

CHAD HOOGABOOM AND THE WONDERFUL RED WAGON

By

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READER'S NOTE: Everything in this scene (except the human) looks pixilated and digital. It looks like a cut scene from a video game that might open on some --

EXT. FANTASY-REALM VILLAGE - NIGHT

Three moons illuminate the village's imposing centerpiece --

INT. THE ROKKATAR COLISEUM - NIGHT

All manner of OGRE, TROLL and GOBLIN find seats inside the massive arena.

BOOMING VOICE (V.O.)
Each decade, there is a tournament
to determine who will assume the
throne of the kingdom of Rokkatar.

A LARGE BLUE SAPPHIRE ATTACHED TO A BRAIDED GOLD CHAIN.

The sapphire's jagged edges glisten and shimmer. It appears to have been broken in half.

BOOMING VOICE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The winner receives one half of the
Everkey amulet. Split in half
centuries ago, its powers of
invincibility were still intact.
Only the wearer of one half of the
amulet would be able to destroy
whomever wore the other half.
(beat)
Two warriors await the final
challenge.

LORD IRONFISTS

A ten-foot rhinoceros able to stand upright on its hooves. He sports a mohawk, burlap vest and a bad attitude. A brass nose ring adorns his nostrils.

BOOMING VOICE (CONT'D)
The mighty Lord Ironfists.

Ironfists ROARS. He has the favor of the crowd.

BOOMING VOICE (CONT'D)
And Chad Hoogaboom.

CHAD HOOGABOOM

CHAD HOOGABOOM ,32, exudes a fiercely competitive nature for someone built like a giant stuffed carnival prize. He wears ill-fitting gladiator attire. It's not pretty.

The floor near the combatants swings open. The crowd CHEERS.

CHAD

Your days are numbered Lord
Ironfists. For I am Chad Hoogaboom.
Maker of worlds.

A stone table has emerged. Chad confidently turns to the table and becomes completely unglued when he sees that the challenge is --

A Hungry Hungry Hippos game.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Whoa. Time out. In the name of
Samus Aran, this isn't fair.
There's no combo moves. No cheat
codes to input.

Ironfists ROARS a laugh. Chad focuses.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Defeat the boss, win the game.
Defeat the boss, win the game.

A HORN sounds. The match begins. Chad and Ironfists slam their levers. Marbles roll. Hippos munch. Chad needs another set of hands. Three left. Two. A hippo gulps the last marble.

Ironfists is the victor. The crowd ERUPTS. The table opens, revealing the Everkey amulet. Chad doesn't seem surprised by the outcome.

CHAD'S POV - IRONFISTS

The rhino pulls out a sharp blade and points it at Chad's neck. Ironfists leans in to speak.

IRONFISTS

Chad Hoogaboom.

The beast shakes Chad. Ironfists becomes blurry. Morphing into another figure. Then, a different voice --

BECKY (O.S.)

Chad, investors are coming. Wake
up!

BACK TO CHAD

He recognizes the voice. Wakes up and finds himself --

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - CHAD'S OFFICE - DAY (END VIDEO GAME DREAM)

Sitting in his office chair. He realizes a blade still hovers near his neck. Chad lets out a girly scream and CRASHES to the floor in his chair.

Holding the other end of an extraordinary sword is BECKY TERWILLIGER ,29,. Becky's brash n' slash attitude only accentuates her video game heroine looks. She places the sword on Chad's desk and helps him up.

CHAD

Becky, you've ruined the best part of my day.

BECKY

When you're running your gaming company, feel free to have nap time.

Chad examines the sword. Except for a few pictures, Chad's office is devoid of any mementos. A flat screen, gaming system and couch provide the only personality.

BECKY (CONT'D)

The Gelut sword is for Adam. It's considered a weapon, so he can't have it until he's eighteen. Unless you move to Canada. Then it's thirteen.

CHAD

Least he'll have something to look forward to in life.

BECKY

Ladies and Gents, Oscar the Grouch.

CHAD

What's wrong with preparing him for the misery of adulthood? Where's the Fisher Price hellish seventy hour work week play set?

BECKY

I lack the time for another intervention. Stay focused. Up!

Chad listlessly goes to the office door. He trips on a boxed Tonka Dump Truck.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Also for Adam.

CHAD

He's three months old. Showering him with gifts he can't...

(realizes)

You're bribing me for the lead programming position.

BECKY

No. A little credit, please.

(beat)

Fine. Yes. Klay has his doubts --

CHAD

Because you dress like Sammi-Len --

BECKY

To emphasize my qualifications. I've programmed all of her moves. I built the game engine --

CHAD

And when there's a problem, you backpack it to someone else. Klay wants a troubleshooter, not a cheerleader.

Stuck in a corner, Becky points to the sword.

BECKY

Don't make me use it. I know how.

Becky yanks open the door and they both step out into the --

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - HALLWAY - DAY

Innovative Gaming is located in an old brick warehouse. WORKER BEES sit in cubicles, glued to work stations. A loft sits above a break area and an etched glass walled conference room offers a great view of downtown Washington D.C. Yet, for a gaming company, it has all the ambiance of a waiting room.

Leading JAPANESE INVESTORS down the hallway is The Big Kahuna, KLAY JENKINS ,49,. Horn-rimmed glasses typify Klay's professor-like demeanor and adept skill of motivating while humiliating.

Klay introduces the Investors to Becky and Chad.

KLAY
Gentlemen, this is Becky
Terwilliger, our junior game
programmer.

Becky bows. The investors return the gesture.

KLAY (CONT'D)
You'll be seeing Becky working our
booth at Wonder Expo.

This is news to Becky.

BECKY
Since I've been staying late to fix
the maze sequence you said --

KLAY
And our lead game designer, Chad
Hoogabloom.

INVESTOR ONE
Mister Hoogabloom. I would like to
hear the kinds of games you have
planned.

CHAD
Well, it's Hoogaboom, actually. As
for games, I was thinking of...

Chad glances at Klay, who's head shaking tells him, Don't.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Continuing the legacy of the highly
successful Ironfists and Sammi-Len
series.

KLAY
Innovative Gaming has some of the
most loyal and imaginative people
in the industry. As you can see,
you'd be investing in a leader.
(to Chad)
Chad, there's a project up in my
loft I'd like to have you
troubleshoot. Thanks.

The Investors are lead away. Becky glares at Chad.

BECKY
He's milked seven titles out of
you. Aren't you sick of being a toy
in his toy box?

CHAD

If I wasn't valuable to him, would he ask me to troubleshoot his stuff?

INT. KLAY'S LOFT

Chad dejectedly assembles an IKEA shelving unit. Klay sifts through an assortment of Rocky Rockett vintage toys (Circa 1960) on his desk. Klay's office is rustic adult geek.

KLAY

Doubt you've ever heard of the Rocky Rockett show. Was huge when I was growing up.

CHAD

People seem to like spandex clad characters. Spider Man. Richard Simmons.

Klay chuckles at Chad's comment.

KLAY

Always a clear perspective. That's key, seeing as things aren't exactly booming around here.

CHAD

People hope Wonder Expo will produce an investor.

KLAY

And they're right. We'll kick start game development. Show em' Innovative Gaming still has the goods. Dozens of new titles.

Chad clears his throat. Sticks his head out of his shell.

CHAD

Be great if people here could develop a title instead of your ideas.

KLAY

Did I ever mention that I worked for Walter Amherst?

Having seized control of the conversation, Klay wanders around for effect.

KLAY (CONT'D)

Taught me everything I know, Walter did. Created dozens of titles. Don't think the man ever slept. He could spot a hit game before anyone else.

CHAD

Did he do Monkey Wrench Muldoon? I ruled at that game.

KLAY

No. Monkey Wrench was a fluke --

CHAD

It outsells your game. And what's wrong with something new?

KLAY

Here's what's wrong. A child loves his new toy for a few days. It's forgotten in a week. But a man? Men seek repetitiveness. Same teams, same beer, same games. And most important? They buy games. New is a disaster.

Chad retreats into his shell.

KLAY (CONT'D)

Walter taught me that the time for innovation is during periods of success. If you want to run a company someday, you can't make reckless, childlike decisions.

CHAD

Yes sir.

KLAY

Good man Hoogabroom.

Klay raises his fist. Chad grudgingly returns the bump. He returns to the shelf. Doesn't bother correcting Klay's verbal slip.

INT. BREAK AREA - NIGHT

Becky intently plays a video game while Chad searches the fridge.

BECKY

Got leftover sushi in there.

Chad grunts and shuts the fridge. He glances at a sheet posted on the fridge that reads : "Wonder Expo Battle of the Gaming Bands - Sign Up Sheet". There is one lone autograph.

CHAD

Spirited bunch aren't we?

He slinks next to Becky on the couch.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Remember the key to the Ironfists Smash. Go when you see the lights in his eyes.

BECKY

Programmed it. Can do it.

