

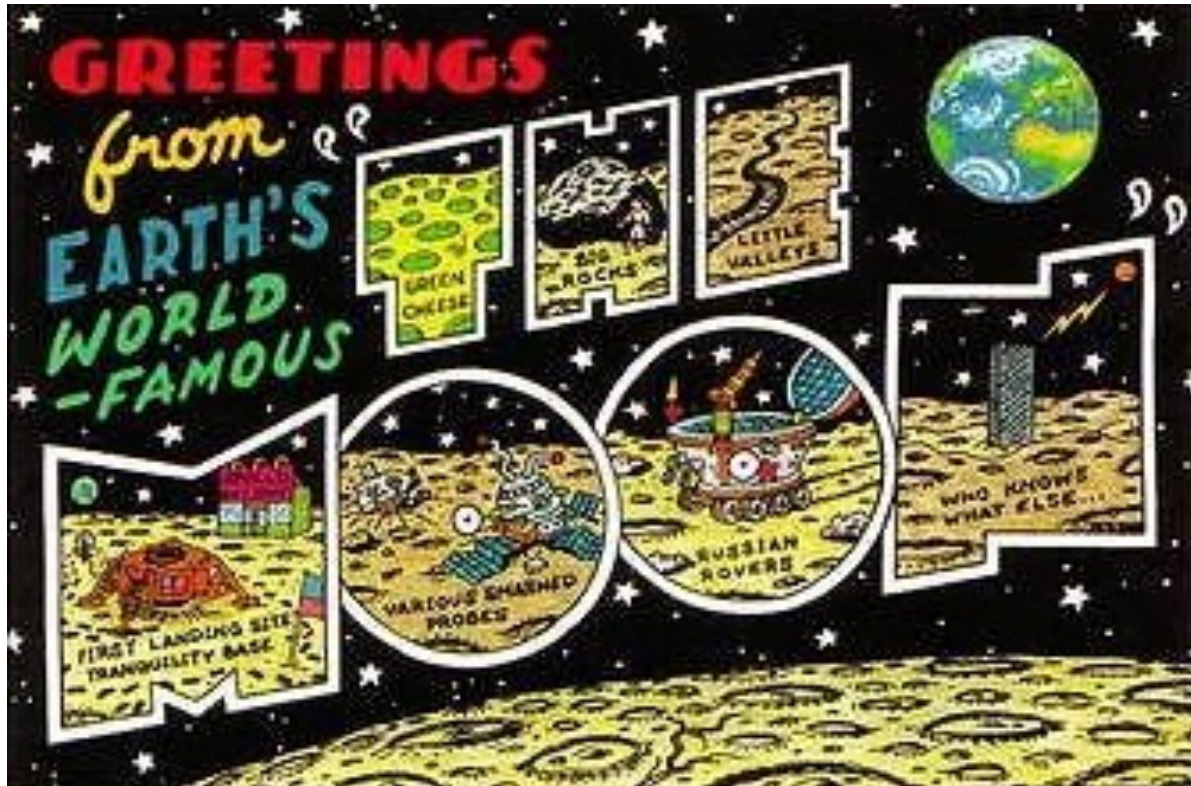
SPACE-CATION LAND

An Original Screenplay by

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GENRE:

Futuristic Comedy, Rating PG-13

LOGLINE:

A young, inner city space fanatic wins a 'dream come true' trip on a corporate rocket to the moon only to end up battling a terrorist on board and other problems during the very screwed-up flight.

COMPS:

"Apollo 13" meets "Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory"

EXT. THE EDGE OF SPACE - DAY

The Hercules One Rocket escapes the tenuous bonds of earth as it ZOOMS toward its destination; the moon.

INT. HERCULES MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Twenty former NASA ENGINEERS at consoles CHEER the image of the Hercules One ship on a giant plasma screen.

LORD 'DICKIE' DORFMAN, 60 British with a perpetual tan and grin, pops champagne as he addresses the CREW and MEDIA.

LORD DICKIE

Cheers, my lovelies! You've helped
make a long held dream come true.
Sending everyday citizens to the
moon. You're to be congratulated.
And celebrated!

BARRY, 25 and Lord Dickie's lackey, barks into his phone.

BARRY

Bring it in.

The doors BURST open and carts full of lobster, caviar and champagne are wheeled in by WAITERS in astronaut outfits.

Watching this spectacle is retired GENERAL WALLY PERITONITIS, 60. Lord Dickie raises a glass in his direction.

LORD DICKIE

And I'm so pleased to have a member
of the U.S. Air Force here. Cheers
General. And to think, you said it
couldn't be done. Ha ha ha!

Dickie takes a slug of champagne as a loud ALARM sounds! The Lord does a spit take. The giant screen goes dark.

PROFESSOR ELAINE CANTWELL, 35 brainy but panicky, calls out.

CANTWELL

We've lost communication with the
ship!

ANOTHER ENGINEER

The autopilot is out. Hercules is
drifting off course.

The color in Lord Dickie's face drains to a normal shade.

LORD DICKIE
(to himself)
Oh Shitballs.

The Engineers frantically flip switches and SHOUT commands. Watching the bedlam, Barry talks discreetly into his phone.

BARRY
Cancel the sorbet.

EXT. THE SPACE BEYOND EARTH - DAY

The Hercules rocket spins, doing a celestial donut in space. Inside, the passengers SCREAM and BANG on the windows.

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN ON TITLE CARD: One month earlier

INT. GARAGE IN CALEXICO, CA. - DAY

MANUEL RODRIGUEZ, 17 handsome and bright-eyed, finishes attaching a gas motor to his skateboard just in time for school. He climbs aboard and fires it up. It works great.

EXT. STREET IN CALEXICO - DAY

Manny glides on his board through his low-rent hood, passing a rusty school bus. KIDS inside it see him and yell 'Captain America' in Spanish. He pretends to be flying as he ZOOMS by.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL AREA IN CALEXICO - DAY

Manny tools past a field surrounded by a tall, forbidding fence. Inside is an enormous rocket covered in a drape to keep its appearance secret. Manny stops to look at in awe.

EXT. CALEXICO HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Speeding up, Manny hops off his board and kick-flips it up. His FELLOW STUDENTS admire the board and his snappy dismount.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Manny's walking to class with his best friend JULIO, also 17 but shorter and not nearly as adventurous.

MANNY

They're gonna make the announcement at noon. They just gotta pick me.

JULIO

I wish I could go to space. I'm not even allowed to go to the mall by myself. But I'll pray for you.

Just then, BECCA CUNNINGHAM, 17, comes their way. Both boys freeze. She's a real stunner. Manny takes a deep breath.

MANNY

Hold this.

He hands Julio his board as he shyly approaches Becca. Watching, Julio makes the sign of the cross.

BECCA

Hi Manny.

MANNY

Hi Becca.

He's fresh out of conversation. Becca smiles.

BECCA

You're going to be late for your science class.

MANNY

Yeah, maybe. But I had something very important to say. To ask you-- It's about the prom.

BECCA

The prom? You know Jimmy Murphy asked me to go.

MANNY

Yeah. I heard. And you said 'no.'

BECCA

That's right. I was hoping you'd ask me. But you really shouldn't.

MANNY

I shouldn't?

BECCA

My father won't let me go with you. I told him you might ask me and he said 'no way.'

MANNY

Why? Because my father mows his lawn. That doesn't mean--

BECCA

It's not that. Not *just* that.

MANNY

Not *just* that. No. It's because I'm Mexican.

BECCA

Life isn't fair, *mi amigo*.

MANNY

This isn't about life. This is about dreams. And dreams are bigger than life. You'll see. When I get picked to go up in the Hercules he'll change his mind.

BECCA

Manny, the chances of you getting picked are like one in a million.

MANNY

More like a hundred million. But you'll see. I'm going to get it. I just know it.

BECCA

Please don't get your hopes up.

MANNY

You saw my letter. About how I want to be the first Mexican on the moon. You said it was good.

BECCA

It *is* good. But they're not--

The school bell RINGS.

MANNY

When they pick me your father will see I'm somebody. And he'll have to let us go. You want to, right?

Becca smiles at this charming, misguided kid.

BECCA

Sure I do.

She kisses him on the cheek and dashes to class. Manny grins. His 'hope-quotient' just went way up. Julio shakes his head.

JULIO

How come you get to do all the cool stuff? When's it gonna be my turn?

Manny laughs and runs with him to class.

EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOME - DAY

A gardening truck pulls up and several MEXICAN WORKERS jump out. Manny's father, FERNANDO, 40, is among them. Co-workers pass down his old lawn mower as the FOREMAN yells to him.

FOREMAN

Fernando, you and Jose do the front. The rest of you go out back.

Watching from the window is the owner of the beautifully landscaped home, 50 year old HOWARD CUNNINGHAM. He studies the work crew with folded arms and a demanding gaze.

Fernando yanks the cord to start his mower. It comes loose, causing him to fall on his butt. He opens the metal hood on the machine and sees there's no motor.

FERNANDO

God dammit. Manny!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

STUDENTS work on their science fair projects. Their teacher MR. NOGALES, 40, has the TV on to watch moon launch drawing.

Manny fusses with his space-themed project but can't keep his eyes off the screen.

On TV the two anchors, BRAD BELLOWS, 40 and born to host a game show, and LAUREN MUNCH, also 40 but much more serious, sit at a desk in front of the covered rocket.

LAUREN (O.C.)

Several of the passengers won their seats on Hercules One by bidding at charity auctions. One of them is Big Bill Turgid, a billionaire and life long friend of Lord Dorfman.

On screen, BILL TURGID, 65 full of hot air and opinions, is shown at a political march, riding atop a huge unborn baby.

BRAD (O.C.)

That's him on top of a fetus float
at a 'Rally For Life' in Houston.
Some say Big Bill is taking the
flight to protest his old friend's
billion dollar condom empire.

On screen we see RUSSEL FINCH, 28, white, smartly dressed but
mighty dumb, and his beautiful, brilliant, black fiancé
EMMELINE SAUNDERS, 27, at a society dinner in New York.

LAUREN (O.C.)

The next two travelers are a couple
from New York, Russel Finch and
Emmeline Saunders. Russel bought
their seats at an auction so they
could get married on the moon.

BRAD (O.C.)

That's wild! I guess you could say
they're real 'lunar-tics.'

Lauren does her best to ignore him. A DRUMROLL sounds.

LAUREN (O.C.)

And now the moment we've all been
waiting for. The announcement of
the final two passengers. Here's
the Chairman of the Hercules
Corporation, Lord 'Dickie' Dorfman.

A huge FANFARE plays as Lord Dickie walks out. The CROWD
gathered at the site APPLAUDS.

In the classroom, Mr. Nogales looks toward Manny.

MR. NOGALES

This is it. Good luck, Manuel.

Classmates pat Manny on the back. Manny trembles with
anticipation as Dorfman steps up to the microphone.

LORD DICKIE (O.C.)

I'm very excited to announce our
final two passengers. The winners
were chosen at random from a group
of pre-screened finalists. The
first lucky person who will get to
walk on the moon is...

There is another DRUMROLL. A picture appears behind Lord
Dickie of a young Korean girl in a wheelchair, SU KIM, 7.

LORD DICKIE (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Su Kim! She's seven years old and
was born with a spinal disorder.
She's never walked on earth let
alone on another planet. Cheers to
you, Little Su. Thrilled to have
you on board.

The crowd APPLAUDS. In the classroom everyone's still holding
their collective breath. Manny shoots Julio a nervous look.

JULIO
You got this, man.

Manny closes his eyes, unable to watch.

LORD DICKIE (O.C.)
And now, the final seat on Hercules
One goes to...
(big DRUMROLL)
Man-u-el Rodriguez!

The classroom goes wild! Manny opens his eyes. He can't quite
believe it but there it is; his picture behind the Lord.

LORD DICKIE (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Man-u-el lives here in Calexico. He
says he's a life-long space junkie.
We're so proud to have him join us
for this exciting adventure!

INT. HALLWAY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The classes empty out and everyone swarms around Manny. He's
overwhelmed by all the hugs, backslaps and CHEERS! He sees
Becca jumping with joy and pushes his way to her.

MANNY
See? I told you. Now will you go to
the prom with me?

BECCA
(beaming)
Yes, YES! A thousand times yes!

She throws her arms around him, hugging and kissing him.

EXT. COUNTRTY CLUB - DAY

Bill Turgid talks to REPORTERS after a round of golf.

TURGID

The fact is I didn't pay a penny for my seat. Lord Dickie and I were playing golf and I bet him I could hit a drive further than him. The prize was a spot on his rocket.

He holds out his driver.

TURGID (CONT'D)

So I'm going to bring this club with me to the moon and hit the longest drive in history.

REPORTER

But what does that have to do with your strong religious beliefs?

TURGID

I'm also bringing my family Bible. I plan to leave it on the lunar surface to show the world what we believe and cherish as a nation.

REPORTER

After you hit a golf ball?

TURGID

(surly)

Yeah. You got a problem with that?

INT. WALL STREET BROKERAGE FIRM - DAY

REPORTERS talk to Russel Finch, who soaks up the attention.

RUSSEL

When I asked Emmeline to marry me I promised her the moon. Little did she know how serious I was. I can't wait to see her face.

REPORTER

You mean, she doesn't know?

RUSSEL

No. I just called her. She was...a little shocked. But it'll be fine. Anyway, be sure to get the name right. J. Russel Finch. And look for the big announcement about 'Finch-Money dot-com' coming soon!

EXT. KIM FAMILY HOME IN UTAH - DAY

NEIGHBORS and REPORTERS surround Su Kim in her wheelchair. She's with her parents in the driveway at their house.

MR. KIM

We are so happy and proud that Su was chosen. Is a great honor.

MRS. KIM

Yes. Su dream someday to walk. And now she will FLY!

(to the kid)

You're going to fly now, Little Su. Way up to the moon. What do you say to the nice people?

LITTLE SU

I say 'God bless America!'

EXT. RODRIGUEZ FRONT YARD - DAY

Manny's mother, ROSA, feisty and 40, is waving a broom at a group of REPORTERS and TV CAMERAS on her lawn.

ROSA

Get out of here. I have nothing to say. Go away!

Just then Manny glides up on his motorized board.

MANNY

Woa! Hold on Mom. Stop!

REPORTER

Are you Man-u-el?

MANNY

I'm Man-well, yes.

