

"SUPER MARIO BROS."

by

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REV. FIRST DRAFT

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SUPER MARIO BROS.

EXT. PRIMORDIAL BOG (65,000,000 BC) - TWILIGHT

Dense foliage. A dinosaur foot crashes down...

SUPER: "BROOKLYN. 65 MILLION YEARS AGO..."

TILT UP past a munching Hadrosaur. A streak shoots down from the sky and a HUGE EXPLOSION WHITES OUT THE SCREEN.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE (1972) - MONTAGE OF CLOSE SHOTS - NIGHT

LIGHTNING. TITLES over cables, steel and brick, awash in a torrent of rain. A BLACK BOOT hits a puddle. TILT UP on a dark figure, gazing at the New York skyline. He spins...

SUPER: "BROOKLYN. 20 YEARS AGO..."

EXT. BROOKLYN CHURCH (1972) - NIGHT

LIGHTNING silhouettes the spires of a Gothic church. Rain overflows the gutters. A breathless YOUNG WOMAN pounds on the door, glancing back. She tenderly places a bundle on the steps then races off. Nuns open the door and look down.

EXT. STREET NEAR BROOKLYN BRIDGE (1972) - NIGHT

Headlights flare, a CAR SKIDS. The woman dodges traffic - only to run smack into the dark figure. Knocked flat, she looks up: a haunted, knowing gaze. Behind the wet tangle of hair is a striking 20 year old beauty. He offers his hand. She darts past him to a SUBWAY ENTRANCE.

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Down the tracks, the woman pulls away some boards and enters an abandoned tunnel, shored up by rotting beams. She moves toward a distinctive rock formation at the end. But the dark figure overtakes her, spins her to face him. Handsome and intense, almost hypnotic, this is the YOUNG KOOPA.

The woman wrenches free and throws herself at a support beam. Rocks crash down. A falling timber strikes Koopa. He scrambles back out the tunnel as the CEILING CAVES IN.

INT. BROOKLYN CHURCH - CANDLE-LIT ROOM - NIGHT

The nuns excitedly unwrap the bundle: Inside is a large METAL EGG, inlaid with a gem-like stone. It hinges open and they find... A REAL EGG. Mottled, oblong, a foot-and-a-half long. And it's moving! CRACKING... The nuns gasp.

NUN

What is it?

MOTHER RITA
Probably another egg.

The shell cracks open and out bursts... a tiny baby's hand.

MOTHER RITA
Holy sh...

A PEAL OF THUNDER rocks the church as we

CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE (1992) - MOVING - DAY

MUSIC KICKS IN -- rocking, contemporary. Heavy traffic on the Bridge as the East River sparkles in the b.g. A big truck is hauling huge pipes: "SCARPELLI PLUMBING SUPPLY."

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - NEWSSTAND - DAY

The pipe truck rattles by a newsstand. We PAN HEADLINES: A series of women have recently disappeared from Brooklyn. Leaning there, a 12-year-old cranks intently at his GAMEBOY. The crusty news vendor shakes his head and turns to his TV.

ON TV, a beloved New York NEWSCASTER solemnly reports:

NEWSCASTER
... the 23rd young woman reported missing. Brooklyn police officials believe there may be a connection...

EXT. LEONE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

The pipe truck rumbles by an upscale Italian restaurant near the Brooklyn Bridge. Parked in front is a battered van with a faded LOGO: "Mario Bros. Plumbing." There's a drawing of a familiar-looking Italian with a large mustache.

INT. LEONE'S RESTAURANT - TRACKING - DAY

The place is packed. Italian businessmen eat, smoke, talk with their hands, spill red wine on white tablecloths. It's lunchtime. We can barely hear Sinatra crooning over the din.

An irate businessman gestures to his foodless table. The MANAGER smiles primly, tightens his tie. As he spins on his heels his smile vanishes. He grabs a waitress, interrogates her through clenched teeth. Shaking, she points to...

INT. LEONE'S RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - TRACKING - DAY

The doors slam open and the Manager shouts his way past more waitresses, who point to the cook. It's hard to hear over the CLATTER of pots and pans, and a relentless BANGING.

The Manager appears through the steam and yells at the cook, who shrugs and points: Dirty dishes are stacked everywhere.

We follow a trail of parts to a large INDUSTRIAL DISHWASHER. A pair of legs in coveralls are sticking out. The Manager paces over and is about to scream when... the BANGING STOPS.

MARIO slides out from underneath with a wrench. He wipes his brow, like he'd just emerged from a fox hole. He looks only a little like the guy on the van -- his old man.

MARIO

It looks bad.

MANAGER

What looks bad?

MARIO

(sizing this guy up)

Your hose. It hasn't been serviced in years. You're gonna need a new impeller too, probably a new motor.

MANAGER

What I need is a new plumber. What I need are dishes -- now!

MARIO

(stands)

First of all, I'm not a plumber. I'm a contractor, specializing in waste management and water supply systems. Second of all, I've got my brother taking care of your dish problem...

He turns him toward LUIGI -- smudging grease on his suit. His younger, taller, mellower brother is churning out dishes, talking to a pretty waitress, DAISY, who's helping him dry. She has the same haunting eyes as the woman in the prologue.

MARIO

Now, I figure parts are gonna cost about \$400. Labor, 80 bucks an hour.

(counts on his fingers)

Ya dah dah... Figure... \$800.

MANAGER

\$800! I could hire a dishwasher for a month!

MARIO

Oh, the dishwashing will be extra.

MANAGER

MOTHER! MAMA!

He storms off. MAMA LEONE bustles up from the back office. The Italian matriarch, she is at once sweet and invulnerable.

MANAGER

He's trying to screw us, mama.

MAMA LEONE

Anthony. This is Old Man Mario's boy. His papa put in our first sinks...

She turns to Mario.

MAMA LEONE

Sometimes he would come and help us for only a plate of pasta.

MARIO

Mama Leone! I... I was just telling Anthony about the, uh, unfortunate estimate for your dishwasher...

MAMA LEONE

Oh.
(suddenly icy)
How much.

MARIO

Um... \$800.

She looks at him for the longest time, like she's waiting for him to break and confess. Then she smiles wearily.

MAMA LEONE

You're good boys. If you say it's \$800, what am I gonna do?

WOOOOSH! The dishwasher starts running. Luigi emerges from underneath, smiling. Mario looks crestfallen, but smiles...

MARIO

You fixed it...

LUIGI

Yeah... I remember pop saying about these old K-4's... Sometimes you think the motor's shot, and it's just a kinked hose backing things up.

Mama Leone hugs Luigi, then shouts to the cooks IN ITALIAN:

MAMA LEONE

Spaghetti for the Mario Brothers,
two big plates.

INT. KITCHEN - MARIO AND LUIGI - A LITTLE LATER

They're at a folding table with two nearly empty plates of pasta. Luigi is trying unsuccessfully to wrap the last of his spaghetti around his fork. Mario looks at him, annoyed.

MARIO

In the future, when you feel the sudden urge to help out -- don't.

LUIGI

Come on, she's a nice old lady...

MARIO

Luigi, we needed that money.

Daisy comes over and gestures to their plates.

DAISY

You finished?

MARIO

Yeah. We're finished.

She and Luigi make eye contact -- she blushes. Luigi stands.

LUIGI

Here. Let me give you a hand.

Mario grumbles as Luigi walks off with Daisy. Mama Leone comes over and smiles, hands Mario a check.

MAMA LEONE

I'd rather give it to you than to that bastard Scarpelli. Two hundred. That's what he'd charge, minimum...

MARIO

Mama Leone... I don't know what to say. Gracci.

BY THE SINK - LUIGI AND DAISY

The Manager approaches Luigi and Daisy as Mama Leone exits.

MANAGER

Daisy, there are paying customers...

DAISY

I wasn't even supposed to come in.

MANAGER

Yes, your birthday. You're old now.
You need your rest. If you like, I
can arrange to give you forever off.

He spins and strides toward Mario. Flustered, Daisy pulls out the last item and sets it on a precarious pile of dishes.

AT THE FOLDING TABLE - MARIO AND THE MANAGER

The manager looks distastefully at the check on the table.

MANAGER

(through clenched teeth)
Mother wants to know if you'd care
for any dessert.

MARIO

Yeah? Whaddya got?

CRASH! They turn to see Daisy and Luigi, looking in surprise at a huge pile of broken dishes. Luigi holds up his hands.

LUIGI

My fault!... My fault.

The Manager smiles smugly and whisks the check off the table. Mario watches, stunned, as he TEARS IT UP.

EXT. LEONE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Daisy catches up to Mario and Luigi, heading for their van.

DAISY

I didn't get a chance to thank you.
You really saved my butt in there.

MARIO

Oh, no, thank you. C'mon, Luigi...

Luigi walks Daisy away from the van as Mario loads tools.

LUIGI

Don't mind him, he's just... he's...
He's my brother. I'm Luigi.

DAISY

Daisy.
(shaking his hand)
Are all plumbers as gallant as you?

MARIO (O.S.)
We're not plumbers!

Daisy looks puzzled. Luigi hands her a business card.

LUIGI
What he means is, we do more than
just plumbing... Sometimes we sit
around and watch TV.

DAISY
(she laughs)
Well, I'm not really a waitress.
I'm working my way through school.

LUIGI
What are you really?

DAISY
Well, I'm studying paleontology. In
my off hours I dig around in the
dirt for dinosaur bones.

LUIGI
Dinosaur bones. Wow...

DAISY
We're digging at a site just under
the Bridge. I'm going there now...

LUIGI
Oh, yeah -- I heard about that...

MARIO (O.S.)
LUIGI!

Mario is gesturing emphatically to the open door of the van.

LUIGI
I gotta go. Um, maybe I could stop
by sometime and look at your
bones...

Luigi mentally kicks himself.

DAISY
Yeah... Well. Thanks again.

She puts something in his hand and heads off. Luigi looks:
It's a Trilobite -- a fossilized prehistoric bug. Along
with her phone number. Mario HONKS.

INT. MARIO BROS. VAN - DRIVING - DAY

Mario is driving. Luigi is idly examining the fossil.

MARIO

"My fault! My fault!..." You're a regular knight in shining armor.

LUIGI

Isn't she great?

MARIO

Not 200 dollars great.

LUIGI

And she's a college student. A real college student. Not just Beauty School.

MARIO

Good. Why don't you marry her?

LUIGI

You think?

MARIO

You're young, you're poor, you're stupid. It's a good time to get that first marriage out of the way.

LUIGI

Oh, right. I forgot I was talking to "Mr. Romantic."

MARIO

I'm just a different kind of romantic. More reality-based.

EXT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - DAY

The van pulls up. Mario waves to a WORKMAN on the roof, who's tossing insulation down a chute to a dumpster.

Mario starts unloading their gear while Luigi sort of bops around. He clears his throat, shoves Luigi his toolbelt.

LUIGI

Sorry. Still thinking about Daisy...

MARIO

Well, how 'bout thinking about your job? Here coil this.

He hands him a drain snake to coil and sighs...

MARIO

How you ever learned a serious craft like plumbing I'll never know.

LUIGI

You and pop forced me.

MARIO

Hey, nobody forces anybody to do anything. You got free will, you coulda been a rock star, you coulda worked your way through school, nobody forced you into the family business... I'm the one who was forced.

Mario closes the van and they head to the door.

LUIGI

Aw, come on. It's not so bad. At least we have a family business.

INT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - DAY

They enter. The shelves are empty, the furniture is gone. Only two items remain on the walls: a girlie Plumbing Supply calendar, and an old photo of their stern-looking father.

LUIGI

They took everything...

A great slab of Italian guy steps out, wearing a \$2,000 suit. EDDIE SCARPELLI points to a lone kitchen sink on the floor.

EDDIE

Everything but the kitchen sink.

(pause)

That's a joke. They're not laughing, Vinnie. Make them laugh.

VINNIE leans toward Mario and puts a hand inside his coat. Mario forces a chuckle. Vinnie motions with his hidden hand. Mario laughs even more. Vinnie smacks him across the face.

VINNIE

It wasn't that funny.

EDDIE

Mario, you told me you'd bring your account up to date. Plumbing supplies don't grow on trees.

Mario and Luigi look at each other, then sort of chuckle.

EDDIE

What the hell is your problem? That wasn't a joke.

MARIO

Look, Eddie, we've known each other a long time. I gotta tell you, you're acting kind of... funny.

EDDIE

Yeah? I'm trying to cheer myself up. My wife's left me. My daughter's disappeared. And now this goddamn waterworks project... Ever since we cleared out that stupid tunnel it's been one disaster after another... My whole business is in the toilet.

He looks at them expectantly.

EDDIE

Oh, forget it. Look, I cut you a lot of slack on account of your old man -- God rest his stupid soul... So I'm gonna make you a proposition -- for the ten grand you owe me.

LUIGI

Ten grand?

MARIO

It's more like \$9800.

LUIGI

Ten thousand dollars?

Mario smiles to Eddie as he drags Luigi aside.

MARIO

Would you excuse me?

LUIGI

Mario, why didn't you tell me we were in this kind of trouble?

MARIO

Trouble? This isn't trouble. When we're in trouble, you'll know it.

LUIGI

This is Eddie Scarpelli. This guy is serious. In a funny sort of way...

MARIO
Just let me handle it, okay?

They rejoin Eddie.

MARIO
You, uh, mentioned a proposition?

EDDIE
It's this waterworks thing. I got a hundred feet of rock to blast through, and these college kids want to go through it an centimeter at a time with camel hair brushes. All on account of some dinosaur bones.

LUIGI
(suddenly intent)
So?

EDDIE
So you guys cause a little accident, flood the place maybe. You save me the risk, and I can start blasting.

Eddie and the guys look at Mario expectantly.

MARIO
Well, that's a very generous offer, but, uh...

LUIGI
Forget it.

MARIO
What my brother means is, uh...

LUIGI
Go grease your head, you fat pig, scumbag, son of a bitch.

He storms out. Eddie motions Vinnie to chase after Luigi.

EDDIE
Put him in traction.

MARIO
No! No, Eddie, he's just a kid. He's been acting goofy lately. Let me talk to him, get him to apologize.

EDDIE
 (he calms down)
 And then you'll help me with my
 little problem.

MARIO
 Sure, Eddie. Anything you say.

EDDIE
 Good.
 (points at Mario)
 You work for me now.

EXT. EXCAVATION SITE - DAY

The huge pipe truck sits at the base of the Brooklyn Bridge. An old unused tunnel has been reopened to make way for a new waterworks pipeway. But now all the equipment sits idle...

College students are milling about. Some are sorting plastic bags into boxes, near a van marked "COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY."

Luigi pulls up in the van. He looks at a large WISHBONE dangling from the rearview mirror...

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Luigi moves through the brightly lit tunnel and finds Daisy, lying on her stomach, gently brushing dirt from a fossil. She turns with a dazed expression, then smiles, seeing Luigi. On her belly, covered with dust, she still looks magnificent.

DAISY
 Luigi!... You work fast...

LUIGI
 Yeah... no. No, I came to warn you.
 Eddie Scarpelli is planning to flood
 the dig!

DAISY
What?

She hops up.

LUIGI
 He asked us to do it. I guess we
 owe him a lot of money. He's gonna
 make it to look like an accident.

DAISY
 But... But he can't! Doesn't he
 know how important this is?

(she points to the rock)
 Look at this impacted quartz. This
 could be where the meteorite hit --
 the one that wiped out the dinosaurs
 60 million years ago. And here...

Luigi is transfixed by her raving. She points all around:

DAISY
 All potential new species. This one
 may even be a missing link!...

She points to a fossil of a strange creature. The head
 looks fiercely reptilian, the body beside it looks oddly
 humanoid.

DAISY
 The proportions of the bones here,
 the opposable thumb... It's like
 the skeleton of an early human.
 But...

Pointing to the thrusting jaw full of sharp teeth.

LUIGI
 It's pretty scary.

DAISY
 It's beautiful. It's almost as if
 he was a monster trying to be a
 human being...

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET BY DAISY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Luigi and Daisy briskly walk. Daisy's brain is on
 overdrive.

DAISY
 I'm going to call Professor Sheski.
 He's know what to do... And then...
 I'll come back, finish digging --
 make it an all-nighter...

LUIGI
 Well, maybe I should, you know, come
 with... You shouldn't be down there
 alone so late -- with those girls
 disappearing and stuff...

DAISY
 (smiles)
 You don't have to be so protective.
 Really. Even though you have saved
 me twice in one day now...

They reach her apartment building. Daisy gets out her keys.

LUIGI

Oh, hey, listen, I know it's your birthday. And since you like bones...

Luigi fishes in his pocket and pulls out the wishbone that was hanging from the van's rearview mirror.

LUIGI

My old man kept it hanging in the van for luck -- I guess he didn't believe in St. Christopher.

DAISY

Luigi, this is really... personal.

LUIGI

Yeah...

A sweet moment. She takes it and looks it over.

DAISY

You're lucky. I never knew my parents. I know more about extinct sauropods than I do about them...

(a beat, she smiles)

I guess I should warn you, I'm kind of... different.

LUIGI

What do you mean?

