

POOPAGEDDON

INT. MISSION CONTROL – FLIGHT CONTROL ROOM – NIGHT

The hum of habit pervades the NASA flight control room. Two groggy flight controllers twiddle knobs disinterestedly. A third flight controller yawns, as a fourth enters carrying a tray of coffees and distributes them. As FLIGHT CONTROLLER 3 accepts the coffee he begins to speak into a headset.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER 3: Mission Control, do you read me, this is Mission Control.

VO FROM HEADSET: Loud and clear. Proud to report vital stats are good. Everything is calm and quiet up here, just another day at the space station.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER 3: Glad to hear it. And how are your oxygen levels?

VO FROM HEADSET: It all looks good over...

The headset crackles and sparks. An alarm starts to go off and lights flash.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER 3: Space Station, are you there? Do you read me? Are you there?

The radio transmission continues to crackle but a voice can be heard through the static.

VO FROM HEADSET: Oh god, oh god, the toilet, is overflowing, oh god it's everywhere...

INT. LOU PERETTI'S HOUSE – NIGHTTIME

LOU PERETTI enters a dark room. It is late and he is being very quiet. He puts his keys down silently and turns on a light.

ANGELA: Where've you been?

We see that ANGELA has been sitting in the dark at a dinner table that's clearly been set up for a romantic dinner.

LOU: The Glidewells. Their toilet was overflowing and it took me about four hours to realize they had a crack in their valve seal.

ANGELA: You missed dinner.

LOU: I'm sorry.

ANGELA: Again. Look, Lou, I can't do this anymore. Are you married to me, or are you married to your job?

LOU: Angela.

ANGELA starts to put on a lightweight coat.

ANGELA: Watch out, Lou, one of these days you're gonna come back and I'm not gonna be here.

ANGELA leaves, slamming the door on her way out. Lou leans his head against the wall, at a loss for answers. There is a knock on the door.

LOU: (walking towards the door) Angela, Angela baby I'm sorry, I should've called at least, I... (opening the door) who are you?

Two men in suits are at the door.

MAN #1: Mr. Peretti?

LOU: Who wants to know?

MAN #2: Come with us, Mr. Peretti.

LOU: Says, WHO?

Before he even finishes his sentence, a bag is placed over his head and a shot is injected into his arm.

INT BACKSEAT, BLACK LINCOLN TOWN CAR, NIGHTTIME

LOU wakes up, although remains groggy. MAN #1 notices him in the overhead mirror.

MAN #1: (addressing Lou through the overhead mirror) Mr. Peretti, are you ready to cooperate?

LOU: Something tells me it doesn't matter if I am or not.

MAN #2: Mr. Peretti, we are representatives of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

MAN #1: Colloquially known as NASA.

LOU: So what do you want with me? I'm just a plumber from Pomona, California.

MAN #2: We don't want you. We need you.

MAN #1: Mr. Peretti, yesterday, in the wee hours of the morning, we received an alert that the toilet at the International Space Station had malfunctioned.

MAN #2 passes back a handful of pictures. They depict horrific scenes of astronauts floating in a gruesome environment of airborne fecal and urinary matter.

MAN #1: We need you to assemble a mission to fix it.

LOU stops and zooms in on the terrified eyes of one of the astronauts.

MAN #1: You've been on our radar for a while, Mr. Peretti. You're the best at what you do.

LOU looks out the window, clearly torn. He sees ANGELA'S crying face in the rain on the window.

MAN #2: Will you help us? Will you serve your country?

Lou pauses.

LOU: Okay, but let's get one thing straight.

MAN #1: Anything, Mr. Peretti.

LOU: I'm in charge.

MAN #1: (visibly intrigued) What did you have in mind?

INT. KITCHEN

We see FRANK D'BAGNO and several generations of men that look just like him sharing a chicken parm meal, noisily arguing about plumbing.

LOU (VO): Frank D'Bagno the last in a long line of plumbers. His father was a plumber, his father's father, his father's father's father... you get the pitcher. His last name translates to "of the bathroom" and the D'Bagno men take that seriously. Good guy. A bit of a show-off, but he earns it.

INT. APARTMENT

We see VINNIE DELPINNO installing a one hundred percent to scale working miniature toilet in a miniature dollhouse.

