

SUPER MARIO BROS.

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Registered WGAw

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FADE IN:

EXT. SWAMP – DAY

An otherworldly landscape. The sky is red, the earth a bubbling stew of primordial ooze...

SUPER: "BROOKLYN... SIXTY-FIVE MILLION YEARS AGO."

Suddenly a noise is heard. The sky darkens. Then a gigantic METEORITE COLLIDES WITH the SURFACE with shattering cataclysmic impact. The SCREEN is FILLED with smoke and fire, and DEBRIS flies toward us...

EXT. BROOKLYN (1972) – MONTAGE OF SHOTS – NIGHT

...And the DEBRIS lands... but now it's just garbage... amidst asphalt and brick, awash in a torrent of rain. LIGHTNING strikes, THUNDER peals...

SUPER: "BROOKLYN... TWENTY YEARS AGO..."

... And a black boot hits a puddle, stopping. TILT UP ON a DARK FIGURE, gazing admiringly across Manhattan. Then he spins, heading deeper into Brooklyn...

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. The door opens, NUNS look down.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET (1972) – NIGHT

Headlights flare, a CAR SKIDS. The woman dodges traffic to reach the other side and runs 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 around to face him. Handsome and intense, almost hypnotic, this is the YOUNG KOOPA.

The woman tries to wrench free. She throws herself at a support beam. Rocks crash down. But Koopa grips her. Hard. She starts to fade as the CEILING BEGINS TO CAVE IN.

He scrambles deeper in the tunnel.

INT. BROOKLYN CHURCH – CANDLE-LIT ROOM – NIGHT

The Nuns unwrap the bundle. Inside is a DECORATIVE METAL EGG. It hinges open to reveal a small gleaming stone and... a real EGG. Mottled, oblong, a foot-and-a-half long. And it's moving... CRACKING...

NUN
What is it?

The SHELL CRACKS and out bursts.... a tiny baby's hand.
THUNDER rocks the church as the Nuns gasp, and we CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A FADED BLACK AND WHITE PORTRAIT

of a strong-looking father, proud and stubborn. With a handle-bar moustache.

SUPER: "BROOKLYN... TODAY."

CAMERA BEGINS TO MOVE along a fireplace mantle... Past ANOTHER, OLDER PORTRAIT... of who must be his father, with a bigger, more-elaborate handle-bar moustache.

MARIO (O.S.)
When did the accident happen?...

ANOTHER, EVEN OLDER PORTRAIT.... with the biggest, most elaborate handle-bar moustache yet.

MARIO (O.S.; CONTINUED)
No, relax. It's a simple operation.
Easily handled by professionals...
Temperature still rising?...

At a desk is a solid, no-nonsense, bulwark of a man... MARIO MARIO, the 35-year-old elder Mario brother. He sports a contemporary version of the handle-bar moustache.

He leans into the light of a Post-It-covered desk lamp, nodding into the phone, very concerned... like a doctor...

MARIO
Don't use it, don't move it, don't
loosen that blanket. You don't
wanna lose it, do you?...
(with a knowing confidence)
... Then do exactly as I say. We'll

be right there.

Mario hangs up, jumps up, and marches across:

INT. THE MARIO BROTHERS APARTMENT – SITTING ROOM – CONTINUOUS

The decor is "old-person," inherited from their parents.

MARIO

Luigi! We got a broken water heater
at the River Cafe. You know what
that means? We got work.

Glued to the TV is... LUIGI MARIO, 22-years old. He's lankier, dreamier... basically nothing like his brother. And he doesn't even look up from "OUR MIRACULOUS WORLD!"

LUIGI

Wait, wait...This man from Buffalo
just found out he's an alien. Check
out his license plate, "I M N ET."

Mario pulls Luigi up by the armpits, revealing two things: 1) Mario is very strong, and 2) Luigi is a head taller.

MARIO

Hey, Luigi? We can make some O.T., A.S.A.P., if you just shut down
the T.V. and get offa your B-U-T...
(thinks for a moment, then)
... T.

LUIGI

O.K., Mario. Ea-sy.

Mario sets him down. As Luigi goes off to get his tool belt, Mario looks at "Our Miraculous World" on the TV.

MARIO

I can't believe you buy this miracle hooey.
(re tabloids on table)
I mean, look at this...

LUIGI (O.S.)

Hey-- that's got the article on the missing Brooklyn girls.

MARIO

Yeah, and it's also got one on a scientist who turns brains into cheese.

LUIGI (STILL O.S.)

I dunno. Maybe it could happen.

MARIO

How?! How could that possibly happen?

LUIGI

(entering with tool belt)

Well, I don't know...say you drink a lotta milk, and then you shake your head really fast, but don't swallow the milk... maybe your brain'll curdle. Cheese.

Mario just looks at Luigi, then points at his head.

MARIO

You're right. Maybe it can happen.

EXT. BROOKLYN MAIN STREET – DAY

Heavy traffic. PICK OUT a beat-up, battered VAN with COPPER PIPES hanging off it, as well as a loose tailpipe.

On the side is some faded lettering "**MARIO BROTHERS – PLUMBERS – BROOKLYN'S BEST!**" painted over "MARIO & SONS."

It's moving fast, weaving around cars like slalom pylons.

INT. MARIO BROTHERS VAN – MOVING – DAY

Luigi drives hard, but is barely paying attention. Mario pores over a neatly-penned MAP, plotting their course.

Then Mario eyes a RED-LIGHT they're passing under. He cuts a hard look over at Luigi, who shrugs...

LUIGI

So I'll stop twice next time.

Mario goes back to the map, pointing left without looking up. Luigi nods, wheels the Van right. Now Mario looks up.

MARIO

What are you doing?

LUIGI

I dunno, I've just always wanted to try this alley-way. I got a good feeling about it.

MARIO

What?! Every time you get a "good feeling" about something we end up bruised, broken, or otherwise in some kinda brouhaha. Break the habit, okay?

LUIGI

Brace yourself!

They whip out onto the street, where Luigi pulls the van over to the side of the road, then stops and smiles.

LUIGI

And what'd I tell you? Faster.

He points. Mario looks. They're at... "The River Cafe."

MARIO

It's a miracle we made it alive.

LUIGI

I thought you didn't believe in miracles.

Mario just glares at Luigi, twitching his moustache fast. That means Mario-anger. Quickly, Luigi raises his hands.

LUIGI

Okay, okay.

(then)

Uh oh...

Luigi notices something through Mario's side of the van. Mario turns his head. Sees...

Parked by the cafe, ANOTHER VAN (complete with multiple phone numbers, fax numbers, etc) is parked... "CANELLI CONSTRUCTION, PLUMBING AND CONCRETE."

MARIO

Darn it! How'd they get here?!

INT. RIVER CAFE – THE KITCHEN – DAY

A hightech kitchen full of gleaming surfaces, metal pans and simmering sauce pans.

The Mario Brothers hustle in, each wearing a TOOL BELT, each carrying a TOOL BOX, each wearing coveralls...
...stenciled "MARIO BROS." They stop, faces falling.

Talking to the snooty owner, PASCAL, are white-cover-all-wearing Canelli plumbers, DOUG and MIKE. Slimy scumbags.

DOUG

... it's a two day job, that's if we
got the parts you need, and boy, you
know how ordering parts can get...

Mario sizes the situation, and jumps in, talking to Pascal.

MARIO

You said it was a water heater--
(more)

MARIO (CONT'D)

(glaring at Doug and Mike)
-- when you called us for the job.

PASCAL

It is. It leaks from its bottom.

MARIO

That's a washer, maybe a hose.
Water heaters don't go bad easily.
You're looking at a two hour job.
These guys are trying to snow you.

Doug and Mike just look at Mario, then at Pascal.

DOUG

Would you excuse us, please?

They lead Mario out of Pascal's earshot, grabbing him by the belt.

MARIO

Hey. Nobody touches my tools.

Even though Mike understands the sacredness of this. But still, he presses his point.

MIKE

I understand. And I assume you understand, Mario Mario, that NOBODY messes without our boss.

Doug and Mike lean in closer, pointing at their cover-alls.

DOUG

... Our boss, Canelli. Know him?

MARIO

Know him? I apprenticed with him. He's a terrible plumber. Clumsy, ham-handed, he'd make a better goon.

Mario just won't back down. Doug and Mike glare at him, then call over to Pascal.

DOUG

What is it? Marios or Canellis?

Pascal swallows-- the names are important here.

PASCAL

Two days sounds fine. Canelli?

Doug smiles, then nods to Mike. They go to Pascal and lead him away, leaving Mario and Luigi to look at each other.

LUIGI

Come on, brother-my-pal. Lemme buy you a plate of spaghetti.

MARIO

(watching Doug and Mike go)
Unbelievable... What line of work ain't Canelli involved with now?

EXT. BANK OF THE EAST RIVER – EXCAVATION SITE – DAY

A major excavation. Signs read "Canelli Construction."

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS picket the site while hard-hatted ACADEMICS consult clipboards and study rocks and fossils. Other student VOLUNTEERS sort plastic bags into boxes near a van marked "Columbia University."

A black LIMOUSINE pulls up. Three guys climb out.

The main man is EDDIE CANELLI. Like a younger John Gotti. His two well-dressed ASSOCIATES have faces like guys who ran a fast dash into a brick wall.

Eddie approaches the Academics, his picketers following. A COP heads him off.

COP

Whoa, Eddie. I don't want no trouble.

EDDIE

Trouble? Six girls are missin' outta Brooklyn and we got six of New York's finest standin' around hopin' there ain't no trouble?! Get a job.

(pushing through)

Hey, college-geeks, take me to your leader. Who's got the pointiest head? I wanna talk to him. NOW.

The hard-hatted students part as Eddie moves through, smiling thinly, until everyone steps aside...

And a beautiful girl steps into the sunlight, back-lit against the setting sun. She wears a hard-hat and bib overalls, and she's not cowed by Canelli at all.

DAISY

I'm the boss... here.

Daisy looks familiar. She has the same haunting eyes of the woman we saw in the opening scene. We notice something else, too-- the glint of a CRYSTAL PENDANT on a ring, strung through a leather cord tied round her neck.

Eddie stops, nodding, a slow smile growing...

EDDIE

And so am I, everywhere else. How long you gonna poke for these bones?

DAISY

As long as our court order lasts. This is a major dinosaur fossil find, Mr. Canelli. If you only knew what "these bones" were telling us about our past you'd appreciate them a great deal more.

EDDIE

Only way I'd appreciate these bones is if they had some meat on 'em. My boys got families to feed. And I'll do whatever it takes to get this project going again. Understand me?
(beat)
Whatever... it... takes.

Eddie doesn't even try for charm-- he's just a thug now. Everyone's gathered around. The Picketers are menacing. The Students are scared. The cops are nervous. Finally...

DAISY

I understand. May I use your phone?

She nods over to his limo, at the car phone antenna. Guffaws from the Picketers. Eddie smiles an evil smile.

EDDIE

No. Go find your own.

Daisy rolls her eyes, then turns to a NERDY-LOOKING GUY.

DAISY

I'm gonna straighten this out. Keep everyone digging 'till I get back.

The Nerdy-Looking Guy nods. Daisy starts walking.

EXT. RIVERFRONT (BROOKLYN) – DAY

Daisy walks. Ahead, a sign points to "The River Cafe."

ANGLE ON NONDESCRIPT RENTED CAR

Two guys sit inside. Both have long, gaunt faces, and an unnatural pallor to their skin. Meet IGGY and SPIKE.

Their clothes look brand new-- in fact, the price tags are

still on. And Spike's blazer still has the plastic slipcover on it. These guys aren't from these parts.

Iggy nudges Spike as Daisy heads up the road. They speak with thick cockney accents.

IGGY

'ere she goes. 'E's gonna kill us
if we don't get it right this time.

He drops it in gear, and guns it-- BAMMMM-- right into the car in front. He put it in reverse, and smashes the car parked behind him. The emergency brake is still on. But he doesn't care. It's some of ht worst driving ever seen.

Forward now, he RRRRIPS off the bumper of the car in front, then pulls out into the lane and starts tailing Daisy, occasionally scraping cars-- but never stopping to look.

Iggy and Spike lean far forward. Intent but... dense.

SPIKE

How many girls have we gotten wrong?

IGGY

(burning)

Six.

SPIKE

Oh-for-six. What percent is that?

IGGY

... I dunno. Let me think.

Spike lets Iggy think. Nothing happens. Spike joins in. Tries. Still, nothing happens. Finally, Iggy pounds the steering wheel, frustrated. Causing the HORN to HONK...

OUTSIDE THE CAFE – DAISY

Turns her head back, not really sure she saw anything... then ducks into the cafe.

INT. RIVER CAFE – DAY

Mario and Luigi sit a table, empty plates in front of them. They both peer in the kitchen, watching as the Canelli's botch the repair job-- banging away almost like apes.

MARIO

Two days-- heck, they need two
lifetimes. Dim-wits.

(shaking his head)

Now I know how Shakespeare feels
when he watches TV.

Luigi is about to correct Mario, but then he changes his mind, and just nods at the SOAPY WATER seeping out.

LUIGI

Should we go in and save 'em?

MARIO

Nah... Let 'em soak.

Luigi makes his napkin into a swan as Mario scans the bill.

MARIO

Speaking of soaking, look at this.
At Tony's, spaghetti's three-ninety-five. Here it's called "pasta" and they want eight bucks.
(wagging a finger at Luigi)
Everything's a racket. Hear me?

But Luigi doesn't hear him, because...

AT THE FRONT DOOR

...there's a "CHING" of the door, and in comes daisy, eyes searching for a phone. She heads for the back, passing the Marios' table. Luigi hasn't moved since the "CHING."

LUIGI

Mama Mia. You see her?

MARIO

Why'n't you go introduce yourself?

Luigi

Me? Yeah, right...

Luigi leans out to see her dial the PAY PHONE in back.

WITH DAISY ON THE PHONE

DAISY

...If he harms the hadrosaur pit, we'll know it right off. But he might try and tamper with the allosaurus, the pterodactyl, or the terrasaur. That's bad.

WITH LUIGI, AT HIS TABLE

As he eavesdrops, then turns to Mario, sad.

LUIGI

I finally see the girl of my dreams,
and she doesn't speak English.

Then, he turns as Daisy hangs up the phone and heads out-- BUT SHE SLIPS ON THE SOAPY WATER. Arms out, legs flailing, and slips and slides. Back and forth, trying to regain her balance. It goes on, and on. And on.

Luigi, watching her, finally jumps up to help-- then slips himself. It becomes the two of them, slipping and sliding, their eyes locked on each other as they keep slipping.

Luigi's finally able to shuffle over to her, and grabs her.

They stop. Still. The-- WHHHUUUMP-- they fall to the floor in a heap, Luigi on the bottom, looking up at Daisy.

Daisy

You okay?

Luigi nods. Mario pulls them both to their feet. Both are soaked, and both look awkward. Finally, Mario helps.

MARIO

What my brother's trying to say is,
are you okay?

DAISY

I'm fine.

(to Luigi)

Thanks.

Mario looks at Luigi, waiting. Then:

MARIO

And he wants to know if you need a
ride, now that you're all wet.

DAISY

I'm just going down to the river.
Not to get wetter in. I work there.

Nothing from Luigi. Mario again:

MARIO

It's as if he's saying, "Why, that's
just on our way. By the by, my name
is Luigi Mario. This is my older
brother, Mario Mario. What, by
chance, would your name be?"

DAISY

Daisy.

Daisy and Mario look at Luigi. Finally, he speaks...

LUIGI

That's... a beautiful name, Daisy.

EXT. THE EXCAVATION SITE – DAY

The Van pulls to a stop. Daisy gets out.

DAISY

Thanks. Stop by anytime.

MARIO

Sure. Luigi, Is there anything you want to ask...?

Luigi can't say a word. And Mario can't say this for him. Daisy just has to back away, slowly waving.

DAISY

Okay... bye... see ya...bye-bye...

Finally, Luigi turns to her, about ready to ask her...and Daisy turns and walks into the site...

INT. THE MARIO BROTHERS' APARTMENT – SITTING ROOM – NIGHT

At opposite sides of the room are two doors. From one comes the sound of a FRANK SINATRA; from the other THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS.

Mario comes out of the first door. His hair is wet from the shower and he's sleeking it back with a metal comb. He wears imitation Ferragamo shoes, tailored tapered trousers, and a white singlet which shows off his tattooed forearms and a chunky ID bracelet. He looks over at the couch...

Where Luigi sits, bummed, wearing an Eco T-shirt and around his wrist is a woven "wish" bracelet.

MARIO

Hey. Coulda been worse. You coulda fainted.

LUIGI

I dunno, Mar... I dunno...

MARIO

You believe in all that crazy stuff: Aliens and afterlife and Elvis running for President. How come you won't believe that a girl would want to go out with you?

LUIGI

Because I... I dunno.

Mario knows. Slowly, he walks over, eyes narrowing.

MARIO

You dunno... what?

Luigi looks up at his older brother, then uncorks...

LUIGI

All right. I dunno about what we do. I dunno about being a... plumber. Unclogging drains and toilets-- it's embarrassing, Mario.

Mario just glares at Luigi, then he turns and stomps over to the fireplace mantle, where the portraits of the Mario generations sit. He turns all three to the wall.

MARIO

I'll tell what's embarrassing-- to make these great gentlemen look at you. You got no respect for them, you got no allegiance to Poppa, and you got no family pride.

Mario ends big, wagging his finger hard. He's really mad. Luigi can't say anything. Just lies down on the couch.

LUIGI

It's just she seemed so... special. Like a goddess, or a princess, or something. And I seem... not-so-special. You know?

Finally, Mario realizes he went too far, and comes over.

MARIO

I know this: You're a Mario. And you're good enough for anyone. Even a princess. You hear that. Anyone!
(standing, arms out big)
You're LUIGI MARIO! My brother!

LUIGI

I can't argue with that.

MARIO

And don't even try. Just remember: Go after what you want. If you like that girl... then you go after her.

Luigi stands, rejuvenated. Mario reaches up and puts an arm around his little--but-taller brother's shoulder.

MARIO

And besides, Luigi, even if this
girl is a princess... their toilets
clog up, too, you know.

