

PIXELS

By

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Current Revisions by

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To be directed by
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April 17, 2014 - Numbered Script
Happy Madison
1492
Columbia Pictures

"Don't think of this like a comedy, think of it like a world wide vfx giant summer tentpole that just happens to be funnier than the typical world wide giant summer tentpole."

-Steven L. Spielberg*

*- Not THAT Steven Spielberg , another one. This one repairs ladies' footwear in El Segundo and was just a big fan of the script and wanted to explain that to all of you before you read it.

1 EXT. SUBURBS, DELAWARE, SUMMER OF 1982 - DAY 1
Our hero, SAM BRENNER, 13, rides his bike through the suburbs. *
Fast, crazed. CHEAP TRICK'S "SURRENDER" (BUDDAKAN VERSION)
PLAYS AS CREDITS BEGIN.

2 EXT. HOUSE, SUBURBS - DAY 2
As the song continues, WILL COOPER, age 13, is mowing his
lawn. His cute LITTLE SISTER is on the sidewalk, operating
a lemonade stand. Brenner arrives, SKIDS his bike to a stop.
Cooper looks at him. Brenner smiles.

YOUNG BRENNER
It's open.

Cooper abandons the lawn mower, grabs his bike and starts to
pedal off with Brenner. Then he stops, runs back to the
lemonade stand, and takes a big jar of coins.

LITTLE SISTER
Hey!

3 EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER - DAY 3
Brenner and Cooper pass a movie theater showing "Poltergeist"
and pull their bikes into a parking lot. Each stares ahead in
awe. CAMERA PANS around them, REVEALS what they're looking at:
THE ELECTRIC DREAMS ARCADE. A BIG GRAND OPENING SIGN hangs
from the roof.

4 INT. ARCADE - DAY 4
Its like going into another world. All the classic games are
lined up: **PAC MAN, DONKEY KONG, CENTIPEDE, SPACE INVADERS,**
GALAGA, Q-BERT, PAPERBOY, ASTEROIDS, BREAKOUT. And they're
all BRAND NEW. The guys enter. Cooper opens the mason jar,
both guys grab a handful of quarters and they fan out.

Brenner waits in line for the holy grail: PAC MAN, watching
OTHERS playing and losing. He studies their moves, the game's
controls, taking in every success, every failure.

Cooper plays GALAGA. On screen we see him GETTING KILLED BY
THE ALIEN/BUG INVADERS THREE TIMES REAL QUICK. He's terrible.

It's Brenner's turn on Pac Man. He steps up, puts in his
quarter and starts to play. Cooper steps up, watching over
his shoulder.

YOUNG COOPER
Which one's the alien, Sam, the
cheese wedge guy or the rainbow
blobs?

*

YOUNG BRENNER

Neither. Those blobs are ghosts,
and the cheese wedge is Pac Man.
He's a... I don't know what he is,
but he seems like a good guy.

Cooper shakes his head, looks at the game Brenner's playing:
CU of an 80's 8 Bit video screen as PACMAN RACES ACROSS IT.

YOUNG COOPER

Wow. How are you so good at this
game? You've never even played it
before.

YOUNG BRENNER

I don't know. There's a pattern to how
they are moving. Watch...

He does. ON SCREEN the game seems to slow down. We see * numbers
and arrows superimposed over the action in Brenner's * eyes. He
knows exactly where the ghosts are going, when the * bonus
cherries are going to appear, etc. *

YOUNG COOPER

I don't see it. But you sure do.

CHEAP TRICK'S SONG continues as CREDITS PLAY OVER:

- MONTAGE of Brenner playing: Centipede, Q-Bert, Galaga,
Defender being played at a high level (intercut with other *
80s kids, janitors, etc. watching slack-jawed), high score *
after high score, crowds growing, "SAM" taking over the *
entire top ten scores.

- As a huge crowd has gathered around Brenner, Cooper plays
"the Crane Game" by himself in a lonely corner. He deftly
maneuvers the claw over an array of stuffed animals and
rubber masks. Cooper lowers the claw over a Chewbacca mask.
the claw grabs it, but it gets stuck. Will Cooper get it?

CUT TO Brenner playing ASTEROIDS, surrounded by a respectful *
crowd. He steps away from the machine. *

YOUNG BRENNER *

Sorry, folks, I gotta eat. *

His guy "dies". The crowd applauds and pats him on the back *
as he walks over to Cooper - standing there in the Chewbacca *
mask. He hands Brenner a "Reggie" bar. *

YOUNG COOPER *

You can't stop playing, can you? *
You're like a video game addict. *

YOUNG BRENNER

You don't understand, buddy. I suck
at sports, I suck at school.

(MORE)

YOUNG BRENNER (CONT'D)
Video games is the first thing I've
ever been good at.

YOUNG COOPER
You're not "good" at video games,
Sam - you're the best.
(hands him flyer)
And it's time to show the world.

*

Brenner reads the flyer - "WORLD VIDEO GAME CHAMPIONSHIPS".

5

INT. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - NIGHT

5

The Super Bowl of video games. Hundreds of PEOPLE are there.
NEWSCASTERS report. Cooper is massaging Brenner's fingers.

YOUNG BRENNER
I can't believe I'm doing this,
man. I wish you'd signed up too.

*
*
*

YOUNG COOPER
I stink at every game. Except for
the crane-claw thing.

*
*
*

YOUNG BRENNER
You're good at everything else,
Chewie: talking people into
things... Making up stories...
Brushing your hair just right...
Looking like you're smarter than
you really are...

*
*
*
*
*
*

YOUNG COOPER
Yeah, what's that gonna get me?

*
*

He trails off as he overhears someone nearby talking...

VOICE (O.C.)
Hi... This is a pretty good
party...Actually, I hate parties...

Brenner looks over to the next machine to see LUDLOW
LAMONSOFF (8, glasses. Genius, no social skills). Ludlow is
playing CASTLE QUEST (made-up 8 bit game) and talking under
his breath to the LADY LISA character (we see her beautiful
illustration on the side of the machine).

*

YOUNG LUDLOW
You too? That's so funny. My name's
Ludlow by the way... Well nice to
meet you, Lady Lisa... Really? I
think you're pretty darn foxy
yourself...

*

He finally notices Brenner and Cooper staring at him and is
embarrassed.

YOUNG BRENNER

You're the wonder kid, Ludlow
Lamonsoff, right? Heard you're
pretty good.

*

YOUNG LUDLOW

Who told you that? The government?
Cause they've been tracking me. I'm
close to figuring out the secret of
the Bermuda Triangle, and the
"powers that be" aren't too happy
about it.

*
*
*
*
*
*

YOUNG COOPER

Wow. You don't have any friends, do
you?

YOUNG LUDLOW

Just my mom.

He gestures toward his MOM, who is sitting on a stool in the
corner, holding a bag lunch and a six-pack of Yoo-Hoo. She
shrugs and waves.

*

YOUNG BRENNER

Well, you can hang out with us too.

*

They shake hands.

*

There's a hubub at the front door: EDDIE PLANT has arrived.
He's dressed in parachute pants, a Twisted Sister T-shirt and
a rat tail, and is flanked by two hot 80's looking girls in
leather pants (their t-shirts identify them as the CYBER
GIRLZ).

*

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT

What's up, geeks and goobers? They
call me the Fire Blaster. Because
my hands are blazing fast, and also
I will blast and burn all my
competitors' weak-ass moves.

*

Eddie saunters over toward Ludlow.

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT (CONT'D)

You must be the local talent. If
this was an ugly contest, I'd be in
trouble.

YOUNG BRENNER

At least we didn't make up our own
nicknames, Fire Blaster.

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT

*Who cares who came up with it? It's
totally tubular!*

Brenner and Eddie glare at each other. An MC steps on stage.

M.C.

Welcome, gamers, to the First
Annual Arcade World Championships.
We have representatives here from
the Guinness Book of World Records,
as well as NASA, who will be
videotaping tonight's competition
to be included in a compilation of
1982's news events and popular
culture. That video tape will be
placed in an orbiter that will be
launched out into the solar system
to search for proof of Extra-
Terrestrial life.

(ET voice)

ET phone home!

People APPLAUD, IMPRESSED. Eddie Plant makes the "choke" sign at Brenner. Brenner shakes his head. Ludlow, nervous, looks like he is gonna piss himself as they head to the games. Cooper cheers them on.

It's like the OLYMPICS as they all step up to play, total seriousness. There are about a dozen competitors: mostly teen boys but a punk chick and some weird middle-aged men (one wearing a Karate Kid headband) mixed in. We see them move the controls, put their quarters in and pound the buttons in SLO MO as the judges watch all the contestants.

-Brenner plays BREAKOUT zen-cool as slo-mo Cooper cheers him on.

-Ludlow is sweating profusely playing GALAGA. His mother is next to him, holding up a Yoo-Hoo for him to sip from.

-Eddie is kissing one of the Cyber Girlz as he annihilates PAC MAN. He lowers his sunglasses over his eyes, then really starts kicking ass.

-ONSTAGE, the M.C. addresses the crowd dramatically.

M.C. (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, what an evening we've had here: six new US records set, three new *world* records set, and now, when the smoke clears, we have... a tie! 259 points for your new Pac Man world champion... The Fire Blaster, Eddie Plant!

(applause)

And 259 points for your new Galaga and Centipede world champion... rookie sensation Sam Brenner!

(shocked applause)

Gentlemen, shall we break this tie?

(MORE)

M.C. (CONT'D)

Let's play--

(a beat)

Donkey Kong!!

*

Brenner and Eddie both smile confidently. They start walking toward the machines.

YOUNG BRENNER

Good luck, man.

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT

I don't need luck, nerd. Cause if I lose right now, I go home knowing I don't got what it takes; a nothing, a failure, someone who looked Destiny in the eye and blinked. And the Fire Blaster never, ever blinks.

*

*

Eddie stares unblinking at Brenner as they insert their quarters.

*

They play furiously. The Cyber Girlz cheer on Eddie; Cooper, Ludlow and Ludlow's Mom cheer on Brenner. Brenner starts to pull ahead, Eddie's in deep trouble. But then Eddie lowers his sunglasses, gets serious and starts mounting an improbable comeback.

*

*

*

*

YOUNG COOPER

Finish him, Sam!

*

But Eddie is suddenly racking up the points. We see BRENNER'S POV: he's lost the pattern. He rubs his eyes; the focus is gone. ON SCREEN, through Brenner's eyes, the game is actually speeding up, the superimposed arrows and numbers getting scratched out and changing direction rapidly.

*

*

*

*

Eddie and Brenner are each down to their last guy, playing their hearts out, until we hear... the DONKEY KONG death sound. But who died? Eddie turns to Brenner.

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT

Congratulations - on being a loser!

Brenner steps back from the machine. Stunned.

WE PUSH IN on the look of utter disappointment and devastation on his face as he realizes he lost at the one thing he was great at, as Eddie rants on in the background.

EDDIE PLANT (O.C.)

YEAH!!! Fire Blaster is the WORLD CHAMP!!! THE LOCAL YOKEKEL COULDN'T HANDLE THE PRESSURE!!

(MORE)

EDDIE PLANT (O.C.) (CONT'D)
 HE CAN SUCK IT! And YOU CAN SUCK
 IT! AND YOU CAN SUCK IT!!!

DISSOLVE TO:

6 EXT. GEORGETOWN MANSION - DAY 6 *

"SAM BRENNER". A NAMETAG. CAMERA PULLS BACK. It is PRESENT DAY. The nametag belongs to the actual ADULT BRENNER, pinned to his BRIGHTLY COLORED ORANGE JUMPSUIT, that identifies him as being in the NERD PATROL. *

He carries a clipboard and is miserable, depressed. He steps up to the front door of a GEORGETOWN MANSION and KNOCKS. A HANDSOME, YOUNGER FIT MAN, answers.

BRENNER
 (like he wants to die)
 Hello, I am a NERD from the Nerd
 Patrol here to deal with your
 audio/visual needs.

The Fit Man turns and walks inside, calling out.

FIT MAN
 The nerd's here!

Brenner sighs, he hates his life.

7 INT. GEORGETOWN MANSION - DAY 7

Brenner installs a 70 inch 4K Sony TV to the wall of a gigantic living room. As Brenner lifts the TV to mount it on the wall, he glances outside, through a large picture window. *

BRENNER'S POV: The handsome home owner lies on a lounge chair, beside his GORGEOUS WIFE. They drink champagne, watching their TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN relax on rafts, drinking smoothies, in their state of the art pool. *

Brenner watches them, with a longing for a life he'll never know. His expression says it all: *Must be nice.*

THIRD CHILD (O.C.)
 Pretty sweet life, eh? *

Brenner, startled, drops the TV, which smashes. *

Brenner sees another kid (7) standing nearby, in a polo shirt, looking smug, drinking a smoothie. *

THIRD CHILD (CONT'D)
 Sucks to be you, nerd. *

BRENNER
 Yeah it does. Got any tape? *

8

INT. BAR, WASHINGTON DC - DAY

8

Still in uniform, Brenner sits across from COOPER also 45. He is dressed in a blue blazer and open collar shirt. They're eating lunch at a table near the bar.

*

BRENNER

Look, Chewie, I don't know why I'm giving you romantic advice; you always did way better with chicks than I did.

COOPER

Not always. Remember that chick in Ft. Lauderdale? The redhead who was all over you?

BRENNER

That was my cousin. Moving on. If I were you, I'd take one hour a day where you shut down the phone, turn off the email, the ESPN, put down the Reggie bar and just devote your full attention to your wife.

*

COOPER

I can't shut off my phone and email, man; I gotta be reachable 24/7. Not all of us work out of a van.

*

BRENNER

Yeah, I get it, I have a crappy job. I'm a failure, I wear orange shorts, my wife left me for a busboy...

PRESIDENT COOPER

Don't give me some sob story, Brenner. You were meant for something more than *this*.

*

*

BRENNER

Why would you think that? I was never really good at anything.

*

*

*

PRESIDENT COOPER

You were good at one thing. Best I ever saw.

*

*

*

BRENNER

Second best. And playing old-timey videogames ain't a real lucrative career path nowadays.

*

*

*

*

PRESIDENT COOPER

Hang on, I gotta see this...

*

Brenner turns. ON TV WE SEE CHRIS MATTHEWS on MSNBC.

CHRIS MATTHEWS (ON TV)
 The President's gaffe-filled summer continued today during an appearance at Joseph Knibb Elementary School to promote his new youth reading initiative. Here's what happened...

ON TV WE SEE Cooper in a classroom, reading to a class of FIRST-GRADERS who have gathered on the rug around him. Parents, teachers, etc. stand watching excitedly.

COOPER (ON TV)
 (dramatic)
 ...But then, Mittens jumped up on to the table, and knocked over the whole bowl of soup! Mrs. Pickles gassed - gasped, and the whole room fell silent. "This is casta...
 (struggling with word)
 catsa... catatastrophic?..."

*

LITTLE GIRL (SUNNY)
 Catastrophic!

COOPER (ON TV)
 (a little loud)
 I got it, thanks, sweetheart!

The Little Girl looks like she's about to cry.

ON TV, back to Chris Matthews.

CHRIS MATTHEWS
 Seems like if the President's approval ratings don't improve, the results of the next election could be... catsatatsastrophic.

Back in the bar, Brenner is laughing.

BRENNER
 You really should learn how to read.

PRESIDENT COOPER
 I was on three hours sleep!!

We pull back further and see that there are A TON OF SECRET SERVICE AGENTS there. People are peeking in the windows excitedly.

*

*

BRENNER
 Dude, I gotta get out of here; I got a 2 o'clock install. You getting this, or...

Cooper just stares at him, looking sheepish.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
I'm getting this?!

PRESIDENT COOPER
I forgot my wallet!

Brenner turns to the AGENTS, disgusted.

BRENNER
Could one of you seven guys grab his wallet before he walks out the door next time?! Please? I'm broke, he's the President!

9 EXT. GUAM - SKY - NIGHT 9 *

A CLOUDY night sky. Behind the clouds, we see the eerie image of a LARGE ALIEN CRAFT. We can't make out any details. Suddenly, A WIDE LIGHT PORTAL OPENS. We HEAR A CLICKING SOUND. *

From out of the clouds, we see a cloud of BRIGHTLY-COLORED CUBES. They loop down from the stars and FORM A STREAM. In a TIGHT FORMATION. *

The cubes TURN and FLY DOWN A DIRT ROAD, their intense FORCE sends waves of POWERFUL WIND through the trees. *

The cubes ZOOM PAST A SIGN THAT READS: ANDERSON AIR FORCE BASE. GUAM, USA. *

10 EXT. GEORGETOWN HOUSE - DAY 10

A modest house. A door opens. A 13 YEAR OLD KID stands there.

MATTY
Are you the Nerd?

BRENNER
No, I just like to wear this because I think I look awesome.
(the kid just stares at him)
Yeah, I'm the Nerd.

MATTY
Isn't that kind of demeaning?

BRENNER
Only if someone brings it up.

MATTY
I won't bring it up then.

BRENNER
Lovin' it.

11 INT. HOUSE - CONTINUING

11

Matty leads Brenner in. He looks around. It's a warm house.

BRENNER

So what am I installing?

MATTY

A new 85 inch SONY 4k 3D TV. Playstation 4. 7.1 Surround sound speakers. Really, if you guys sell it, we bought it.

BRENNER

Wow, is it your birthday?

MATTY

My parents are getting a divorce.

BRENNER

Oh, that's like ten birthdays.

MATTY

My Dad cheated on my Mom with his 18 year old pilates instructor. Her name is Sinnamon with an S. I shit you not; that is her name. I mean I should be dating an 18 year old pilates instructor, not him.

*

BRENNER

She'd break you in half, dude, but I get your larger point.