The reporters yell questions. 'Is he excited?' 'Surprised?'

MANNY (CONT'D)

I was shocked. And happy. I wanted this so, so much. Since...forever.

ROSA

It's true. He's been staring up in the sky since he was a baby.

As the reporters pepper him with more questions, Manny sees the gardening truck come up the street with his Dad inside.

INT. GARDENING TRUCK - DAY

Manny's Dad sees the press. Frightened, he nudges the DRIVER.

FERNANDO
Don't stop. Go around the back.

EXT. RODRIGUEZ FRONT YARD - DAY

Manny watches as his Dad ducks down in his seat to hide as the truck drives off.

REPORTER
Manny, what do you hope to achieve with this flight?

MANNY
Achieve? I don't know. I've always dreamed of being the first Mexican in space. And now I'm--
(becoming excited)
I'm going to the moon! The MOON!

They all laugh as his Mom hugs him.

EXT. UPPER WEST SIDE IN NYC - NIGHT

A cab drives past Lincoln Center. We hear a VOICE inside.

EMMELINE (O.S.)
What in hell were you thinking?

INT. NYC CAB - NIGHT

Emmeline's in the back seat berating Russel. They're both dressed for a glamorous evening out.

RUSSEL
I honestly thought you'd be thrilled.

EMMELINE
Thrilled? My parents are furious! I'm their only daughter. And now they can't go to my wedding.

RUSSEL
Sure they can. They can watch it on TV. For \$29.95.

EMMELINE

They have to pay?

RUSSEL

It's a pay-per-view event. So instead of getting us a blender they can buy a ticket.

EMMELINE

This is totally messed up, Russel. I can't believe you did this without discussing it with me.

RUSSEL

I wanted to surprise you. Emmeline look. I've timed the launch of our hedge fund with the launch of the rocket. We'll get maximum branding potential out of this. Soon we'll be famous. And rolling in dough. You can have TEN weddings!

EMMELINE

I just want one wedding. One with my mother and my father there.

RUSSEL

You'll see. This is a totally great investment. We can have a big party when we get back. And the country house can wait a while.

EMMELINE

Hold on! You spent the money we were saving for the lake house?

RUSSEL

The bidding went higher than I thought. Who needs a lake when you can have the sea of tranquility?

EMMELINE

(beyond furious)

You're dead, you know that? I'm going to rip your ears off and jam them up your ass. I'll, I'll--

The cab pulls over, much to Russel's relief.

RUSSEL

We're here.

EXT. RESTAURANT IN NYC - NIGHT

Russel steps out of the cab into a sea of PHOTOGRAPHERS and TV NEWS CREWS outside a restaurant. He waves and smiles.

RUSSEL

Hey everybody! Here she is, as
promised. My little moon maiden!
The future Mrs. Emmeline Finch!

A CROWD OF PEOPLE on the sidewalk APPLAUD. Russel gestures to the cab. She doesn't come out so he leans in.

EMMELINE

I am not happy Russel. And I am *not*
going to the God damned moon!

RUSSEL

Awwww. Come on, baby. Like it or
not, we're going. The money went to
charity so...no refunds.
(taking her hand)
Have I mentioned how beautiful you
look?

EMMELINE

Cram it, moon boy.

Emmeline pastes on a smile and steps out. The cameras FLASH and REPORTERS shout questions at the glamorous couple.

EXT. RODRIGUEZ HOME - NIGHT

Inside the humble home of Manny's family, a debate rages.

FERNANDO (O.S.)

Why do you do these crazy things?

INT. RODRIGUEZ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Fernando lectures Manny as Rosa brings chicken, rice and beans to the table.

FERNANDO

First you steal my motor and then I
come home to a circus.

MANNY

That's because I won. Popi, I'm
going to the moon!

FERNANDO

I tell you where you're going.
You're going to the garage and put
that motor back. I almost got fired
by that bastard Cunningham.

MANNY

Becca's father?

FERNANDO

Yeah. That guy don't like me. I
don't know why.

MANNY

I'm really sorry. I took the motor
out of the old mower. I thought you
wouldn't miss it.

FERNANDO

The new mower broke so I took the
old one. Anyway put it back in. How
many times I tell you 'put things
back the way you find them.'

Rosa sets everything down and then sets herself down.

ROSA

Can we stop talking about motors
and talk about your son? He won a
big prize. He's going into space.

MANNY

I'm leaving tomorrow. For a month.
To train to be an astronaut.

FERNANDO

Who the hell told you to do this?

MANNY

You did. You always said I should
dream big.

FERNANDO

Yes. But not THIS big. I was hoping
for a doctor or an accountant. Not
some kind of celebrity.

(eating his dinner)

This is not good for us, Manuel. My
paperwork isn't right. I don't want
people snooping around here.

MANNY

I was hoping you'd be proud of me.

FERNANDO

I'm always proud of you. But I
can't go to this. I'm sorry, son.

Manny's more than a bit crushed by this.

EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOME - NIGHT

From inside we hear Becca's father taking a firm stand.

CUNNINGHAM (O.S.)

Absolutely not. This doesn't change
anything.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOME - NIGHT

At the head of the table, Howard Cunningham lectures Becca,
while his wife, MARION, 38 sweet and a secret tippler, brings
out a baked ham. Becca listens politely but is boiling over.

CUNNINGHAM

It's not like he actually did
something. He won a contest.

BECCA

So? That's something. Manny has
courage and determination. Right
before they announced it he said he
knew he'd get it.

CUNNINGHAM

Still, he didn't work for it.

MARION

But your uncle gave you your first
job at the cannery. That's like
winning a contest.

CUNNINGHAM

That's different. My uncle was a
brilliant man. That boy's father
can't even run a lawn mower.

BECCA

Manny's very smart. Maybe the
smartest kid in school. And he has
a good heart. He's a dreamer.

CUNNINGHAM

Well if he thinks he's going to go
out with you he can keep dreaming.

BECCA

I don't understand. You hired lots of Mexicans at the factory. You said they were good workers.

CUNNINGHAM

I didn't work 20 years at that factory to see my little girl end up with a kid with no future. You deserve the best.

Marion pours a very big glass of wine for herself.

MARION

Oh, Howard. Relax. Nobody knows how people will turn out. I went to my prom with a very sweet boy, Mark Lutsky. How was I supposed to know he'd grow up to be a serial killer?

She drinks a big gulp of wine. Howard is completely confused.

CUNNINGHAM

What the hell does that mean?

MARION

It means everybody deserves a chance. That's all.

INT. RODRIGUEZ GARAGE - NIGHT

Manny finishes putting the motor back into the lawn mower. A TV in the garage shows Bill Turgid being interviewed on CNN.

TURGID (O.C.)

I'm hoping to use my presence on this mission to bring my views on human life to a larger audience.

CNN ANCHOR (O.C.)

So you are staunchly pro-life?

TURGID (O.C.)

That's right, Ken. I believe every life is sacred.

CNN ANCHOR (O.C.)

Then why does your drug company make Neoproxin, which lists one of it's key side effects as 'death?'

TURGID (O.C.)
 (defensive)
 Well, how do you stay on the air
 when one of your key side effects
 is 'stupid?'

Manny laughs. Just then BRIGHT LIGHTS flood the garage. A Mercedes convertible pulls up to it and Becca hops out.

BECCA
 Hey. I know you're heading out
 tomorrow so I came by to say 'Hi.'

MANNY
 You mean 'goodbye' don't you?

BECCA
 Yeah. I should say 'Aloha.' That
 means hello and goodbye. It's like
 'Shalom' but a lot less Jewish.

Their eyes meet and he tenderly kisses her. Their first.

BECCA (CONT'D)
 My father said 'maybe.'

MANNY
 Maybe?

BECCA
 Maybe you can take me to the prom.
 If you don't get killed.

MANNY
 I guess that's fair.

BECCA
 And I brought you something to take
 with you.

She reaches into her bag and pulls out a big metallic object.

MANNY
 A Swiss Army knife? I got one.

BECCA
 It's a golden can opener. I took it
 from my Dad's den. They gave it to
 him when he retired from running
 the tuna factory.
 (handing it to him)
 If you take it to the moon and back
 it'll really be worth something.
 He'll be impressed.

Manny leans in to kiss her again but she shyly moves off.

BECCA (CONT'D)

I gotta get back. My Dad thinks I'm
buying stool softener for our dog.

Muffy gets backed up.

(walking off)

Don't get killed. Okay?

MANNY

I won't. Shalom.

BECCA

Aloha.

Becca gets back in the car and drives off. Manny watches her go. Then he tilts his gaze up to the moon and gets excited.

INT. RODRIGUEZ BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rosa's asleep. Fernando stands at the window looking out at his son. Seeing him staring up at the moon, Fernando smiles.

A loud WHISTLE sounds!

EXT. LAUNCH SITE - DAY

The whistle kicks off a BAND playing the 'Washington Post March.' They're in front of the still cloaked Hercules rocket. Grandstands full of BYSTANDERS and PRESS are there.

EXT. AIRPORT IN CALEXICO - DAY

The MARCH MUSIC continues as Su Kim exits a commercial flight in her wheelchair. Her PARENTS carry her bags as Su waves to the PRESS and CROWD while clutching her unicorn doll.

Further down the tarmac, PRESS surround the corporate jet for TURGID DRUGS. Big Bill and his wife CORKIE, 50 and sharper than she looks, exit the plane and walk to a waiting car.

Even further down the runway, a private jet delivers Russel and Emmeline. There's much less PRESS to greet them which annoys Russel. Emmeline, still pissed, won't hold his hand.

EXT. RODRIGUEZ FRONT YARD - DAY

Manny and his Mom walk toward a limo. Manny has on a backpack and his mother carries a suitcase held shut by a belt. A few PRESS folks and NEIGHBORS are there to wish him luck.

The DRIVER loads his stuff in the trunk. Manny watches as his Dad wheels his old mower toward the gardening truck. Fernando looks toward his son and shoots him a discreet smile and nod.

INT. PENTHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

The MARCH MUSIC continues as a BUTLER opens the curtains. He gently shakes a balding, pot-bellied, pale, OLD MAN awake.

The spent, 80 year old fossil gets out of bed, leaving behind a naked WOMAN, 25, who's still asleep.

The old guy shuffles to a room where ATTENDANTS await him.

INT. PENTHOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

One ATTENDANT in goggles begins spray tanning his face. Another pulls up a 'man girdle' that sucks in his gut.

ANOTHER ATTENDANT puts a perfectly coiffed white wig on his head. The butler brings a set of shiny dentures on a pillow. The Jurassic Gent inserts them and chomps to test them.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE - DAY

The MARCH MUSIC continues as the transformed relic throws open the doors and waves to the awaiting SEA OF PRESS. We see that he's the freshly re-assembled Lord 'Dickie' Dorfman.

LORD DICKIE
Hello, hello, hello! Where are my
astronauts? Where are they?

On cue the FOUR LIMOS pull up to the platform as the 'Washington Square March' finishes.

The passengers exit the limos and are greeted by Lord Dickie. The two TV commentators, seated nearby, describe the scene.

BRAD
This will be our first glimpse of
the Hercules passengers together.

LAUREN
Yes Brad. And it'll be our first
glimpse of the rocket itself. As
someone whose covered a number of
these launches for NASA, I'd say--

BRAD
Oh look. Balloons!

Odd-shaped balloons are released. Lauren cringes at this.

LAUREN

Those 'balloons' are in fact
Hercules condoms. They were
inflated and released in honor of
Lord Dorfman who made his fortune
selling the prophylactic devices.

BRAD

Still, they're mighty festive.

The passengers and their families move to a stage area with
the covered rocket behind them. Manny holds his Mom's hand as
he takes his spot. Lord Dickie steps up to the microphone.

LORD DICKIE

Thank you all so much. This is a
wonderful day. A new era in space
travel as these average Americans
head to the moon. Or as I like to
call it 'Space-cation Land!'

The crowd wildly CHEERS.

LORD DICKIE (CONT'D)

And now, without further ado, I'd
like you to see the ship that will
carry them on this epic journey.

Trumpets BLARE as Lord Dickie gestures to the rocket. Three
HELICOPTERS hover above it to lift the covering on the ship.

BARRY

(into his phone)

Now! Lift it up.

Jealous of the spotlight on Dickie, Big Bill moves to the
microphone and starts talking. His wife, Corkie, cringes.

TURGID

Hey there. I'm Bill Turgid. Of
Turgid Pharmaceuticals. Look. I
want to be clear. I do not condone
or accept the lifestyle of my good
friend Dickie here. In fact, my
sole reason to sail into the
heavens is to honor the heavens.
And our holy savior.

Behind him, the curtain begins to raise on the rocket.

TURGID (CONT'D)

God has said life is sacred. It is his gift to us. And to alter the path of that gift is a sacrilege.

(looking at Lord Dickie)

The seed of man, my friends, is God's fertilizer. And to kill it or smother it is a sin.

The helicopters continue to raise the cover on the ship. Corkie sees the rocket being revealed and waves to Bill.

CORKIE

Ummmm Billy.

TURGID

(ignoring her)

And so I came here today to stand against the practices of my friend and to profess that life, that God--

He's drowned out by the CHEERING CROWD! The spacecraft is unveiled. The sheath covering it resembles a huge condom. And the rocket looks like, well, a giant penis.

The TV Commentators struggle with what to say.

BRAD

Wow. That's...quite a rocket.

The spaceship has smoke rising from it's tip and two huge balls at the base. Seeing it, Turgid is horrified.

TURGID

Good God almighty!

The AUDIENCE hoots and hollers it's approval of the giant phallus. Lord Dickie dances around in delighted triumph.

BRAD

Look at that thing! It's humongous!

LAUREN

Actually it's not nearly the size of the space shuttle. Or the recent Space-X rocket.

BRAD

So you're saying...you've seen bigger?

LAUREN

(being professional)

That's correct.

As the CROWD continues to CHEER the naked rocket, Bill Turgid and his wife corner Lord Dickie.

TURGID

Dickie! You can't expect me to get on that 'cock' rocket of yours.

LORD DICKIE

Oh stop. You'd have done the same if it was your rocket. Except it'd be shaped like a big pill. Which is what you're being right now.

TURGID

To hell with this. I am not getting in that profane projectile!

LORD DICKIE

Fine. I have millions ready to take your place. Just say the word.

Corkie pulls Bill aside.