DAISY

I've got dinosaurs on the brain.

She opens the door. Luigi smiles and shuffles off. Daisy turns and holds up the wishbone.

DAISY

Oh, Luigi!... Thanks for the bone!

LUIGI

What?

DAISY

I SAID... THANKS FOR THE BONE!

INT. DAISY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - ENTRY WAY - AFTERNOON

Daisy enters to find an old nun. Specifically, it's MOTHER RITA from the prologue, only now she's really old. Daisy is a little embarrassed. She sheepishly holds up the wishbone.

DAISY

Mother Rita! I was just... That was... a boy. He, uh... He...

MOTHER RITA

Yes, I heard. I remember when they used to give flowers. Happy Birthday, dear. I have a gift for you, too...

She reaches behind her, and pulls out the decorative EGG.

INT. DAISY'S STUDIO APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

Daisy and Mother Rita are sitting, drinking tea. The egg is between them. It looks ancient: The intricate metal work is burnished, and an impressive-looking stone is inlaid on top. Daisy smiles indulgently as Mother Rita dodders on:

MOTHER RITA

... and then inside that egg was another egg. And the other egg cracked open and we found...

(she's forgotten now)

You!... And I remember... I remember I said... Well, it's not important...

DAISY

What? What did you say?

MOTHER RITA

I said... "My goodness! What a beautiful baby! Praise the Lord!"

DAISY

Mother Rita, this looks like a valuable religious artifact... Are you sure you're supposed to give this to me? Think for a moment, don't you remember anything about my parents?

Flustered, she stands and hobbles to the door.

MOTHER RITA

No! You came in an egg! Father Chris made us promise never to say a word, but that was before he dropped out and joined a commune with Brother Tim... It was a long time ago.

DAISY
 (calming her)
 All right... That's all right.

MOTHER RITA
 I have to go now...

Daisy pecks her on the cheek as Rita leaves.

She moves to the egg: The stone is held by a spring mechanism. She pulls it out easily, brushes some dirt off. It glitters.

EXT. DAISY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - AFTERNOON

Two very strange looking guys watch as Mother Rita leaves.

IGGY and SPIKE nod to each other and head in... Iggy looks like a career bureaucrat, Spike looks like a funky killer.

IGGY
 Now remember -- we're lawyers.

INT. DAISY'S STUDIO APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Daisy is cleaning the stone over the sink. WATER BENDS as it nears. Odd... The DOOR BUZZES -- she fumbles it down the drain. Great. She goes and opens the door a crack, chained.

INT. DAISY'S STUDIO APARTMENT - OUTSIDE HER DOOR - AFTERNOON

Iggy and Spike are trying to look lawyerly.

IGGY
 Hello, miss? I'm Alan Dershowitz,
 and this is my partner... Clarence
 Darrow.

SPIKE
 Call me Spike.

IGGY
 (shoots him a look)
 We're lawyers, and um...

SPIKE
 We're here to kidnap you...

SLAM! The door is shut. Iggy hits Spike upside the head.

IGGY

What my partner meant to say was that, um, you were kidnapped, twenty years ago, and we're here on behalf of your parents. You are an orphan, aren't you? Daisy Johnson?...

INT. DAISY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Entranced, she reaches for the chain... thinks better of it.

DAISY

Daisy's not here. But I'm going to see her later. Why don't you leave your card, all right?

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE DAISY'S DOOR

IGGY

I don't have a card on me... If you see your friend, tell her she can find us at the corner coffee shop.

Spike shakes his head furiously and mimes drinking a beer.

INT. DAISY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

IGGY

Or the bar next to the coffee shop... Tell Daisy her parents miss her.

INT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - AFTERNOON

Mario is sitting on a crate, staring at the ceiling and counting to himself. Luigi enters cheerfully.

MARIO

Where have you been? Hang on -- three... two... one...

POK!... POK! POK-POK-POK! Five plungers pop loose from the ceiling and fall to the ground. Mario smiles smugly.

LUIGI

I went to see Daisy...

MARIO

Yeah, Daisy, great. Look, we gotta talk. Eddie is ready to break your legs. You got to apologize to him.

LUIGI

Wait, wait, my legs? How did it get to by my legs? You've been handling the money.

MARIO

The money can be worked out, Luigi. It's the lack of respect.

LUIGI

(deadpan)

Okay. You're right. Tomorrow I'll go down to Scarpelli's and I'll tell Eddie to get respectable.

MARIO

What is with you?

LUIGI

What's with me? I've met the perfect girl...

MARIO

Luigi -- forget about this Daisy chick for a minute, will you? It's not going to work out anyway...

LUIGI

What do you mean?

MARIO

Forget it. It's not important...

LUIGI

No, you don't think it'll work out because she's a college chick and I'm some sort of idiot, is that it?

MARIO

I'm just telling you so you don't get hurt. She's a pretty college girl. The last thing a girl like that needs is a plumber.

RING! Mario picks up the phone.

MARIO

Uh-huh... uh-huh...

(hands it to Luigi)

It's Daisy. She needs a plumber.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR NEXT TO COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

Spike and Iggy are drinking Bloody Marys. Spike looks at his drink, disappointed. Iggy fumbles for his Di-Gel tablets.

SPIKE

Do what I do. When I get nervous about my job, I kill someone.

IGGY

Well, you're a professional killer.

SPIKE

Right. So it works out good. Look, it's her. It's gotta be her. Relax.

IGGY

But if it's not... you know what Koopa said...

SPIKE

"Don't bother coming back"? Gee, I'm shaking. That would be awful...

IGGY

He'd send someone after us. We'd always be looking over our shoulders, waiting for something awful to happen. If we go back, we can look forward to something awful.

SPIKE

Well, there is the security.

(he looks around)

But I like this place... They got everything here. Perfectly edible people lying right in the gutters!...

IGGY

Look, stop talking about it, okay? Stop even thinking about it.

SPIKE

Why?

IGGY

Why?... Because Koopa told me the minute you started talking like that I'm supposed to whack you, that's why.

SPIKE

Yeah? He told me I should whack
you.

Iggy looks hurt. Spike pats him on the back and stands.

SPIKE

Come on... Let's go get her.

INT. MARIO BROS. VAN - DRIVING - AFTERNOON

Mario is HONKING at the traffic.

MARIO

Okay, so we do this little favor,
and then we'll call Eddie...

LUIGI

I'll tell you, pop never would have
apologized to scum like Eddie.

MARIO

Yeah, well, pop's Old World, okay?
This is the real world. You oughta
try it sometime...

Luigi shakes his head, looks at where the wishbone once
hung.

INT. DAISY'S APARTMENT - OUTSIDE HER DOOR - AFTERNOON

Luigi buzzes, then knocks long and hard. No answer.

LUIGI

Where can she be?

MARIO

She's playing games with you. She
probably doesn't even have a
plumbing problem.

Luigi shakes his head and points to the water flowing from
beneath the door. Mario tries the door. It swings open...

LUIGI

Daisy?

INT. DAISY'S APARTMENT - TRACKING TO THE SINK - AFTERNOON

Water cascades over the sides, splashing on the floor.
Mario shuts it off. There's a weird vortex in the sink.
Luigi checks the garbage disposal switch, then reaches in
and pulls out... the stone. It's not even wet.

LUIGI

That's strange...

He pockets the stone and they leave.

INT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - AFTERNOON

Mario and Luigi walk in. Eddie and some goons are there. The sink is now gone.

MARIO

Eddie!

LUIGI

You took our sink.

EDDIE

It's in the car. We're gonna use it to mix cement.

MARIO

What's the matter? I told you we were going to help you out.

Luigi looks stunned. He glares at Mario.

LUIGI

You did?

EDDIE

Yeah? And who else did you tell? I got a call from some Professor Sheski. You guys ratted on me. And you know what happens to rats... They drown.

Mario looks at Luigi. Nods. They shove past the goons and race to the back.

EXT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - IN BACK - AFTERNOON

Mario and Luigi pile out the back and smack into Vinnie.

VINNIE

Hiya, boys.

Mario pushes a dumpster at him and they duck back inside.

INT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - THE HALLWAY STAIRS - AFTERNOON

Mario and Luigi bound up the stairs. Vinnie and his pal are a couple floors behind.

EXT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - ROOF - AFTERNOON

Mario and Luigi climb out onto the roof.

MARIO

Now what?

LUIGI

We'll leap from rooftop to rooftop.

Mario nods. It's a ten-foot jump. They take a running start, then screech to a stop. They look at each other.

MARIO AND LUIGI

No... No way.

MARIO

The laundry! Grab it!

Mario grabs sheets and blankets off the lines. Luigi follows his lead. As Vinnie and Jimmy explode onto the roof, Mario and Luigi stuff the laundry down the chute and dive in.

INT. CHUTE - DUSK

The brothers fall head first, screaming.

EXT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - DUMPSTER - DUSK

Even with the laundry, the brothers hit pretty hard. They emerge dazed. Mario looks up as the goons get in the chute. He rips the chute loose, and drags it over a fire hydrant.

INT. CHUTE - DUSK

Vinnie and Jimmy hurtle down the chute, looking determined.

EXT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - DUSK

As the Mario Bros. van pulls away, Vinnie and Jimmy hit the bottom of the chute. It sounds painful.

INT. MARIO BROS. VAN - DUSK

Mario is driving determinedly. Luigi is zipping with energy.

LUIGI

Now what?

MARIO

Now we drive as far as this faithful van will take us and start our lives anew. We'll even change our names.

LUIGI
What about Daisy?

 MARIO
No... something more masculine-
sounding.

COUGH! COUGH! The van shudders and dies...

 MARIO
We're out of gas! Luigi...

 LUIGI
I just filled it up last week.

 MARIO
We only made it three blocks. We
can't start our lives anew three
blocks from when we started. It's
the same zip code and everything.

 LUIGI
Are we in trouble yet?

 MARIO
Trouble? No. We have no place to
live, no money in our pockets, and
the mob wants us dead...

 LUIGI
As long as we're not in trouble...
So what do we do, then?

 MARIO
Let's get out and walk. Maybe we'll
think of something.

 LUIGI
What if we don't?

 MARIO
Maybe we'll reach the bridge and we
can throw ourselves off.

CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - SUNSET

The brothers stand before the bridge in a dramatic HERO
SHOT.

 LUIGI
I guess it's Miller Time.

MARIO

Shut up. I still can't believe you got us into this.

LUIGI

Me? I can't believe you were ready to go and do Eddie's dirty work.

MARIO

It's a buncha bones. Who cares?
You wouldn't if it weren't for...
 Hey, wait a minute. Isn't that?...

He points across the street. It's Daisy, walking with Spike and Iggy. They're carrying the decorative egg.

LUIGI

DAISY! YO!

Daisy turns. Iggy and Spike panic and grab her. She struggles but they drag her down an embankment.

LUIGI

Mario! Come on!

They take off in hot pursuit, toward the excavation site...

EXT. EXCAVATION SITE - NIGHT

The brothers slide down a steep embankment leading to the site. There's no sign of Daisy or her captors. There's a muffled cry from inside the tunnel...

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

The brothers enter, take the flashlights out of their belts.

LUIGI

Daisy! DAISY!

MARIO

What is this place?

LUIGI

It's the water-works tunnel. This is where Daisy's working.

Dinosaur bones cast eerie shadows against the wall. Mario and Luigi are getting spooked as they make their way through.

MARIO

Luigi, maybe those are the guys who kidnapped all those girls. We gotta go back and get help. Who knows what we're gonna find down here.

Luigi's flashlight beam glistens off a wet footprint on the rock. There's a narrow crack in the wall there.

LUIGI

No! It'll be too late. Come on!

Luigi squeezes through. Mario sighs and squeezes after him.

MARIO

Luigi!... Luigi, don't be stupid. We're not heroes, we're plumbers. Let's go back and get the police.

Luigi isn't listening. He's staring at the wishbone he just found on the ground. The footprints here stop abruptly at solid rock -- the same rock formation we saw in the prologue.

LUIGI

Maybe there's a hidden passage.

Suddenly, the wall ripples -- Daisy bursts through!

DAISY

Help! Luigi!

Hands rip through the rock after her and pull her back.

LUIGI

DAISY!!

Luigi lunges, and dives through solid rock. The rock swirls, shudders, and settles with a sound not unlike a belch.

Mario looks at the wall. He doesn't know what to do. He throws himself at the wall, but he's about a foot too far.

Mario hits the rock and bounces off.

MARIO

OW!

He reels in pain and leans back against the wall... THWUP! Mario is sucked through.

INT. PORTAL SHRINE - NIGHT

Luigi rises groggily and shakes his head. Bad idea. He clutches it in pain and looks around:

The other walls are rough-hewn, deeply etched with a series of pictographs that depict a meteorite crashing to earth. Some are filled with a fluorescing moss that makes them look like a cross between cave drawings and graffiti.

Mario shoots through the wall and tumbles into him. Luigi catches him, and they stumble back a few feet. Mario opens his eyes, looks down, and screams:

MARIO

AHHH!

His cry ECHOES. They're at the very edge of a YAWNING CHASM, a vast cylindrical tunnel burrowed by a giant meteorite. At the bottom is a roundish swirl of energy. There's a circular walkway 20 feet below, where huge coil-like collectors are imbedded in the side walls. Energy crackles up hellishly.

Luigi turns and looks. They quickly scramble back.

MARIO

What the hell?... Where the hell are we?

LUIGI

Hell?...

MARIO

All right. Where the heck are we?

Luigi stands and pats himself; he's intact. He looks around:

LUIGI

Daisy! DAISY!!

His cry ECHOES in the chasm. He looks anxiously at the pit. Mario puts his hand on his shoulder consolingly.

LUIGI

You don't think?...

MARIO

I hope not. Nobody could survive that fall.

A SCORCHED WHITE HAND grabs Mario's ankle from below.

Mario yelps in surprise. Spike and Iggy drag themselves out. They look dazed, scuffed, and their hair is standing on end.

Mario and Luigi grab them.

LUIGI

Where is she? Where's Daisy?

SPIKE

Bitch pushed us...

Mario lets go. Spike topples back, taking Iggy with him. Their screams end in a THUD as they land on the walkway far below. Mario and Luigi look down.

MARIO

Oops.

LUIGI

Great. Now what? Go get 'em?

MARIO

Let's go find the cops, quick.

They race to the exit, a doorway at the side of the shrine.

INT. METEOR-ELECTRIC PLANT - NIGHT

Mario and Luigi are dwarfed by huge electrical machinery.

LUIGI

What is this place?

MARIO

Maybe it's some kind of... secret nuclear power plant or something.

LUIGI

Maybe... HELLO? Daisy?

Mario stops and holds up his hand. He points...

MARIO

I think I hear a train...

INT. RUN-DOWN SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

Daisy catches her breath. Some punky-looking EXTRAS coolly appraise her as she looks around: The peeling billboards and odd vending machines don't look at all familiar. One wall is lined with rusted metal boxes suspended overhead: "TOKENS."

A train has pulled up -- battered, completely covered with graffiti, some of it etched into the metal as if by acid.

We RACK FOCUS as Mario and Luigi step into the foreground through a service door. They're about to turn and see Daisy, when a CRUSH OF PASSENGERS stampedes out, blocking the view.

Mario bumps into a hulking BUSINESSMAN, who shoves him aside.

BUSINESSMAN

Watch where you're going, jerk.

Luigi tries to stop a LITTLE OLD LADY.

LUIGI

Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?

LITTLE OLD LADY

You're in my way, dick-wad.

She pushes past them. Mario shakes his head.

MARIO

These guys are all assholes.
(realizing)
We're in Manhattan...

Mario and Luigi are swept up in the tide, pushed and pummeled and nearly suffocated as they're forced up the stairs.

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN - SUBWAY EXIT - NIGHT

The brothers fight to stay together, finally finding refuge on a metal stairway. They climb up to scan the crowd.

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

Mario and Luigi gasp as they look down on the street:

Picture Manhattan, Tokyo, and Beirut mixed together. Steely businessmen stiff-arm their way through a sea of colorful low-lifes on multi-leveled walkways. Whores chat with heavily-armed Boy Scouts, two priests face off with knives...

Brightly animated SIGNS fight for space. There's a vague reptilian motif: "Tex-Rex," a restaurant; "Fleshworks," a tattoo parlor; "That Death Joint," a weapons shop. A sporting goods store sells "Air" Stompers™: "Just Stomp it." A towering nightclub dazzles with NEON: "The KoopaKabana."

LUIGI

Something's strange here. The city,
it's... it's different...

MARIO

Well, we haven't been here in five
years. I guess they've fixed the
place up.

Luigi scans the street, worried.

LUIGI

She could be anywhere...

There -- way down across the street -- someone who looks
like Daisy enters a doorway under a flashing marquee.

LUIGI

Hey, that's her! Daisy!

Luigi leans forward against a railing, it gives way -- as
the cement beneath it strangely CRUMBLES. Mario pulls him
back as the section of railing topples. We hear CURSING
below.

Mario pokes the crumbly cement with his toe. Tiny mushrooms
are sprouting there. Luigi pulls Mario to the stairs.

LUIGI

Come on!