MATTY

Anyway my Mom kinda hates him right now for being a major d-bag asswipe, her words, not mine. She felt bad that I'm going through this so she sold his Porsche on Ebay to buy me all this-

VIOLET (O.S.)

Okay, Matty, we don't need to tell the nice installer man our whole life.

Brenner turns and sees VIOLET KELLY (LATE 30's) beautiful, smart, tough. Brenner sees her and then involuntarily utters:

*

BRENNER

Whoa.

VIOLET

I'm sorry, whoa what?

BRENNER

(embarrassed now)

...No, just you...whoa.

VIOLET

Me, whoa? I don't know what that means.

BRENNER

...Yeah. Um, it's just when your son told me that your husband left you for an 18 year-old I kinda thought maybe you were one of those hot-when-we-met-in-high-school, but then got-older-let-herself-go and now has like neck fuzz and a pot belly with cottage-cheese thighs. But that's clearly not what you look like. So more like whoa, I should have probably brushed my teeth before I left the house, or studio apartment, if we're getting real here.

*

*

MATTY

Do you have Tourettes?

BRENNER

Surprisingly no. Wish I did right now.

Violet laughs. There is definitely a connection. Matty notices.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

Okay, I guess I should start setting all this stuff up.

VIOLET

Alright, go get 'em.

*

*

Violet and Matty walk out. She turns and catches Brenner looking and he pretends he was looking at her light fixtures instead. She smiles to herself.

12

INT. GUAM MILITARY BASE - NIGHT

12

*

Bustling, filled with military personnel. CAMERA PANS to A HANDSOME SAILOR, staring intently at a video monitor. AN

ARRAY OF COLORFUL SHAPES appear on the monitor, MOVING TOWARD the center of the screen. The HANDSOME SAILOR'S face falls, he SHOUTS to someone OFF CAMERA.

HANDSOME SAILOR

Captain Devereux! You need to see this--

*

CAPTAIN DEVEREUX, a tough, middle aged hatchet of a man with a crewcut, walks up, stares over the sailor's shoulder. His eyes widen in shock.

*

CAPTAIN DEVEREUX

We're under attack!

*

13 INT. VIOLET AND MATTY'S HOUSE - LATER - DAY

13

Brenner is setting up the video game system. Matty is hanging out, watching him. Brenner notices him.

MATTY

So you a gamer?

BRENNER

Uh, I was when I was your age.

MATTY

Were you any good?

BRENNER

I was alright at some of the classic games.

MATTY

Classics? You mean like "Halo"?

BRENNER

No, the *real* classics: Pac-Man, Asteroids, Space Invaders. Games you played at an arcade, which was a building outside of your house. You'd go with your friends, there was great music playing, cute girls everywhere...

*
*

MATTY

I like games where you shoot people, and their guts go flying everywhere, and occasionally you have to rip someone's spine out and then use it to beat someone else to death. It's probably genetic.

*

BRENNER

Why? Your mom's a serial killer?

MATTY

No, she makes weapons for the military.

VIOLET (O.S.)

(overhears this)

Matty, what are you saying?...

MATTY

Nothing, Mom. Sorry I mean she works as a waitress at P.F. Changs at the mall.

(then mouths to Brenner)

No she doesn't.

BRENNER

(mouths back)

Really?

MATTY

(whispers)

She says she's gonna' make a Whore
Destroyer Weapon to take out Sinnamon.

They laugh. Violet walks in. *

VIOLET *

What are you guys talking about?

MATTY/BRENNER

Video games.

Violet smiles. Then she gets a text, her face falls.

14 INT. GUAM AIRBASE - COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT 14

Chaos. SERVICEMEN RUN OUT to man their posts. They hear the noise. BEEP BOP. BEEP BOP BOOP. That familiar arcade game sound. FIGHTER PILOTS run down the tarmac towards their jets. EXPLOSIONS coupled with VIDEO GAME SOUNDS FILL THE AIR. ONE PILOT stops before getting in his plane, looks up at the air. BLURRY COLORFUL IMAGES are REFLECTED IN HIS HELMET.

FIGHTER PILOT

What the hell are those things?

15 INT. GUAM COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT 15

LIGHTS FLICKER ON AND OFF in the command center. EXPLOSIONS ROCK the interior. A WALL IS BLOWN AWAY, sending people flying to the ground. The explosion is UNLIKE ANYTHING we've ever seen. The wall PIXELATES INTO A HUNDRED COLORFUL BLOCKS, leaving a HUGE OPENING, FILLED WITH SMOKY COLORFUL LIGHT.

The HANDSOME SAILOR get to his feet, runs outside.

16 EXT. GUAM COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 16

The SAILOR RUNS OUTSIDE, looks up to the sky. He is STUNNED by what he sees. He is suddenly BATHED IN LIGHT. He raises his PISTOL and begins firing upward.

Suddenly the pistol LEAVES HIS HAND and is PIXELLATED UPWARD, INTO THE LIGHT. This is followed by the SAILOR, whose body PIXELLATES. The PIXELS rise up... DISAPPEARING INTO THE LIGHT...

17 INT. VIOLET'S BEDROOM - DAY 17

Brenner knocks on the door and peaks his head in.

BRENNER

Mrs. Kelly? Just wanted to let you know
I'm all finished and I need you to sign
the work order...

(MORE) *

BRENNER (CONT'D)
 Feels weird calling you Mrs. because
 you're probably way younger than me, but
 contractually I have to.

He doesn't see anyone, but hears a faint crying.

VIOLET (O.S.)
 Okay.

Her voice echoes from the closet.

BRENNER
 Mrs. Kelly, are you in the closet? *

VIOLET (FROM THE CLOSET)
 ...Yes.

BRENNER
 Not judging, but what are you doing in
 there?

VIOLET (FROM THE CLOSET)
 Um, mostly crying. A little drinking.
 Probably equally crying and drinking.

BRENNER
 Something I do often also, but why
 in the closet? *

VIOLET
I don't want Matty to see me.

We then hear more sobbing sounds. Brenner isn't sure if he
 should leave or not. He sighs, and heads towards the closet.

BRENNER
 I'm gonna' open the door now, Mrs.
 Kelly. I'm coming in. *

VIOLET
 (still crying)
 Okay.

18 INT. CLOSET - CONTINUING

18

He opens the door and sees her feet. He climbs in. Violet is
 sitting behind the clothes. Mascara drips down her cheeks.

BRENNER
 Are you alright?

VIOLET
 I'm sobbing on the floor of my closet,
 drinking chardonnay out of a sippy cup.
Does it look like I'm alright? *

BRENNER

I withdraw the question. Do you...
want to talk about it?

VIOLET

No, yes, *I don't know.*

She reaches for him and cries on his shoulder. He awkwardly
pats her on the back.

19

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

19

President Cooper is alone, reviewing a memo, when the FIRST
LADY walks in, in sweats.

FIRST LADY

I'm going to Soul Cycle to work
out, so I'll be back in like 45
minutes, or an hour and a half if I
do a double.

She starts to leave, but he holds her up.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Babe? So Saturday, I was supposed
to have dinner with the King of
Saudi Arabia to discuss a trade
agreement, but I decided to cancel.

*

FIRST LADY

You did?

PRESIDENT COOPER

Well, I made a reservation at this
new place on Michigan Avenue, where
you go and actually make a cake.
You mix in the flour and eggs and
whatever, then they bake it for
you, but you get to frost it-
vanilla, chocolate, butterscotch -
then you can make a design with
sprinkles and sparkles if you want.
So I thought it could be fun if you
and I-

FIRST LADY

Sarah's coming over Saturday. We're
gonna see a movie.

PRESIDENT COOPER

A movie. Do you think possibly you
could go to the movies with Sarah
on Sunday?

FIRST LADY

She already got a babysitter.

PRESIDENT COOPER

I see. Do you think maybe she could cancel the babysitter?

FIRST LADY

I could ask.

PRESIDENT COOPER

You could ask? Wow!

A JUNIOR AIDE runs in.

AIDE

Mr. President, you need to see this.

He hands Cooper a piece of paper. The President's face goes white.

20

INT. VIOLET'S CLOSET - DAY

20

Violet & Brenner sit in her closet now sharing the bottle.

VIOLET

I thought it was just a fling, a mid-life fling-thing, but now according to the text I got 20 minutes ago he's *marrying* her. My son's stepmom is gonna be named *Sinnamon*.

(makes a disgusted face)

This just isn't where I thought I'd be at this point in my life.

BRENNER

Yeah, I'll drink to that.

*

They toast with sippy cups.

VIOLET

We were high school sweethearts. The perfect couple. He proposed in a waterfall. An effin waterfall. We had our problems, sure. But now I'm almost 40 and getting a divorce and he's marrying an 18 year old named after a spice... and it's not even spelled correctly.

BRENNER

I think you need to take a deep breath... and then go find him and Sinnabuns and set them on fire.

*

*

VIOLET

(laugh/cries)

Yes, I mean no. That would be fun though.

She stops crying. He wipes her tears away, they exchange a smile.

BRENNER
You know... Maybe this is really all
for the best.

VIOLET
What do you mean?

BRENNER
I mean... You got the worst part over
with. You already married the wrong guy...

VIOLET
True.

BRENNER
Maybe it just means you're gonna' meet
the right guy.

VIOLET
Yeah.

Brenner looks at her, waits a beat, then LEANS IN FOR THE
KISS. She quickly backs away.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Whoa... Are you trying to kiss me?

BRENNER
Um... a little? *

VIOLET
You're trying to kiss me in my closet?

BRENNER
I thought we were having a moment. *

She gets up, exits the closet. Brenner follows, walking with
her into the kitchen. *

21 INT. VIOLET'S BEDROOM/STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS 21 *

VIOLET
We were, but- Look you seem like a nice
man. But I just met you. And no offense, I
don't think my rebound guy is a 210 pound
dork who installs flatscreens for a living. *

BRENNER
First of all, 208. And wow. I
didn't peg you as the snobby type. *

VIOLET
Snob? Me? No, I'm not a snob!

A22 INT. VIOLET'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS A22 *

Violet makes two cups of Nespresso coffee, gives one to Brenner.

BRENNER

Okay, so if I was a billionaire and we were in the Mediterranean on my gigantic yacht and we were sipping Champagne and I went to kiss you, would you? *

Busted. Before she can answer Brenner's phone rings. He looks at it. It says "PRESIDENT CHEWIE" on the caller ID.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Snobby. I have to take this!
(answers the phone)
Homeboy. What's up?

22 INT. OVAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE - SAME 22 *

PRESIDENT COOPER

Can you get to the White House right now?

23 INT. VIOLET'S KITCHEN - SAME 23 *

BRENNER

I'll be there in fifteen.

He hangs up and turns to Violet.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

While I'd love to stay and hear you lie about not wanting to make out with the

yacht guy, I have to go. Also I'm an amazing kisser. You had a chance to find out and you just lost it. *

As he exits the kitchen, HER PHONE NOW RINGS.

VIOLET

Hello?

24 EXT. GEORGETOWN STREET - DAY 24

Brenner is speeding along in his van, but has to stop for a red light. A car skids to a stop beside him. It's Violet. Brenner rolls down his window, calls to her.

BRENNER

Too late, sweetheart. You had your shot and you blew it.

VIOLET

I'm not following you.

BRENNER

Whatever you say, Stalky. It's
over. Deal with it.

*

The light changes, and he peels out. 30, 40, 50 mph. Brenner looks in his rear-view and sees Violet is right on his tail.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Wow, she went from zero to psycho
in 6.7 seconds...

25 EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - DAY

25

We see Brenner's van racing through the mostly empty streets toward the White House. Violet's car is right behind. Then both put their blinkers on at the same time to head into...

26 EXT. WHITE HOUSE GATES - DAY - CONTINUOUS

26

Brenner pulls up to the guard shack and hands the GUARD his ID. He speaks softly and quickly.

BRENNER

Steve, there's a woman with mental
problems right behind me. You might
need to call for back-up or break out
the stun gun---

*

*

*

Violet's car pulls up and the GUARD waves her through.

GUARD

Go right on in, Lt. Kelly!

*

This leaves Brenner flummoxed.

27 INT. HALLWAY, WHITE HOUSE - DAY

27

Brenner and Violet walk quickly down a hallway in the West Wing. They notice what a HOTBED OF ACTIVITY THE WHITE HOUSE IS. Everyone is WORRIED, PANICKED. The PRESIDENT'S ASSISTANT (Jennifer) sees them approaching.

ASSISTANT

Lieutenant Kelly, you can go right
into the Situation Room.

*

Violet turns to Brenner, cocky.

VIOLET

So, yeah, they need me in the Situation
Room. Have fun doing whatever you--

ASSISTANT

Mr. Brenner, the President is
waiting for you in the Oval Office.

Violet is stunned. Brenner's turn to be cocky.

BRENNER

Somebody's more important...

Brenner moonwalks into the Oval Office. *

28

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

28

Cooper leans against his desk, worried.

PRESIDENT COOPER

You couldn't have at least changed?

BRENNER

You told me to come right over! Chewie, what's going on? It's crazy out there.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Our naval base in Guam was attacked tonight.

BRENNER

Attacked by who?

PRESIDENT COOPER

Not sure. That's why I asked you here.

Brenner, intrigued, goes to the desk. Cooper hits play. He SEES GRAINY, SHAKY FOOTAGE OF THE GUAM ATTACK. THE SHIPS AND THE BUGS. The distinctive sound. Brenner watches. AMAZED.

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)

Is that sound familiar to you?

BRENNER

Yeah, where do I know that from?...

Hold it! Stop! *

(the footage freezes) *

Can you go in tighter?

The footage zooms in a little. A strange ship comes into focus.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

That can't be real... *

PRESIDENT COOPER

So you're seeing the same thing I'm seeing? *

BRENNER *

Yeah, unless we're both having the same weird dream... *

The door opens, and the President's Assistant Jennifer walks in. *

ASSISTANT

They're ready for you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Great. Now I gotta go explain this to the National Security Council. Watch it again, Sam. See if you can find anything that might help us. *

29

INT. SITUATION ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

29

The President enters. The Joint Chiefs are there, as are the heads of the CIA, FBI and HOMELAND SECURITY. The most intimidating by far is five-star ADMIRAL PORTER. Violet is one of a group seated in chairs against the wall, taking notes. The PRESS SECRETARY walks beside Cooper as he makes his way to the head of the table. *

PRESS SECRETARY

Mr. President, we told the press that it was an advanced weapons test that misfired. So there's no mass panic yet.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Good, then let's solve this thing before there is.

As Cooper sits, it seems like everyone starts talking at once.

DEFENSE SECRETARY

Mr. President, clearly Pakistan's drone technology has far surpassed ours--

CIA CHIEF

There's no way we could have missed that. This has Moscow's fingerprints all over it--

ADMIRAL PORTER

Nonsense! I suspect a North Korean black ops sideshow. *

PRESIDENT COOPER

I have a theory. I think, based on analysis of the footage, that preliminary indications are that we were attacked by...

CIA CHIEF

By who, sir?

PRESIDENT COOPER
(quietly)
Galaga.

Suddenly, there's intimidated silence for a beat. Violet stops taking notes. Then...

ADMIRAL PORTER
Well then let's blow Galaga to
hell. Who's Galaga?

JUNIOR AIDE
Um, it's an old-timey video game 80s
kinda folks like my dad used to play.

PRESIDENT COOPER
And tell everybody what happens in
this video game, Jared.

As the Junior Aide fumbles through an answer, the SECRETARY OF THE NAVY is talking a little too loud to the President's Assistant.

JUNIOR AIDE
Well, it's like, alien ships
swarm in a symmetrical manner
and rain light bombs on,
like, your guy--

DEFENSE SECRETARY
Just turkey, plain turkey...
Do they have chipotle
mayo?... Is it fat free? Can
I get it on the side then?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Hold on a second: Jim, are you really
*ordering a sandwich in the middle of a
national security meeting?*

DEFENSE SECRETARY
I'm sorry, Mr. President. Jennifer
asked what we wanted. I figured we
were gonna' be here for awhile--

PRESIDENT COOPER
(to his Assistant)
Just get us a bunch of turkey
sandwiches, okay?!
(sees Navy Sec's pleading)
...with chipotle mayo...
(more pleading face)
...on the side.
(sighs, then to CIA Chief)
So someone is attacking us in the
form of spaceships from a 1980s
video game. The question is who?

Brenner watches the tape of the attack again. Then he sees something and pauses the footage. He studies it closely.

31 INT. SITUATION ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

31

VIOLET

Mr. President, there's no nation on
earth that has the military
technology to simply... pixelate
entire buildings--

*
*
*

ADMIRAL PORTER

Except North Korea!

*

DEFENSE SECRETARY

Forget North Korea! I think we're looking
at a cutting edge multinational enterprise -
an NGO, a think tank, even a corporation.
We're thinking North Korea when we should
be thinking Google.

ADMIRAL PORTER

So we should blow up Google!

*

BRENNER (O.S.)

Can someone take Grandpa's keys
away before he drives us into a
ditch?

*
*
*

Everyone turns and looks at BRENNER standing there in his
bright orange shorts.

ADMIRAL PORTER

Who is this person?!

*

DEFENSE SECRETARY

(hopeful)

The sandwich guy?

A beat of silence, then...

*

PRESIDENT COOPER

Uh, yeah. This is... my... old arcade
game technical consulting advisor person,
Sam Brenner. He works... in the tech
sector.

*
*

DEFENSE SECRETARY

So he's a systems expert?

*

BRENNER

Sound systems, yes sir.

*

JUNIOR AIDE

Caltech? MIT?

*
*

BRENNER

Yes, I did go to MIT, but it was
the Mississippi Institute of
Technology.

*
*
*
*

(MORE)

BRENNER (CONT'D)

You give me two beer cans, some
duct tape and a nine-volt battery,
I'll make you a working blow dryer.

