Five Jobs I Quit
By Claudya Geister-Padilla

1. I once was a hostess at a restaurant. The servers and bartenders were mostly mean with some exceptions. It felt like high school politics with cliques and rude girls who talk about you and others. The place was small and disorganized. People never tip the hostess, and I don't blame them. I hated it there, so I quit.

2. I once was a front desk agent at a hotel. I experienced all the cliches. Sex workers and their revolving visitors. Unruly teen baseball teams and their drunk parents. Transients refusing to vacate. We had a pool and complimentary breakfast. I enjoyed it mostly, and the free bagels I would eat alone at night. It paid horribly, though, so I quit.

3. I once was a barista. Starbucks was not an entirely bad company to work for. I liked the job perks like unlimited drinks while on the clock. I was a closer, so I got to take soon-to-be-expired food home, which was another nicety of the job. The customers were impatient and very demanding, but my coworkers were fun. I didn't want to deal with their customers anymore, so I quit.

4. I once was a library attendant. I worked at different public libraries across the county. I re-shelved books and checked them out. I also worked the circulation desk, where people would ask all sorts of questions. It was a calm and tranquil place. You felt safe there, for me a bit too quiet. I never got many hours, so I quit.

5. I once was an Amazon worker. I was a picker/packer at a fulfillment warehouse. It was nice to wear whatever I'd like and to go through a whole shift without talking to anyone if I felt like it. The job itself was super easy; anybody could do it with a little skill. But there was zero guidance and unhelpful upper management. I didn't like the overnight hours, so I quit.