

**SUSHI CHEF**, a bigger sumo shaped, middle-aged Japanese chef with a bandana, pulling squid from a bin and chopping each with a cleaver. Looking into the bin we see the eyes of one **SQUID** move amongst all the others presumed to be dead. As the Chef pulls this squid from the bin it clings to his wrist terrified. Trying to shake it off violently, he accidentally flings Squid into the kitchen sink. Squid quickly scrambles and disappears down the drain just as the chef tries to snatch it.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. PIPES - DAY

Screen goes dark. With a whirling and whooshing of water first, the screen jumps to Squid being sucked down and through pipes in all different directions, until it desperately flings a tentacle into an offshoot pipe and pulls itself from the current. It swims to the surface and then slowly climbs up the rest of the pipe until it reaches a drain.

INT. DRAIN - DAY

It hears music and muffled talking... loud grinding and whirs and steam sounds. A timer goes off. Then a torrent of dark, brown, and murky liquid washes over Squid (coffee sprudge) and splashes Squid down below the water line in the pipe. It shudders from the scolding liquid... then it's pupils dilate and Squid expresses pure enjoyment.

CUT TO:

SQUID WITH SMALL FIREWORKS GOING OFF AROUND IT AGAINST A BLACK BACKDROP AND THE PLEASANT COFFEE NOISES FOUND IN A COFFEE SHOP

CUT TO:

INT. PIPES - DAY

Squid comes out of the episode, bloodshot eyes rolling to a stop. Its beak shakes with a goofy squid-smile.

It looks up and hurriedly climbs up the drain again.

INT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SQUID PEAKS ITS HEAD ABOVE THE RIM

It hears and sees someone coming to the sink.

MUFFLED TALKING GETS LOUDER

It shrinks back down in fear. Once it seems the person's voice is farther away, it quickly scrambles out of the sink. Not knowing where to go, it crawls along the ground, up onto a shelf, hiding amongst some books. From this high vantage point Squid studies the bustling shop.

SMASH CUT TO:

THE CUSTOMERS, A BARISTA, THE SOUNDS, THE SIPHONS AND THEIR BUBBLING AND EMBER GLOW, THE REGISTER AND ITS NOISES, TIMERS GOING OFF, THE CLINKING OF THE POURING AND GRINDING OF BEANS, THE POURING OF WATER, THE HUM OF THE ESPRESSO MACHINE, THE CHIRPING AND PURRING OF MILK STEAMING

CUT TO:

It enjoys all the pleasant aromas. Art is scattered all over red and white painted walls, with homemade gadgets and gizmos from an automatic coffee drip to straw dispensers and coffee ready signs. The combination of gadgets, art, and glowing siphons you would think to find in a mad scientist's laboratory, the coffee shop is small, warm, and welcoming. A hole in the wall.

Squid's eyes close as the aroma begins to draw it out from the books like Looney Luns, nearly falling off the shelf.

The Head Barista and shop owner, **RAY**, early 40's, Japanese-American, with a soft face, kind smile, wearing a baseball cap, walks by the shelf. Squid slinks quickly back into the books only to see Ray dumping beans into a whirl of shiny teeth below, shredding beans, realizing it almost fell into the GRINDER below. It gives a shudder.

FADE TO:

INT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - DAY - LATER

FADE IN FROM HIGH VANTAGE POINT OF LAST SCENE

Last patron leaves. Ray flips over the open/closed sign, turns off the lights except for one, closes and locks the door, and leaves. Squid slowly emerges, climbs down, and looks up.

PANORAMIC/ZOOM OUT SHOT: TOWERING ROW OF REFRIGERATORS AND THE COUNTER TOPPED WITH AN ESPRESSO MACHINE, REGISTER, SIPHONS, GRINDERS, CUPS, AND MORE

Squid climbs onto the counter and begins going through random drawers. It finds a bag of beans. Trying to open it rips the bag and spills coffee beans everywhere. It eats a bean. HARD CRUNCH.

ANGLE ON: SQUID'S UNSATISFIDE "ICK" LOOK

It grabs a kettle and fills a siphon top first with water and dumps in beans and flips the switch. The GLOW mesmerizes Squid until a big SPLASH as STEAM and BUBBLING scare it, seeing a mess of dirtied water and soggy beans spilled from the boiling coffee maker.

It moves on to the GRINDER. Squid had thrown beans in the top and looking under the grinder to see where the coffee grounds would emerge flips the switch. It pushes a button and ground coffee SHOOTS out hitting it in the face.

It wipes off the grounds, like the windshield wiper-esque motion you see in cartoons. It sees the portafilter Ray was using before, and pulls it from the espresso machine and fills it with grinds and "stamps" it with the tamp.

SQUID TUGS HARD LIKE IT'S EXCALIBUR

Squid pulls/twists until it's locked into the espresso machine and flicks the switch on. It directly places itself below guzzling the espresso as it drips, until the bitter blond part comes out, which Squid chokes and spits it out.

Still wanting more, Squid finds the milk and cold brew in the refrigerator and begins to drink, like it was dying of thirst, using various arms to wash it down.

CUT TO:

Squid chugging another cold brew, emptied pitchers and cups laying around it.

CLOSE UP: OF SQUID FACE, BLOODSHOT EYES TWITCHING FROM THE  
CAFFEINE.

SMASH CUT TO:

SQUID SPRINTING AND SCOOTING AS FAST AS IT CAN AROUND THE  
SHOP COUNTERTOPS, WALLS, WINDOWS, TO LEAP OFF THE WALL,  
DIVING INTO THE SINK FULL OF SOAPY WATER AND DISHES

BIG SPLASH AND SOAPY BUBBLES FLY OUT AND COVER SCREEN.