LOU (VO): Vinnie DelPinno, child prodigy in the fields of ventilation and valve maintenance. At the age of three he built a ballcock valve out of legos that was actually

superior to the one in his parents toilet. Good guy. A bit eccentric, but other than that a real pal.

INT. STRIP CLUB

We see EDDIE LOMBARDI surrounded by strippers, giving them money and laughing like old friends.

LOU (VO): Eddie Lombardi is a bit of a rockstar in the piping, tubing, and sewage maintenance industry. He once saved a party at the Playboy mansion by replacing a faulty thumb screw with a belly button ring. Good guy. Got a real weakness for the kind of sex you gotta pay for, but who doesn't.

INT. GOVERNMENT SITUATION ROOM, DAY

We realize that everything LOU says has been a presentation before a government committee, and FRANK, VINNIE, AND EDDIE are standing behind LOU.

LOU: And me. Together, the four of us will take care of your little problem and be out of your hair in no time.

MAN IN SUIT: That's all fine and well, Mr. Peretti, but there's only four of you. This is a five person job.

LOU looks down.

LOU: Hey, you gave me pretty short notice, Pal. This is what you got. Take it or leave it.

VINNIE: But Lou, what about Sully?

FRANK and EDDIE look uncomfortable, but VINNIE doesn't realize the faux pas he just committed.

LOU: You know I don't speak to him anymore.

VINNIE: But he's the best in the biz, Lou.

LOU: I told you, I don't speak to him anymore.

EDDIE: Or rather, he doesn't speak to you.

LOU: Thank Eddie, you're a real champ.

FRANK: Lou, Vinnie's right, you gotta ask Sully.

LOU looks around at everyone, who clearly agrees and is giving him 'it's true' looks.

LOU: Fine, fine. I'll ask him. But let me go by myself.

INT. BATHROOM

SULLY is replacing a defective flush valve. He is visibly struggling. Sweat pours from his furrowed brow. He is deep in concentration, working so hard, one might suspect he was trying to escape some haunting memory.

LOU: I see you're still letting the Kohler Rialto K-3386 get the best of you.

SULLY looks up. His face hardens and he turns back to his work, allowing silence to dominate for a minute or two.

LOU: The problem is you're approaching a 3 gallon tank like a 5 gallon tank.

SULLY stops without looking up.

SULLY: (in a low growl, without looking up) What are you doing here.

LOU: Maybe I came to make amends.

SULLY: You've got a funny way of making amends.

LOU: I need a favor.

SULLY puts down his wrench and looks up.

SULLY: What makes you think I care?

LOU: It's not for me.

SULLY: What? Lou Peretti came all the way out to San Bernadino a favor for someone else? When did you start thinking about other people, Lou, cause last I knew you, you were the most selfish son of a...

LOU: It's a matter of national security.

SULLY stops. He eyes Lou skeptically, then begins to pick a bit of mildew from under his nail with the blunt edge of a porcelain sander.

SULLY: What's in it for me?

LOU: I'd like to promise you glory and fame, but would you settle for the self-satisfaction of service to your country?

SULLY: You know what I want.

LOU: I can't give you that.

SULLY: I want her back, Lou.

LOU: She doesn't want you back, Sully.

SULLY: She doesn't love you, you know. She'll leave you to, same as she left me.

LOU: That may be the case, but right now all I know is I've got a couple of suits from Washington, DC that won't leave me alone until I save their world.

SULLY flicks a piece of excavated mildew from the porcelain sander and thinks for a minute.

SULLY: Alright I'll do it. On one condition. This doesn't mean I forgive you.

LOU: I didn't think it did.

LOU leans over and jiggles the handle. He holds it down and it flushes without a hitch.

LOU: Plane leaves tomorrow morning.

MONTAGE

MUSIC: "As Soon As The Good Times Roll" by Scorpions

INT. GOVERNMENT SITUATION ROOM

LOU, FRANK, VINNIE, EDDIE, AND SULLY look over blue prints with some government men. They are holding and gesturing with the stainless steel trip lever they're going to install. There is obvious tension between Lou and Sully.

INT. NASA TRAINING CENTER

LOU, FRANK, VINNIE, EDDIE, AND SULLY training to go into space. They do lots of jumping jacks, go swimming, and go into an anti-gravity chamber. LOU, FRANK, VINNIE, EDDIE, AND SULLY run a simulation of the mission that ends with Lou and Sully fighting.