EXT. EXCAVATION SITE – NIGHT

Floodlights illuminate the fenced-off area, as Daisy and the Nerdy-Looking Guy put things away for the night.

DAISY

Thanks again for the help.

NERDY-LOOKING GUY

So... maybe... we could...

Before he can get it out, daisy looks up at a sound. It's the Mario Brothers' Van stopping at the edge of the site.

Luigi hops out, then hops back in. We HEAR MARIO'S VOICE--

MARIO (O.S.)

Get out there. Ask her!

-- and then Luigi hops back out, and strides for Daisy.

LUIGI

Hi.

DAISY

Hi.

Luigi stops. Gets the worst thing out of the way first.

LUIGI

You should know.... I'm... just a
plumber.

He opens his eyes. She's still there.

LUIGI

I was wondering... would you care
to... join me?

DAISY

(a knowing smile)

I'm afraid I don't know much about
pipes.

LUIGI

I meant... for dinner.

She just looks at him for a moment. He looks back, so determined... He smiles a bit. Then so does she.

DAISY

I'd love to.

Suddenly she looks over at the Nerdy Guy. Feels bad. But the Nerdy Guy just waves her on.

NERDY GUY

Just go.

THE SAME SCENE – VIEWED FROM ACROSS THE STREET

As Luigi offers his arm to Daisy, and leads her to the Van.

INT. IGGY AND SPIKE'S RENTAL CAR – SAME

Iggy and Spike stare, dumbfounded and angry.

SPIKE

She's gettin into a van.

IGGY

Okay-- she's gonna hafta get out of it at some point, right? I mean, unless she lives in it.

Spike nods... an evil smile growing on his face...

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT – "TONY'S" – NIGHT

A large sprawling time-warp of a restaurant, the kind of place that serves meatballs in thick red sauce and has never heard of arugula or sun-dried tomatoes.

On the walls are photos of Italian American Legends: Tony Bennett, Perry Como, Rocky Marciano and Sinatra's rat pack. The clients look like wise guys with their coiffured dates.

We FIND the foursome mid-conversation-- Luigi with Daisy, and Mario with his arm around DANIELLA-- in a corner booth. She's dark, ballsy, very Brooklyn, with long crimson nails.

DANIELLA

I'm sorry-- this whole thing is about bones?

DAISY

Oh, no-- much more than that. After they blasted, we found iridium in the rocks. We think-- actually, I think-- this could be the site where a giant meteorite hit... That could be what wiped out all the dinosaurs.

Luigi is just amazed. Mario and Daniella share a nudge-- they're getting a kick out of Luigi's attraction to Daisy.

LUIGI

Is that cool or what, Mario. There used to be dinosaurs in Brooklyn!

MARIO

There used to be Dodgers here, too,
Luigi. And in my book, they're just
as extinct.

LUIGI

Mario. We're talking to the head
bone-ologist at the Columbia University
here.

DAISY

(smiles)

Actually, I'm still pretty much low
egghead on the totem pole. I'm just
the only one willing to work the
long hours for the little money.

DANIELLA

Oh, I know what you mean. It wasn't
until last week that I made shift
manager at the tanning salon, 'cause
Harry-my-boss is such a jerk. Like
today, I go to get my hair done...

MARIO

It looks nice, Daniella, did I tell
you that?

DANIELLA

Thank you. So anyway, I get back
from the hairdresser an' straight
off he's on my case. Mad cause
I cut it on company time. So I told
him: shove it, Harry-- I grew it on
company time.

Mario laughs really hard, then gives Luigi a "check it out, you and me with beautiful babes" look.

DANIELLA

Can I ask you something, sweetheart?
I've been dying to take a look at
that necklace.

Daniella reaches across to finger the pendant around Daisy's neck. But Daisy politely stops her.

DAISY

Oh... I know it sounds weird, but I
never take it off. See... it's the
only thing I have from when I was
found.

DANIELLA

Found? I don't get it. You mean
born.

DAISY

No. I was abandoned. I was brought
up in St. Teresa's on Fulton Street.

It's a little uncomfortable for everyone but Daisy.

DAISY

In fact, the only time I took it off
I felt, I don't know, really...
tired, I guess? And, well, since
then, I just leave it on.

Daisy looks at Luigi. She smiles nice. He returns it. Daniella looks at Mario, raising an eyebrow.

DANIELLA

Oh, I'd say. So what are you kids
gonna do tonight...?

MARIO

Yeah, it's such a nice night, and
two people-- and two people only--
are needed to get the van back home,
so that leaves... well...

Suddenly, Luigi raises his hands, cutting Mario off. Then he turns to Daisy, and asks, so sweet.

LUIGI

It is a nice night. And so, perhaps
you'd like to go for walk with me.

EXT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT – "TONY'S" – NIGHT

A VALET pulls the Van up to the awning, and gets out. We can't see who gets in, but then the Van pulls
away. Beat.

INT. IGGY and SPIKE'S RENTAL CAR – SAME

Watching this, they lean forward, eyes glued.

SPIKE

Is that her? Can you even tell?

IGGY

Humans *Homo Sapiens*. They all look alike to me.
(stepping on the gas)
But she's right. Let's do it.

Iggy and Spike's car pulls out, SCRRRAPING A CAR IN THE PROCESS. They don't stop, and don't care.

EXT. RESTAURANT – CONTINUING

Just as they pass, Daisy and Luigi emerge into the night.

LUIGI

Would it be okay if I took your arm?

DAISY

(smiles)

Okay... but I'll need my legs if
we're going to walk back.

Luigi smiles. Takes Daisy's arm... and we CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN APARTMENT BLOCK – NIGHT

The Mario Brothers' Van pulls up, and parks. Mario gets out and goes around to the other side, opening the door.

EXT. DANIELLA'S APARTMENT – SAME

Daniella opens her lobby door, then turns back to Mario.

DANIELLA

So...when are you gonna make me
Mrs. Mario M. Mario the fourth?

MARIO

I'm working on it, I'm working.

Daniella smiles. She gives Mario a peck on the cheek. Mario smiles at her. By herself, she's pretty wonderful. He waits till the door's closed. Then walks to the Van.

But when he gets in... SPIKE AND IGGY appear out of the shadows... and PULL THEMSELVES THROUGH THE BARRED WINDOWS.

After a beat we hear a MUTED SCREAM... and we CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN SIDE STREET – NIGHT

Luigi and Daisy walk arm in arm, taking in the night.

LUIGI

So... you have no idea who your
mother is?

DAISY

None.

LUIGI

Yeah, me neither. My brother, he
raised me.

The two walk silently for a moment-- way down the alley, the RENTAL CAR screeches past on the main road...

EXT. EXCAVATION SITE – NIGHT – A MOMENT LATER

Daisy and Luigi turn the corner.

DAISY

You showed me what plumbers do for fun. You have any interest in seeing how paleontologists-- excuse me, "bone-ologists"-- get their jollies?

She crooks a finger, and then leads him toward the tunnel entrance. Luigi follows after her.

Neither of them see the rental car, parked badly off in a ditch, its door still open. OR...

The spiffy-new "CANELLI PLUMBING" VAN, also parked off in the shadows. (But this one's still got a DRIVER waiting.)

INT. TUNNEL – EXCAVATION AREA – NIGHT

A flashlight held by Daisy illuminates the darkened tunnel. Luigi follows her, waving his own flashlight.

DAISY

I've been interested in this stuff as long as I can remember. I'm just drawn to it. It's weird, really. Just tell me if this is boring.

She stops, angling her flashlight up to a STRATA OF ROCK, running along the WALL...

DAISY

Okay, this is a layer of carboniferous sandstone. It doesn't crop up on any geological map of the area. And get a load of...this.

She follows the strata down to... a STRANGE FOSSIL. The head looks fiercely reptilian, the body beside it looks oddly humanoid.

They both admire it for a moment. Then...

DAISY

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

She points to the thrusting jaw full of sharp teeth.

LUIGI

No wonder they went extinct-- they obviously didn't floss.

DAISY

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

Daisy sighs, shining her flashlight around the tunnel.

DAISY

When I'm here, I feel so at home.

They hear SCUFFLING, and FOOTFALLS, COMING TOWARD THEM, and they both quickly douse their flashlights. They press up against the wall as TWO FIGURES RUSH BY THEM, heading out of the tunnel. Luigi just catches the letters "ANELLI PLU" [All in block] glinting off their sparkling white coveralls...

After they're gone, Daisy turns her light back on.

DAISY

Oh, no... don't tell me...

They see water seeping into the passageway. She looks at him imploringly.

DAISY

They must've reversed the sump
pumps, or maybe re-directed the seep
valves.

LUIGI

I... I'm just a novice. They guy we
want is my brother.

DAISY

Then get him. I'll stay here. I
gotta try and save this stuff.
Hurry!

INT. THE MARIO BROTHERS APARTMENT – SITTING ROOM – NIGHT

Mario is getting ready for bed (he sleeps in a night-shirt and sleeping cap), setting his TOOL BELT like a baby on the bed next to him when Luigi bursts in, out of breath.

LUIGI

Mario. Canelli's flooded the
excavation site. We gotta do the
biggest job of our lives... and we
ain't getting paid a cent for it.

Mario steps up to Luigi, serious as all get out.

MARIO

Luigi, some jobs you do for the
money, some jobs you do for the art.
And some jobs... you do just cause

it's the right thing to do.
(then)
Strap on your tool belt, kid...
we're goin' in.

INT. TUNNEL – NIGHT

Mario steps in, dressed in his "MARIO BROS." cover-alls. Luigi's at his side, dressed the same. He yells...

LUIGI
Daisy!

Beat. Then her voice echoes up from the darkness.

DAISY
Down here! Hurry!

The brothers jog into the tunnel depths.

INT. TUNNEL PUMPING AREA – NIGHT

The water is knee-deep. Daisy is here, wrenching on a valve, trying to shut-off the flow of water into the chamber. Then... Mario is beside her, lifting her hands.

MARIO
Allow me. I'm a professional.
(then, sizing up the
situation)
Eiler wrench.

He holds out his hand, like a surgeon. Instantly-- fwap-- Luigi slaps the tool into his palm. Mario drops it down over a large bolt.

MARIO
Crescent-- No. Cumberland gauge.

Palm out--fwap Mario lays it on a dial, twisting slowly.

MARIO
Hand.

Palm out-- fwap. Luigi lays his own hand in Mario's, then braces himself as Mario leans down, reaching into the muck.

Supporting his brother, Luigi looks over at worried Daisy. He winks, then smiles, pointing at Mario.

LUIGI
Piece a cake. Guy knows his stuff.

INT. DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF THE TUNNEL – NIGHT

Deeper than we've been before. It's pitch black-- then two twin pencil beams of light crisscross in the darkness. A moment later we see the faces of Iggy and Spike. They carry flashlights and they're coming from deep inside.

SPIKE

Wrong again. You said, "This one's her for sure," and, ba-boom, it's not. And I'm telling you-- he is mad.

IGGY

That's the problem when your brains are... what's the word?

SPIKE

Small?

IGGY

Exactly.

Suddenly Iggy reacts, clamping his fingers in Spike's arm. His nostrils flare, and he douses his flashlight, pointing.

IGGY

Up ahead. Smell that? Smell it?
It's her! I definitely know it now.

They drop into crouches and move forward. For the first time we get a clue to their dino carnivore ancestry. Their heads swing, as though hunting as much by smell as sight.

INT. TUNNEL PUMPING AREA – NIGHT

Now Mario is on his knees, leaning against the rock wall, trying to reach around a large valve. Luigi kneels with him, trying to get a different tool around the back side.

MARIO

No problem. This is amateur work.
Your good sabotage takes days to
fix. We'll be done in an hour.

Daisy nods, shining her flashlight on the operation...
... Until she senses something. AND IT GOES RIGHT BY HER--

WHACK! WHACK! Both Mario and Luigi get blows to the head. They reel and slump, and go goofy in the legs.

Daisy swings the flashlight like a samurai sword, but scaly arms wrap around her tight. Daisy bites, kicks, yells.

But she's no match for both of them. They start to drag her into the depths of the tunnel. She YELLS...

SECONDS LATER – BACK WITH THE BROTHERS

Luigi is getting groggily to his knees, his hand rubbing the pain at the back of his neck.

LUIGI
Daisy?... Daisy?!

He looks around for her... she's nowhere. Luigi leaps to his feet and rouses Mario, who starts searching, punchy. Instinctively, he checks for his tools.

MARIO
What happened?

Luigi hauls Mario to his feet, livid. Then they HEAR:

DAISY'S DISTANT VOICE
Lemme go you... REPTILES!!

The guys spin-- it's hard to tell where it's coming from. Mario points deeper into the tunnel. They rush off.

SECONDS LATER – FURTHER DOWN THE TUNNEL

The guys reach a fork, and stop...

DAISY'S VOICE
(more distant, echoing)
Get your slithery paws off me!

LUIGI
(starting one way)
This way!

MARIO
(pulling him the other)
No-- this way. That's the echo.
(then, wagging his finger)
Trust me on this. I spend my life
with my ear to pipes and tubes. I
know what I'm talking about.

Luigi hesitates a moment, then follows Mario around the corner where they find themselves--

INT. TUNNEL – GATEWAY AREA – NIGHT

Where the tunnel ENDS IN A CAVE. Mario and Luigi rush in and stop. Luigi glares. There is no one to be seen.

LUIGI

This way? Trust you?

MARIO

I coulda sworn it was coming from
down here...

The water is deepening and swirling around them-- duckboards, scaffolding and cables swept in its torrent.

Then, again, the siren call:

DAISY'S VOICE

(ever-so-distant)

No! NOOOO!!!

The Brothers look closer. The voice SOUNDS LIKE it came from the rock wall. Luigi rushes to it, looking hard.

Then he steps back. In front of him, seemingly SOLID ROCK. Behind him, another stone wall with strange ETCHINGS.

Mario sashes over, keeping his back against the wall, until he's on top of the etchings, pressing against a scratched-in pictograph of a meteor slamming into earth.

And, when he accidentally depresses a raised portion-- Suddenly, the ROCK WALL IN FRONT OF THEM... RIPPLES! And--

Daisy's face appears through the solid surface!

She sees Luigi and her hand reaches out to him...

DAISY

Luiiiiiii-giiiiiii!

The guys gape.

.. And then Luigi reaches out for her. But his fingers manage to only clasp the pendant around her neck. Then SOLID STONE HANDS tear through the wall and pull her back. The rock swirls and shudders, closing over her. Luigi is left with the pendant clutched in his hand.

The brothers exchange looks, unwilling to believe what they've just seen. Luigi thumps the rock with his fist.

LUIGI

She's in there!

MARIO

And we're in here and we're gonna drown!

DAISY'S NOW VERY DISTANT VOICE

Luiiiiiiiigi.... Maarrriioooooo...

Then Mario gets an idea-- and leans against the Meteor Etching-- in the same pose he did before and...

At that instant the wall becomes fluid again and gulps at Luigi. He is snatched through just before the wall

seals solid again. Mario is astounded.

Mario
I'm coming for you, Luigi!
And Daisy! And whoever else might be in
there I'm coming for you all!

And Mario hits the meteor etching, and-- HE RUNS TOWARD THE WALL-- LEAPING RIGHT THROUGH IT, FEET FIRST!

... But, that's when it solidifies again. Leaving Mario lodged at the waist, head and torso sticking out.

He gulps-- the water's rising fast. Now he gets another idea. Reaching to his Tool Belt, he grabs his MEASURING TAPE, holds it at the small end, then squints, aiming at...

The Meteor Etching. Carefully, he throws and... Bingo. The rock goes fluid again, the tap THHHWWAPs back... and Mario disappears...

INT. COSMIC VORTEX – ETERNAL NIGHT

... Only to tumble, free-floating in a crazy-kinda-cosmic vortex-- a bizarre distortion of shifting dimensions.

Mario screams. Then shapes solidify and focus clears...

INT. GATEWAY CHAMBER – NIGHT

.. And Mario lands, finding himself next to Luigi.

LUIGI
Hey, Mario.

MARIO
Hey, Luigi.

They, they both double take.

MARIO/LUIGI
What the heck was that?
(spinning, goggle-eyed)
What the heck is this?

They seem to be in an underground chamber. But where?

The walls are roughhewn, deeply etched with a series of pictographs that depict the evolution of various species. Some are filled with a fluorescing moss that makes them look like a cross between cave drawings and graffiti.

LUIGI
Did we die? Is this hell?

MARIO
No. If this was hell... there'd be
accordion music.

Then-- suddenly, they hear:

DAISY'S VOICE
(less distant than before)
Ow! You mangy lizard-head!!

The guys spin to see...

ACROSS A FIFTY-FOOT CATWALK (*NOTE: SAME CATWALK AS AT END)

... Daisy, being held by Spike and Iggy. She spots Luigi, and fights harder, as Iggy punches the wall beside him.

DAISY
Luigi! Lui-- Ohh-awAAHHHHH!

And the three of them are-- SUCKED UP. Into a LARGE DUCT. They just disappear, like marionettes pulled off-stage.

BACK WITH MARIO AND LUIGI

As they stare, stunned. Daisy's scream fades to silence. Luigi whirls on Mario.

LUIGI
What're we waitin' for?

And they sprint out onto--

THE FIFTY-FOOT CATWALK

-- Which is suspended over a HUGE METALLIC ROCK, thirty feet across, nestled below in the bottom of the chamber.

Luigi is out front of Mario, in a dead-sprint, when--

POOOOOOOOOM. They SMACK into something, and fall back on their asses, stunned silly. They look...

... And there's nothing. EXCEPT THERE'S A WALL OF IT.

Luigi reaches out, and touches the "Nothing Wall." It's perfectly clear, and it completely blocks the Catwalk.

The Mario Bothers look at each other, amazed. Each with his own version of a "logical" explanation.

Mario
An optical illusion, with
the light refracting in
such a way that the wall

LUIGI
A strange, other-worldly
energy force, emanating
from the earth's center

appears invisible?

To create a barrier...?

Then, from above the "Nothing Wall," a COMPUTER VOICE:

COMPUTER VOICE

To enter Koopa Square, please state
your voting preference for our
elected tyrannical dictator.

MARIO

(hopping to his feet, mad)
This is stupid! Just let us
through!

