

CASTER'S BLOG: A GEEK LOVE STORY

Screenplay by

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Based on the book by

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FADE IN:

A BLANK COMPUTER SCREEN

A COMPUTER BOOTS UP.

CASTER'S VOICE

Did you ever feel like your life's
a new hard drive that's just been
formatted? Just a sterile blankness
spinning at seventy-two hundred
RPM. The drive isn't bad. But if
you close your eyes and listen, all
you hear is meaningless white
noise. Do you know what I'm saying?

LUVBUNNY'S VOICE

Sounds like the story of my life!

TITLE CARD:

Another Saturday night...

Current mood: lonely

EXT. CASTER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

RAYMOND CASTER (29) gawky, thick glasses, opens the front
door to a pizza delivery guy. Caster pays, takes the pizza.

CASTER'S VOICE

I was supposed to go out with Turbo
Dan tonight, but he never called.
So it looks like I'm going to spend
another Saturday night playing
"Wheel of TiVo".

Caster sits on the couch, thumbs the remote.

CASTER'S VOICE (CONT'D)

I'm really in the mood for an old
Voyager with Kes in it, but all
I'll probably get is Seven of Nine.
It's like the Wheel of TiVo has one
space for "Kes", 10 for "Seven of
Nine", and one for "Lose a Turn".

He stuffs a slice in his maw.

CASTER'S VOICE (CONT'D)
I don't get what people think is so hot about Seven. Sure there's the breasts, but Kes is a sweetheart. Plus, two words: pointy ears.

He drops pizza sauce on his shirt, smears it with his hand, licks his finger.

CASTER'S VOICE (CONT'D)
What the hell, I say. What the hell. Tom Paris is right there, Tuvok is right there, even that little puss Harry Kim is right there and horny and desperate! But no, she goes for the lizard pig man.

INT. CASTER'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT

He types on the computer, nods to himself.

CASTER'S VOICE
Well, whatever. If you didn't like that rant, then thank Turbo Dan for not calling me.

He hits a button, leans back.

EXT. FAST FOOD JOINT - DAY

Caster enters the building.

INT. FAST FOOD JOINT - DAY

TURBO DAN (25) Florida surfing poseur, waves Caster over to a booth by the window.

CASTER
So, did you have fun on Saturday night?

TURBO DAN
Whoa. Yeah. Me and Scottie and Mooker went out to the Beach House and got trashed with these four chicks.

CASTER
And that's it.

TURBO DAN

Yeah, man, it was awesome. You shoulda been, we had one too many chicks.

CASTER

Yeah, sounds fun. You going to do it again this weekend?

TURBO DAN

Yeah, man. Tomorrow night. I'll call you.

CASTER

Just tell me the name of the bar and I'll meet you.

INT. CREDIT UNION / CASTER'S CUBE - DAY

Caster's fingers hover above the keyboard.

CASTER'S VOICE

Oh my God. I just reread what I wrote, and now I feel like the biggest loser in the world for getting so excited about scoring a date with Turbo Dan.

INSERT

Caster's Blog. Hooch's icon pops up, says "Hooch Comments:"

INT. HOOCH'S PAD - DAY

HOOCH (23), comfortably hefty, types. He wears a fez.

HOOCH

Whoa, there. Are you telling me you missed a chance to hang out with three guys named Turbo Dan, Scottie, and Mooker?

INSERT

Caster's Blog. Caster's icon pops up, says, "Rcaster1138 Comments..."

INT. CREDIT UNION / CASTER'S CUBE - DAY

Caster types.

CASTER'S VOICE

Oh, ha. Okay, when you're as popular as I am, you can't exactly go excluding people from your social circle due to ham-fisted personal nomenclature.

INT. FLORIDA DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Caster nurses a beer, bored and irritated.

INT. FLORIDA DIVE BAR - NIGHT (LATER)

Caster's drunk, looks around hopelessly as strangers pass.

CASTER'S VOICE

Okay, if you don't know me, you probably think I'm a closet homosexual with deep running desires for an idiot named Turbo Dan.

He takes a sip of beer. A puff of smoke and he's in a,

FEATURELESS SPACE

Caster sits on a bar stool, with his beer. Strangers cross in front and behind him.

CASTER

You know how they say pot's a gateway drug that paves the way to harder stuff? Well, Turbo Dan's like a gateway friend.

INT. FLORIDA DIVE BAR - A DIFFERENT NIGHT

Turbo Dan laughs, the center of attention.

INT. FLORIDA DIVE BAR - LATER

Caster leans on the bar, alone in a crowd.

CASTER

I mean, how do you even start talking to a girl in a bar without Turbo Dan to ease you into the conversation? I sure as hell don't know.

The icons for LUVBUNNY (a cartoon bee) and NOSTRADOMINATRIX (a domino mask) pop into the air next to Caster. They hover above the stools next to him, complete with beers.

LUVBUNNY

Girls are tricky beings and frequently cause confusion. Hang out with robots instead.

CASTER

You should get to work on that. I'd like a robot Grace Lee Whitney circa 1966, please.

NOSTRADOMINATRIX

Lose Turbo Dan. He's a schmuck. What about asking some of his friends to go to the bar with you instead?

CASTER

To an outsider, I'm sure bombing out with Turbo Dan's friends seems like a perfectly reasonable alternative. Although if you knew them, I think you'd retract the suggestion. Sometimes it's easier to just be alone.

The icons wobble sympathetically.

LUVBUNNY AND NOSTRADOMINATRIX

Mmm.

INT. CREDIT UNION/CASTER'S CUBE - DAY

Caster types.