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT

The brothers push through the crowd, taking it all in:

Suspended high over the streets is a wire mesh. SPARKS RAIN
DOWN as some KIDS try to skateboard over the net on a dare.

The net powers the cars below, which have telescoping rods
tipped with spring-mounted Tesla balls. All the cars are
battered beyond recognition, painted in Indian war colors.
As we TILT DOWN, a BLUE FLASH and an INSECT ZAPPER sound
come from above -- we no longer hear the kids playing...

Luigi pulls Mario across the street. Mario yanks him back.

MARIO

Look out!

They jump back as two battered cars hurtle toward an empty
parking spot. They COLLIDE VIOLENTLY and slide into the
space in a heap. The drivers, two HOUSEWIVES, force open
their crushed doors and walk off chatting and gossiping.

Luigi shakes his head, pulls Mario along. They pass a sign: "NO SPITTING." It looks like it's been eaten away by acid.

A strange fungus pervades the street. Whole sections of pavement and buildings have crumbled away and been hastily patched over.

Luigi leads Mario to where Daisy entered. The MARQUEE reads: "PORTAL-RAMA! Live Revue!" A BASS BEAT throbs inside.

The woman Luigi saw does look a lot like Daisy. So do the other women milling about: the same hair, the same build.

One of them turns -- an usually attractive PROSTITUTE.

PROSTITUTE

Hey, boys, wanna get flayed?...

They shake their heads. Mario prods Luigi along.

MARIO

Come on -- let's get to a phone.

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN STREET - PHONE BOOTH - NIGHT

The brothers come to a phone booth on the corner, a hulking, well-armed, monolithic phone booth. Its neo-constructivist CORPORATE LOGO glows ominously, FLASHING as Mario approaches:

PHONE BOOTH:

WARNING. YOU HAVE BREACHED THE PERIMETER. PLEASE STAND BACK.

Mario looks at Luigi, shrugs, then takes another step closer. Two FLAME THROWER TURRETS rise from the booth and hone in.

PHONE BOOTH

IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A CALL, PLEASE ENTER YOUR KOOPONS NOW.

(a fleeting pause)

YOU HAVE EXCEEDED THE TIME LIMIT. PLEASE TRY YOUR CALL AGAIN LATER.

Mario jumps back as FLAMES SHOOT OUT of the turrets. Then... A HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLING rockets down. SHHWUNGKUNKUNKUNK...

A 12-year-old named ALEX lands hard on top of the booth. He's joined by four other mean-looking youths, all wearing strange, oversized, pneumatic high-tops: "Air" Stompers™.

The back of their jackets are hand-painted with the emblem "FONE PHREAKS." Alex kicks at the turrets, disabling them. Two of the youths take out bats and start SMASHING the booth. An ALARM sounds -- a lot like a very loud BUSY SIGNAL.

The two others threaten the brothers with large STUN STICKS.

PHREAK

Gonna use the phone, huh? You must be rich. Let's have it. All your money.

He ZAPS Mario.

MARIO

Ow! What the?... Stop that! Here!

Mario pulls out his wallet and holds out a couple bills.

PHREAK

What am I supposed to do, blow my nose?... Coins, you idiot.

The Phreak ZAPS him again. Luigi quickly digs in his pocket.

LUIGI

I've got, um... sixty-three cents.

He takes the coins and looks at them with disgust.

PHREAK

What is this, a joke? I said coins: Drags, Rexes, gold Koopons...

Mario and Luigi look at each other. Luigi shrugs doltishly.

PHREAK

Fine.

He adjusts his weapon from "STUN" to "FRY." Then... COINS SPILL ON THE GROUND behind them. The Phreaks turn and smile.

Alex and the others have busted open the rusted METAL BOXES suspended on top of the booth. They start scooping up the strange gold coins spilling out. SIRENS WAIL in the b.g...

ALEX

Fung it -- the cops!

The Phreaks each jam a small AIR CYLINDER into their boots. A HISSING sound accompanies a RISING SERIES OF BEEPS, then... SHWOOOUMM! Their "Air" Stompers catapult them far away.

Mario grabs Luigi and they race back toward the SIRENS.

MARIO
Finally -- the cops.

Luigi stops. Across the street... it looks like... it is:

LUIGI
Daisy! Mario -- that's her!

MARIO
Yeah, yeah, come on.

Luigi cranes his neck. He can't see her anymore.

MARIO
I don't want to hear any arguments.
Look -- there's a cop right now.

Mario pulls Luigi toward a parked COP CAR. Sparks rain from above as it starts up and SCREECHES away.

MARIO
Hey!... HEY!

Mario runs into the street, waving his arms. A SIREN blares. Another COP CAR almost runs Mario down as it blows by him.

MARIO
Come on, something's happening...
Whatever it is, it must be big.

He grabs Luigi and they race to the corner. More COP CARS barrel by, SIRENS blaring as they SCREECH around the corner.

EXT. DONUT LAND - NIGHT

They turn the corner and stop. It is big. A HUGE RED DONUT decorates the roof, LARGE NEON LETTERS read "DONUT LAND." The cop car does a perfect 180-degree SKID into the lot.

Two COPS pile out and rush to the ORDER WINDOW. Mario and Luigi race toward them.

MARIO
Officer! Whoa! You gotta help us.

They turn from the window, annoyed. One cop takes a bite out of his "donut." It looks like it's made out of raw sirloin.

COP
You know the rules. You wanna get yourself arrested?

MARIO
What?

COP
Let's see some identification.

The officer holds out his palm in an expecting way. Mario hands him his NY driver's licence. The cops stare at it.

COP
This some kind of joke?

MARIO
Yeah, I know it's expired. I keep meaning to take care of that.

COP #2
Yeah, fine. What the hell is a "Driver's License"?

EXT. DONUT LAND - IN POLICE CAR - MINUTES LATER

Mario and Luigi are handcuffed in back. The door SLAMS shut.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT

Daisy is lurking in the shadows, trying to get her bearings. Two COPS walk up. These guys look like bad news.

COP
You. You can't stand on the corner dressed this way.

COP #2
This corner is reserved for hookers, strippers, exhibitionists, and actors. Let's see your license.

DAISY
I don't... Look, I was just --

COP
Save it. You're coming with us.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE CAR - BACK SEAT - DRIVING - NIGHT

The back is torn up, like it's been used to transport wild animals. At the moment, however, it contains Mario, Luigi, and a wiry, hyperkinetic, homeless-looking guy name TOAD.

Mario tries to ignore him as he addresses the cops up front:

MARIO

Listen, I'm telling you, we can take you right to them -- the guys who've been kidnapping all those girls in Brooklyn. We'll be heroes!

IN THE FRONT SEAT

COP #2

Wait a minute. Did you say Brooklyn?

The two cops look at each other. One picks up the RADIO:

COP

We got a possible 1658. Says he's from "Brooklyn."

IN THE BACK

Toad pipes up.

TOAD

I've heard of Brooklyn. It's a myth. It's mythological. Unless you believe my theory...

COP

Shut up, you Toad!

LUIGI

What theory?

TOAD

This whole place -- it's not even a whole place. It's a sub-dimension.

As he rambles, Toad's face twitches disconcertingly.

TOAD

See, the real dimension is all around us, only we don't get to see it, on account of we're sub-dimensional.

MARIO

Great theory. Very interesting.
Thanks for sharing.

Mario makes the universal sign for "raving loony."

TOAD

That's why everything around here is
so wack. I mean, face it, the place
lousy with fungus, the music jus
t isn't happening, and Koopa...
Forget about it. Circle-slash on
that guy...

He makes the international "circle-slash" symbol with
finger.

MARIO

"Cooper?" Who's "Cooper"?

TOAD

Koopa! Where you been? Desert
Land? Everybody knows who Koopa
is...

He points outside as they drive by a BILLBOARD. Huge block
letters announce: "RE-ELECT KOOPA, THE STATESMAN."

Behind the sign, a parallel World Trade Center: One tower
is dark and foreboding, the other gleams against the night
sky.

CUT TO:

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - KOOPA'S SUITE - NIGHT

Towering crystalline windows overlook the city. One side is
Koopa's lone computer console. The other is his bedroom: a
spacious bed, a banquet table, a sunken pit with bar.

The marble floor is strewn with torn sheets, gutted pillows,
champagne bottles, and the remnants of a twelve-course meal.

Far from the bed, a fiercely sexual woman lies stretched on
the floor, panting with exhaustion as she smooths her
reptile skin dress. This is Koopa's secretary, LENA.

LENA

That was incredible. Now... let's
have sex.

OUTSIDE KOOPA'S DOOR

Iggy is about to knock. He's holding the egg.

SPIKE

Are you sure we should disturb him?

IGGY

Are you kidding? When Koopa sees this we'll be heroes.

SPIKE

Okay. But remember last week -- he killed Larry because he interrupted him eating a cracker.

Iggy pauses, then knocks. Echoing footsteps approach...

IGGY

It's... Ike and Spiggy, sir... Um, Iggy and Spike. We've got the egg.

KOOPA opens the door, draped in a warlord's robe, glowing with sweat. Twenty years older than in the prologue, he now exudes even more power and charisma. He ushers them in.

LENA

Mr. Koopa, don't you think we should finish that memo?

KOOPA

No, Lena. That will be all for now.

Lena looks startled as he pushes her out and slams the door.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Mario, Luigi and Toad are hauled from the back of the car.

COP

All right. Out.

They exit, a little dazed. They're by the waterfront now.

LUIGI

You know, I'm getting this weird feeling, Mario. Like we're on a different planet or something...

Mario is staring out at the water. He points.

MARIO

Wait a minute. Where did that come from?

INSERT - THE STATUE OF REPRESSION - NIGHT

It resembles the Statue of Liberty, only the lower hand holds the torch, and the upper one thrusts up a BURNING BOOK. The spikes on her crown continue down her back to her tail...

TOAD (O.S.)

The Statue of Repression? It was a gift from the Amphibians. Everybody knows that.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTROL STATION - NIGHT

Mario, Luigi and Toad are dragged before an officious desk clerk named SIMON. He scowls at Toad.

SIMON

You again. Put this Toad in his usual cell.

They haul Toad away. The clerk looks at Mario.

SIMON

All right. Behind the line. Empty your pockets. The belts, everything.

The brothers comply, and surrender their toolbelts.

SIMON

Name?

MARIO

Mario.

SIMON

First name?

MARIO

Mario.

Simon writes on the form: "Mario Mario."

INT. POLICE STATION - MUG SHOT ROOM - NIGHT

FLASH. Mario grimaces at the unusually bright light.

FLASH. Luigi does the same.

CUT TO:

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - KOOPA'S SUITE - NIGHT

Koopa ushers Spike and Iggy to a sleek desk.

KOOPA

You're sure this is it...

He turns to Spike and Iggy, who nervously hand him a bundle.

KOOPA

Because I'll be upset if it's like last time... when you brought me that little plastic thing with the panty hose in it.

Koopa looks to a large cabinet, displaying the various "eggs" they've brought: a "Magic" Eight Ball, a basketball, etc.

IGGY

You were justly angered. But this is it.

Koopa sets down the bundle and unwraps it: It is indeed Daisy's decorative metal egg, lying on its side.

KOOPA

Yes! This is it! I've been waiting for this for twenty years.

He lifts the egg above his head in exaltation. Iggy and Spike are elated. They've just hit a grand slam.

KOOPA

With the stone on top of this egg, my destiny is assured.

Stone? Iggy and Spike look at each other nervously. They stand on their tiptoes to confirm that there is no stone whatsoever on top of the egg.

KOOPA

And you -- you've brought me the missing piece of the meteorite. I won't forget what you two have done.

Koopa sets down the egg and strides to the window... Iggy looks at the egg as Koopa gestures grandly to the city below.

KOOPA

Soon a whole new world will be mine. And you'll be at my side, powerful and rich... It's going to be great.

He turns abruptly. Iggy and Spike grab the egg and hoist it high above their heads.

IGGY

Oh, yes! Praise the egg!

SPIKE

Oh glorious, glorious egg!

Koopa looks at them kind of funny... Spike is overdoing it.

SPIKE

It's just so... cool, and neat...
and... and... oblong.

Koopa gestures for them to lower it. There is a hole where the stone should be. He angrily dashes the egg to the floor.

KOOPA

Where is the stone?

They shrug helplessly. Koopa sighs and rubs his eyes.

KOOPA

All right, then. Bring me the girl.

Spike and Iggy look at each other nervously.

KOOPA

You didn't bring back the girl?

SPIKE

She's here. Somewhere...

KOOPA

You mean she escaped?

IGGY

NO! Well, not exactly... She's in a state of transitional custodial capacity. Which is to say...

KOOPA

Shut up.

Koopa moves to his command center. Spike and Iggy try to slink out of the room, but he gestures for them to stay. A LIGHT is flashing. Koopa jabs at a button.

KOOPA

What?

Simon, the police station clerk, appears ON THE MONITOR.

SIMON

Um... It's Simon, sir. From Police Dispatch. You asked to be alerted of any, uh... strangers. Any 1658s.

KOOPA

A girl?

SIMON

No, a couple of guys who say they're from Brooklyn.

Mario and Luigi's MUG SHOTS appears on the screen, captioned:

SIMON

Mario Mario... and Luigi Mario.

Koopa looks disappointed. He turns to Spike and Iggy.

KOOPA

You lost the stone. You let the girl escape. And you were followed. Anything else I should know about?

SPIKE

Well, we got pretty drunk...

Iggy hits the back of the head. Koopa turns to the monitor.

KOOPA

Who are these guys? Police? Army?

SIMON

Well, we confiscated a bunch of plumbing equipment... And a funny looking stone.

Koopa smiles. Spike and Iggy look relieved.

KOOPA

Hold them. I'll be right there.

SIMON

Yes, sir.

KOOPA

Oh, and Simon? I'll need you to handpick a volunteer for a special assignment.

SIMON

Oh, yes, sir!

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL - NIGHT

Mario and Luigi are thrown into a crusty cell. Four other PRISONERS turn on them -- your basic vicious, cut-throat, sociopathic bad guys. Only part reptile.

PRISONER #1

Look, mom sent some brownies!

They encircle Mario and Luigi, as if in a collective ritual. They cock their heads, and open huge jaws of pointy teeth...

MARIO

So... rough year for the Mets, huh?

They rear back in a threatening posture and HISS repulsively.

MARIO

But I can see you guys are Yankees fans -- like myself...

They start to move in... Mario looks at Luigi.

MARIO

I'm out of ideas...

One of the prisoners snaps at Luigi's hand with steel-trap jaws. Luigi jerks back, freaking, and the prisoner lashes out with a clawed hand that rips through his overalls.

Another prisoner slams Mario against the bars. He struggles as he sees Luigi pinned to the ground, his head pulled back, his throat exposed to a row of inhuman, dagger-like teeth.

CLANG! The cell door opens. A heroic shadow looms over them, and an oaken voice fills the air.

KOOPA

Let them go...

The prisoners turn to see Koopa -- instantly cower back. The brothers look up gratefully. Koopa flashes the smile of a world-class politician/best-friend/successful car salesman.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Koopa ushers Mario and Luigi between the cells. He puts a comforting hand on Mario's shoulder.

KOOPA

Sorry for the misunderstanding, we don't get many visitors. Good thing I was alerted you were here.

MARIO

Where exactly is here?...

LUIGI

Who are you?

KOOPA

I'm sure you have a lot of questions, and we'll get to that. The important thing is that you're safe now.

INT. BOOKING AREA - NIGHT

They enter a booking area full of criminals and cops milling about in Hill-Street-Bluesian fashion.

KOOPA

You mentioned there was someone else who came through. A girl...

Luigi is about to say something. He hesitates.

KOOPA

If she's out on these streets, she's in danger... We need to find her -- then we can get you all back home.

LUIGI

I guess we'd better get out there and start looking.

Koopa laughs dismissingly.

KOOPA

Fortunately, we have a large and efficient police force. Let's get a description, and we'll put out a bulletin.

LUIGI

Well, she's kinda hard to describe...

MARIO

Hey, that's her!

He points: Daisy is standing behind a group of prostitutes.

KOOPA
Where? Which one? Show me.

LUIGI
Mario, wait...

Mario trods over and pulls Daisy out.

MARIO
Daisy! We've been looking all over
for you. This guy is...

Koopa is staring at Daisy, struck by her resemblance to her mother. Mario looks at him. He can tell something is wrong.

MARIO
Um, I didn't catch your name.

Koopa smiles.

KOOPA
Koopa. Thank you for turning in
your friend. GUARDS! Take these
plumbers to the de-evolution
chamber.

Guards roughly grab Mario and Luigi. More guards take hold of Daisy. She looks at Luigi, who looks at Mario.

MARIO
Oops.

DAISY
Luigi...

KOOPA
(to the guards)
And take this young woman back to my
place. Put her with the other
girls.

DAISY
The other girls -- from Brooklyn?

KOOPA
Yes, but it's you I'm interested in.
(he smiles)
We have so much to talk about...

INT. PRISON - DE-EVOLUTION CHAMBER - NIGHT

Mario and Luigi are in a line that stretches around a corner.

MARIO

Look, they had her anyway. It wasn't my fault! All right. Maybe it was.