CORKIE

Sweetie, you can't walk away. You want people to call Big Bill Turgid a quitter?

TURGID

No. But-- look at it. You're not the one who has to climb onto that thing and ride it for days on end.

She looks at the gleaming phallus.

CORKIE

(sighing)

Pity.

Meanwhile SEVERAL REPORTERS crowd around the Kim family. In her motorized chair, Little Su giggles with excitement as her very formal parents stand by her.

REPORTER

So, Mr. Kim, you moved the family from Korea to help Little Su.

MR. KIM

Yes. We move to America to see if doctors can help Su to walk. But they could not. We have no idea all this would happen.

MRS. KIM

It is wonderful. Isn't it
wonderful, Su?

LITTLE SU

Yes, yes. I go to space on that.
(pointing at the rocket)
The big wee-wee!

REPORTER

Is 'big wee-wee' Korean?

MR. KIM

No. I believe it is American slang
for large male genitalia.

The Reporter nods. The TV commentators chime in.

BRAD

You know, Lauren. They say that
your weight on the moon is one 10th
what it is on earth. I could go for
that. How about you?

LAUREN

(ignoring him)

This is the passengers' last moment
with their loved ones before they
begin their month of training. It's
a moment of great joy. But also one
tinged with sadness.

BRAD

(to Lauren)

I wasn't trying to say you were
fat. You look great. I just meant--

LAUREN

Shut up, Brad.

Manny's Mom hands him his suitcase and gets emotional.

ROSA

Be careful. Do what they tell you
to do and don't answer back.

MANNY

I won't. Take care of Popi.

ROSA

(hugging him)

I will. I love you, Manuel. To the
moon and back.

MANNY

To the moon and back. I promise.

An ATTENDANT takes his bag and leads Manny away. Rosa bursts into tears and hugs the person next to her, Lord Dickie. He comforts her and angles his head to better face the cameras.

Russel and Emmeline are being lead to the training compound. An ATTENDANT pushes a cart piled very high with their bags.

EMMELINE

You see? Nobody came to see us off.
Everybody's mad at us.

RUSSEL

They'll get over it. We have each other. That's all that matters.

ATTENDANT

You certainly packed a lot for a month's stay.

Emmeline holds up the small bag in her hand.

EMMELINE

This is all I brought. The rest are Russel's.

RUSSEL

(sheepishly)

Photo-ops. Always have to be camera ready. Tell me, what color are the spacesuits? I don't look good in yellow or green.

An ATTENDANT takes Little Su's bags as she hugs her parents.

LITTLE SU

I will make you proud.

MRS. KIM

We know you will. You were born for this. Remember all we taught you.

The Attendant reaches for Su's unicorn doll. The Little girl freaks out. She pulls it close and SCREAMS!

MR. KIM

That doll is from her Grandmother back home. She is never without it.

ATTENDANT

That's fine. So sorry Su.

Su punches the Attendant in the gut before driving off.

Big Bill gives his wife, Corkie, a chaste kiss on the cheek.

TURGID
Goodbye Mother. Pray for me.

CORKIE
I will dear. Oh my. I just realized
I may never see you again.

TURGID
Don't be silly. I'll be fine.

CORKIE
But, in case you're not, could we
pretend it's after services? And
we're in the choir loft. Alone.

Bill embraces her and Corkie gives him a passionate kiss.
Lord Dickie watches, smiling, as he still holds Manny's Mom.

Bill finishes the kiss and moves off. He looks up at the
CROWD and holds up his Bible.

TURGID
Thank you. God bless you all!

CORKIE
(alarmed)
Bill!

Turgid looks at her. She points down at his pants. He sees
he's sporting a huge, very noticeable boner. Mortified, Bill
turns his back to the crowd and scurries off. Dickie saw it.

LORD DICKIE
You're a lucky woman. Mrs. Turgid.

CORKIE
Yes. But only a couple of times a
year. And on Christmas.

She lamely waves as Bill moves away. The BAND plays them off.

INT. COMMAND CENTER EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

A DOCTOR, 40, listens to Manny's heart

The same Doctor takes Turgid's blood pressure.

The Doctor examines Russel Finch's eyes.

The Doctor has Emmeline stick out her tongue.

The Doctor moves with a scope to look in Little Su's ear. As soon as he gets close to her she SCREAMS and bites his hand.

INT. COMMAND CENTER CLASSROOM - DAY

Prof. Cantwell draws on a blackboard, detailing their journey. She draws a line to the moon and back. Seated in chairs are Turgid, Russel, Emmeline, Manny and Little Su.

With a model, Cantwell demonstrates how the capsule will break off and land on the moon. The more Cantwell talks, the more excited Manny gets and the more terrified Emmeline gets.

INT. COMMAND CENTER WORK ROOM - DAY

A TAILOR, 50, measures Bill Turgid's shoulders and height. Barry records the measurements on his tablet.

The Tailor measures Manny who is beyond stoked.

Russel dictates to the Tailor how he'd like his suit cut.

A visibly shaken Emmeline drinks a glass of wine to steady her nerves while her measurements are taken.

The tailor approaches Little Su with his measuring tape. As soon as she gets close she SCREAMS and bites his hand.

INT. COMMAND CENTER HALLWAY - DAY

Dressed in their Hercules jumpsuits, the crew of amateur astronauts walk toward us in SLOW MOTION.

Manny beams with pride. Little Su rolls along in her chair, bouncing with excitement. Turgid strolls, Bible in hand. Russel complains to his fiancé about how unflattering the outfit is. Emmeline drinks hard liquor out of a flask.

INT. CENTRIFIGE ROOM - DAY

The passengers are ushered into a room with a huge G-Force Simulator. A capsule is attached to long metal arm. It spins around the room to re-create the feeling of take off.

First up is Russel who SCREAMS as the capsule spins.

Bill Turgid is next. He SCREAMS louder than Russel.

During her turn, Emmeline struggles to keep from hurling.

As Manny spins, he excitedly lets out a cowboy 'Whoo-Hoo!'

Little Su isn't frightened either. She laughs as it spins, calling out 'Faster! Faster!'

Her ride finished, a TRAINER reaches in to help Su out of the capsule. She SCREAMS and bites him. CHOMP! Go figure.

EXT. RODRIGUEZ FRONT YARD - MORNING

A limousine sits parked in front of Manny's shabby abode.

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOME - MORNING

Rosa is hurrying to head out, checking her make-up in the mirror. Behind her, Fernando pulls on his work clothes.

ROSA

I can't believe you're not coming.
Your son is being blasted off into
space and you can't take a day off?

FERNANDO

(irritable)

You don't think I want to be there?
Of course I want to. It's just-- I
have to go to work. I have no time
for this nonsense.

ROSA

You didn't used to think it was
'nonsense.' You're the one who told
him to look up at the stars.

FERNANDO

I was young. And foolish. I know
now it's more important to keep
your feet on the ground. And your
nose on the grindstone.

ROSA

And your sorry ass hidden behind a
bush.

FERNANDO

Don't start with that. You know I
tried to do things legal. It's not
my fault how hard it is.

The limo Driver HONKS outside. Fernando moves to kiss her.

ROSA
(avoiding him)
I have to go. I can't keep our son
waiting. Go cut the grass. I'll
tell you about it at dinner.

She hurries out the door. Fernando sadly watches her go.

EXT. LAUNCH CENTER - DAY

A HUGE CROWD has gathered for launch day. TONS of MEDIA too.

INT. TRAINING CENTER - DAY

Cantwell addresses the seated passengers who are all wearing
their custom made Hercules space suits and holding helmets.

CANTWELL
Congratulations! It's launch day.
The good news is that the Hercules
rocket will be controlled by me and
my crew here at mission control.
All you need to do is sit back and
enjoy the ride.

EMMELINE
What's the bad news?

CANTWELL
There is no bad news.

EMMELINE
Why would you say what 'the good
news is' if there wasn't bad news?

CANTWELL
There really is no bad news. We
expect it'll all go very well.
(Manny raise his hand)
Yes Manny.

MANNY
Will we get to keep the cool space
suits after we land?

CANTWELL
I'm not sure. I'll have to check
with Lord Dorfman on that.

Turgid rolls his eyes and turns to Russel.

TURGID

Typical. He probably wants to hock
it on E-bay.

Manny hears this but lets it go.

INT. COMMAND CENTER HALLWAY - DAY

Lord Dickie drives a golf cart in the hall. Seeing him pass,
FRANK NATASI, 35 and very nervous, runs next to the cart.

FRANK

Lord Dorfman, I need to talk to
you. I noticed a glitch.

LORD DICKIE

A glitch? In what? Who are you?

FRANK

I'm Frank Nastasi. I work in IT. It
looks as though someone may have
hacked into your computer system.
It might be dangerous to go ahead.
You really should cancel.

LORD DICKIE

Cancel? No chance. The weather is
perfect, our passengers are ready
and all the press are here.

FRANK

But someone has access to all your
information. There could be a leak.

LORD DICKIE

Never say 'leak' to a guy who makes
condoms. We'll look into it after
the launch. Okay?

FRANK

No. Not okay.
(the golf cart pulls away)
Not even close to 'okay.'

EXT. LAUNCH SITE - DAY

A larger golf cart carries Manny, Turgid, Russel, Emmeline
and Little Su, plus her wheelchair, onto the tarmac. As they
drive, Lord Dickie pulls up to them in his cart.

LORD DICKIE

Good morning space people. Are you all ready to make history?

(they mutter 'yes')

You don't sound ready. Let's try that again. Are you READY?

PASSENGERS

Yes!

LORD DICKIE

That's more like it. I wish I was going with you. But, since I have no heirs, my board of directors felt I shouldn't risk it. In case something...you know. Anyway, bon voyage. And be sure to wave to your nearest and dearest. Tah-tah!

The Lord's cart pulls away. The passengers drive toward the rocket. Manny looks back at the grandstands and waves.

Up in the stands, Rosa is sitting with Corkie Turgid and Little Su's parents. She sees Manny.

ROSA

Oh look! He's waving.

(standing and shouting)

Love you baby! Good luck!

The cart pulls up to the rocket. ATTENDANTS help them out and load them onto an elevator. Emmeline is in full panic mode.

EMMELINE

There's something I never told you, Russel. One of the big reasons I was so against doing this is...I'm afraid of heights.

RUSSEL

Oh wow. I had no idea.

EMMELINE

Yeah, well what the hell am I supposed to do?

RUSSEL

Um, don't look down?

The gate closes on the elevator and it rises FAST up the side of the rocket. Emmeline grabs Russel's hand and, whimpering, shuts her eyes. Tight. Manny is so excited he could burst.

TURGID
May I suggest we pray?

RUSSEL
Couldn't hurt.

TURGID
Okay. In the name of our Lord and
savior Jesus Christ I--

RUSSEL
Hold up, Big Bill. I'm Jewish.

TURGID
Oh. How's this? In the name of our
Lord and savior--

LITTLE SU
I no believe.

TURGID
You what?

LITTLE SU
I no believe in God. I am, how you
say, an 'enthusiast.'

TURGID
Gotcha.
(to Manny)
How about you, Pancho? You got
anything against praying?

MANNY
No. But I really don't like you.

TURGID
All right. To hell with it then.

A VOICE instructs them over a LOUD SPEAKER.

VOICE
Passengers of Hercules One, please
put on your helmets.

The group all put them on and snap them in place.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Lord Dickie breezes in, very pumped up. He calls out to the
room full of flight engineers at their consoles.

LORD DICKIE

All right, boys and girls. It's
showtime!

Barry escorts the General over to him.

BARRY

Lord Dickie I want you to meet
retired Air Force General Wally
Peritonitis. He's here to observe
and advise us with the launch.

LORD DICKIE

Hello General. You're welcome to
observe all you like. But I don't
think I'll be needing any advice.
I've hired the best and brightest
people. All ex-NASA engineers.
(pointing to Cantwell)
Heading up the team is Professor
Elaine Cantwell of MIT. The
professor's preferred pronouns are
'they' and 'them.'

GENERAL

Well I'm here to be sure they don't
violate air space jurisdictions or
break any international laws.

LORD DICKIE

When you say 'they' do you mean
Professor Cantwell or everyone?

GENERAL

Everyone! Especially you.

LORD DICKIE

I sense tremendous hostility. Or
maybe it's just the uniform. Do you
have something against commercial
space travel?

GENERAL

Yes I do. For starters--

LORD DICKIE

I'd love to hear it sometime but I
have a rocket to launch. Go loosen
your metals and grab a seat.

General Peritonitis seethes with anger and remains standing.

INT. HERCULES ONE CAPSULE - DAY

The ATTENDANT helps each passenger into the spacecraft.

ATTENDANT

Please be seated and buckle up as fast as you can. We're on schedule for lift-off in five minutes.

He straps Little Su's wheelchair in place as he explains.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

If you want or need anything. Just ask Bettina. She's your voice activated virtual assistant.

(calling out)

Bettina, introduce yourself.

BETTINA (V.O.)

(in a British accent)

Good day to you, space travelers.

ATTENDANT

She can answer any and all questions you might have. Good luck. And Godspeed.

He steps out. The hatch closes with a LOUD METTALIC THUD.

EMMELINE

I guess it's too late to run now.

BETTINA (V.O.)

Yes. It is.

RUSSEL

Quiet down, Bettina.

TURGID

Don't be scared. Lord Dickie may be a hedonistic fornicator but he knows his tomatoes. Listen.

(calling out)

Bettina, what are the odds that this rocket will crash?

BETTINA (V.O.)

The odds of an untested spacecraft having a mishap are one in six.

EMMELINE

What!?

TURGID

Sorry. I thought the odds would be better.

Emmeline goes to pieces. Russel tries to calm her down.

MANNY

(to Turgid)

You really are a world class jerk.

TURGID

That's hot stuff coming from you, Pedro. If you ever graduate high school I'll buy you a taco.

MANNY

(calling out)

Bettina, how many times has Bill Turgid been sued?

BETTINA (V.O.)

Over 100 times. In the spring of 2002 several thousand men filed a class action suit against him.

TURGID

All right, stop.

BETTINA (V.O.)

They claimed that Turgid's high blood pressure medication caused their testicles to glow in the dark. Later that same year--

TURGID

Knock it off, Bettina!

RUSSEL

(to Turgid)

Wow, no wonder you pray so much.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

All eyes are on the monitors and the rocket on the launch pad. Prof. Cantwell counts it down.

