

DEBCAM - S2:E8: CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY - COLD OPEN

INT. - DEB'S OFFICE (DAY)

Deb enters the frame and sits in front of her computer. She has a piece of paper in her hand from which she is reading. The following dialogue is prescriptive and may be ad libbed. Only the side itself and the salient breakdown information should necessarily be kept intact.

Deb, being the good Chicago actress that she is, avidly supports the Chicago Fire, Chicago PD and Chicago Med shows that keep work in her city. This episode is intended more to satirize the trend of "Chicago ___" shows than to offer any specific commentary on the women's roles in those shows. Deb and Reader ARE Sonya and Colleen. Reader may get cast as Colleen as a button to the season.

DEB

(reading from printed email)

Deb, I am planning to submit you for Sonya. Enjoy! Calling all Chicago actresses! A new Chicago Fire spin-off is in the works and will be casting all major roles this week with consideration given to Chicago actors for the first time. "Chicago Public Library" shares the harrowing stories of the librarians and patrons of the CPL Main Branch as they research time-sensitive information, gossip in the stacks, and argue in back offices. Sides are attached for Colleen, the hard-as-nails Head of Technology and Patron Services. Her softer side is buried deep and rarely shows itself overtly. She commands respect and doesn't put up with nonsense from her staff or patrons. Sides also include Sonya, Library Technician. Sonya has a heart of gold and is a sexy mother hen type who clashes styles with Colleen.

Deb smiles at the page. She's actually excited about this.

READER

You're kidding me. Chicago *Public Library*?!

DEB

Sounds cool, right?

READER

Um, no. Sounds lame.

DEB

Clearly you've never worked at a library. I'm sure it's very harrowing.

READER

Thankfully, no. Neither have you, by the way.

DEB

Doesn't matter. I have imagination. You'll see. Do you think I should hang out at the library to get a feel for the atmosphere?

Deb looks at Reader who is giving her a "look".

I'm going to go to the library.

Stands up, leaves frame.

DEBCAM TITLE CARD

TITLE SEQUENCE

Super short theme song plays with title "Debcam", A Fake Geek Girl Production.

TAKE 1: RESEARCH

Deb enters, wide eyed. She's just been to the library and it was a mess of screaming kids, parents on phones, and librarians who have given up.

DEB

Oh, my God! That was...I can't...how do...

READER

You went to our branch, didn't you?

Deb nods her head, yes.

READER (CON'T)

(sighs)

Go to the Main Branch.

Deb nods her head, yes, and in a daze gets up to leave. She has not blinked through this take.

TAKE 2: CHARACTER STUDY

Deb enters, much calmer. She's just been to the Main Branch.

READER

Better?

DEB

Yeah, but...

READER

What?

DEB

There was this horrible Librarian there. I swear it was like someone plucked Colleen off the page and put her in the stacks. She was just rude and angry. At everyone. I wonder if the writers used her for inspiration.

READER

So, are you ready for this?

DEB

Do you think I should write up a backstory for Sonya?

READER

I don't know.

DEB

Well, should I spend some more time at the library?

READER

I don't know.

DEB

Maybe if I spent some time just reading...

READER

(fed up)

Whatever. Call me when you're ready to record.

Deb is confused by Reader's abruptness but shrugs it off.

TAKE 3: ALPHA-BET YOUR LIFE

Deb has a stack of books in front of her and is slowly alphabetizing. She has to sing the alphabet song with each and every book.

DEB

Jane Austen. So, A. A-U. A-U-S. Here we are.

(she picks up another book)

William Shakespeare. S. ABCDEFG-HIJK-LMNOP-QRS. S. There we go.

(she picks up another book)

Phillipa Gregory. G. ABCDEFG. G.

Deb sighs as she sees the stack she still has to file.

TAKE 4: DEWEY DECIMATES ALL HOPE

Deb is researching the Dewy decimal system.

DEB

The classification's notation makes use of three-digit Arabic numerals for main classes, with fractional decimals allowing expansion for further detail. A library assigns a classification number that unambiguously locates a particular volume in a position relative to other books in the library, on the basis of its subject. The number makes it possible to find any book and to return it to its proper place on the library shelves.

Deb's eyes are already glazing over.

TAKE 5: SHHHHHH

DEB

Shhhh.

(tries it sexier)

Shhhh.

(tries it with a scolding tone)

Shhhh.

(tries it quietly)

Shhhh.

(tries it curtly)

Sh.

(spits all over herself)

Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh. Bleagh.

(wipes off chin)

TAKE 6: CREATIVE TITLE HERE

The following is intended to be an over-dramatization. Play that shit up!

COLLEEN

Sonya! In my office. Now.
(they move to the office)
Would you care to explain yourself?

SONYA

With regard to what?

COLLEEN

With regard to what?! The stacks are a mess. What good is a public library wherein the public cannot find the book they need?

SONYA

Oh, that. Some of the children wanted to help and I thought it would give them a one sense of ownership to allow them to...

COLLEEN

I see. That's where you went wrong. You thought. Now go back out there and re-shelve the 700's.

SONYA

No.

COLLEEN

No?!

SONYA

No, Colleen. I will not re-shelve the literally thousands of books in the 700's just because you can't understand the wants and needs of the children in this library. You've had me running ragged since I started here and it has to stop. If the children see the benefit of placing Dr. Seuss next to the Chronicles of Naria who are you to stop them?

COLLEEN

Who am I...

SONYA

If the children see fit to destroy each copy of "Everybody Poops" and shove the remnants next to "Are You There God, It's Me Margaret" then I would suggest that their sense of logic was rather apropos, wouldn't you?

COLLEEN

That is enough, Sonya. You are a disgrace to the Dewey Decimal system and this fine establishment.

SONYA

No. You are. When was the last time you actually spoke with a patron?

COLLEEN

I don't see what that has to do with anything.

SONYA

Of course you don't. Because to you they are a nuisance. An impediment to your ordered and frankly boring world. Well, I won't stand beside you and pretend that I want my world, *my library*, to be such a cold and dark place. MY library is a sunny place of opportunity and joy.

(Sonya flounces out)

END CREDITS

Short theme song with (ideally) credits rolling over an outtake. Final credit rolls, screen goes to black with FGGP logo.

DEB

Mad respect for librarians.