ON THE SCREEN:

Sammi-Len, a female samurai-like warrior, stands off with Ironfists. The rhino's hooves glow. Sammi-Len charges at the beast, but falls prey to the Ironfists Smash. Ironfists's eyes never lit up. Game Over.

BACK TO:

BREAK AREA

CHAD

Want me to pick up a strategy guide for you on Monday?

BECKY

Don't waste your father-son time on me.

CHAD

You make it sound like we're doing three-legged races. I have to babysit at the children's museum while Nikki auditions. Three weeks 'til day care starts. Thankfully.

BECKY

Kids and me are a long way off. Dating pool. Extremely shallow. Yet, I want Nicole to teach me her working mom secrets. Ice flows through that girl's veins.

EXT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - NIGHT

A modest brick townhome in the Georgetown area. The quiet street is rocked by a RHYTHMIC METALLIC POUNDING.

INT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Wielding a wrench and SLAMMING it on a hot water pipe attached to a water heater is NICOLE HOOGABOOM ,30,. Nicole's motherly looks contrast her allegro tempo of a personality. She's a firecracker whose wick has reached its end.

Chad drop his messenger bag and approaches his bride.

CHAD
Hot water out?

NICOLE
Bottle time. How was work?

CHAD
Built a bookshelf.

NICOLE
My hero.

Nicole takes Chad's hand and gently kisses it. It appears to be a very personal, intimate gesture. Chad's gloom doesn't budge.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Something on TV I want to show you
when you're done.

Nicole passes the wrench and heads upstairs. Chad TAPS the pipe a few times. PING. A knob flies off and sails across the room. PLUNK. It hits a black plastic Happy New Year hat and lands near a workbench.

Chad goes for the knob. He passes various garments that hang from a lead pipe, including a tuxedo in a clear garment bag. He hops over an electric guitar case.

As he picks up the knob, he notices a large wooden chest underneath the workbench. He drags out the chest and runs his hand over it, as if it was a treasure chest recently unearthed.

He opens the chest and glances at its bounty. Action figures, plastic animals, Hot Wheels and everything else a young boy would collect.

CHAD

Ahoy mates.

Chad removes various toys and places them on the workbench. He is pleasantly surprised to find an Abraham Lincoln doll and a Vegas-era Elvis Presley statuette.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Hey guys. Sorry we don't have much playtime anymore.

He holds the figures in his hands. It's as if his very soul has been packed away with these toys.

NICOLE (O.S.)

Chad. Adam needs you.

Reluctantly, Chad obliges his wife and heads upstairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Tastefully decorated by West Elm. Books and framed picture adorn funky furnishings. Seated in a bouncer seat is ADAM HOOGABOOM, THREE MONTHS,. Adam is the very definition of "Sears Photo Studio baby model".

Chad sits on the couch, opposite his cooing son. The Abe and Elvis figures lie on the coffee table. Standoff between father and infant. Who will crack first?

CHAD

Food will be here in a moment. So, just, chill. Cool?

Adam's angelic face says, Pick me up big guy. Sensing his son's silent request, Chad slides to the furthest cushion on the couch.

Adam SCREAMS. Chad returns to the center cushion. Adam stops. Desperate for a distraction, Chad grabs the remote.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Got just the show. Three-oh-one.

"Yo Gabba Gabba" appears on-screen. Adam flips out.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Uh... three-five-oh?

C-SPAN. A SENATOR babbling to an empty house soothes Adam. After a bit, the SCREAMING resumes.

Chad picks up the Elvis figure and waves it in Adam's direction, like a rookie zookeeper feeding the lion.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Don't be cruel.

Adam doesn't stop. Chad carelessly tosses Elvis onto the coffee table, causing part of his cape to snap off. Nicole shuffles in with a bottle.

NICOLE
Why didn't you pick him up?

CHAD
Uh, I think he's, you know. Dirty.

Nicole removes Adam from the bouncer seat and takes a peek at Adam's. It's clean. She frowns at her husband as Adam's dinner begins. Nicole grabs the remote.

NICOLE
Here, watch this.

CHAD
Better be "World's Deadliest Crosswalks volume four".

NICOLE
I learned a lot from this show. It was a huge musical influence. You should start watching it.

CHAD
Is this that lame wagon show with those child stars?

NICOLE
This lame wagon show featured a guest list that was a who's who of the seventies.

Nicole hits play. From the TV, an upbeat PIANO DRIVEN MELODY begins.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TREE HOUSE SET (ON TELEVISION) - DAY

A chromo key super reads: "The Wonderful Red Wagon Show - Starring Timmy and Debbie Wilson".

A tree house decorated in kid arts and crafts fashion. A red wagon rests near a picnic table.

Harsh studio lights and an foam tree trunk give away that this is a television studio set. It's very seventies.

Seated at a desk is DEBBIE WILSON, 12,. A hatch door opens and TIMMY WILSON, 13, pops up from the floor. He is holding a large cardboard card. He looks bummed out.

DEBBIE
What's wrong Timmy?

TIMMY
I didn't do so well on my Benjamin
Franklin quiz Debbie.

He shows her the cardboard card, which turns out to be an oversized school quiz. There is a large "F" circled in red.

CHAD
It's the Pong of kids shows.

NICOLE
Two of the saddest moments of my
childhood were when this show was
cancelled and Mr. Hooper died on
Sesame Street.

CHAD
Sesame Street kills off characters?
Bit harsh.

Chad has earned a smack from the remote.

TIMMY
Teacher said I can take the test
again. But I left my history book
at school. I'll never be able to
study.

Debbie smiles. She picks up a Benjamin Franklin doll.

DEBBIE
I know how you can learn all about
Benjamin Franklin.

Timmy lights up.

TIMMY
Groovy. Let's do it.

Debbie walks over to the red wagon and places the doll inside. Debbie and Timmy both grab the handle and start rolling the wagon.

DEBBIE AND TIMMY
Five, four, three, two...

POOF! A flash of light and a cloud of smoke fills the screen. As the smoke evaporates, Timmy and Debbie are now joined by BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
Why hello there. My name is Benjamin Franklin.

TIMMY
Hi Mr. Franklin. I'm Timmy, and this is my sister Debbie. We were hoping you could tell us about your life.

NICOLE
My parents got me my own Wonderful Red Wagon when I was eight. For a year I never let it out of my sight.

CHAD
Thanks for the flashback. I'm done.

NICOLE
Just stay through the song.

She finds the moment. The set lights have been dimmed. Timmy and Debbie each hold acoustic guitars.

TIMMY
Thanks for helping me Debbie.

DEBBIE
Anything for my brother. You're important to me, and like we always say, I couldn't be me without you.

The duo play their trademark song "I Couldn't Be Me Without You". It's a simple song with an encouraging message about being there when someone needs you.

END INTERCUTTING

Nicole gently rocks Adam as she sings along with the song.

Chad feels no such compulsion to join in. He's closed.

NICOLE
I'm definitely making a kids album.

CHAD

Not sure if the Metro station crowd
is the target audience for that.

NICOLE

My Kennedy Center audition is the
first step. I'm not going to be a
receptionist forever.

CHAD

Don't go quitting the law firm
until you have that recording
contract.

NICOLE

Someone in this house has to
pursue their dream.

Ouch.

CHAD

Hey, I am perfectly content with
the life I lead. No problems
whatsoever. None.

INT. D.C. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - PERFORMANCE THEATER AREA - DAY

Chad cannot hide his embarrassment as he sits in a kiddy
chair with Adam asleep in a Baby Bjorn. He watches CONDEMNED
PARENTS drag TANTRUM THROWING BRATS on a death march into a
small performance theater.

LONE PINE LARRY prances over to Chad. Larry is the Cole
Porter of lumberjacks - lyrical and wide swinging.

Larry bursts into a few lines of "My Favorite Trees". It's
"My Favorite Things" but the lyrics mention trees from
redwoods to D.C.'s own cherry blossoms.

LARRY

I hope you and your little birch
tree will come join me, Lone Pine
Larry, for our sensational show
right inside the theater.

CHAD

I had my fill of flakes at
breakfast. Thanks.

LARRY

I'm just filling in until we can find a permanent host, so your attendance would be great. Did I mention there's a sing-along?

CHAD

Dude, Hoogabooms don't humiliate themselves.

Chad picks up an incredibly feminine pink diaper bag and jets away.

INT. FORD'S THEATER - STAGE - DAY

Nicole stands on the infamous stage with her tuxedo-clad singer, ANTONIO ,33, . TWO JUDGES sit in the audience, flanking JANICE DONNETT ,40, a spunky ex-chorus girl who is more regional theater than Broadway.

NICOLE

We'll be doing Mi Mancherai by Josh Groban.

JANICE

Woo hoo. All right. Finally, someone who can shatter the monotony of these things. Hit it.

Janice's outburst embarrasses the other judges.

Nicole begins to play her violin. After a few notes, it's evident she knows what she's doing.

Antonio's voice smoothly relays the passion behind the Italian lyrics.