EXT. NASA LAUNCH PAD

LOU, FRANK, VINNIE, EDDIE, AND SULLY are newly suited and walking out to the spaceship. News reporters follow them, but they are not phased by flashing bulbs. They are poised and focused. They show little emotion.

EDDIE: Alright boys, you ready to ride this beautyqueen?

EDDIE hits the space shuttle in a friendly way

ANGELA: No.

LOU and SULLY: Angela!

LOU: What are you doing here!

ANGELA: Do you think I'd let my husband leave the atmosphere without a kiss?

LOU: But you... you were so mad!

ANGELA: I get it now. (Moving closer) I saw you on the TV at my sister's house. Just because you love your job, doesn't mean you don't love me.

LOU hugs ANGELA.

LOU: I love you, Angela.

LOU and ANGELA embrace. SULLY is obviously jealous.

EDDIE: Alright if you two aren't careful I'm gonna have to postpone this mission for a quick visit to Ms. Sadie Bridges. (looks into reporters camera) Sadie, if you're out there, you're the best forty-five dollars I've ever spent.

LOU: Alright, alright, enough horseplay, we got a planet to save. (winks at Man #1) All aboard.

EXT. SPACE SHUTTLE

Shuttle launches, leaving a trail of smoke and fire. ANGELA salutes, with tears in her eyes.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE

LOU, FRANK, VINNIE, EDDIE, AND SULLY brave the physical challenge of leaving the atmosphere, looking at each other occasionally for support.

EXT. SPACE, NIGHTTIME

Space shuttle attaches to International Space Station.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE

LOU, FRANK, VINNIE, EDDIE, AND SULLY start to unbuckle and prepare to enter.

LOU: Alright, so we all know the gameplan, Vinnie and I will go into the toilet area, Frank, you'll wait outside with the toolbox, and Sully you'll be monitoring vitals.

SULLY: Bullshit, Lou. Why am I monitoring vitals?

LOU: Someone's gotta do it, Sully, and you have the least experience in weak gravity atmospheres.

SULLY: Fuck you, Lou, I didn't come all the way out here, from Santa Barbara, to do you a favor, so you could treat me like your Goddamn assistant.

LOU: Sully, it's not like that.

SULLY: I think this is all going to your head, Lou.

As LOU and SULLY fight, VINNIE starts to look paler and paler.

LOU: Sully, let's talk about this once we get back there. We don't have enough oxygen for you to be blowing a lotta hot air.

VINNIE: Hey Lou...

SULLY: Who's blowing hot air? The only hot air being blown is coming out of your asshole whenever I ask you how you can steal your best friend's girl.

LOU: I didn't steal her, she chose ME!

VINNIE: Louie... I...

SULLY: She didn't choose you, she chose your money.

LOU: Oh so this is what it's about, me leaving Santa Barbara for the more profitable Pomona area.

SULLY: It's about everything. It's about you betraying your best friend in every way possible.

VINNIE: I think I...

SULLY: It's about thinking your shit don't clog toilets, it's about backing out when I needed you most, it's about thinking about only yourself. It's not Angela. It's not Pomona. It's not one thing. The problems not some poorly flushed sanitary napkin. The problems in the piping.

VINNIE: Uh oh...

VINNIE faints.

LOU: Shit, look what you did!

SULLY: I did!

FRANK: (clearly had it up to here) Look, you two queers quit it. We've only got two hours to finish the job, and I wanna get home to my wife, my kids, and my La-Z-Boy. I'll take care of Vinnie and monitor the vitals. Here (shoving the toolbox in Sully's hands) you two get in there so I can get outta here. The Celtics are playing tonight.

LOU and SULLY are taken aback by FRANK's aggressive behavior and look at one another.

INT. SPACE STATION HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM

We see bits of fecal and urinary matter floating everywhere.

LOU: They weren't kidding. This is a fucking nightmare.

SULLY: (stops and looks out a window) Gee, Lou, think of all the kids down there, the little kids getting tucked into bed and spanked for eating cookies after their bedtime, they don't know nothing about what's going on up here.

LOU: And I'd prefer to keep it that way. Let's keep going.

They enter the bathroom, even more dismal, with even more fecal and urinary matter floating everywhere.

