

"SUPER MARIO BROS."

by

Parker Bennett & Terry Runté

FIRST DRAFT

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

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

TITLE: "20 YEARS AGO..."

EXT. BROOKLYN CHURCH (1972) - NIGHT

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

Nuns open the door and look down...

EXT. STREET NEAR BROOKLYN BRIDGE (1972) - NIGHT

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

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Down the tracks, the woman pulls away some boards and enters what looks like an old mining tunnel. She moves toward a distinctive rock formation at the end. But the dark figure overtakes her, spins her to face him. Handsome and intense, almost hypnotic, this is the YOUNG KOOPA.

The woman wrenches free, throws herself at a support beam. Rocks crash down. A timber falls and strikes Koopa. He scrambles to the end of the tunnel as the CEILING CAVES IN.

INT. BROOKLYN CHURCH - CANDLE-LIT ROOM - NIGHT

The nuns excitedly unwrap the bundle. Inside is a large DECORATIVE EGG, inlaid with a gem-like stone. It hinges open and they find... a real egg. Mottled, oblong, 18 inches long. And it's moving. CRACKING. The nuns gasp.

NUN

What is it?

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Probably another egg.

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

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Holy sh...

A PEAL OF THUNDER rocks the church as we

CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE (1992) - MOVING - DAY

MUSIC KICKS IN. Heavy traffic races over the Bridge as the East River sparkles in the b.g. A large truck is hauling huge pipes...

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - NEWSSTAND - DAY

The pipe truck rattles by a newsstand. We PAN the headlines: A series of women have recently disappeared from Brooklyn. One tabloid speculates: "MISSING MISSES STILL A MYSTERY: MONSTERS FROM MARS?"

Leaning there, a 12-year-old cranks intently at his GAMEBOY. The crusty NEWS VENDOR shakes his head.

NEWS VENDOR

Doesn't anybody watch TV anymore?

A regular grabs a Times and moves past...

EXT. EXPENSIVE CONDO - THE MARIO BROS. VAN - DAY

It sports a faded LOGO: "Mario Bros. Plumbing." There's a drawing of a familiar-looking Italian with a big mustache.

MARIO (O.S.)

It looks bad...

INT. EXPENSIVE CONDO - KITCHEN - DAY

A PINGING SOUND and a trail of plumbing parts leads us to the sink. A man in coveralls is working under the sink, framed between the well-toned legs of an attractive WOMAN.

WOMAN

Bad?

MARIO slides out, checking out the woman as he rises. He's flirting.

MARIO

Very, very... bad.

He looks only a little like the guy on the van, his old man.

MARIO

I'm afraid this is going to be an expensive proposition.

WOMAN

What's wrong with it?

MARIO

In layman's terms... the part where the water goes down. Who put in this sink? Do you know?

WOMAN

Well, my boyfriend did most of the rehab work -- I think he put it in.

MARIO

Uh-huh. Look, this sort of thing happens to me all the time. Some guy does a rush job for a girl, then I have to come in and do a proper installation. Come down here. Let me show you what your boyfriend's been doing wrong.

She joins him under the sink. He holds up a small part.

MARIO

For starters, he's using a three-quarter inch cock...

She stares at him.

MARIO

It's a plumbing term.

LUIGI (O.C.)

MARIO!

MARIO

I'm busy, Luigi!

(to the woman)

Sorry. What were we talking about?

WOMAN

Hardware.

MARIO

Right. But it's more than just having the right tools. There are some things money can't buy -- like technique. You can't pick that up from a Time/Life book...

LUIGI (O.C.)

YO -- MARIO!

MARIO

Luigi! Hey, come on -- let go of my ankles.

LUIGI

I'm not holding your ankles.

WHUMP. Mario is yanked out from under the sink by a brutish rich guy named MITCH. Standing with him is LUIGI, Mario's younger brother. The girlfriend leaps to Mitch's side.

WOMAN

Mitch!

MITCH

I can't believe it. This is the lowest... A plumber!

MARIO

Hey, easy, pal...  
(he stands)  
I'm not a plumber.

MITCH

I'm not talking to you.

MARIO

I'm a contractor, specializing in building waste and water supply systems. I was trying to show your girlfriend here exactly what needed fixing, so she didn't think I was taking advantage of her.  
(to the woman)  
Isn't that right?

The woman nods. Mitch calms down a little.

WOMAN

He said you had a three-quarter inch dick.

EXT. EXPENSIVE CONDO - DAY

Mario and Luigi race out for their lives. Mario grabs Luigi to stop.

MARIO

Great. We forgot our tools.

Mitch SHOUTS from high above. Mario and Luigi look up:

Two heavily laden TOOLBELTS are heading straight for them. They dive for cover as tools CLATTER against the pavement.

MARIO

Thanks. Just throw those anywhere.

BOINGK! A plunger bounces off the sidewalk in front of them.

INT. MARIO BROS. VAN - DRIVING - DAY

Mario is driving. Luigi is idly twisting some copper tubing.

MARIO

Some brother you are... How could you let that guy stand right there and not say anything? We really needed that money.

Luigi is humming faintly, lost in a world of his own.

MARIO

Luigi -- pay attention. I'm blaming you here... I swear you got the world's shortest attention span.

LUIGI

About what?

MARIO

(he sighs)

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

LUIGI

You and pop forced me.

MARIO

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

LUIGI

I don't know, maybe it's fate. I like being a plumber. It's just not as, you know, exciting as I always thought it would be.

Mario looks at him like he's out of his mind.

EXT. MARIO BROS. SHOP - DAY

The van pulls up to an old storefront. Mario hops out and waves to a workman on the roof, who's tossing some old insulation down a chute that leads to a dumpster. The workman responds with a cheerfully vulgar Italian gesture.

MARIO

Luigi, snap to. We ain't loafin' on a big city contract like some people.

Mario starts unloading their gear as Luigi shuffles around.

MARIO

What is with you lately?

Luigi snaps out of it, gives him a winning "What a roundhead I am" expression, and starts helping out.

LUIGI

Sorry. I guess I was thinking about Daisy...

MARIO

Ah, you're always thinking about girls. Here, coil this.

He hands Luigi a drain snake to coil.

LUIGI

No, that's what's weird. Ever since I met Daisy I've lost all interest in girls.

MARIO

Sounds serious. Marry her.

LUIGI

You think?

MARIO

Sure. Get that first marriage under your belt, while you're still young.

LUIGI

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

MARIO

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

Mario hands Luigi his toolbelt and they head for the door.