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Food Review: Handsome Biscuit

On November 8th, I walked to the Handsome Biscuit on 4200 Monarch Way in Norfolk, VA and met up with classmates. Handsome Biscuit opened in 2013 and is known for serving sweet potato biscuits along with tasty sides. I walked in and began to talk to my friend, Tiffany. I looked at the chalkboard-like menu and felt a bit overwhelmed. There were many options, each a different and unique combination. Then I ended up getting the Stevie and splitting a hash brown with Tiffany. I also tried their housemade root beer. The food was unlike anything I have ever had before. It was delicious and one-of-a-kind.

When I first walked into Handsome Biscuit, I heard my classmates discussing the menu choices. A few of my classmates were already ordering. I set my stuff down and get in line. The place had an alluring atmosphere and aroma. It smelled of savory chicken with hints of the sweetness of the sweet potato biscuits. The place itself was very minimalistic with its few decorations and simple color scheme. The walls were painted yellow and there were framed photos of random events and people. The ceiling was missing, which I found very odd. However, the bathrooms were painted with fun and bright floral designs which made up for the ceiling. They were also playing calming, indie music, which I liked a lot. It seemed very welcoming to all ages and family friendly. It was my turn to order. I had a few questions, and the cashier

answered them all charmingly with a smile on her face. The service was fast and kindhearted. I could tell they enjoyed their jobs.

I ordered the Stevie biscuit and a drink, which totaled to \$9.56. The Stevie was one of the more expensive biscuits on the menu, but the description made it sound too good not to order. On the menu, it said it was a chicken biscuit with pickles, mustard, and covered in honey. My teacher pumped this place up with her good reviews, so I expected for it to be very appetizing. I waited for my food while I filled my cup with root beer. Their root beer was made in home, and I could tell. It was sweet, but not as sweet as brand name root beers. It wasn't too carbonated. However, I didn't mind the lack of carbonation. I finally got my food, and this chicken biscuit was massive. I had to cut it into pieces. It was impossible to eat all at once. It looked mouthwateringly good. The plating was incredible. The biscuit had an orange hue because of the sweet potatoes. The chicken was a beautiful golden-brown color, and it was covered in a beautiful yellow mustard with seeds. Honey covered the biscuit and plate. The brightness of the dish was so nice and made it look very appetizing. The hashbrown also looked appetizing. It was a deli-style hashbrown, which I've had before so I had an idea on what to expect.

Now came the time to finally taste the food. As I tried to cut the biscuit in half, it began to fall apart, which made it a bit difficult to eat. I began to taste the ingredients individually. Firstly, I took a bite of the biscuit. I wasn't sure what to expect because I had never had a sweet potato biscuit and I'm not a big fan of sweet potatoes. However, this biscuit was very tasty. It was sweet, but not overwhelmingly sweet. The biscuit was soft in texture but a bit dry. Then I tasted the chicken. The chicken was covered in the mustard and honey. The chicken smelled so delectable with the mustard, honey, and pickles on the biscuit. It was well seasoned, crispy, but

tough to chew. If it wasn't covered in the mustard and honey, I believe it would've been dry. The mustard was unlike any mustard I've ever had. It still had the mustard seeds in it, which added a really nice crunchy texture, however, they put way too much mustard. Mustard is very tangy, and it overwhelmed my taste buds a bit. Then I tasted one of the pickles, and I could immediately tell that they made their own pickles. They were tart and spicy with a touch of sweetness. Next, I tasted the ingredients all together and it was like a burst of sweet, tangy, and savory flavors. Everything played so well all together. While I felt the chicken was dry before when combined with everything else, it all tasted delicious. Then I tried my half of the hashbrown, and I was disappointed. I've had diner hashbrowns before, but they never tasted like these ones before. The hashbrowns had such a strong onion flavor that really threw me off. Everything else was worth every penny.

Overall, I had a quality time, and I really loved the atmosphere of Handsome Biscuit. It was a great experience. My expectations weren't quite met because my teacher talked it up so high. Going in, I had very high expectations, and a lot of them were met while some were not. My biscuit sandwich was authentic and delightful. While the hashbrowns were something I would never order again. Handsome Biscuit makes up for the underwhelming hashbrowns in other areas. The bathrooms were so fun and funky. I would definitely go again and probably bring a few friends with me next time.



