Coffee Pushers Anonymous
Diana Raab

Every morning across America, in cities large and small, waitresses push coffee. They greet you at restaurant entrances, caressing menus to their chests—as one would a newborn baby—and ask if you want coffee. For addicts like me, only cappuccino will do and when you ask for one, they click their heels and walk away to return with their manager to report a broken machine, born in a small Italian village. You settle for regular coffee and then meander to the buffet bar, lift the tin covers of dry scrambled eggs, and grab the last remaining crispy bacon. You return to your vinyl booth with your once-hot coffee, as the waitress pours a 'warmer' of brown water filled to the rim. Who are these coffee pushers and who told them to top off my already full cup? All I want is my espresso: it opens my eyes to face the day's surprises. Maybe another visitation, or birth as I await the next served cup: four o'clock in my home where breast milk nursed my young, in some other city in America.

Diana Raab, MFA, PhD, is a poet, memoirist, workshop leader, thought-leader and award-winning author of fourteen books and editor of three anthologies. Her work has been widely published and anthologized. Her poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and The Best of the Net. She frequently speaks and writes on writing for healing and transformation.
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