CANTWELL

Fifteen seconds to lift-off!
Fourteen, Thirteen, Twelve...

Lord Dickie looks at the scowling General. He flashes him a 'victory' sign. Peritonitis discreetly flips him the bird.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

Smoke begins to billow from under the 'balls' of the rocket.

In the stands, Rosa takes Corkie's hand. She looks over at Little Su's parents and reaches out to hold their hands. They don't respond. They stare stone-faced at the rocket.

CANTWELL (V.O.)
(over the loud speaker)
Eight, seven, six...

EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE - DAY

The GARDENING CREW busily work on the grounds. Fernando listens to a broadcast of the launch on an old-timey transistor radio. He pauses mowing so he can hear.

CANTWELL (V.O.)
Five, four, three, two, ONE!

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The crew watch as the engines FIRE! A quick spray of bright fireworks SHOOT OUT of the rocket's tip like a Roman candle.

General Peritonitis looks at Lord Dickie in disbelief.

LORD DICKIE
(grinning)
Nice touch, eh? Like an orgasm.

Uh, yeah. The General gets it.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

The Hercules rocket slowly climbs up the tower. Rosa, Corkie and Su's parents hold their breath as it rises.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

The passengers on board shake from the vibration. Russel and Emmeline clutch each other. Bill Turgid clutches his Bible. Little Su clutches her unicorn doll. Manny pumps his fist.

MANNY
Go, go, GO!

BETTINA (V.O.)
(responding)
If you need to 'go' please use the
restroom in airlock two.

EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOME - DAY

Fernando looks up. He can see the rocket taking off in the distance. The rest of the gardening crew stop and CHEERS! Manny's Dad has tears in his eyes as he sees it lift-off.

INT. CUNNINGHAM DEN - DAY

Becca's crying too. She's watching the launch on TV. Her father notices that the work outside has stopped.

EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOME - DAY

Howard Cunningham pokes his head out and sees the workers staring at the trail of smoke leading up to the sky.

CUNNINGHAM
Come on. Get back to work!

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

All eyes are glued on the plasma screens as Hercules One climbs higher in the sky. The crew check their consoles.

ENGINEER
Five seconds to entry into space.

CANTWELL
Five, Four, Three...

LORD DICKIE
(to himself)
Here it goes. Here she goes!

CANTWELL
Two, ONE!

EXT. THE EDGE OF SPACE - DAY

The two 'balls' of fuel on the sides of the rocket EXPLODE, propelling the rocket into outer space.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Watching on the monitor, Lord Dickie nearly faints with excitement. Barry catches him before he falls.

LORD DICKIE

Thank you, Barry. That was bloody insane! Anybody else need a ciggy?

The crew LAUGHS. General Peritonitis remains stone-faced.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

The passengers feel the G-forces easing up. As they exhale they begin to sense the absence of gravity's pull.

BETTINA (V.O.)

You have now entered deep space.
Feel free to exit your seats and
enjoy the fun of weightlessness.

Thrilled, Manny undoes his belt. Little Su loosens her grip on the unicorn doll and sees it float away. Frightened she grabs it back.

BETTINA (V.O.)

The atmosphere in the capsule is
set to the proper oxygen level. So
feel free to remove your helmets.

Turgid puts down his Bible to remove his helmet. As he does, the Bible floats away.

TURGID

Sweet Jesus.

Manny has removed his helmet and floats over to Little Su.

MANNY

Do you want some help?

He reaches for her helmet. Su SCREAMS and belts him. The punch sends weightless Manny sailing around the cabin.

TURGID

Take it easy, kid. He's not tryin'
to mug you.

Manny moves back to her and grabs her helmet. With a twist he SNAPS it off. Su SCREAMS and takes another swing at him.

MANNY

Hey! You know 'Peter Pan?'

LITTLE SU

No.

MANNY

Well, do you want to fly?

Su nods. Manny moves for her belt. She tries to kick him.

MANNY (CONT'D)

No kicking. I'm not going to take
your doll. Calm down.

Manny undoes her belt and Su slowly rises out of the seat.
Her mouth opens with wonder as she floats in the air.

All the passengers are loose now and drifting around the
cabin. The magic of it even soothes Emmeline.

EMMELINE

Russel this is amazing. I had no
idea. It's like a dream.

She kisses him and pulls him close.

RUSSEL

Careful, I think I peed a little
during take-off.
(squirming)
At least I think it's pee.

Emmeline's smile fades. She moves away from him.

TURGID

This must be what it's like when
the soul leaves the body and enters
the kingdom of heaven. Praise
Jesus.

On the ship's Screen, Lord Dickie appears.

LORD DICKIE (O.C)

It wasn't Jesus, old boy. It was me
what done it. Paid for with my
scandalous 'rubber' checks.

TURGID

Yes, yes. Are we on camera now?

LORD DICKIE

Indeed! Right now the whole world
is watching.

TURGID

Good. I'd like to say a few words.
(into a camera)
While this mission was funded by
the sinful deeds of man, we can not
turn our back on God. And God's
message.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Lord Dickie sighs. He signals to Prof. Cantwell.

LORD DICKIE

Cut it. Before he starts taking up
a collection.

Cantwell kills the sound. Dickie grabs a bottle of champagne.

LORD DICKIE (CONT'D)

This isn't about 'the almighty.'
This is about man's conquering of
space. And by 'man's' I mean this
'man's.' ME!

He pops open the champagne. The crew CHEERS! As Dickie raises
a glass of champagne the PRESS train their cameras on him.

LORD DICKIE (CONT'D)

Cheers, my lovelies! You've helped
make a long held dream come true.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Turgid, Russel and Emmeline literally bounce off the walls,
enjoying the zero gravity fun. Manny gestures to Little Su.

MANNY

Hey Su. Throw me your doll.

Su frowns. She hugs the doll close and bounces to the front
of the capsule. Manny watches her go.

Little Su tucks the doll under her arm and moves to the
control panel at the front of the capsule. Working quickly,
she begins typing commands into the computer drive.

MANNY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Su ignores him and keeps typing things from memory. She hits
SEND and the ship begins wildly SPINNING.

Panicking, Russel and Emmeline SCREAM and pound the windows.

RUSSEL
Aaaaaaaaahhhhhh!

EMMELINE
Help! HELP!

INT. MISSION CONTOL - DAY

An alarm starts BLASTING. Prof. Cantwell shouts.

CANTWELL
We've lost communication with the
ship.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

Rosa and Corkie Turgid notice CREW PEOPLE running around.

ROSA
What's going on?

Next to them, Little Su's parents menacingly smile.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Little Su continues to pound away at the computer keyboard.

BETTINA (V.O.)
We've lost our connection with
mission control. Hercules One is
without guidance.

Hearing this, Manny lunges at Su.

MANNY
Hey! Stop that.

Su turns and kicks Manny hard. So hard that he's propelled to the back of the capsule. Russel, Emmeline and Turgid see it.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Something's up. She cut us off from
mission control.

TURGID
That little bitch!
(moving toward Su)
What do you think you're doing?

Su doesn't look up. She keeps typing away.

EMMELINE
Do something, Russel.

RUSSEL
Okay.
(shouting and pointing)
You stop that!

BETTINA (V.O.)
Hercules One, now changing course.

TURGID
Bettina, where are we headed?

BETTINA (V.O.)
Uncertain. The command is in code.

Manny, Turgid and Russel move closer to her.

MANNY
Little Su, get away from that
computer. Now!

She keeps typing. The three men look at each other.

TURGID
Forget about talking. On three we
charge. Okay? One, two--

Little Su turns around, holding her doll.

LITTLE SU
You touch me I tear off doll head.
Full of anthrax. Everybody die.

RUSSEL
(to Turgid)
Maybe talking isn't such a bad
idea.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Alarms are still BLARING. Frank Nastasi calls out.

FRANK
Someone onboard has disabled the
autopilot. They're way off course!

LORD DICKIE
This is horrible. Bloody awful!
(aside, to Barry)
They all signed liability waivers,
didn't they?

Barry nods. General Peritonitis pushes in.

GENERAL

I want the background material you have for the people on that rocket!

LORD DICKIE

Well, we really didn't ask them much. They just wrote essays.

GENERAL

(grabbing a phone)

You guys really screwed the pooch.

(into the phone)

Get me the FBI.

LORD DICKIE

(to Cantwell)

What does that mean 'screw the pooch?'

CANTWELL

It's a NASA term. It means you fucked up. Big time.

LORD DICKIE

Ahhh.

GENERAL

And hold all those family members for questioning.

(into phone)

FBI? This is General Peritonitis. I need an immediate background check run on the following people.

(grabbing the list)

William Turgid of Houston, Texas.

Man-u-el Rodriguez of Callexico.

EXT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

A bunker-like building sits in a rural area of North Korea. The bunker and its transmitters are hidden by billboards in English saying, 'Drink Dr. Pepper!' and 'Drive a Hyundai!'

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

This command center is much lower rent than Lord Dickie's. Obedient NORTH KOREAN MEN in tan uniforms work at desks.

A large TV WALL flickers to life showing the image inside the Hercules capsule.

ENGINEER
(in Korean, subtitled)
We have control. Re-direct the ship
to the target!

Several MEN at desks furiously type on their keyboards.

On another large screen, a graphic shows the changing path of the capsule. Hercules One moves away from the moon and is now headed toward the INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

Thrusters fire on the side of Hercules One, turning the ship.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny, Turgid, Emmeline and Russel can feel the turn.

TURGID
What's she doing? Are we being
kidnapped?

MANNY
More like space-napped.

RUSSEL
Well, she *is* a kid. So technically
it's a kidnapping.

EMMELINE
Does this mean the wedding will be
postponed?

MANNY
It means we could all be killed.

The thought sends a chill through all of them.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOME - DAY

Howard Cunningham is in his den with Becca and his wife, watching coverage of this on TV. Becca is a wreck.

REPORTER (O.S.)
It appears someone inside the ship
has sabotaged the mission.
(showing their photos)
One of these people is believed to
be a spy or a terrorist. The FBI is
investigating them all right now.

Cunningham points at the TV while Marion sneaks a sherry.

CUNNINGHAM

I'll bet it's that Mexican kid. His father probably masterminded the whole thing.

MARION

How can he be a mastermind? You don't even pay him minimum wage.

(quietly, to Becca)

You have to forgive your father. He hasn't been the same since your Brother, Chuck, ran off with that leather worker at the Craft Fair.

CUNNINGHAM

Don't bring up Chuck. I don't want to hear about that fruit-loop.

Fernando humbly walks in, very sweaty from work.

FERNANDO

Excuse me, Mr. Cunningham. Could I watch what's happening on the TV? I hear my son is in danger.

CUNNINGHAM

Did you put him up to this?

FERNANDO

Up to what? I don't know what's going on.

BECCA

(crying)

I'm so sorry, Mr. Rodriguez. I hope Manny's okay.

Fernando walks in closer, ready to sit.

CUNNINGHAM

I didn't say you could come in here. You're filthy. Go back outside and finish your work.

FERNANDO

But, my son--

CUNNINGHAM

I said get out of here!

Furious, Fernando storms out.

EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOME - DAY

Still seething with anger, Fernando moves back to his mower. The Foreman calls out to him.

FOREMAN

Let's go everybody. We gotta finish up.

FERNANDO

(angrily to himself)
I'll finish it. Once and for all.

He revs the mower and runs it over the flower beds, shredding them all. Seeing this, Marion drops her sherry and SHRIEKS!

MARION

Stop that! Stop it!

Still in a rage, Fernando runs his mower up to the hedges and uses it to chop the huge topiary down.

Mr. Cunningham and Becca run to the door.

CUNNINGHAM

That's it. I'm calling the cops!

He runs inside to call. Becca watches. Fernando rips up the front yard of the house with his mower. When a huge section of hedges fall, the rest of the workers CHEER for him.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The Hercules One capsule moves further off course from the moon, heading toward the gigantic Space Station.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Little Su types responses to directives in Korean that come up on the capsule's computer. Watching her, the terrified group of fellow passengers whisper to each other.

TURGID

We have to stay calm and come up with some kind of plan.

MANNY

First, we gotta get that doll away from her.

RUSSEL
Okay. And then what? Hold on.
(yelling out)
Bettina, where's the safest place
to dispose of a unicorn full of
anthrax?

BETTINA (V.O.)
The best place would be to flush it
out the airlock toilet.

Hearing this, Little Su turns and shouts at them.

LITTLE SU
You come near me and I kill us all!

Bill Turgid shoots Russel a look.

TURGID
Nice work. You just tipped her off
to your plan.

RUSSEL
I don't have a plan.

TURGID
You don't have a CLUE! Here's what
we do. We rush her, grab the doll
and then we kill her.

MANNY
You're going to kill her?

TURGID
Sure. She wants to kill us.

MANNY
What happened to 'all life is
sacred?'

TURGID
As you get older you'll realize
that some lives are more sacred
than others.

EMMELINE
Look. Stop this killing talk. If
there's one thing I hate more than
heights it's the sight of blood.

RUSSEL
(to Emmeline)
Hey, you were a camp counselor for
a couple of years. Why don't you
try talking to her?

EMMELINE
Okay. Sure.

She nervously floats toward Little Su. Emmeline forces her
most cheerful camp counselor smile and tone.

EMMELINE (CONT'D)
Hey there sweetie! How's it going?

LITTLE SU
(clutching the doll)
Stay away. Get back!

EMMELINE
I just wanted to find out where
you're taking us.

LITTLE SU
No. Is a secret.

EMMELINE
I love secrets. So does my
boyfriend Russel. You know what
else we like? Games. Do you like
games?

LITTLE SU
No. I have no time for games. I
have important work.

EMMELINE
Okay. I'll play with Manny then.
Manny come here and follow me.

Manny floats over. Little Su is intrigued but still wary.

EMMELINE (CONT'D)
Manny we're going to play 'Simon
says.' Okay? Simon says 'touch your
nose.'
(Manny does)
Simon says 'wave your arms over
your head.'

He does that too. Little Su is confused.

LITTLE SU
Who is this 'Simon?'

EMMELINE

It's a name I use to give commands.

LITTLE SU

I only take commands from the
supreme leader.

During this Turgid floats nearby, behind her.

EMMELINE

In this game. You do what Simon
says. If I say 'Simon says touch
your toes' you do that...now!
(shooting Turgid a look)
As in RIGHT NOW!