*
*
*

PRESIDENT COOPER

More to the current point, Mr.
Brenner was the National Galaga
Champion.

BRENNER

World.

PRESIDENT COOPER

World champion. He knows everything there is
to know about this game.

(to Brenner)

So what did you and your orange
shorts barge in here to say?

BRENNER

The Galaga that attacked us
actually doesn't exist anymore.

*

JUNIOR AIDE

You can download Galaga on your phone.

They all look at Brenner. He is in the Lion's Den now.

BRENNER

Not this version of Galaga, prom king.
The Galaga that exists now, that you
can download off the internet, came out
in 1986.

*
*

(points at the screen)

But *this* is from the original 1982
arcade version. Those machines were
recalled and reprogrammed because of
glitches in the original code. You can
tell by the way the giant space bugs
swoop in.

*
*

VIOLET

(watching)

Kind of ziggy-zaggy.

BRENNER

(mocking)

Whoa, "ziggy zaggy," is that the
military term?

*

Violet glares.

*

VIOLET

So someone designed these 'space bugs'
after an old out of print version of a
video game from 30 years ago that no one
today would know? But how? Why?

ADMIRAL PORTER

I'm sorry, is this a National Security Council meeting or a dorm room drug party? Our nation has been attacked by an unknown military force, and we must respond swiftly and decisively. If it got out to the press that we were pinning the blame on an old computer game, they wouldn't just mock you on the news, Mr. President: they'd impeach you! So I suggest the man in the orange shorts leave the room immediately, so those of us with long pants and government positions can discuss our options!

*
*
*

All eyes turn to the President.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Uh, you're right. Brenner, thanks for coming down. Appreciate your help.

*
*

Violet mouths "bye".

Brenner nods and salutes the various people as he backs out.

BRENNER

Mr. President, Generals, Admirals, other guys in suits, Mr. Efron, Private Benjamin, honored to be of service.

He walks out, then pokes his head back in.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

Hey, the sandwich guy is waiting out here. (the Defense Secretary stands, excited)
Just kidding, homie. Stay strong.

*

The Defense Secretary is crestfallen. Brenner salutes once more and leaves.

A32 EXT. WHITE HOUSE GATE - NIGHT

A32

*

Brenner drives, feeling stupid. He pulls out of the White House

*

32 INT. BRENNER'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

32

*

When a face appears from the back of the van. It's LUDLOW LAMONSOFF (38). Looking as odd as he did when he was a kid. He has glasses, and wears an old faded "Defender" T-shirt.

*

LUDLOW

Brenner.

Brenner screams and gives Ludlow a backhand punch in the face. Ludlow falls back, but then tumbles forward as Brenner slams on the brakes, almost driving off the road. Brenner grabs Ludlow by his shirt, then recognizes him...

BRENNER

Ludlow??

LUDLOW

Yes! Why did you hit me?!

BRENNER

You scared me! I thought I was getting kidnapped! How did you get in my van?

LUDLOW

(rubbing his nose)

It was unlocked.

BRENNER

Yeah. I figured it would be safe *in the White House parking lot.*

LUDLOW

I need to show you something immediately.

Brenner then sees Ludlow is holding a cloth and a jar of something in his hand.

BRENNER

And what's that in your hand?!

LUDLOW

(caught, sheepish)

Nothing.

BRENNER

Is that a bottle of chloroform? Were you gonna knock me out?

*

LUDLOW

Only as a last resort!

*

33

INT. LUDLOW'S APARTMENT - LATER - NIGHT

33

Brenner & Ludlow enter. It's a CONSPIRACY THEORIST'S PARADISE. There are a TON of OLD computers. A TV with the RABBIT EARS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS OF VARIOUS CONSPIRACY THINGS: JFK, MOON LANDING, BIGFOOT, AREA 51. AS WELL AS A **CREEPY NUMBER OF POSTERS/PICTURES OF THE CASTLE QUEST VID GAME HOTTIE LADY LISA.**

BRENNER

By the way, if she was real she'd be scared to be in this apartment right now.

LUDLOW

Actually, I think if she was real, it would play out a little differently...

*

Brenner spots a thick spiral notebook with a drawing of Lady Lisa and Ludlow on their wedding day on the cover; it's titled "IF SHE WAS REAL..." It's a homemade flipbook depicting her as a bride and kissing Ludlow. As flip-book Ludlow begins removing his shirt, Brenner puts the book down.

BRENNER

So what's so important that you were ready to roofie me?

*

LUDLOW

Okay, so did you hear about what happened to our military base in Guam?

BRENNER

Yeah, it got attacked.

LUDLOW

Attacked by Galaga!

BRENNER

How did you know that?

LUDLOW

I hacked into the government servers. I saw everything. Brenner, I think I know what's going on.

BRENNER

Oh no, here comes a theory.

LUDLOW

Look, I know I'm a bit of a conspiracy freak. It's cost me several promising online relationships, most of my savings and a month wasted looking for Walt Disney's head underneath an ice skating rink in Vermont. But sometimes the conspiracies are real. Remember when we were kids and were in the Video Game Championship?

*
*
*
*
*
*

(Brenner nods)

Remember how they put a tape of the event and all the games we played in that orbiter that they shot out into the universe looking for Extra Terrestrial life?

*

BRENNER
 (ET voice)
 ET phone home.

LUDLOW
 Good memory. Well, I think that some
 extra-terrestrial life found that
 videotape and sent real versions of what
 they saw to attack us. *

BRENNER
 How does the ghost of Elvis fit
 into this? *

LUDLOW
 Brenner, I spent the day on 4chan,
 looking for messages from the Aliens to
 prove my theory. But I came up blank. So
 I decided to take a break and watch the
 tape of a rerun of ONE TREE HILL that I
 recorded tonight on my VCR. I'm
 bingewatching to catch up.

Ludlow points to an 80's TV, with vintage VCR and an ANTENNA.

BRENNER
 And you don't have cable because...?

LUDLOW
*Because the government spies on you through
 your cable boxes, Brenner! That's been proven!*

BRENNER
 Oh yeah, that's right, I forgot.
 Saw that on "60 Minutes of Crazy".

LUDLOW
 Anyway, I poured myself a bowl of sugar
 free Frosted Flakes and sat down to watch
 Sophia Bush and her sassy One Tree Hill
 friends' sexy shenanigans. But regardless
 of what my TV Guide says...
 (holds up TV Guide)
One Tree Hill was not what was broadcast
 tonight over that UHF signal.

BRENNER
 So what was?

LUDLOW
This.

Ludlow holds up a VHS tape.

CLOSE ON HIS HAND AS HE POPS IT INTO THE VCR

34 INT. MOTHERSHIP - VHS FOOTAGE 34 *

ON SCREEN we see PRESIDENT REAGAN in the hull of a spaceship. It is taped on a grainy overdubbed VHS tape. The tape breaks up, glitches.

PRESIDENT REAGAN
 Inhabit- of Earth. We are a r- from the Planet (STATIC) ...We came to you in these familiar Earth forms to tell you we received your vessel and in it your hostile challenge-

On TV, Reagan now morphs into 80's era Michael Jackson.

80'S ERA MICHAEL JACKSON
 (STATIC STATIC) we accept your (STATIC) Compete (STATIC) ...Winner take all battles. Gather your bravest warriors to face our (STATIC) bravest warriors (MORE STATIC)-

On the tape: Michael Jackson now CHANGES into MR. T. *

35 INT. MOTHERSHIP - VHS FOOTAGE 35 *

MR. T

Winner takes the loser's planet (STATIC) You have already lost (STATIC) the first battle. And for our victory, we (STATIC) have taken a trophy. *

ON TV, CAMERA PANS TO A CELL where the HANDSOME SAILOR is being held CAPTIVE.

HANDSOME SAILOR
 I'm okay, Mom! I love you! That's not the real Mr. T!

MR. T
 Out of respect (STATIC) for your ways (STATIC) we will follow the rules of the battles you showed us in your craft. (STATIC) Like those battles... you will get... *three lives*. (STATIC) You have two lives left, losing both (STATIC) will lead to total (STATIC) destruction of your planet. The next battle (STATIC) is in 15 hours, at coordinates twenty-seven (STATIC) twenty-four, seventy- (STATIC) -nine.

The message ends. Ludlow HITS STOP. Pull back to REVEAL we're in...

36

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

36

Brenner, Cooper and Ludlow were watching this on a flatscreen.

PRESIDENT COOPER

What do they mean three lives?

LUDLOW

Like the old games, you know: one quarter, three lives, Mr. President.

*

PRESIDENT COOPER

Lud... You gave me my first Playboy when we were 14. I think you can call me Chewie.

LUDLOW

(smiling)

Yes, sir, Mr. President Chewie, sir.

BRENNER

These moron aliens think the video game footage that NASA shot into space was a declaration of war.

LUDLOW

--And we've already lost the first battle! If we lose two more, they will completely destroy our planet.

PRESIDENT COOPER

So where do Mr. T and Michael Jackson fit in?

LUDLOW

The aliens must be shapeshifters! In that orbiter NASA also included movies, music and other current events of 1982, to tell other civilizations about us.

BRENNER

What are they gonna hit us with next? If I'm remembering right, there were at least a dozen games we played that night back in '82. *Breakout, Galaga, Asteroids, Pac Man, Dig-Dug, Donkey Kong--*

*

*

*

LUDLOW

Donkey Kong. Not your finest hour, Sam.

*

BRENNER

Shut up, Lud, or I'll have Chewie pass a law against eating Hot Pockets in your underwear.

LUDLOW

Unconstitutional! Look, assuming those numbers alien Mr. T gave us are latitude and longitude, the next attack will be somewhere in northern India, tonight. If you can get your NSA techs to clean up the signal, we can pinpoint the exact location, and maybe even what game they're going to play--

*

*

*

PRESIDENT COOPER

Look: this is an interesting theory. But I can't authorize a military response based on this crazy Ronald Reagan/Mr. T video. It looks like something a couple of high school kids made.

LUDLOW

Well, you gotta at least warn the Indians that something might be coming--

PRESIDENT COOPER

I'm known as a buffoon right now as it is. I can't the risk, Ludlow. I just can't.

*

Brenner and Ludlow exchange a look.

CUT TO:

37

EXT. TAJ MAHAL - DAWN

37

*

An excited INDIAN GUY (early 20s) is with a beautiful INDIAN GIRL outside the Taj Mahal. He seems nervous. He takes his iPhone out, pushes some buttons, and a tinny INDIAN VERSION of *Spandau Ballet's* "TRUE" begins to play. He props it up to record himself.

He stands facing the Girl, speaks some Hindi, then drops to one knee. The Girl can't believe this is happening!

Behind them, we see... something. Flashing lights, something bright whizzing through frame too fast to see. The couple is oblivious. The Guy speaks some more heartfelt Hindi, getting emotional, then pulls a ring box out of his pocket.

*

The Girl, finally noticing what's going on off-camera, starts screaming. The Guy thinks she's screaming about the ring box, nods cockily.

But then he sees what's going on and starts screaming, too. He grabs the camera, but never gets a clear shot of what's going on, just quick low-rez images of lights, smoke, himself and --

He LOWERS the camera. For a few moments, we see the DESTRUCTION of the TAJ MAHAL. Is it being TORN APART by the game... *BREAKOUT!*

A bright light APPEARS above the Indian Guy. The girl STEPS BACK. TERRIFIED. The boy LOOKS UP. He SCREAMS, as his face becomes PIXELATED and SEPARATES INTO TINY PIXELS. The pieces are LIFTED INTO THE AIR...

38

INT. DARPA - CORRIDOR - DAY

38

An elevator opens in an antiseptic hallway, revealing Cooper, Brenner and Ludlow. Brenner is giving Cooper a hard time.

BRENNER
(doing impression)
"I can't take that risk, Ludlow. I just can't."

PRESIDENT COOPER
Aw shut up.

LUDLOW
(Indian accent)
"He knew what was coming, but did not help us? Why?"

PRESIDENT COOPER
(threatening)
Hot Pockets.

Violet (in a lab coat) comes down the hall to greet him.

VIOLET
Morning, Mr. President, I--
(sees Brenner and Ludlow)
What's Johnny Surround Sound doing here? And this other... fella?

LUDLOW
I'm Ludlow Lamonsoff! This is awesome! You smell nice!

PRESIDENT COOPER
Mr. Lamonsoff and Mr. Brenner have agreed to share their video game expertise with you and your team.

VIOLET

With all due respect, Mr. President, having civilians with zero security clearance in this facility is--

PRESIDENT COOPER

These gentlemen have a better handle on what's going on right now than anyone in my entire administration. You should be welcoming them, not questioning their security clearance.

*
*
*

VIOLET

Of course, Mr. President. Gentlemen, right this way.

*

Brenner gives Violet a cocky look. She smirks back and leads them through the hallway, into a LARGER ROOM, where VARIOUS TECHNICIANS and SCIENTISTS construct and design prototypes for the latest military weapons.

PRESIDENT COOPER

So have we made progress, Lieutenant?

*

VIOLET

Enormous progress, sir. We now believe those things that attacked us were made of energy, intelligent energy.

A cool mecha-animal dog comes bounding down the hall toward them. A SCIENTIST follows, taking notes.

SCIENTIST

Morning, Lieutenant.

*

VIOLET

Good morning, Michael.

As the Scientist passes, Brenner and Ludlow see his backside: wires, machinery, electrodes: the Scientist is a ROBOT. Ludlow is ecstatic.

LUDLOW

(excited whisper)
Michael's a robot!

BRENNER

Handle your high, Ludlow.

VIOLET

Think about it: we as a civilization have been harnessing light for a hundred years and in that time we've created electricity, lasers. Things that people a century ago couldn't begin to comprehend. But it's possible that this civilization has been doing it for *millions of years*. So there's no telling what they're capable of.

*
*
*

BRENNER

Wow, are you a robot too?

Violet rolls her eyes. Ludlow pauses at a table where a group of SCIENTISTS work on VARIOUS HIGH TECH WEAPONS. Ludlow stares at all of the weapons, in awe.

LUDLOW

Whoa... Best day of my life...

Ludlow picks up an iPad-like remote control--

SCIENTIST

Hey!! May I help--

ALL OF A SUDDEN a small drone rises off the table into the air and begins shooting randomly. Everyone ducks for cover. A Scientist grabs the remote out of Ludlow's hands.

LUDLOW

My bad.

REVEAL Michael the Robot down on the other side of the room. He has a smoking hole in his back, revealing smoldering circuits and wires.

MICHAEL THE ROBOT

I'm okay. No permanent damage.
(green gel dribbles out of
his mouth)
All good.

They continue walking.

VIOLET

I think maybe the extra-terrestrials took what they saw in the orbiter and re-created those same things out of light energy and then sent these light creatures back at us. That's why solid matter like bullets, missiles, won't harm them.

*
*

PRESIDENT COOPER

Well, have you come up with anything that *will* harm them?

VIOLET

Maybe...

They walk up to a different table, where another Scientist (not a robot) is taking notes over a high tech cage, studying something inside: a single PIXEL.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

The cube we recovered in Guam has proven nearly impossible to analyze, but we've been able to reverse engineer some prototype weapons that seem to neutralize it. We're basically hitting it with super-charged light particles.

*
*
*
*
*
*

LUDLOW

Light guns?

VIOLET

Light cannons, actually. These cubes are pretty feisty.

Violet sticks the eraser-end of a pencil into the cage and pokes the pixel. The pencil pixellates, and the original pixel rattles around the cage superfast; the Scientist struggles not to drop it.

BRENNER

That's awesome. Can you show us the whore destroyer now?

*
*

VIOLET

You're so smart. Is that how you got into the Mississippi Institute of Technology?

*
*
*

BRENNER

You know I wish I never went into that closet with you. Also, I deeply regret trying to kiss you.

Cooper and Ludlow turn and look at Violet and Brenner. Violet resumes walking; they follow.

VIOLET

Moving on. We've begun instructing the Navy SEAL task force on the use of the prototype weapons.

*

They've finally reached a huge door at the end of the room.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Maybe our new "expert advisors" would like to say a few words?

She hits a button, opening the door, revealing a hangar where a group of 50 TOUGH NAVY SEALS have gathered. They all turn to Brenner and Ludlow with hard stares.

39

INT. DARPA - HANGAR - DAY

39

Cooper, Violet, Brenner and Ludlow stand behind Admiral Porter. *

ADMIRAL PORTER *

Men, you've served this nation with distinction in combat zones in every nook and cranny of this god-forsaken world, defeating every enemy they've thrown at you. And now, you are going to face, and I can't believe I'm saying this, aliens from outer space.

The SEALS look at each other, roll their eyes.

Brenner spots Matty in the back of the crowd (with his bookbag), and nudges Violet.

BRENNER

What's his security clearance?

VIOLET

I couldn't get a babysitter.

BRENNER

That's why I had to bring *him*.

Brenner points to Ludlow, who's nervously rocking in his chair.

ADMIRAL PORTER *

Now these aliens, probably for their own sick amusement, are going to attack us in the form of "video games". So, to help us develop defense strategies and counter-tactics, the President has brought in - and I *really* can't believe I'm saying this - these two civilian "arcaders," who we are now required to listen to for 120 seconds.

Admiral Porter stalks off. Brenner and Ludlow (extremely nervous) step forward, to a silent reaction (except for Matty, who smiles excitedly). *

LUDLOW

(whispers to Brenner)

I think I'm gonna puke. *

BRENNER

Just be confident. Act the part. We know how to do this stuff. They don't.

Ludlow nods, taking this to heart. They now stand in front of the surly SEALS.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

Thank you for that warm introduction, Admiral. My name is Sam Brenner. And this is-

*
*

Ludlow shoves Brenner out of the way.