LUIGI

We've got to save her. All of them. Did you hear what he said? They're here -- all the babes from Brooklyn. They're alive.

MARIO

Great. They're doing better than we are. Maybe they'll come and save us.

They come around the corner and see their fate:

A bizarre-looking chair sits on rails. The rails lead to a huge funnel that extends down from the ceiling. Mario and Luigi stand in a line of prisoners leading to the chairs.

Through a round porthole-like MONITOR at the bottom of the funnel, Mario and Luigi see the man's head TRANSFORM. The chair slides back, and two guards escort the guy out. He looks like some sort of half-man, half-turtle.

LUIGI

We gotta get outta here.

TOAD

You get used to it. I've been de-evolved a couple times. Did me a world of good.

Toad is up ahead. Mario looks at him, then nods to Luigi.

MARIO

We gotta get outta here.

CUT TO:

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - HOLDING AREA - CELL - NIGHT

A cross between a dungeon and a dormitory, the 23 attractive young Brooklyn women are being held here, six to a cell. Some play cards, some read magazines -- they all look bored.

Daisy is pushed inside by two guards. The door slams shut.

DAISY

Hi, uh... I'm Daisy.

They ad lib greetings. One steps forward like she's in charge. Lithe, tough, dressed in black, she looks like she could be a bad influence on Madonna. This is DANIELLA.

DANIELLA

Anyone doing anything to get us out of this dump?

Others pipe in, "What's going on? Where are we? Did the Mets beat St. Louis?" etc. Daisy shakes her head.

DAISY

Nobody knows we're even here.

DANIELLA

Great. Thanks for the sunshine, Daisy.

DAISY

Well, at least you're all alive.

DANIELLA

You call this living? I mean... look at my nails, look at my hair. The food here is putrid, we have to drink tap water, and they don't have any cigarettes. And now... you. It's more than I can take.

DAISY

I feel for you. Does anyone have any useful information?

The other women laugh at this.

DANIELLA

Go ahead. We'll see who laughs when my father gets us out of here.

DAISY

What, is your father a comedian?

DANIELLA

My father is Eddie Scarpelli.

DAISY

Eddie? Big Eddie? I'm, uh... I just met a guy who does business with him.

DANIELLA

(impressed)

You're dating a professional killer?

DAISY

He's a plumber.

DANIELLA

Oh. Figures.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON - DE-EVOLUTION CHAMBER - NIGHT

Mario and Luigi watch another mutated prisoner lead away.

TOAD

The really nasty ones get trained
for Koopa's elite guard. Goombas...

(he points)

Some come out snakey, some are like
reptiles. Depends on your roots.
Me, I'm a mutt. Part chameleon...

A commotion down the line. It's Koopa, along with Simon and
a young clerk, ADAM. Koopa approaches, loose and refreshed.

KOOPA

Ah, the plumbers! I can't tell you
how grateful I am. You've brought
me the girl and the stone.

Mario and Luigi look at each other. Stone? Mario steps
out.

MARIO

You double-crossed us...

KOOPA

Don't think of it as betrayal --
it's politics. You did me a favor,
I'm deeply indebted to you... so now
I'm going to have to have you
killed.

(turning to Simon)

Simon, is this our volunteer?

SIMON

Well, actually, sir, Adam wanted the
job, but I would consider it a great
honor if you would let me...

KOOPA

Fine.

(to the guards)

Strap him in. A demonstration for
our friends.

SIMON

What?

KOOPA

You volunteered. And besides, you know how much I hate ass-kissing...

(to the guards)

Put him in the chair.

GUARDS

Yes, sir!... Can do, Chief!...

Right away, sir!...

Simon is pushed in. The chair automatically does the rest:

A collar slaps around his neck, spraying jets of lubricating fluid. Then a bar springs up between his legs with a second collar that locks his head in place. The chair slides back, slamming under the funnel with a CLUNK.

The guard moves a lever a tiny click from zero. A blast of steam. Light streams up from the collar as the chair raises up, positioning Simon's head under the funnel. His face appears in the monitor. We hear his muffled screaming:

SIMON

No, don't do it! I can't take the pain!...

GUARD #2

What pain? It's over.

Another guard, KEVIN, is mopping the floors. His mop handle catches the lever and flips to full power. The machine SHRIEKS and Simon disappears in a swirl of steam.

Simon slides back, a smile frozen on his face. As the chair slams to a stop, his whole body SLOSHES forward, spilling out onto the platform in a puddle of primordial ooze.

The guards look at the guy with the mop, who shrugs stupidly.

GUARD #2

Kevin...

Koopa steps out of Kevin's way as he starts mopping up Simon. He turns back to Mario and Luigi.

KOOPA

Well, you get the idea. It'll be interesting to see what happens to you -- I understand your people evolved from bunny rabbits.

MARIO

Monkeys.

KOOPA

Whatever, mammals. Cute furry things.

MARIO

How'd you like a cute furry fist?

Mario steps forward. Koopa snaps his head in a strange, snake-like motion. A jet of spit splatters the floor by Mario's shoe. It hisses and crackles on the cement -- acid.

Luigi rushes to Mario's aid, but Mario holds up his hand.

MARIO

Fine, we're bunnies. What the hell did you evolve from?

KOOPA

Tyrannosaurus Rex. King of the lizards. Now let's get on with it.
(he smiles at Luigi)
I've got a hot date.

Luigi lunges forward with clenched fist. But Mario steps in instead, throwing a whalloping punch to Koopa's jaw. Koopa takes a step back, rubbing his jaw...

KOOPA

How cute. A rabbit punch...

As he steps back, he hits a puddle of Simon, and slips right off his feet into the de-evolution chair.

SLAP-SLAP-WHOOSH-CLUNK! The machine automatically hurls Koopa back.

The guards shout and scramble to shut it off. It's chaos.

Mario and Luigi race to the end of the hall, where an alert guard is coming through the gate with a flame thrower. He levels it at Mario and Luigi and flicks on the pilot light.

Suddenly a section of wall reaches out and grabs the flame-thrower. It's Toad. Being part chameleon, his skin is able to blend in with the wall...

He clubs the guy with his own weapon. He's already changing back to normal... Toad grabs his clothes from the floor. Mario and Luigi look at each other.

LUIGI

Part chameleon...

TOAD

Come on!

They race through the gate, locking it behind them. Toad fries the computerized lock with the flame thrower.

BACK AT THE DE-EVOLUTION CHAMBER

The guards help a dazed Koopa to his feet. He looks normal. In fact, he has a healthy glow.

GUARD

You'd better sit down, sir...

KOOPA

I'm fine... Did me a world of good.
(he cracks his neck)
Where are those plumbers?

GUARD

Um... escaping?

KOOPA

STOP THEM, YOU IDIOTS!

As he shouts, his head seems to shift and swell subtly...

INT. PRISON - EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Rows of shelves are piled high with confiscated goods. Toad and the brothers enter and quickly barricade the door. Toad fries the video camera in the corner.

TOAD

We can't hide here for long. Let's grab some of this stuff.

LUIGI

Mario!

Luigi has found their toolbelts. Mario smiles. He notices something else on the shelf -- Daisy's stone.

MARIO

Hey, look what I found.

Toad hands Mario belts of AIR CARTRIDGES, a FIRE THROWER, and CANS OF TENNIS BALLS. Mario looks at the cans curiously.

TOAD

I'll tell you later.

Luigi has found Daisy's wishbone. He's lost in thought.

TOAD
Bunny boy! Put these on!

He tosses Mario and Luigi some "Air" Stompers. The guards outside start to push against the barricaded door.

MARIO
There's no time!

TOAD
Are you kidding? People kill for shoes like these. Just do it!

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Guards stream past. Koopa stands over the trembling young Adam, who punches buttons randomly around a dizzying array of monitors. The control board is BLINKING. Adam is sweating.

ADAM
I don't know how to work this stuff.
The regular guy, he's... he's...

KOOPA
Where?

ADAM
Um, on your shoe.

An oozing bit of Simon still clings to Koopa's boot. He scrapes it furiously on a chair, then sees the darkened EVIDENCE ROOM monitor.

KOOPA
The stone... Come with me.

Koopa stomps off, dragging Adam along.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT

A HERO SHOT: Mario and Luigi buckle their toolbelts, ready for action. Mario shoves a plunger down into his belt and cocks his fire thrower. Luigi tightens a fastener on his over-sized pneumatic "Air" Stompers.

As they exit out the back door, the guards burst through the front. Toad takes a tiny wind-up plastic BOB-OMB and sets it down. It's kind of cute the way it waddles across the floor.

Guards pour into the room, then stop dead in their tracks.

GUARD #5
It's a... It's a... bo-bomb!

INT. POLICE STATION - OUTSIDE THE EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT

The guards dive out the door as the whole room EXPLODES!

INT. POLICE STATION - BACK STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Toad catches up to Mario and Luigi as they hear the muffled explosion from above. SKRUK! SKRUK! SKRUK! Their "Air" Stompers make springy sounds as they head down the stairs.

Mario holds up his hand, signaling them to stop.

Several stories down, a stream of figures are climbing up. Their turtle-like armor makes CLANKING SOUNDS.

TOAD

Goombas. Quick...

Toad unslings his flame thrower and grabs the can of tennis balls from Mario. Toad loads them into the fire thrower.

MARIO

Tennis balls?

Toad hits a switch, turning on the gun's pilot light.

TOAD

Uh-huh. Filled with jet fuel.

The GOOMBAS are only a floor away, screaming up the stairs.

Toad starts firing the gun. 1... 2... 3... The balls light and go bouncing down the stairs. The Goombas turn and run.

Toad reloads and fires, creating a light show as they bound down the stairwell. Out of balls, he throws down the gun.

LUIGI

Well, that was easy.

TOAD

We want to go up now... Fast!

BOOM! A HUGE FIREBALL shoots up the stairwell. They turn and run up the stairs. The FIREBALL races after them...

EXT. POLICE STATION - ROOF - NIGHT

They burst through the roof door, screaming. Fire belches after them like a dragon...

The collapse on the roof, too exhausted for witty dialogue. As Mario pushes himself up, his hand goes through the roof.

MARIO

Man -- what is with this place?

They get up. The whole roof feels ready to collapse.

TOAD

Walk lightly up here. It's rotted out. Damn fungus...

MARIO

Great. A building with Athlete's Foot.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT

The door slams open and Koopa enters, dragging Adam in tow.

ADAM

The, uh, the most recent prisoners' effects would be on this shelf here.

Adam gulps as he points to a totally empty shelf. It's where Mario retrieved the stone and their toolbelts. Koopa scowls.

KOOPA

Have yourself de-evolved. It'll do you some good.

EXT. POLICE STATION - ROOF - NIGHT

Guards emerge from the roof door. They spot our boys on the other side and race toward them...

The roof is crumbling beneath them. The guards slow to avoid disturbing the roof. They tiptoe forward...

HEAD GUARD

Take your time. They're not going anywhere...

Toad, Mario and Luigi tenderly walk to the edge of the roof.

MARIO

What now, theory boy?

TOAD

We leap from roof to roof...

The next roof is two stories up.

LUIGI

What's the other plan?

TOAD

That's it. Look...

Oh boy. A lot of guards are coming after them. Toad pulls two small cartridges from his belt, labeled "Bullet Bill!™"

TOAD

Load up!

They watch him load the cartridges into his "Air" Stompers, and do the same. Luigi pulls out a green cartridge

TOAD

No, the blue ones -- full stomp!

Luigi pockets the green cartridge and fumbles for a blue one. They shove in the cartridges... The boots make a HYDRAULIC SOUND as they rise up on their toes. A SERIES OF BEEPS...

MARIO

Great. Now what?

TOAD

Turn around... And click your heels together three times.

MARIO

You're kidding, aren't you?

He isn't. Mario and Luigi shrug, turn around and CLICK...

LUIGI

There's no place like hoooooooo...

SHHWUNGKUNKUNK! They BLAST up into the air.

THE GUARDS

The guards watch hopelessly, then realize that the force of the shoes has shaken the building to pieces. It's RUMBLING.

HEAD GUARD

I could scream.

EXT. POLICE STATION ROOF - WIDE SHOT - NIGHT

He does. They all scream as the entire side of the building falls crumbling to the earth.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE ROOF - NIGHT

Mario, Luigi and Toad come flying up from below, screaming their heads off as they land in a heap.

They rise, rubbing their aching muscles. Their shoes are covered with frost from the compressed nitrogen cartridges.

EXT. POLICE STATION ROOF - NIGHT

Koopa SLAMS open the roof door just in time to see the edge of the building collapse. He roars with anger, regressing.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE ROOF - NIGHT

Mario, Luigi and Toad move to an exit stairway leading down. They look back to see Koopa shaking his fist.

MARIO

Come on. We'd better hurry.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Mario, Luigi and Toad clamber down. SKRUK! SCRUK! SKRUK! Their "Air" Stompers echo on the metal steps.

TOAD

SHHHH!

skruk... skruk... skruk... Mario whispers:

MARIO

Why do we have to be quiet?

They reach the ground level. Toad pushes open a door...

INT. PARKING GARAGE - POLICE LEVEL - NIGHT

It's the police parking garage, with a dozen police cars. They duck back in the doorway. Luigi peeks out again.

LUIGI

Hey, nobody's here.

One cop car is idling. They move toward it...

Two dozen COPS walk in, eating meat donuts, discussing the roof mishap next door.

One of them spots them getting into the squad car.

SUSPICIOUS COP

HEY! YOU! Get away from there!
What do you think you're doing?

MARIO

Just coming over from maintenance.
Got a call to check this baby out.

Mario holds up a pipe wrench hopefully. A few other cops are walking over to join the suspicious cop.

SUSPICIOUS COP

Yeah? What's wrong with it?

MARIO

Um... unintended acceleration.

He jumps in and slams on the accelerator. The squad car SQUEALS toward the exit. Cops dive out of the way, then rush to the other cars to chase after them.

A black and yellow gate arm comes down at the exit. Mario CRASHES through it. The broken pieces tumble in the air...

INT. MARIO'S POLICE CAR - NIGHT

The windshield is a smashed web of glass. Mario can't see a thing. Luigi clears the glass out with a pry bar and sees:

A battered BUS is heading right for them. Mario swerves.

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT

Mario's police car spins and SMASHES into another vehicle. SPARKS RAIN DOWN as the electric rods skip over the grid.

Mario backs up. SMASH. He hits another car, which backs up, then accelerates into Mario for another hit. CRUNCH. Mario sideswipes another vehicle, trying to escape. MORE SPARKS.

It looks like a cross between a bumper car ride and a violent demolition derby. SIRENS BLARE. The other cops stream out.

But now Mario has started a chain reaction. Cars smash into cars pell mell. The drivers seem happy for an excuse to get back at the cops. They CRASH into the cop cars at random.

Mario's car is boxed in. A battered PIMPMOBILE stands between them and the clear road.

INT. MARIO'S POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Mario searches the dashboard. WHAM. They take a hit. Toad cringes in back.

MARIO

Ow! Luigi, see if you can find a siren or something?

Luigi hits a button. A gun turret WHIRRS from the hood and fires a STREAM OF ACID, soaking the pimpmobile.

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT

The driver scrambles out as the entire car DISSOLVES into a puddle. Mario floors it and drives right through it.

The squad cars swarm through the gap in hot pursuit.

INT. MARIO'S POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Mario, Luigi and Toad are jazzed.

LUIGI

We gotta get one of those for the van.

Toad suddenly points. A huge STREET-SOILER is rumbling into their path, spewing vile debris...

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN STREET - NIGHT

Mario swerves hard, scraping along a wall. Just as they reach the mammoth truck, a gap opens and they scrape through. The cop cars follow right behind them...

INT. MARIO'S POLICE CAR - NIGHT

These guys are cooking now. Toad and Luigi point...

TOAD AND LUIGI

AAAAAAA!

They're heading right for a RAILROAD TRESTLE.

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN STREET - RAILROAD TRESTLE - NIGHT

They hit the trestle -- the cement disintegrates harmlessly, infested with fungus. Mario regains control of the car and floors it.

The elevated track, however, CRASHES spectacularly to the street, bringing the ELEVATED TRAIN down with it.

INT. POLICE SQUAD CAR - BY RAILROAD TRESTLE - NIGHT

Two cops look up with alarm and disbelief:

An entire train is running down the street in front of them.

EXT. PARALLEL MANHATTAN STREET - RAILROAD TRESTLE - NIGHT

Half a dozen squad cars crash into the side of the train with a cacophony of BREAKING GLASS, CRUNCHING METAL, and CURSING.

CUT TO:

INT. MARIO'S POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Mario cruises down a straightaway. The city recedes as they reach the outskirts. Toad is enthusing about their escape.

TOAD

Saved by the fungus.

LUIGI

What is with this fungus, anyway?

TOAD

Oh. It happened after Koopa took over, the whole city started rotting away. It's Karma.

MARIO

You mean, what goes around comes around?

TOAD

No... King Karma. Koopa got rid of him -- had him de-evolved into a single cell organism and flicked him out the window. Now he's growing back, getting revenge. That's my theory, anyway. Hey, watch out!