On the word "stupid," Luigi notices something (and we would, too, if we were paying close attention).

LUIGI

Wait! Say that again!

MARIO

That this is stupid?

THIS TIME we notice it more. A GLINT OF LIGHT on "stupid." In front of their faces as if-- maybe-- something (like an invisible door) was opening and shutting before them.

LUIGI

(experimenting)

Stooooooooo..

(glint starts)

Ppppiiii...

(glint stops)

Ddddd.

Mario starts to catch on.

MARIO

Dooooopa. Foooopa. Gooooopa.
Jooooopa. Kooooopa.

FLASH-WHOOOSH! The invisible door WHISKS all the way open. The guys look at each other, and then barrel on through.

They reach the end of the Catwalk, and stop. Above them-- A SIX-FOOT WIDE TUBE stretches up into inky blackness.

MARIO

What on earth's a Koopa?

LUIGI

Where on earth is Daisy?

Luigi just starts punching the wall, like he saw earlier.

MARIO

Excuse me. Why are you hitting--
(then, with a shrug)
Of course. It's Luigi.

Mario starts punching the wall, too. Finally-- Something gives a little. Beat. Then something starts...

There's a sound like a TURBINE. And-- WHOOOOOOSH!-- the brothers are pulled upwards into a violent AIRSTREAM...

INT. THE AIRSTREAM – NIGHT – MOVING IN A COLUMN OF AIR

.. As their faces distort from the G-forces, their bodies spinning in the updraft. Upside down, right-side up...

MARIO (OVER THE DIN)
To generate an updraft like this in
a tubing system this wide--
do you know what kind of generator--

LUIGI
Mario! Can we cut it with the shop
talk for once?

EXT. IN AN ALLEYWAY – NIGHT

... And they tumble out of an AIR CONDITIONING DUCT, rolling hard against the brick.

Mario quickly checks his Tool Belt-- full. Then he checks Luigi's-- half empty. They both become aware of the COMMOTON going on at the end of the alley.

Music. Bubbub. And, a FLASH of what MIGHT BE DAISY.

DAISY'S VOICE
(distant and overwhelmed)
What is going on???

LUIGI
Daisy? Daisy!!

Luigi grabs Mario, and pulls him out into...

EXT. KOOPA SQUARE, DINOYAWK – (PARALLEL NEW YORK) – NIGHT

.. and their eyes bug. It looks like what kids imagine the "grown-up" world to be. Cars crashing, music loud...

And, un-lucky them, they seem to be at its hub, a grotesque twisted version of Times Square. The place is ablaze with light and NOISE-- Blinking neon. Kick-ass Rock-n-Roll. A large crowd swirls and shoves aggressively, like animals.

They hear SPARKING and ZAPPING, and look up.

Suspended high over the streets is a wire mesh, which powers the cars below, which work like bumper cars.

Atop the buildings-- BILLBOARDS feature advertisements:
A weird car-- "The All-New Meteor... It Kicks Butt."
Some shoes-- "'Air Stompers' by THWOMP... 'Just Stomp it.'"

They're in the middle of the pulsing madness and mayhem of the city that's not New York. Although maybe this is what it will look like if it goes the way of the South Bronx.

They pass food shops-- all saying how horrible the foods is.
"BEN'S DELI-- 'Bad Food at Worse Prices'"
"ROLLIE'S ROTISSERIE-- 'Roasted Beyond Recognition!'"
"JAKE'S CAKES-- 'Eat 'em! Smear 'em! Who cares?!'"

TWO HOOKERS twirl spiked handbags and eye the guys.

HOOKER #1

Hey, boys, wanna get flayed? Step on the scales, we work by the pound.

LUIGI

Move it, we're looking for a lady.

HOOKER #1

Well, you came to the right place... sort of. I can fake it.

MARIO

He said a lady.

Hooker #1

Buzz off, herbivores.

In front of them, two battered cars CRASH. Beat. Then the drivers just back up, and SMASH again before driving off.

LUIGI

Daisy!? Daisy!? Where is she?

MARIO

Where are we!?

LUIGI

Maybe it's Manhattan of the Future,
and we were just knocked unconscious
for a hundred years or something?

MARIO

(the more practical one)

Or it's the Bronx of Today.
No wonder they tell you to never go up
here.

LUIGI

(after a beat)

Maybe it's... a parallel dimension.
You know, an alternate world to
ours, sharing the same space as us,
but totally unreachable... except by
tunnel, and then liquid rock, and
then a catwalk over some thing,
and then a big vacuum cleaner dealie...

Mario slowly turns his head and looks at Luigi. Luigi knows that he just got ridiculous.

LUIGI

I know, I know. Stupid idea.

He leans against a parking meter, which expires-- "ping". INSTANTLY, a STRANGE VEHICLE-- like a tow truck with a mechanical claw mounted on the rear-- scoops up the car, crunching the roof as it hoists it into the air.

It almost knocks Luigi and Mario silly. They roll out of its way, then hop up and scramble away, passing--

A VENDOR at his steaming cart. He reaches in and removes a hot, cooked LIZARD, slapping it on a hot dog bun, then grabbing a "snake-on-a-stick". He calls to the boys.

VENDOR

Hey, gents. Get your Soiled Turtle
Burger here... crunchy shells...
nummy-nuns. Only twenty Koopons.
You like Little Wigglers? Fifteen.

MARIO

Wherever we are, we're gonna have to
be real hungry to eat.

LUIGI

(suddenly seeing something)
Wait!! I think I see her!!

Sure enough-- through the mad mayhem is a GLINT OF WHAT MIGHT BE EHRE.

Luigi

Daisy! We're coming for you!

And sure enough-- IT IS HER. Being dragged, kicking and

screaming through the oblivious crowd. She CALLS FOR THEM, her voice drowned in the swelling wave of chaos.

The Marios kick it up a notch--

... JUST AS A PARADE STARTS. Like at Disneyland, where they crank up three-parades-a-day, 365-days-a-year, these folks have it down colds. Because suddenly--

MUSIC BLARES-- thumping bass, piercing vocals repeating, "Koo-pa, Koo-pa." TOUGH-LOOKING

COPS force folks to hold up signs, "KOOPA, YES!" and "KOOPA, YOU BET!" CONFETTI and TICKER-TAPE shoot out from hidden cannons.

And, just as the guys are about to reach the kidnapers--

The centerpiece of the parade arrives up the street. It's a LIMOUSINE, with HUUUGE TIRES. Like a Monster Truck. Ladders hang down from the doors, it's just that obnoxious. And it says "RE-ELECT KOOPA – OR ELSE!" on the side.

Spike and Iggy pull Daisy up next to the Limo, then turn back to face the Mario Brothers, who roll up their sleeves, ready for an old-fashioned street brawl.

MARIO

Let her go. Now.

Mario means business. Iggy bangs on the limo ladder.

And, instantly, the limo doors fly open and out jump-- FOUR GOOMBAS-- goons, really, with thick necks and reptilean features. They descend on the boys, pronto.

LUIGI

(gulping)

Hang on, Daisy, we'll get ya--

But he's flattened by two of them. Mario punches like a pumping-piston, hitting their faces, but they don't care.

BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM-- the Goombas fight like fist-machines.

Quickly, the boys go down, bruised and sore. Around them, nobody even cares.

Spike and Iggy throw Daisy into the Limo, holding the doors open for the Goombas, who jump in. The doors shut.

And then the Limo leaves the parade, going four-wheelin', DRIVING RIGHT OVERPARKED CARS LIKE "BIGFOOT." It's gone.

In pain, Luigi and Mario can only watch it thunder off, crunching cars through "Koopa Square," passing under--

A GIANT "KoopaVision" TV... "It's A Bony."

ON IT-- A COMMERCIAL. For the re-election of "Koopa"-- a dashing, rakish fellow, who's at the moment presenting himself as "KOOPA THE ENVIRONMENTALIST," with the slogan "Don't worry, we'll get more."

MARIO

Oh, Luigi...

LUIGI

Mario... I got a feeling we're not in Brooklyn anymore.

Mario and Luigi look across the city. THEIR POV:

EXT. KOOPA'S TOWER NIGHT

A black tower stands out against a starless sky.

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

A vast room: towering crystalline windows overlook the city. One side is Koopa's command center: alone computer console. The other is Koopa's bedroom: a spacious bed, a banquet table, a sunken pit with bar.

The marble floor is strewn with torn sheets, gutted pillows, and empty bottles. A fiercely sexual female creature lies stretched out on it, ready to stalk again... This is LENA.

And though devious and cunning, she is something more-- A woman in love. Sexily, she moves across the floor...

LENA

I admire a man who's too big to ride
in his own parade.... Koopa?

But the man she is speaking to is totally preoccupied. This is the KOOPA. And, with his dark robe and long hair, he truly is a menacing presence. (Throughout the scene, he rips pieces of a lizard and tosses them OFFSCREEN, into the shadows, from where we HEAR a MONSTROUS SLURPING SOUND.)

LENA

Maybe you'd like to go on a more...
grown-up ride?

KOOPA

Relax, Lena. You know it sickens me
when you stoop to slithering.

LENA

Don't get sibilant.

KOOPA

Lillith.

LENA

Saurian.

Koopa smiles thinly, then steps towards her, enunciating... like a man under tremendous pressure.

KOOPA

There's very little time left. Very
little for you, very little for me,

very little for anything other than
the preservation of...
(gesturing out the window,
at the world below)
... that. Sinking in now, Lena?

LENA
Oh yes, your lord and royal badness.
(coming to him, mocking)
And I'd say some-body got up on the
wrong side of the nest.

KOOPA
(nodding out the window)
They have no idea how close we are
to dying... Plant-eaters. Fruit-
munching toadies. When a
civilization stops devouring raw
flesh, that's when they're truly
doomed.

LENA
(nuzzling him)
Mnnn... I know it's killing me.

Koopa angrily rips off more lizard meat, and tosses it O.S. We HEAR an appreciative O.S. growl, and now Koopa leans down-- cooing like some yuppie talking to his people.

KOOPA
Datsa good liddle Yoshi-yeah.
(then, back to Lena)
If we don't get access to the energy
we need soon, we're dust. Fossils.

LENA
(sulkily)
You think when your "princess"
arrives everything will be better?

Koopa points at a pedestal, on which stands the METAL EGG, which was left at the convent. It's missing a piece.

KOOPA
Not just her... but what comes with her.
When I have the rest of the
encasement... then we'll have our
hope for the future-- if there is to
be a future.

She goes toward him again. He jerks away from her touch.

KOOPA
What do you think you're doing?

LENA
(a pouty smile)
Trying to do my part to avoid the
extinction of our species...

A DISCREET BUZZER sounds. Lena sulks as IGGY and SPIKE proudly enter.

IGGY
We got her, your Lordship. She's
being defungused, then she'll be put
in with the other girls.

KOOPA
Good. Where's the pendant?

SPIKE
What? You said get a girl, not a
girl and a pen--

KOOPA
You idiots! Does she still have it?

Iggy looks at Spike, nervous, his tiny brain working hard.

IGGY
Those plumbers snatched it...?

Spike nods, nervous too. Koopa reels... his mind spinning.

KOOPA.
Plumbers...?!

SPIKE
Yeah, they kinda... followed us
through the gateway.

LENA
You invertebrates...

KOOPA
Put an all-points trawl out in the
city. I want those plumbers. NOW.

EXT. KOOPA SQUARE, DYNO-YAWK – (PARALLEL NEW YORK) – NIGHT

Luigi feels his neck in the place where the pendant hangs. He's real bummed. Mario, sitting next to him curbside, is equally bummed.

LUIGI
I can't believe we lost her.

MARIO
I know, kid. I know

They just sit, shaking their heads, as a FRIENDLY OLD LADY approaches, in a knitted cap and a long skirt.

OLD LADY

Hello boys. From out of town?

MARIO

Sorta, ma'm. Brooklyn.

OLD LADY

Brooklyn? Isn't that nice. You boys live in a mythological place.

Mario smiles knowingly at Luigi-- the biddy's senile.

OLD LADY

Well, whatever. But you boys shouldn't wander around here without firepower. You got weapons?

LUIGI

... No.

OLD LADY

Good-- then gimme your money.

She pulls out an evil-looking STUN STICK from her coat. Blindingly fast, she frisks them, lifting their wallets.

Mario resists. He gets zapped, and reels back as if stung by a cattleprod.

The Old Lady pulls dollar bills from their wallets-- they mean nothing to her. She tosses them aside.

MARIO

Hey! That's thirty-three bucks!

OLD LADY

I need Koopons, you lame-os.

Suddenly she notices something-- the PENDANT which Luigi has been trying to quietly hide from her.

OLD LADY

Well... that oughta do just fine...

She zaps him and GRABS the pendant.

LUIGI

OWW! You can't have this-- it's not even ours-- OWWW! Hey!! Hey!!

The Old Lady turns to run-- but is robbed by two TEENAGE THUGS... who in turn are robbed by a BIKER CHICK, who is knocked off her bike by two KIDS WITH HOCKEY STICKS... whoa re then held up by a gang of WHEELCHAIR-BOUND MEN--- who's leader is stopped by--

The MEANEST, TOUGHEST LOOKING WOMAN EVER, wearing spikes and chains and black leather.

This is... BERTHA.

Bertha yanks the Old Leader out of his chair, jerks him over her head and shakes him, making his loot rain down.

Then she tosses him out into heavy traffic. SCREEEECH.

Ignoring that, she bends down to pick up her stolen booty (including THE PENDANT) and then stands and turns into...

... Mario and Luigi.

See, this sequence has gone around the entire Koopa Square, ending up exactly where it started.

The Brothers swallow, and then Mario steps forward.

MARIO

All right, lady-- it is "lady" isn't it?-- hand over that pendant.

Bertha eyes Mario strangely. Hard to tell whether she hates him, likes him, or is gonna eat him. Then:

BERTHA

Come get it, big boy.

As Mario shrugs and moves toward her--

Bertha hitches up her black leather pants, revealing strange pneumatic hi-tops-- Air Stompers. She slams two air cylinders into them. A HISSING sound accompanies a rising series of BEEPS, and then--

SCHWOOM! Bertha's Air Stompers catapult her into the air. She bounces across the street, off the roofs of cars.

Mario and Luigi watch, agape, when a STREET MUSICIAN (LEMMY), calls out from under an awning. He strums an instrument

that looks like a combo guitar/accordion.

LEMMY

Hey! Cheer up! How about a song?

(a folky folk song)

WE GOT NO FOOD, ANYWHERE.

THE WATER'S CRUDE, WE GOT NO AIR.

GOT NO RESOURCES, WE'RE IN A STUPOR.

THE FAULT OF COURSE IS, THAT DARN

KING KOOP--

Before he's even gets a word out, a COP CRUISER pulls up alongside of him and two TOUGH-LOOKING COPS descend, clubbing him stupid.

TOUGH-LOOKING COP #1

You know the law, singer!

MARIO

What was that about? Six crimes in
a row go by-- but a guy can't sing?

TOUGH-LOOKING COP #2

Not anti-Koopa songs, he can't.
(then; slit-eyeing them)
Hey... hey hey hey hey... you
two by chance ain't the...plumbers,
are you?

LUIGI

He is. I'm just apprenticin'. Why?

And-- WHOOM-WHAM- they descend, night-sticks flying.

INT. KOOPA TOWER – WOMEN'S DORMITORY/INTERMENT ROOM – SAME

Daisy is ushered into the room by a Goomba, and--

Six YOUNG Women look up. (And they all vaguely look like Daisy, especially if you have a tiny, reptilean brain.) They are the missing Brooklyn Girls, and Daisy only recognizes one of them-- Daniella.

DANIELLA

Oh, no, they got you, too, huh?

Daisy nods, feeling... odd. She needs to sit down.

DANIELLA

Whatsa matter? You look tired...

Daisy fingers her neck where the pendant used to hang...

DANIELLA

Oh, I see somebody got you to take
that off...

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – NIGHT

The cop car speeds down a ramp into the bowels of a building with a neon sign: "POLICE – Metro Division."

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – ARRIVALS AREA – NIGHT

Inside the police car, Mario and Luigi react in panic as they're chained to a bench in the car. The car is hurtling towards a solid wall, without braking.

ANOTHER ANGLE, OUTSIDE THE CAR

WHHAAamm-- the car is stopped by arrester hooks, like fighter planes on an aircraft carrier.

LUIGI/MARIO

(overlapping)

I knew that. Wasn't scared a bit.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – DE-FUNGUS UNIT – NIGHT

The prisoners stand in line. Luigi nudges Mario, pointing to some Goombas watching over the prisoners.

MARIO

They're like the goons we brawled.

LEMMY (O.S.)

Goombas, actually.

Lemmy, the folk SINGER, is also being arraigned.

MARIO

Goombas? That some kinda joke?

LEMMY

I wish it were.

Then, GAS-MASKED GOOMBA grab them, yank open their pants--

MARIO

Hey! I don't even let my
girlfriend do this!

--and shove large garden-spraying-type devices down them--

LUIGI

(giggling)

Ow! Whoa-- come on! I'm ticklish
down there!

--and give them a burst of powder. The boys' eyes bug.

MARIO

WHAT the--?

LEMMY

Defungus. There's a fungus choking
the whole city. Horrible stuff--
takes all our water. It's
everywhere, man.

The guys look at him as--

Another Goomba throws a switch and jets of yellow chemicals drench them. Retching, they're prodded into the next area containing huge drying machines. As the wind picks up...

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – PROCESSING ROOM – NIGHT

... Now we FIND the brothers shackled to a wall, numbers above their heads. Their hair sticks up from the dryers.

The place looks like a rifle range. From behind a screen a menacing looking gun appears... placing a red sighting laser dot between Mario's eyes. He thinks he's had it.

Then-- flash-- and the machine spits out instant mug shots.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – CELL BLOCK – NIGHT

The "cells" are small cramped cages, piled one upon the other, each lit by one pale fluorescent tube. Fork lift trucks are used to detach and replace the cells.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – CELL – NIGHT

We move past cells filled with DIFFERENT PRISONERS, mostly vicious-looking reptilian sociopaths with dagger teeth... We CATCH SNIPPETS OF DIALOGUE FROM VARIOUS PRISONERS:

-- "Hey, look! Ma sent brownies!"

