

THE PROPER WAY TO USE A USB THUMB DRIVE

(an excerpt from THE INCORRIGIBLE CHATS)

An original screenplay
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ACT 1

FADE IN

INT. COMPUTER CLASSROOM – DAY

CATHY DAWSON sits at the computer typing away. It's just before class starts and eighteen to twenty OTHER STUDENTS are entering.

All of the other students are guys. They range from geeky to really really geeky. Cathy is typing in her own instant messaging interface on her Web site.

CHATS TO PAULA-DOLLA
So I'm supposed to breed? That's my special purpose in life?

PAULA-DOLLA TO CHATS
Some people are meant to be the Pez dispensers of children. I don't think you are one of them.

CHATS TO PAULA-DOLLA
I don't think you are either. Don't be birthin no babies anytime soon, ya hear?

Other guys around Cathy occasionally look at her.

PAULA-DOLLA TO CHATS
I think it requires getting a date first, though... sigh... ☹

CHATS TO PAULA-DOLLA
No no no... no frowny faces on my watch. We go out 2-nite!

PAULA-DOLLA TO CHATS
☺

NIMITZ, a really really geeky guy walks up to Cathy.

CATHY
Hi, Nim.

NIMITZ
I brought you a danish – it's fresh from this morning.

CATHY

Oohh... you are so sweet. As sweet as the gooey, high fat, high sucrose stuff inside this, I'm sure!

They laugh together. He looks embarrassed and wanders away.

CHATS TO PAULA-DOLLA
gtg xoxo

PAULA-DOLLA TO CHATS
bye for now

A good-looking computer geek in his 20s, DEREK, sits next to Cathy.

CATHY
Oh, hi – you're not um... that guy who normally sits here... t-shirt wearing guy...

DEREK
I'm Derek, hi.

He shakes her hand.

CATHY
Hi... Cathy. I'm Cathy. Cathy D that's me! You can just call me Cathy. Or Cathy D. Or whatever...

She chuckles nervously.

DEREK
Yeah. I'm the new guy I guess. I transferred from another section. Time conflict.

CATHY
Oh yeah.

DEREK
I assume we are in the same place. I hope.

CATHY
Have you covered querying with heavy duty SQL goodness?

DEREK
I think that is next week for us, you may be ahead.

CATHY
Well... let me get you up...

She adjusts herself in her chair.

CATHY
...to speed.

DEREK
Um... ok.

CATHY
This is my drive, show me yours.

She points to her USB drive plugged into her monitor's USB port.

DEREK
Okaaaay.

He takes out his drive.

CATHY
Can I touch it?

DEREK
Sure.

He hands it to her.

CATHY
Oh, that's a nice one.

DEREK
I think so.

CATHY
And you've used protection. I mean, the cap. You have the cap on it. That's very... safe.

DEREK
That's the way I like it.

CATHY
Let me show you how to put it in.

DEREK
Oh, I know how to put it in.

CATHY

Well, that may be, but you don't know how I like it.

He chuckles but regains composure.

DEREK

Ok, show me what you like.

CATHY

I like it when my partner asks me. I mean, my desk partner here.

She fixes her gaze on him.

DEREK

I'm nothing if not polite.

CATHY

Uh huh. Now, I'm going to put it in the slot here. I like to guide it in slow.

DEREK

You have to be careful.

She nods to him.

CATHY

That's what I think.

She puts the USB drive up to the USB port.

CATHY

Now if it doesn't go in easy, then you have to work it around a bit. Let me take your hand.

She guides his hand up to the USB drive.

CATHY

Go ahead. Turn it over.

She helps him roll the drive over.

DEREK

Uh huh.

CATHY

Now I'm ready for you to put it in.

He swallows with a dry throat.

CATHY

And it's not like you need lube or anything – it will go in with the right coaxing.

She helps him slide it in slowly.

CATHY

Easy... easy...

The INSTRUCTOR interrupts their conversation.

INSTRUCTOR (OS)

Cathy, if you are done...

Cathy jumps in her seat.

CATHY

Yes!

INSTRUCTOR (OS)

Wah wah wah wah wah...

Derek laughs. The Instructor can be heard in the background as noise, much like teachers in the Peanuts television specials.

Cathy shoots a coy look in Derek's direction.

CATHY

Wait 'til I explain how to pull it out safely...

Her signature smile creeps across her face.

FADE OUT