The passengers are shaken as the car grinds to a halt...

EXT. DESERT ROADSIDE - NIGHT

The road has disappeared. The car is mired in sand. They're in the middle of a desert, under a full moon. They get out and look back at the city:

A gleaming metropolis rises out of a vast, barren wasteland.

MARIO

Say, um, where exactly are we now?

TOAD

We're in the desert.

MARIO

I can see that. Where did it come from?

TOAD

It's always been here. Just the city, surrounded by a vast wasteland. Don't you have that back where you come from?

LUIGI

We have Jersey.

There's a RUMBLE behind them. Toad turns in that direction and sets off walking into the desert.

MARIO

Now where are you going?

TOAD

There's this great club around here somewhere...

LUIGI

Club?

TOAD

It'll be a good place to lie low.

CUT TO:

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - KOOPA'S SUITE - NIGHT

Koopa stands at the corner window, surveying his domain. His pupils are reptilian slits now.

KOOPA

Now that I've experienced it, I know. The inner, primal self -- so much hungrier than I would have imagined. You know. Don't you? You can see and feel and touch... and laugh. But you won't laugh at me much longer. Soon it will be in place. And you'll see. I'll show you. You rotten bastard...

We PULL BACK: The raised platform Koopa's desk is on has slid back to reveal an elaborate SUNKEN PIT. Rising from the pit is a slinking, pulsing mass of FUNGUS.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - HOLDING AREA - CELL - NIGHT

The door opens. Two guards enter and take Daisy by the arm.

GUARD

Koopa wants you.

DANIELLA

You can't just drag one of us out of here. What does he want with her?

GUARD

Dinner.

Daniella shoots Daisy a look: "Aren't we special?"

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - KOOPA'S SUITE - NIGHT

The platform covers the fungus pit now. The two guards enter with Daisy. She is furious.

DAISY

Look, who are you? What do you want with us?

KOOPA

It's just you I want.

This makes Daisy understandably nervous. She steels herself.

DAISY

I'd like to go home now.

KOOPA

(he smiles)

You are home.

She looks at him. She can sense the truth in his words.

DAISY

Those... those two guys said I was kidnapped, as a baby. They mentioned my parents. Are they here? I mean, are you?... You're not... my father?

She turns. Koopa looks massively irritated.

KOOPA

No.

Koopa seems a little flustered as he moves to his private elevator and hits the button.

KOOPA

Both your parents were killed during an uprising here, twenty years ago. Your mother was part of a ruling elite -- the Portal-Keepers.

(a beat)

I don't really look old enough to be your father, do I?

DAISY

Look, what do you want with me?

He smiles charmingly and leads her into the elevator...

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - DIMENSIONAL DEVICE ROOM - NIGHT

The elevator doors open. Guards stand at attention as Koopa escorts Daisy to a huge metal SPHERE in the middle of the room. Actually, it looks sort of like an egg. Its surface is etched with the same pictographs we saw near the Portal. It is battered and scorched from failed attempts to open it.

KOOPA

The Portal-Keepers jealously guarded their secrets... and the power of the meteorite. But this most of all...

Thick cables trail down from a control panel to a metal plate on the floor. Koopa drags her over to the plate.

KOOPA

As the last of the Portal-Keepers, you share their unique genetic traits. You hold the key...

DAISY

The key to what?

He pushes her onto the plate. The whole apparatus LIGHTS UP, scanning across Daisy's body. The control panel HUMS.

WIDE SHOT - THE SPHERE

A network of glowing lines spreads out over the surface. Large sections rotate and detach like a Chinese puzzle. Finally, the sections open: Inside, is ANOTHER METAL SPHERE.

Koopa looks annoyed. Then it begins again. Only this time, the sections iris downward from the top...

DAISY

What is it?

Koopa smiles as he approaches. The device inside looks like a photographic enlarger -- but not as sturdy. A depression at top matches the shape of the stone from Daisy's egg.

KOOPA

With this device, I will rejoin the dimension we were split from millions of years ago... This city will merge into your world, as its new capitol. I will be its king. And you...

He trails off.

DAISY

What about me?

KOOPA

You must be hungry. Please, come
and join me for dinner.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT WORLD - NIGHT

A tent-like structure, half buried in the sand. A strong
DRUM BEAT throbs from inside. It's a desert nightclub.

INT. NIGHT WORLD - NIGHT

Desert-dwellers dance on the floor and thrash in the
shadows. A percussion-heavy, hard rocking ensemble is
playing on a rough wooden stage, THE 'SAURS.

Toad leads the brothers to meet his friends, MANNIS, FODOR
and FREEMAN. They are well-meaning, liberal types, total
misfits in this reptilian world.

A waitress brings a plate of appetizers. Mario digs in
before realizing it's raw meat. He put it back, looking for
something to wipe his fingers on.

Mannis gestures to Luigi, sitting there glumly.

MANNIS

What's the matter with him?

TOAD

Koopa kyped his girlfriend.

FREEMAN

Koopa, man. What were we thinking
when we voted for him?

MARIO

You elected this guy?

FODOR

Well, sort of.

TOAD

You can vote -- but only for Koopa.
You can vote for Koopa the
Statesman, Koopa the Despot, Koopa
the Stud...

FODOR

This, in our opinion, does not
constitute a true democracy.

MARIO

Why doesn't someone run against him?

They think about this.

MANNIS

Well, Koopa the Sensitive ran,
but...

MARIO

No, I mean someone other than Koopa.

FREEMAN

Oh, I don't know. Koopa wouldn't
like that.

MARIO

No wonder this place sucks. You
guys are pathetic. At least Koopa
takes charge of things...

They sort of look down at the table, ashamed.

FODOR

It's just, we're... herbivores.
We're not confrontational by nature.

LUIGI

Herbivores? Then why are you eating
raw meat?

They stop in mid-bite.

MANNIS

What are we supposed to do? Call
the waitress over, tell her this
isn't what we ordered, ask her to
bring us what we want?

MARIO

Yes, damn it! You can't go through
life accepting whatever Koopa puts
in front of you. If everybody hates
him, why don't you get together and
kick the son of a bitch out?

FODOR

Because it's against the law, that's
why.

TOAD

Well, now wait, Mario's got a point.
I mean, what have we got to lose?
How can things get any worse?

MANNIS

He could kill us, that's how.

TOAD

He can't kill us if we all stick together. We've got to face our problems. Stand up to authority.

People scream as the door busts down.

BAND MEMBER

It's a raid!

A dozen uniformed troopers storm in -- the ENERGY POLICE. Club patrons run in terror as they unplug and confiscate the band's equipment, and start rounding up the club's personnel.

FODOR

The Energy Police! RUN!

MANNIS

Run away!

FREEMAN

If we all run away together, they won't be able to catch us!

Toad hustles Mario, Luigi and his friends out the back.

CUT TO:

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - KOOPA'S SUITE - NIGHT

Daisy is brought before an expansive banquet table. The room's been straightened up since we last saw it. Koopa smiles, gestures for her to sit across the table from him.

KOOPA

Your two plumber friends are safe,
by the way. But they've run off.
(nonchalantly)

It's too bad. All I need is that stone and everyone can just go home.

He casually takes a bite.

KOOPA

You wouldn't have any ideas where they might have gone to?

She shakes her head. Koopa picks up a bloody chunk of raw meat and scarfs it down. He gestures to the table.

DAISY

I'm a vegetarian.
 (off his look)
 I only eat vegetables.

KOOPA

I know what it means. It's just...
 you seem so vital and alive...
 Isn't it terribly boring?

DAISY

Yes.

KOOPA

Well, it's an endless battle, isn't
 it? It's always a struggle denying
 your appetites. Me, I'm a
 Carnivore. I have an endless desire
 for flesh.

He's looking at her pointedly. She's looking nervous. His
 face twitches involuntarily and he looks away.

DAISY

Yes. Well... As human beings, we
 learn to suppress our animal
 instincts. I mean, sometimes you
 feel like killing someone, that
 doesn't mean you go out and do it,
 does it?

KOOPA

Not always.
 (a beat)
 Look, there's something you should
 know: You and I, everybody in this
 world, we're different from the
 people in that other place you came
 from.

DAISY

Brooklyn.

KOOPA

Right. Those people evolved from
 bunnies. But we are reptiles. We
 evolved from dinosaurs.

Daisy is looking at him like he's daft.

DAISY

Oh, really...

Koopa smiles as he gets up and leans across the table. He
 picks up her steak, dripping with blood, and holds it up.

KOOPA

Yoshi!

A GALLOPING SOUND echoes from the hall, and from around the corner emerges... a four-foot tall baby Tyrannosaurus Rex. YOSHI gulps down the steak with barely a chew.

Daisy is speechless. She gets up for a closer inspection.

KOOPA

Go ahead -- you can pet him. Just try not to move your fingers around like a small wounded animal.

Daisy carefully pets it with almost... maternal fondness.

DAISY

He's real...

Daisy sits back on the couch, overwhelmed. Yoshi tries to jump up with her. Koopa yanks his leash.

KOOPA

Yoshi. Down.

Koopa moves gracefully onto the couch next to Daisy. He lowers his voice intimately.

KOOPA

Deep inside, you've always known you were different from everyone else. Known that you were special...

Daisy nods numbly. Yoshi rubs up against Koopa's leg, but he tries to ignore it as he leans in.

KOOPA

Drawn to things, excited by things you didn't understand... Those are the things from this world. My world.

Daisy is hypnotized by his suddenly reptilian eyes. Yoshi sticks his head up between them, breaking his spell.

KOOPA

Excuse me.

He drags Yoshi to the door. A BOOTING SOUND is followed by YIPPING. Koopa locks the door and returns, trying to compose himself. Daisy tries to move away, but his gaze freezes her.

KOOPA

Something has been missing from your life, hasn't it? A hole needing to be filled... That's because you belong here with us. With me...

Daisy leans in toward Koopa. Koopa responds... aroused, hungry... then suddenly convulsing with a GROWL.

Koopa's face turns reptilian, regressing. His pupils narrow to slits. He shakes his head, pulls himself back together. Daisy's dazed expression vanishes, and she screams.

He pins her down, but this arouses him even more...

OUTSIDE KOOPA'S DOOR

Spike and Iggy are about to knock.

SPIKE

Are you sure we should disturb him?

IGGY

He sent for us, didn't he.

A ROAR emanates from within.

IGGY

Let's come back another time.

INT. KOOPA'S SUITE - NIGHT

Koopa ROARS LOUDER, changing... He turns and hides his face as Daisy struggles free and runs to the door. Locked.

Koopa staggers to his console and angrily pushes a button.

KOOPA

Guard. Damn it. TAKE HER AWAY!

He sees his reflection on the screen and SMASHES it.

EXT. DESERT - TOAD'S TENT - NIGHT

A set of footsteps lead to a small low-lying tent. A light flickers inside... A gas-powered generator belches smoke.

INT. TOAD'S TENT - NIGHT

They're all watching TV. Luigi explodes at them...

LUIGI

How can you just sit there and watch TV? I don't know about you guys, but I've got to do something.

Toad gets up and puts his hand on Luigi's shoulder.

TOAD

Cheer up. If it makes you feel any better, it's hopeless. Koopa is all powerful. That's why we vote for him.

LUIGI

No one is unbeatable. There has to be some way to bust Daisy out!

Toad shakes his head, and flicks the remote control.

ON TV

"THE PROPAGANDA CHANNEL" LOGO. A MONTAGE of Koopa addressing his military hoards... Massive weapons. Stockpiles of arms.

TOAD

We're talking about a society where the security forces outnumber the civilians three-to-one. And Koopa's Tower. Forget about it. Double and triple sentries of elite guards. All heavily armed...

BACK TO SCENE

Toad shakes his head. Luigi isn't convinced.

LUIGI

We've got to at least try. It's time somebody took some action!

MARIO

I'll tell you what action I'm going to take. I'm going to bed. And in the morning, I think we should actively get back to Brooklyn.

(off Luigi's look)

Come on, you heard him. If she's in that Tower, there's no way to get to her. It's impregnable.

TOAD

(he points)

Wait a minute...

ON TV

A happy newscaster reads cheerfully and smiles. A PICTURE OF DAISY fills the screen behind them.

HAPPY NEWSCASTER

... after the golf tournament and political rally, be sure and stay tuned for Koopa's public execution fund raiser... She's a beautiful victim, isn't she, Mort?

MORTON

She's a babe. And she's going to ride the lightning.

HAPPY NEWSCASTER

You know, I can't remember the last time Koopa held a public execution.

MORTON

Well, he's a very private individual. Usually likes to do these things quietly, without making a big fuss.

HAPPY NEWSCASTER

Don't forget, we'll have live coverage of that golf tournament and execution tomorrow morning, starting at nine.

BACK TO SCENE

FREEMAN

This is terrible. This is horrible. They're going to make her sit through an entire golf tournament, and then kill her.

They all look at Luigi. Luigi looks at Mario.

LUIGI

You can go back to Brooklyn, Mario. I'm going to get Daisy before that golf game.

MARIO

Hold it. First of all, you're going to get yourself killed. And second of all, if you really want to get Daisy, the way to do it is to get her at the golf game.

They look at Mario quizzically.

MARIO

Right now she's in a fortress. But tomorrow she'll be in a parkway, and everyone'll be busy putting around...

TOAD

Yeah, you're right.

MARIO

I mean, it's golf. How dangerous can it be? We go in, we get Daisy, we make Koopa look like a moron.

Everyone's getting pretty worked up about this idea.

FREEMAN

On television!

FODOR

You'll catch him with his plaid pants down!

TOAD

You can do it.

MARIO

You're goddamn right we can.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Mario and Luigi sleep out under the stars. Toad's given them some blankets. The strange skyline twinkles in the distance.

LUIGI

Mario?

MARIO

I didn't say we'd do it. I said we could do it.

LUIGI

I know you always get stuck doing things for me...

MARIO

It's 3 AM. Let's dwell on it.

LUIGI

I was ready to go in by myself. I was ready to take the consequences.

MARIO

The consequence is death. I think you should work your way up to that. Maybe try packing your own lunch, or putting gas in the van... Before you know it, you'll be ready for death.

Silence...

LUIGI

Mario?

A faint grunt...

LUIGI

Sometimes, when we get in trouble like this -- well, we've never gotten into trouble like this -- but even trouble in our own dimension... you ever wonder what pop would do?

MARIO

Yeah. You know what he'd say right now?

LUIGI

What?

MARIO

Shut the hell up and go to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - KOOPA'S SUITE - THE FUNGUS - NIGHT

Koopa is standing over the fungus.

KOOPA

Sometimes I think back. Before I gave my life over to greed and ambition. God, was I bored...

He goes and looks out the window.

KOOPA

So I'm glad. I really am. I should thank you.

(a pause)

But the girl... she made it tolerable. I barely talked to her - - we weren't allowed to talk to the Portal-Keepers. I even tried to let her go when the shit started flying.

(he laughs)
 You'd have killed me if you'd known.
 Should have done it when you had the
 chance.

He flicks out the lights. The fungus seems to glow.

FADE OUT

HIGH DEFINITION VIDEO - MONTAGE OF SPORTS FOOTAGE

A crescendo of triumphant MUSIC. A flurry of COMPUTER GRAPHICS. A MONTAGE of painful sports footage...

ANNOUNCER

From the agony of victory...

A RACE CAR crosses a finish line in flames, then explodes.

ANNOUNCER

To the even worse agony of defeat...
 It's KBC's Violent World of Sports.

The "Violent World" LOGO WIPES to our hosts, MORTON & WENDY, standing before a willowy golf course and the Koopa Sands entrance, complete with a 12-FOOT GOLF BALL on a giant tee.

MORTON

Welcome to Koopa Sands, where the city's top "players" are arriving for the Koopa Command Invitational Golf Tournament. And I can't imagine a better day to whack it around.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - MORTON AND WENDY - DAY

Now we see the cameras, the panoramic vista behind them, and a large crowd. SIGNS read "RE-ELECT KOOPA, THE SPORTSMAN."

WENDY

That's right, Morton. It's refreshing to see a great man like Koopa working out his political differences over a friendly game of golf, don't you think? Ah, and here he comes now...

The crowd turns to the sound of LOUD CRUNCHING. A MONSTER LIMO crushes over the parked cars as the crowd applauds.

MORTON

While Koopa makes his way to the Clubhouse, let's take a look at some of the players on the slate...

EXT. LOT OUTSIDE CLUBHOUSE - DAY

The "players" arrive like stars at the Academy Awards, each with a stunning escort. A career diplomat with darting eyes.

WENDY

Kyle Davenport, Koopa's Energy Ax.

A squat, pompous-looking man with a cigar...

MORTON

Otto Krem, Koopa's powerful henchman. Too powerful? We've all heard those rumors about a possible Goomba Coup.

WENDY

Gesundheit. Ha-ha.

A swaggering playboy dressed to kill...

MORTON

Propaganda Commissar and ladies' man, Hark Breland. Some say he dresses better than Koopa the Dapper...

WENDY

That's got to ruffle the big guy's feathers. And now here he is, the man who gets our vote as a real winner, Koopa the Sportsman...