Getting the message, Turgid clamps his arms around the kid
from behind. Little Su grabs his arm and bites it. HARD!

TURGID

Ow! Get the doll!

Manny grabs the leg of the unicorn doll. Little Su holds it
tight. As Manny pulls, it begins to tear. He grips the torn
area with his left hand and punches the kid with his right.

BANG! Right on the chin.

MANNY

Sorry kid.

She releases the doll. Manny pulls it close to him like a
football and launches himself into the back of the ship.

MANNY (CONT'D)

(to Russel)
Open the airlock!

Russel hits the airlock button and the door opens.

INT. AIRLOCK CHAMBER - DAY

Manny flies in and stuffs the doll into the toilet. He hits
the FLUSH button and gets out, SLAMMING the door.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The torn unicorn doll FIRES out the side of the ship. The sad
toy floats, spilling it's anthrax guts as it goes.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny, breathlessly rests against the airlock as Turgid holds the squirming kid. Emmeline shoots him a relieved look.

EMMELINE

Good job, Manny.

Just then another ALARM sounds.

BETTINA (V.O.)

The restroom is contaminated! It is too dangerous for further use.

Russel throws up his hands.

RUSSEL

Great. Just when I need to go.

INT. COMMAND CENTER HALLWAY - DAY

General Peritonitis exits a meeting room and comes face to face with Lord Dickie who is pacing outside.

LORD DICKIE

What have you learned?

GENERAL

(walking down the hall)

Not much. My people interrogated Su Kim's parents. She's home-schooled. Lead a pretty sheltered life. Bill Turgid doesn't seem likely. His wife says he can't even work the microwave. The other two are rich assholes from New York. They don't care about anything but themselves. We're still talking to the Mexican kid's mother. I'm going there now.

LORD DICKIE

Okay. Keep me posted. And let me know if there's anything I can do to 'unscrew' this pooch.

GENERAL

Please don't! You've screwed-up enough for one day.

Peritonitis enters a room. Lord Dickie heads back to Mission Control and runs into Mrs. Turgid coming out of her session.

LORD DICKIE

Mrs. Turgid! I can't tell you how sorry I am about all this. Your poor Billy.

CORKIE

Yes. Poor Billy. Any news?

He puts a comforting arm around her.

LORD DICKIE

No. Still no contact with the ship. I'm told if we don't get it under control it'll collide with the Space Station. This is so horrible. My God! I need a drink.

CORKIE

Me too.

LORD DICKIE

You? I thought you were a good Christian.

CORKIE

Billy's the good Christian. I'm only 'pretty' good. Do you know a place we can go?

LORD DICKIE

I have a bar up in my suite. Come.

They head off together toward the elevator.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Rosa Rodriguez is seated at a table opposite TWO FBI AGENTS, both 30, both steely. General Peritonitis observes the scene.

ROSA

Manny's a good boy. Very clever. He likes to take things apart and put them back together. Most times they still work.

AGENT #1

And what about your husband?

ROSA

He works as a gardener.

AGENT #2

And you and your husband are here
in the country illegally?

Rosa is shocked at the question. She looks to the General.

GENERAL

Don't be frightened Mrs. Rodriguez.
This isn't about your immigration
status. We just want to find out if
your son is political.

ROSA

I told you. He's not political.
He's mechanical!

AGENT #1

Did your husband ever file for
citizenship?

ROSA

Yes. Many times. But he was always
denied. Same with me.

AGENT #2

Did that make you angry?

ROSA

Yes, sure. We want to be citizens.
But they won't let us.

AGENT #1

Did you share this anger with your
son?

ROSA

No. We tell him America is a great
place. Where he can do anything.

The General's phone RINGS. He quietly takes the call.

AGENT #2

And your husband shared these same
views. He never expressed hostility
toward the government?

ROSA

My husband is a kind man. A gentle
man. He grows flowers and bushes.
He wouldn't hurt a snail.

GENERAL

Hold on. Turn on CNN. Quick!

An AGENT clicks a remote. We see COPS with Fernando in handcuffs. He's walking away from the scene of carnage.

REPORTER (O.C.)
 Fernando Rodriguez, the father of one of the Hercules passengers, flew into a rage, destroying the yard of a home. Here's a report.

The scene switches to an interview with Cunningham and Becca.

CUNNINGHAM (O.C.)
 This man is a trouble maker. And his son told my daughter that he 'knew' he was going to be picked for this. Didn't he, sweetheart?

BECCA (O.C.)
 Yes, but I thought he was just being, you know, cocky.

CUNNINGHAM (O.C.)
 No. He had a plan. Tell them what he did with my trophy. The one he stole from the house.

BECCA (O.C.)
 He didn't steal it. I gave it to him to take into space. And--

CUNNINGHAM (O.C.)
 He said it'd be worth more once it went to the moon. It was a plot. He hacked into the computer and made sure he got on. To do this!

REPORTER (O.C.)
 (to Becca)
 Did you know this boy well?

BECCA (O.C.)
 I go to school with him. I thought he was a nice boy.

Becca starts to cry. Watching this, Rosa's jaw drops open.

GENERAL
 (to the agents)
 I want that kid's father brought here for questioning. Right away.

An agent grabs a phone as the General moves to Rosa.

GENERAL (CONT'D)
Mrs. Rodriguez, do you have
anything more you'd like to tell
us? In light of all this.

Rosa tries to form words but, instead, she faints.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The capsule continues to move toward the Space Station.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Turgid holds onto Little Su as the rest discuss options.

RUSSEL
Okay. She broke the ship? Now what?

EMMELINE
We can't call IT. Maybe we can get
her to un-break it.

MANNY
(moving to her)
Little Su, we have to get the
rocket back on course.

LITTLE SU
The ship is now under control of my
leaders in North Korea.

TURGID
Well, give it back. It's not yours.

LITTLE SU
Is too late. They make it crash
into Space Station.

EMMELINE
What? Why?

LITTLE SU
No one tell me. My parents train me
for this. Since I was born.

TURGID
What'd they do? Name you 'Su' for
'suicide?'

LITTLE SU
Yes. How did you know?

MANNY

Never mind that. Su, you have to reconnect the autopilot or we'll all die.

LITTLE SU

Yes. That is plan. Everybody die.

TURGID

(grabs her by the throat)
Look kid! You fix that computer or I'll break your God damned neck.

EMMELINE

You really think you can threaten a kid named 'suicide?' We are fucked!

MANNY

Get her out of there. Let me see what I can do.

Turgid lifts Su out of the chair and Manny hops in.

TURGID

You can't hot wire it. This isn't some Chevy you found in a driveway.

Manny looks at the control panel and groans.

MANNY

Ugh! It's all in Korean.
(looking at Little Su)
I don't suppose you'd give me a hand here.

LITTLE SU

My mission was to steal rocket.

TURGID

Yeah, well my mission is to twist your little fucking head until it snaps off. How about that?

Su kicks him HARD in the nuts and escapes his grip.

TURGID (CONT'D)

Ohhhhhhh! God damn it.

EMMELINE

Leave her. She can't help it that she's been programmed to do what she did. She's just a kid.

LITTLE SU
(smiling)
You nice lady. I'm hungry

EMMELINE
Drop dead, bitch.

Manny tries to collect his thoughts, looking at the console.

MANNY
What do I do? What? Popi always
says, 'put things back the way you
find them.' Maybe that'll work.
(calling out)
Bettina, show me the start-up menu.

BETTINA (V.O.)
Loading start-up menu.

EXT. POLICE STATION IN CALEXICO - DAY

A cop car drives up to the station and stops.

INT. COP CAR - DAY

In the back of the police car is Fernando in cuffs.

FERNANDO
Hey. I lost my temper. It happens.
I'm sure you guys aren't in love
with your bosses, right?

One COP turns to his partner after getting a call.

COP
Head to the Hercules site. Now!

The OTHER COP u-turns the car.

FERNANDO
What? Why?

COP
Turns out you're wanted by the FBI.

FERNANDO
For what? Murdering a shrub?

The cops ignore him as they speed in the other direction.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

A huge amount of MEDIA are on hand, assembled to get a briefing. General Peritonitis stands at the podium.

GENERAL

Our initial investigation indicates that the person who most likely disrupted the mission is Man-u-el Rodriguez. His father is already in custody. Man-u-el was clearly angry because his parents could not gain citizenship. And so he retaliated.

INT. HERCULESE CAPSULE - DAY

Manny stares at the blank console screen, waiting for the menu to reload. Turgid tries to reason with Little Su.

TURGID

My company does a lot of business with Korea. Not just the south, but the north too. So you'll be sorry about this. You and your parents.

LITTLE SU

My parents only serve the Supreme Leader. We care nothing for you or your business. Capitalism is evil and destructive.

TURGID

You don't know anything. You're a--

LITTLE SU

I know you export jobs to China and they call us. To make your pills as cheap as we can.

TURGID

(bristling)

That's not-- You can't say that.

(reconsidering)

Okay. Maybe that's true. But still--

The LIGHTS on the console flicker back to life.

MANNY

We're in. The computer's back up.
Thank you Bettina.

BETTINA (V.O.)

You're very welcome, Manny.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The General is still talking to the PRESS in the room.

GENERAL

So, at this time, we believe that the person who took control of the ship is Man-u-el Rodriguez.

Just then the huge screen blinks on showing Manny on board.

MANNY (O.C.)

Hello! This is Hercules One! We were attacked by a terrorist on board. Su Kim from North Korea!

Hearing this the General shrugs to the press.

GENERAL

Then again. We could be wrong.

INT. LORD DICKIE'S SUITE - DAY

Dickie and Corkie Turgid are watching the coverage. There are several empty martini glasses in front of them.

LORD DICKIE

Ugh. What a fiasco!

Dickie switches off the TV and slugs back his drink.

CORKIE

You don't care who did this?

LORD DICKIE

I'm relieved it wan't your Billy. We went to Oxford together, you know. Truth be told, I never liked him much. He cheated on his exams. I caught him. I confronted him but he said he didn't care.

CORKIE

I caught him cheating on me and he didn't care about that either. He seems to think that if prays hard enough then all will be forgiven. Well, not by me. No way!

LORD DICKIE

I'm sorry you're stuck with him.

CORKIE

So am I. Many a Sunday, in church,
I pretended to be praying for world
peace. But I was really praying I'd
get un-stuck. From that pious putz.

LORD DICKIE

(touching her face)
You poor, miserable, yet ravishing
creature.

They lock eyes for a moment. Then they passionately kiss.

INT. MISSION CONTROL HALLWAY - DAY

Little Su's parents slip out of Mission Control and run. They
encounter TWO MILITARY GUARDS, both 25 and heavily armed.

GUARD

Stop right there folks!

MR. KIM

(stopping)
We need to...put coin in meter.
Don't want to get ticket.
(Korean, subtitled)
Quick! The suicide pills!

Mrs. Kim rifles through her purse and pulls out a pill box.

MRS. KIM

(Korean, subtitled)
Here!

A GUARD cocks his rifle at them. Mr. Kim grabs the pill box
and looks at it.

MR. KIM

(Korean, subtitled)
You fool! Those are Tic-Tacs.

Mrs. Kim apologetically shrugs as she raises her arms in
surrender. Her husband tosses the box and does the same.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Rosa enters and sees Cantwell talking to her son on TV.

CANTWELL

Tell us what you know, Manny.

MANNY (O.C.)

Little Su disconnected the rocket from the computer and now the North Koreans are steering us toward the Space Station. To kill us!

EMMELINE (O.C.)

We're all gonna be die! I was gonna get married and now I'm gonna be killed! In space!

RUSSEL (O.C.)

Me too. And I badly need a toilet.

CANTWELL

Okay. Well, first things first. Let's see if we can get you back on track. The autopilot can't be restarted but you might be able to control the ship from up there. Who would like to try flying the ship?

INTERCUT HERCULES CAPSULE/MISSION CONTROL

Manny is about to speak up when Bill Turgid pushes forward.

TURGID

I'll do it. I have the leadership skills. I'm the clear choice.

EMMELINE

Who says?

TURGID

Let's look at our choices. You're afraid of heights. Your fiancé can't control his bowels. And the Korean kid wants to kill us. So I'm the obvious candidate

EMMELINE

What about Manny?

TURGID

Well, he's not really an American.

Hearing this on TV, Rosa shouts in outrage.

ROSA

My son is ten times the American you are. Eres el tonto!

COMMAMNDER
(to Barry)
What's 'el tonto?'

BARRY
It's a moron, sir.

COMMAMNDER
I thought it was the Lone Ranger's
sidekick. Anyway...
(calling out)
They, put the kid in charge.

CANTWELL
(confused)
Who? 'Them' or me or what?

COMMAMNDER
Yes! Him! Manny! THE KID!

EXT. COMMAND CENTER - DAY

The police car pulls. The cops help a cuffed Fernando out.

FERNANDO
What's going on? Why am I here?

COP
Your son is the prime suspect in
the attack on the spaceship. And
you're wanted as an accessory.

FERNANDO
What!?

The other cop listens to something in his earpiece.

OTHER COP
Hold on. We got it backwards.
(listening to a call)
Turns out your boy is their only
hope for survival. And you're free
to go. Sorry for the mix-up.

FERNANDO
I've got to see Manuel.

Fernando runs into the Command Center.

COP
Wait! The cuffs!

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The excited engineers scramble to come up with a fix. Frank hands a message to General Peritonitis who reads it.

GENERAL

(into microphone)

Manny, this is General Peritonitis.
The geeks here are sending a patch
that should override the Korean
hack. Let us know when you get it.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

At the console, Manny replies. He's scared but excited.

MANNY

Sure thing Mr. General, sir.

Behind him Turgid stewes as Little Su cries.

TURGID

I'm not crazy about having a snotty
nosed kid flying this thing.

(seeing Su crying)

I'm not talking about you. I mean,
Pancho in there.

LITTLE SU

(crying)

I have failed. I am no good.

Russel leans down to her and adopts a soothing tone.

RUSSEL

Hey! I know how you feel, Little
Su. You wouldn't think it to look
at me but I've failed at things.

(Su looks at him)

That's right. I went to law school
for six years and then, when it
came time to take the bar exam, I
flunked. So I studied and flunked
again. Then I studied even harder
and, sure enough, I flunked again.
I finally had to admit to myself
that I wasn't meant to be a lawyer.
Do you see what I'm saying?