LOU: Alright, Sully, hand me the plunger.

LOU and SULLY begin to work and we see time elapse. The pressure increases and they begin to sweat. They are really getting in there and there are tools and parts everywhere. Finally, it is all put back together. They flush it and it is successful. Except...

SULLY: It's running. Listen to that, it's not stopping.

LOU: Fuck! Crap!

SULLY: Lou, we can't leave the toilet in that state.

LOU tries to jiggle the handle.

LOU: Fuck! it's not working.

SULLY: (picks up wrench) step back.

SULLY begins to hit the handle with the wrench.

SULLY: Shit, Lou, shit shit shit.

LOU: (looks at his watch) we only got twenty minutes before we's gotta get out of here. Think quick Sully.

SULLY: Oh I thought YOU were in charge, Lou, huh?

LOU: Sully, we don't got TIME to do this now.

SULLY: When will we have time, Lou, when will we have time to talk about this, because it's been two years and so far we've never had time.

LOU: Sully!

LOU's anger climaxes and he hits the handle with an incredible amount of ferocity. SULLY stops, amazed by LOU's strength. LOU looks at the handle, unmoved by his fist, and realizes something terrible.

LOU: Sully, get out of here, go back to the space shuttle.

SULLY: Lou, what are you thinking, you can't...

LOU: SULLY, get out of here. Just go back to the space shuttle.

SULLY: (growing frantic) No, no, Lou, we'll find another way, Lou...

LOU: There is no other way!

SULLY: (growing more frantic) No, I won't let you, I can't...

LOU: Sully, when you get back down there, tell Angela I loved her more than anything else.

SULLY: No, no, don't do this don't say your goodbyes.

LOU: I loved her so much, I messed things up with the most important buddy in my life, and I'll never forgive myself for that.

SULLY: Lou, no, no, you don't need to say this, you don't need to say any of this.

LOU: I've got to...

SULLY: Please, I'll do it instead, you have so much to go home to, I have nothing!

LOU: Sully, look at me, a nuclear explosion is the only thing that will jiggle this handle enough to get it to stop running. And it needs to be detonated by hand. Leave. These walls are made out of Lead Zirconium Titanate, a highly resistant material that will contain the radiation from the blast within this bathroom. But you will need to get on the spaceship because the aftershock of the explosion will likely cause the space shuttle to detach and you're the only one who knows how to land it.

SULLY: (sobbing) No, no, no.

LOU: Go. You have Frank, Eddie, and Vinnie to think about.

SULLY: Lou... I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, I forgive you, I... I...

LOU: I know. None of that matters anymore.

SULLY: You really did love her, didn't you.

LOU: Hurting you was the hardest thing I've ever had to do. But I had to do it.

SULLY: Lou...

LOU: Go!

LOU starts to push the door closed, even though SULLY struggles to keep it open.

LOU (from behind the door): Go, Sully! Go!

SULLY, sobbing, gets up, and runs back to the space shuttle.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE

FRANK, EDDIE, and VINNIE are sitting in there and are startled to see Sully burst in.

FRANK: Everything okay?

SULLY: It's Lou... he... he...

There is an explosion and the space shuttle detaches itself. We see SULLY sobbing in a window that is reflecting the lights of the space station as the space shuttle flies away.

MUSIC: "Coming Home" Scorpions (just the beginning part, the sad part)

EXT. LANDING PAD

The men get off the Space shuttle after a crash landing, sobbing and sweating. They run to be greeted by various women. ANGELA runs up to them, looking for LOU. SULLY delivers the message and Angela collapses in his arms sobbing. Various government men in suits come to comfort her.

EXT. LOU'S FUNERAL

We see LOU's picture. ANGELA is now in black and sobbing. A military man is placing an American flag over LOU's casket.

INT. BEST BUY

SULLY is in Best Buy, in the television department. All the tv's are playing live footage of the funeral and details about Lou's heroic death. A CHILD tugs his MOTHER's pant leg.

CHILD: Mommy, what happened?

The MOTHER begins to answer, but SULLY interrupts.

SULLY: Don't worry about it kid. A good man did a good thing, so you wouldn't have to worry about it.

SULLY picks up his plumber toolbox and leaves the Best Buy, leaving MOTHER and CHILD to ponder what he has just said.