-- "Whattaya in for?"

"Misdemeanor murder. I'm out today. You?"

"Felony jaywalking. I got the chair."

-- "Will ya shut up? I'm working on my novel... hey, how do you spell 'dismemberment?'"

At the end of the cell block sit...

Mario, stewing, and Luigi, fascinated by his surrounding. Packed in with them in the cramped, claustrophobic space is Lemmy, composing song lyrics with his guitar/accordion:

LEMMY

"SITTING IN A CRAMPED DETENTION,
WITH PLUMBERS FROM ANOTHER
DIMENSION..."

(to Mario)

Hey, either of you guys know another
word that rhymes with "dimension."

MARIO

Yeah, tension, and I'm full of it,
and I'm gonna--

Luigi waves Mario off, and crosses to Lemmy, interested.

LUIGI

Wait-- whattya mean another
dimension? Like our worlds have,
what, crossed over or something?

Mario rolls his eyes as Lemmy nods, leans closer.

LEMMY

And you wanna know what else I think? All that fungus? I think it's our old leader, who's been de-evolved into fungus, and is now trying to wreak revenge on the city.

Lemmy nods again. But even Luigi finds that one a little hard to believe. Mario looks at Luigi: "Satisfied?"

LUIGI

Okay, fine. Just mellow out.

MARIO

Mellow out...?

(to a rather savage looking
DEMON in next cell)

He wants me to mellow out. Okay, fine. I'm mellow.

(then, grabbing Luigi)

WE'RE IN HERE cause YOU wanted to
SAVE a girl you don't hardly KNOW.

LUIGI

You said I should go after her--

MARIO

I was talking about on a date, not into ANOTHER WORLD!

LUIGI

Then you DO think we're in another world!

MARIO

NO! I DON'T THINK WE'RE IN ANOTHER
WORLD! I WAS USING IT AS PART OF AN
ARGUMENT--

LUIGI

IF DANIELLA WERE HERE YOU'D WANNA
FIND HER.

MARIO

(quietly fierce)

Daniella wouldn't be so stupid as to
let herself get captured by the
idiot thugs we got captured by.

For Mario, that's it. He's done. But Luigi isn't.

LUIGI

You know what your problem is?
You just don't care about anyone.

MARIO

No, you know what my problem is? I care about YOU. For your whole life. I promised POP I would. Take care of my brother. Take care of the business. WELL, I'M FAILING AT BOTH. And I'm sick of it.

Pause. Luigi is visibly hurt. And Mario knows it, which is why he can't look at him.

Lemmy, who's been watching the whole time, strums his instrument and breaks into a syrupy, sappy song:

LEMMY

SITTIN' IN A CAGE WITH TWO BROTHERS.
LISTENIN' TO THEM SHARE WITH ONE
ANOTHER...

Mario and Luigi simultaneously shoot him a look that could kill a woolly mammoth.

LEMMY

... never mind.

BELOW, ON A METAL WALKWAY

A guard, with a name tag, "SGT. SIMON" shouts up at them.

SGT. SIMON

Mario Brothers?

UP ABOVE, Mario scrambles to his feet and look down.

MARIO

That's us! An' we want a lawyer to get us out of this chickencoop!

SIMON

You got one!

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – INTERROGATION ROOM – NIGHT

LOOKING DOWN ON a ceilingless rectangular room. There's a table and chairs, all bolted to the floor. A male figure rises as the brothers are ushered in by Simon.

ANOTHER ANGLE

REVEALS the figure to be... Koopa. But he looks less presidential now, in a suit and tie. He smiles big.

KOOPA

Boys, boys, siddown. How's prison treating you. You look like hell.

(extending a hand)

Larry Lazard of Lazard, Lazard,
Conda and Dactyl.. incorporated.

Mario and Luigi look at Koopa's hand, but don't shake.

MARIO

Who sent you? You from the city?

KOOPA

I'm from that little part of all of us that can't stand to see someone else in need. Or in pain.

MARIO

Yeah, I bet. Who's in charge here?

KOOPA

Oh, you mean the main man? The big boss? Head honcho? El Supremo? That's... our President Koopa.

LUIGI

(recognizing the name)

Koopa. That goofball's everywhere.

MARIO

Then he's a goofball we wanna see.

KOOPA

I don't think you want to do that

(dropping his voice)

This Koopa is one mean, evil, egg-sucking son-of-a-snake. Trust me.

The guys look at each other. What choice do they have?

KOOPA

Now. Where's the pendant?

LUIGI

Whatta you care? It's not yours.

KOOPA

(grabbing Luigi's neck)

I need that pendant!

Mario rises-- out of instinct. No matter how mad he was at his brother-- now he leaps to his feet and grabs Koopa.

MARIO

If anyone's gonna wring Luigi's neck, it's gonna be me.

Suddenly, Simon whacks him on the back of his knees with his night-stick. Mario drops back down, in pain.

SIMON

No one touches President Koopa!

LUIGI

You're Koopa? But you said--?

MARIO

He was one mean, evil egg-sucking
son-of-a-snake.

KOOPA

Did I lie?

(then, to Simon)

Take them to the Devo Chamber. I
have a feeling these two...

(with contempt)

... plumbers might know more than
they're telling us.

He motions. Simon turns, and motions. Then, Goombas rush in and yank the PROTESTING Mario Brothers to their feet.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – DE-EVOLUTION CHAMBER – NIGHT

The Goombas drag the boys into a high-roofed, windowless, sinister chamber. In the center, a bank of controls and gauges rises up, and an elevated track leads to an enormous METAL POD. It opens and a chair, like a dentist's chair, is catapulted forward.

Then two Goombas drag in Lemmy, bound up in a snake-skin straight-jacket. He sees Koopa.

LEMMY

You! Koopa! You've doomed us!
We're choking on our own waste! We
have no clean water, no clean air!
You've ruined everything, you fool!

KOOPA

(blurting out angrily)
WRONG! I've made everything better!

LEMMY

Better, hah! You're a lousy king!
Now, King Murphy-- what happened to
him, huh?! You got ridda him, and
now you can't do the job. Go back
to the minor leagues, you bum!

KOOPA

(to the brothers, calmly)

One thing I cannot stand: naysaying.

(then whirling, venomous)

DE-EVOLVE THE CRETIN! NOW!

Two technicians spring to life around the machine. BLOOPER is stout with an Einstein haircut. Wart is pop-eyed.

The Goombas toss the Singer into the Devo Chair. Blooper throws each of TWO SWITCHES ("physical" "intellectual"), and it hurtles backwards into the pod. The doors close. The MACHINE starts to HUM. Sparks fly.

The pod starts to vibrate.

KOOPA

You may understand evolution to be an upward process. Things evolve from primeval slime, to single-celled organisms, up to intelligent life. De-evolution, of course, goes the other way, back to simpler forms. And as our kingdom has somewhat "limited" resources, we have to recycle nearly everything, even our citizens. So we take prisoners, undesirables...

(gesturing at the Machine)

... those who lack good manners, and we turn them into loyal Goombas.

The pod doors open. But the CHAIR doesn't shoot out-- It just shudders forward, hissing and sparking. The Brothers watch, horrified at what will emerge.

And the Singer is now... a GOOMBA, still straight-jacketed. He looks around stupidly, as other Goombas lead him away.

LUIGI

(to Koopa)

You primordial slime ball.

MARIO

What puddle of goop did you evolve from?

KOOPA

Goop? Hardly. Tyrannosaurus Rex, the lizard king, thank-you-very-much. But as my evolution was wonderful and sweet--

(whirling on them)

Your de-evolution will be a living nightmare... unless you tell me where that pendant is.

LUIGI

I swear, we don't have it.

KOOPA

Wrong. Wrong answer, mammal. SIMON! Ready the machine. Now...

which of you will go first?

Mario and Luigi look at each other. Then at Koopa--

MARIO/LUIGI

(overlapping, frantic)

Honest, we don't have it! It was stolen! We really don't have it!

(then, to each other)

This is all your fault! If you hadn't gotten us into this! Me?!

KOOPA

(over the boys' yelling)

WHICH OF YOU WILL IT BE?!

The Mario Brothers' yelling at each other stops. Beat. Then... BOTH OF THEM step forward.

LUIGI/MARIO

I'll go./Take me.

KOOPA

Fine. Do them both.

The Goombas starts to drag them forward. Suddenly, Mario breaks free, and pulls a WRENCH from his Tool Belt.

MARIO

Okay, stay back. I got a wrench.

KOOPA

You have... a wrench?

MARIO

Hey. Never underestimate a wrench.

Mario looks at Luigi, held by two Goombas. Luigi gives Mario a brotherly smile-- "nice try." Mario sags, beaten.

MARIO

Okay. I give. De-volve me.

KOOPA

You'll make an excellent Goomba.

He nods to Goomba #1, who goes over to Mario--then suddenly starts yelping as Mario has torqued the wrench on the goomba's neck and is FORCING HIM INTO THE CHAIR.

Luigi uses his legs to kick the chair into the pod. Goomba #2 zaps him with his stun stick. He reels to the floor.

The Goomba swivels his stun stick toward Mario.

The shot ricochets off his wrench-- and hits Koopa in the knee. This knocks Koopa back and knocks Mario's wrench from his hand. Mario scrambles to grab it--

MARIO
As I said.

But before he can-- the POD OPENS and GOOMBA #1 comes out and steps right on his hand.

KOOPA
As I said...

Goomba #1 looks like he's gonna ring Mario by the neck. When instead he stops, hovers a moment... and then DISSOLVES INTO A PUDDLE OF GELATINOUS GOO-- all sorts of gadgets and stuff falling onto the ground from what were his pockets.

Koopa, moving toward Mario, instead slips on the gunge. He slips and slides, like Daisy in the River Cafe, unable to get any footing, until Luigi reaches a hand...

LUIGI
Lemme help you. I been there.

... and Koopa looks at him, still slipping. He reaches a hand to Luigi. But Luigi just pushes him, sending him sliding across to the Devo Chair, dropping in it. In a flash, Mario kicks the chair back on the rails to the pod.

The Goombas rush to help their leader--

KOOPA
Off! Turn it off!

-- and the Mario brothers take off, out of the room, Luigi deftly scooping WHATEVER LITTLE GADGETS he's able to, and stuffing them in his tool belt.

At the Devo machine, the Goombas turn it off, removing Koopa from the pod, relatively unscathed by his experience.

KOOPA
I'm fine, I'm fine. GET THEM!

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – CORRIDOR – NIGHT

A bare cinder block corridor. The Brothers run down it. ALARMS begin to SOUND. BELLS, a SIRENS, maybe a GONG.

A door opens ahead of them. Two Goombas appear. They have bazooka-like weapons at their hips which shoot-- FIREBALLS.

Mario GRABS Luigi and pulls him down as huge chunks of masonry are carved from the wall. The creeping fungus that seems to be everywhere is here as well. Then...

FROM THE FUNGUS... A FLOWER APPEARS. Luigi can't help but stare at it.

LUIGI

Mario, look at this. There seems to be something special here...

MARIO

(ducking a fireball)

Good, maybe it can arrange a special funeral.

Luigi grabs the flower, and shoves it in his tool belt.

LUIGI

A daisy... for Daisy.

Then Mario makes a decision, and he pulls Luigi hard into--

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – STAIRWELL – NIGHT

-- Their feet clattering on the metal stairs. Above them, Goombas fire rocket FIREBALLS down at them. Masonry flies, as smoke and flames swirl around their heads and feet. Luigi notices little OBJECTS appearing in the rubble. When he can, he grabs one of them.

Then, they come to a ground floor landing and...

... THREE METAL DOORS SIT IN FRONT OF THEM.

LUIGI

My instinct tells me this one.

Luigi points to door 2. So Mario pulls him through door 3.

MARIO

Then we're going through this one.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – UNDERGROUND LOT – NIGHT

There are a dozen COP CARS and a MEAT WAGON parked under the interior gridwork, their antennae sparking against the overheard power mesh. PRISONERS are being herded into the processing area by COPS, who are preoccupied.

The guys duck, bobbing and weaving between parked cars.

The pursuing Goombas burst through the staircase door. They scope the area-- no sign of their quarry.

INT. POLICE CAR – NIGHT

The guys crawl inside the heavily insulated interior. Mario inspects the unfamiliar controls.

MARIO

Okay. First, we're stealing this.

Second, I'm driving.

LUIGI

I'll look at the map.

Luigi lifts a DinoYawk street map, tries to figure it out. It's utterly impossible: Blotches, squiggles, circles. Finally, Luigi just bunches it up and chucks it, just as--

Mario finally gets the right switch. The car starts.

MARIO
Let's hit the bricks!

Above them the electrical rod sparks on the grid. The car speeds forward. The Goombas react to the sound and spray fireballs in its direction. The car hits an up-ramp.

Ahead a huge yellow and black gate arm is descending. Mario and Luigi crash through it sending splinters every where. The gate arm goes crazy, thrashing around madly.

EXT. STREET – NIGHT

The police car fishtails into the heavy traffic.

INT. POLICE CAR (TRAVELLING) – NIGHT

MARIO
Find the siren.

Luigi beings punching buttons. He activates the radio.

RADIO (V.O.)
... Alien species escaping from
Metro Central. Use of unreasonable
force is recommended.

LUIGI
Aliens? Don't tell me we gotta deal
with aliens, too!

MARIO
Luigi. We're the aliens.

LUIGI
We are? Whoa, cool!
(then)
Hey, Mario! "Man Discovers He's an
Alien." You said it couldn't
happen! And just did it!

MARIO
Yeah, well man is just about to

discover he's goomba food if you
don't figure out a way to clear our
escape route outta this crazy place.

LUIGI

(turns to more dials)

Fine, fine...

(then turns back)

But you gotta be open-minded--

WHHHAP! Mario's baseball cap hits him across the face.

LUIGI

Okay, okay...

Luigi turns and flicks yet another switch and--

The SIREN bursts into life. NOW--

In front of them, cars swerve to one side, clearing a path.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS – EXIT RAMP – NIGHT

An exiting COP CAR is clubbed by the still-spinning gate arm, SHATTERING its WINDSHIELD.

INT. POLIC CAR (TRAVELLING) – NIGHT

The car is careening through the traffic, sideswiping other vehicles that don't get out of the way fast enough.

LUIGI

Which way are you going?

MARIO

I dunno-- it'd help if the streets were numbered.

LUIGI

They are numbered.

MARIO

In order!

A look through the windshield reveals the order of the streets: 2nd street, 46th street, 14th street, 79th...

Then...SIRENS coming up. To their dismay the Brothers see police cars pulling level with them on either side.

Both cars train vicious-looking weapons on the Brothers. Mario stomps on the brakes.

EXT. EXPRESSWAY – NIGHT

The police cars FIRE simultaneously as the Brothers' car skids OUT OF VIEW. The police cars annihilate each other.

INT. POLICE CAR (TRAVELLING) – NIGHT

Mario accelerates again, swerving to avoid the wreckage on the road. Even so, AUTO PARTS rain down on the windshield.

RADIO (V.O.)

Aliens heading west on Great Koopa Boulevard. Approaching Grand Koopa Parkway near offramp to Tunnel of the Glorious Koopa.

MARIO

Guy definitely doesn't have low self-esteem.

Ahead is a fork. One way is the "Koopa River Parkway"-- the other a "Koopahari Desert Tunnel", closed off by barriers and WARNING SIGNS: "DANGER!-- TUNNEL UNFINISHED!"

MARIO

Whaddya think?

LUIGI

Really? You really want me to help?

(off Mario's nod)

Um... definitely the parkway.

And Mario laughs, and veers off-- toward the TUNNEL.

LUIGI

Perfect.

MARIO

What? You said the parkway.

LUIGI

But I wanted the tunnel, so I said Parkway, cause I knew you'd go the opposite way I suggested. I'm onto you, Mario...

EXT. EXPRESSWAY – NIGHT

The police car splinters the barrier, and disappears into the darkness of the tunnel. The antenna waves uselessly in the air as it breaks contact with the power grid.

INT. POLICE CAR (TRAVELLING)/TUNNEL – NIGHT

The windshield is a crazed web of glass. Luigi leans back and smashes it away with the heel of his boot.

Ahead of them the lights of the car illuminate the tunnel. The walls are encrusted with thick layers of that fungus. But the headlights start to fade, as does the motor.

LUIGI

There's no power in here!

There is a beat. Both guys look at each other:

MARIO/LUIGI

(simultaneously)

I knew we shoulda taken the parkway!

Mario's eyes scan the dashboard. There's a control marked "Auxiliary Power Unit." He tries it. There's the HUM of a DYNAMO. Then the lights come back on. The MOTOR KICKS IN.

Luigi points to an LED read-out.

LUIGI

It says we can go twenty Koopas!

LUIGI/MARIO

(simultaneously)

I knew this was the right way!

INT. KOOPA TOWER – WOMEN'S DORMITORY/INTERNMENT ROOM – NIGHT

The Girls look up as a expressionless Goomba enters. Slowly, he moves past all the scared girls, until...

... He stops at Daisy, and points at her. She gulps.

INT KOOPA'S TOWER – KOOPA'S SUITE – NIGHT

Koopa soaks in a sunken Roman bath, up to his neck in a black, bubbling mass of steaming mud. A white robe lies on the marble steps which lead down to it.

He speaks into his monitor, which he has placed in view. His still-unseen "pet" occasionally GROWLS O.S.

SIMON (ON MONITOR SCREEN)

... The plumbers are in the unfinished Koopa Tunnel.

KOOPA

Then they're not going anywhere.
All units are to block the city-side
entrance-- we'll just wait.

(smiling to himself)

Stupid plumbers

(then)

Keep me informed.

He turns it off. And for the first time, notices LENA standing near him. She sees the "bath products" of

their world lining the bath-- roots, terra-packs, oils...

LENA

I understand your Princess is being made up to look quite...lovely.

KOOPA

Oh, is she?

LENA

Why?

KOOPA

She's royalty, you know.

LENA

And what am I? Chopped lizard?

KOOPA

Lena...

Lena kneels by Koopa's head, gently stroking his head.

LENA

Does she even know what the Gateway does?... Does she even have a clue what she's supposed to do?...

KOOPA

She will.

LENA

Not if you don't tell her.

Koopa moves away from her stroking hand.