While they look the part, it's a paint-by-numbers performance. Completely void of emotion. The judges realize this. Janice stands and prepares to John Wilkes Booth their audition.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Hey, gang. That's it. Thanks.

Nicole and Antonio stop. They share a glance of dread.

JANICE (CONT'D)

On behalf of the Kennedy Center I'd like to say --

CUT TO:

EXT. FORD'S THEATER - STAGE DOOR - DAY

Nicole and Antonio square off in the alley. Tears have ruined Nicole's mascara. Her instrument sits on a nearby milk carton.

ANTONIO

Give up. You have a son now. I can't keep skipping work. We're wasting our time.

NICOLE

We just need to find a place that accepts the kind of music we're good at. Please.

Antonio grabs his head. Thinks it over.

ANTONIO

Sorry. I need to get to work.

Antonio opens his tuxedo jacket, revealing a waitstaff apron. He reaches for his order booklet and flips through.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

I gave up a twenty top for this.

He strides away. Nicole's bawling turns to anger. She rips off her high heeled shoes and guns them at a dumpster. THUMP. THUMP.

JANICE (O.S.)

Ever thought about the Redskins?
Quite the arm.

Nicole spins around and finds Janice standing in the stage door. Nicole manages a laugh.

NICOLE

I haven't performed in a few months and Groban isn't my style. I'm so sorry miss --

JANICE

Janice Donnett. What do you play when you're not channeling your inner Yo-Yo?

NICOLE

It's not Kennedy Center stuff.

JANICE

Girl, don't say that. We're not all black tie stuffy. Go. Blow me away.

Nicole picks up her instrument and plays. Her movements are smoother, relaxed. Janice recognizes the tune as the theme to "Gilligan's Island". While not perfect, her performance is noticeably better.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 (cutting off)
 Whoa, easy sister.

Nicole stops.

NICOLE
 (worried)
 Oh shoot. Should have played
 Suicide Is Painless. Is comedy
 your thing? I know the theme --

JANICE
 You're in.

NICOLE
 Really?

JANICE
 That was crazy good. We need
 performances that inspire people. A
 TV theme playing Berklee grad goes
 from Metro stations to the Kennedy
 Center. Like the girl from small
 town Kansas actually getting the
 Annie Oakley part over the
 Juilliard brat.

Nicole's look says, Bitter, aren't we?

NICOLE
 I just lost my singer.

JANICE
 You have until Friday to get a new
 one and work on your stage
 presence. Hey, maybe I can sing for
 you. Check this out.

Janice takes Nicole's hand and starts hopping.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 One two three four five six seven
 eight. Shameil, sha-something, blah
 blah blah incorporated.

Nicole doesn't know how to react.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Not even for Laverne and Shirley?
Come on. Where's the pizzazz? This
is the dream, right?

NICOLE

Oh, I know. Yeah. Yeah. It'll sink
in eventually.

EXT. 10th STREET - DAY

Nicole zestfully runs down the street while letting out a
triumphant scream. As she darts through PEDESTRIANS, she
carelessly SLAMS into a PONY-TAILED GENTLEMAN ,62, .

The impact sends the violin case onto the ground. THUMP. The
Pony-Tailed Gentleman bends down to retrieve it.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh. Sir. I'm so sorry.

PONY-TAILED GENTLEMAN

I didn't think people had resorted
to throwing musical instruments
here.

Nicole smiles, not sure if he's joking. The man's laugh puts
her at ease. Dazed, she picks up her case.

NICOLE

I was just offered the chance to
play the Kennedy Center. Off to
tell my husband. He'll never
believe this.

PONY-TAILED GENTLEMAN

Well then, good luck miss...

NICOLE

Nicole. I'm Nicole.

WALTER (PONY-TAILED GENTLEMAN)

Walter Amherst. Pleasure to meet
you.

Polite smiles, then they head off in opposite directions,
unaware that they will soon impact each other again.

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - HALLWAY - DAY

Klay gives Walter the grand tour. Walter's groomed grey
ponytail exemplifies that of the weekend inventor who was
never quite comfortable working out of the CEO's office.

KLAY

Gamers respond to the familiarity of the Sammi-Len legacy games. You taught me that.

WALTER

I taught you that people like familiar game play, not recycled story lines and levels.

KLAY

I've built one of the top game development companies in the country.

WALTER

And that's why my investors and I are considering buying your company.

Ka-ching!

KLAY

That's great. Besides Ironfists, we have a whole slew of well known properties --

WALTER

I'm interested in what you're going to do, not what you've done.

KLAY

Sure. Some of my ideas --

WALTER

Where's your head game designer?

KLAY

Chad? Oh. Off today. New dad. Committed to his family more than his work.

INT. D.C. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - HALLWAY STAIRCASE - DAY

Nicole rocks Adam in his stroller as she argues with Chad. They stand near a roped off staircase leading to an exhibit floor. Painted on the wall is a logo for "Kid D.C.". A nearby sign reads: "Exhibit Permanently Closed. Space for Lease. Contact Management."

CHAD

I'm not taking a week off, and it's not like our parents can get here at the drop of a hat.

NICOLE

Since you used to be in a band, I thought you'd support me in this. Just a bit.

CHAD

I wasn't delusional about Big Andy and the Velcro Shoes being any good.

The words crush Nicole.

NICOLE

You don't think I'm good?

CHAD

Nothing a few lessons couldn't fix.

Nicole is shocked at his assessment. Chad tries reasoning.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Our life isn't all fun and games anymore. We have a kid. We need to be practical.

NICOLE

You were the least practical person I'd ever met. That's why I fell in love with you.

Chad realizes how far he's fallen.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

You were a kid once. Try and figure out what happened to that guy. I don't think I want this Chad around.

Nicole storms off with Adam. Unable to apologize, Chad retaliates.

CHAD

I'm still fun. I love kidding around. In fact, I'm considering a membership to this Fantasyland.

Having huffed out his retort, Chad notices the --

MUSEUM STORE

Resembling an old-time general store. Predominately displayed in the window is a sign that Chad takes special interest in: "Everything For Your Kid, Or The Kid Inside You".

INT. MUSEUM STORE

SARA, a museum store cashier, arranges the DVD shelf as Chad walks up to her.

CHAD

My wife doesn't think I'm fun. Got any suggestions?

Sara sizes up Chad.

SARA

Underoos might do the trick.

Chad forgets to laugh. Sara turns to the DVD shelf and grabs a DVD boxed set of the Wonderful Red Wagon Show.

SARA (CONT'D)

This was one of the most popular children's shows in the seventies.

CHAD

I'm familiar with it.

Sara glances at the back of the box.

SARA

(reading)

Milton Berle, Peter Sellers, Julie Andrews. Elvis Presley.

(to Chad)

Everyone was on this show.

Chad reluctantly takes the boxed set.

CHAD

Anything else?

SARA

Well, there's that.

Sara points to a large boxed item sitting on a shelf behind the cash register counter. With an intent look of deja vu, Chad examines --

A BOXED WONDERFUL RED WAGON

The box reads "The Wonderful Red Wagon. As seen on the Wonderful Red Wagon Show. From Blammo!"

INT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - BASEMENT - DAY

Chad stands at the workbench, diligently re-applying the cape onto The King. Abe lies in the pile of figures. The wagon has been assembled.

Nicole trots downstairs holding Adam.

NICOLE
Not going to work?

CHAD
Just fixing Elvis before my shower.

Nicole looks at the action figures and the wagon.

CHAD (CONT'D)
(sarcastic)
Like my wagon? Perfect accessory
for a kid like me. Problem solved.

NICOLE
This goes a lot deeper than you
just being a kid.

Disgusted with her husband, Nicole heads upstairs.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Going to the pediatrician. Fix the
hot water.

Frustrated at life, Chad picks up the wrench and WHACKS the pipe, causing the knob to fly off. The knob lands in the pile of Chad's childhood toys, causing some of them to land in the wagon.

Chad doesn't bother with the knob. He solemnly walks past the wagon, oblivious to how it's about to unravel his world.

THE RED WAGON

Begins shaking. Action figures rattle around. The vibrations accelerate. Figures become blurry. It's like a genie about to be released from a lamp. Then suddenly --

ZAP. A MEDIUM SIZED PLASTIC BRACHIOSAURUS appears. Saucer eyed, the dinosaur curiously examines his surroundings.

The MOANING of the lead pipes startles the dinosaur. Recognizing the sound of RUNNING WATER, the Brachiosaurus heads towards the --

INT. MASTER BATHROOM

Chad stands in the shower, scrubbing away.

The bathroom door CREAKS open and the Brachiosaurus peeks in. The dinosaur sniffs hanging towels on a hook, causing them to fall onto his head.

The water stops. Chad's hand reaches out for the missing towel. Confused, the hand finds the head of the dinosaur and rubs it like a bowling ball.

CHAD (O.S.)

What the...

Chad peeks out and yelps at the sight of the dinosaur. He snatches the towels and retreats back into the shower.