CUT TO BLACK:

INT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Ray unlocks the door and flips the closed/open sign. He turns  
around and notices the condition of the shop for the first  
time. Its clear he cannot believe the mess or what has  
happened.

Ray checks the register and sees all the money is still  
there. Confused and noticing the time he sighs and grabs a  
broom.

CUT TO:

INT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

Ray closes and leaves again.

Squid hungrier than ever crawls back onto the counter top. It  
eats a pastry from the pastry window. Looking over the coffee  
equipment, it slowly crawls over, and looking deep in thought  
begins to slowly, piece by piece make a cup of coffee with  
the siphon, not moving from one spot but all his arms  
simultaneously executing all the steps from grinding the  
coffee to filling the water etc.

TIMER GOES OFF

Squid, turns off the siphon, removes, and stirs, while  
placing a cup, cookie, and spoon into place all in one motion  
with its multiple arms. It peers over the rim of the glass at  
the steaming cup of joe. It picks it up and sips the cup. A  
smile.

SMASH CUT TO:

Squid pulls every different bag of beans from the drawers and turns on all the siphons, before making siphon after siphon, with every bean, mixing some together. Then scuttles over to the espresso machine.

ANGLE ON: EVERY BAG OF COFFEE IS OPEN AND BEANS ARE SCATTERED EVERYWHERE

CUT TO:

Squid is pouring latte art with two arms, sipping an espresso with another, while reading the paper with another, sitting amongst many empty mugs. Squid lowers the cups.

CLOSE UP: TWITCHING AND BLOODSHOT EYES OF SQUID

The cups rattle as it takes off around the shop LEAPING from the wall into the sink with a big SPLASH.

SAME FIREWORKS/ECSTASY MONTAGE

FADE TO:

INT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING - NEXT DAY

Entering the shop and noticing the mess, completely irate, Ray makes a phone call to the police.

FADE TO:

Closing that night, another man in uniform is finishing installing some security cameras, before leaving.

Nothing but the front door is locked up. Squid peers from its bookshelf cave, sees the RED LIGHT on the camera. Squid slinks up the corner of the wall, across the ceiling, and switches off the camera.

Still focused on the camera as Squid slinks away down the wall you hear the whirring of grinders, steam, slurping, and the big splash we knew was coming.

FADE TO:

EXT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING - NEXT DAY

Establishing rainy shot of the shop, as Ray unlocks the front door under an umbrella in a black suit all wet.

INT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING - NEXT DAY

Ray steps in with his wet umbrella.

Squid wakes from it's caffeine-crash coma. Stirring on the floor next to all the empties and mess, Squid hears the door shutting and scurries back into the bookshelf.

Putting his umbrella away, Ray notices the TWO FRAMED PHOTOGRAPHS on the wall in the corner. He pulls the first one from the wall.

ANGLE ON: A PHOTO OF HIM AS A LITTLE BOY SMILING, SITTING ON HIS FATHER'S SHOULDERS WHO IS ALSO SMILING WITH JOY

He places it back on the wall and pulls the other in to look at it.

ANGLE ON PHOTO OF: RAY AND HIS FATHER. HIS FATHER MUCH, MUCH OLDER AND BENT OVER, ON THE FIRST DAY RAY OPENED THE SHOP, BOTH SMILING, ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER'S SHOULDERS AS RAY HOLDS THE KEY TO THE SHOP IN HIS HAND NEXT TO A SIGN THAT SAYS "NOW OPEN".

ANGLE ON: A DROP OF WATER FALLS ONTO THE FRAMED PHOTO HE'S HOLDING.

POV FROM PHOTO OF: A TEARDROP THAT HAD ROLLED DOWN RAY'S CHEEK.

He wipes the tear off the glass before returning the photo to the wall.

Squid studies Ray's pain.

CUT TO:

INT. HINOKI SUSHI RESTAURANT - DAY

Sushi Chef pulls squid from a bin and chopping each of them with a cleaver. Looking into the bin we see the eyes of one squid, terrified.

BACK TO:

INT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

ANGLE ON: SQUID'S TEAR-FILLED EYES

Ray turns and can't believe the mess, but too sad, gives a sigh, undoes his tie, and walks to the back. Squid hurries down, looks towards the back door where Ray has disappeared, and quickly begins to make a cup of coffee. Nervously and as quietly as possible with Ray bound to appear at any moment, Squid makes a cup of coffee only turn around and SHOCK!

ANGLE ON: RAY RETURNING A LOOK OF SHOCK

Both look at each other in fear and disbelief. Squid offers him cup of coffee, with a SHAKING TENTACLE, which he had intended to make for Ray.

Ray takes it slowly. He smells the cup. Gives it a slurp, rolling it around in his mouth, before swallowing it. GULP. His eyes close and we now see Ray GIDDY against a black backdrop FIREWORKS OF FLAVOR going off all around him. Ray closes his eyes with a smile. Then opens them exchanging a look with of deep understanding, followed by smile from Squid.

FADE TO:

INT. RAY'S COFFEE SHOP - DAY

DAYS LATER

Squid and Ray working side-by-side serving many drinks to their guests.

VIEW PANS OUT WITH BUSY SOUNDS OF THE SHOP TO A THIRD FRAMED PHOTO ON THE WALL OF RAY AND SQUID GIVING CHEERS WITH CUPS OF COFFEE

FADE TO BLACK.