LUDLOW

YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE! Looks to me, Brenner, like *SOMEONE* FORGOT TO SEND US THE BEST OF THE BEST and instead dropped off a bunch of... *incontinent adult-diaper-wearing... candyass... cries-themselves-to-sleep-women-baby... man-people!*

*

BRENNER

(sotto)

Too confident...

LUDLOW

From now on, *maggots*, you little... *girl maggots*, ---whatever the name for the female form of maggots is! From now on when you poop, WHEN YOU POOP YOUR PANTS YOU'RE GONNA BE THINKING OF ME! So TAKE YOUR TAMPONS OUT OF YOUR LADYBUSINESS AND LISTEN THE EFF UP!

*

(yells in one Seal's face, spittle flying)

Do you feel me, sailor?! DO YOU FEEL MEEEEEEEE?!?!

The SEAL is about to kill him. Matty is trying hard not to laugh. Brenner steps in.

BRENNER

Ludlow, I think you're gonna feel his fist in the back of your skull if you don't take two steps back.

*
*
*

Ludlow takes two steps back, trembling. Brenner addresses the troops.

*

BRENNER (CONT'D)

Look, I know it must seem weird that two buffoons like us would be giving advice to you badassess, who put your lives on the line day to protect us.

* every
*

(MORE)

BRENNER (CONT'D)

But we spent our childhoods training our prefrontal cortex to perform extremely complex motor feats with hand eye coordination unique to a very specific cognitive acuity, which is meaningless in all other areas of life, but suddenly might come in handy for saving the planet.

(quick look to Admiral Porter, whispers)

I learned a lot of big words at those dorm room drug parties.

(back to troops)

So we hope you guys can get past us being civilian morons and let us show you a few moves in whatever time we have.

*

*

*

Then...

LUDLOW

DO YOU LADIES UNDERSTAND THAT?!

BRENNER

Lud, let it go.

LUDLOW

You got it, buddy.

Ludlow nods. CUT TO:

40 A FAST PACED TRAINING MONTAGE/WEAPON BUILDING MONTAGE. 40

MUSIC: DRAMATIC

-Rows and rows of VINTAGE ARCADE machines have been set up. A different NAVY SEAL stands over the controls of each video game, as Ludlow and Brenner pace behind the SEALS stopping every now and then to give a piece of advice. Brenner STOPS at one machine... *CENTIPEDE*. He gives specific directions to the Navy Seal, who is trying to grasp it.

*

*

*

Ludlow steps in to dramatically demonstrate a specific move ("keeping the wrist loose"); the SEAL stares at him angrily.

41 -A blueprint is on a table. Violet refers to it as she 41
barks orders to UNDERLINGS, who are making some pretty high- 41
tech shit. *

42 -Brenner is playing Asteroids, and the game is being 42
displayed on a giant screen. The SEALS are sitting watching, 42
taking notes. It's crazy how good Brenner is; Matty is
watching with new-found respect.

43 -Cooper is at the "make a cake" store with the KING OF 43
SAUDI ARABIA doing the frosting as they discuss a free-trade 43
agreement. *

Jennifer the Assistant runs in. *

ASSISTANT

Mr. President, we just received a message on the UHF signal from the "Where's the Beef?" lady! The next battle is on at sundown tomorrow: 51/30/29 latitude, 0/9/42 longitude.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Where the hell is that?

44 EXT. LONDON - DUSK - ESTABLISHING 44 *

Establishing shot of London, England.

45 EXT. HYDE PARK, LONDON/INT. TROOP CARRIER - NIGHT 45 *

HUMVEES roll down the road toward the park. Brenner and

Ludlow sit in the back, face to face with the SEALS. Ludlow smiles at the SEALS; they don't smile back.

46 EXT. HYDE PARK - NIGHT 46

They stop in a big open field, and disembark from the Humvees. A curious SOCCER PLAYER walks over to Ludlow.

SOCCER PLAYER

What's all this then, mate?

LUDLOW

We're Americans! These navy guys have gotten permission from your government to prepare for an extraterrestrial invasion which we believe will occur here in the next two hours.

*

The Soccer Player just stares at Ludlow. Then a British SAS OFFICER traveling with our guys chimes in.

SAS OFFICER

We're shooting a beer commercial.

SOCCER PLAYER

Right then.

As he jogs off to rejoin his game...

BRENNER

Why'd you lie to him? Shouldn't we be clearing the area?

SAS OFFICER

Trying not to cause a total-panic situation, Yank.

(to Ludlow)

(MORE)

SAS OFFICER (CONT'D)
And I don't want to hear another
word out of you.

Ludlow looks cowed. But his mood instantly changes when
Violet opens the back of one of the Humvees, revealing...

LUDLOW
And then there were... light
cannons.

High tech, sleek, insanely cool.

47 EXT. 10 DOWNING STREET - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING 47

Establishing shot of the Prime Minister's residence.

48 INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - NIGHT 48

The President sits with the BRITISH PRIME MINISTER and some
aides and advisors, watching footage of Hyde Park on several
monitors.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Mr. Prime Minister, I can't thank
you enough for your cooperation on
this.

PRIME MINISTER
Of course, Will. The Commonwealth
is at your disposal. I trust we'll
duff up these jiggery pokers
straight away, and resume the
profoundly ordinary summer of gloom
we were heretofore luxuriating in.

*
*
*
*
*

PRESIDENT COOPER
I know, right?

After a beat, he turns to the Junior Aide and whispers.

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)
(confused)
No idea what he just said.

JUNIOR AIDE
Your response made sense, sir.

PRESIDENT COOPER
That's why they call me "da prez".

49 EXT. HYDE PARK - NIGHT 49

The SEALS are taking the light cannons out of the Humvees.
Violet seems nervous.

VIOLET

Easy with those! We don't have any backups!

Admiral Porter strides over.

ADMIRAL PORTER

These ray guns gonna work, Kelly?

VIOLET

We had no way to field test them, sir. But most of our computer models showed a reasonable degree of effectiveness.

ADMIRAL PORTER

Reasonable degree?! You're sending my men into battle with untested ordinance?!

VIOLET

I had two days! To do things never done before on this planet!

ADMIRAL PORTER

Remember who you're speaking to, Lieutenant!

The gruff SAS Officer calls out.

SAS OFFICER

Anybody who doesn't need to be here should follow me to the support area, now.

(to Brenner and Ludlow)

That means you geezers. Move it.

Brenner and Ludlow start walking away, kind of bummed. Brenner sees Violet is shook up.

BRENNER

Hey, Lieutenant: it's gonna work.

50 INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - NIGHT

50

Cooper, the PM and their aides are watching Fox News with SHEP SMITH on one of the monitors.

SHEP SMITH

Our military was attacked. And what does the President do? His specialty - nothing!

MEGYN KELLY chimes in.

MEGYN KELLY
 That's not true, Shep - he made a
 cake with King Abdul!

*
 *

Footage of Cooper happily making the cake.

PRIME MINISTER
 Turn that off. Apologies, Will.

*

PRESIDENT COOPER
 They always seem to catch us doing
 goofy stuff, eh, Nigel?

*

PRIME MINISTER
 Rarely *that* goofy, but I do
 understand the sentiment.

*
 *

PRESIDENT COOPER
 (fake smiles, then into
 speakerphone)
 Anything, Lt. Kelly?

*

51 EXT. HYDE PARK - NIGHT

51

VIOLET (INTO HER WALKIE-TALKIE)
 Eerily quiet, Mr. President--

*

It is quiet, except for a rhythmic groaning noise coming from
 the walkie-talkie. It almost sounds like... sipping. BACK TO:

52 INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - NIGHT

52

The Defense Secretary is nervously sipping tea in the corner.
 He notices the President and everyone else staring at him.

DEFENSE SECRETARY
 It's very hot.

53 EXT. HYDE PARK - NIGHT

53

The park is pretty crowded. Brenner squeezes between two
 metal barriers and walks over to the SAS Officer

BRENNER
 Hey, dude, I just thought of
 something I should tell the SEALS
 about the pattern if it's Space
 Invaders--

*
 *
 *
 *

SAS OFFICER
 Please return to the support area.

BRENNER
 I'm just trying to--

SAS OFFICER
 (grabs Brenner's shirt)
 If we need you, we know where to
 find you.

*
 *

Brenner turns and walks back behind the barrier.

Suddenly, there is THUNDER. LOUD THUNDER. CLOUDS have started to materialize out of the peaceful sky. Above the clouds we see LIGHTS. It's very *magical*. And terrifying.

At the nearby soccer game, someone takes a shot on goal, and another player deflects the ball sky-high with his head. But then the ball doesn't come down. Then they see why:

A **SPACESHIP, MOSTLY HIDDEN BY CLOUDS HEADS TOWARDS THEM.**
 Brenner and the others **all MARVEL at it.**

THE SHIP'S PORTAL OPENS. Then THINGS START TO FALL FROM THE CLOUDS. They look like GIANT MUSHROOMS. Everyone braces for impact, then the giant mushrooms stop mid air. They start to HOVER and FORM A PATTERN IN THE SKY.

BRENNER
 It's Centipede.

The SEALS "hooo-rah" and sprint off to their attack positions. Brenner yells instructions from the other side of the fence.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
 Remember what we talked about! Kill each centipede from the head down! If you hit it in the middle it will break in two.

LUDLOW
 Then you have two snakethings. Hit it again, four snakethings. We do not want four snake-things!

*

The cocky Seals ignore them and take aim at the night sky.

And then **THEY COME**. GIANT CENTIPEDES just like from the old arcade game come to life. THE CENTIPEDES NOW EVOLVE FROM the 8 BIT look to more realistic creatures. They are TERRIFYING.

LUDLOW (CONT'D)
 Oh God. Oh God. This is really real.

The GIANT CENTIPEDES SLITHER DOWN FROM THE SKY, THROUGH THE MUSHROOMS. EACH HAS A DIFFERENT PERSONALITY. One CACKLES. Another has A GIANT MOUTH FULL OF TEETH, constantly CHOMPING at the air. Another GROWLS AND SCREAMS. Yet another HISSSES.

Also unlike the game that existed on a solely Two Dimensional Plane, this is REAL LIFE and THREE DIMENSIONAL. The creatures attack from all ANGLES.

The Seals start SHOOTING UPWARDS. THE LIGHT CANNONS EMIT LASER BLASTS THAT RESEMBLE THE GAME.

One of SEALS' beams HIT A CENTIPEDE'S HEAD. IT PIXELLATES! A cheer goes up.

54 INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - NIGHT 54

Everyone cheers. Cooper pumps his fist, psyched.

PRESIDENT COOPER
The light cannons work!

55 EXT. HYDE PARK- NIGHT 55

Violet looks back at Brenner and smiles gratefully. As he smiles back, he mutters to himself. *

BRENNER
G-d she's hot... *

Then a SEAL fires up at a Centipede and hits it in the middle. IT SPLITS IN HALF. *

BRENNER (CONT'D)
NO, NO!!! DIDN'T WE JUST SAY DON'T SPLIT
THEM IN HALF?! JUST AIM FOR THE
HEAD!!...

The Seals are NOT USED to these things: the weapons or the prey. They FIRE UP at them. But KEEP MISSING.

SEAL
THE MUSHROOM-THINGS. They're in the way!

BRENNER
SHOOT THE MUSHROOMS! It's just like
the game. If they get down to the
ground it's gonna get really bad,
really quick. *

The Seals FIRE UP at the mushrooms and centipedes. They hit a mushroom which now sends a CENTIPEDE STRAIGHT DOWN TOWARDS A SEAL. He doesn't see it.

VIOLET
SGT. DUFF!! 12 O'CLOCK!

TOO LATE. THE CENTIPEDE CHOMPS UP SGT. DUFF AND scurries quickly off into the bushes.

56 INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - NIGHT 56

The whole room watches in shock.

57

EXT. HYDE PARK - NIGHT

57

LUDLOW

Nooooooo! It ate the Sarge! The centipede ate the Sarge!

*

The remaining Seals continue to SHOOT SKYWARD. They are all freaked out by what just happened. Another CENTIPEDE STREAKS BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE SKY DOWN TOWARDS THEM LIKE A VICIOUS FLYING SHARK. The Big Seal shoots at it. But it's TOO FAST. He KEEPS MISSING.

BRENNER

No, shoot right... Now left! Look, you can't just fire at where they are, they're too fast. You have to watch the patterns, anticipate where they're going to be and shoot there!

BIG SEAL

I DON'T KNOW THE PATTERNS!

It's moving fast down towards them, CLOSER AND CLOSER. It's SCARY MOUTH BITING AWAY. Finally Brenner can't stand it. He leaps over the barrier, shoves the SAS Officer to the ground and sprints toward the SEAL.

*

VIOLET

Brenner! No!

Brenner grabs the light cannon from the Seal and STARTS FIRING AT THE CENTIPEDE. BLAST BLAST BLAST!

Piece by piece Brenner BLASTS it, just like in the game. And as it dies we see it RETROGRADE BACK FROM REAL-LOOKING CENTIPEDE TO THE LOWER RESOLUTION 8 BIT ONE FROM THE GAME, FINALLY TO PIXELS OF ENERGY THAT DISSIPATE INTO THE AIR. The dissipated pixels BRUSH PAST Brenner's face.

BIG SEAL

Nice shooting, civilian.

BRENNER

I'm not just a civilian. I'm a nerd.

He looks at Ludlow and makes a decision.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

Ludlow, grab a light cannon and get over here!

*

*

LUDLOW

Me?! No! NO! I LOOK DELICIOUS, HE'LL EAT ME TOO!!

BRENNER
These guys don't know this game! We
were born to do this!

The SEALS look to Violet. Violet talks into the walkie-talkie.

VIOLET
Mr. President?

A beat of silence, then...

PRESIDENT COOPER (O.S.)
(quietly)
Let the nerds take over.

VIOLET
What was that, sir?

PRESIDENT COOPER (O.S.)
LET THE NERDS TAKE OVER!!!

A SEAL hands his light cannon to Ludlow. Ludlow looks at Brenner, terrified. Then...

BRENNER
Lud... hit the start button.

LUDLOW
(takes a deep breath)
What am I worried about? I'm the
Wonder Kid.

The two of them turn skyward and start blasting away. THEY
BOTH KICK ASS.

A SCREAMING CENTIPEDE FLIES DIAGONALLY DOWN FOR LUDLOW.
LUDLOW BLASTS IT. IT BREAKS IN TWO RIGHT BEFORE it hits him.
The two pieces HIT THE GROUND and SLITHER AWAY. But LUDLOW
quickly nails them both with a cool spin move.

A HOPPING SPIDER APPEARS, AND BEGINS HOPPING SUPER-FAST
TOWARD ADMIRAL PORTER. ADMIRAL PORTER, TERRIFIED, LETS OUT A
HIGH-PITCHED SCREAM.

BRENNER TAKES AIM (THE GUN BARREL TILTING UP AND DOWN AS HE
TRACKS THE HOPS). HE FIRES AND NAILS THE SPIDER IN THE NICK
OF TIME. THE SPIDER EXPLODES INTO A SHOWER OF PIXELS IN THE
ADMIRAL'S FACE.

BRENNER
You're welcome, homeboy!

Everyone watches this.

PRESIDENT COOPER
 YEAH, BOYS! Shock and awe! High
 score, bitches!

*

He turns, sees everyone staring at him.

PRIME MINISTER
 You heard the president. Cheer them
 on!

Everyone in the room starts cheering raucously.

*

59 EXT. HYDE PARK - NIGHT

59

BRENNER
 Only one left!! Daddy's got ya...

Brenner points to the REMAINING CENTIPEDE. But it breaks
 right quick, MOVING **TOWARDS THE CITY!** Brenner FOLLOWS it OUT
 of the park, as Ludlow, consumed with blood-lust, continues
 shooting crazily into the sky.

*

*

*

60 EXT. PARK LANE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

60

The Centipede RUNS OUT into the street. PEDESTRIANS freak
 out, RUNNING AWAY.

Brenner runs out in hot pursuit.

The Centipede RUNS TO AN APARTMENT BUILDING and BURSTS
 through the FRONT DOORS, MOVING INSIDE.

61 INT. LONDON APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

61

The Centipede dashes UP THE STAIRS. Brenner CHARGES AFTER IT.
 The Centipede CRASHES through the FIFTH FLOOR door, into the
 hallway.

62 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

62

An OLD WOMAN is exercising along with a "BUNS OF STEEL", an
 English workout TV show. THE CENTIPEDE BUSTS THROUGH THE DOOR
 and PASSES the TV. The woman doesn't notice, obsessed with
 her workout. The Centipede TURNS BACK and STOPS beside the
 woman. The creature is mesmerized by the TV show, by the
 music... The Centipede MIMICS the movements of the workout,
 beginning to exercise along with her...

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

Brenner RUNS INSIDE, takes aim at the Centipede.

*

BRENNER
*Why are you here? What do you
 want?!*

*

The Centipede turns TOWARD THE WINDOW. Brenner FIRES, MISSES
 the Centipede and BLOWS APART THE TV.

*

*

OLD WOMAN

ME TELLY!

The Centipede LEAPS THROUGH THE WINDOW. *CRASH!!!*

63 EXT. STREET BELOW- NIGHT

63

A CROWD of people are gathered outside, seeing the CENTIPEDE BURST OUT THE WINDOW, FLYING DOWN TOWARD THEM. They TURN to RUN OFF. Except for a LITTLE BOY. He stares, in shock, at the flying centipede. It's HEADING RIGHT DOWN TOWARDS HIM.

Time slows down. Brenner, pissed off, appears at the window and TAKES AIM. THE CENTIPEDE OPENS ITS MOUTH. ONLY A FEW FEET FROM THE BOY.

In SLO MO BRENNER FIRES! *BLAST BLAST BLAST!* The tail end is hit and disappears again and again, the Centipede getting shorter and shorter til it's just the head, opening it's mouth to eat the boy... THE LAST BLAST HITS IT. The centipede DE-RESES AND PIXELATES INTO NOTHING.