The curious dinosaur sniffs at the shower. Towel clad Chad leaps from the tub and dashes past the dinosaur into his --

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Multi-colored PLASTIC COWBOYS AND INDIANS greet Chad, who freaks out again. He side steps towards the hallway door when a voice yells at him from below.

REN (O.S.)

You eediot.

Chad looks down and sees that he almost stepped on REN and STIMPY.

REN (CONT'D)

Your bloated toes almost squashed me into a pancake. Watch eet!

CHAD

I'm sorry, I'm a little distracted by the dinosaur in my bathroom and the cavalry in here.

He realizes who he's talking to.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Will you guys excuse me? Just a minute.

Chad steps over them. Ren turns to Stimp.

STIMPY

Oh Ren, why oh why does nobody try
to squash me?

INT. NURSERY

Having pulled on jeans and a T-shirt, Chad peers into Adam's room. Inside, a KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR astride his HORSE squares off with MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE.

MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE

Wooo yeah, you'll need more than a
suit of armor to take down the
Macho Man.

INT. KITCHEN

RAPHAEL from the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles downs a slice of pizza while Orioles legend CAL RIPKEN JR. drinks milk straight from the carton. They both look at Chad when he enters.

RAPHAEL

Kowabunga dude! This pizza is
radical!

CAL RIPKEN

Any chance there's more milk around
here?

INT. LIVING ROOM

Numb to the astonishing sights he's seen, Chad watches RAGGEDY ANN and RAGGEDY ANDY playfully dance near a LION.

ABE (O.S.)

You keep strange company my boy.

Chad turns. Seated in the same fashion as his famous statue is ABRAHAM LINCOLN ,56,. Abe is poised and proud, as if he walked out of a presidential portrait.

CHAD

President Lincoln?

Abe removes his iconic hat and nods.

ABE

You may call me Abe.

CHAD

This is one demented cut-scene of a
dream.

ABE
 Dream? I assure you, I'm no
 apparition.

DING DONG goes the doorbell.

CHAD
 Abe, I assure you that this can be
 easily remedied with two or three
 Caribou Coffee red eyes.

INT. HALLWAY

Chad opens the door and finds STANLEY the UPS driver.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 Hey Stanley.

Stanley hands Chad a package as well as his delivery tablet.
 As Chad signs the tablet, Abe walks up to the door.

STANLEY
 Morning Mr. Lincoln.

Chad freezes. Abe tips his hat.

CHAD
 You can see him?

The lion walks into the hallway. Stanley gulps.

STANLEY
 Sweet sassafras, there's a lion!

CHAD
 Say hi to the misses.

Chad SLAMS the front door.

ABE
 My boy, are you feeling well?

CHAD
 Gee. Simba is in my living room. A
 Ninja Turtle is eating my leftovers
 and I'm chatting with a dead
 president. No. Not OK. Final
 answer.

AN ELECTRIC GUITAR starts playing somewhere in the house.
 Chad realizes who the performer is.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 No way.

INT. BASEMENT

Rocking out with Chad's Fender guitar is ELVIS PRESLEY ,42,. The hair. The glasses. The white jumpsuit. This is no impersonator. This is The King.

Elvis finishes up with a windmill move. He turns to find Chad and Abe.

ELVIS

Whoa. Didn't see ya there.

Elvis notices Abe. He strikes a military pose and salutes. Abe returns his salute.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

Mr. President. Sargent Elvis Aaron Presley reporting for duty.

BASEMENT - LATER

All of the figures mingle around the basement as Chad examines the absurdity.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

So this magical wagon o'yers, is like a magic lamp? Somethin' crazy.

CHAD

I didn't purposely buy a magic wagon. I bought it as a joke after my wife said I wasn't childish enough.

ABE

The laugh appears to be on you.

ELVIS

So, ya need to get in touch with yer inner kiddo? We can do that.

CHAD

How? A tea party on the ceiling?

ABE

Perhaps we can help illuminate the joys of childhood. When I was a boy, I became very skilled at chopping wood. Can we arrange that?

CHAD

Kind of a liability issue these days.

Cal Ripken wanders over, holding a milk carton.

CAL RIPKEN
Hey buddy. Milk? Give you my
autograph.

The Lion and Brachiosaurus begin GROWLING at each other,
scaring the Knight's Horse. It gets loud.

CHAD
Cal, I told you... ug.

Chad quickly removes all the figures, save for Abe and Elvis.
ZAP ZAP ZAP.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Look, we need to leave. I need to
figure this out and my wife will be
home soon. Let me just pack up your
buddies here.

Chad dumps the figures on the work bench into his messenger
bag.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Let's avoid work for now. Any
suggestions on where to go? Library
of Congress? Hard Rock Cafe?

Abe has an idea.

ABE
I might be able to provide us some
privacy.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The People's House.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - LINCOLN BEDROOM - DAY

Abe and Elvis soak in the atmosphere of the famous room.
Chad wraps his head around the situation as he rocks the
wagon.

ABE
Not how I would have decorated,
but nice nonetheless.

CHAD

(numb)

We're in the White House. I just walked into the White House. How did we get into the White House?

ABE

Under Secret Service Public Law, article one dash zero one, any past president is allowed safe haven inside at any time. So as long as they have the presidential code and the president's personal coin.

Abe reaches into his pocket and removes his personal coin. It is an elaborate gold coin featuring the old Seal of the President.

ELVIS

Never mind his coin trick. Chad, what ya wanna be when ya grew up? A rock n' roller, like 'ol Elvis?

CHAD

I wanted to be president.

Abe beams. Elvis masks his disappointment with a question.

ELVIS

What was ya favorite childhood thing to do? I played my guitar day and night. How I got where I was. Practice. Dedication. Hips.

CHAD

Loved visiting the Air and Space Museum. It's where we keep all our old airplanes and space stuff.

ELVIS

Never understood museums. People paying money to look at old junk.

CHAD

You do know that people from all over the world go to Memphis and pay to look at your old junk.

ELVIS

(seeing the dollar signs)
God bless America.

ABE

I believe this museum is a grand idea.

CHAD

Look, I'm happy to serve at the pleasure of the president, but my boss will start to wonder where I am. Let's just get this over with. Let the healing begin.

ELVIS

Gotta car or something we can take? Elvis don't do taxis or walkin'.

Chad sighs, but a glance at the wagon gives him an idea.

EXT. DUPONT CIRCLE ROTARY - DAY

A BIKE MESSENGER navigates traffic. VROOM. The famous flamboyant green-suited daredevil, LEAPIN' TODD FROGG pulls alongside on his motorcycle. Chad clings onto Frogg.

TODD FROGG

(to Bike Messenger)

Howdy brother. Leapin' Todd Frogg. Great day for a ride.

Chad gives the Messenger a nonchalant nod.

CHAD

'Sup.

Chad and Todd zoom off. Abe and Elvis pull alongside the Messenger in a Hot Wheels Dragon Wagon. It's a hot rod with a green dragon body and beady red eyes. The wagon has been tied to the back with rope.

Abe tips his hat to the confused Messenger. Elvis fires a loaded finger gun and punches the gas.

INT. NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - SOUTH LOBBY - DAY

Abe, Elvis, Todd and Chad stand in the lobby as CAMERA CARRYING TOURISTS roam about. Chad manages the wagon. Abe glances up at the massive Rutan Voyager plane above them.

ABE

What a marvelous flying device.

TODD FROGG

That's Yeager's plane. That devil did everything. Never jumped the rink at Rockefeller Center like yours truly though.

Elvis looks up. Unimpressed.

ELVIS

I gotta bunch of those.

ABE

(to Todd)

Perhaps you could enlighten us with a tour?

TODD FROGG

Sorry Mr. President. If it's not a bike, I don't know nothing about it. You guys need a test pilot or astronaut or something.

ELVIS

I'll call one 'o my boys in Memphis.

Chad rolls his eyes.

CHAD

I know a guy who can help.

INT. PIONEERS OF FLIGHT EXHIBIT

MISTER BIONIC leads the crew through the exhibit. The blue jumpsuit wearing man is dashing and chiseled, not to mention better, stronger and faster. Instead of a right eye, he has a small "bionic eye" telescope.

ELVIS

Captain Dallas McAuliffe. Crazy. Mr. Bionic was my favorite show.

MISTER BIONIC

I personally test piloted many of these planes myself. After my operation my focus shifted to fighting for truth and justice.

Mister Bionic halts the gang at the Apollo 11 capsule.

A PINECONE SCOUT PACK (JACOBY, GLEN, DYLAN and OTHER SCOUTS, all around age 7) and their DEN LEADER look at the ancient spacecraft. Mister Bionic turns to the kids.

MISTER BIONIC (CONT'D)
 Which one of you cadets can tell me
 what famous piece of Americana this
 is?

The kids answer with blank looks of bewilderment.

SCOUT JACOBY
 A weapon of mass destruction?