Koopa arrives with Lena. Her shorts distract the cameraman.

KOOPA

Thank you, Wendy.

(addressing the crowd)

I want to thank my political allies for coming out in the spirit of sportsmanship. I think you'll find my new course uniquely challenging.

EXT. KOOPA'S GOLF COURSE - HOLE ONE - DAY

Koopa swings. THWOCK. The crowd applauds his perfect drive.

MORTON

A magnificent drive gets this game underway. That is right at it, Wendy.

SERIES OF QUICK CLOSE SHOTS - OFF THE TEE

The balls are whacked in succession off the tee. The crowd is clapping politely, but Hark looks disheartened.

MORTON

Oh, that one's going in the sand.
Hark looks pretty unhappy about
that.

AT THE SAND TRAP

Hark rolls up his pants legs. As he sizes up the shot he notices he's sinking. It's quicksand. He motions frantically to his caddy, who offers him a shorter club.

HARK

No, you idiot, get me out of here!

The caddy looks at Koopa, who shakes his head.

KOOPA

You must play through. Don't be
unsportsmanlike.

Hark thrashes as he sinks, the ball bobbing on the surface as he disappears. He finally connects and the ball pops out. A smattering of applause as his club finally sinks from sight.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - NEAR EXECUTION STAND - DAY

Mario and Luigi peer out from behind a row of GOLF CARTS.

The platform is a high-tech Frankenstein table, connected to the grid to zap the prisoner. Daisy is strapped in with a flowing dress and a huge blindfold. Two guards stand sentry.

LUIGI

Two of them, two of us. Let's go...

MARIO

Whoa -- hold on. The further Koopa
gets down the course, the better...

LUIGI

Okay... We'll wait.

A TV MINIVAN pulls up and a large crew starts setting up. The guards snap to attention. One gets on a walkie-talkie.

Twenty more guards file out of the clubhouse, straightening their uniforms for the cameras. A corps of Goombas sport riot gear, with large turtle-like shields.

Luigi gives Mario the "I told you so" look.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - WATER HAZARD - DAY

A ball sails down into the water with a SPLASH.

WENDY (V.O.)

Oooh, that's a bad break for Krem...
That water's a real hazard.

Otto and his caddy approach the water. Otto looks at Koopa.

KOOPA

Maybe your caddy can find the ball.

Otto's caddy steps in. The water boils as he is yanked under by a giant RAZOR FISH. Koopa points to the water.

KOOPA

Maybe you can find it.

ON TV

Morton and Wendy wince.

MORTON

Well, I'd say this is a good time
for a word from our sponsor.

INSERT - PARALLEL "NIKE" COMMERCIAL

A short, bald-headed black guy with thick glasses, and a gold medallion that reads PLUTO, blinks into the camera.

PLUTO

My man Koopa's got a new pair of
shoes. Where'd he go? D'you know?
D'you know? D'you know?

A HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLING SOUND like an incoming missile. SHHWUNGKUNKUNK! Koopa lands on PLUTO with a pair of "Air" Stompers, crushing him from the frame. Smiles to the camera.

TITLE: KOOPA FOR "AIR" STOMPERS

KOOPA

Just stomp it.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Morton and Wendy are smiling before the cameras.

MORTON

Now let's pick up the action on the 9th, where I think Kyle Davenport is deciding between a two and three iron.

ON TV - TRACKING - JUNGLE

Kyle is pinned beneath the foot of a T. Rex, feebly whacking it with his golf club.

MORTON (V.O.)

Guess he shoulda gone with the three.

EXT. NEAR EXECUTION STAND - BEHIND TV MINIVAN - DAY

Luigi is squirming impatiently as he surveys the platform. Suddenly, the guards all walk away from the stand. The TV crew is setting up a series of interviews with the guards off to the side. Daisy is left unguarded. Luigi looks at Mario.

MARIO

All right. Let's do it.

They run up the platform. Luigi yanks off the blindfold...

LUIGI

Daisy, we're... Hey, you're not...

It's Iggy. He smiles bitterly.

IGGY

My prince, you've come.

The guards race back to surround them.

MARIO

It's a trap. This is so humiliating.

IGGY

How do you think I feel? I had to shave my arms.

Guards are coming up the steps. Mario throws a turtle-shaped shield and sends a few of them tumbling back. It's no use...

LUIGI

Are we in trouble yet?

MARIO

No, we've shot straight past trouble. We're in deep...

HONK-HONK! It's Toad and his gang -- in golf carts! They pull up behind the grandstand, directly beneath them.

TOAD

Come on -- jump!

Mario and Luigi hesitate -- the guards are closing fast. They jump, bounce off the canvas tops and land on the ground. They scramble into the carts.

Guards pile into two armed "Desert Storm"-style carts. They crest the hill and unleash a volley of Gila Missiles™.

TOAD

They're locked in on the carts.
Jump!

Everyone piles out. The missiles hit the carts and EXPLODE. Unfortunately, they blow out the bottom of the grandstand...

METAL SCREECHES as the bleachers collapse, toppling the huge tee at the entrance. The 12 foot golf ball slips off the top and rolls down the ramp formed by the collapsed bleachers.

The ball bounds across the turf and flattens the two desert storm carts as they close in. But more guards are pouring out of the clubhouse. Mario pulls Luigi across the course...

EXT. GOLF COURSE - WAR ZONE - DAY

Hole 18. Shaky CNN-type footage. Someone yells "FORE!" Players dive as the ground is rocked by EXPLOSIONS. One steps on a mine and is blown twenty feet to the green.

MORTON

Nice. Right on the green.

WENDY

Koopa just needs to make this last hole and it's all over.

A GOLF TANK bounces over the green. The hatch opens; Koopa sizes up the green. He closes the hatch. The gun turret whirrs into position over the hole. WHUMP!WHUMP!WHUMP!WUMP!

The smoke clears, and what was once a flag on a green, is now an enormous crater. Koopa hops down triumphantly.

What's left of the crowd screams...

The 12-FOOT GOLF BALL is thundering right toward them. They leap out of the way. It bounces off the stands and rolls on.

EXT. DENSE FOLIAGE - MARIO AND LUIGI

Mario and Luigi reach a clearing and stop. A TYRANNOSAURUS rears up in front of them and ROARS. They turn -- behind them, PIRANHA PLANTS coil back eagerly.

Mario unfurls a drain snake from his toolbelt and snaps it like an action/adventure character with a bullwhip. He lashes out across its snout. The T. Rex looks at Mario like he's out of his mind. Luigi does the same.

MARIO

Okay... You try something.

Luigi points up in the air and screams.

LUIGI

Look out! Behind you!

MARIO

He's not going to fall for that.

Luigi pushes him aside. The giant golf ball rolls past them.

The T. Rex rears back, growling and snapping at the ball -- like a classic Ray Harryhausen scene, only with a golf ball.

BOOM! The golf ball disintegrates with a blast. The T. Rex retreats into the trees as Koopa's tank bursts through.

Mario and Luigi scramble through the growth and emerge onto:

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DESERT - DAY

It's overflowing with guards. The brothers are trapped. A helicopter touches down in the b.g., blowing up sand. Toad's friends are already being led to it...

Koopa's tank bursts through the jungle and rumbles to a stop. The hatch opens -- Koopa smiles for the cameras.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE DESERT - DAY

The guards are holding Luigi. Mario is staked out in the sand. They've been stripped of their toolbelts. Koopa stands over Mario, hefting the stone in his hand.

KOOPA

Well, once again you've come through for me...

MARIO

And once again you're killing me. When will you ever learn?

LUIGI

Look, you've got what you need. Why don't you just let us go back home?

KOOPA

In a few hours you won't have a home. With this stone, I'll be able to channel the energy from the meteorite to merge this world into yours. Your "New York" will completely disappear.

MARIO

Replaced by a city full of aggressive reptile jerks. It's brilliant. They might not even notice...

KOOPA

Say good-bye to your brother, plumber. He's going to die in the ice dungeon, eaten by razor fish... You've earned something a little more nasty.

Luigi protests:

LUIGI

Staked in the sand doesn't sound as bad as eaten by fish -- stake me in the sand.

Koopa points. Tiny animals move eerily beneath the surface.

KOOPA

Sand eels. They gnaw through the skin, burrow into the body cavities, and lay their larvae. It can take weeks for the host to die.

MARIO

(to Luigi)

The stake doesn't sound good. I'd have the fish.

LUIGI

No. If we're going to die, then it should be together.

Koopa motions the guards to haul Luigi to the helicopter.

MARIO

I guess we're just going to have to meet up later.

Koopa gets in and the helicopter takes off. Mario shuts his eyes as it kicks up sand...

HIGH ANGLE - HELICOPTER POV - MARIO

Rising off the desert, Mario becomes but a speck in the sand.

EXT. PARALLEL NEW YORK - HELICOPTER SHOT - DAY

We fly by the Statue of Repression, toward Koopa's Towers.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE DESERT - DAY

Mario struggles to get loose, but he is tightly bound. He looks to his left. Did the sand move just then? Yep.

He glances down by his feet. A sand-colored eel darts out, nuzzles his shoe, then disappears. Mario frantically begins to struggle. The leather bindings hold tight.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING AREA - ICE DUNGEON - DAY

Luigi is on a large block of ice floating in a dungeon full of water. Flame jets shoot from the wall at ice level.

Luigi leans over the ice. A giant RAZOR FISH leaps from the water and snaps, narrowly missing him.

LUIGI

Now I'm in trouble...

EXT. THE DESERT - DAY

Mario is freaking. An eel slithers over his leg.

MARIO

AAH! Oh, God...

(suddenly solemn)
 I don't care what happens to me, but
 if you're listening, please, just
 take care of my little brother...

AN UNNATURALLY DEEP VOICE BOOMS OUT:

VOICE
 MARIO! Why should I help you now?
 You've always been a jerk...

Mario is stunned...

MARIO
 Excuse me?

VOICE
 YOU'RE A JERK, MARIO! A JERK!

MARIO
 No! I mean, yes, but... I'll do
 better. It's just... I've been so
 disappointed with my life. But...

VOICE
 AN UNGRATEFUL JERK.

MARIO
 Yes, ungrateful, you're right. I
 have my health, I have my brother...
 I had a business until I ran it into
 the ground... But I'll do better, I
 swear, if you just give me a chance.

VOICE
 DENTAL HYGIENE!

An eel is licking Mario's ear.

MARIO
 What? Okay, I'll floss! I swear.
 I'll get a Waterpick! Oh please...

The voice starts to snicker... A large chunk of sand gets
 up and move toward Mario, convulsing with laughter. It's
 Toad!

TOAD
 If I let you go, you have to promise
 not to hit me.

MARIO
 HIT YOU! I'LL RIP YOUR HEAD OFF!

An huge fat eel, four feet long, rises between his legs.

MARIO

OKAY! I promise! Let me go...

DISSOLVE TO:

LONG SHOT - DESERT - DAY

Two figures track across the desert. Toad is mocking Mario:

TOAD

(imitating Mario)

"I'll floss... I promise not to hit you!"

MARIO

I didn't promise not to stab you.

In the foreground, is a raised ACCESS PIPE, this world's version of a manhole. Toad rushes to it.

TOAD

Access pipe. Come on -- let's get out of this sun.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING AREA - ICE DUNGEON - DAY

Luigi looks nervous. The ice is shrinking, and the Razor Fish looks hungry. He sits -- feels something in his pocket. It's the green "Air" Stomper™ cartridge. Luigi holds it out.

The fish jumps and snatches it before it hits the water.

INT. HOLDING AREA - OUTSIDE ICE DUNGEON - DAY

GUARD 87 leans back, thumbing a HOT TAILS magazine... BOOOM! The blast rocks him out of the chair.

INT. ICE DUNGEON - DAY

He opens the door. Everything in the cell is covered with fish guts, Luigi included.

GUARD

You killed the razor fish!
(sternly)
That's an endangered species.

INT. HOLDING AREA - DAISY'S CELL - DAY

Daisy is kneeling, petting Yoshi through the bars -- he likes her. Footsteps approach -- It's two guards with Luigi...

DAISY

Luigi!

Guard 87 leers at the girls as he tosses Luigi in the next cell. Luigi limps over to Daisy, and sits down painfully.

DAISY

Luigi... what did they do to you?

LUIGI

Nothing. Do I look that bad?

DAISY

No. You smell like fish, though.

(she smiles)

I still can't believe you came all this way for me.

LUIGI

Actually, I, uh, I'm not the kind of guy to chase a girl... not to other dimensions, anyway. I guess I must like you, you know... a lot.

DAISY

Yeah. Yeah, I like you too...

LUIGI

Oh, hey! Your bone...

(he digs in his pocket)

I found it at the dig.

He hands her the bone through the bars, holding one end. They look at each other for a moment.

GUARD 87 (O.C.)

Hey! What're you doing? No passing objects between the cells...

The guard starts opening the door to Luigi's cell. Yoshi watches him, eyes hooded, growling slightly.

LUIGI

Quick -- make a wish.

Daisy pauses, then pulls. She gets the bigger piece of bone. The guard grabs Luigi and lifts him off the ground.

GUARD 87

Hey, that's contraband -- gimme that!

Luigi takes the bone and jabs it in the guard's eye. He yelps and staggers out, cursing and holding his eye. The door slams. Yoshi yaps happily. Daisy grins...

DAISY
That was my wish!

CUT TO:

EXT. KOOPA'S TOWER - ACCESS PIPE - DAY

Mario and Toad pop up from an access pipe. They look up at Koopa's Tower, then duck back down. A cop tosses a crumpled DONUT LAND bag on Mario's head.

INT. PIPE ACCESS TUNNEL - DAY

They're at the foundation of the Tower. The pipes disappear through a cement wall. There's a door, locked.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - SUB-BASEMENT - PIPE ROOM - DAY

The door pops open. Mario is holding a pry bar. He and Toad enter, close the door behind them.

A huge pipe slopes up into the Tower some 30 feet above them. There's a door up there, and a walkway. Mario climbs on top of the pipe, where there's a hatch, and a large valve...

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - GUARD'S BATHROOM - DAY

The wishbone-poked Guard 87 blinks in the mirror, rinsing his eye. The water trickles to a stop... He looks down annoyed.

INT. SUB-BASEMENT - PIPE ROOM - DAY

Mario finishes tightening the valve and opens the hatch. Water shoots out like a geyser, knocking him off the pipe. Mario and Toad race up a stairway to the door as the room starts FILLING WITH WATER.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING AREA - LUIGI'S CELL - DAY

Guard 87 walks purposefully to Luigi's cell. He's wearing an eye patch and carrying a Stun Stick™.

GUARD 87
I checked your record. It says I
got to keep you alive...
(he unlocks the door)
But it didn't say anything about
permanent brain damage...

As he closes the door behind him, Yoshi sneaks in...

Yoshi is looking at the guard's trousers. Daisy nods, and Yoshi bites him in the ass.

The guard screams and drops his stick. When he turns, Luigi jumps him. The guard flips him on the ground and starts strangling him.

The stick rolls within Daisy's reach. She konks the guard on the head and he falls unconscious. Luigi takes his keys and lets himself out. He opens Daisy's cell... They embrace.

INT. HOLDING AREA - TOAD'S CELL - DAY

Toad's friends are busy moping in their cell when 24 beautiful women parade past. Luigi brings up the rear. He unlocks their cell...

INT. HOLDING AREA - CORRIDOR - MARIO - DAY

Mario and Toad freeze at a corner. A group of guards race by, heading for the flooding sub-basement. Mario notices a sign leading to...

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ICE DUNGEON - DAY

Mario pauses. Their toolbelts are hanging outside the door. He peers in, wiping the frost from the tiny window.

INT. ICE DUNGEON - DAY

The door lowers and Mario steps in. His heart sinks...

Bloody fish guts are smeared on the wall. A small chunk of ice bobs in the water. There's no sign of Luigi.

Mario steps back, shaken. Toad puts a hand on his shoulder.

GUARD (O.S.)

Hey!

A burly guard comes up behind him. Mario spins and grabs him with unprecedented fury, plowing him into the control box.

A hose breaks loose as Mario slams the guy's head into the wall. Gas spews out as the hose whips around. The guard's face slackens, frosting up as he slumps down unconscious.

The FREEZING LEVEL indicator sinks to BRIGHT BLUE...

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ICE DUNGEON - DAY

Mario exits, rubbing the warmth back into his hands. He picks up Luigi's belt and looks at it, lost in thought.

Suddenly, 23 beautiful women race past Mario. He doesn't even notice. Daisy and Luigi run by Mario as well.

A beat. Luigi comes back into frame.

LUIGI

Mario!

Mario looks up. His eyes brighten.

MARIO

Luigi! You're alive!
(they hug each other)
You smell like fish.

Mario hands Luigi his toolbelt.

LUIGI

Hey, you got our tools...

MARIO

You know what pop said... "Right tool for the right job."

LUIGI

"Take care of your tools, and they'll take care of you."

MARIO

"Your tools are your best friend."

Luigi smiles at Mario.

LUIGI

He was wrong.

Mario catches himself smiling.

MARIO

Yeah, sometimes...

Guards are CLANKING down the hall. Luigi grabs another belt on the wall, the one filled with "Air" Stomper cartridges.