KOOPA

It can't work with us, Lena. You just don't have... the blood line.

LENA

What-- mine's not cold enough? Or is hers just too hot?

Angry, she flicks mud at him, and stands.

LENA

I know too much to be denied, Koopa.

And she storms out, leaving Koopa alone. He sighs.

KOOPA

But you don't know everything, Lena.

Now, he reaches to his MONITOR, and clicks it on.

KOOPA

I would like to have some good news.

SIMON (ON MONITOR)

Actually, sir, we have... a problem.
Apparently, well, they hit the edge
of the grid, and then went past it.
They didn't stop at the dead-end.

Koopa thinks about that for a second, then shrugs.

KOOPA

Then that's that. The tunnel ends
in a 200-foot drop-off, so we'll
just pick through the remains
tomorrow, and I'll get what I want.

Koopa turns off the Monitor. Exhales. A small smile.

INT. TUNNEL/POLICE CAR (TRAVELLING) – Night

The fungus is thicker now and long tendrils of it fly in through the smashed windshield. The Brothers push it out of their faces-- recoiling from its texture and smell.

MARIO

I can't see where I'm going... this
fungus is gonna kill us...

LUIGI

Look out!

And, as the Brothers hit the tunnel end, they screeeeeam.

EXT. KOOPAHARI DESERT – TUNNEL'S END – NIGHT

Because Koopa didn't lie. The unfinished tunnel dead-ends, like a sewer outfall above a sloping desert landscape, and it is indeed 200-feet above the desert.

And, right now, shooting out over that desert is...

... The Police Car. A trail of Fungus tails behind it, snarled around the whole back end of the undercarriage.

Then, long before the car hits the ground, the Fungus, snaps taut... And stretches like a BUNGEE CORD... and it holds. And the car is set softly down on the desert sand.

Then, just as unexpectedly, the tendrils release the car.

INT. POLICE CAR – NIGHT

Mario and Luigi look at each other, breathing hard.

MARIO

We coulda died.

LUIGI

But instead, we lived...

(patting the fungus-daisy
in his tool belt)

Thanks to our Fungus-friend, maybe?

MARIO

(not having any of it)

Nah. It was superior driving
skills, Luigi. All the way.

And Mario puts the car into gear, and drives off.

EXT. KOOPAHARI DESERT – Night

We see the tail lights of their police car disappearing into the shadows of this wasteland...

LUIGI (O.S.)

So how far is twenty Koopas?

INT. KOOPA TOWER – FUNGUS ROOM – CLOSE ON KOOPA – NIGHT

as he enters a dimly lit room. He hesitates. There seems to be a tangible presence in the room-- something is moving and living and rustling in the darkness.

ANOTHER ANGLE – REVEALS THE ROOM

It is filled with the fungus that we've seen in different parts of the city. But in the pale overhead lights it glistens and sparkles with an inner iridescence. It writhes constantly, a living intelligence. The center of the room seems to be its nucleus. Koopa appears, looks down at the heart of the fungus.

KOOPA

My old adversary... Go ahead, choke
the city to death if you like. Soon
I won't need it anymore. Now that
I'm about to secure the pendant, I
will be able to finally merge the
dimensions and access the riches of
the entire planet. It's a new era--
my era-- and it begins... now.

The fungus writhes under Koopa's malevolent glare.

INT. HALLWAY – MOVING BRISKLY

With Koopa, who is flanked by his crew-- Simon, Spike and Iggy, Bloober... Koopa barks orders. He's feeling good.

KOOPA

(to Simon)

Are the goombas training with the handheld de-volution guns?

SIMON

As we speak, sir.

KOOPA

After the merge, it'll be nice to see some humans de-volve, won't it? What did they come from again, little bunnies or something?

SIMON

Apes, sir. Monkeys.

KOOPA

Bunnies, monkeys-- who cares?
(waving it all off)
Mammals.

He laughs, then turns to Iggy and Spike.

KOOPA

On a more important note, our plumbers have, unfortunately, plummeted to their deaths. Hence the name "plum"bers, I guess.
(laughing again, then)
But I need you to go out to the desert, get me the pendant and... mop up a bit... you understand?

IGGY

Mop up the desert? Is that... I mean, is that a figure of speech...?

Koopa just stares at them, blinking, then turns to Bloober.

KOOPA

Summon the princess, I'm ready to receive her...

INT. KOOPA TOWER – KOOPA'S SUITE – NIGHT

Silence but for the GROWLING of the O.S. creature. An ELEVATOR opens to reveal Daisy, accompanied by a Goomba (HARK). He prods her in, then leaves. She's alone.

She's been bathed, her hair combed, and she's been dressed in a long, white robe. The lights have been dimmed, casting an eerie, seductive glow around the suite.

She is feeling weak... and must support herself to stand.

She hears the SOUND of the CREATURE. And a CHAIN BREAKING. Then sees a SHADOW, and the animal breaks cover...

Daisy screams. It's a four-foot TYRANNOSAURUS REX. It stops moving, eyes fixed on Daisy, as afraid as she is.

It starts to move toward her. Daisy backs away.

KOOPA (O.S.)

Yoshi won't hurt you.

Koopa appears, clearly dressed his best.

KOOPA

Go ahead. Touch him. Just try not to move your fingers around like a small, wounded animal.

Daisy finally looks up at him, and Koopa inhales... she's like a blind date that turns out to be a stunning surprise.

But Daisy turns her attention back to Yoshi.

DAISY

This is... I can't believe it...

KOOPA

Go ahead, say it... a dinosaur.

DAISY

But they...

KOOPA

Died out millions of years ago?
That's correct. By a meteor which plummeted to earth and destroyed the food chain. Ended the rightful reign of the greatest creatures ever to walk the earth. And left the world for the...

(can barely say the word)

...mammals. To evolve, create societies. Civilizations.

DAISY

Then what is this? That we're in right now?

KOOPA

The meteor did something else when it landed. It had a force so

powerful that it shattered reality.
And it split the world into parallel
universes. And this... this city,
is all that's left of ours.
(pause, moving closer)
And I'm here... to welcome you home.

Daisy is startled. She takes a step back.

KOOPA
Surprised?

Daisy stops moving. Becomes silent. Deep in thought. Koopa moves closer to her. He's used to sexual domination.

KOOPA
Not as much as you'd expect, I
see... Of course not. Because deep
inside you've always known you were
different from everyone else. Known
you were a stranger. That you have
a calling. A destiny. As did your
mother.

Daisy looks up.

DAISY
What do you know about my mother?

KOOPA
She held an elite position in our
society, a guardian of the Gateway--
a Gate Keeper-- until she betrayed
that trust. She sensed the total
depletion of our limited resources,
and wanted a better life for you.
So she took you to the other side.
(then)
But she left the Gateway open.
That's how I could bring you back.
And that's how I could get... this.

He presses a dimmer and an overheard light illuminates the metal egg. Daisy recognizes it.

DAISY
That was in the convent where I was
brought up...

KOOPA
Notice something missing?

There's a crystalline pattern on the lid with a piece missing exactly the size and shape of Daisy's pendant. Her hand goes involuntarily to her neck. He sees this.

KOOPA

The egg. Rebirth. The beginning of
a new era.

Daisy shudders as his hand strokes her cheek. She tries to push his hand away, but has barely the energy...

KOOPA

You're weak, because the pendant is
the source of your energy. It's how
you survive on the other side.
Without it, you'll wither, and die.
(smiles)
I guess we all need a little piece
of our past with us, don't we?

He moves closer to her. Then grabs her... and tries to kiss her with his scaly, reptilian tongue.

DAISY

No! No-- stop--!!

IGGY (O.S.)

Excuse me, Koopa, sir?

Koopa reels, infuriated.

Iggy and Spike are at the door, carrying mops.

IGGY

Catch you at a bad time?

SPIKE

We figured if we were gonna mop up
the desert, we'd better get started.

Koopa stares at them, stunned. Incredulous.

IGGY

I mean... you still want us to find
the pendant, don't you?
(noticing Daisy, waving)
Oh look, it's her. Hello.

Koopa looks at them. Looks at the mops... Gets an idea.

INT. DE-VOLUTION CHAMBER – NIGHT – A MOMENT LATER

Goombas throw Iggy and Spike into the Devo Chair, right on top of each other.

IGGY

No, please! We can't be any dumber!

Koopa kicks the chair back, sending it back into the pod. He goes to the console, without expression, and twisted the dial from "Primordial" up past "Neutral" to "Advanced." He is, essentially, evolving them.

KOOPA

Perhaps if you're not such idiots, you won't screw up this time.

Then, ignoring the muffled cries, he hits the switch. POWER HUMS. The lights dim. Sparks fly. Then, it's over. The pod opens and the chair rolls forward...

And Iggy and Spike crawl off each other...

They are essentially the same... only different. Their clothes are tighter. On Spike, what was a scarf is now an

ascot. On Iggy, what were dumb glasses now is a tiny monocle. And they both have trendy goatees.

They have the pinched, down-the-nose smirk of the snottiest upper-classmen you've ever seen. And their lower class cockney accents have been replaced with the loftiest of upper-crust dialects. Even Mother Theresa'd kick the shit out of these dips. See, they've been made realllly smart.

IGGY

My word... you don't say. I feel as though I've been... transformed.

SPIKE

(a nassally snobbish drawl)

Mnnnyes. Though, actually, I think it's more like a transmogrification.

IGGY

Transfiguration?

SPIKE

A simple metamorphosis, I think.

IGGY

Quite so... yes.

(noticing Koopa)

Ahh, yes. Our not-so-benevolent dictator, as it were.

(re: his outfit)

Charming ensemble... Early Mesozoic?

KOOPA

Enough! The plumbers are dead and rotting in the desert. Go find their flattened corpses and get me the pendant. That, is an order.

SPIKE

But don't you think that would be the work of more...plebian types?

IGGY

It hardly seems logical, does it?

Perhaps we should stay and help
formulate strategy, tete-a-tete,
inner circle, that sort of thing--

KOOPA

Here's what seems logical... to me:
If you don't go and bring back that
pendant, I'll slice you limb from
limb, and then feed you to Yoshi.

A beat. Spike and Iggy may be a lot smarter-- but their still the biggest pussies this side of the Gateway.

SPIKE/IGGY

(overlapping)

Very good point./ Since you put it
that way... /Interesting syllogism--
I think it works on numerous levels.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KOOPAHARI DESERT – FAR OUT ON THE SAND – THE NEXT MORNING

... But there's no sun, really, just a sickly yellow sky. WIND is the only NOISE-- it's strong enough to have half-buried the spent Police Car in sand during the night.

Through the shattered windshield we can see the Brothers. They are fast sleeping.

Then... a shadow passes over Mario's face. His eyes open drowsily, then widen in terror. In front of him...

... Is an ALLOSAURUS RAT, perched on the hood of the wrecked car, its cruel jaw about a foot from his face.

MARIO

Aahhh!

The rat scurries away. Luigi wakes up with a start, his head jerking backward against the headrest.

LUIGI

Sheesh, Mario, what is it?

MARIO

We were nearly breakfast.

LUIGI

Where are we?

MARIO

You tell me. You're the one with
the fancy theories. Last time
I knew where I was, it was Sunday
morning in Brooklyn, and I was gonna
have lunch at Tony's and watch the
Knicks on the tube.

Luigi opens the door, pushing it against the sand. They climb out, looking around. Everywhere they look...
Nothing but arid desert and the MOANING of the WIND.

EXT. DESERT SAND DUNE – DAY

The Brothers' heads COME INTO VIEW as they crest a ridge of sand. They reach the top and hold up their hands against the glare of the yellow sun.

LUIGI

You didn't bring any sunscreen, did you?

(off Mario's stare)

Well, I dunno... you got all that stuff in your tool belt...

THEIR POV

In the distance they can see the city. It's the first time we've seen it in perspective. Like Manhattan, it's an island, except it's smaller and encircled by sand and waste. We can see Koopa's tower, its top obscured by a souplike smog.

BACK TO SCENE

Luigi shakes his head in despair, taking in the scene around him-- all arid landscape and distant city.

LUIGI

Looks like someone nuked New Jersey.

Mario's thoughts are elsewhere. A beat, then:

MARIO

You really hate the business?

LUIGI

Why do you think I hate the business?

MARIO

Cause you told it to me, that's why. Point blank, you said: "Mario: I'm embarrassed at being a plumber." I mean, I'd hate to think you were doing what you're doing outta some sense of obligation.

The guys walk along in the vast, arid sand, heat rising around them.

LUIGI

You mean like you taking care of me?

MARIO

What makes you think it's an obligation?

LUIGI

Cause you said to me, point blank:
"Luigi--

MARIO

Oh, yeah, right, right. No, I dunno, I guess, I dunno. Yeah, yeah, no, no... I did say that, didn't I?

Then, both speak at the same time:

MARIO/LUIGI

You know what I wish?

(then)

Go ahead.

(then)

No, you go.

MARIO

I wish I had enough dough so's me and Daniella could marry. And I could take care of her, and she could take care of me. I mean, no offense, but it'd be nice to have something wrapped around my waist other than a tool belt, you know what I mean?

LUIGI

What I wish is that I knew what I wanted to do with my life. At least you got some skills. Me, the only thing I've perfected is laying alone on the couch wishing there was a little magic in the world.

They stop at the base of a sand dune. Look at each other. Look around.

LUIGI

Now I just wish I was laying on the couch.

MARIO

Alone?

Luigi shakes his head. Mario knows who he's referring to. They both look across the desert, toward Koopa Tower.

LUIGI

I know I hardly know her, but...

MARIO

Don't worry, kid. It'll be okay.

LUIGI

How do you know that? I mean-- we're lost, we're out of food, we don't even know what world we're in...

MARIO

Let's just say... I got a feeling.

LUIGI

Really?

MARIO

Kid-- we're Marios right? And a Mario can do anything he sets his mind to. It'll happen-- cause I got a feeling we'll make it happen.

Luigi looks at him. Smiles. Then, they stop and stare. For, before them, at the crest of the sand dune are...

IGGY AND SPIKE

... Looking down at them, snottily.

IGGY

Plebeians... you're supposed to be dead. But since that is not fact, then avail us of the pendant.

LUIGI

It's the creeps who stole Daisy!

And Luigi and Mario RUSH UP THE HILL, chasing after them. Iggy and Spike COWER and run away from them, sand kicking up behind their scaly, reptilian legs...

SPIKE

(calling over his shoulder)

Ruffian!

SPIKE

Hoodlum!

IGGY

Picaron!

Spike
Brigand!

Before Spike and Iggy can run up to their improvised motorbike and side-car (strung together with leather straps

and cable, over rusting metal plates), the guys easily catch them and grab them. Inadvertantly forcing them toward some snarling, vicious-looking PIRANHA FLOWERS.

MARIO
What'd you do with my brother's girl?

SPIKE
Careful! It's a Piranha Flower!

Mario holds Iggy even closer to one.

IGGY
She's in the tower with the others.
And we've been instructed to
confiscate the pendant from your
corpses, since you piloted your
vehicle out the end of the tunnel.

SPIKE
But since your death did not occur,
and your bodies are hardly
corpses... please, let us up.

The guys do.

LUIGI
We don't got the pendant.

SPIKE
Then I'm afraid your girlfriend is going to die.

LUIGI
What are you talking about?

IGGY
It is her life source, if you will.

MARIO
You're feedin' us a bunch of hooley.

LUIGI
No, wait-- I think it's true.
Remember, Daisy said she never felt
quite right without it.

MARIO

(his original self)
Luigi, you're not trying to tell me
you believe...
(but trying)
... okay, okay. It's possible.
(grabby Iggy)
So where is she?

IGGY
She's in the tower. And we gotta
get the pendant or he'll kill us.

LUIGI
Nah. 'Cause we're gonna kill you.

SPIKE
Then she'll die, most definitely.

MARIO
All right, all right-- well, we're
all gonna die, if we don't outta
this heat. Move it, you two.

EXT. DESERT – SUNSET

The four of them eating what might be the grossest things imaginable...spiky things, gooey things, scaly things... An occasional FIRE SNAKE pokes its head up out of the sand.

IGGY
So, you have no clue, beyond this
mugging story, as to the current
whereabouts of said pendant?

MARIO
I told you already. We was robbed
by a thief. Then she was robbed,
then he was, and so on, around and
around to this last thief.

SPIKE
The one attired in... black.

LUIGI
Yes.

Iggy nods at Spike knowingly, then makes a grand gesture.

IGGY
Watch and be amazed, plebeians, as
Spike and I will now deduce where
the pendant is. Intellectually!
With our new, evolutionarily
enhanced brains!
(then, looking at Spike)
She wore...?

SPIKE

Black. Black as night.

IGGY

Night. Night as dark as...

SPIKE

... Black

(pause)

We're going to need a bit more to go on.

IGGY

Was she... large? Very large?

The guys nod. Spike turns to Iggy.

SPIKE

Rip van Flesh? Wendy O. Koopa?
Spark? Trout? Porcupo?

MARIO

She was wearing spikes.

Spike laughs nostalgically-- like an middle-aged fop recalling the old parties down at East Egg.

SPIKE

Ah, yes... "Spikes." I remember those days. All of us un-evolvies-- that's what I call the lesser me's-- frolicking at the Koopa Kabana...

Mario and Luigi look at each other, then at Spike and Iggy.

MARIO

The Koopa Kabana.

LUIGI

How do we get there?

SPIKE

This time of night? There's only one way.

EXT. DESERT – REFUSE DUMP – NIGHT

We're nearer the city now. Floodlights illuminate mountains of garbage and filth.

Huge dump trucks-- SLUDGE GULPERS-- dump loads of refuse, while bulldozers push it further into the pit.

The drivers wear gas masks and protective clothing. On the backs of their coveralls are stenciled "SNIF-ITS."

UP ON A SANDY HILLOCK

In the shadows, we FIND the brothers and Iggy and Spike The foppish fools gag and choke from the smell and fumes.

MARIO

Maybe if your noses weren't so damn
turned up all the time it wouldn't
smell so bad.

ANGLE ON ONE OF THE TRUCKS

"SLUDGE-GULPER" is written on the side. The driver raises the rear to tip his load. Two of his crew are behind helping out refuse with long poles. All wear GAS MASKS.