MISTER BIONIC
 Good try cadet. I flew this puppy
 in nineteen seventy on my trip to
 Mars. This is the Binoic Pod.

Outraged, Chad confronts Mister Bionic. This allows Abe,
 Elvis and Todd the chance to sneak away.

CHAD
 What are you doing? You of all
 people should know what this is.

MISTER BIONIC
 (whisper)
 I'm just playing the role. Besides,
 they're just kids.

Chad sees the confused looks on the faces of the scouts. He
 can't let this deception continue.

CHAD
 Don't listen to him. This is Apollo
 eleven. It's what our astronauts
 used to reach the moon.

SCOUT GLEN
 What's an astronaut?

MISTER BIONIC
 I am. But after a tragic accident
 the government rebuilt me at a
 staggering cost of --

CHAD
 An astronaut flies into space.
 You're heard of "That's one small
 step for man", right?

Again, blank looks from the kids.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 Nobody wants to be an astronaut
 when they grow up? What do you guys
 want to do then?

SCOUT DYLAN

I'm going to move to Plano and be a plastic surgeon.

Chad looks to the Den Leader. What's wrong with these kids?

DEN LEADER

Kids don't discover history anymore. They need to experience it in order to care about it.

At that moment, a JANITOR opens up a metal waste basket and dumps its contents into his garbage cart. He replaces the metal top and walks away.

Chad can't help but notice that the waste basket resembles the Apollo capsule.

CHAD

Attention pack. Prepare for liftoff.

ABE, ELVIS AND TODD

Having snuck away, the trio observe the iconic vehicles of flight that majestically hang overhead.

TODD FROGG

Biggest jump was twenty Greyhound buses. Twenty moving Greyhound buses.

ABE

Seems like you would leap over anything.

Abe's words pierce Todd's mind. He looks around the expansive museum, taking interest in the upper concourse and its gaping opening. No human would dare attempt jumping it. Except --

TODD FROGG

(to Abe)

Yes. Yes I would.

INT. PIONEERS OF FLIGHT EXHIBIT

The pack is gathered around Chad, who crouches next to the metal trash can. Chad talks to the "Push" door on the trash can, as if something was inside.

CHAD

Apollo eighteen this is mission control, do you read me?

Chad pushes the metal door and the head of Scout Jacoby pops up.

SCOUT JACOBY
I read you loud and clear mission
control. Ready for launch.

Jacoby ducks down as Chad shuts the door. Chad grabs the trash can and begins shaking it. The scouts giggle.

CHAD
We are go for launch in three. Two.
One. Blast off.

He makes rocket lift-off sounds.

INTERCUT WITH:

INSIDE THE TRASH CAN

Scout Jacoby shakes inside the can. He's having a blast. Kind of.

Chad tips the trash can and starts to roll it around. He's into it.

CHAD
Imagine being strapped into the
cockpit for days at a time,
circling the Earth. Ready for
reentry Commander Jacoby?

Jacoby clutches his stomach. A different kind of re-entry will be happening shortly.

END INTERCUTTING

Chad places the trash can upright and shakes the can even harder.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Reentry happened at hypersonic
speeds, and the capsule got really
hot. Finally, they'd splash into
the ocean.

Chad gives the trash can one last hard rock back and forth. Ends with a THUD. He dumps a bottle of water onto the can.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Safe and sound. Welcome back.

Chad removes the trash can lid and peers inside. He recoils at what he sees. He pinches his nose and tries to remain upbeat.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 Commander Jacoby will need a new
 space suit. Anyone else wanna ride?

Every scout hand enthusiastically shoots up. Chad beams at their reaction to his makeshift simulator.

INT. APOLLO TO THE MOON EXHIBIT

The Pinecone Scouts (including Jacoby, who now sports an Air and Space museum T-shirt) imitate Chad as he takes long, slow exaggerated steps, pretending to walk on the moon.

INT. MOON ROCK EXHIBIT

Chad eagerly lifts each scout for a better view. He delights in seeing their reaction to the lunar artifact.

INT. SOUTH LOBBY

The tour has concluded. Chad shares high fives as he tries to remove Jacoby from his leg. Mister Bionic looms nearby.

CHAD
 I'm sure your parents will let you
 play in the dumpster. Now, scoot.

Jacoby unhinges himself, but plants a goodbye hug. Chad genuinely returns the affection. Abe and Elvis wander up to Chad as Jacoby waves goodbye.

ABE
 You were quite the leader with
 those children. Very impressive
 Chad.

CHAD
 Needed to step up or Bionic dude
 here would have told them he walked
 on Saturn.

MISTER BIONIC
 But, I did.

CHAD
 Where's Todd?

ELVIS

Last I saw 'em, he was askin' some
guy how high and long this opening
was.

Opening? No. Chad runs over to Mister Bionic.

CHAD

I need your help.

Chad grabs Mister Bionic's head and looks in the back of his
bionic eye.

CHAD'S POV - THROUGH THE BIONIC EYE

Bionic cross hairs scan the museum, landing on Todd who is
REVVING up his motorbike. Helmet on. Ready to ride.

END POV

Chad hurls Mister Bionic aside.

CHAD (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Todd. No!

TODD FROGG

REVS the bike. Turns the throttle. Takes off. CONFUSED GUESTS
scatter. Todd zooms past exhibits. Heading for the opening.

CHAD

Looks for a solution. His eyes land on the wagon, and the
Todd figure. He lunges at the wagon and yanks the Todd Frogg
figure and bike out.

TODD FROGG

Inches from the glass railing. ZAP. Vanishes. TOURISTS AND
MUSEUM EMPLOYEES stand around slack jawed.

EXT. AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - DAY

Chad, Abe, Elvis and Mister Bionic dash from the museum.
Elvis totes the wagon.

CHAD

New rule. Nobody stays longer than
necessary.

MISTER BIONIC

Does that mean?

CHAD

Roger that.

Chad reaches in and removes Mister Bionic. ZAP. He disappears.

ABE

Perhaps we should be spending this time with your wife and son. Let her work on her performance.

CHAD

Nikki's fine. Probably got her performance down pat by now.

EXT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - FRONT STEPS - DAY

Nicole finishes a frustration scream. She angrily stomps up and down.

NICOLE

Why... can't... I... do this?

Adam CRIES, causing Nicole to dash back inside.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Thanks for the practice time Chad.

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - FREIGHT ELEVATOR - DAY

Chad, Elvis and Abe ride in the moving elevator.

CHAD

Gentlemen, welcome to Innovative Gaming.

Abe curiously examines his surroundings.

ABE

It's rather small.

ELVIS

Shouldn't we be doin' kiddo things Chad?

CHAD

Nikki would appreciate a fun loving and employed husband.

ABE

Chad, should people start to ask --

CHAD

Just say you're in town for Wonder Expo. Unlike our last stop, I think you two will fit right in here.

ELVIS

Why do ya say that?

INT. BECKY'S CUBICLE

Becky feverishly taps on her computer keyboard, as OLLIE INGRAM ,32, a man who's only frame of reference happened a long long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, waves a plastic lightsaber. He's happy to provides his own sound effects.

OLLIE

We should combine powers. Together, Ollie and Becky could rule the galaxy as boyfriend and girlfriend.

Becky yanks her head back in disgust.

BECKY

I only date within my genre.
(stands)
I'll be in Chad's office.

She pushes past Ollie, who yells off to his fleeing princess.

OLLIE

Search your feelings, you know it to be true.

INT. HALLWAY

LOUD ROCK MUSIC streams out of Chad's office. Becky intently BANGS on the door.

CHAD (O.S.)

Yeah?

BECKY

Need maze programming help. Please.

Chad pokes his head out.

CHAD

I'm beta testing something in here.

Becky shoves past him and sees --

INT. CHAD'S OFFICE

Abe and Elvis are engaged in a Guitar Hero war. Abe performs an uncharacteristic guitar move. He's feeling it.

ABE

You failed to realize that I grew up wielding an axe.

Becky sizes up the scene, then notices the wagon.

BECKY

No way. I always pretended my dolls came alive when I put them in my Wonderful Red Wagon.

She notices Chad's figures lying on the couch, especially a Monkey Wrench Muldoon figure.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Klay know you have a Monkey Wrench Muldoon figure?

CHAD

No. No. He doesn't. Now, why don't we --

Becky picks up the figure and tosses it into the wagon. Chad is seconds late from stopping it.

BOOM. Chad's closet door flies open and MONKEY WRENCH MULDOON emerges. The surly Irishman is dressed in overalls, hard hat and holds an oversized monkey wrench.

MONKEY WRENCH

Someone need Victoria here ta give 'em a metal peck on da head?

Becky is impressed.

BECKY

Wow. He looks just like Monkey Wrench Muldoon.
(to Chad)
How did you do that?

Elvis saunters up to Becky.

ELVIS

That wagon o' his is the real deal sister.

CHAD

Elvis. Shut it.

