
Tekst 8

Erica Pearl: 'I get paid to spot bad cooking and service'

- 1 One evening I was eating in a restaurant that had just opened. The owner came over and asked my opinion of the meal. I told him exactly what I thought: that the menu was confusing, that many of the dishes were drowning in sauces, that the staff didn't seem able to explain the cuisine they were serving. The following day he called me and asked if I wanted a spotting job. Like a mystery shopper employed by department stores, a food spotter is hired to find out what restaurants are actually like for the paying customers they depend on. Within a couple of weeks I was spotting several times a week, hired by restaurants ranging from huge chains to sole proprietors.
- 2 There is a downside to all those free meals. The reports I prepare can be upwards of 18 tedious pages, and I can't take notes during the meal because it would draw attention. Chefs and house managers are often thin-skinned, and my feedback is rarely 34.
- 3 Then there's the 35. I've eaten my way through entire menus, often ordering enough for twice the number of people at my table. Though it makes for tasty leftovers it kills my figure, so I make it a rule to walk at least 15 blocks to and from any restaurant. Another rule I keep in mind is that it's a taste, not a trough. Just because it's on my plate doesn't mean I have to finish it.
- 4 I admit I'm a culinary executioner of sorts. 36, I love food spotting because it enhances my regard for chefs and quells any desire I ever had to own a restaurant. But it doesn't make me want to cook better. It makes me not want to cook at all.

Erica Pearl is a pseudonym

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- 1p **33** What is the aim of paragraph 1?
- A To emphasise why food spotters like Erica Pearl are necessary.
 - B To illustrate how varied the activities of food spotters are.
 - C To make clear how Erica Pearl got her job as a food spotter.
 - D To show that most meals served in restaurants are of inferior quality.
- 1p **34** Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 2?
- A appreciated
 - B believed
 - C criticised
 - D ignored
- 1p **35** Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- A enjoyment
 - B expense
 - C weight
- 1p **36** Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 4?
- A Besides
 - B For example
 - C Still