

MY FIRST DAY

3 8 '26

DEAR MA:

I WOULD LIKE TO PREFACE THIS LETTER BY SAYING THAT MY LUCKY NUMBER IS THREE, THAT MY EMPLOYEE NUMBER AT WORK ONLY INCLUDES THREES AND A MULTIPLE THEREOF (9) AND LASTLY THAT I FOUND A TWO EURO COIN ON THE FLOOR WHILE WRAPPING UP TODAY.

THE WORK IS FUN AND DIFFERENT. FUN BECAUSE YOU'RE WORKING IN AN ENVIRONMENT FILLED WITH TOYS AND PEOPLE LOOKING TO BUY TOYS. DIFFERENT, FROM WHAT I'VE DONE PREVIOUSLY, AND FROM WHAT I EXPECTED. IT IS VERY PRODUCT-ORIENTATED; LITTLE EMPHASIS ON SERVICE. IN HORECA SERVICE IS EVERYTHING, AND I'M JUST SURPRISED TO BE IN AN INDUSTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME WHERE PEOPLE AREN'T REALLY COMING IN FOR THAT AT ALL. DO THEY APPRECIATE GOOD SERVICE? OF COURSE, WHO DOESN'T? BUT IN A TOY STORE PEOPLE ONLY NEED SERVICE IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIFIC OR RETURNING AN ITEM.

COMPARE THIS TO THE NEEDINESS AND HIGH-MAINTENANCE INHERENT TO HORECA.

MY HOURS AND OFF-DAYS ARE VERY CONSISTENT, WHICH IS A VERY WELCOME CHANGE AS WELL. COLLEAGUES ALL SEEM SUPER DOWN TO EARTH, DESPITE IT BEING A FULLY DUTCH WORKSPACE.

I LEARNED A LOT TODAY AND WILL BE LEARNING EVEN MORE THESE COMING DAYS. 'SOMETHING NEW' HAS BEEN THE THEME OF MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER THIS PAST YEAR AND ½. IT IS AS REWARDING AS IT IS CHALLENGING. KEEPS THINGS INTERESTING, I'LL TELL YOU THAT. I DO END UP MISSING THE TEAM I'VE BECOME A PART OF WITH EACH CHANGE OF PROFESSION, BUT, PEOPLE CAN ALWAYS STAY IN TOUCH AFTER THE FACT. I HAVE ALWAYS AIMED NOT TO LET MY WORK DEFINE WHO I AM AS A PERSON, BECAUSE I HAVE SEEN THE WAY PEOPLE BECOME CONSUMED BY THEIR WORK AND DECAY THUS. AND FOR WHAT?

ANYHOW, I'LL KEEP YOU POSTED AND LET YOU KNOW IF I'M AS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS WHOLE THING A FEW WEEKS DOWN THE LINE.

OR WHEN IT'S HOLIDAY SEASON...

LOVE YOU MUCHO,

BENJAMIN FOX xx