Too late. Becky pieces things together. Elvis, Abe and Monkey Wrench in the wagon. Living, breathing versions of them standing around.

BECKY

The wagon... it works? They're real?

CHAD

Beck, you can't tell anyone.

Becky grabs her head and sits on the couch.

BECKY

I need to render this information.

CHAD

Mister Wrench. Hi. Look, there's been some confusion. See, we're about to troubleshoot a game problem. So, thanks for...

Having eavesdropped on the conversation, Becky looks up.

BECKY

He can help.

CHAD

With a programming issue?

Becky hops up and rushes to Monkey Wrench.

BECKY

It's not. It's a gaming issue. He wanders though mazes all the time. He can help us experience what it's like inside a maze.

MONKEY WRENCH

Kinda tired of fightin' off those Puffball Kingdom buggers. Dis might be fun.

CHAD

What is this, Tron? No. We will solve this by debugging, re-coding and testing.

Muldoon goes nose to nose with Chad.

MONKEY WRENCH

Oh, don't think yew can take me eh?

Chad considers the challenge.

CHAD

Can I bring my own guy?

Monkey Wrench nods. Chad tosses an 3 3/4-inch Action Squad figure into the wagon.

SMASH. Chad's office window shatters into pieces as WISEGUY, rappels into the office. Decked out in an extreme soldier outfit, Wiseguy is a true American hero.

WISEGUY

Special operations officer Wiseguy
of Action Squad reporting for duty.

CHAD

At ease, uh, officer. Would you
care to help in an operation of
sorts?

WISEGUY

Affirmative. We'll need weapons.
Where's your armory?

INT. GROCERY STORE - CHECKOUT COUNTER - DAY

Chad and Wiseguy observe a CASHIER ring up Wild West pistols, suction cup bow and arrows, Nerf shooters, Super Soaker guns, toy disk guns and water balloon grenades.

WISEGUY

General Hoogaboom. Permission to
add candy to our purchase, sir?

Chad shrugs. Wiseguy hurls entire boxes of candy onto the conveyor belt.

WISEGUY (CONT'D)

Never underestimate the importance
of rations in the heat of battle.

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - BREAK AREA - DAY

One half of the PROGRAMMING TEAM (Seven Male, Three Female, including Becky and Ollie) wear cowboy accoutrements and hold Nerf weaponry. The other half has mostly bows and arrows. Ollie has his trusty lightsaber.

Wiseguy addresses the troops with Monkey Wrench, Abe, Elvis and Chad nearby.

WISEGUY

Think like the enemy. Use your instincts instead of what you know to be true.

OLLIE

Shut off the targeting computer. Nice.

MONKEY WRENCH

Ay, this ninny needs an order to change his mind. Let's get it on.

Monkey Wrench fires a water balloon at him. SPLASH. Wiseguy responds with a few missiles from his Nerf gun. Everyone starts giggling. The match begins.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Chad and Wiseguy are pinned down at one end of a large conference table by Ollie and DAVID. There is no escape.

WISEGUY

Reminds me of the time Scorpion Commander had me pinned down in the jungle.

CHAD

How'd you get out?

WISEGUY

Distraction. Flushed em' out.

Chad peers over the edge of the table and notices the Polycom on the far edge of the table. Inspiration hits. He grabs another phone and dials a number. The Polycom rings.

DAVID AND OLLIE

The ringing annoys David. Ollie holds him down.

DAVID

It's no good, I can't take it.

OLLIE

Stay on target.

DAVID

We're too close.

OLLIE

Stay on target.

David leaps up and answers.

DAVID

Yello?

WISEGUY AND CHAD

WISEGUY

Now!

Chad launches himself onto the table and belly slides down the smooth surface. He pelts David in pseudo-John Woo style with Nerf missiles.

OLLIE

The force is strong in this one.

Chad stops sliding and rolls onto his back. He starts giggling uncontrollably at the fun he's having.

INT. BREAK AREA

Chad and Wiseguy exchange separate vollies with STACEY. Chad runs out of Nerf ammo.

Wiseguy covertly directs Chad's attention to a plate of cupcakes lying on the counter. In one motion, Chad snatches the cupcakes and hurls them at Stacey.

CHAD

Rapid-fire.

The cupcakes splatter onto Stacey's shirt and face. Curious, she samples a cupcake.

STACEY

Good call on the red velvet.

INT. KLAY'S LOFT

Armed with water balloons, Chad and Wiseguy huddle behind a couch in the loft. Becky and Monkey Wrench hide under the staircase below.

Chad seems nauseous as he mentally sizes up the drop from the loft to the floor.

CHAD

Not a bad drop. Not a bad drop.

MONKEY WRENCH (O.S.)

Was afraid of heights too me boy.
Odd, considering I leap all day
long.

CHAD
How'd you beat it?

MONKEY WRENCH

MONKEY WRENCH
Had tu save the Puffball Queen. Wuz
inside her castle. Grabbed onto a
tapestry. Took the leap. Had to
change me undies.

CHAD AND WISEGUY

WISEGUY
He's just pulling your leg. Stay
here. I'll get em' from below.

As Wiseguy stealthily leaps over the railing, Chad hears FEET
climb the stairs.

CHAD
Gotcha!

He blind fires. SPLASH. SPLASH. Chad leaps and realizes he's
hit --

WALTER AND KLAY

Walter's jacket is soaked. Klay's hair is drenched. Chad
forces words out.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Mister Amherst. Nice to soak you.
Uh, know you!

KLAY
Walter, this is Chad, my head game
designer. He'll be happy to tell us
what the devil he's doing.

CHAD
I was demonstrating a method to fix
the maze scene. Operation: Cowboys
and Indians.

Walter starts laughing.

WALTER
Good to see people are looking at
things with fresh eyes.

CHAD
Sir, I can explain --

WALTER

Excellent. How about lunch tomorrow?

KLAY

Oh. Well. I can get us a table at --

WALTER

Your presence isn't necessary Klay. I'd like to get an unfiltered idea of how this place works. Perhaps hear what Mr. Hoogaboom has for game ideas as well.

Klay gloats at Chad. Chad gulps, but manages a polite nod to Walter. He then turns to the assembled crew at the bottom of the stairs.

CHAD

I'd say soaking the investor qualifies as an Indians win!

The Indians erupt into excited hoots and hollers. They discharge weapons into the air.

Chad playfully climbs down the stairs to celebrate. He beams with pride as he spreads high fives. Probably the most fun he's ever had at Innovative Gaming.

INT. CHAD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Chad says goodbye to Monkey Wrench and Wiseguy.

MONKEY WRENCH

Whenever you're in a pickle, just gimme a holler.

CHAD

I appreciate that.
(to Wiseguy)
At ease soldier.

Wiseguy salutes. Chad removes the figures. ZAP. The pair vanish.

The office door swings open and Klay enters. Furious, he surveys Abe, Elvis and the wagon.

KLAY

Don't pull any shenanigans in front of Walter tomorrow. He's the key to both of our futures in this industry. Are we clear?

Klay sticks out his fist. Chad hesitantly returns the bump. Klay nods and exits. Chad turns to his figures.

ELVIS

Gotta way we can get home?

Chad smiles. He most certainly does.

EXT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - STREET - NIGHT

Chad sits behind the wheel of a life size Tonka Dump Truck, attempting to parallel park between two cars. Elvis stands outside and provides directions.

ELVIS

Give 'er a little gas.

The truck moves backwards... just a bit too fast. The massive wheels flatten the rear car's hood, making a LOUD CRUNCH. The truck stops. Elvis gives the thumbs up.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

At's good.

INT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Abe and Elvis sit on the couch, caught in between a heated tennis volley between Nicole and Chad. Nicole holds a CRYING Adam.

CHAD

This is a huge meeting Nikki. My job depends on it. I can't baby-sit while you practice.

NICOLE

No. You can't stand your job. I'm going after my dream. The least you could do is watch Adam, especially since I need to cook your Wonder Convention sleep over friends.

Abe stands.

ABE

Madam, Mr. Presley and I will not be a bother. And permit me to say what a kind host your husband has been. Why, today at the museum --

Chad shushes Abe. Nicole shoots a suspicious look. Abe and Elvis look to Chad. You're going to tell her, right?

CHAD

You wanted me to be more kid like.
I went to a museum. What's wrong
with that?

NICOLE

It's insulting. I need to practice,
so don't even think about leaving
this house tomorrow unless you find
a sitter.

Nicole heads upstairs, bouncing Adam to calm him down. Elvis
clears his throat and stares at Chad.

CHAD

Like she'd believe me if I told her
I had a magical wagon.

ELVIS

Don't be cruel to that girl. Might
not have anyone to come back home
to one day.

Abe silently sizes up the room.

ABE

Might we stay at my place instead?

INT. NURSERY

Frustrated, Nicole hurries a lullaby as she rocks the
SCREAMING Adam. Elvis enters.

NICOLE

Rock-a-bye baby... come on Adam,
calm down.