LITTLE SU

(sniffling)

No.

RUSSEL

I'm saying maybe you just aren't
cut out to be a suicide bomber.

Hearing this, Su bursts into uncontrollable sobs.

TURGID

Nice work, Dr. Phil.

EMMELINE

(eyeballing Russel)
You failed the bar exam three
times?

RUSSEL

Actually it was five times but I
felt I was losing her.
(to Little Su)
The point is if I wasn't such a
gigantic failure I never would have
gone into finance. And I never
would've met this amazing woman.

EMMELINE

(furious)
And if I never met you I wouldn't
be trapped on this rocket about to
die a fiery, horrible death!

Little Su propels away from them. Russel turns to Emmeline.

RUSSEL

Wow. That was harsh.

Su floats over to Manny at the console. The computer PINGS.

BETTINA (V.O.)

The download of the patch is
complete.

MANNY

Great. Thanks Bettina.
(looking at the screen)
Oh no.

TURGID

What's wrong?

MANNY

It's in Korean. Let me see if I can
switch it to English.

Manny searches the files on the computer but it's all in
Korean. He has no idea what he's looking at.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The Hercules capsule ZOOMS toward the Space Station. Rockets on the side of the ship FIRE to propel it forward.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The Engineers grow very anxious as they calculate the speed.

CANTWELL
Less than ten minutes to impact.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Little Su watches Manny frantically opening files. She calmly points at one Korean word on a list.

MANNY
That one? You want me to click on that?

LITTLE SU
Yes.

TURGID
Don't do it! It's a trick! The whole ship could blow up!

Manny looks at the kid. She smiles at him. He decides to trust her and clicks on the word. The screen goes blank.

MANNY
Uh oh.

RUSSEL
That's it! We're finished. We're going to be blown to bits! I don't want to die! I don't want to--

Emmeline slaps him hard across the face. He is no longer hysterical but looks at her wide-eyed.

RUSSEL (CONT'D)
I just made a doody in my suit.

The computer refreshes and lights up. It's all in English!

MANNY
It worked!

LITTLE SU
Little Su not so bad?

MANNY
(smiling)
No. Not so bad. Thanks.
(into the headset)
We're back in. Tell me what to do.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Cantwell talks him through it.

CANTWELL
You have to turn off the left
thruster and double the output of
the right one. That'll turn the
ship away from the Space Station.

INT. COMMAND CENTER HALLWAY - DAY

Fernando runs down the hallway and sees Barry.

FERNANDO
Where's the Mission Control place?

BARRY
Down the hall to the right.
(seeing the cuffs)
You must be Manny's dad.

FERNANDO
Yeah. That's right.

He runs off down the hall. Barry talks into his headset.

BARRY
I need a saw sent to Mission
Control. Stat!

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Fernando runs in. He spots his wife near General Peritonitis.

FERNANDO
Rosa!

He runs to her. They awkwardly hug because his hands are
still cuffed behind him.

ROSA
Manuel is up on the TV. Look!

Onscreen Manny types what Cantwell tells him.

CANTWELL
(into microphone)
That should do it. Now hit 'enter.'

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny hits 'enter' and the ship JOLTS violently to the side.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The left thruster on the ship shuts off and the right one FIRES up full. The ship turns because of these maneuvers.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Exhaling relief, the Hercules crew APPLAUDS. General Peritonitis shoots Manny's parents a comforting smile.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

The Korean Rocket Crew react with outrage! GENERAL HAK, 45 and hard as a bowl of uncooked Ramen noodles, steps up.

GENERAL HAK
(Korean, subtitled)
What is happening?

A terrified YOUNG SCIENTIST, 22, runs over to address the General. He bows, gives a military salute and bows again.

SCIENTIST
(Korean, subtitled)
Your Majesty, someone inside the ship has re-taken control.

GENERAL HAK
(Korean, subtitled)
Then take it back!

The Scientist bows, then salutes, then bows again. The General salutes back. This re-starts the whole ritual.

GENERAL HAK (CONT'D)
(Korean, subtitled)
Stop this and GO! Imbecile!

The Young Scientist runs and rejoins his cohorts. They huddle a moment and then run to their posts.

One Hotshot Scientist pulls on a driving glove. He then strolls over to a console with a steering wheel sticking out of it. He settles, grips the wheel and nods 'ready.'

SCIENTIST
(Korean, subtitled)
Increase thrust to 'maximum' on
both outer rockets!

Dials are turned and levers are pulled in response.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The rockets on either side of the Hercules One BURST to life. This turns the ship back toward the Space Station.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

The acceleration caused by the rockets throws the passengers backward against the wall in a pile.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

General Peritonitis and the crew are confused. Frank Nastasi speaks up.

FRANK
It looks like the North Koreans
have re-taken control.

GENERAL
Well, take it back.

The COMPUTER NERDS huddle to figure out their next step.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

Hercules continues to turn toward its 'target.'

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

The Hotshot hits buttons on his steering wheel that cause the rockets on Hercules to FIRE. He turns the wheel to steer it.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

The passengers untangle themselves from the heap of humanity they're in. Turgid is on the bottom.

TURGID
Thank God for weightlessness or I'd
be in traction right now.

Prof. Cantwell calls over the speaker.

CANTWELL (O.C.)
Man-u-el! Man-u-el!

Manny floats over to the microphone.

MANNY
It's Man-well.

CANTWELL (O.C.)
The North Koreans have re-taken the
craft. Grab the steering wheel.

MANNY
What 'steering wheel?' There's a
steering wheel?

CANTWELL (O.C.)
Hit the button on the floor. It's
marked 'Man-well.' I mean 'Manual.'

Manny sees the button. He pushes it and a section of the
console flips over revealing a steering wheel.

MANNY
Oh wow.
(sitting down)
I should tell you I only have a
learner's permit.

CANTWELL (O.C.)
The wheel moves the fins of the
rocket. You see the two buttons?
They fire the thrusters outside the
ship. Now GO!

MANNY
(holding the wheel)
'Go' and do what?

CANTWELL (O.C.)
Fight them! Take back control. And
try not to hit anything.

Manny looks at the navigation screen. They're headed straight
at the Space Station. He turns the wheel and FIRES the side
thruster to turn away from it.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

The Hotshot grimaces with anger when he realizes he's in a battle. He gets off a few quick SHOTS on the right rocket.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The quick BLASTS cause Hercules One to start spinning.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

The spinning disorients Manny. He turns the fins to slow the rotation and shoots a few BURSTS from the left rocket. But his moves are countered by the Hotshot.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

On the big plasma screen everyone is watching the fight. Frank Nastasi runs over to the General.

FRANK

My team is trying to isolate the North Korean signal so we can jam it. But that's kind of illegal so we need your permission.

GENERAL

You've got it.

Frank runs back to his team. All eyes are on the tussle in space as Manny fights to get control. Fernando steps up.

FERNANDO

Mr. General sir, could I please talk to my son?

GENERAL

If it can help. Sure.

An ENGINEER hands him a headset. He notices Fernando is handcuffed and puts it on his head for him.

FERNANDO

(into headset)

Testing, testing. Manuel! This is your father speaking.

INTERCUT HERCULES CAPSULE/MISSION CONTROL

Hearing his voice Manny smiles.

FERNANDO

Remember when we went fishing, what
I would say about catching a fish?

MANNY

Yeah. You'd say 'When he fights
give him some line.'

FERNANDO

Do that. Give him some line. So you
can hook him.

Manny nods. He releases his hands from the wheel.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

The Hotshot feels he has control. He laughs.

HOTSHOT

(Korean, subtitled)
They've given up! We Win!

The Korean crew CHEERS. General Hak grimly smiles. The
Hotshot steers and FIRES the rockets.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

Hercules One is now headed straight for the Space Station.

INT. HERCULES ONE - DAY

Turgid, Russel and Emmeline are confused and terrified.

TURGID

(to Manny)
What in holy hell are you doing?
Grab that wheel.

MANNY

No. I trust my father.

TURGID

Well I don't.
(moving toward him)
Get out of that chair!

Little Su pushes off the wall, propelling her at Turgid. She
collides with him and starts punching him in the face.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The crew watches the capsule ZOOM toward the Space Station.

CANTWELL

Two minutes to impact.

The General turns to Fernando and gives him a 'this better work' look. Manny's Dad looks unconcerned.

Frank and his team of nerds scan the Hercules computer.

NERD #1

Look. I think I found them.

NERD #2

No no. That's a Bed, Bath coupon.

NERD #1

They're getting ads?

FRANK

That's it. That's how they got in.
Block all cookies!

A nerd types in 'Disable Cookies' and hits 'Enter.'

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The rockets on Hercules stop firing.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

The Hotshot's smile vanishes. He taps the rocket buttons but nothing happens.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Frank Nastasi calls out to the room.

FRANK

We did it. They're blocked!

FERNANDO

(into headset)
Now Manny! Strike.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny grabs the wheel and makes a hard left turn. He holds down the rocket buttons. They LOUDLY fire!

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The capsule makes a skidding turn as it veers toward the Space Station. It's going to be very close.

INT. SPACE STATION - DAY

On board, TWO ASTRONAUTS, a Russian and an American, are playing chess in the Space Station lounge.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny works the wheel and FIRES thrusters to avoid the ship.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The Hercules capsule comes within inches of a collision.

INT. SPACE STATION - DAY

The capsule silently WHIZZES by the window. The American Astronaut looks up from the game.

AMERICAN ASTRONAUT
Did you see that?

RUSSIAN ASTRONAUT
See what?

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Panting with relief, Prof. Cantwell calls out.

CANTWELL
Hercules One has cleared the
station.

Everyone CHEERS. The General shoots Fernando a smile.

FERNANDO
(into the headset)
Well done, Manuel.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Equally relieved and sweaty, Manny smiles.

MANNY
Thank you, Popi.

Little Su is still punching Turgid.

TURGID
Hey! Knock it off. We're safe now.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

General Hak and TWO SOLDIERS approach the Hotshot. He is quivering in fear. The General gestures to the soldiers. They grab the hotshot and drag him off.

HOTSHOT
(Korean, subtitled)
No. Please. No!

GENERAL HAK
(Korean, subtitled)
Wait!
(the soldiers stop)
Leave the glove.

A soldier pulls off the driving glove and tosses it on the console as they drag the blubbering hotshot away. General Hak picks up the glove and calls out.

GENERAL HAK (CONT'D)
(Korean, subtitled)
We must re-take the capsule. Now!

The crew huddle to figure out what to do.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

A similar huddle is going on in America. The launch crew and computer nerds talk while Peritonitis barks into a phone.

GENERAL
(into phone)
You tell the President that
American lives are at stake. He
needs to reach out to the North
Koreans immediately!

He SLAMS the phone down. Nastasi and Cantwell rush over.

CANTWELL
We have a plan.

GENERAL
Tell me, them.

FRANK
(confused)
There's no 'them.' There's just the
one plan.

CANTWELL
(ignoring that)
Frank's team thinks they can
restore the autopilot.

FRANK
But to do that we need a total
reboot of the system.

CANTWELL
And to do that we need to set the
ship down. On the moon.

GENERAL
Unfortunately I can't make that
decision. This dog and pony show is
a private enterprise. Where the
hell is Lord What's-his-name?

BARRY
He usually takes a nap around now

GENERAL
Well tell him to cut his beauty
rest short and get his God damned
prissy-ass down here!

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - DAY

Littering the floor of the suite are Dickie's suit and
Corkie's dress, along with both of their girdles and both of
their wigs. Two sets of dentures are in two martini glasses.

Under the covers, cuddling, are two very old, very naked
little people. Lord Dorfman kisses Mrs. Turgid.

CORKIE
(sighing with ecstasy)
I never felt so free. So...myself.
And I never knew sinning could be
so, so--

LORD DICKIE
Sin-sational?

They both laugh and cuddle. A nearby phone RINGS. The ringtone is 'Rule Britannia.' Dickie grabs it.

LORD DICKIE (CONT'D)
(into the phone)
Yes Barry. Really? I'll be right down.
(to Mrs. Turgid)
Put your wig on, love. We're wanted downstairs. Apparently they're all going to be saved.

CORKIE
What!?
(catching herself)
I mean, that's wonderful.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Cantwell is on the screen, briefing Manny on what's next.

CANTWELL (O.C)
The plan is to have you land the ship on the moon so we can do a full power down. But we need the approval of the Lord.

TURGID
(butting in)
As the one true Christian here I can tell you the Lord approves.

CANTWELL (O.C)
I'm talking about Lord Dorfman. It's his rocket.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Lord Dorfman bounds into the room followed by an embarrassed and disheveled Corkie Turgid.

LORD DICKIE
All right. I'm back. Good job everyone. How's it all looking?

BARRY
Your fly, Lord Dorfman.

LORD DICKIE
(primping)
Why thank you. I try to stay on
trend.

BARRY
No. Your fly is OPEN.

LORD DICKIE
Oh.

He turns and zips up as General Peritonitis approaches.

GENERAL
So glad you could join us. While
you were 'resting' we regained
control of your rocket. With the
help of Manny's father here.

LORD DICKIE
(to Fernando)
Good show, old man. Well done.

He goes to shake his hand and sees he's still in cuffs.

LORD DICKIE (CONT'D)
Why is this man in irons? Get those
off of him at once!

CANTWELL
Lord Dorfman, we need your
permission to land the ship on the
moon so they can be rescued.

LORD DICKIE
Of course. They, do it.

CANTWELL
(confused)
'They' do what?

GENERAL
God damn it! Land the friggin'
thing!

LORD DICKIE
(to Cantwell)
Yes. Like he said.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Cantwell gives Manny the new coordinates for the ship.

CANTWELL (V.O.)

You need to steer forty degrees
left to set the craft on course for
the moon. We'll talk you through
the landing as you get closer.

Manny makes the adjustments as Su sits by him. Russel is with Emmeline and hears this. He moves to a storage locker.

RUSSEL

So we are going to the moon? Super!
(to Emmeline)
Sweetie, when we land, before we
start the wedding, I want to take a
few pictures with our banner.

He pulls out a big sign that reads 'FINCH-MONEY.COM. For Over The Moon Profits!' Emmeline shakes her head in disgust.

EMMELINE

Take all the pictures you want. I'm
staying inside.

Bill Turgid moves to the locker and pulls out his driver.

TURGID

That's too bad. Nothing's going to
keep me from setting a world record
with my trusty niblick.