The Little Boy smiles at him.

LITTLE BOY

Who are you, Mister?

BRENNER

Son, I'm just a guy who's good at old videogames.

64 INT. BRITISH PUB - LATER - NIGHT

64

The Guys, Violet, the SAS Officer and the Seals are in the PACKED BRITISH PUB WITH A TON of Brits. The mood is celebratory. Ludlow stands on top of a table, raises his glass...

LUDLOW

DRINKS ARE ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT!

The packed bar SCREAMS AND TOASTS.

LUDLOW (CONT'D)

*...WHICH IS COVERING UP THE TRUTH
ABOUT THE ANCIENT PYRAMID UNDER
HOOVER DAM!*

The packed bar IS CONFUSED.

Brenner raises a glass to the guys and the Seals.

BRENNER

To Sgt. Duff, who gave his life for our freedom.

As they all drink to him, Brenner turns to see Violet smiling at him.

VIOLET

You're a good man, Brenner. Sorry I was so rough on you.

BRENNER

I appreciate that. And in exchange for your apology, I am getting you drunk! I'm just letting you know in advance. Which is the gentlemanly thing to do because as far as you know I'm a gentleman.

VIOLET

You can try. But *just so you know* I was the tequila shot record holder in my class at West Point. So it ain't gonna be easy.

They clink shot glasses. Violet downs hers, Brenner throws his over his shoulder.

BRENNER

That's one...

Violet laughs.

The doors to the bar fly open and SECRET SERVICE COME IN followed by the President. The PATRONS ALL CHEER HIM.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Where are my gamers at?

Cooper kneels between Brenner and Ludlow, and puts his arms around them.

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)

Looks like all that time you wasted when we were kids is finally paying off.

The now-drunken SAS Officer stands and holds up a pitcher. *

SAS OFFICER *

Sir? Might I pour you a frosty? *

PRESIDENT COOPER

Hey: I am the President of the United States, and a President can't be seen drinking during a time of crisis... *

(loosens his tie)

So nobody look! *

Cooper grabs the entire pitcher. The crowd CHEERS. As Cooper raises it to his lips...

Every TV in the pub crackles to life. We see a bit of ONE TREE HILL. IT BREAKS UP. 80'S BORN IN THE USA era BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN comes on screen.

65 INT. MOTHERSHIP - VHS FOOTAGE 65 *

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
 Congratulations. You have (STATIC)
 won this battle. (STATIC) Please
 accept one of our warriors as a
 trophy of your victory.

66 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT 66 *

The Old Woman who we met before is sitting on the couch in her trashed apartment eating biscuits. *

A BEAM OF LIGHT suddenly shines in the window. Pixels swoop in and form into the DOG from the game DUCK HUNT. It hops on the couch and snuggles against her. The Old Woman pets it. *

OLD WOMAN
 Well aren't you a cute one? Give us
 a kiss, luv...

The Duck Hunt Dog licks her face. *

67 INT. BRITISH PUB - NIGHT 67

Everyone stares silently at Springsteen on the TVs.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN (ON TV)
 The next challenge will not be (STATIC)
 as easy. The details will be sent via
 this (STATIC) signal shortly. Remember,
 we are still leading two battles to one.
 (STATIC) one more loss for you will mean
 (STATIC) the annihilation of your world.

Springsteen goes into a windmill move on his guitar, then the TV screens fade back to black. The celebratory mood has instantly turned funereal. *

PRESIDENT COOPER
 Alright, you heard The Boss. Let's get back to work. We gotta get you guys ready for the next battle.

LUDLOW
 Us?

BRENNER
 No, we're not the guys, Chew. We just stepped in to stop it from going wrong. Today was a fluke.

PRESIDENT COOPER

A fluke? You guys single-handedly repelled an alien attack! The world needs you right now.

*
*

Cooper looks at Brenner very seriously.

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)

Remember when I told you that you were meant for something more in life? This is it, buddy.

VIOLET

He's right, Brenner. I hate to admit it, but you're the best.

*
*

BRENNER

Not at every game...

The meaning of this sinks in.

LUDLOW

Oh please God no.

BRENNER

I don't want to see him either. But we might need him.

*

68 INT. PENITENTIARY - DAY

68

Cooper, Brenner and Violet are led into the prison by the WARDEN. Violet now opens up the vet file on EDDIE PLANT.

VIOLET

Eddie Plant: Married and divorced four times, declared bankruptcy in 1991 and 2004. In 2005, he was caught hacking the cell phone companies and adding one of those fees you see on your bill every month but have no idea what it is, made about 50 million before he was convicted and sentenced to twenty years in prison. This guy a good friend of yours?

BRENNER

As I remember, we pretty much hate each other.

*

69 INT. HOLDING ROOM, JAIL - DAY

69

The Warden leads Brenner and Violet into a room. Adult EDDIE PLANT is here. He wears a goatee, a mullet and a few tattoos. When Brenner walks in, Eddie acts mock-terrified.

EDDIE PLANT

Warden, get me outta here! It's that mean centipede killer! I hope he don't zap me with his space gun!

BRENNER

Hello, Eddie.

EDDIE PLANT

S'up, Second Place. And your sidekick, he really made something of hisself.

(before he can say thanks)

I didn't know you could have an approval rating that "catatastrophic". I think the warden in here is more popular than you.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Alright, here's the deal... In exchange for you helping us, I will personally talk to the parole board about reducing your sentence.

EDDIE PLANT

(sits back smugly)

Pass.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Pass?

EDDIE PLANT

That deal doesn't work for Eddie Plant. If you want the Fire Blaster's help, he has some demands.

VIOLET

Who's the Fire Blaster?

*

EDDIE PLANT

Me! That's my nickname!

BRENNER

Oh right, the one you made up.

EDDIE PLANT

Who cares who came up with it?! It's totally tubular! Look I've been watching the news. I know what's going on out there. And I further know that he despises my white ass-

*

*

BRENNER

Nooooooyes.

EDDIE PLANT

So you wouldn't be here unless you really
really needed my help. Which gets me back to my
original point: I have some demands. *

PRESIDENT COOPER

(annoyed)

Like what?

Eddie sits back and pulls out a handwritten list of demands.

EDDIE PLANT

I want an island.

BRENNER

Oh g-d.

EDDIE PLANT

There are 18,617 named islands that are
part of the United States and its
territories! Not to mention all the
countless unnamed ones. *

PRESIDENT COOPER

You're not getting an island.

EDDIE PLANT

Then I want a full pardon. I want to get
out of here for good. And after I do I want
to pay no more taxes like forever. Like if
technology improves and I live forever I
want to pay no taxes, *for-ev-er!* Not even
sales tax, if I buy some for instance gum,
I want a card that says I saved the world
and I don't have to pay no shitballs taxes
on gum. I want one of those Stealth Attack
Helicopters that they fly over the Super
Bowl-- at my disposal at all times to fly
my white ass around. If the world is still
here I don't want to have to deal with
traffic anymore. And lastly I want you to
set up a rendezvous with me, Taylor Swift
and Jamie Lee Curtis in the Lincoln
Bedroom. *

Cooper stands and walks out. Brenner goes after him.

BRENNER

Chewie!

Cooper stops, and he and Brenner speak with quiet intensity
in the doorway, out of earshot.

PRESIDENT COOPER

I can't do this, Sam. *

BRENNER

We can't do it without him.

PRESIDENT COOPER

He's going to mess this up. He's going to screw us over.

They look back at Eddie, who's blowing kisses at Violet.

BRENNER

He's no day at the beach. But I think a lot of this is just a front. We're giving him the chance to be a hero. Even assholes like him want to be a hero.

PRESIDENT COOPER

I don't know, man...

BRENNER

You gotta trust me.

Cooper thinks for a beat, then walks back to the table.

PRESIDENT COOPER

1) You're not getting a helicopter or any sort of flying or driving vehicle. 2) I think the Federal Government can *probably* do without *your* income taxes and be okay. But sales tax you're on your own. And 3) IF you help us beat these things... I think we can get you out of here.

EDDIE PLANT

...And the Swift/Lee Curtis sandwich? *

PRESIDENT COOPER

Pick one of them.
(disgusted) *
We'll see if we can set up... a coffee.

EDDIE PLANT

Jamie Lee Curtis. And we are closed. *

Eddie smiles and puts out his cuffed hand to shake Coopers. Violet's phone rings. She answers, nods, then hangs up.

VIOLET

It's happening tonight. *

BRENNER AND COOPER

Where? *

VIOLET

New York City. *

CUT TO Eddie Plant, holding his crotch.

EDDIE PLANT
FUHGEDDABOUTIT!!!

70 EXT. MANHATTAN - DAY - ESTABLISHING 70 *

The greatest city in the world.

71 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - STAGING AREA - DAY 71 *

A military trucks pulls up, and Violet, Brenner, Eddie (with sunglasses on his head) and Ludlow hop out. They get cheers. Ludlow can't believe it. *

The guys are wearing DARK BLUE "ARCADER" SUITS. Eddie has a GPS BRACELET on his ankle.

EDDIE PLANT
Hello Big Apple, the cavalry has arrived!

The POLICE COMMISSIONER walks over.

POLICE COMMISSIONER
Thanks for coming. We saw how you guys handled the Centipede, and hope you can do the same for us. *

BRENNER
I hope so too. So what are we dealing with? *

The Commissioner calls over a ROOKIE COP. He is draped in a blanket, shaken up. *

POLICE COMMISSIONER
Rookie! Tell 'em what you saw. *

The Rookie Cop comes over, his eyes saucers of fear. *

ROOKIE COP
It... it came out of the clouds. And then it started attacking. Devouring everything in it's path. It was awful! It was like a scene out of a monster movie, you know? Except this time the monster was real... *

BRENNER
Alright. And who was this monster? *

ROOKIE COP
P-p-p-pac Man! *

The Arcaders all laugh. *

LUDLOW
 Pac Man? That little yellow
 rascal's got you this worked up?

*
 *
 *

EDDIE PLANT
 (fired up)
 All right let's get those lasergun-
 deals and blast this bodyless
 eating machine back to whatever
 planet it came from so I can get my
 pardon.

*
 *
 *
 *
 *

BRENNER
 That's not how you defeat Pacman. He
 gets vaporized by a ghost.

*

EDDIE PLANT
 Okay. So where do we get us some ghosts?

CUT TO:

72 EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

72 *

On the street we see FOUR MINI COOPERS -- Each of them
 painted a color like the GHOSTS from Pacman.

Violet points to a high tech METAL CONTRAPTION ATTACHED TO
 THE ROOF OF EACH OF THE MINI COOPERS.

VIOLET
 We used the energy force field technology
 from the cube to develop 4 mini
 generators for each of the cars/"Ghosts."
 We're calling them Z950 Attack Modules.

BRENNER
 And we're calling 'em "Ghost Coopers."
 But there's four of them, and only
 three of us. Who's our fourth?

An older Japanese man, TORU IWATANI, steps forward. He is
 wearing a jumpsuit like Brenner, Ludlow and Eddie.

VIOLET
 May I introduce Professor Toru
 Iwatani... the inventor of Pac Man.

LUDLOW
 (bowing)
 Iwatani-san! The honor, is mine.
 Domo arigato!

BRENNER
 Sir, you're a genius. Thanks for
 all the pleasure you've brought to
 our lives.

*
 *
 *
 *

EDDIE PLANT

I made your game my bitch!

PROF. IWATANI

What is... "beetch"?

BRENNER

Don't worry about that, Professor.
Welcome aboard. Let's get to work.

*

The guys go to their cars. Brenner, nervous but trying not to show it, struggles with strapping himself in. Violet sees.

VIOLET

Here, I'll help you.

She helps strap him in.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Assuming they follow the rules of the game like they did with Centipede, if you guys hit Pacman three times with this energy field, we win.

BRENNER

Ludlow was right: you do smell nice.

They look at each other.

VIOLET

Good luck.

She walks off. Brenner smiles and starts the Ghostcooper.

*

73 EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - LATER - DUSK

73

*

There's a traffic jam of people trying to get out of the * city. POLICE HELICOPTERS circle overhead. The four Mini * Coopers RACE across the bridge, being led by a heavy POLICE * ESCORT. *

74 EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - LATER - NIGHT

74

*

The guys drive the four Ghostcoopers with licence plates that say INKY, BLINKY, PINKY AND CLYDE down the street. They speak to each other on comms.

LUDLOW

Why am I Pinky?

*

BRENNER

At least you're not Blinky. How can you be a badass driving Blinky?

*

EDDIE PLANT

I love being Clyde. Clyde's cool.
Clyde's for real.

*
*
*

PROF. IWATANI

Enough jibber-jabber! It does not
matter which ghost you are!
(to himself, delighted)
As long as I'm Inky...

*

75 EXT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT

75

We see Violet at a command center.

VIOLET (INTO THE COMMS)

Gentlemen, I'll be sending Pac Man's
current coordinates to each of your car's
GPS'. Failure is not an option.

*
*
*

76 EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS - NIGHT

76

The Ghostcoopers roll into the city. We see PEOPLE FLEEING.
DESTRUCTION. It's like a scene out of a Godzilla movie.

We hear the FAMILIAR SOUND OF PACMAN MOVING, EATING, but now
on a grander scale. They HEAD towards the noise. It's getting
LOUDER AND LOUDER.

They round the corner and see **THE PACMAN**. He is like a giant
yellow, three dimensional version of the one from the game.
CROWDS OF PEOPLE flee from him. The slower ones are DEVoured
by Pacman, along with abandoned cars, motorcycles...

EDDIE PLANT

Look at the size of that thing! It looks
like Barry Bonds' head!

*

BRENNER

I can't believe Pac-Man's a bad guy.

*

Prof. Iwatani is near tears, stunned by what he sees.

*

PROF. IWATANI

Pac-Man is not bad! I created him
to bring joy to all the people of
the world! They have brainwashed
him! Deep down, he is gentle, kind,
someone you could tell your
troubles to, or grab a hamburger
with... You'll see!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Prof. Iwatani gets out of the car and APPROACHES Pac-Man.

*

BRENNER

*Professor Iwatani! What are you
doing?!...*

*
*
*

PROF. IWATANI

I will talk to him. He is my son.

Prof. Iwatani approaches Pac-Man, who studies him suspiciously.

PROF. IWATANI (CONT'D)

Hello, my sweet little boy. Look how big you have grown! I am proud of you. But these destructive things you are doing, they are wrong. I am your father...

Prof. Iwatani gives him a warm smile, REACHES OUT TO TOUCH PAC-MAN...

PROF. IWATANI (CONT'D)

And I know you are a good boy--

Pac-Man OPENS HIS MOUTH and CHOMPS OFF Prof. Iwatani's hand. He SCREAMS, as the top of his wrist PIXELATES AWAY.

PROF. IWATANI (CONT'D)

Aaaaaah! Kill this stupid beeeeetch!!

Prof. Iwatani turns and RUNS AWAY, DISAPPEARING DOWN the street, among the crowd.

BRENNER

That was some crazy Pinocchio shiz-nit right there.

Pacman GLARES at Brenner. They stare at each other for a moment. Then Pacman QUICKLY TURNS and starts heading in the OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

EDDIE PLANT

Alright losers, three on one, let's hit it!

THE THREE REMAINING GHOST-COOPERS HAUL ASS and TAKE OFF AFTER PACMAN.

77 EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT

77

CAMERA follows behind Pacman as he FLIES DOWN the street. He eats a COMMUTER BUS. Just like the game he TURNS ON A DIME, FLYING down another street. The GHOSTCOOPERS chase after.

78 INT. GEORGETOWN MANSION - DAY

78

The Handsome Homeowner from the beginning of the movie, his gorgeous wife and their three kids are watching the Pac-Man attack on their taped up TV (it looks kind of like an OJ style car chase). A headshot of Brenner appears.

THIRD CHILD
 Hey, that's the nerd who broke our
 TV!

79 INT. GHOSTCOOPERS/VARIOUS - NIGHT 79

BRENNER
 He's faster than I remember.

Brenner SHIFTS into high gear and FLOORS IT. The three Ghostcoopers are nipping at its heels, but Pacman is STILL FASTER.

EDDIE PLANT
 Pac Man's always been faster than the ghosts. We're gonna have to out maneuver his ass. Wonder Fro - you and Brenner break off. I'll stay with Big Yellow.

In their cars, Brenner and Ludlow TURN OFF in a different direction. Eddie is in HOT PURSUIT.

WE SEE Eddie lower his sunglasses.

80 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT 80

Violet looks at the SATELLITE FOOTAGE AND MAPS OF THE STREETS. We see Eddie's car CHASING after Pacman on the screen, while Ludlow and Brenner's cars move into position to flank him. With THE GRID OF THE CITY AND HIM EATING THE SMALL CARS IN HIS PATH IT REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE THE GAME.

VIOLET
 Alright, you need to start thinking about how to trap him--

ON THE SCREEN, WE SEE THE ORANGE SHAPE REPRESENTING EDDIE'S CAR MOVE CLEAR ACROSS THE GRID INSTANTANEOUSLY.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
 Huh? Eddie, how did you do that so fast?

EDDIE PLANT
 Cause I'm the champ, sugar buns! Ludlow, turn right at the next intersection; Brenner, turn left and then he's cheese.

81 EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS/VARIOUS - NIGHT 81

Pacman continues CHOMPING his way through traffic. Eddie is now zooming toward him.

Pac Man tries to double back, but BRENNER AND LUDLOW'S CARS ARE THERE!

BRENNER

Nope.

*
*

LUDLOW

Sorry.

*
*

Eddie SLAMS INTO THE BACK OF PACMAN! WE HEAR THE NOISE FROM THE GAME WHEN A GHOST KILLS PACMAN.