MARIO

How we gonna get one?

Luigi reaches to his belt, pulling up one of the many things he's picked up. The first thing: a small, crab-like device.

IGGY

A bob-omb?? Put that back-- it'll
take us all out.

(looking over)

My my... look at what you have
there. Use this firesnake.

MARIO

Where'd you get that??

LUIGI

Out there in the desert.

He tosses it... it slithers and STUNS two of the Snif-Its. They fall to the ground.

EXT. CITYDUMP CHECKPOINT – NIGHT

The "crew" remove their gas masks to reveal the Brothers. Iggy and Spike are crouched at their feet, complaining.

EXT. CITY LIMITS – NIGHT

A convoy of sludge-gulpers is heading back toward the city. They pass the ominous figure of a STATUE.

INT. SLUDGE-GULPER – TRAVELLING NIGHT

The Brothers react to the looming shape of the statue.

MARIO

What is that? It looks... almost familiar.

TOAD

It's the Statue of Repression.

LUIGI

Great world you got here...

(to Mario)

So, how are we gonna get into this place dressed like this?

MARIO

We ain't. These two pinheads are gonna loan us some of their clothes.

INT. NIGHTCLUB – "KOOPA KABANA"

A wiiiiild place. Lights flash and MUSIC pounds.

Above, the ultimate hi-tech lighting system swoops over the dancers like a choreographed robot. This is where fashion is at in Parallel New York-- anarcho-dino-sado-chic.

Remember what Bertha looked like? Well this room is filled with her cronies. And they're all in the middle of a LOUD, RAUCOUS SONG (sort of Koopian Nihilism).

Spike and Iggy enter-- way too good for this now.

IGGY

Oh. How de-evolved.

Behind them enter... MARIO AND LUIGI.... Dressed to the nines in Spike and Iggy's old oversized zoot-like suits. Hair sleeked back and shining with grease, they wear a lot of chunky turquoise jewelry and look like Aztec pimps.

They look around, take in the place.

MARIO

You know, I could actually shake a coupla legs in this place.

THEIR POV – ACROSS THE BAR

Exiting a row of rest-rooms marked "MEN," "WOMEN," and, just simply , "?", is BERTHA, looking even tougher than when we saw her in Koopa Square. Dangling amongst her myriad of chains and knives and live tiny snakes is... THE PENDANT.

MEANWHILE -- THE BARTENDER

SEES MARIO AND LUIGI... and reaches for his telephone.

BARTENDER

Hello? I was told I could call this number if any strange "plumbers" showed up in my joint... Well, I'm calling... That's right. Here now.

WITH MARIO AND LUIGI

MARIO

I'll take her. No woman can resist the charms of a Mario.

LUIGI

You mean Mario as a last name? Or Mario as a first name?

MARIO

Either. And the good new is-- I get it double.

And Mario saunters through the rough crowd trying his best to fit in. He passes by--

Iggy and Spike, against the bar, so above all this.

SPIKE

Ahh... to be young and unevolved once again...

IGGY

Yes, life would be so much simpler, wouldn't it...?

They down shots of some green drink.

RESUME – MARIO

As he wanders over the Bertha. Does a couple of quick, slick moves.

MARIO

Name's Mario. Care to trip the lights fan--

--WHAM!-- She SLUGS him toppling back, crashing to the floor at Luigi, who smiles and helps him to his feet.

LUIGI

Maybe it'd help if your name was Mario O'Mario Van Mario McMario

MARIO

Luigi, lemme tell you something: A woman's like a good tool. Treat her nice, polish her up a little... and she'll hang by your side forever. I just gotta try a different approach.

And he takes another stab across the dance floor. This time he tries a different tack:

MARIO

Please. Hit me again. I've never seen such fluidity of form... such grace. The way your lip curled in that sensual snarl as you rocked back your fist... The way your knuckles tenderly crunched when you brought them smashing into my face...

He looks up at her. She seems to be... buying it. The BAND breaks into a SLOW DANCE.

BAND LEADER

Okay... we're gonna slow it down for all you lovers.

BERTHA

Dance with me, and I'll hit you all you want.

Mario gulps as she throws her arms around him and they slow dance-- draped over one another like Jr. High Schoolers.

During the entirety of the song, Mario is doing everything he can to WORK THE PENDANT OFF OF HER.. And, for the most part, he's actually succeeding. Sure, she keeps thinking he's stroking her, or fondling her-- and, sure, he has to act like that is exactly what his intent is...

Over all of this, the MUSIC is actually very pretty:

SONG

(slow and melodic)

WHEN I FIRST TOUCHED
YOUR REPTILIAN SKIN
AND THAT TOAD-LIKE GREEN OOZE
TRICKLED DOWN FROM YOUR CHIN
AND YOU BELCHED AND I FARTED,
THAT'S WHEN EVERYTHING STARTED.
NOW I JUST GOTTA ASK,
AND THIS AIN'T JUST A LINE:
SHOULD WE SLIP UNDER YOUR ROCK, OR
MINE (more)

SONG (CONT'D)

(the chorus; beautiful,
with harmony)

MY ROCK'S GOT MAGGOTS,
AND YOUR ROCK'S GOT WORMS.
MY ROCK'S GOT MILDEW,
AND YOUR ROCK'S GOT GERMS.
MY ROCK OR YOUR ROCK--
BABY, YOU SET THE TERMS...
SHOULD WE SLIP UNDER YOUR ROCK, OR
MINE?

(then)

HOLDING YOU CLOSE
WITH YOUR PUTRID PERFUME,
WHICH IS KILLING THE MOLD
IN THIS ILL-SMELLING ROOM
I WANNA DIG UP OUR DIRT
YOU DON'T MIND IF I BLURT:
SHOULD WE SLIP UNDER YOUR ROCK, OR MINE?

By song's end, Mario has managed to actually have slipped the pendant off of her.

MARIO

Thank you. Oh, my, look at the
time. Gotta run.

And he high-tails it away from her, passing--

Spike and Iggy, who by now are completely schnookered...

IGGY

(to no one in particular)

Ask me what the square root of
525,624 is!! ASK ME, I TELL YOU!

(then; also to no one in particular)

It's 72 point 2! Don't any of you
people care?! Imbeciles! Morons!

Mario cross to Luigi.

MARIO

I got it! What'd I tell you? Now
come on, let's go-- uh oh--

THEIR POV – AT THE DOOR

LENA enters, scouring the place, with her goombas. And, JUST AS SHE IS ABOUT TO SPOT THEM...

The BAND kicks into a VERY POPULAR, VERY UPBEAT SONG-- one which everyone knows.

BAND LEADER
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR "PLANTS"
STICK EM DOWN YOUR PANTS
EVEN DO A LITTLE DANCE--
I'M NOT EATEN' EM.
WE'VE ALL HAD OUR FILLS
OF YOUR "VEGETABLES"
WE'D RATHER TAKE POISON PILLS
WITHOUT SWEET'NIN' 'EM.

(calling:)

Everybody!

EVERYBODY
HEY! WE WANT MEAT!
NOT SOME FOO-FOO GRASS TO EAT!

The Marios duck and weave away from Lena and her WEAPON-WEILDING GOOMBAS. And Don't do so bad... until:

EVERYBODY (CONTINUING)
WATCH US MOVE OUR FEET! MEAT!

Now EVERYBODY IN THE PLACE LEAPS IN A VERY SPECIFICALLY CHOREOGRAPHED MEAT-DANCE, which EVERYONE KNOWS.

Everyone EXCEPT the Mario Brothers... But Mario and Luigi realize that they MUST GET ONTO THE DANCE FLOOR in order to be not seen by her-- and since the dance involves a lot of LEAPING, and DUCKING, the Mario Brothers are making a pretty obvious sight of themselves, though they're trying.

But not well enough-- BECAUSE THEY'RE SPOTTED.

Lena and her Goombas start toward them. In a big way. Quickly, they have Mario and Luigi cornered. Then Luigi turns-- and runs right into three goombas, who GRAB THE PENDANT and toss it to Lena. She turns to the brothers.

LENA

Thanks, gentlemen-- I'll see to it
that your girlfriend doesn't get
this... ever.

Then, she and the two goombas turn and split, grabbing and carrying out the practically passed-out Spike and Iggy.

SPIKE/IGGY

(slurring; overlapping)

I love you Lena. I love you Koopa.
I love the fungus. I love Wart and
Bloober. Etc.

But just before she gets to the door, she orders to the TWO GOOMBAS who are still by Mario and Luigi:

LENA

Koopa thinks you're dead. Wouldn't
wanna disappoint my man.

Mario and Luigi ain't waiting around for this. They take off running. The goombas give chase--

The guys push through the crowd... shoving big tough people aside. Mario taps someone's back.

MARIO

Excuse me-- I got a goombah chasin' me.

The someone turns around-- it is a goomba.

LUIGI

Mario! This way!

Mario follows-- with goombas gaining. They turn a corner by the bar and are JUST ABOUT TO MAKE IT TO THE DOOR when--

BERTHA steps in their way. Not mad. Not vengeful. But worse. She's goo-goo-ga-ga in love. And she grabs Mario.

MARIO

B-B-Bertha-- now's not--

BERTHA

Closer.

MARIO

Seriously, Bertha--

Though he's strong, she's way stronger. She will have her way. She pulls him right up to her... leans close... and, instead of kissing him (which he's dreadfully fearing)...

BERTHA

(whispers)

I know how you can get out of here.

MARIO

Really? And I don't have to kiss you?

BERTHA

Nope.

Now he's so excited that he grabs her on both sides of the head, pulls her close to him... AND KISSES HER.

She beams. Lead them into:

INT. CLOAKROOM

Where they push the startled HAT CHECK GIRL out of the way and dive into the corner. There are coats on hangers and air stompers stacked on shelves.

BERTHA

Here. Use these.

The guys throw their newly-acquired AIR STOMPERS on as Bertha guards the door-- fending off encroaching goombas with her fist.

MARIO

How do they work?

LUIGI

(as if it's obvious)

Mario. "Just stomp em."

Mario

(beat)

Right. Of course.

The guys stand.

LUIGI

How can we thank you?

BERTHA

Stop Koopa-- and restore the fungus.

MARIO/LUIGI

Whaaaa--?

Bertha's foothold breaks. The room is stormed by Goombas.

And Mario and Luigi just... stomp em. SCHWUNKUNKK! They blast upward and rocket THROUGH the SKYLIGHT, raining shards of glass down on the failed Goombas.

EXT./INT. DISCO – ROOF – DAY

Mario and Luigi come whizzing through the aperture. They run to the parapet of the roof. Goomba reinforcements are arriving outside the club.

Mario looks, measuring the distance to the next roof. He hits the stompers again and bounces into space, making a landing on the opposite roof. Luigi follows his lead.

A barrage of FIREBALLS is released from below, SPLINTERING BRICKS, WINDOWS and TV ANTENNAE. OUT OF SOME OF THE BRICKS spring tiny BOB-OMBS-- little crab-like devices which

seem to autoambulate. Luigi gathers some of them and shoves them into his tool belt.

EXT. STREET – NIGHT

The two figures leap down from the rooftop into a deserted, garbage-strewn, dimly-lit back alley. They hit the bricks and catapult up again as if on a trampoline. One more bounce and they jack-knife into the open rear end of the Sludge Gulper.

INT. BACK OF SLUDGE GULPER – CONTINUOUS

Head-deep in garbage, Luigi looks at Mario. Both are exhausted.

LUIGI

What are we gonna do?? Lena's in the tower with the pendant! We've gotta get it to Daisy. It's impossible to get in.

MARIO

Nothing's impossible, kid. Unlikely, improbable... but not impossible.

LUIGI

Then let's do it, MarioooOOOO!

Suddenly one of Luigi's Air Stompers fires, and he shoots across the garbage-thick bin of the truck, CLUNK-ing his head against its steel-panelled side.

INT. DE-EVOLUTION CHAMBER – SAME

Lena enters, flanked by Goombas who carry the incredibly drunk Spike and Iggy. Iggy gapes at the Devo Machine.

IGGY

Ah, our old friend, the smart box!

LENA

Big brains, small skulls. You two make me ill.

She flicks a manicured fingernail, and the Goombas shove the two fops in the Devo Chair on top of each other, then shove the chair back on the rails into the Pod...

Lena twists the dial to "DE-EVOLVE" and hits the switch... Power hum, sparks, the whole devo routine.

Lena just watches, fingering the pendant, then leaves.

EXT. LOADING DOCK – KOOPA TOWER – NIGHT

The Sludge Gulper drives down the ramp, and parks. Two zoot-suited guys wearing gas masks (psst, it's Mario and Luigi) climb out, nodding and saluting to the WORKERS.

Then, when no one is looking, they duck into a door.

INT. BOILER ROOM – NIGHT

The boys duck in, locking the door behind them.

Then, they dump the gas masks and quickly peel off the zoot-suits, revealing their cover-alls beneath, and... Their tool belts. Mario nods proudly.

MARIO

See? You treat your tools like you would a friend: keep em close to you, never let em down... and they'll always be at your side.

LUIGI

Mario, how is it that, for every situation that could possibly come up... you got a saying about tools.

Mario is sort of embarrassed by this-- it's personal.

MARIO

They all came from... poppa.

LUIGI

Really? Poppa made all those up?

MARIO

No. He got em from Grandpoppa.

Mario smiles, as Luigi tries to hide the fact that most of his tools are gone, replaced by junk he's collected.

They step into the center of the room. It looks like the engine room of an ship. Steam HISSES, furnaces BLAST.

LUIGI

We can't just go take the elevator.
How we gonna get to the top?

MARIO

Like a Mario. Ingeniously.

Mario looks at the gigantic boiler, the even bigger heat exchanger, and the large vent pipes lining the wall.

He crosses over to the largest vent pipe, eyeing it. Finding a hinged metal door, he opens it and peers inside.

HIS POV-- an smooth, endless circular shaft.

Mario pulls his head back, thinking. Then, he grabs a FIREHOSE and unspools it. Quickly, he unscrews the nozzle.

MARIO

Luigi, remove that outlet valve from
the boiler body. Mind the threads.

Luigi hops to it, as Mario checks the foreman's map on the side of the vent pipe. He traces a path up and over.

LUIGI

Check!

Luigi's done. He drops the valve into Mario's hands, then watches as he re-threads it to the firehose, then screws that onto the heat exchanger "DRAIN ONLY" valve.

Mario checks the path-- firehose into the "outflow" of the heat exchanger, then out to the "intake" on the vent pipe.

Then he twists the firehose knob, and the hose fills, shooting water into the heat exchanger, which roars, and then overflows into the vent pipe, filling it fast.

MARIO

This is gonna make a mess out of
the heat exchanger. And then it's gonna
make a mess outa this building. And
then some lucky sap's gonna put his
kids through college fixin' it all.

ALARMS START TO SOUND. Now, Mario climbs in the vent pipe. Motions for Luigi to grab the pads from the little stools nearby. He does. Then Luigi climbs in with him.

IN THE VENT PIPE

Mario pulls the door shut. Puts the pad under his behind. Luigi does the same. The water is filling it fast, and soon they're both floating... riding the water upwards.

MARIO

Going up?

INT. CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Koopa strides hard, robe flowing. Lena's beside him.

LENA

We need to talk.

KOOPA
Not now, Lena.

LENA
Yes, now. I want you.

Koopa throws her a tired glance.

KOOPA
This is not the time for that.

She grabs Koopa's arm, spinning him around.

LENA
That is not what I'm talking about.
Koopa. I want to do this together.
You and me. I'd... like to help.

Koopa knows she means it.

KOOPA
Lena, I just found out I have
saboteurs in the tower, I still have
no pendant, and I'm about to lose
everything. We'll talk about this
later... if "later" even occurs.

Lena just burns, and steps right up to Koopa.

LENA
What you really care about is her.

Koopa's eyes go reptilian for a moment-- he's angry. Then he just jerks his arm away, and continues down the hall.

Lena watches him go, bringing up her clenched fist...

LENA
If you won't make me Queen...

... She opens her fist, revealing the PENDANT...

LENA
Then I'll do it myself.

... And then she stalks off, giving the Goomba Guard a shove as she passes him, just for spite.

LENA
Outta my way, moron.

INT. KOOPA'S SUITE – NIGHT

Yoshi sits in the shadow with a heavy chain around his neck. Daisy, barely able to stand stares at the

METAL EGG. Hark stands guard over her.

Daisy recoils as Lena approaches her, dismissing Hark.

LENA
Get out!

Hark, concerned for Daisy but following orders, splits. Lena turns to Daisy.

LENA
Don't be afraid. No one will hurt
you...

She circles Daisy, touching strands of her hair. And an interesting thing happens... Daisy starts to feel herself getting stronger. She can't tell why.

Lena lets her fingers rest on Daisy's exposed shoulder.

LENA
You have beautiful skin. Soft...
smooth... No wonder Koopa wants you
for his queen.

DAISY
This isn't my world. I don't belong
here.

Lena takes a long silver pin from her hair.

LENA
Really...? Well perhaps I can help
expedite your departure...

She caresses a point on Daisy's neck. Then she raises the pin, bracing herself to plunge it into the soft flesh.

There's a sudden GROWL from the shadows-- and Yoshi darts out to save Daisy. But his chain stops him short.

LENA
I see you have many friends among
the pathologically unevolved...

Lena makes another "fake" stab at Daisy-- which she deflects with her arm. Yoshi chomps at the bit.

LENA
Hmnn... I see you're getting your
strength back. Won't last for long

Lena smiles again-- having just a little too much fun. Then, suddenly, she gets very serious.

LENA

Everyone should have a right to
what's theirs.

And she lunges for Daisy's neck-- and she really would get it this time-- were it not for YOSHI'S LONG TONGUE which suddenly wraps around Lena's ankle and pulls her down.

He grabs Lena's arm with his claw, and she drops the pin.

LENA
I see you even have the favour of
Koopa's pet... get him off me!

Daisy hesitates... but then sees her escape. And takes it.

INT. KOOPA TOWER – CORRIDOR – CONTINUOUS

A door opens. We see Daisy, desperately looking for a way out. Beyond her is a glimpse of stairwell. And all around her the corridor is infested with fungus.

She pushes on, brushing tendrils from her face and hair.