He takes some practice swings. Russel moves to Emmeline.

RUSSEL

Don't be like that. Getting married
up there will be beyond awesome.

EMMELINE

I don't want 'beyond awesome.' All
I want is to go home.

Overhearing this, Little Su starts to cry. Manny notices.

MANNY

What's wrong Su?

LITTLE SU

(tearful)
She say 'home.' I can not go back.
I fail at mission. They kill me.

MANNY

Then stay in the U.S.A.

LITTLE SU
They kill me too.

MANNY
No, they won't. When I tell folks
how you saved us they'll be happy.
Heck, they'll probably send you to
Disney World.

LITTLE SU
(intrigued)
What is this 'Disney World?'

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOME - DAY

Howard Cunningham is watching the coverage of the mission on
TV. Becca anxiously watches too. The anchor is talking.

LAUREN (O.C.)
At the helm of the rocket is 17
year old Man-u-el Rodriguez.

CUNNINGHAM
I hope he can steer a rocket ship
better than his father runs a lawn
mower.

Marion wobbles in with a bottle of sherry. She's crocked.

MARION
Sherry anyone? I find it really
helps take the edge off.

Becca angrily turns to her father.

BECCA
You owe Manny an apology. And his
father too.

CUNNINGHAM
I don't owe them anything! They're
criminals. He's gonna pay for what
he did to our yard. And his beaner
son better bring back my 'opener.'

BECCA
I can't believe you! I used to
think you were a good person. But,
you're horrible.

MARION
He's a louse. A LOUSY louse. Chuck
knew it. That's why he ran away.

Marion goes to pour more sherry but the bottle's empty.

CUNNINGHAM

Shut up Marion. You're drunk.

She moves to the liquor cabinet. It's locked so she swings the empty bottle at the lock. WHACK!

MARION

That's right. I'm drunk.

(hitting the lock)

And tomorrow I'll be sober. And you'll be a racist, homophobic jackass for the rest of your life!

She smacks it HARD and the lock pops open.

MARION (CONT'D)

Bar's open. Who'd like a drink?

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Cantwell and her crew monitor the ship's progress.

CANTWELL

(to the crew)

They should be approaching the lunar service in a few minutes.

(she hears something)

What's that sound? That music?

They turn up the MUSIC coming from the capsule. It sounds like 'Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo' from 'Cinderella.'

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny plays a Disney World promo with music on the computer. Little Su watches it in wide-eyed awe. Excited, she points.

LITTLE SU

What this?

MANNY

Those are the tea cups.

LITTLE SU

What this?

MANNY

That's 'Toy Story.' And that's Snow White. And that's 'Small World.'

LITTLE SU
What mean, 'Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo?'

MANNY
That I can't help you with.

LITTLE SU
(looking at the promo)
Is beautiful. And if I am good I
can go there?

MANNY
Sure.

Suddenly the craft JOLTS to the side and rolls over.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

The Korean Crew CHEERS! The Young Scientist runs to the
General. He bows and salutes and bows.

SCIENTIST
(Korean, subtitled)
Your majesty, we have taken back
control. The ship is ours again.

GENERAL HAK
(Korean, subtitled)
Enough of this. Make it crash.

The Scientist salutes and bows and then salutes. He realizes
he got it wrong and starts again. The General blows up.

GENERAL HAK (CONT'D)
(Korean, subtitled)
Go! Crash it! Kill them all!

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Seeing the ship spin, causes panic. Lord Dickie calls out.

LORD DICKIE
What's happening? Don't tell me the
North Koreans are back.

CANTWELL
The North Koreans are back!

LORD DICKIE
(angry)
What did I just say? I just said
'don't tell me that.'

CANTWELL
(into her headset)
Manny! They are trying to crash the
ship. You have to keep it steady.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny struggles with the wheel to counteract what the North Koreans are doing. He looks out and sees the terrain of the lunar surface coming quickly their way.

MANNY
Woa! Rocks. Better strap in.

Turgid, Emmeline and Russel run to their seats.

LITTLE SU
(to Manny)
I stay by your side.

MANNY
Okay. Hold on.

Manny sharply turns the wheel to fight for control.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

The capsule weaves up, down and around the rocky terrain of the moon. It's moving a lot faster than it should.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

The New Hotshot at the wheel really pours it on, trying to bring it down. The rest of the crew CHANT encouragement.

KOREAN CREW
(Korean, subtitled)
Crash the rocket! Crash the rocket!

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Manny turns the wheel hard to avoid a rock ledge. He sees a huge crater and, desperate, spins the steering wheel.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

The Hercules ship spins violently and plunges into the crater. Landing on it's side, it skids along the surface, coming to a sloppy but safe stop against the rock wall.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The crew goes crazy. Lord Dickie and the General high five.

CANTWELL

Fantastic! Now power down, FAST!

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Emmeline, Russel and Turgid APPLAUD Manny. Little Su cries out in triumph.

LITTLE SU

Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo!

TURGID

(smiling, to Manny)

Pretty good, kid.

Searching the computer menu, Manny finds the 'Shut Down' command and clicks it. All the lights on the console go dark.

BETTINA (V.O.)

The ship's navigation system has
been turned off.

Manny exhales with relief.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

As the crew settles down, one of the FBI GUYS whispers into the General's ear. Peritonitis turns to Lord Dorfman.

GENERAL

Get one of those cameras set up
here. I want to deliver a message.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

General Hak is berating his crew in Korean. He slaps the Hotshot with the leather driving glove.

GENERAL HAK

(Korean, subtitled)

You have failed! You are defective.

Just then, the image on the large monitor switches to the face of the American General.

GENERAL (O.C.)
This is General Wally Peritonitis
of the U.S. Air Force. You are to
cease all interference with the
Hercules rocket immediately or we
will destroy your base.

GENERAL HAK
(into a microphone)
You can not stop us. You will never
locate our command post.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Don't be so sure, General. We can
find anything. Take a look.

The image switches to a drone camera shot of a backyard in
North Korea. A yappy chihuahua barks at the hovering object.

GENERAL HAK
That is my house. And my little
Pikachu.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Correct. I order you to suspend
your operations immediately.

GENERAL HAK
You can not beat us. You can not
win. We will never surrender.

GENERAL (O.C.)
Then say 'Bye-bye Pikachu.'

EXT. NORTH KOREAN BACKYARD - DAY

A laser FIRES from the drone and it scores a direct hit.
BLAM! The explosion sends Pikachu flying over a fence.

INT. MISSION CONTROL IN N. KOREA - DAY

General Hak sees this on the monitor and starts sobbing.

GENERAL HAK
Noooooo!

The crew watches as the General goes to pieces.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The Hercules Engineers look at the General in shock.

GENERAL
 (defensively)
 What? Don't give me that look. The
 dog'll be fine. I had to show him I
 mean business.

LORD DICKIE
 You could have just blown up his
 car. Sheesh!

Peritonitis looks into the CAMERA and addresses the Koreans.

GENERAL
 General, I order you to shut down
 this operation right now or I'll do
 much worse to you and your crew.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny gets up from the chair and stretches. The capsule is
 turned sideways so he must stand on the wall.

EMMELINE
 (eyes closed)
 Can I open my eyes now?

She does and is alarmed that they are on their side.

CANTWELL (V.O.)
 All right, passengers. While the
 computer reboots, you can all sit
 back and relax.

TURGID
 Screw that. I'm going outside.
 (he grabs his helmet)
 Bettina, prepare the airlock.

BETTINA (V.O.)
 Preparing airlock for opening.

TURGID
 Anybody joining me for a stroll?

EMMELINE
 I'll pass.

RUSSEL
 Come on. We didn't come all this
 way just to look at the moon.
 (whispering to her)
 Maybe we can do it behind a rock.
 Join the 250,000 mile high club.

EMMELINE

We can't take off our suits, idiot.
Anyway isn't yours full of crap?

RUSSEL

Oh, right. I've kind of gotten used
to it. Come on. We're doing this.
(grabbing her helmet)
We're in, Big Bill.

TURGID

How about you, Manny?

MANNY

You go ahead. I need a minute.

Turgid, Emmeline and Russel enter the airlock. Manny moves to
the storage locker and gets Cunningham's gold 'opener.'

He moves with it back to the console.

MANNY (CONT'D)

(into microphone)
Mission Control Person. It's Manny.
Could I please talk to my parents?

INTERCUT MISSION CONTROL/HERCULES CAPSULE

Rosa and Fernando hear him. They are passed a headset.

CANTWELL

(into microphone)
Sure thing. They're right here

ROSA

(into headset)
Hello son! We're so proud of you.

FERNANDO

(into headset)
You're doing great. They're going
to get you home. Stay calm.

MANNY

(into microphone)
I'm calm. Thanks Popi. Listen, I
want you to call Mr. Cunningham.
Please make sure that he and his
daughter are watching TV. Because
I'm going to walk on the moon!

Hearing this Fernando's smile vanishes.

FERNANDO
(into headset)
I'm sorry. I won't do that.

MANNY
(into microphone)
Why not?

ROSA
(into headset)
They did terrible things to your
father. They had him arrested. And
they called you a thief.

Manny can't believe what he's hearing.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

Russel and Emmeline are the first to climb out of the tipped
over capsule. They hop to the ground and bounce around.

RUSSEL
Woo Hoo! This is amazing.

EMMELINE
(to herself)
Don't look down. Don't look down.

RUSSEL
Emmeline! Look up.

She does. Above her is the earth in the sky. Frightened she
closes her eyes.

EMMELINE
(to herself)
Don't look up. Don't look up.

Big Bill Turgid, golf club in hand, bounces out of the ship
and waves to the camera on the side of it.

TURGID
Hey Dickie! Can you see me?

LORD DICKIE (V.O.)
Yes, Billy. How do you feel?

TURGID
Wonderful. I'm as close to God as I
can get without being dead. Hey!
Make sure you're recording this.

He places a golf ball down and readies his club.

TURGID (CONT'D)
 Here goes. The longest drive in the
 history of the world.

Turgid swings at the ball, giving it a good SMACK.

The ball hits the side of the crater, ricochets off that,
 hits the rocket, bounces off that and hits Turgid in the
 helmet. BONG! He staggers backward and falls on a moon rock.

Russel and Emmeline see this and bound over to him.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny's devastated by the story his parents have shared. As
 they continue to talk he moves back to the locker and angrily
 throws the golden 'opener' inside and SLAMS it.

FERNANDO (V.O.)
 I'm sorry, son. But these are not
 good people. You need to stay away
 from them.

ROSA (V.O.)
 Don't think about that. Put on your
 space hat and go walk on the moon.

MANNY
 (into microphone)
 I'm not really in the mood.

FERNANDO (V.O.)
 But this was your dream. First
 Mexican on the moon.

MANNY
 (into microphone)
 To hell with my dreams. I just want
 to go home and forget all this.

FERNANDO (V.O.)
 Okay, son. Okay.

Little Su has been watching this whole exchange.

LITTLE SU
 You very lucky. They nice.

Just then, the reboot finishes and the console lights up.

BETTINA (V.O.)
 The autopilot has been restored.

LITTLE SU
Yay! Bibbidi Bobbidi...

MANNY
(half-heartedly)
Boo.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

Russel and Emmeline help Turgid up. He fell hard against the rock and is pretty shook up. He wears a loopy, beatific look.

RUSSEL
You okay, Big Bill?

TURGID
Never better.

He looks up at the earth above them and beams.

TURGID (CONT'D)
Look at it. One world. All one world.

EMMELINE
(to herself)
Don't look up. Don't look up.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The engineers are BUZZING with new excitement. A WORKMAN, 35 with tools, arrives.

WORKMAN
Somebody call for a hacksaw?

LORD DICKIE
Right this way.

He points the workman toward Fernando. The guy rests the cuffs on a desk and starts sawing away at the chain.

CANTWELL
(into microphone)
Manny, we have the autopilot back.
We're going to try to test fire the heavy thrusters.

Switches are thrown. Everyone watches the screen.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

Russel, Emmeline and Turgid bounce about as the thrusters FIRE. But the ship's still wedged against the crater wall.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Cantwell turns to the General and Lord Dickie.

CANTWELL

The good news is that we have control of the ship. The not so good news is that it can't take off while it's laying on its side.

LORD DICKIE

Well, they have to set it upright.

CANTWELL

(confused)

You mean 'they' up there, or--?

LORD DICKIE

(fed up)

Please stop.

The workman cuts the chain. Fernando holds up his hands.

FERNANDO

I'm free! Muchas gracias, Señor.

GENERAL

Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez, we need you to get your son to rally the passengers to raise the rocket. Do you think you can do that?

ROSA

Yes. I'll talk to him.

Fernando grabs the headset.

FERNANDO

I'm the father. He'll listen to me.

(into headset)

Manuel! This is your Popi.

INTERCUT HERCULES CAPSULE/MISSION CONTROL

Still crushed, Manny listens to his father over the speaker.

FERNANDO

You need to forget about this silly girl thing. I want you to put on your helmet and go out there and stand that rocket up. Be a hero.

MANNY

(into microphone)

How can I be a hero? They called me a thief.

FERNANDO

Don't listen to those people. Listen to me. Do this so you can come home.

MANNY

Home to what? More bigots and fools. No respect. No future.

Angry, Rosa grabs the microphone.

ROSA

Manuel! This is your Momma! Stop this whining. You're not a baby. You're my big, strong boy. You promise me 'to the moon and back!' Now put on the helmet and get out there. Right NOW!

MANNY

(into microphone)

Yes, Momma. Right away.

Rosa shoots Fernando a triumphant look.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

Manny hops out of the capsule and bounces over to the rest.

MANNY

We have to raise the rocket up. Or it can't take off. Come on.

They bounce over to the side of the rocket.

RUSSEL

We can't lift this. It must weigh, like, a whole bunch of tons.

MANNY

The lower gravity will help. We have to try.

They all grab hold of the side of the rocket and, sure enough, they raise it a bit. But not much.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

When the rocket bumps back down it sends Little Su bouncing around. She hears them talking on the capsule's speaker.

TURGID (V.O.)
It's no good. It's too heavy.

MANNY (V.O.)
We have to keep trying. This is the only way we can get home. Are you with me?

TURGID/RUSSEL/EMMELINE (V.O.)
Yes!

MANNY (V.O.)
Pull together. Everybody! On three.
One, two, three!