Pacman SCREAMS. He lets out a BIG ROAR that rocks the city.

BRENNER

ONE DOWN!

*

82 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT

82

VIOLET

TWO TO GO!

Violet looks at the satellite footage.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Okay, Iwatani Son Number 2 just re-generated four streets away, now heading northbound. So turn east at the next intersection.

*

83 INT. GHOSTCOOPERS - VARIOUS - NIGHT

83

Brenner, Ludlow and Eddie are back in pursuit of Pacman.

84 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT

84

VIOLET

Okay... Brenner stay straight.
Ludlow go left. Fireblaster right.

*

85 EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS/VARIOUS - NIGHT

85

The three Ghost-Coopers ROLL DOWN various streets. Brenner is HOT on Pacman's tail. Pacman TURNS A CORNER. ALL THREE CARS CLOSE IN.

LUDLOW

WE GOT HIM! HE HAS NOWHERE TO GO!

All of them smile. Then Brenner sees something and their FACES FALL.

*

BRENNER

Oh dip.

*

86 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - CONTINUOUS

86

VIOLET

Oh dip what? *Oh dip what?!*

*

87 EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - CONTINUOUS 87

We see Pacman and the Three Ghostcoopers on three sides of him. Then on the fourth side we see...A GIANT POWER PILL!

PACMAN EATS IT. He STARTS TO GLOW AND SHAKE.

SCREAMING LUDLOW VEERS RIGHT. BRENNER SHIFTS INTO REVERSE AND FLOORS IT. POWERED UP PACMAN HEADS AFTER HIM.

88 EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - CONTINUOUS 88

Brenner still flooring it in reverse as Pacman chases him with a vengeance like the *T-Rex in Jurassic Park*.

VIOLET (OVER COMMS)
What's happening?!

BRENNER
A power pill! *He's got ten seconds where he can eat us.*

*

Brenner then makes a HARD TURN. He looks and Pacman is GONE.

89 EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS/VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS 89

Ludlow stops. Looks around. He doesn't see him anywhere. He is breathing heavily, hyper-ventilating. Then in his REAR VIEW WE SEE PACMAN QUICKLY COMING TOWARDS HIM FROM BEHIND.

Ludlow HITS the gas. Pacman CHASES HIM, he's FASTER than Ludlow and QUICKLY CATCHES UP to the Ghost-Cooper. Pacman opens his mouth and... BITES OFF THE BACK HATCH of Ludlow 's car. Leaving a GAPING HOLE. LUDLOW, EYES WIDE, SCREAMS!

Freaked out Ludlow FLOORS THE GAS. But Pacman is still CHASING HIM, STILL CHOMPING.

Pacman TAKES ANOTHER BITE and gobbles up the ENTIRE REAR SECTION of the car. Ludlow is literally driving on TWO WHEELS. His seat the only thing separating him from Pacman, who is still in HOT PURSUIT. Only a FEW INCHES from gobbling up Ludlow. He tries to jump, but his seatbelt is JAMMED! He emits a girlish scream, keeps pulling on his seat belt.

About to be Pac-food, Ludlow HITS THE BRAKES, causing the car to SPIN around, facing Pacman, whose mouth OPENS WIDE...

THE SEATBELT FINALLY BREAKS FREE AND LUDLOW LEAPS OUT OF THE OPEN BACK OF HIS VEHICLE RIGHT AS PACMAN EATS IT!

Again we hear the DEAFENING GHOST-EATING SOUND. Then Pacman's power boost finally runs out.

Ludlow lies on the ground, defenseless without his GhostCooper. PACMAN NOW STARTS COMING AFTER LUDLOW.

*

Ludlow takes off RUNNING down the street as Pacman CHASES HIM.

LUDLOW
 Don't do this! You've been
 brainwashed! You're a good boy!

*
*
*

Pacman is about to EAT LUDLOW WHEN EDDIE'S GHOSTCOOPER BLASTS INTO HIM FROM THE SIDE. PACMAN SCREAMS AGAIN. DIES.

EDDIE PLANT
 You just got fireblasted, sucker!

Ludlow sighs, then PASSES OUT on the ground.

90 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT 90

Violet looks at the command map, confused.

VIOLET
 How the hell did he get over there
 so fast?

91 EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS - NIGHT 91

BRENNER
 Nice work, Eddie. One more and it's
 happy hour.

*
*

EDDIE PLANT
 Cake.

They spot Pac Man moving away at the far end of a long avenue. They shift their GhostCoopers into high gear and speed after him side by side. But then Eddie really floors it and zooms ahead. *

EDDIE PLANT (CONT'D)
 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE
 FIREBLASTER!

*
*
*

Eddie, doing about 120, gets really close when Pac-Man suddenly turns left. Eddie, going too fast, can't negotiate the turn and continues on straight - right into New York Harbor.

A92 EXT. NEW YORK HARBOR/INT. EDDIE'S GHOSTCOOPER - NIGHT A92 *

EDDIE PLANT
 The Fireblaster can't swim!

*
*

92 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT 92 *

VIOLET
 We're sending a boat! Brenner, it's
 on you. There are *three other power
 pills* still out there. So stay
 alert.

93 INT. BLINKY (BRENNER'S CAR) - NIGHT 93

Brenner stops in the middle of the street. Breathing heavy, feeling the pressure. Maybe feeling like getting out of there. Then...

BRENNER
I got this. If I don't, the world
ends. No big deal.

Brenner shifts into HIGH GEAR and heads after Pacman.

94 EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS - NIGHT 94

As Brenner chases Pacman through the streets we see the sidewalks lined with NEW YORKERS CHEERING HIM ON. Brenner sees this and it really impacts him. He can't help but smile.

VIOLET (O.S.)
Brenner, he's leading you directly towards
one of the power pills. Get out of there!

Up ahead Brenner sees the POWER PILL. Pacman HEADS FOR IT.

Brenner SLAMS on the brakes. He is about to throw it in reverse and get out of there. But then he STOPS. Gets another idea. He TURNS THE CAR AROUND and then just SITS THERE.

95 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT 95

They all watch, nervous, on the monitor as Pacman eats the pill. And Brenner is just sitting there. NOT MOVING.

VIOLET
What the hell is he doing? *

96 EXT. MANHATTAN STREET - CONTINUOUS 96

Powered up Pacman TURNS TOWARD Brenner, who still WAITS.

BRENNER
One, two... *

VIOLET (OVER THE COMMS)
Dammit, Brenner, I have a son who I would
like to see grow up. GET OUT OF THERE!!!

Pacman HEADS for Brenner, who THROWS IT IN GEAR and TAKES OFF. BACKWARDS. Pacman is RACING TOWARD HIM. Brenner REVERSES INTO A PARKING GARAGE and KEEPS COUNTING. *

BRENNER
You'll see your boy grow up...
Four, five... *

97 INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT 97 *

Brenner DRIVES IN REVERSE, as Pacman chases him UP the ramp of the garage, sending debris and pixelated RUBBLE everywhere. *

98 INT. BLINKY (BRENNER'S CAR) - NIGHT 98 *

Brenner KEEPS COUNTING. Sweat rolls down his face.

BRENNER

...Seven, eight... *

Pacman is GAINING by the second. And Brenner is NOT DIVING OUT. *

99 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT 99

VIOLET

BRENNER GET OUT, IT'S GOING TO EAT YOU!

100 INT. BLINKY (BRENNER'S CAR) - CONTINUOUS 100

Brenner looks back, sees that he's reached the TOP OF THE GARAGE. Heading backwards toward a GUARD RAIL. SEVERAL STORIES in the air. He CAN'T STOP IN TIME. *

BRENNER

...Nine... *

101 EXT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT 101 *

Brenner's car CRASHES through the guard rail, flying through the air, between the rooftops of TWO BUILDINGS. Pac-Man SAILS OUT behind him, OPENS his mouth, about to EAT Brenner's Mini-Cooper... *

BRENNER

Ten. *

And with that THE MINI-COOPER TURNS BLUE. PAC-MAN CAN'T STOP. HE CHOMPS DOWN ON BRENNER'S CAR, exactly as the same moment as POWERED UP PACMAN'S POWER RUNS OUT. *

Pacman DISSOLVES, SCREAMS. BOOOO-OOP! We hear the noises as Pacman DIES. IT'S HIS THIRD DEATH! We hear the game over/victory noise. THE GUYS WIN! *

Brenner's car SLAMS down onto the opposite rooftop, SPINS to a stop and DRIVES OUT of the garage. *

102 INT. MANHATTAN - STAGING AREA - NIGHT 102

The Command Center erupts in CHEERS.

103 INT. MATTY'S DAD'S HOUSE - NIGHT 103 *

Matty is watching this on TV with his DAD and SINNAMON.

MATTY'S DAD

That guy's gotta lot of balls to
pull a maneuver like that. That was

pretty phenomenal. *

MATTY

Yeah. His name's Sam Brenner. He
installed our new home theater.
Mom's in love with him. *

Matty's Dad immediately looks jealous. Sinnamon looks mad
that he's jealous.

104 INT. WHITE HOUSE - LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT 104 *

Cooper and his wife watch this happily on TV.

PRESIDENT COOPER

That's our second win. We're all
tied up, baby!

FIRST LADY

That's so great. Can Sarah's family
come with us to the Vineyard this
summer?

PRESIDENT COOPER

Huh? Sure. I guess. What?

105 EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS - NIGHT 105

Brenner gets out of the Cooper and sees the people of New York *
cheering. A JEEP pulls up, and a wet Eddie Plant in a robe *
gets out.

EDDIE PLANT

You're pretty good, Brenner. Not as
good as me, but pretty good.

They shake hands.

As Brenner and Eddie are being mobbed by well-wishers, Ludlow
emerges from the crowd with something hidden under a blanket.

LUDLOW

I think I found our "trophy".

He lifts the blanket so the other guys can see - it's a
fidgety, grumbling, 3 feet tall Q-BERT. He's pretty cute.

BRENNER

Holy crap, it's Q-Bert!

EDDIE PLANT
 Can I kill it?

Q-Bert makes an extra-sad face.

BRENNER
 No! Leave him alone. Maybe later, I
 don't know. Hide that thing! I want
 to play with that later...

*
 *

Ludlow pulls the blanket down over Q-Bert as the appreciative crowd closes in on them.

FADE TO

106 A flatscreen TV. NEWS REPORT in progress. 106

NEWS REPORTER
 After yesterday's victory over Pac-
 Man in New York, the Arcaders spent

 the day practicing for their final
 battle...

*
 *

107 CHANNEL CHANGES to a different NEWS SHOW. 107

ANCHOR
 A large spacecraft has been
 detected near Jupiter - and it's
 heading toward Earth. There is
 speculation that the aliens are
 coming to watch the final game in
 person, or in alien, I guess...

108 CHANNEL CHANGES to Shep and Megyn. 108

SHEP SMITH
 The space ship is expected to
 arrive here in three days...

*
 *

MEGYN KELLY
 ...and what the aliens will find is
 a President whose approval ratings
 have skyrocketed.

*

109 CHANNEL CHANGES to Cooper addressing a news conference. 109

PRESIDENT COOPER
 I would urge everyone to carry on
 business as usual. I have every
 confidence in the Arcaders to meet
 the final challenge...

A REPORTER calls out from the crowd.

REPORTER
 Thank you for saving us, Mr.
 President!

The rest of the reporters break into applause. Cooper smiles.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Don't thank me; it's the Arcaders who have brought us here to the brink of victory. Sam Brenner has assembled an unbeatable team, and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

*

REPORTER

We understand you're throwing a soiree in their honor this evening.

*

PRESIDENT COOPER

We are, but don't worry; they'll have their Arcader suits on under their tuxes, ready to go at a moment's notice--

110 INT. ADMIRAL PORTER'S OFFICE - NIGHT 110 *

TV CLICKS OFF. CAMERA PULLS BACK, we are inside Admiral PORTER'S MILITARY OFFICE. He has been watching the TV. He stares off, deep in thought, TROUBLED.

*

*

*

111 INT. DARPA - LAB & REC AREA - DAY 111 *

We are in the same huge room where Ludlow addressed the SEALS. It has been transformed into the ARCADERS HQ: there are Humvees, light cannons, scary looking tech, along with loads of arcade games, a gym area and small "hang out" area, where Matty is playing WARWORLD with Brenner.

*

*

*

*

*

BRENNER

There's no rhyme or reason to these new games. They're just coming out from everywhere all at once.

MATTY

If someone programmed it, there's a pattern, you just need to find it. In the meantime just shoot the Demon Soldier's spine out of his back.

BRENNER

So violent. You sure you should be seeing this?

MATTY

Yeah, my Mom lets me play these games all the time.

BRENNER

Not you. Him.

REVEAL Q-BERT, seated on the couch next to Matty, watching the screen, shell shocked. *

MATTY

He does look a little freaked out.

BRENNER

What's he doing out of his cage anyway? What if they're tricking us, and he's actually a bad guy?

MATTY

Come on, Brenner. You think that cutie pie could actually be a bad guy? *

Q-Bert makes his eyes big and saucery, and makes a cute squeaky noise. *

BRENNER

Maybe you should take him on the trampoline for a few minutes? He's been sitting here all morning. *

Q-BERT

(excited)

Trampoline! Trampoline! *

MATTY

We'll do that while you go ask my Mom to the ball tomorrow night. *

He gestures toward the other side of the huge room, where Violet is in work clothes, fine tuning a scary looking giant DIG DUG PUMP pumping up a pixel to giant size. Michael the Robot is helping her. *

BRENNER

She looks pretty busy working on that Dig-Dug pump... *

MATTY

Believe me, she's going. She tried on five dresses this morning. She's dying to celebrate. *

BRENNER

I don't know what we're celebrating. We haven't won yet. *

(a beat)

Did your mom say she wanted me to ask her? *

MATTY

No. But if you don't ask her, you know Eddie will... *

He gestures toward another part of the huge room, where Eddie and Ludlow are playing "Space Invaders" side-by-side. Eddie is yelling at the machine. *

EDDIE PLANT
NOBODY INVADES MY SPACE, BABY!
NOBODY!

LUDLOW
You're hurting my ears! Stop
yelling! *

BRENNER
Whatever. What if I'm not attracted
to your mother? *

Matty gives him an are-you-kidding look. So does Q-Bert.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Alright, alright.

Matty and Q-Bert run off to an area in the far corner of the room, where a small workout area (including a trampoline) has been set up. Both climb on and begin jumping up and down. Brenner takes a deep breath and walks over to Violet, who's tightening a bolt.

A112 INT. DARPA - LAB AREA - CONTINUOUS A112 *

BRENNER VIOLET

Hi. Hi.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Yeah... So...

VIOLET
So...

MICHAEL THE ROBOT
So...

Brenner and Violet look at him.

MICHAEL THE ROBOT (CONT'D)
Um, I'm gonna go charge up.

Michael leaves.

BRENNER
So this thing tomorrow night, I feel kind
of obligated to make an appearance, and I
was thinking, if you were gonna be there
too, then when you get there, we could, you
know, hang out together. *

VIOLET
Like a date?

BRENNER

No, nothing like that, just...
yeah, that. A date.

In the BG, we see Matty jumping on the trampoline to propel Q-Bert to crazy heights, where he does flip after flip.

VIOLET

(teasing)

Um... I don't know. You did say that I was "snobby", and had "mental problems".

BRENNER

Well, let's face it, you do, but I'm willing to overlook that.

In the background, Q-Bert bounces so high his head gets caught in the ceiling. He makes his funny "game over" sound.

112

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - NIGHT

112

A huge gala. A swing band plays a jaunty tune. But then the band stops, mid-song, and quickly begins playing "Hail to the Chief". The President has arrived.

He is accompanied by Brenner and the First Lady; all are enthusiastically applauded.

BRENNER

I wish they played my theme song every time I walked into a party.

PRESIDENT COOPER

That would be cool, but most orchestras don't know "The Safety Dance".

(points)

Glad to see Ludlow and his mom made it.

*
*

CUT TO Ludlow and HIS MOM at the buffet table. She's sneaking chicken tenders into her purse.

LUDLOW

Mom, everyone can see you doing that!

*
*

LUDLOW'S MOM

Oh, come on, Luddie. What's the difference if we eat them now or later? Put some tartar sauce in your pocket.

BACK TO BRENNER, COOPER and the FIRST LADY.

FIRST LADY

I'm dying to meet Sam's new love
interest. Is she pretty, Will?

*
*

PRESIDENT COOPER

Uh, define "pretty". I mean, you're
pretty, extremely pretty, and
she's, I mean, in a sense,
certainly for a military--
(looks up, sees something)
She's a ten.

What he sees is Violet walking in, in her full dress uniform.
She looks amazing. She's holding hand with Matty, who's in a
tux.

MATTY

Q-Bert!

Matty sees Q-Bert, also in a tux (with a bandage on his
head), getting down on the dance floor, and runs to play with
him. Brenner walks over to Violet, and salutes.

VIOLET

Hi. You look nice.

BRENNER

Thanks. I know we're on duty, and
could get the call at any time, but
Chewie says I'm allowed have half a
beer. Want to split one with me?

VIOLET

Lead the way.

As Brenner and Violet walk off, we see Eddie Plant walk in
with JAMIE LEE CURTIS. A burly SECRET SERVICE AGENT stands
between them.

*

EDDIE PLANT

Well looky here, a big party to
thank me for saving the world! And
you get to stand next to me all
night. How does that feel?

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

Real special, Eddie.
(to Secret Service Agent)
They said they'd give me an island
if I did this.

*

CUT TO PROFESSOR IWATANI dancing with Jennifer the Assistant,
"raising the roof" with one hand missing.

*
*

113 INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - LATER - NIGHT

113 *

Brenner and Violet are on the outskirts of the party, sharing a beer.

BRENNER

So what's this Sinnamon look like?