MARIO

We're not gonna need those.

LUIGI

You never know. Come on!

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - SUB-BASEMENT - PIPE ROOM - DAY

Mario and Luigi come through the door. Everyone is huddled on the walkway. Below, the room is filled with water.

MARIO

There's a door down there. If we could open it, the water'd flow out.

(to Luigi)

I don't know if we can hold our breaths that long.

LUIGI

We've got the tools. Maybe we could rig some kind of breathing apparatus. Use the air in the cartridges and...

MARIO

We can hold our breaths.

SPLASH! Mario has already kicked off his boots and dived in. Luigi nods and does the same.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - SUB-BASEMENT - PIPE ROOM - UNDERWATER

Mario and Luigi swim down. Mario points to the door.

INT. PIPE ACCESS TUNNEL - DAY

A beat. The door flies open in a TORRENT OF WATER.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - SUB-BASEMENT - PIPE ROOM - UNDERWATER

Mario catches Luigi's hand as they're almost swept away... He hangs on to the doorknob. Luigi hangs onto Mario.

ON THE WALKWAY

Daisy looks down anxiously. The water level is rapidly sinking, but there's no sign of the brothers. Behind Daisy, the security panel on the door LIGHTS UP. Toad spots it.

TOAD

The door!

They all jam against the door. Toad grabs a heavy wrench from Mario's toolbelt. He SMASHES the security panel. The door is locked for the moment. The guards pound against it.

DANIELLA

Nice plan your boyfriend thought up:
Lead us to certain death, then drown himself.

Mario and Luigi surface, gasping for air. Daisy pushes Daniella ahead of her as they all run down the stairs.

Daisy wades in to Luigi and pulls him up. Toad splashes in to help Mario. He catches his breath.

MARIO

Take everyone back to the Portal and wait for me.

TOAD

Where are you going?

MARIO

Up.

LUIGI

Up? Why? Let's get outta here.

MARIO

It's my fault Koopa's got the stone. I've got to stop him.

Luigi has never seen his brother look so determined.

CUT TO:

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - DIMENSIONAL DEVICE ROOM - DAY

Koopa steps back, revealing the device. The sections of the metal egg surround it like protective petals. Technicians hook three heavy power cables into the sections.

KOOPA

What happens now? Read to me.

Koopa turns to an older techie, CLIVE, who's in charge of the dimensional device. Clive consults on old book, marked with the pictograms of the Portal-Keepers.

CLIVE

"Once charged, fully, insert in meteorite fragment, B... into it..."
Boy, who translates this stuff?

The LIGHTS DIM. They look to the device. It's glowing... Koopa moves to his new Head of Security.

KOOPA

Put all your men on alert. We'll want a quick show of force once we arrive, to demonstrate our superiority.

Koopa motions Lena over as the new Security Head exits.

LENA

Yes? A memo?

KOOPA
 Call the propaganda and TV
 department. I want this fully
 documented.

Lena looks disappointed as she turns and exits. Spike is transfixed by her ass.

SPIKE
 Yeah... For posterity.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - SUB-BASEMENT - PIPE ROOM - DAY

The last of the girls is out the door. Daisy remains behind.

DAISY
 I'm going up with you.

LUIGI
 Daisy, we came all this way to save
 you, not have you risk your life.

DAISY
 Look, it's because of me we're in
 this mess. I'm going.

Mario looks at Luigi. Luigi shrugs. Mario hands her one of his toolbelts, and moves to the big pipe.

MARIO
 All right, here's the plan. We
 crawl a hundred stories up this
 pipe...

DAISY
 Wait. This is your plan?

Mario climbs up and opens the hatch. Daisy shakes her head but climbs up onto the pipe along with Luigi.

MARIO
 What do you think? We're gonna take
 the elevator? This way we don't
 have to worry about any guards.

Mario hops down. He YELPS and jumps back out. Shivering, Mario reaches in and fishes out a chunk of ICE.

MARIO
 It's full of ice.

INT. HOLDING AREA - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ICE DUNGEON - DAY

The area by the ice dungeon has frozen as a result of Mario breaking the controls. Guards are slipping and falling. One guard reports to GUARD 87, who still has the eye patch.

GUARD

The water's shut off, so the cooling mechanism isn't working.

GUARD 87

We don't need a cooling mechanism!

GUARD

The cooling mechanism on the heating mechanism...

Guard 87 looks ready to strangle him.

GUARD

Um, maybe we should call a plumber...

GUARD 87

Yeah, right. You know how hard it is to find a plumber?...

In the b.g., Mario, Luigi and Daisy sneak by. Guard 87 sees them at the last moment, rushes forward but slips on the ice.

GUARD 87

Hey! HEY STOP THOSE GUYS!

INT. HOLDING AREA - CORRIDOR - MARIO, LUIGI & DAISY

scramble down the hallway and come upon... an ELEVATOR BANK. Daisy gives Mario a look. Mario shrugs, and hits the button.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - MAINTENANCE LEVEL - DAY

The elevator opens under a sign: "TO BASEMENT & PARKING." Mario, Luigi and Daisy pile out.

MARIO

One floor?

LUIGI

Hey, take what you can get.

DAISY

Maybe there's another elevator...

The room is echoing with a pounding, repetitive PINGING SOUND. It looks like a boiler room. Steam shoots from the pipes overhead. They look around for another elevator.

A huge WORKBENCH spans a long wall. On a peg board above it, is a dizzying array of strange tools, predominantly HAMMERS:

There are ball peen hammers, claw hammers, die hammers, jackhammers, mallets, sledgehammers, spalling hammers, stone hammers, tack hammers, and trip hammers. Among others.

Two grease-covered guys appear and start screaming GIBBERISH. The HAMMER BROS. They're under the mistaken impression Mario and Luigi have come to take their jobs. Maybe it's the tool belts. The brothers look at each other, puzzled.

MARIO

I think they want us out of here.

A CLAW HAMMER WHIZZES through the air and impales the wall behind Mario.

Mario, Luigi and Daisy dash across the room, hopping over the spare parts on the floor, as the Hammer Bros. pelt them with hammer after hammer. They find a stairway leading up.

The guards arrive in the elevator and chase after them. One of them gets taken out by a stray flying hammer.

FURTHER UP THE STAIRS

They find a door. Locked. They run to the next level. It's locked, too. Mario is impatient. He jacks the hinges out of the door with a hammer and crowbar.

MARIO

Luigi, grab an end.

They take the door and slide it down the steps. It picks up speed and bowls over the advancing guards.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - PROPAGANDA LEVEL - DAY

Mario, Luigi and Daisy step through the open door frame.

A slew of WHITE COLLAR ADVERTISING TYPES look up from their computers, typewriters and drawing boards.

The walls display enormous posters from Koopa's ad campaigns:

"KOOPA'S THE ONE." shows Koopa flashing a peace sign, "ELECT KOOPA THE STUD" has him cavorting with Lena, "PUTTING YOUR HARD-EARNED KOOPONS TO WORK - ELECT KOOPA THE ADMINISTRATOR" features an uncomfortably bespectacled Koopa.

There's an elevator on the other side of the room. A SIGN over it reads, "PROPAGANDA DEPT." A nervous PRESENTER draws the last shade and motions to Mario, Luigi and Daisy.

PRESENTER

Could you fix the door another time?
We're in the middle of a
presentation.

He hits the lights. Mario, Luigi and Daisy edge around the darkened room to the elevators, as a the screen lights up.

PRESENTER

So. Once again. After the merging,
we're proposing a series of films to
re-educate the masses...

ON A SCREEN: "OUR REPTILIAN SUPERIORITY" splashes across the screen in bold, neo-constructivist type.

The irate guards and Goombas pile through the door. They spot Daisy and the brothers by the elevators and run, stomp, jump over, and otherwise destroy everything in their path getting to them. An ART DIRECTOR leaps to protect his work.

ART DIRECTOR

My storyboards!

The others try in vain to protect their work from the onrush of guards. A computer monitor CRASHES in a SHOWER OF SPARKS.

Our three heroes have crawled under desks, waiting for the elevator. A Goomba spots Mario and lunges. Mario scrambles out and they struggle, illuminated by the projected film.

Luigi jumps up and taps the Goomba on the shoulder. He turns and gets a face full of spray paint. Mario decks him.

A guard raises the shades and fills the room with light.

It's a disaster. But there's no sign of the Mario Bros. or Daisy. A guard points. The elevator door is closing...

GUARD

After them!

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

This elevator seems to be shakier than the others. Mario looks grimly at the lighted button he's pushed. The top.

MARIO

All right. This is it. Prepare yourselves...

INT. TOWER - THE TOP FLOOR - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Daisy and Luigi exit the elevator cautiously. They're in a hallway, curiously unguarded. Mario pries open the control panel and rips out all the wires. He steps out.

DAISY

This doesn't look right... Maybe it's the wrong floor.

MARIO

I wish you would have told me that a minute ago.

There's an office ahead. Against the frosted glass looms a hulking shadow, waving a pointed stick.

LUIGI

Now what?

Mario cocks back the fire thrower he took off a guard.

MARIO

Now we find Koopa.
(to Daisy)
You'd better stay back.

INT. LENNY YOUNG'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

They kick in the door of a large, sparsely furnished office.

MARIO

Freeze! Everybody! Where's Koopa?

LENNY YOUNG spins his chair around -- a buttoned down little guy with glasses, holding a pencil. He's on the phone.

LENNY YOUNG

Koopa's next door.

LUIGI

The next office?

LENNY YOUNG

No... next door.

Lenny points through the rotted away wall of his office to the other gleaming Tower. The brothers look dismayed.

LENNY YOUNG

I'm Lenny Young. Koopa's accountant. Anything I can do? Coffee...

Mario and Luigi shake their heads politely and back out...

INT. TOWER - THE TOP FLOOR - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

They back out of his office. Luigi gives Daisy the bad news.

LUIGI

We're in the wrong Tower.

Daisy looks at the sabotaged elevator...

INT. STAIRWELL - AFTERNOON

They look down. A hundred stories worth of stairs.

MARIO

Well, it's easier going down...

A ROAR. Dozens of screaming Goombas pour up the stairs. Mario unloads a volley of fireballs down the stairs. Out of ammo, he drops the gun. They turn and run up... BOOM!

EXT. TOWER - THE ROOF - AFTERNOON

The door opens, Daisy and the brothers race out. A huge TV antenna towers above them, swaying in the wind. Mario blocks the door, and they move to the edge. It's a long way down.

LONG SHOT - VIEW FROM KOOPA'S TOWER - AFTERNOON

Mario, Luigi and Daisy are tiny figures, 150 feet away.

LUIGI (V.O.)

I don't think we can jump this one.

EXT. TOWER - THE ROOF - AFTERNOON

Mario looks at the antenna. He kneels by the base. It's bolted down, but the cement is a little crumbly. Mario takes out a wrench. But the bolts don't budge.

Mario pulls out his gleaming air-powered socket wrench.

MARIO

If only we had some air.

Luigi holds up one of the "Air" Stomper cartridges. Mario smiles and jams it in. Yes! He starts undoing the bolts...

WHIRR!... WHIRR!... The antenna CREAKS in the wind.

DAISY

You've got to be kidding me.

MARIO

Stand back! Luigi...

He hands a big wire cutter to Luigi and moves to the other guy wire. He slips a pry bar under the plate holding it.

MARIO

All right. Together!

Luigi snaps. Mario pries. Daisy gasps as the antenna starts to CREAK, leaning, rocking in the wind...

Daisy joins Mario and Luigi and they push the enormous antenna over. It lands with a THUD, spanning the towers.

INT. DIMENSIONAL DEVICE ROOM - AFTERNOON

The room lights have dimmed as the device GLOWS BRIGHTER. Fortunately, the TV crew has brought a generator for their lights. Morton and Wendy are there.

The room SHUDDERS as the antenna landing on the roof. They all react. Koopa motions to Clive.

KOOPA

Is that supposed to happen?

Clive shrugs and pages through the old Portal-Keepers' book. Koopa moves to a guard by the door.

KOOPA

Take some men and check the roof.

Rod the technician looks down at the controls. A blinking LIGHT reads "COOLING MECH." Rod taps it and it goes away.

ROD

We're up to power. We're ready.

Koopa turns and smiles for the cameras -- holds up the stone.

CLIVE

Hold it!

KOOPA

What?

CLIVE

It says here only the Portal-Keepers have enough tolerance to withstand the dimensional energy emitted when inserting the stone.

KOOPA

Yes, of course. They would say that.

He looks down at the crackling device, buzzing with energy.

KOOPA

Clive.

CLIVE

Yes, sir?

KOOPA

Clive, you've done an excellent job for me here, preparing the device, researching it all these years... I want you to have the honors.

He hands him the stone. Clive starts sweating.

CLIVE

Well, the text was pretty explicit...

KOOPA

Ah, it's just superstition...

(pats him on the back)

Go ahead. Enjoy. Everyone -- a big hand for Clive...

They applaud. Clive smiles and nervously approaches. He barely gets the stone a foot away, when he's consumed by SPECIAL EFFECTS. His body turns to ASH and collapses. The stone lands softly in the pile. Koopa frowns.

MORTON

Mr. Koopa? What about the Portal-Keeper you were going to execute this morning? I think she'd look pretty good by your side...

Lena bristles. The other TV crewmen murmur their approval.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWER ROOF - ON THE ANTENNA - AFTERNOON

Mario is halfway across. Daisy and Luigi are on the roof.

MARIO

Come on!

DAISY

I can't... I have a terrible fear
of heights.

MARIO

Deal with it. We don't have time
for therapy.

The roof door rattles. The guards push against the blocked door. Daisy and Luigi climb out as the guards burst through. They rush to the edge.

Flames shoot by our heroes as the guards FIRE. Luigi nearly loses his balance. Guards are edging out after them.

Mario looks up to see more guards arriving ON THE OTHER ROOF.

The guards crawling after them are signalled to return. They gather around the base of the antenna and begin rocking it...

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - DIMENSIONAL DEVICE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Iggy and Spike tentatively enter.

KOOPA

Well? Where is she?

Iggy's throat is dry. Koopa's face twitches, regressing...

IGGY

Just... Just kill us.

EXT. TOWER ROOF - ON THE ANTENNA - AFTERNOON

Mario is about ten feet from the other roof when Daisy slips off... She screams. Luigi, grabs her, grabs the guy wire...

LUIGI

DAISY!

They're slipping. Mario edges toward them. But the guards give a final heave and...

Mario falls, catches the guy wire. Luigi and Daisy hold on as the damned wire unwraps from the antenna and all three of them SWING LOOSE. They hang on for dear life as they swing straight for the side of the building...

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - DIMENSIONAL DEVICE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Koopa, now quite regressed, looms over Spike and Iggy.

IGGY

We'll go back. We'll find her...
Perhaps they're nearby.

KOOPA

Right. Maybe they're downstairs in
the lobby! Maybe they're going to
deliver her right to us!

SMASH! Daisy and Luigi come through the window. They roll to a stop at Koopa's feet. He grabs Daisy and pulls her up roughly. He looks in her eyes and suddenly, gently, reverts back to human form. Lena seethes in the crowd.

KOOPA

Daisy...
(smiles at Luigi)
And the little plumber boy.

Two guards pick up Luigi and hustle him in front of Koopa.

KOOPA

We were just talking about you.

CUT TO:

EXT. KOOPA'S TOWER - AFTERNOON

Mario hangs from the wire. It's a long way down. The guards above start to pull him up. He passes an open Maintenance Level near the top, where the vents and air conditioning equipment are housed. Mario grabs hold and pulls himself in.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - ROOF MAINTENANCE LEVEL - AFTERNOON

Voices echo from around a corner. Mario ducks back... Two tech-boys are looking into an open hatch down a big pipe.

TECH-BOY #1

It's iced up solid. Whole system
must be shorted out.

They shake their heads and leave. Mario peeks down the pipe. It looks like a bobsled run. He moves to the door. Koopa's booming voice can be heard within...

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - DIMENSIONAL DEVICE ROOM - AFTERNOON

The room is buzzing in anticipation. Koopa gestures grandly.

KOOPA

History. You're witnessing the beginning of a new world. A new world with a new order.

LUIGI

A new world order?

KOOPA

That's right.

Luigi shrugs free of the guards and stands face to face with Koopa. Looks him in the eye.

LUIGI

You think you got it all figured out, don't you? Well I got news for you. We had a guy once, thought he was going to rule the world. Little guy by the name of Hitler.

TILT UP: THE CATWALK ABOVE THE DEVICE

Mario has opened the door and stepped out on a catwalk near the ceiling. The device is directly below him.

Luigi glances up and sees him. Mario makes the TV director's gesture for "Keep it rolling."

LUIGI

Uh, say, we had another guy, he was a funny fellow. Liked to push people around. Thought he was tough. Guy by the name of... Sinatra...

Luigi's mind is a blank. The crowd is shuffling. Above, Mario surveys the room, looks at the ceiling...

KOOPA

What's your point?

LUIGI

Well, it seems these two met in a bar one day. Hitler orders a drink, and so does Sinatra...

KOOPA

Shut up...