The floor beneath her is spongy and rotten. Suddenly, it caves in! Daisy DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW.

INT. KOOPA TOWER – FUNGUS ROOM – NIGHT

The room we saw earlier-- the very nucleus of the fungus. Daisy plunges into the tangled mass of the fungus tendrils. She screams!

INT. KOOPA TOWER – SAME

Lena manages to force the pin into Yoshi. He brays-- releasing Lena's arm from his mouth. She gets up, looks around... and takes off.

INT THE VENT PIPE – NIGHT

The guys arrive at the top, where horizontal ventilation shaft connects here.

They flop out like beached salmon, as the water flows around them and back down through the building.

LUIGI
We're making a real mess, Mario.

MARIO
It's for a good cause.

LUIGI

And it's getting real cold, too.
That heat exchanger gonna blow?

MARIO
Not exactly "blow." A bit better.
(tapping his temple)
I got this one wired...

LUIGI
Can we really do this?

MARIO
What'd I tell you about being a
Mario: a Mario can do anything he
sets his mind on.

EXT. KOOPA SQUARE, DINOYAWK – (PARALLEL NEW YORK) – NIGHT

Lena, wearing a cloak, moves through the hubbub, ducking down an alleyway, searching for the hidden Gateway duct.

On the Giant TV screen is KOOPA demonstrating the use of Devo Guns-- laughing and zapping animated HUMANS into apes.

INT. THE FUNGUS ROOM – NIGHT

Daisy, weak and desperate, looks for a way out.

Then she notices something... part of the Fungus is moving. In fact, a lot of the Fungus is moving. It's all around her, and closing in. She tries to move out, but it has cut off her escape route. Then... a tendril wraps around her leg. She tries to remove it, but another gets her arm.

Quickly, it envelopes her, holding her tight. She screams, but once it has her, it just gets worse. She is trapped.

INT. HORIZONTAL VENTILATION SHAFT – NIGHT

Mario and Luigi spring down the shaft, until they come to a... VERTICAL HEATING DUCT, descending into darkness.

It's about ten-feet across, and seems like a smokestack. They look around the empty duct-- there's nothing to use. No ladder, no nothin'. But then Luigi gets determined.

LUIGI
Mario, we're out of time. I can
make it. I know I can.

MARIO
Luigi--

Before Mario can say anything, Luigi has stepped back...

LUIGI
You said we Marios can do anything.
I'm going over.

MARIO
You'll fall!

But Luigi leaps anyways over the inky chasm but-- he stops. Really. In mid-air, he just stops.

LUIGI
Hey, look! Mario! You're right!
Come on, give it a shot! Just have
faith! We can do anything!

Luigi is inspiring. Mario is inspired.

As Mario steps back to leap, Luigi slowly realizes he's merely caught on a winch hook, used for maintenance.

LUIGI
Wait, Mario. It's not faith--

But Mario has already leaped--

LUIGI
-- It's just a hook.

-- And that's when Mario's eyes meet Luigi's. Beat. Then, Mario just drops, out of sight, screaming all the way.

Luigi cringes, waiting for the splat. But there's just-- PYYYYOING-- and Mario rises up next to Luigi, mad as hell. He's punching the air, just a hair too far from Luigi.

MARIO
There's a heating filter stretched--

Again, he drops out of sight-- PYYYYOING-- he rises back up.

MARIO
-- Across the duct. I'm alive but--

Again, he drops out of sight-- PYYYYOING-- he rises back up.

MARIO
-- I'm gonna kill you.

This time, Luigi grabs Mario's hands, like a trapeze act.

LUIGI
You don't mean that.

MARIO
I do. I'm telling you, if we die

here, I'm gonna kill you so bad
you're gonna wish you were dead.
Now are you gonna save your loving
brother, or what?

They just hang. Now Luigi gets a strange look.

LUIGI
Hey, Mario-- there's something I've
been thinking about...

MARIO
And you wanna tell me now?

LUIGI
Yeah, I just thought you should
know... I do have family pride.

MARIO
... What?!

LUIGI
Back in our house, before we went to
dinner at Tony's... you said I had
no pride in being a Mario. Well...
I do. I'm real proud to be a Mario,
Mario. And I'm real proud to be
your brother.

Mario hangs. Looks up at him.

MARIO
I'm touched. I'd hug you, but then
you'd be an only child.

LUIGI
No, Mario... I mean it. Seriously.

Suddenly they hear, echoing through the duct--

DAISY'S VOICE
Noo!! NOOO!!!

QUICK INTERCUT – DAISY IN THE FUNGUS ROOM

As the fungus continues to envelop her... CUT BACK TO

MARIO AND LUIGI – IN THE AIR SHAFT

They react-- stunned.

LUIGI
Daiiiisy!!

Luigi swings Mario back and forth, bigger and bigger until, on an upswing-- RRRIP-- Luigi's cover-alls give way. He drops from the hook, and--

They fly to the other side, landing in a heap.
... They look at each other. Beat. Then they hug, hard.

LUIGI/MARIO
I don't wanna lose you, brother.

When they pull away, smiling, Luigi motions.

LUIGI
Now. We got a girl to save.

And they're off, peering in every ventilation grate.

INT. KOOPA'S SUITE – SAME

Koopa enters... looking around. No Goomba. No...

KOOPA
Daisy?

His eyes widen. He sees Yoshi, whimpering in pain. He removes the pin... seethes.

Suddenly his INNER CIRCLE arrives-- Bloober and TWO GOOMBAS. He rails at them.

KOOPA
So where is she?

BLOOBER
We can't track her. Everything's either flooded or frozen.

KOOPA
Then get someone to fix it!

BLOOBER
Where we gonna find a plumber this
time of night?

KOOPA
Don't ever mention "plumber" again.

BLOOBER
Perhaps this will cheer you up. The
troops are in place, ready to de-
volve the mammals.

KOOPA

In place, ready to-- what?! Now?!
Who ordered their deployment?

BLOOBER

You did, sir. Lena relayed your
command-- we carried it out
immediately.

Koopa, FURIOUS, pushes past and stalks out of the room.

INT. THE FUNGUS ROOM – NIGHT

The fungus as it writhes and twists, coiling tighter around Daisy. It gets MORE enveloping. She yelps a bit, frantic.

INT. THE HORIZONTAL SHAFT – NIGHT

Mario and Luigi heard that. They run to the nearest grate. It looks down on--

A CORRIDOR

-- Where a Goomba stands guard outside a door.

Mario nods, quickly undoing the screws around the grate. Then Mario mimes "1... 2... 3..." and then--

INT. A CORRIDOR

-- They drop on the Goomba, knocking him flat. Quickly, they're up. The Goomba isn't. Mario grabs the Goomba's FLAMESTICK, pulls the trigger-- A FLAMEBALL SHOOTS OUT.

MARIO

(offering it to him)

Here, Luigi, this might be handy.

But Luigi has already thrown open the door--

INT. THE FUNGUS ROOM – NIGHT

-- And he's in, spotting Daisy enmeshed in the Fungus.

DAISY

Luigi! Help me!

Luigi runs to her. Now Mario's in, sees what's what...

MARIO

Stand back! I'll barbecue it.

LUIGI

No! Don't! Turn it off!

MARIO

Why not? What's wrong with you?

LUIGI

I think it's... alive. And I think
I can talk to it.

MARIO

You think you can what?

DAISY

Luigi, please!

Luigi concentrates, talking directly to the Fungus core.

LUIGI

Listen to me! We're Koopa's
enemies. We're here to destroy him.
So how about letting her go?

MARIO

I don't believe this. Next, maybe
you can chat with the gunk on the
bottom of my shoe.

LUIGI

No, I finally am getting it. The
fungus hates Koopa. That makes it
our friend. It's been helping us--
all this time. In the tunnel? That
stuff that singer guy told us?

As if to demonstrate his trust he gently picks up some of the twisting coils. The fungus responds! Slowly it starts to release its stranglehold on Daisy.

Mario is staggered. Luigi is not surprised. He steps into the tangled parting mass. He reaches out his hand and pulls Daisy into his arms. She hugs him.

DAISY

Luigi!

LUIGI

Daisy. You look beautiful.

But she doesn't, really. She's tired, and covered with fungus slime. But Luigi thinks she's beautiful.

LUIGI

I hope coming to save you isn't
too... forward of me, or anything.

DAISY

(weakly)

No, it's very sweet. And please continue, you're doing a great job.

LUIGI

(smiling, blushing)

Thanks.

But Mario's enthralled with the fungus. His eyes scope the room and he addresses the fungus self-consciously.

MARIO

I... I don't know who I'm talkin' to, but thanks.

Luigi looks closely at Daisy.

LUIGI

Don't worry. We'll get you to the pendant.

DAISY

Is... Daniella safe?

MARIO

Oh, man-- she's gonna be mad. I was supposed to take her to the roller derby...

DAISY

You mean... you don't know?

EXT. CORRIDOR – A SPLIT SECOND LATER

Mario bursts into the hall.

MARIO

Daniella! I'm coming for you, baby!!

Luigi, carrying Daisy, exit behind him.

MARIO

Daniella!!

MALE VOICE

Yes?

The guys swirl-- it's Koopa. With goombas.

KOOPA

Oops, sorry. I bet you meant the "other" Daniella. The unneeded one. The one wasting precious space and energy...

Luigi and Daisy are immediately grabbed. Mario has a very quick choice to make. But Luigi makes it for him.

LUIGI

Go! Mario-- go get Daniella!

MARIO

But--!!

LUIGI

Just go!

MARIO

I'll be back for you! I swear it!

And he spins.

KOOPA

(to Goombas, re Mario)

Get him! And ready my limo. WE'RE GOING DOWN.

And there is A REAL MOMENT HERE...

Luigi and Daisy are being dragged backwards down the hall one way, while--

Mario runs the other way, LOOKING BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER--

And things almost seem to move in slow motion.

Koopa glares, smugly. Mario and Luigi, as best they can, tip their caps to each other... and then Mario turns the corner, gone.

INT. CORRIDOR – NIGHT

SPIKE AND IGGY tumble from the DEVO CHAMBER, with incredibly stupid looks on their faces.

MARIO

Meet me at grate eight! Get the sludge-gulper! Hurry!

Iggy and Spike just stare at him, barely comprehending.

IGGY

Grate eight? Ventilation grate?

Then they stop, look at each other. They have been transformed, thanks to Lena, into the stupidest, most feeble-minded, lamest duo ever.

IGGY

Let's go Spiggy.

SPIKE

Okay, Ike.

And they turn one way.

MARIO, ON THE OTHER HAND

Is going the other way around a hallway corridor, turning the corner, only to be met by WHOOSHING FLAMEBALLS.

MARIO
Yaaaarghgh!!

He spins. ARMED GOOMBAS give chase. Mario leaps over FUNGUS, which is sprouting out of the walls--

--and then suddenly it TRIPS HIM. He slides...

MARIO
Hey...

And he hits a stalk of fungus head on. A GOOMBA prepares to fire.

And Mario rolls hard against the wall... The Fungus rips apart the cracks in the rotted wall. Plaster falls. The Fungus writhes. Then a section of wall collapses into the corridor. Then, the roof comes down, sealing it off completely. No more Goomba.

Mario jumps back, realizing he's been "saved." Then he actually grabs a green offshoot and gives it a "handshake."

MARIO
Thanks again there... fungus. I'll
take you for a beer over at Tony's.
(then)
That is, if you're twenty one.

INT. THE GATEWAY – METEORITE CHAMBER – SAME

A bluish-white light FILLS the SCREEN. As the CAMERA PULLS BACK we REVEAL the underground chamber with the catwalk above it-- the one with the "Koopa" activated Nothing Wall.

The walls and ceiling are natural rock. The entire floor is the meteorite-- the source of this pulsing energy.

ON THE CATWALK

Lena looks down at the glowing rock, holding the equally glowing pendant in her hand. She smiles. Determined.

INT. KOOPA TOWER – HALLWAY

Running Mario slows as he HEARS a bunch of thick-accented Brooklyn girls COMPLAINING FEROCIOUSLY about being cold, dramped, hungry, tired...

He lets out a BIG SMILE.

MARIO

There's my baby...

And he runs to the door. Throws his shoulder into it and it splinters in--

MARIO

Yo, people inside, stand back!

He throws his shoulder into it and it splinters in--

INT. WOMEN'S DORMITORY/INTERNMENT ROOM – NIGHT

-- And there they all are. The Six Girls.

MARIO

Sorry, I'm late.

They're amazed. And they're wearing all their clothes with blankets wrapped around them for warmth.

Daniella's face lights up as she leaps into Mario's arms.

DANIELLA

Mario! You came for me!

MARIO

That's right-- I came all this way
with only one thing on my mind--
rescuin' you!

(realizing there's six)

All of.... You. (more)

MARIO (CONT'D)

(after the cheers die down)

You're the girls all missing from
Brooklyn?

DANIELLA

Angie's from Queens, but she's okay.

ANGELICA

I was great till somebody turned the
heat off. Now I'm freezin' my butt!

Now Daniella notices Bertha's lipstick on Mario's collar.

DANIELLA

What's this? Lipstick?

MARIO

... Nah. It's... I fell on one of
those lip shaped plants they got.

DANIELLA

I get kidnapped into another dimension, and you come to save me and make it with another girl?

MARIO

No! Never! Never another girl.
(meaning it)
You're the only one I want. Really.

Outside, the FOOTFALLS of Goombas can be heard. Mario swallows-- they're trapped, but good.

Mario tries to get the Brooklyn Girls to quiet down.

MARIO

Hey, hush. I got a way we can get outa here-- I just hope it's ready.

Mario looks up at the heating duct.

EXT. KOOPA SQUARE, DINOYAWK – (PARALLEL NEW YORK) – NIGHT

The throng buzzes as PERSONNEL CARRIERS full of Goombas brandishing DEVO GUNS take up positions, sand-bagging in. WAR IS IN THE AIR.

Koopa's Monster Limo growls down the street, finally coming to a stop on top of two flattened cars. The doors open...

And Koopa, dressed for battle, climbs down the ladder. DinoYawkers form a crowd, gawking at their leader, but Koopa couldn't care less.

KOOPA

Hurry it up, you imbeciles.

The Goombas drag Luigi and Daisy out as Koopa heads down the alley towards the gateway duct.

INT. KOOPA TOWER – VENTILATION SYSTEM – NIGHT

We're inside a large duct, now ice-encrusted, somewhere deep within the building's heating and ventilation system.

We hear a SWOOSHING SOUND.

And then Mario and the Girls appear, corkscrewing through the ductwork on a MATTRESS like an overloaded bobsled team.

MARIO

Next stop. Brooklyn!

Now they start picking up speed as they hurtle downwards...

INT. KOOPA TOWER – DORMITORY – DAY

Goombas burst in. They register the empty room, the missing mattress, the open ventilation duct. They're

hopping mad, and start launching FLAMEBALLS willy-nilly.

Somebody blasts the door off its hinges.

INT. KOOPA TOWER – VENTILATION SYSTEM – NIGHT

Mario and the Brooklyn Girls on their crazy Cresta run. Ahead is a curtain of stalactites. Mario pulls Daniella backwards the other Girls follow suit, like dominoes. The mattress flies under the stalactites, just barely.

BEHIND THEM, HIGHER UP THE DUCT

The Goombas' are hot on the frozen tail. Their "sled" is the door, and it moves. They skewer around a bend.

Ahead-- the stalactites! But the Goombas are too big and stupid to get out of the way. The slicing-ice shatters against them.

BACK WITH MARIO AND GIRLS

Ahead is the BLACK HOLE of a vertical horizontal shaft.

MARIO

Lean! We gotta get to grate eight!

His "crew" all lean to the right. The "bobsled" executes a

brilliant hair-raising maneuver. It banks to one side as they reach the hole then completes a 360' corkscrew turn. The Girls scream as if they're on a roller coaster.

WITH THE GOOMBAS

The Goombas' door sled whips into the same stretch. They can't control it. The weight of the door hits the lip of the hole, turns over and the Goombas are tipped into it.

Whoosh-- they're just gone.

BACK WITH MARIO AND THE GIRLS

On the final stretch. All that's ahead is external grate. Mario leans back, feet out, Air Stompers poised for impact.

As soon as they hit the end-- THWWHOMP-- Mario absorbs it. A dead stop. The Girls scream again. Mario looks so cool.

MARIO

Thank you for flying Air Mario.

Then, Mario stomps the grate-- THWOMP-- and it flies out, allowing Mario a clear look outside. They're still up two stories, over the REFUSE UNLOADING AREA.

Mario knows this is gonna be a tough sell, but he tries it anyways:

MARIO

("enthusiastic")

Okay! Now, the great part is, we
all get to jump down into a nice,
comfortable...

(muffling the word)

...grrrrbbgge truck.

ANGELICA

Excuse me, a garbage truck?

DANIELLA

She's used to limos.

MARIO

It's a limo... for garbage.

He gives Daniella a hero's kiss, then just shoves her out of the grate into the back of the Sludge-Gulper. The other Girls are sick of her by now, and they just follow suit.

INT. GATEWAY – THE METEORITE CHAMBER – NIGHT

Lena, on the catwalk, looks down at the meteorite...

KOOPA (O.S.)

Lena!

She turns as Koopa strides for her from the Duct. Lena steps back and holds the pendant out over the meteorite.

KOOPA

You don't know what you're doing.

LENA

And you do? Please. You prefer the girl. Take her. I'll take this.

Behind him is a bound Luigi and Daisy-- who is getting still weaker.

LUIGI

You gotta help her!

Lena raises the glowing pendant-- which pulses with power.

LENA

Sorry.

Then, quickly, she turns and clambors down to the meteorite's surface. It glows brighter, and she revels in its power, loving it.

Above her, Luigi is starting to panic... Daisy's starting to go unconscious.

LUIGI

But... we're getting closer. God, I hope it's not too late...

EXT. KOOPA'S TOWER – NIGHT

Mario and the girls are rising up from the garbage they just lept into. Suddenly the girls SCREAM!--

--as Spike and Iggy climb out of the garbage as well, proud as hell that they remembered.

SPIKE

We done it, Marigi.

IGGY

Where's... Luigio?

ANGELICA

Hey! Those are the creeps who snatched me! You bums!