ELVIS

Give yeh a hand 'lil lady?

Elvis picks up Adam and starts to sing one of his hits in
lullaby style. It works. Elvis places the sleeping infant
inside the crib. Nicole is in awe of the performance.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

Ain't no child gonna fall asleep
when you sing to em' like that.

NICOLE

Elvis tunes instead of soothing
lullabies?

ELVIS

It's like playing to an audience.
You can have the best song, the
best band, but if you don't mean
what you're singing, audience won't
believe it.

NICOLE

Well. Thank you.
(imitating)
Thankyouverymuch.

Elvis bows before slipping out of the room. Nicole is amused
by his helpfulness.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Elvis finds Chad at the bottom of the stairs.

CHAD

You have to baby-sit for me, so I
can take this meeting tomorrow.

ELVIS

I'm gonna help you, not watch after
yer kid.

CHAD

You'd be helping me. Indirectly.

ELVIS

Gimme one good reason why.

INT. KITCHEN

Chad shows Elvis the endless possibilities inside the fridge.
Elvis licks his lips.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

Lord have mercy.

EXT. GEORGETOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - STREET - DAY

Chad and Abe cross the street as a VALET climbs into the dump
truck. Chad toes the wagon.

CHAD

Feel free to wander around, but
don't buy anything. I'll be at --

Chad looks across the street to the restaurant he'll be
dining at. His enthusiasm drops. Zumi Sushi.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Sweet Mario Brothers, I can't stand sushi.

ABE

Perhaps you could request another establishment.

CHAD

No. I'll find a conversation topic that doesn't revolve around raw fish.

INT. ZUMI SUSHI - DAY

An intimate sushi restaurant, decorated with the standard Koi pond and Lucky Cat statues. ZIPPY WAITSTAFF serve the LUNCHTIME CROWD. A SUSHI CHEF works his magic at a central sushi bar.

Chad sits with Walter, who examines the wagon and its contents - Abe, Elvis and a Joe Montana figure.

CHAD

Yeah, I just picked it up for my son. He'll love it. Hey, do you like Joe Montana?

WALTER

Sorry. Never got into football. I wouldn't know what to ask Joe Montana if he joined us at this table.

Walter digs into his sushi. Chad looks past Walter and makes eye contact with JOE MONTANA, who is seated in a booth. Chad shakes his head. It's a no go.

WALTER (CONT'D)

I see you're a Lincoln fan. I'm a history buff as well.

CHAD

Yeah, Lincoln. Huge fan. Been to his bedroom in the White House. Very cool. Very Lincoln.

An odd statement, but Walter moves past it. Chad sips his water. His eyes dart around the restaurant. What to do?

Chad looks back at Joe, who holds a football and demonstrates a pass to his WAITER. Then he spots a SPUNKY TODDLER happily throwing his chicken tempura onto the floor. That's it.

WALTER

What's your take on turning around
Klay's company.

CHAD

Seems like a bad time to be
innovative. I'd just, you know,
stick with what works.

Seizing his moment, Chad lifts a roll and flicks it across
the room. It sails towards the --

SUSHI BAR

The roll lands on the prep mat. Returning to his station, the
Chef finds the complete roll. He shrugs it off and returns to
his work.

CHAD AND WALTER

Chad hears the Spunky Toddler GIGGLE. The two make eye
contact. Apparently, The Spunky Toddler has been admiring
Chad's food throwing skills.

Walter finishes a long, thoughtful sip of his drink.

WALTER

You don't get it. Nobody does.

Chad's attention returns to Walter.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Companies need to be innovative.
They need to focus on what inspires
them. Build games around that. Your
gaming exercise inspired your crew.
Thought I was on a playground.

Chad considers Walter's rant. As Walter digs in, Chad palms a
roll and flashes it at his friend. Spunky Toddler claps. Chad
obliges.

SUSHI BAR

THUMP. The roll lands amongst freshly cut rolls. Annoyed, the
Chef looks for the culprit. He finds a T-SHIRT WEARING PUNK
downing California Rolls at the sushi bar.

Chef hurls the roll at the Punk. It smacks him square in the
face. Punk's eyes meet the Chef's. The Chef shows off his
knife, as if to say, Don't do that again.

CHAD AND WALTER

CHAD

I don't think playground antics
will save our company.

Walter drops his chopsticks. Tries to find a way to make his point. He recalls a moment.

WALTER

Monday, I bumped into a woman.
Literally. Thought I had broken her
violin.

Chad perks up. Violin?

WALTER (CONT'D)

She was off to tell her husband
that she was going to play at the
Kennedy Center. Now, let's say this
woman was your wife.

Chad can't believe what he's hearing.

CHAD

Let's.

WALTER

Would you support her passion and
encourage her? Or does grown-up
Chad really know what's best? If
you truly have no place for
playground antics in life, why
would this woman stick with you?

Walter senses Chad's answer. He wipes his lips and stands. Places a hand on Chad's shoulder.

WALTER (CONT'D)

I'm not investing in a company. I'm
investing in its people.

Chad considers this.

WALTER (CONT'D)

I look forward to hearing a game
idea from you.

Walter drops money and exits. Frustrated, Chad SLAMS his fist on the table and gets up to leave. He turns to his friend, who patiently waits for Chad to fling the final roll.

Chad gazes at the Tot. Then the roll. He can't let him down. He picks up the last roll and tosses it at the --

SUSHI STATION

The roll lands in the Chef's hair. Furious, the Chef grabs his knife, leaps over the station and charges at the punk. A chase ensues. Diners look on in bewilderment.

CHAD

Watches the Spunky Toddler gleefully clap and laugh at the absurd scene. Chad cracks a smile. This childish behavior thing suits him well.

INT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Nicole goes through the motions of a soulless performance. Singing comes from the nearby baby monitor. It's the unmistakable pipes of The King. Nicole stops. Listens.

INT. NURSERY

Adam is treated to a private performance by Elvis. Channeling his glory years, Elvis wipes his brow with a burp cloth and casually tosses the souvenir to Adam.

ELVIS

Now, don't go throwing up on that.

Elvis dramatically rises and performs his trademark cape reveal. Still in the groove, he jumps when he sees Nicole standing in the doorway.

NICOLE

You're pretty good at that.

ELVIS

Been on stage as much as I have,
kinda second nature.

NICOLE

I meant baby-sitting.

Nicole moves over to her son and gives him a gentle tickle.

ELVIS

How's yer little number coming
along?

NICOLE

Ug. Biggest performace of my life
and I'm going to step out there and
embarrass myself.

ELVIS
Let ol' Elvis help ya.

NICOLE
Performance lessons from the Elvis
impersonator?

ELVIS
Only one Elvis. Only one you. Make
the performace your own. That's how
they'll remember you.

Nicole contemplates the offer.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Elvis and Nicole stand side by side, ready to rock. Nicole
grasps her instrument. Adam is the lone audience member.

ELVIS (CONT'D)
The key is to think that you're
performing to one person, nota
whole crowd. Don't move around like
yer on eggshells. Move with
purpose. Strut yer stuff like a
peacock.

Elvis rhythmically struts his stuff. Controlled. Cool.

ELVIS (CONT'D)
Give it a go.

Nicole starts playing. Her movements resemble Frankenstein
waltzing. She closes her eyes. Gradually, the movements
become more energetic, an extension of her playing.

ELVIS (CONT'D)
At's my girl.

Nicole is in the moment. She kicks off her slippers and
glides barefoot across the hard wood floor. She feels it.

ELVIS (CONT'D)
Now, emotion is everything. Gotta
channel 'em. Let the violin emote
for ya. Cool?

Nicole nods.

ELVIS (CONT'D)
I got just the tune. Follow along.

Elvis starts to sway, ramping up to the rhythm in his mind. He breaks into song. Nicole picks up quickly. Before you know it, the duo is rocking the living room.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

The practice winds down. Elvis performs his theatrical exits while Nicole provides the music. The audience member is asleep. Nicole stops playing and graciously curtsies.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

I think yer ready.

NICOLE

Thanks, but there won't be a show unless I find a singer.

ELVIS

Well, I've been on stage a bit. Don't seem like ya have any other options.

Nicole warms to the idea.

NICOLE

Yeah, this could work. Last thing any performer wants is to look unprofessional.

EXT. WEST POTOMAC PARK - STAGE - DAY

Ollie gleefully plays a familiar ditty known as the "Cantina Band Song" on his alto sax. GAMING INDUSTRY TYPES soak in the awkward performace as they schmooze and dine.

EXT. BEHIND THE STAGE

Chad pitches game ideas to the Great Emancipator.

CHAD

Got it. Aliens invade earth, and the only ones that can stop them are a secret army of zombies.

ABE

You're not an aggressive person, yet you constantly speak of these wartime scenarios.

CHAD

A violent shoot 'em up is a company's best chance of a hit.

ABE

Taking this country to war was not a popular decision, but it had to be done. A leader does what's in the best interest of the many. To help the cause.