Koopa signals the guards to silence Luigi. They grab him and put a Stun Stick to his throat. Koopa takes Daisy's hand.

KOOPA

Daisy, I need you to do something.
For me.

(he gives her the stone)

Put it in.

DAISY

No -- I won't do it.

KOOPA

It won't hurt you, I promise. Think
about your boyfriend.

Daisy looks at Luigi. The guards motion with the Stun Stick threateningly. Then Mario bursts through the door.

MARIO

Don't do it!...

The TV cameras swivel to Mario.

MARIO

You'll kill eight million people!

Guards hustle to grab Mario. Koopa casts a sideward glance at Iggy and Spike, who cower behind the TV equipment.

KOOPA

For starters...

(he turns toward Mario)

You sound like they did, 20 years ago. We've watched our resources dwindle -- while you've thrived. 100 miles out, the air starts to thin... How would you like to have a big hole in the air? People spit on the sidewalk and it evaporates. I'm sure your world doesn't have to deal with acid rain!

A beat. He calms down.

KOOPA

But it's a sub-dimension. It's not our fault we've used up our limited resources. And now, we realize what we have to do... Take your resources.

Koopa spins on Daisy. He's starting to regress again.

KOOPA

Now put it in, or I'll kill them both!

She flinches at his fury. Hesitates.

KOOPA

Guards!...

DAISY

No!

She puts it in. It stops glowing and starts shaking. Out the window, all the LIGHTS in the city go out. Then...

PEALS OF COLOR emanate from the device. The room ripples...

INSERT - BROOKLYN BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

Shaking. Rivets pop. A cable snaps. The Bridge is becoming a dimensional smear... Cars HONK. People SCREAM...

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - DIMENSIONAL DEVICE ROOM - AFTERNOON

Koopa laughs and waves the guards away from Mario and Luigi.

KOOPA

You really thought you were going to stop me. You -- a plumber!

MARIO

Well, I can't always be right. Three... Two... One...

KOOPA

Three, two, one?...

We TILT UP. On the ceiling, directly over the device, is Mario's plunger. POK! It plummets straight down.

PLUNGER-VISION™ POV SHOT

Just like the arrow shot in "Robin Hood." We ride with the plunger as it dives toward the device.

BACK TO SCENE

Mario grabs Luigi, Luigi grabs Daisy, and the three of them scramble for the door.

MARIO

Run!

The plunger impales the device, SMASHING the crystalline orb. It begins to pulsate in a nasty way... and it SOUNDS AWFUL.

The stone skitters across the floor...

Koopa ROARS, then runs to the device and tries to grab the plunger. A pulse of energy catapults him across the room. He almost slides out the broken window before he stops.

The stone comes to a rest in front of Mario... he scoops it up and stuffs it in his pocket.

The crowd runs in panic as DIMENSIONAL WAVES sweep over the room, erasing things in their path -- carving sections out of pillars like an ice cream scoop.

Koopa hurls guards out of his way to get to his private elevator. Lena rushes to him. He lets the doors close...

Everyone is running away. Mario sees some turtle-shields the guards have abandoned, and hands one each to Daisy and Luigi.

MARIO

Come on -- I know a quick way down.

He leads them to a service door. Lena sees them and follows.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - ROOF MAINTENANCE LEVEL - AFTERNOON

Mario points to the water pipe hatch. Someone is coming up after them. They grab the shells and jump in...

Lena reaches the top in time to see Mario take his shell and dive down the pipe. She head back down the stairs.

INT. ICE PIPE - AFTERNOON

Mario, Luigi, and Daisy zip down like Olympic bobsledders. The pipe shoots down a level, makes a turn, straightens out, slows, then shoots down again. An icy roller coaster.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - ROOF MAINTENANCE LEVEL - AFTERNOON

Lena reemerges with turtle shield and dives in the pipe.

EXT. KOOPA'S TOWER - ESTABLISHING - AFTERNOON

The top of Koopa's Tower is starting to glow...

INT. PORTAL SHRINE - AFTERNOON

Toad, Freeman and Fodor are waiting with 23 Brooklyn babes, who now think they're some sort of heroes. It doesn't suck.

Mannis comes shlubbing up.

MANNIS

Hey guys. I think you should see this... The portal is getting funky.

He takes them to the portal. It's starting to pulsate and glow. And the edges are changing...

TOAD

It's shrinking... we better start sending the girls through.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - DIMENSIONAL DEVICE ROOM - AFTERNOON

The dimensional device looks ready to blow.

INT. PIPE - AFTERNOON

Another section. Mario, Luigi, and Daisy rocket by. The pipes are shaking as the building convulses... Then another "sled" blasts by... Lena.

EXT. KOOPA'S TOWER - LATE AFTERNOON

A beauty shot: the twin towers against the burnished late afternoon sky. Slivers of light are shooting from the top of the Tower. Then the whole top goes up in a SLOW EXPLOSION.

INT. KOOPA'S TOWER - KOOPA'S SUITE - THE FUNGUS

The FUNGUS SQUEALS as it is engulfed by the blast.

EXT. KOOPA'S TOWER - THE STREET BELOW - LATE AFTERNOON

Koopa stomps down the street as debris falls perilously nearby. About half a block from the tower the plunger falls at his feet, smoking. He picks it up without slowing.

INT. PIPE - LATE AFTERNOON

Mario, Luigi, and Daisy slow as the ice turns to slush, then water. They skid to a stop.

INT. PORTAL SHRINE - LATE AFTERNOON

The last of the girls goes through the portal. It's now half it's original size. Only Toad and his friends are left.

Mario, Luigi, and Daisy emerge from a tunnel.

TOAD

The portal is doing the mighty woodge.

MARIO

What?

FREEMAN

It's busted, man. It's shrinking.

They look. It looks really shaky.

MARIO

Let's go...

TOAD

Well, guys? We going or staying?
We're on Koopa's most wanted list.

FODOR

I get the feeling he isn't going be
writing the lists much longer...

MANNIS

Yeah. Besides, I'm getting into
this whole actually doing things
about things thing.

FREEMAN

I got three chicks here, man. I
can't go.

Toad shakes Mario's hand...

TOAD

Guess we're not ready for the real
world yet.

MARIO

Hey, it's not all it's cut out to
be.

Toad hands him his pair of "Air" Stompers and some
cartridges he has slung over his shoulders.

TOAD

We have a saying here that before
you judge a man you should jump a
mile in his shoes. Actually, it's
not a saying so much as an
advertising campaign, but I wanted
you to have these anyway.

Mario smiles, puts his boots on. The guys follow Toad out.

FOOTSTEPS approach. Mario spins around. Lena emerges from
a different tunnel. She looks great. Mario raises an
eyebrow.

DAISY

It's Lena. She's Koopa's...

LENA

Secretary. Take me with you,
please.

MARIO

Why should we?

LENA

Because I'm hot.

MARIO

Okay.

They go through. Daisy... THWUP! Luigi... THWUP! It's
Lena's turn. The portal is closing... THWUP!

Mario thrusts his hand in... It seems to upset the portal.
It convulses as it drags him in. THWUUUU... As his arm
disappears, a claw-like hand grabs him.

It's Koopa. He grabs Mario's arm and tries to pull him out.
The portal begins contorting wildly. Koopa gets sucked in.

INT. INTER-DIMENSIONAL SPACE - ALL TIMES AT ONCE

Mario and Koopa are trapped. Rules of space and time do not
apply here... they are determined, subconsciously, by Mario
and Koopa... Sucking wormholes appear in different forms,
dancing in space then suddenly vanishing.

FIRST SUB-DIMENSION - PSYCHEDELIA

Time and space are fluid here. So are Koopa and Mario.
Koopa lunges, becoming a fluid projectile. Mario ducks -- a
flat puddle. They resolidify, startled, into crystalline
forms. Mario dives at Koopa; they shatter and give way
to...

SECOND SUB-DIMENSION - OPERA/FACTORY

An opera set designed like a deco assembly line. Stone-
faced workers churn out identical Pagliaccis. The audience
seems to be a mass of slithering eels in tuxedos. One
Pagliacci tears off his clown face... it's Old Man Mario.
He laughs, his mouth splits open to reveal Koopa. Mario
flies up. As he connects, the background starts to shimmer
and change...

INT. DIG SITE - LATE AFTERNOON

Everyone is waiting at the portal. It's now closed to a
slit. Luigi is beside himself...

LUIGI

Where is he?

LENA

I think it's too late...

THE THIRD DIMENSION - JUNGLELAND

A tiny Mario pushes through dense underbrush. ANIMAL NOISES fill the air. A SHADOW looms over him -- he darts away as a PLUNGER slams down, 50 times normal size. Koopa is a GIANT, high above. The plunger goes limp in Mario's hands.

He tries to throw it away, but it stretches, whips and wraps around him like a snake. Enormous PIPE WRENCHES clamp in the air, advancing like mechanical dinosaurs. A shadow rushing o over Mario like a blast of wind...

THE FOURTH SUB-DIMENSION - KANSAS

A bleak prairie landscape, dancing with wormhole tornadoes. Mario and Luigi circle in mortal battle, Koopa with a plunger, Mario with a wrench.

MARIO

Just me and you...

He swings... Koopa blocks the wrench with the plunger and slashes at Mario. Koopa smiles, blocking each blow. He lowers the plunger and lets Mario hit him in the head.

Koopa's head is dented. Then it pops back into shape. He smiles. The sky is black with wormholes.

KOOPA

No stomach for it, huh?

MARIO

This isn't real. It's a dream.

KOOPA

Not quite -- it's a sub-dimension.
Here you can die.

He whacks the wrench away, cracks Mario across the head. He raises the plunger for the final death blow -- but it touches a wormhole and is sucked from his hands. A deafening ROAR. Koopa looks up. It's a giant wormhole tornado. On his scream, they are sucked out of sight...

CUT TO:

INT. DIG SITE - TUNNEL - LATE AFTERNOON

The gang is still waiting. Luigi pounds on the rock.

The explosive charges BLOW a huge hole in the far side of the tunnel. As they rush forward, they see a torrent of water cover the crack that leads to safety.

DANIELLA

What was that?

DAISY

Your father paid a guy to blow up the tunnel and now we're going to die.

They watch, aghast, as the small cavern starts filling with water. Daniella takes her hand comfortingly.

DANIELLA

No. We'll get out of here, and I'll make my father buy us all Cadillacs.

LENA

What's a Cadillac?

The chamber is filling rapidly. Daisy starts laughing.

LUIGI

What's so funny? We're going to drown.

Daisy points: Hundreds of new dinosaur bones swirl in the water, freed by the blast.

DAISY

Eddie thought he'd close down the dig by flooding the place. He just made our job easier.

LUIGI

Let's just hope they don't find our bones. Come on -- we've gotta swim for it.

CUT TO:

EXT. DIG SITE - LATE, LATE AFTERNOON

A community group is having a demonstration outside the dig site. Camera crews record the event. A BELOVED NEW YORK TV REPORTER is broadcasting live.

REPORTER

... not a conventional earthquake,
but caused a giant whirlpool in the
East River. At the same time,
family members of the abducted
Brooklyn women have gathered at
this, the site of the most recent
disappearance, to hold a candlelight
vigil...

AT THE DIG ENTRANCE

About a hundred people have lit candles and stand around the
dig site, which is overflowing with water. Eddie pushes his
way through the crowd as a reporter and cameraman dog him.

EDDIE

Don't you people have any respect?
My daughter is missing too...
Lighting candles ain't gonna bring
nobody back.

PROTESTOR

LOOK!

People are pointing at the hole. Eddie turns:

Twenty-four Brooklyn babes, and one guy, emerge from the
water-filled hole.

PROTESTOR

It's them!

People rush to help them out. Family members embrace their
daughters. Eddie gives Daniella with a bear hug.

EDDIE

We thought you were dead.

She pushes him away.

DANIELLA

We were fine until that explosion.
You almost got us drowned.

EDDIE

But... how the hell did you get down
there?

DANIELLA

Long story. But if weren't for the
Mario brothers we'd all be dead.

EDDIE

The Mario brothers?

With incredible dinosaur strides, Koopa is on top of Mario. As he roars his mouth gapes wide open, enough to bite Mario's head off. Which is exactly what he's going to do, until...

Mario clicks his heels together and rockets into the air.

EXT. BRIDGE TOWER - DUSK

Mario lands perfectly on top of the bridge tower. He feels like Errol Flynn until he looks down:

Koopa is climbing a cable. He pulls himself up onto one of the sloping main cables and starts running up to the tower.

MARIO

Oh, man.

He looks around frantically. There's nowhere to go. He takes out two more cartridges, jams them in the stompers, and looks down at the river. The vortex is churning violently.

Koopa leaps onto the tower, grabs him from behind, and hurls him across the tower. Mario skids to a halt at the edge and scrambles to his feet. They circle each other. Koopa roars.

MARIO

Look, you're in New York now.
You'll never fit in unless you learn
to act like a human being.

Koopa spits. Mario ducks and a stream of acid flings by him.

MARIO

Or even semi-human...

Koopa lunges. Mario dives and rolls.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - DUSK

A huge crowd has gathered. The media is setting up all over the place. Luigi and Daisy push their way through.

EXT. BRIDGE TOWER - DUSK

Mario is cornered, backing up and running out of room. Koopa dives and grabs him by the throat. Drooling acid, his face is twisted in pure evil. Mario's feet are against his chest.

KOOPA

I am the Lizard King! I don't need anything from you. You're nothing but a plumber! You're a plumber!

Mario clicks his heels together. The Stompers BEEP...

MARIO

You're goddamn right... you piece of shit.

SHWUNKUNKUNK! Koopa is catapulted off the tower.

He roars and thrashes as he falls straight down into the vortex and disappears, flushed out of existence.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - DUSK

The crowd cheers riotously. Luigi embraces Daisy joyfully.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - NIGHT

Mario and Luigi are being escorted to an ambulance. Daisy, Daniella and Lena are with them. The cops are hassling them, the media is trying to get at him with their cameras.

SWEATY COP

A sub-dimension? What the hell is a sub-dimension?

Eddie pushes past the cameras and pokes the cop on the chest.

EDDIE

Leave 'em alone.

SWEATY COP

Sorry, Mr. Scarpelli. This guy just threw someone off the bridge. But if he's a friend of yours...

EDDIE

A friend? These are the guys who saved my daughter. These are the guys who saved all those kidnapped girls. These guys are heroes.

He bear-hugs Mario painfully, as he signals to the cameras.

MARIO

Ow, geez. Still tryin' to kill me?

EDDIE

The Mario Brothers. Best damn plumbers in Brooklyn. The Super Mario Brothers...

Suddenly the bridge shakes and the sky LIGHTS UP. The crowd turns to look down at the river...

EXT. EAST RIVER - THE VORTEX

swirls out of control as... the glowing METEORITE rises from the river. Koopa, or rather a GIANT, PURE ENERGY, FULLY REGRESSED KOOPA, is straddling it. Energy swirls around him like tendrils. Koopa grasps them like reins, steering the meteorite up... up... The crowd stares blankly.

Koopa points to the bridge... Energy bolts from his hands. The bridge shakes violently, buckling, cables snapping...

KOOPA

MARIO!!

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - NIGHT

Mario walks to the edge, entranced. The stone in his pocket is glowing, he takes it out. A CRACKLING beam of energy shoots out and surrounds the meteorite. It's like he's got Koopa on a tether. Mario smiles. A flick of his wrist sends him careening wildly. But it's hard to hold on to the stone. He lets go...

The stone slingshots toward Koopa and smashes into the flying meteorite. An EXPLOSION of dimensional energy WHITES OUT THE SCREEN. Then... a clear night sky... A star twinkles.

The crowd rises to it's feet cautiously. Eddie help Mario back to the ambulance.

A video camera man shakily lowers his camera. A reporter turns to him...

REPORTER

Tell me you got that...

The cameraman nods.

Daisy kisses Luigi as he's loaded into the ambulance. Lena and Daniella both kiss Mario. The doors are slammed shut.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Mario and Luigi lay in the dark as the ambulance heads off. A paramedic sits in the back... As the CREDITS ROLL, we hear them in VOICE-OVER. Luigi sounds a little loopy...

LUIGI
Hey, Mario?

MARIO
What?

LUIGI
All that stuff pop taught us, it
sure came in handy.

MARIO
Yeah.

LUIGI
Do you think he knew someday we'd
get sucked into a dinosaur sub-
dimension?

MARIO
No, Luigi. Probably not...

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - LONG SHOT - NIGHT

CREDITS CONTINUE as the ambulance heads over the Bridge...

LUIGI
He always said we'd thank him some
day, though, didn't he?

MARIO
Yeah.
(to the paramedic)
Can't you give him something to make
him sleep?

PARAMEDIC
I already did...

LUIGI
(full of goofy emotion)
Thanks, pop!... Now you say it.

MARIO
Gimme a break, will you?

LUIGI
Say it. Say it, say it, say it...

MARIO
Shut up.

A beat.

PARAMEDIC

Oh, go on, say it. It won't kill
you.

Mario sighs, put upon. A long beat. Then, quickly...

MARIO

Thankspop.

CUT TO BLACK