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English 110C

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Hand Me Some More Biscuits!

For my food review, my classmates and I went to a biscuit place on 4200 Monarch way, Norfolk, Virginia called “Handsome Biscuits” on November 8, 2018. In the United States, biscuits are one of the most popular snacks. It is popular for its rich, creamy, and soft texture, therefore, it was an incentive for us to go to a place that makes biscuit sandwiches. It was also very convenient for us since it is located on campus at Old Dominion University. I went with my brother and sister, but my classmates and my teacher were also coming. Since we arrived early by 9:30 in the morning, the restaurant was not crowded. We were the first group of people there. I ordered the B.E.C. which is a biscuit sandwich with thick cut bacon, egg, and cheese with an orange soda.

ODU is well-known not only for its affordable education but also for the great food joints that compel students to attend it. Also, there is only two “Handsome Biscuits” place in my area, and both of them are in Norfolk, so that might have been one of the motives to attend this university. Since the restaurant is located on campus, it was a bit hard to find without looking at a map for guidance. Thankfully, my brother knew how to navigate skillfully around the campus, so he was our handy navigator. It was also surrounded by other stores and restaurants which are all tightly close together; however, the “Handsome Biscuit” written in big capital fonts in yellow at the front entrance of the restaurant helped me identify it. Before the day we were due to visit

the place, I did some background research to see what type of ingredients the store uses to make its food. It is a locally owned business store, so a lot of its foods are locally sourced, which is a brilliant way to attract its customers. When I walked into the restaurant, I was given a menu with all of the meals and drinks that they provide. As I took a seat, I started to observe and absorb the tranquil environment around me. Although it is a restaurant, it gave me the feeling of a coffeehouse that I have visited before called Borjo Coffeehouse which is also located at Old Dominion University.

The walls were painted in vibrant flaxen, which is a light shade of yellow, and beige; yellow is known as the color of happiness, so that was probably why I felt comfortable. Black and white pictures of random things such as inspirational quotes, streets of cities, and landscapes filled the room giving it a vintage and artsy vibe, which also adds to the Borjo coffeehouse or any coffeehouse feel. The place also looked unfinished because the ceiling was not filled in; this gave me the feeling of an industry or factory, which I am not sure if it is part of their idea architecturally or if that specific “Handsome Biscuits” was not completely finished. They were also playing very soothing and relaxing music with words that I could not hear because of the noise of people filling up the place. After looking around, the smell of food, mainly biscuits started to stir up a hunger in me. As more people came, the aroma became stronger because the more people are coming, the busier they get.

The menu was not what I expected at all. It was just a very light yellow sheet of paper with their list of foods written horizontally and categorically with the types of food such as breakfast, lunch, dinner, and deserts. I expected the usual plastic covered and at least two-page Menu that I usually see at restaurants. I ordered the B.E.C which is a sandwich with thick cut

bacon, egg, and cheese along with orange soda. I decided to order that because it was breakfast time, and this best suited the time of day to me; plus, I love bacon and eggs as well. When I went to order, I was feeling a little nervous as I always do when I am about to make any orders; however, the cashier was very sympathetic, and I could tell that she knew that I was nervous because she started smiling and being more understanding and thoughtful towards me. For example, since it was my first time ordering a meal from them, I said B.C.E instead of B.E.C, and she corrected me by smiling and saying that it was okay. When my meal came, it looked just like I thought a regular bacon, egg, and cheese biscuit sandwich would look like. The biscuit felt very powdery with very crunchy edges but airy and fluffy on the inside. To me, the bacon was a little too burnt for my taste, but that's just a personal preference; I prefer my bacon pulpy and gummy-like, but this one was too crunchy. The cheese was well-melted, and the egg was not as soggy or undercooked as I thought it would be, which is a good thing. Although the edges of the biscuit were a bit hard, it was surprisingly easy to cut through.

One of my classmates had ordered the same thing that I did, however, when hers came, the egg and the cheese were watery and oozed out of the biscuit and onto the plate. Both of our sandwiches looked different, so that was proof to me that they do make everything from scratch because of the inconsistency of each sandwich. After looking at it, I was not expecting much, but the balance of the sweet bun, slightly bitter bacon, highly-flavored egg, and sticky cheese was phenomenal. Everything worked well together to make something delicious in my mouth. One of the things that I have noticed is that you can get whatever drink you want, and no one will know. When you order a drink, they give you a cup, but they don't really have control over which drink you take. For instance, I ordered the sweet tea, but when I went to the drinks area, I saw orange

soda and decided to take that instead. None of the workers knew because they probably do not remember which drink you've ordered. Since I have drunk orange soda before, the taste was familiar to me; it was bubbly and gaseous just like the Fanta orange soda can. The service was what I expected; the workers would come every once in a while and check up on you while you're eating and take your plate if you were done.

Overall, I would definitely eat at "Handsome Biscuits" again for many reasons. The price is extremely fair for what you order; you actually get what you paid for, and the price ranges from \$5 to \$7. The location is very convenient as it is on my campus, the place looks teens and young adults-friendly because of its casual appearance. It targets anyone and everyone from students to teachers, and even couples on a date. One of the main criteria that I look for in a food joint is friendly staff because they are the people making the food, and their staff perfectly fit that criterion. I enjoyed what I order, which was a breakfast sandwich called the B.E.C, and I would definitely order it again for its well-balanced mix of flavors.



- My B.E.C in comparison to my classmate's B.E.C on the right; same order but with hashbrowns on the side.

