

HITS THE SPOT

Written by

Elizabeth Kaye Daugherty

Brookings, SD

EXT. "HITS THE SPOT" COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

JUSTIN CASE, 25, turns over a sign on the window to read "open."

SARAH TONIN (V.O.)
Here, everyone knows their place.

CUSTOMER approaches and Justin waves him in, smiling. Justin retreats into the shop, and Customer follows.

INT. "HITS THE SPOT" COFFEE SHOP

SARAH TONIN (V.O.)
Life here is so simple because
everyone has a gift -- a talent,
we call it.

Behind the counter, Justin hunches over a coffee maker that is making loud gurgling sounds, then strikes it with the heel of his hand. Coffee pours from the spout, and he smiles happily, wagging his golden fingers.

Customer approaches the cash register. Gold on his nose glitters.

CUSTOMER
Mornin' Sarah.

SARAH
Good morning! What can I get for
you?

CUSTOMER
Just a green tea, if you don't
mind.

Sarah smiles, no gold visible on her face.

SARAH TONIN (V.O.)
And I do mean everyone.

SARAH
Will that be all?

Customer brings out his wallet.

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

I'm so tired, I don't know how
I'll make it to the end of the
day.

CUSTOMER

That's it.

SARAH

Coming right up.

Sarah turns away to prepare a green tea, and a sparkle of gold can be seen in her ears. Sarah fills a cup of hot water and puts a green tea bag inside, then reaches under the counter.

SARAH (V.O.)

Our talents are how we give back
to the community by doing what
we're good at. It's how we keep
everybody happy.

She pulls out a bottle that looks empty with a label that says "energy boost," and uncorks it, pouring the invisible contents into the cup before putting a lid on it and handing it back to the customer.

SARAH

Three and a half, please. Careful,
it's hot.

The customer hands over the cash and takes the cup.
Customer exits. Sarah looks pleased.

SARAH (V.O.)

Yes, this simple life is perfect.
What more could anyone want?

ROBIN, 30s and beautiful with gold streaks on her temples, approaches the counter. Sarah gawks at her from across the counter.

ROBIN

Hi. One coffee black, please.

SARAH

Uh... sure! Anything else?

Robin smiles and shakes her head.

ROBIN (V.O.)

It's been so long since I've been
in love with another person.

Sarah fumbles with the coffee cup and takes out another vial from under the counter. This one says "love" in pink letters, and is just as empty-looking as the first one. She shakily empties some of it into the cup and puts a lid on it.

She brings the coffee to Robin, but at the last second drops it and the hot coffee splashes down Robin's shirt front.

Robin cries out in surprise.

SARAH

Oh, no! I'm so, so sorry! Let me
help you clean that up!

Sarah reaches for the nearby napkin dispenser.

ROBIN

No, there's no point. I'll have to
go change, now.

Robin hurries away from the counter and leaves the shop. Sarah notices that she left her payment for the coffee on the counter.

JUSTIN

Yikes. Talk about a hot date, huh?

Sarah looks mournfully at Justin.

SARAH

She paid for a coffee, but didn't
even get to drink one.

JUSTIN

That was Robin, she owns the
animal sanctuary and clinic on the
edge of town.

SARAH

You know her?

JUSTIN

We dated in high school, broke up because I left for college. Now that I'm back in town, though, maybe she'll want to see me. Hey, do you think I could take her that coffee?

SARAH

What?

JUSTIN

Well, you're going to replace it, right? It's not like you to leave someone wanting.

JUSTIN (V.O)

Robin might take me back, make my life nice and easy again.

Sarah makes another coffee, this time easily going through the motions. She stares longingly at the bottle of "love" before adding it to the new coffee. She gives the cup over to Justin, resigned. Justin takes the coffee and leaves.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. "HITS THE SPOT" COFFEE SHOP - DAY (MORNING)

Sarah hands a cup to a customer. She doesn't look very excited.

SARAH

Thank you.

The customer leaves with their drink.

Sarah sighs and looks at the countertop, and when she looks up again she gasps. Robin is back.

ROBIN

One black coffee, please.

Sarah nods.

ROBIN (V.O.)
I hope I can do this...

Sarah makes the coffee and takes another vial from under the counter. This one says "courage." She adds it in, like the others before.

Sarah hands her the coffee.

SARAH
Here, no charge. I feel awful for yesterday.

Robin smiles.

ROBIN
Well, I hope you'll accept this, instead.

Robin hands Sarah a slip of paper and takes her coffee out of the shop. Sarah opens the note. It says "Thanks~ 555-123-5555." Sarah smiles and tucks the note in her pocket. Another customer approaches the counter.

SARAH
(brightly)
Hi, what can I get you this morning?)

EXT. "HITS THE SPOT" COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Robin sips her coffee, and walks through the doors onto the sidewalk.

SARAH (V.O.)
Here, everyone uses their talents to help each other. And it's why I love what I do.