

## Good Morning, My Dear

*Kristy Pistilli*

Another morning has passed, and once again, we have failed to share a cup of coffee. I have heard your complaints that we don't share a morning cup of coffee as often as we used to, and I would like to offer you some explanation. As you know, time is often short, and I am constantly frantic just to get out the door on time. Theoretically, when you prepare coffee for me amid the frenzied morning routine it could provide a great escape from the turmoil. But if the ingredients are not right, the preparation and presentation prove to be quite useless. In fact, I am left unsatisfied and even more rushed than before. Over the years I have learned that in order to maximize my pleasure I have to prepare my coffee myself in the afternoon, during precious stolen moments. While I am content with this, it would be nice if you could do it for me sometimes. I am willing to provide you with the recipe but you must follow it exactly.

I like my coffee very strong—a dark French Roast. Once the steaming liquid is poured into an oversized mug, you should add two teaspoons of sugar—enough to make it sweet but not so much that it takes away the edge. I also require a bit of cream—half and half, *not* plain milk—so that the coffee is dark brown. In addition, a dash of vanilla non-dairy creamer must accompany the cream. This is the magic cup, guaranteed to work every time. So, if you do want to be assured that I'll enjoy my coffee, keep these ingredients handy. Please note that I am willing to experiment with different combinations of sugar and cream; indeed, my flexibility on some counts may surprise you. Just keep in mind that although your methods at times may vary, the dash of vanilla, without fail, will bring satisfaction.

I know that I have shared the recipe with you before, but it seems that you either think that you know how better to suit my tastes, or you are too preoccupied to take the time to prepare it right. I know that you are not a very particular person and that you are able to enjoy your coffee so long as it's coffee; however, I require a bit more. You may feel that this makes me “high maintenance” or “picky,” maybe even boring because I won't try something new. I apologize for the inconvenience

that this might cause you, but I think it is time that you took the simple yet necessary steps to satisfy me. While I could continue to sit back and struggle to enjoy an occasional cup of coffee that you have hastily prepared, I would like to stop pretending and actually truly savor the fulfilling taste of a well-made and loving cup.

Sincerely,

Your Loving Wife