CASTER'S VOICE

Hey everybody! It's every-other-Thursday again! That means another time sheet reminder poem from Julie the H.R. Vogon.

INSERT

Julie's poem on flowery Outlook stationery.

JULIE'S VOICE

There's a lucky little man who
dresses in the color green. This is
the special time of year when his
pot of gold is sometimes seen. If
you should be lucky enough to see
the leprechaun make sure to say,
'Don't forget to submit your time
sheets, and have a Happy Saint
Patrick's Day!'

BACK TO SCENE

Caster winces.

CASTER'S VOICE

Oh man, that hurts. Hey H.R. Julie,
a little bit of meter might have
been a nice addition. Discuss.

The ICON for NOSTRADOMINATRIX appears.

SUPER: "Nostradomatrix comments..."

NOSTRADOMINATRIX

Tell her not to quit her day job.

Caster types.

CASTER'S VOICE

Ironically, it is her day job.

INT. CREDIT UNION/CASTER'S CUBE - LATER

Caster watches the clock. He perks up, types.

CASTER

As LuvBunny pointed out in her
blog, all anyone ever does in their
online journals is gripe. So here's
my penance in the form of a super
happy post! Today's the best day
ever! It's seventy-six degrees and
sunny!

Caster looks at a picture calendar on his wall.

CASTER (CONT'D)

You know what, Turbo Dan? I don't need you. It's sunny and I'm going to the beach! I am so happy I will wrap this up with a summary in haiku form.

(thinks)

Going to the beach!
It's always sunny outside!
Bite me, Turbo Dan!

INT. HOOCH'S PAD - DAY

Hooch scowls at his computer.

HOOCH

Ray, you been hitting the Prozac again?

INT. CREDIT UNION / CASTER'S CUBE - DAY

He types.

CASTER

I'm high on life, man. High on life.

INT. LUVBUNNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

LUVBUNNY (17), Cute, feminine, nerd / techie. Her room's pink and black with clouds and bees and bunnies.

She types.

LUVBUNNY

Caster, are you bipolar?

INT. CREDIT UNION / CASTER'S CUBE

He types.

CASTER

I'm high on life man. High on...
You guys suck.

A PHONE RINGS.

INT. CASTER'S APARTMENT / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

He paces the floor, agitated.

CASTER'S VOICE

Unbelievable. I just got a call from Turbo Dan. He actually apologized for his failure to make an appearance at the bar last weekend.

INT. AUTO PARTS STORE - DAY

Turbo Dan at the cashier.

CASTER'S VOICE

He said he went to the auto parts store on Friday afternoon, and he met this "amazing girl" working there named Shadow.

INT. CASTER'S APARTMENT / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

He stops.

CASTER

Psssht. Whatever! What kind of name's "Shadow"? It's a freakin' cat name, that's what.

Paces again.

CASTER'S VOICE

Anyway, he and Shadow ended up hanging out all night, and he lost track of time and whatever. The irritating part is,

INT. TURBO DAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Turbo Dan's on the phone.

TURBO DAN

Hey, me and Shadow are going to go out to Siesta and rent jet skis Saturday. You should come out with us.

INT. CASTER'S APARTMENT / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Paces.

CASTER

Aaarrg! Damn you Turbo Dan! I was going by myself, but now you've invited me. When you don't show up I'm going to spend all day feeling like I was ditched again.

He stops, exhausted.

CASTER'S VOICE

Does this make sense to anybody else, or am I just totally psycho?

The icon for LUVBUNNY floats into the frame.

LUVBUNNY

You are absolutely right, I agree with everything you say. Doesn't this make you crave a semi-automatic nine millimeter Beretta?

CASTER

It's the best feeling ever when you ask the Internet, "Am I a psycho?" and the Internet responds, "No way! Go get a gun!"

EXT. CASTER'S APARTMENT - DAY

He gets in the car, drives off.

INT. CASTER'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT

Caster flops at his keyboard, no glasses, counts syllables on his fingers.

CASTER

(to himself)

Jet ski incident
Beautiful girl named Shadoe
Now I squint blindly

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Turbo Dan's Jeep pulls up and stops near Caster in the parking lot. Turbo Dan wears a short-sleeved ribbed wetsuit.

SHADOE BEAUPRE (25) gets out of the Jeep. Blonde dreads, Daisy Dukes, bikini top.

TURBO DAN

Hey man, this's Shadoe with an 'e,'
that chick I was telling you about.
Shadoe, Ray Caster.

CASTER

Enchanted to meet you, Shadoe. I
once had a cat went by that name.

SHADOE

Funny, I've got an ex named Ray.
(off his look)
Nah, I'm just jokin'.

Caster grins, smitten.

They talk to the attendant at the Jet Ski Booth.

CASTER'S VOICE

The plan was we would each rent jet
skis, but we didn't have enough
money to rent three. So,

They strap on moldy life jackets, the rental guy starts the
jet-ski.

CASTER

(to Turbo Dan)
You want to go first?

TURBO DAN

Sure, bro.

He gets on. Shadoe kicks off her sandals, jumps on, grabs
T.D. around the waist. They rip across the water. Caster sits
on the dock, watches.

Turbo Dan slices the tail around. A boat plows by and he
jumps the wake. Shadoe screams and giggles, waves to Caster
as they go by. Turbo Dan pulls it back up, they climb off.

TURBO DAN (CONT'D)

Your turn, dude!

Caster steps on, but the jet ski slips away. Turbo Dan grabs
him by the arm before he plunges into the water. Shadoe
giggles. Caster settles on, Shadoe jumps on behind him.

SHADOE

(grabs his hips)
Gun it, Ray!