VIOLET

What do you mean? She's a husband-stealing yoga teacher. She's hot!

BRENNER

Not *that* hot though, right? Girls like that, who go with older guys, always have one thing wrong with them, like big nostrils or a huge forehead or something.

VIOLET

No, Sinnamon is pretty much perfect... except her eyes are too far apart. She kind of looks like a flounder.

BRENNER

Boom, there it is. Tonight, he's gonna be looking into those eyes, thinking, "What happened? I used to look into the most gorgeous eyes in the world, now I'm stuck with Goggle-Eyes McGee."

VIOLET

Did you just say I had gorgeous eyes?

BRENNER

While insulting the other chick.

VIOLET

Oh, you're good.

113pt BACK NEAR THE DANCE FLOOR, Cooper is watching his wife 113pt *

dance with Ludlow (eyes closed, head resting on her shoulder), when Ludlow's Mom walks over. *

LUDLOW'S MOM

I don't mean to bother you, Mr. President, but I wanted to say how proud I am of you.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Mrs. Lamonsoff, you can call me Will, you've known me since I was 12.

LUDLOW'S MOM

Thank you, President Will of America, sir. See? You haven't changed. *

(MORE)

LUDLOW'S MOM (CONT'D)

You're still the same good boy you always were. When they say that nonsense on the news, about how you make bad decisions and you're maybe a little slow and a coward and too unattractive for such a pretty wife, I just say, "I'd like to see you do better, Mr. News Man." You gonna finish that shrimp?

*

On the cocktail plate Cooper is holding, among several discarded shrimp tails, is one shrimp with a bite taken out. Cooper hands it to Ludlow's Mom.

113pt2 AT THE BAR, Eddie is chatting up Jamie Lee Curtis, the 113pt2 Secret Service Agent hovering nearby.

*

EDDIE PLANT

People talk about Brenner this and Brenner that, but make no mistake: the Fire Blaster's the leader of this crew--

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

Who's the Fire Blaster again?

*

EDDIE PLANT

Me, Jamie Lee! You know, Fire Blaster's been in prison for 8 years. Haven't been with a woman since '05. You're in for a real treat tonight.

*

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

You're not going to touch me.

*

EDDIE PLANT

Alright.
(to himself)
Shoulda gone with Swift. At least I woulda got a song written about what a tool I is.

*

*

*

113pt3 BACK TO BRENNER AND VIOLET

113pt3

VIOLET

So can I ask you a question? And I promise this has nothing to do with my *alleged* snobbiness... But I've seen what you're capable of these past few weeks. So how come you're setting up people's home entertainment systems for a living?

BRENNER

I don't know. I never really was great at anything except video games, and it turned out I wasn't even the best at that...

*

*

*

*

QUICK CUT TO Eddie, dancing sexy to impress Jamie Lee Curtis. *

VIOLET *

So you don't think you're good at
anything unless you're the best in
the world at it? *

BRENNER *

No, I just... I had my shot, I blew
it and now I am who I am, and I'm
comfortable with that. *

VIOLET *

That sounds like a cop-out. I had the
worst acne in the lower 48 states when I
was 15, and I didn't curl up in a ball
and cry. *

BRENNER *

Oh no, am I about to learn a lesson? *

VIOLET *

Sorry, no. I just think you have a
lot of talents you don't give
yourself credit for. My son says
you're the only cool adult he's
ever met. *

BRENNER *

You and your boy were talking about me?
I like that. *

VIOLET *

Oh yeah, I've been asking around
about you. I also spoke to the
President... *

BRENNER *

Uh-oh. What did he say? *

VIOLET *

That you're a great guy. And a
loyal friend. And a lightweight
drinker. But I already knew all
that. *

BRENNER *

Did he also tell you about my
reputation as a really good kisser? *

VIOLET *

Amazing kisser is what you said to
me in the closet. But no, that he
didn't mention. I guess if I hadn't
snobbishly shut you down, I'd know
for sure by now. *

BRENNER

Well here comes your last chance to
find out...

*
*
*

113pt4 And with that Brenner moves in for a kiss. But he's 113pt4

interrupted by sound of tinkling glasses. The President has
an announcement.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to
introduce a special message to the
Arcaders from the students of PS
159 in New York City!

Large TV screens surrounding the party flicker to life. They
display images of smiling SCHOOLKIDS, dressed in mini-Arcader
outfits.

*
*

SCHOOLKIDS

New York was in trouble,
Pac Man caused a ruckus,
But the Arcaders saved us,
Cause they're bad mother--

But the images flicker and distort into 80's era DARYL HALL
and JOHN OATES.

DARYL HALL (ON TV)

People of earth: you have violated
the rules of warfare. Because of
this, you forfeit and your planet
is now (STATIC) ours.

PRESIDENT COOPER

"Violated the rules?" What the hell
does that mean?

Eddie nervously gulps his drink.

JOHN OATES (ON THE TV)

In twelve hours, we will commence
with the all-out destruction of
Earth. After that, we will sing
this about your precious planet...

*

DARYL HALL (ON THE TV)

She's go-o-o-o-o-o-o-one!

The TV's go dark. People begin murmuring, upset. Admiral
PORTER turns on Brenner, accusatory.

*

ADMIRAL PORTER

What did you do?

*

BRENNER

I didn't do anything. I don't know what they're talking about. I thought we obeyed every rule--

ADMIRAL PORTER

You thought wrong, civilian! We wasted our one chance on you, a hi-fi repairman! You were given every available resource, and still you fumbled!

BRENNER

But I--

ADMIRAL PORTER

But nothing! You heard Hall and Oates: you blew it! I've seen your file: you've never accomplished a damn thing in your life! And your streak continues!

PRESIDENT COOPER

That's enough, Admiral. We tried something, it didn't work. Now we have to prepare for an invasion...

LUDLOW'S MOM

Let's ask Jamie Lee! She knows how to deal with aliens!

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

There's only one thing we can do...

As Jamie Lee grabs a bottle of Jim Beam off the bar, and starts chugging, Eddie is quietly backing away.

Cooper, Violet, Admiral Porter and others huddle together to discuss the invasion.

PRESIDENT COOPER

How many light cannons do we currently have?

ADMIRAL PORTER

I think we need to forget the light sabers and the Vulcan death grips and focus on a conventional military response.

VIOLET

We know that won't work.

ADMIRAL PORTER

No, Lieutenant, nothing you've done has worked.

(MORE)

ADMIRAL PORTER (CONT'D)
 Sometimes I wonder if you're not
 working for the Martians yourself.

VIOLET
 Drop dead, Porter.

ADMIRAL PORTER *
 Consider yourself relieved of your
 command!
 (turns to Cooper)
 Mr. President, we need to prepare
 our entire nuclear arsenal... *

114

EXT. BALL - NIGHT

114

Outside the ballroom, there is a large brick terrace. Eddie *
 quietly exits the party and creeps across the terrace * until... *

MATTY *
 Going someplace, Fireblaster? *

Matty is sitting on a stone bench. *

EDDIE PLANT *
 Uh, yeah. Jamie Lee is all over my *
 jock, but it's kind of turning me *
 off - you know, needy actresses - *
 so I just thought I'd-- *

MATTY *
 Up/up/left/down/up/right. The Pac *
 Man cheat code for super speed. *

EDDIE PLANT *
 I don't know what you're talking *
 about, kid. *

Matty puts on sunglasses. Eddie's sunglasses. *

MATTY *
 A cop fished these out of the East *
 River the night you fell in, and *
 gave them to me to return to you. I *
 was going to give them back to you *
 today, but then I saw some *
 interesting things written on the *
 inside of the lenses. *
 (dramatically takes off *
 glasses) *
 You're a cheater. *

BRENNER (O.C.) *
 Who's a cheater? *

We see that the doors to the party are open, and Brenner, *
 Ludlow, Violet and Iwatani are standing there. *

Eddie walks back toward them as he speaks, getting emotional. *

EDDIE PLANT *

Okay, it was me... I used cheat codes back in the day to help me dominate. So I figured, why not use 'em when we fought Pac-Man in New York - and it worked! I zipped across half the city in no time! *

LUDLOW *

It didn't work. Cause now we're all gonna die. *

EDDIE PLANT *

I didn't know! I wanted to win!
(points to Iwakani)
Why'd you have to make the game so hard? Why?! *

SUDDENLY - THOUSANDS OF LIGHTS FLICKER ON - THE GIGANTIC ALIEN SHIP IS HOVERING DIRECTLY ABOVE. *

A PORTAL OPENS, AND A BEAM OF LIGHT FALLS ON

MATTY. FEAR FILLS HIS EYES AS HE BEGINS RISING IN THE AIR. Brenner runs toward him, too late to help.

VIOLET *

MATTY!!!

115

INT. VIOLET'S HOUSE - NIGHT

115

Brenner, Ludlow, Violet and Q-Bert sit, miserable, in the kitchen, drinking coffee. *

VIOLET

I can't believe they took a kid as a trophy. Sick bastards.

BRENNER

Look, there's gotta be something we can do.

LUDLOW

Maybe the mothership has some vulnerability, like the Death Star...

VIOLET

Matty's on that ship.

LUDLOW

That cheating loser Eddie should be here helping us. *

BRENNER

He crawled into a hole somewhere,
Lud; we'll never see him again.
Chewie won't take my calls. Violet
got the boot. We're on our own.

*
*
*

There's a quiet, miserable beat. Then...

Q-BERT

This feels like my planet. No fun,
no laughter. Only war.

BRENNER

I think I lived on that planet
during my first marriage.

VIOLET

(realizing)

Wait a second: Q-Bert is from
there! He knows all their secrets!

Q-BERT

We were once a happy planet. Before we
were attacked.

VIOLET

Who attacked you?

Q-BERT

The Varellian Armada.

LUDLOW

The Varellian Armada. That sounds
so cool, so sci-fi.

BRENNER

Ludlow: focus.
(to Q-bert)
So you were happy, then you got
invaded, so now you just attack
random planets for fun?

Q-BERT

We attack when other planet threatens us.

BRENNER

But we didn't threaten you. It was
just footage of games.

Q-BERT

They do not understand "games". All they
know is war.

VIOLET

So why don't you tell them, Q-Bert? Stop
them?

116 EXT. WASHINGTON DC STREET - DAY

116

WIDE SHOT - The MOTHERSHIP comes out of the clouds. We SEE IT FULLY FOR THE FIRST TIME. It's the ship from GALAGA.

The PORTAL OPENS. ARCADE CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE, POUR OUT. It's an ALL STAR VERSION OF VARIOUS ARCADE GAMES FROM THE EIGHTIES. But this time they aren't here to play games, but to BRING ABOUT OUR DESTRUCTION. JOUST characters surround the Washington Monument and start to destroy it.

PAN DOWN to see Brenner, Ludlow, Violet and Q-Bert on the street. MOVING FAST. They are all in Arcader suits, but without weapons. They seem intimidated (especially Ludlow), but are running toward the mothership (as the few people still around run the other way).

Everywhere around them, cars are OVERTURNED, CRASHED and PIXELATED. SECTIONS of the street EXPLODE behind them.

LUDLOW

Are you sure we need to do this? I mean, maybe we can just find another planet to live on. I heard there's a secret city on Mars where rich people are gonna live when there's a nuclear war. They have greenhouses there, and zero-gravity gyms, and free HBO...

Suddenly, they STOP. Seeing SOMETHING AHEAD. A FROGGER. LEAPING TOWARD THEM.

THEY RUN THE OTHER WAY, BUT THE FROGGER IS TOO FAST.

LUDLOW (CONT'D)

This is it!

Just when they're about to be pounced on, a crane scoop descends from the sky. It scoops up the Frogger in its jaws, and lifts it in the air, suspending it so it can do no harm.

Brenner, Ludlow and Violet eyeball the crane, following the steel cable to the arm to the cab, where a man in a suit and a Chewbacca mask opens the door and emerges.

He takes off the mask. It's COOPER.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Nobody's better at the crane game than me!

BRENNER

Chewie, what are you doing? What's with the disguise?

PRESIDENT COOPER

I knew you guys were our only hope,
but nobody agreed with me. They
were trying to bring me down to
some underground bunker. So I "went
rogue".

(gestures toward a van)

And I brought gifts.

*

CUT TO the van. Back doors are open, and inside are A STACK
OF LIGHT CANNONS.

*

*

117 INT. ALLEY - TWO MINUTES LATER

117

They're pulling the light cannons out of the van. Brenner
grabs a cannon, Ludlow grabs two.

*

*

BRENNER

Lud, I think you should stay here
on the ground. These people need
protection, too.

*

*

*

LUDLOW

Oh g-d, thank you for not making me
go up on the spaceship... I mean,
cool.

*

PRESIDENT COOPER

So the rest of us go get Matty and
destroy the what again...

VIOLET

Zorex.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Sounds like a word Ludlow made up.

LUDLOW

So sci-fi...

BRENNER

(turns to Ludlow)

Save as many people as possible.
We'll see you on the other side.

Ludlow hugs Brenner hard.

LUDLOW

Live long. Laugh much. Love often.

BRENNER

Use deodorant.

Ludlow can't help but smile. He takes off shooting.

VIOLET

Brenner, can I get a light cannon?

*

He hands one to her. She instantly and expertly nails three ASTEROIDS that were heading straight for them. *

VIOLET (CONT'D)
 (off guys impressed looks)
 What, I didn't go to arcades growing up? Our target is this way. Let's go.

Violet TAKES OFF. Cooper cocks an eyebrow at Brenner.

PRESIDENT COOPER
 (re: Violet)
 That was pretty hawt. How you doing with that?

BRENNER
 Not bad. I think if I save the kid, I'm in. *

118 EXT. STREET, DC - DAY

118

Ludlow is jogging down the street, screaming like a madman, blasting BERZERK robots and DIG-DUG dragons (coming out of the ground).

He then comes upon a bus full of KIDS trying to get out of the city. It's SURROUNDED by A GROUP OF BIDDY BANDITS (NINJA-LIKE characters from LADY LISA). The Bandits CLIMB the bus, trying to get inside. *

LUDLOW
 Get away from those kids now! ...Please.

It's Ludlow so it doesn't sound *that badass*. Also he added please. The Bandits turn. Ludlow BLASTS THEM. They DE-RES. The CHILDREN CHEER from inside the bus. Ludlow waves, then does a weapon-firing celebration shuffle, prompting another cheer from the kids. Then he sees... stepping out from BEHIND THE BUS. It's LADY LISA. Ludlow's JAW DROPS. SMASH CUT TO:

119 INT. VIDEO GAME CHAMPIONSHIP, THE 80'S - FLASHBACK

119

WE SEE YOUNG LUDLOW talking to the LADY LISA on the side of the video game cabinet. *

YOUNG LUDLOW
 Lady Lisa, I'll love you til the end of time. *

120 **CUT BACK TO THE PRESENT:** EXT. WASHINGTON DC STREET - DAY 120 *

Ludlow stares, as she moves toward him. With each step, she becomes MORE REAL, until she is NO LONGER CGI. But totally FLESH and BLOOD. Ludlow LOWERS his weapon. Smitten.

LUDLOW

I spent most of my formative years trying to figure out a way to make you come to life all *Weird Science* style. I used every birthday wish, every shooting star, every 11:11 on the clock. I prayed for this.

She GROWLS AND PULLS OUT HER SWORD.

LUDLOW (CONT'D)

...but without a sword!

SHE CHARGES AT HIM AS LUDLOW SCREAMS.

121 EXT. WASHINGTON DC - STREETS - DAY 121

Brenner, Cooper, Violet and Q-bert are moving in the direction that everybody else is fleeing from. In the

BACKGROUND WE HEAR EXPLOSIONS AND VIDEO GAME SOUNDS and see CLOUDS OF PIXELATED SMOKE.

They round the corner and see..

122 THE MASSIVE MOTHERSHIP, HOVERING almost directly above them. 122 *

Suddenly, with a deafening rattle, the portal OPENS. The BEAM SHOOTS OUT. Violet is grimly determined, but Brenner and Cooper exchange TERRIFIED glances.

Brenner sticks his arm into the beam. It depixelates, and the cubes fly up toward the mothership. The one-armed Brenner winks at Violet, then steps all the way in, instantly depixelating. Violet follows. Cooper looks at Q-Bert, terrified.

PRESIDENT COOPER *

Shoulda gone to the bunker!

But then braces himself and steps into it. Q-Bert, laughing to himself, does an impersonation.

Q-BERT

Shoulda gone to the bunkerrrrrrr!

Q-Bert steps nose-first into the beam.

123 INT. MOTHERSHIP - CONTINUING - DAY 123

Brenner, Cooper, Violet and Q-Bert RE-PIXELATE (Q-Bert nose first) and slowly OPEN their eyes and see that they're still alive.

The inside of the ship resembles A HUGE WAREHOUSE. It's SMOKY, DARK. In front of them they see A METAL BARREL. It says OIL. All of a sudden it lights up, a FIRE in it.

This now illuminates METAL RAMPS AND SCAFFOLDING that go way up. They look around, wondering what this is.

BRENNER

Where are we? Q-bert, what is this place?

Q-BERT

This is... *neeeewww!*

Suddenly, THEY HEAR A DEAFENING POUNDING FROM ABOVE.

COOPER

What the hell is that?!

The POUNDING CONTINUES FROM ABOVE AND IT'S GETTING LOUDER, CLOSER, FASTER.

WE SEE TWO GIANT FEET, STOMPING on the top platform. Suddenly, the scaffolding SHIFTS, as if hit by a massive earthquake. It RE-ARRANGES into the DIAGONAL VERSION of the game. *

Brenner looks up. At the top of the scaffolding, peering over the edge, stepping out of the shadows, is a giant character: *

BRENNER

Donkey Kong.

DONKEY KONG is big and come to life. He pounds his chest. *

PRESIDENT COOPER

It had to be Donkey Kong...