The rocket lifts again, a bit, then drops. Little Su gets a look of crazy determination. She quickly gathers some rope.

LITTLE SU
Bettina, ready the airlock.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

The passengers are set to try again when the door opens. Su shoves out her chair and hops out with a long rope.

MANNY
What are you doing?

LITTLE SU
You say 'everybody.' Come. I help you get home.

MOMENTS LATER Little Su is in her motorized chair which is tied to the side of the rocket. Manny, Turgid, Russel and Emmeline are back in their lift positions.

MANNY
Let's go. On three.

RUSSEL
Why is it always 'three?' Wouldn't it be faster to do it on 'two?'

EMMELINE

Shut the hell up and lift! On
THREE. One, two, three!

As they lift, Little Su guns the motor on the chair. The wheels kick up a cloud of moon dust as it pulls the rope.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Everyone watches as the rocket slowly lifts up.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

The rocket is rising up. Little Su shifts the chair motor again and again to get it to pull harder. The motor churns and belches smoke as she pushes it to the limit.

MANNY

Push! Push!

Shoving as hard as they can, the group raise the rocket. It wobbles upright just as the rope SNAPS. Little Su and the chair take off very fast toward the wall of the crater.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Little Su! No!

He runs as fast as he can but the chair is going too fast.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Su! Jump!

Little Su unbuckles her belt and dives off just before the chair hits the crater wall and EXPLODES in a fiery CRASH!

Manny rushes to her and picks her up in his arms.

MANNY (CONT'D)

You okay?

LITTLE SU

I fine. Let's go home.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The crew and families are WILDLY CHEERING. Rosa and Fernando hug. So do Lord Dorfman and Corkie. The General does some highly unexpected but spirited hip-hop dance moves.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

Manny carries Little Su over to the rocket as the rest of the passengers climb into the open airlock door.

LITTLE SU
You can put me down now.

Manny sets her down and she stands up fine.

MANNY
Wait! You're not handicapped?

LITTLE SU
(climbing in)
No. Not at all.

TURGID
Then what was the chair for?

LITTLE SU
Sympathy.

Rather than be angry, Turgid laughs and helps her inside.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

At their anchor desk, Brad and Lauren are commentating.

BRAD
Welcome back. The passengers are now buckled in and ready to begin what's being called 'Operation Return To Sender.'

BRAD (CONT'D)
That's of course named for the classic Elvis Presley song. Their situation makes me think of another song. By DaBaby. In his song 'Find My Way' he says, "I'm just an N-word with a broken heart, tryna find my way back home. And I'm sittin' here with the car in park while she ride me to my song."

LAUREN
(ignoring him)
Let's go to Mission Control where the countdown has just begun.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The engineers watch the screen showing the passengers inside.

Lord Dickie walks up to General Peritonitis and offers a glass of champagne.

LORD DICKIE

May I offer a toast for good luck?

GENERAL

Thanks. We're gonna need it.

(slugging back the drink)

You know, with all your money you could've done anything. Why in hell did you get into building rockets?

LORD DICKIE

I wanted to do something for humanity.

GENERAL

You want to do something for humanity? Try making a condom that doesn't pop like a paper sack.

Lord Dickie slugs back his drink as the countdown starts.

CANTWELL

Five, four, three, two, ONE!

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

The rockets FIRE! The capsule slowly rises.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Inside, the belted in passengers shake from the tremendous force of the lift-off.

EXT. LUNAR SURFACE - DAY

As Hercules One takes off we see Turgid's golf club and ball laying next to his Bible. Once the capsule is far away, a MUTANT SPACE-CRAB scuttles out of the shadows of the crater.

The crab lifts the Bible in its claw and sniffs it. Not liking the smell, the crab tosses it. It picks up the golf ball and pops it in its crab-mouth and chews it like candy.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

The Hercules capsule SOARS through space toward earth.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

As the pressure lessens in the cabin, Russel takes out his phone and notices something.

RUSSEL

We must be getting close to home.
I'm getting a cell signal.

Excited, Emmeline and Turgid pull out their phones as well.

EMMELINE

Ooooh! I'm going to check my
messages.

TURGID

(checking his)
I want to see what kind of reaction
my monster drive is getting.

He looks at Facebook and the video has ZERO 'likes.' Turgid growls. Emmeline reads something in a message and smiles.

EMMELINE

(to Russel)
Awww. My family forgives us. They
still want to kill you but only if
we make it back alive.

RUSSEL

(reading, horrified)
Oh no! The investors are pulling
out of our hedge fund. Because we
didn't promote it. God damn it!

TURGID

Can't pin that one on God. You blew
that all by yourself.

Russel is crushed. Emmeline comforts him.

EMMELINE

I'm sorry, babe. We'll just have to
settle for being somewhat rich and
sort of famous. Okay?

Russel smiles, nodding.

TURGID

(to Manny)

Speaking of famous, you're all over the news. Some asshole got your Dad arrested and tried to blame you for all of this. Here look.

He offers Manny the phone but he angrily pushes it away.

MANNY

No thanks.

TURGID

I'm sorry. Some people can be such jerks. You know, real judgmental.

(looking at his phone)

At least the asshole's daughter stood up for you.

MANNY

(excited)

What? Gimme that!

He grabs his phone. There's a video of Becca. Manny plays it.

BECCA

(in the video)

I go to school with him. I thought he was a nice boy.

Becca breaks down crying.

BECCA (CONT'D)

(in the video)

I mean, he IS a nice boy. The nicest boy I know. There's no way he did these things they're saying. I hope he's okay. I miss him!

(into the camera)

Te quiero, Manuel. Te amo mucho!

Manny is blown away by this. He quietly answers her.

MANNY

Te amo, Becca.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Prof. Cantwell reads some measurements and grows upset.

CANTWELL

Uh oh.

LORD DICKIE

What do you mean 'uh oh.' Don't tell me we have another problem.

CANTWELL

We have another--

LORD DICKIE

Don't say it. I can't hear it.

GENERAL

What's wrong now?

CANTWELL

There isn't enough fuel to get the rocket back to the launch site.

LORD DICKIE

We're out of gas?!

CANTWELL

All that back and forth to the Space Station burned a lot of it. We only have enough to get to...
(checking her screen)
The Pacific Ocean.

LORD DICKIE

The ocean!?

CANTWELL

Which raises another problem.

LORD DICKIE

Don't tell me the ship wasn't built for a water landing.

CANTWELL

(giving up)
You really want to keep doing this?

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

The anchors continue their coverage of events.

LAUREN

We're now hearing that the crew and passengers are prepping for a crash landing in the ocean.

BRAD

While we await further word on that we have these other developments.

The scene switches to VIDEO of Little Su's Parents in handcuffs being loaded into a car by the TWO FBI AGENTS.

BRAD (V.O) (CONT'D)
Su Kim's parents were arrested and taken to the FBI for questioning.

The scene switches to a STILL IMAGE of General Hak.

BRAD (V.O.)
And it's been reported that General Hak of North Korea has committed suicide due to the failure of his mission.

The scene switches to VIDEO of a very scorched chihuahua.

BRAD (V.O.)
His dog, Pikachu, has recovered and will be presented with North Korea's highest honor, the Gold Star. Followed by a parade.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Prof. Cantwell finishes briefing the passengers.

CANTWELL (V.O.)
We've alerted every boat in the area to be on hand to rescue you when you splash down. Good Luck.

Emmeline opens her eyes and takes her fiancé's hand.

EMMELINE
Russel, I have a confession to make.

RUSSEL
I know. You're wishing you'd gone ahead and gotten married on the moon. But I get it. You want your family nearby. I should've--

EMMELINE
That's not it. I can't swim.

RUSSEL
Well, I'm here for you. I'll take care of you. I am your strength.

EMMELINE
You can't swim either.

RUSSEL
Not a stroke.

EXT. WEST COAST OF AMERICA - DAY

The Hercules capsule comes down through the clouds. It's moving very fast over the land as the rockets SPUTTER.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Watching, Prof. Cantwell grows alarmed.

CANTWELL
Fuel is very low. I don't think
they'll make the water. Right now
they're over Santa Rosita. Coming
down fast.

EXT. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BORDER - DAY

The rockets cut out on the capsule. The ship flies over the border between the U.S and Mexico.

Manny sadly looks down at the wall running along the border.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

The crew monitor the ship's path and status.

ENGINEER
The thrusters are losing power.
Fuel's almost gone. They're coming
in fast and--
(an ALARM sounds)
The 'check engine' light went on.

CANTWELL
That thing always goes on. Ignore
it.
(into headset)
Passengers, brace for impact.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

The passengers all hold hands with each other.

MANNY
This is it. Any words of prayer,
Mr. Turgid?

TURGID
No time. I suggest we all scream.

As they see the water racing toward them, they do.

PASSENGERS
AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

EXT. STRETCH OF OPEN OCEAN - DAY

The capsule skips along the ocean's surface like a stone on a lake. After several bounces it comes to a SPLASHING stop.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

The anchors see this.

BRAD
Holy shit!
(catching himself)
I mean, thank goodness.

INT. SCIENCE CLASS IN CALEXICO - DAY

Watching TV, Manny's class CHEERS! Julio is so excited he hugs and kisses a girl much taller than him. She likes it.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

Lord Dorfman, the families and the General APPLAUD and hug as well. Cantwell still stares at the monitor.

CANTWELL
They're not out of the woods yet.

DORFMAN
They're not in the woods. They're
in the water!

CANTWELL
Yes! And they're sinking!

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

The capsule is indeed going under. Water starts pouring in. Russel, Emmeline and Little Su start SCREAMING again.

MANNY

Don't panic! Bettina! Open the airlock.

Just then, water gets to the console.

BETTINA (V.O.)

The airlock is-- Wow! That's wet.
(sparks shoot out)
I'm melting! I'm melting!

The computer shorts out and BURSTS into flames.

TURGID

Can we panic now?

Manny goes to the airlock. There is no way to open it.

EMMELINE

We're gonna die! After all the shit
we went through we're going to
DROWN. In our own backyard!

RUSSEL

God! I hate this fucking tin can.

Hearing this, Manny gets an idea. He goes to the storage locker and grabs the gold plated 'opener.' He runs with it to the door and plunges it into the metal around the opening.

EXT. STRETCH OF OCEAN - DAY

The 'opener' pokes through the seal in the door. From inside Manny works it to open the 'tin can.'

BOATS of all sizes speed toward the sinking capsule.

INT. HERCULES CAPSULE - DAY

Manny has carved the door open. He yells to the others.

MANNY

Okay. Everybody hold hands.

Russel and Emmeline grab hands with Manny and Turgid. Bill extends his hand to Little Su.

TURGID

You bite me again and I'll--
(catching himself)
Just don't do it, okay?

LITTLE SU

Okay.

Manny cuts through the last part of the door. Water pours in.

MANNY

Here we go!

He KICKS it open. Water GUSHES in as they all swim out.

EXT. STRETCH OF OCEAN - DAY

Manny and the rest bob to the surfaces just as TWO SMALL BOATS pull up. The BOAT CREWS grab them and haul them in.

LAUREN (V.O.)

Once they dry off the passengers
will be flown by helicopter to the
Hercules Command Post to meet with
Lord Dorfman and the authorities.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

The commentators wrap things up.

LAUREN

And so ends the first commercial
flight of civilian passengers to
the moon and back.

BRAD

I must say it was a pretty pathetic
voyage. It made the problems they
had on Apollo 13 look like a day at
the spa. But, like a day at the
spa, this too had a 'happy ending.'
Any final thoughts, Lauren?

LAUREN

I'm going back to ESPN.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

Families and PRESS are onhand to greet the passengers as the
Lord's corporate helicopter lands them on the tarmac.

Lord Dorfman is with a very nervous Corkie Turgid.

CORKIE

I'm glad Billy made it, but what am
I going to tell him about us?

LORD DICKIE
Are 'we' an 'us?'

CORKIE
I'd like us to be.

LORD DICKIE
Me too. I'll tell him.

The door to the helicopter opens and the passengers, all in fresh jump suits, step out and wave. The crowd CHEERS them.

GENERAL
(to Manny)
Young man, what you did up there was truly amazing. The President wants to congratulate you. You'll probably get the Congressional Medal.

MANNY
Don't want it. I just want my Mom and Dad to be made citizens. And be treated with respect.

GENERAL
Done!

He extends his hand to shake on it but Manny sees his parents and runs to them. He dives into their arms for a huge hug.

Two FBI AGENTS walk up to Little Su.

AGENT
Su Kim, you're under arrest for terrorism, espionage and hijacking.

LITTLE SU
Wait! I tell you everything!
Locations of rockets and bases.

AGENT
(to his partner)
Get this kid some ice cream.

LITTLE SU
No ice cream. I want Disney World!

Little Su shoots a thumbs up to Manny who's with his parents. Seeing her, he shoots one back.

Emmeline exits the chopper and kisses the ground.

EMMELINE

Ugh! Tastes like oil.

Russel helps her up as a bunch of REPORTERS push in.

REPORTER

Now that you're back, what's the first thing you're going to do?

RUSSEL

Elope!

Emmeline laughs and kisses him.

Lord Dorfman greets Bill Turgid with a handshake.

LORD DICKIE

Billy! I'm so glad you survived.

TURGID

Me too. I could sue your pants off. But I won't. I'm a changed man, Dickie. Seeing the earth from up there helped me realize how small I've been. I like to think this journey's made me more accepting and forgiving.

LORD DICKIE

Oh good. That'll make this next part a lot easier. You see, while you were up there...

Arm around him, he continues as they walk off.

The celebrating continues as the PRESS swarms around Manny and his parents. They shout questions at him.

REPORTER #1

Were you scared, Manny?

REPORTER #2

How'd you get out of the capsule?

REPORTER #3

Do you still wanna be an astronaut?

Manny sees Becca standing off to the side.

MANNY

Hold on a second.

Delighted, he rushes to her. Becca hugs him close.

BECCA

Manny! I was so frightened for you.

MANNY

Thanks. I'm fine. Really.

(handing her the 'opener')

You better give this back to your
Dad. He thinks I stole it.

BECCA

It belongs to you now. It's part of
history. What can he do with it?

MANNY

I'd love to tell you. But first.

He takes her in his arms and kisses her. Fernando sees this
and hugs Rosa. The press rush toward the young couple.

Cameras FLASH as Manny and Becca kiss, oblivious to it all.

THE END