

BETH NEEDS COFFEE

By Arlo Thompson

BETH: She's kind of lovable monster. Obsessed with her cat, Seth, she'll mention him often. Quite possibly far into the Asperger's Spectrum. Also often sweaty in one of her t-shirts and always wearing her large glasses. Hair long and down, probably a little greasy.

INT. CUP O JOE - DAY

BETH (Liz) is stepping up to order. ANGELA (Michaela) is the barista standing at the counter ready to take Beth's order.

ANGELA

Welcome to Cup O Joe. What can I get for you today?

BETH

My name's Beth. And this is my cat Seth.

POW! A CLOSE UP on Beth's iPhone showing a picture of her cat Seth then on to Angela.

ANGELA

Oh he's cute. What can I get for you?

BETH

I came in for Cup o Joe. Is it like parts of Joe or just a little man in my cup?

ANGELA

What? I'm sorry. We serve coffee.

BETH

No Joes in a cup?

ANGELA

No, joe is a term used for coffee.

BETH

Oh, I like coffee. It's the best. Sounds much better than a little guy in there. I bet he's salty.

Recognizing crazy, Angela is now trying her best to just steer this towards normalcy and move on with her life.

ANGELA

What kind of coffee can I get for you?

BETH

I don't know. Coffee's so hot. It makes me sweaty.

ANGELA

Would you like something iced?

BETH

That's crazy. It's not summer yet. I'll just take it hot and chance it.

ANGELA

Okay, hot it is. What size would you like?

BETH

I should get a large in case Seth wants some.

POW! Another CLOSE UP of Beth's iPhone showing Seth, but this time a different picture.

ANGELA

You give coffee to your cat?

BETH

Not for real. He'd burn his tongue. But we pretend.

ANGELA

Okay. So... a large coffee then?

BETH

I don't know. I like lattes.

ANGELA

One large latte-

BETH

But all that dairy makes me gassy. Does that happen you?

ANGELA

Ummm, no.

BETH

It happens to Seth.

Beth's body tenses and her whole face scrunches.

ANGELA

Are... are you gassy right now?

BETH

Yeah. Seth and I had enchiladas for dinner. Don't worry, it'll pass. Do have almond milk?

ANGELA

(a little worn)

Yes. We have almond milk.

KENNY rolls up to wait in line as...

BETH

That's great. How do you squeeze them? They're so hard.

ANGELA

The almonds? No we--

BETH

What about a mocha? Mochas are great. So chocolatey. I think Seth would like mochas but he's a cat. Here, let me press play...

BOOM! This time a video of Seth. It's just ten seconds of him sleeping, no movement. She probably shows Kenny the video too.

ANGELA

Yup, uh, cute. So one large mocha with almond milk, right?

BETH

I don't know. Better get two. I've got a lot work, a lot of code to write. You'd think it'd be easy working for NASA. Wonder if I'll get sweaty.

ANGELA

I don't know. So, two large mochas with--

BETH

Have you ever had two? Seems like a lot but I have a lot of work.

ANGELA

I haven't but I'm sure two will be fine--

BETH

Can I get whip cream? It's the best. I know it's dairy but I'm gonna chance it.

ANGELA

(sighs)

Alright, two large mochas with almond milk and whip cream.

BETH

Gosh, I'm hungry. Do you have scones? I like scones. One time I got a scone and it had raisins and I gave one of the raisins to Seth. He ate it. I think he could eat a whole scone. He's a big cat. I don't think scones are good for cats. Do you have a cat? Do you ever feed him a scone?

As Beth goes on, Angela hangs her head and..

FADE OUT.