VIOLET

Matty!

She's pointing to a cell way at the top, behind Donkey Kong. Matty, the Indian Kid and the Handsome Sailor are inside.

MATTY

Mom!

Donkey Kong starts TOSSING BARRELS down the ramps. There is no room for them to avoid them if they want to get to the top. THIS SHOULD LOOK JUST LIKE THE GAME COME TO LIFE.

PRESIDENT COOPER

I mean, it's just a *barrel!* How bad could it hurt?

With that ANOTHER BARREL comes SMASHING DOWN. IT LEAVES A GIANT DENT IN THE METAL GROUND AND THEN LANDS ON AND CRUSHES THE OIL BARREL TO NOTHING EXTINGUISHING THE FIRE.

Q-BERT

Baaaaad.

124 EXT. BACK ON THE GROUND - CONTINUOUS - DAY 124

Lady Lisa ATTACKS Ludlow with her sword. Ludlow, conflicted, grabs a DROPPED PIXEL SWORD from one of the bandits. He DEFLECTS Lady Lisa's many blows with the sword. *

LUDLOW

You don't have to do this, my love,
I sense the good in you.

125 INT. SPACESHIP - DAY 125 *

THE BARRELS ARE HEADING TOWARDS THEM from above FAST AND

FURIOUSLY. Violet attempts to shoot the barrel with her light cannon. It FAILS. *

BRENNER *

Guns don't work in this game. *
There's only one thing we can do... *
Jump!!! *

They JUMP the first barrel, and the second... but there are MORE and MORE BARRELS COMING. THEY DUCK UNDER SOME, JUMP OVER OTHERS.

They run to the ladder. Brenner watches a barrel roll over head on the ramp above.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

Get up the ladder! *FAST!!*

Brenner is the first up the ladder. He runs to the NEXT * LEVEL. He reaches up and GRABS THE HAMMER. But a BARREL is * HEADED TOWARD HIM from overhead. *

COOPER *

Incoming!! *

Brenner tries to DUCK out of the way, but the flying barrel * KNOCKS the hammer from his hands, sending it down into the * bowels of the ship. Cooper, Violet and Q-Bert CLIMB the * ladder to the next level. *

VIOLET *

(emotional) *

I gotta get up to him! *

They continue to DODGE and LEAP the oncoming barrels. Q-Bert * FOLLOWS Brenner as he LEAPS over a rolling barrel. Q-Bert * HOPS onto Brenner's back and goes to the next level. Brenner * FOLLOWS. *

Cooper LEAPS and ROLLS over another barrel. He CLIMBS the * ladder to the next level. He LOOKS to his left, Q-Bert is * about to be hit by an OVERHEAD BARREL... *

PRESIDENT COOPER

Q-Bert! Look out!!!

Q-Bert LOOKS UP. A barrel is FLYING DOWN AT HIM. He has no time to move away and is... CRUSHED BY THE BARREL.

MATTY

Q-bert!!!!

Cooper RUNS BACK to Q-Bert. But he is FLATTENED. His eyes are ROLLED BACK. He appears to be... DEAD. Brenner calls back to Cooper. Brenner LOOKS DOWN at the fallen Q-Bert.

BRENNER

Chewie! Come on!

They don't have time to dwell. Cooper DASHES AWAY, leaving Q-Bert. Donkey Kong sees them and ROARS. He starts throwing MORE BARRELS.

Brenner GRABS another hammer. He starts POUNDING on the barrels. But THERE ARE TOO MANY. Suddenly a BARREL FALLS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF HIM, almost KNOCKING Brenner to his death. Brenner panics.

BRENNER'S POV: he sees the same unpatterned chaos he saw when he lost the Donkey Kong championship in '82.

BRENNER (CONT'D)

There's too many. We're not gonna make it.

MATTY

(calling down)

Brenner! Remember: if someone programmed it, there's a pattern! You just need to find it!

Brenner looks up, counting barrels, mumbling to himself.

BRENNER

I can't see it...

MATTY

Eddie used cheat codes, right?

BRENNER

Yeah, so what?

MATTY

So he must have used them when he beat you at Donkey Kong back in '82. You know what that means?

BRENNER
 (dawning on him)
 I'm the Donkey Kong champion of the
 world...

MATTY *
 And the Donkey Kong champion of the
 world sees the patterns!

Violet suddenly grabs his face and kisses him hard. Then... *

VIOLET *
Save him and you're in.

Brenner gives a look to Cooper, who smiles. *

Brenner starts WAILING ON THE BARRELS. He SLAMS DOWN the * hammer
 on barrel after barrel, taking them all out, until the * hammer
 DE-PIXELATES in his hands. He looks up at Donkey Kong, *
 calculating... looks back to the others. *

BRENNER *
 Do exactly what I do!

Brenner LEADS Violet and Cooper forward. He CLIMBS UP to the *
 next level. *

A Barrel HEADS TOWARD Brenner. He LEAPS BACK, his feet * BALANCING
 precariously on the edge of the platform... He * nearly FALLS,
 but regains his balance. *

Brenner CLIMBS to the next level, followed by Cooper and *
 Violet. Matty SHOUTS to them from the top level. *

MATTY *
Mom!! Q-Bert's not dead! *

They LOOK DOWN. Q-Bert, still flattened, has OPENED HIS EYES, *
 and is LOOKING AROUND IN A PANIC. He puts his THUMB in his *
 mouth, puffs out his cheeks and his body POPS BACK OUT TO *
 NORMAL. He tries to RUN AWAY, but is: *

SURROUNDED BY WALLS OF FIRE on both sides of him! *

VIOLET *
 No, I'm pretty sure he's dead, *
 Matty. *

MATTY *
 Mooooooooom! *

VIOLET *
 Alright, fine! *

Violet LEAPS DOWN TWO LEVELS, to Q-Bert. She GRABS him, * tossing
 Q-Bert up to the safety of the upper level. *

He runs screaming then leaps into Cooper's arms, terrified. *
 But now Violet is TRAPPED. The FIRE APPROACHES HER FROM BOTH *
 SIDES! *

She LEAPS UP to get away from the pixelated flames. She HANGS *
 ON to the platform of the upper level. Her feet are INCHES *
 AWAY from being touched by the flames. *

Donkey Kong sees that Violet is in jeopardy, and he STARTS TO *
 THROW BARRELS TOWARD HER! *

Brenner RUNS FORWARD and DIVES beneath the stomping feet of *
 Donkey Kong. He LEAPS DOWN to the lower level and GRABS A *
 HAMMER. *

Brenner SMASHES barrel after barrel, trying to rescue Violet. *
 With the coast clear, for a moment, Brenner arrives at Violet *
 and LOWERS the hammer to her. *

BRENNER *
 (smiling) *
 Grab my mighty hammer! *

VIOLET *
 You loved saying that. *

BRENNER *
 Yes I did. *

Violet GRABS the hammer and holds on as Brenner LIFTS HER TO *
 SAFETY. *

Brenner DESTROYS a few more barrels before turning and * THROWING *
 THE HAMMER up to the top level, toward Donkey Kong. *

The spinning hammer HITS Donkey Kong. For a moment, Donkey *
 Kong is stunned, a little hurt, suddenly weakened. *

Cooper and Q-Bert CHEER. Brenner and Violet make it to the *
 top level. Brenner, TOUGH, HARD, turns to Donkey Kong. *

BRENNER (CONT'D) *
 Game over. *

Donkey Kong ROARS. Followed by a sad, DISAPPOINTED look on *
 his face. We hear the MASSIVE SOUND OF VICTORY! And suddenly, *
 Donkey Kong DE-PIXELATES, along with the rest of the set. *
 CRUMBLING into the darkness below. *

Matty and Violet embrace. The Sailor salutes Cooper, and then *
 they embrace. Brenner is not sure what to do; the Indian *
 Teenager extends his arms, and they hug. *

INDIAN TEEN *
 "Game over", that was a good one... *

BRENNER

Thanks, it was all I could come up with...

Cooper looks down at a shaken Q-Bert.

PRESIDENT COOPER

You okay, buddy?

Q-BERT

I---need---a---driiiiink.

BRENNER

All right, Q-ball, take us to the Zorex!

They all turn, a LADDER APPEARS. Leading upward...

126

EXT. WASHINGTON DC STREET - DAY

126

Ludlow is still SWORDFIGHTING Lady Lisa. Finally he throws down his sword and DROPS TO HIS KNEES.

LUDLOW

I won't fight you anymore. I know you have love in your heart and I know that I could make you happy. But if you need to kill me, then kill me. I'll die a happy man, knowing that I found true love.

He closes his eyes and waits. She stares at him. CONFUSED. Ludlow looks up at her. Their EYES MEET. Ludlow stands. She LOWERS her sword. Ludlow STEPS toward her, EMBRACES her, and they... KISS. It is a long, PASSIONATE kiss.

EDDIE PLANT (O.C.)

And I couldn't even get a *handshake* offa Sigourney Weaver!

Ludlow LOOKS UP to see EDDIE PLANT standing there.

LUDLOW

Didn't think we'd ever see you again.

EDDIE PLANT

I caused this, I gotta help make it right.

(a beat)

Can a brother get a gun, please?

Ludlow tosses Eddie one of his light cannons. Eddie BLASTS two nearby OSTRICHS from JOUST who are chasing a lady with a stroller.

LUDLOW

Guess you're not as big of a dick
as we all thought.

EDDIE PLANT

Yeah. Don't tell anybody. Gonna
introduce me to your girlfriend?

LUDLOW

(smiles at Lisa)

Fiancee'.

*

127

INT. MOTHERSHIP, ENERGY GENERATOR ROOM - DAY

127

The door opens. In the center is the **ZOREX**. It's the exact same shape and size of an OLD SCHOOL ARCADE GAME. Countless wires extend from the console, attached to energy devices in the walls and a POD which spits out the ENERGY CREATURES. It spits out A SMURF. He seems so excited to be alive. He takes a breath, then BLAST. Cooper shoots him. He de-res's. A look of anger on his face as he pixelates and his short life ends.

PRESIDENT COOPER

When we were kids, did you ever
think that someday we would
actually be in a spaceship,
shooting an actual laser gun while
trying to save the world?

BRENNER/INDIAN TEEN/SAILOR

Yes...Totally...Every day...

FAMILIAR KID'S VOICE

Hey, Brenner.

Brenner turns, AIMS his gun. His jaw drops.

We see that the ALIENS'S FINAL GUISE IS **YOUNG BRENNER, YOUNG LUDLOW, YOUNG COOPER AND YOUNG EDDIE** from the film's opening.

ALIEN KID BRENNER

We come to you in these forms out
of respect for you and the other
champions who have beaten us today.

BRENNER

Stay back or we'll blow up this
ship and all of you with it. I
don't care if you're me.

ALIEN KID COOPER

There will be no need for that,
Sam. We admit you have won.

*

ALIEN KID LUDLOW

Because of your victory you can now
destroy our planet.

The three all bow their heads in sadness.

PRESIDENT COOPER
 Wait, we don't want to destroy your planet. We never did.

ALIEN KID LUDLOW
 (confused)
 Then why did you send us that declaration of war, Chewie?

PRESIDENT COOPER
That wasn't a declaration of war!
 They were just games. Games that we played for fun. We don't want to hurt anybody.

*

The Aliens seem thrown by this. They don't understand.

LUDLOW (OVER THE WALKIE)
 BRENNER! BRENNER!!!

BRENNER
 Lud, a little busy right now.

LUDLOW (O.S.)
 Um, things aren't going so well down here, Sam!

*

128 EXT. DC STREET - CONTINUOUS - DAY 128

Eddie, Ludlow and Lady Lisa are being CONFRONTED BY SEVERAL ARCADE GAME CREATURES coming down from the sky. Eddie fires back at them as he goes.

EDDIE PLANT
TELL HIM WHATEVER HE'S DOING TO HURRY THE EFF UP!

129 INT. ENERGY ROOM, MOTHERSHIP - CONTINUOUS 129

(Intercutting with Eddie on DC Streets)

*

ALIEN KID BRENNER
 So you *don't* want to destroy us?

PRESIDENT COOPER
 No. And we definitely don't want you to destroy us.
 (The Aliens take this in.)
 In fact I'd like to broker a peace between our two worlds so we can both live together in harmony.

Q-BERT
 (autotuned)
 Harmonyyyyyyy...

EDDIE PLANT *
BRENNER, WE ARE ABOUT TO DIE
VIOLENTLY, STOP DICKING AROUND AND-

ALIEN KID EDDIE
 Calm down, Eddie!

EDDIE PLANT *
 Who was that? Was that me? That *
 sounded like me! *

The three Alien kids laugh.

BRENNER
 Hey guys... If we're doing this peace thing
 do you think you could turn off the Zorex?

ALIEN KID BRENNER *
 Word up. *

Alien Kid Brenner goes behind the Zorex and unplugs it.

130 EXT. DC STREET - CONTINUOUS - DAY 130

The ARCADE CREATURES CLOSE IN on our Guys and Lady Lisa, who
 continue to fight. But it's a LOSING BATTLE. As the creatures
 MOVE IN FOR THE KILL...

THEY BEGIN TO DE-RES. PIXELATE. And DISAPPEAR.

Ludlow turns, and Lady Lisa PIXELATES and DE-RESES before his
 very eyes!

EDDIE PLANT
 We won. NO MORE TAXES!

But Ludlow is CRUSHED.

LUDLOW
Lady Lisaaaaaaaaa!!

131 EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - DAY 131

A jumble of multi-colored pixels drops out of the mothership
 onto the White House lawn. As they land, they re-pixelate
 into Brenner, Cooper, Violet, Matty, Q-Bert, the Indian kid
 and the Sailor. PEOPLE on the ground have gathered to cheer
 them. The First Lady runs over to Cooper and embraces him. *

FIRST LADY *
 I canceled with Sarah this weekend. *
 We can frost as many cakes as you *
 want. *

Eddie walks over. *

EDDIE PLANT

I can't believe I did it! I mean,
we did it! I mean, you did it!

BRENNER

Eddie? Didn't think I'd ever see
you again.

*
*

EDDIE PLANT

Look, I just wanted to say I'm
sorry I cheated back when we were
kids, and also for cheating again
more recently. I don't have to go
back to prison, do I?

PRESIDENT COOPER

No. But you do have to admit to
Brenner he's the best in the world.

EDDIE PLANT

No!

He reconsiders, then turns to Brenner.

EDDIE PLANT (CONT'D)

Brenner... you... you're the best.
In the world.

BRENNER

Suck it.

Brenner hugs him. Everyone looks happy - except for Ludlow.

PRESIDENT COOPER

Ludlow, what's wrong buddy?

*

LUDLOW

You all got what you wanted.
Brenner, you got the girl; Eddie
got out of jail and me... For one
moment I had the one thing I always
wanted and now... she's gone.

Cooper, confused, turns to Eddie, who explains.

*

EDDIE PLANT

Lady Lisa. When you guys saved the
world... You kinda' destroyed his.

BRENNER

Sorry about that, Lud. But ya'
know, we had to do what was best
for the other 7 or so billion
people out there.

Ludlow nods, sadly, notices Q-Bert.

*

LUDLOW
So how come he's still alive?

VIOLET
Q-Bert's a trophy. I guess we get
to keep trophies.

Ludlow nods. Dejected. Then Q-bert starts jumping up and down excitedly. He RE-PIXELATES INTO...

LADY LISA.

Ludlow runs and kisses her. Everybody is touched, except Brenner.

BRENNER
No one else is weirded out right now?

A group of PRESS PEOPLE run across the lawn toward them.

PRESS PERSON
Mr. President, are we out of danger?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Yes. In fact, I am pleased to announce
that I have brokered a peace treaty with
the Alien Invaders.

132 INT. MATTY'S DAD'S HOUSE - DAY 132 *

PRESIDENT COOPER (ON THE TV)
This peace was due to and only due
to the bravery of the Arcaders, who
against all odds stepped up and
saved us all.

133 INT. ADMIRAL PORTERS'S OFFICE - DAY 133 *

Admiral Porter, unshaven and in sweats, sneers at the TV.

PRESIDENT COOPER (ON THE TV)
They faced the doubters and the
naysayers, and came up big when we
needed them most.

Admiral Porter flips the bird at the TV.

134 EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - DAY 134 *

Brenner, Eddie, Ludlow, Violet and Matty are watching Cooper finish his speech.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Sam Brenner, Ludlow Lamonsoff and
Eddie Plant are American heroes.
World heroes.

The assembled press cheers. Violet turns to Brenner.

VIOLET
"World hero?" I
guess you're never
gonna' finish
installing my home
theater system now.

BRENNER
I might be able
to fit you in a
week from
Tuesday.

VIOLET
Can't you do it any
sooner? I'll make it
worth your while...

Violet and Brenner kiss. CAMERA CRANES BACK,
as Cooper and all of them are congratulated by
the celebratory crowd, swarming them, thanking
them.

Eddie, standing off by himself, away from the
others, a * lonely moment... He turns, starts to
exit. His phone BUZZES. * Eddie glances to the text:

*

*Hey, Hero. Meet me in the Lincoln
Bedroom.*

*

Eddie looks to the White
House.

*

135 INT. LINCOLN BEDROOM WINDOW - DAY

135

*

Standing in a second floor window, dressed in a

negligee, lit * by candlelight, is Jamie Lee Curtis. She gives a flirty wave, * a sexy smile, to Eddie.

*

136 EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - DAY

136

*

Eddie smiles, touched, a bit excited. He moves forward, * toward the White House. A hand stops him in his tracks. Eddie * looks up.

*

It's TAYLOR SWIFT. Standing directly in front of him.

*

TAYLOR
SWIFT

*

Where do you think you're going?

*

Taylor Swift plants a long, intense, passionate KISS on * Eddie's lips.

*

THE END