MARIO

Relax-- these guys are gonna help us. They're annoying, but really smart. Right?

He looks at them. Iggy just chews on garbage, then stares at Mario, drooling on his baggy cover-alls, burping and laughing too loud.

MARIO

Iggy? Spike? What happened to you?

IGGY

We went into the devo machine and...
(watching a fly buzz, then)
Hey, you wanna eat garbage with us?

Annoyed, Mario puts a hand over Iggy's mouth, quieting him.

MARIO

I got a better idea.

SPIKE

Oh, like that's hard. Everybody's ideas are better than ours.

MARIO

We gotta get these girls to a safe place... and I gotta get to my

brother.

INT. THE METEORITE CHAMBER – NIGHT

Lena is on her knees, her face glowing wildly in the brilliant, strange meteorite light. She's so intent...
... As she brings the crystal pendant closer to a matching slot on the meteorite, a keyhole, really... its home.

But it resists. Like same-polar magnets, it refuses to slide in its rightful spot. The more she tries, the more it resists. But she's determined as...

ABOVE HER, ON THE CATWALK

The meteorite-light bathes Daisy and Luigi-- who's only concern now is for Daisy's safety.

LUIGI

Don't! That's hers! She needs it!
(to Koopa)
Why aren't you doing anything??

KOOPA

(smiles)
It's going to do it itself.

LUIGI

What?

Koopa waits... oddly patient. As if he knows something...

DOWN ON THE METEORITE

... Lena just smiles, and presses all the harder on the pendant, jamming it into the slot. Success.

AND THAT'S WHEN IT STARTS. THE MERGING BEGINS.

EXT. KOOPA SQUARE, DINOYAWK – (PARALLEL NEW YORK) – NIGHT

... And suddenly IMAGES from Manhattan start to weirdly SUPER-IMPOSE themselves OVER the SCENE... Yellow cabs, a pretzel vendor, a bag lady pushing an super market cart...

A NEW YORK COP finds himself in the middle of DinoYawk traffic, with bumper cars and ridiculous smash-ups. He just shakes his head, and continues waving his hands.

NEW YORK COP

Keep it moving, folks.

EXT. NEW YORK – UPPER EAST SIDE – NIGHT

A pickup b-ball game in progress. A kid makes a pass.

The ball is caught by a DINOYAWKER in Air Stompers! He takes off and STOMPS from half-court-- WHOOSH!-- he makes the most spectacular slam dunk in the history of the game.

EXT. NEW YORK – TOLL BOOTH – NIGHT

The "Canelli" Van pulls up, Doug and Mike inside, tired. They toss their change in, then look over. Next to them--

A PERSONNEL CARRIER, filled with DEVO-GUN-weilding Goombas. Doug nods hello, and then--
BVVVVT-- the Devo guns fire... and Doug and Mike de-evolve into coveral-wearing CHIMPS.

INT. SLUDGE-GULPER – NIGHT

Mario drives, with Daniella, Iggy, Spike and Angelica. They're all stunned by the KALEIDOSCOPIC effects.

DANIELLA

Oh my gawd! What is happening?

MARIO

That emergin' dimension thing?
Worlds comin' together, yakkin',
bakin' a cake... Okay, I dunno.
(leaning, looking at Iggy)
What is it? You used to be smart.

IGGY

I did? Did I like to eat garbage?
I sure like to now. You guys wanna?

Beat. The Girls stare at Iggy. Spike nudges him, motions for him to "cheese it," as Mario sees--

An idling just-merged NEW YORK CAB.

MARIO

I gotta get you gals outa here.

Mario pulls the Sludge-Gulper up behind it, and gets out, motioning for the girls to follow him to the cab.

MARIO

Hey. Take these ladies to Brooklyn?

The bored CABBIE just folds up his "Racing Forum."

CABBIE

Yeah, sure, whatever.

The Girls pile in. Mario turns to Daniella...

DANIELLA

You be careful, Mario Mario.

MARIO

I gotta be if I wanna make you...
Mrs. Mario Mario.

Mario takes her hands. Daniella looks a bit faint.

MARIO

I keep sayin' I'm gonna wait 'til I
get everything straightened out...
but, by the looks of it, things may
never get straightened out, so I
might as well just ask now...
(a big breath, then)
Daniella Verducci, will you marry me?

He means it. She looks in his eyes, and smiles.

DANIELLA

Mario, I'd love to.

Around them, the craziness of DinoYawk/New York merging is taking place, with SMASHES and SQUEALS and everything.

DANIELLA

And I'll always remember this
moment. Did you plan it this way?

MARIO

... Yeah, sure. You think I'm just
makin' it up as I go?
(then, kissing her)
Now, I gotta go help your future
brother-in-law.

He helps her inside the cab, then dashes toward the grate. Around him, things continue to wobble.

INT. THE GATEWAY – METEORITE CHAMBER – NIGHT

The source of this incredible power.

Energy radiates out from the meteorite, a visible flow. And, hanging onto the pendant for everything she's worth, is Lena. She's riding wave after wave, fully with it.

Koopa watches, rapt, riding the waves like Ahab. Luigi shields himself from the light-- but calls:

LUIGI

Daisy!

As Daisy appears completely unconscious. But the energy of the meteor **KEEPS PULSING...**

LENA

It is absolutely amazing. It's...

As the wave keeps growing... and growing... and then--

LENA
Aaaahhh!

A SUDDEN BURST OF IT JETS OUT OF THE METEORITE, INSTANTLY ERASING LENA.

Koopa and Luigi duck the blast, then look...

... And there's just her OUTLINE on the far rock wall, etched like a fossil. She is gone, gone, gone.

The meteorite calms, readying for its next pulse.

Koopa looks down where the pendant is. It's clearly visible, lodged askew in its cradle. Stuck.

Luigi looks at weak Daisy, then glares at Koopa.

LUIGI
Get it for her.

KOOPA
I think it's too late. Goodbye,
plumber.

And he motions for the goombas to get rid of him. And they turn to Luigi... and then start to RISE. UP, HIGHER... and they FALL OFF THE CATWALK...

Where Daisy is standing, having lifted them both.

DAISY
Fooled you.
(winks at Koopa)
Only true Gate Keepers can withstand
the force. Or get stronger from it.

And Koopa looks back.

KOOPA
I'm glad you finally accept it.
And, finally, you're here.

Koopa is summoning every inch of his hypnotic charm... moving closer and closer to her. Luigi reaches for him--

LUIGI
Hey-- nobody touches my girl, bub.

--but a simple SHOVE knocks Luigi sprawling back on the catwalk. Koopa keeps coming for Daisy, who doesn't move.

KOOPA

Only you can touch it, Daisy. Only
you can put it in. Let our worlds
merge. For... us.

DAISY

You... have really bad breath.

Now Koopa just snarls and back-hands her to the floor. Turns quickly and bare-hands a punch from Luigi.

LUIGI

I told you... nobody touches my girl, bub.

Koopa quickly hoists Luigi up.

KOOPA

As for you, my plumber pal...

He's about to throw him over the catwalk, when--

MARIO (O.S.)

And nobody touches my brother, bub.

WHAM!-- Mario delivers a roundhouse to Koopa's nose. It doesn't really do much, but it allows for Luigi to wriggle free. Then BOTH brothers kick him-- at the same time. And Koopa, startled, tumbles backwards on the catwalk.

Suddenly the meteor pulses. Everything BEGINS TO SHAKE.

KOOPA

(on the walk)

It's happening.

DAISY

Luigi, I'm going for the pendant.
I've got to stop it!

She quickly climbs down the rock wall to the meteorite. Koopa starts coming toward the brothers.

LUIGI

How are we gonna do this?

Mario side-glances Luigi's strangely-filled belt.

MARIO

Why'd you pick up all that stuff?

LUIGI

I dunno, I had a feeling it would
come in handy.

MARIO

You had a feeling?

(then)

Well... I think you were right.

Mario rolls up his sleeves. Undoes his belt.

MARIO

Gimme it, kid. I gotta take care of
a little family business.

Luigi hands it to Mario.

From down on the rock, Daisy is struggling-- the pendant's lodged in in a way that makes it impossible to pull out.

DAISY

I need some help! A chisel?
Anything.

Luigi takes Mario's belt. Smiles.

LUIGI

Excuse me, big brother-- but I gotta
take care of a little business as
well.

And he straps on Mario's belt, and leaps over the edge. Mario straps on Luigi's, then checks what he's been left: The Flamestick. Two Bob-ombs. And... the Fungus Daisy.

Then, he's interrupted by the-- BVVVVVT-- of a DEVO GUN. He looks around the corner to see Koopa firing at Luigi.

Luigi is doing the best he can to avoid the Devo arcs, trying to get down where Daisy is, on the meteorite.

KOOPA

I don't think so, plumber!

MARIO

Neither do I, lizard.

And Koopa whips the Devo Gun up, to see--
Mario, down the catwalk, pointing the FlameStick at him.

KOOPA

Now we wouldn't want any real
trouble, would we?

MARIO

You never know, you egg-sucking,
son-of-a-snake. Try me.

Mario fires-- WHOOM!-- and the FLAMEBALL flies, but the thirty feet it has to travel allows Koopa time to dodge it.

KOOPA

Fire's no match for de-volution.

Now Koopa fires-- BVVVVV-- but Mario drops flat fast-- WHOOM! WHOOM! WHOOM!-- firing fast enough to force Koopa to drop flat himself. Mario fires one last time and-- click!-- he already had his one last time.

MARIO

(tossing the FlameStick)

Now they tell me there's a limit.

They're both prone, on the catwalk, looking at each other. And Mario grins, then rolls back to his hiding place...

... where he drops the grin.

MARIO

What am I doing?

DOWN ON THE METEORITE SURFACE

Luigi and Daisy try to pry the pendant from it's cradle. As strong as Daisy may be, the heat has nearly welded it in place. Luigi shoots a nervous glance at the meteorite.

LUIGI

Is this thing gonna... erupt again?

DAISY

That's what we're trying to stop.

Luigi doubles his effort, using Mario's screwdriver. Nope.

LUIGI

Darn. Some professional, huh?

UP ON THE CATWALK

Mario is staring at Luigi's belt. There's not much left.

KOOPA (O.S.)

I would just love to see how you look with a lot more hair, and a lot less cranial capacity.

Koopa nears the end, and then a little Bob-omb crawls out. Koopa rolls his eyes, and reaches his foot to step on it--

KOOPA

Please. I know how a Bob-omb works.
It has to be intact to go off.

-- That's when Mario chucks the other Bob-omb at Koopa, whacking his face hard, and bouncing down at his feet. Blinded, he staggers around trying to find both Bob-ombs.

Unsuccessful, Koopa dives for the end of the catwalk as-- BO-BOOOM! -BO-BOOOM!-- the blasts remove a piece of catwalk.

DOWN ON THE METEORITE

The strange rock is growing brighter again, ready to blow. Luigi pulls out one of Mario's shiny wrenches and works it under the pendant, leaning on it for all he's worth.

MARIO (O.S.)

Whatta ya doin' down there? Havin' a picnic? I'm outta ideas up here.

Luigi looks up at Mario.

LUIGI

Mario. I'm doing the best I can!

UP ON THE CATWALK

Mario is gonna yell more, but Koopa shakes himself clear. The Devo Gun comes up, and Mario sprints the other way, toward the the "real world" side of the Gateway, thinking.

Then-- POOM. He runs smack into the "Nothing Wall" and falls back on his ass. He shakes his head clear. Then:

COMPUTER VOICE (O.S.)

To exit Koopa Square, please state--

MARIO

Koopa!

KOOPA

What?!

FLASH-WHOOSH-- the "Nothing Wall" opens and Mario jumps through. It closes just as-- BVVVVT-- the Devo arc hits.

Koopa fires-- BVVVVT-BVVVVT-BVVVVT-- but Mario is safe on the other side of the invisible wall. He laughs.

MARIO

I still think this is stupi--

FLASH-WHOOSH-- the "door" opens enough for Koopa to get a shot through-- BVVVVT-- just missing Mario. Koopa laughs.

Then, Koopa walks right out to where Mario is standing, right up to the "Nothing Wall," inches from Mario.

They just stare at each other. Then, quietly:

KOOPA

Koopa.

FLASH-WHOOSH. Koopa whips the Devo gun up into Mario's chin, then down on his head. Mario drops.

Then, Koopa points the Devo Gun at Mario, about to make him an ape, when Mario does something interesting...

... He pulls up Luigi's Daisy. Holding it up for Koopa.

MARIO

For you...

It's very sweet. But Koopa doesn't care. HE JUST FIRES. And the Devo arc, meant to go through the flower to Mario, instead wraps itself around the daisy... de-volving it.

THE DAISY SUDDENLY TURNS INTO A VICIOUS PIRANHA FLOWER.

Koopa and Mario just stare at the snapping thing, before Mario tosses it at Koopa, where it latches onto his face.

He stumbles forward, screaming, dropping the Devo Gun. Mario spins, snaps up the gun, and--

He fires at Koopa-- BVVVVVVVVVVVT-- DRIVING HIM BACK AND BACK AND UNDER THE "REAL WORLD" DUCT-- all while he seems to be in the process of DEVOLVING...

Mario sags, tired.

MARIO

Never underestimate a plumber.

DOWN ON THE METEORITE

The surface is getting hotter and whiter, as Luigi sweats and strains until, finally-- THE PENDANT POPS FREE.

Instantly, the meteorite starts to settle down. Daisy wraps her arms around Luigi, and plants one on him.

He blushes big-time, then holds up Mario's tool.

LUIGI

Never underestimate a wrench.

Then, the meteorite starts to change color... DARKER. Luigi takes the pendant, and hands it to Daisy...

EXT. FUNGUS ROOM

Spike and Iggy, stupid as hell, can't figure out why the foliage is all growing back... But from the CHEERING SOUNDS from inside the city... it becomes clear...

INT. FUNGUS ROOM

The fungus is shrinking-- releasing water back into the city as it does. In fact, it's getting so small that we are able to reveal that what the fungus is centered on is actually... a THRONE.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE EXCAVATION SITE – DAY

Dawn is breaking over the city.
There is a lot of activity by the site.

And EDDIE CANELLI (remember him?) is putting on a show for the NEWS CREW that video him, standing in front of the flooded tunnel entrance...

EDDIE

... I just want everyone to know
that today's victory is for the
little guy-- guys like me-- and for
anybody who's ever kicked a little
butt-- also, like me. Gettin'
people back to work is always more
important than lettin' rich college
snots-- no offense, kids-- play in
the dirt, even though it's now mud.
Because, lets face it-- dinosaurs
are yesterday's news... hey! Hey!?

He reacts to the CAMERAS STARTING TO TURN AWAY as--

The TAXI PULLS UP with the six BROOKLYN Girls

Reporters are gleeful-- it's the missing Brooklyn Girls! A much better story than some union/college squabble. ALL cameras leave Eddie as he calls out:

EDDIE

Hey! This is big news...

And he turns as there's a SQUEAL like a hawk, and--

A DINOSAUR-- or at least a creature that looks exactly like Yoshi, (in fact, it's even played by the Yoshi dinosaur) barrels out from the tunnel, fangs bared, saliva dripping.

Except this dinosaur is wearing Koopa's clothes.

Sure enough, it's de-volved Koopa, run amuck in our world. And he picks up Eddie-- and carries him kicking, screaming, and totally ignored, back down into the tunnel.

BY THE JUST-ARRIVED CAB

The reporters shout questions left and right.

REPORTERS

What happened?/Where have you been?/Are you okay? etc.

DANIELLA

Well, we were locked up in this weird fungus-infested tower and guarded by lizards. Until we were rescued by the... Super Mario Brothers-- Brooklyn's best.

REPORTERS

Brooklyn's best what?

DANIELLA

(right at camera)

Plumbers.

NOW, FROM THE TUNNEL

Emerge Mario, Luigi, and Daisy, tired, bedraggled... stunned at the CAMERAS and reporters and everything around them.

REPORTER #1

What exactly happened down there?

REPORTER #2

How did you get the girls out? Etc.

REPORTER #3

And what else was there?

Daisy and Luigi nudge Mario to step forward. He does.

MARIO

Well... lemme put it this way. No matter what it is, no matter where it is, no matter what time of day... we can unclog it. Grime, grease. Even your alternate dimension reptilian dictator. You know why? Cause we're the Mario Brothers...

Daniella joins Mario, and the four of them, just glow...

INT. THE MARIO BROTHER'S APARTMENT – TWO WEEKS LATER (SUPER)

Daisy beams as Luigi places the PENDANT-- now in the form of a RING-- on her finger, as--

Mario, placing another ring on Daniella's finger...

EXT. THE MARIO BROTHER'S APARTMENT

... Music plays as Daisy and Luigi, dressed in a white gown and tuxedo, bounce down the brownstone's steps as the crowd throws bird seed. The crowd is sparse, but enthusiastic-- mostly the Brooklyn Girls and their dates.

Then, Luigi and Daisy turn back and welcome out...

MARIO AND DANIELLA, also in white gown and tux.

They, too, bounce down the steps under a bird seed rain. Now the crowd follows the foursome up the sidewalk to...

A NEW VAN. Streamlined, custom-built, state-of-the-art. The paint is hardly dry on the letters which read:

"SUPER Mario Brothers – Brooklyn's Best!"

The crowd applauds. Luigi wraps his arm around Daisy.

Now Mario notices two Japanese gentlemen on the sidewalk. They bow politely in his direction. He turns to Daniella.

MARIO

Who are those guys?

DANIELLA

They wanna talk to you. Very big contract, very big bucks.

MARIO

What are we talkin' here? Drains? Slab leaks? Copper repipes?

DANIELLA

They want the rights to your story... for a video game.

Luigi pokes his head in--

LUIGI

What? That's crazy!

Mario puts an arm around his brother, and leads him away...

MARIO

Luigi, a good man once told me...
Anything can happen.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET – DAY

The new "Super Mario Brothers" van drives off, bells a-clankin' and streamers a-flyin'. It takes a corner...

PASSING a SERIES OF TABLOIDS with all the usual headlines... CAMERA SLOWLY PICKS OUT one of them...

"PLUMBER MARRIES DINOSAUR!"

Fungus Gives Bride Away

Super: "THE END."

Then: "IT COULD HAPPEN."