CHAD

I'm not looking to be president. I just want to make a good game and not lose my family in the process.

ABE

The solution to both problems requires the same answer.

Becky bursts into the area.

BECKY

We need another act. Ollie's not exactly bringing down the house.

STAGE

Ollie awkwardly performs the "Ewok Celebration Song", occasionally pausing to interject the Ewok chanting.

BEHIND THE STAGE

CHAD

I'm more concerned with the game idea than some band competition.

Becky eyes Chad's messenger bag. She starts digging through.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I don't think any of my action figures do musical numbers.

BECKY

These do.

Becky holds up five dolls that resemble a bubble gum pop band.

CHAD

My sister's Boyz of Summer dolls?
Beck, I --

Too late. The figures are tossed into the wagon. Nearby, a backstage outhouse RUMBLES. The door swings open and THE FIVE MEMBERS OF BOYZ OF SUMMER, early 20's, emerge. Each has a squeaky-clean look with a touch of "bad" side. Everything about them is choreographed, including their breathing.

KEVIN

Hi. I'm Kevin Summer, this is my brother Kelly.

KELLY

This is my pal Quincy O'Neal.

QUINCY

That's Zach Ross.

ZACH

And he's Doug Jewell.

DOUG

Together we're --

ALL FIVE BOYS

(a cappella)
The Boyz of Summer.

The boys slide into a funky group pose. The pose allows everyone to realize that Zach is missing his left arm.

Ollie comes off stage and sees Zach sans arm. He passes out, THUMPING onto the floor and landing on his alto sax.

BECKY

Where's his arm?

Chad guiltily turns to the group.

CHAD

I told my sister that I'd rip his arm off unless she got out of my room.

QUINCY

Well, it's OK. He's still got his pipes. Right Zach?

Chad walks over to Zach.

CHAD

Whoa, I'm not letting the one-armed man here out on the stage. Think of something else.

Becky can't help but notice how well Chad would fit in Zach's clothes. Chad sees Becky's gears turning. She wouldn't actually suggest --

STAGE

Chad nervously stands alongside the Boyz of Summer, wearing Zach's clothes. The audience observes the absurdity.

CHAD (CONT'D)

This might be a bad time, but I haven't sung in a while. Too busy making video games.

DOUG

Man, I love video games. What are you working on?

CHAD

Oh, this video tycoon wants to see something different, something inspiring.

KELLY

It's like writing a song. What's important to you?

Chad doesn't know. He gazes across the basin for an answer. He notices the beautiful Cherry Blossoms. Watches the petals dance in the breeze. His mind drifts away, finding a song lyric that Lone Pine Larry sung.

CHAD

(sings)

"Cherry blossoms that bloom in our city each spring."

He looks towards the greenway. Notices the activity around him. PARENTS teach a YOUNG GIRL how to ride a bike. FATHER and SON toss a football. Everywhere he looks, childhood things. The light bulb flicks on.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I got it. It's a game about childhood things.

Chad breaks into an a cappella song about his "Favorite Childhood Things". The Boyz of Summer provide a choreographed backup. The crowd loves it. There's a big finish. Chad is exhilarated, as if the child inside has been awakened.

BEHIND THE STAGE

Chad changes back into his clothes as he talks with Abe, who holds Chad's first-place trophy.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I wanna get to work and figure out this game. And I want to sing the whole way there.

Abe motions to the Boyz who stand around high-fiving each other. It's difficult for Zach.

ABE

It may be prudent to find another way of expressing this idea other than them. Perhaps a written version, or some visual aid.

Visual aid?

CHAD

What about arts and crafts?

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - OLLIE'S CUBICLE - DAY

Chad pleads with a defensive Ollie, who points to his work in progress Death Star made from construction paper.

OLLIE

I need paper to make this battle station operational. Now, if you'll pardon me.

Ollie stands and reaches for his wallet. Hmm... not in that pocket. Or the others.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Seem to have misplaced my credits. Need to procure some sweets.

Chad has an idea.

CHAD

(Jedi)

You will like my solution.

Chad reaches into his messenger bag and tosses assorted candy bars and treats onto the floor. Ollie salivates at the bounty of sugar.

OLLIE

The winning hand in the Cloud City Sabacc Tournament.

Ollie throws himself to the ground and begins feasting.

INT. RECEPTION AREA

Chad makes a swap with MEGAN, the receptionist. A candy bar for glitter nail polish.

INT. DAVID'S CUBICLE

Chad deals liquorice for David's dry packet of mac and cheese.

INT. CHAD'S OFFICE

Chad grabs framed photos of himself, Nicole and Adam.

INT. BREAK AREA

Tables are filled with used popsicle sticks, crayons, milk cartons and other arts and crafts items. Chad happily glues pretzel rods to construction paper. There is passion behind his movements.

INT. BECKY'S CUBICLE - NIGHT

David guides Sammi-Len though the maze sequence of the game while Becky proudly watches. Ollie walks up.

DAVID

Ollie. She fixed the maze glitch.
Works great.

Becky turns to accept Ollie's kudos.

OLLIE

Impressive. Most impressive. But
you are not a Jedi yet.

He moves on. Becky fusses, as if she knows he's right.

INT. BREAK AREA

Chad cheerfully tapes his arts and crafts projects to the fridge. His iPhone rings.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Nicole talks on her cell phone while Elvis dances around the kitchen with Adam.

NICOLE

Oh good. You're still there.

CHAD

Might be here for a while. What's up?

NICOLE

I need to get some more practice in, but Adam is getting cranky. Elvis has been great.

(whispers)

He really thinks he's Elvis.

CHAD

Yeah he's... authentic.

NICOLE

I haven't been in front of a real audience for a while. Anyone at work interested in a hearing a dress rehearsal?

Chad looks over at his messenger bag which lies near the wagon.

CHAD

I can round up a few people.

END PHONE CALL

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - OUTSIDE CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Abe and Nicole wait outside closed conference room doors. Chad's MUFFLED VOICE comes from behind the etched glass. Nicole attempts small talk with Abe.

NICOLE

Is this your first time in D.C.?

ABE

No. I used to live here. Long time ago. Loong time ago.

Abe sees Nicole's twitching hand.

ABE (CONT'D)

Do you feel you are prepared for your stage performace?

NICOLE

We'll know at eight thirty on Friday, won't we?

The conference room doors swing open and Chad emerges.

CHAD
 (to Nicole)
 They're all set. You ready?

She nods and takes a deep breath. Calm. She proudly lifts her violin and bow and confidently strides into the --

CONFERENCE ROOM

Nicole turns to nod to her audience. She screams when she sees --

TWO DOZEN ACTION FIGURES sitting around the table. Many are instantly recognizable. FRANKENSTEIN, C-3PO and R2-D2, STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE. Is that SPIDER MAN? That's definitely BUZZ LIGHTYEAR.

Chad rushes up to his wife.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 Did someone try something?
 (to Frankenstein)
 She's not dead Frank!

Frankenstein moans. Wasn't me.

NICOLE
 No... I was just... startled. I'm good.

Chad steps up to the table.

CHAD
 Ladies and gentlemen, Nicole
 Hoogaboom.

The figures applaud, howl, stomp or BLEEP.

Nicole closes her eyes. The bow strikes the strings and the music begins. It abruptly stops. She's frustrated.

NICOLE
 Sorry. Not hearing a vocal cue is weird.

CHAD
 Need a singer?

NICOLE
 You?

CHAD
 Dunno if you remember, but I used to be in a band.

NICOLE

(playful)

I seem to recall something like that. Remember what I was playing the night we met?

CHAD

You mean the night you were wearing the green strapless dress?

(pause)

Nope. Not a details kinda guy.

There's a giggle. He takes her hand and kisses it. It's a school yard crush, with the two kids being a little older.

Nicole starts to play an upbeat and hopeful tune, "Believe it Or Not", the theme from "The Greatest American Hero".

Chad begins. Uncomfortable at first. As he sings, the lyrics become meaningful. It's his story, and he owns the song.

Nicole gently prances in her bare feet. Each sway of the bow is personal. She has seized the moment.

INT. HALLWAY

Klay walks down the hallway towards the conference room. The etched glass walls shield the identity of the figures.

KLAY

Is there a Violin Hero now?

Passing Chad's open office door, Klay notices the wagon, left out in plain sight. He notes the plastic action figures inside. Aliens. Frankenstein. Spider Man.

The music from the conference room stops, giving way to enthusiastic applause. Then --

The conference room doors open and Abe leads a parade of figures out. Klay ducks into a cubicle and watches as Abe leads the figures into Chad's office.

ABE

Single file please... you were a great audience... easy there space man.

Klay can't believe his eyes. Was that Buzz Lightyear?

As the last figure enters, Abe shuts the door. A moment passes.

The door opens again and Abe peeks out, allowing Klay to notice that the office is empty and the figures now lie on the floor next to the wagon.

KLAY

What the?

Abe moves back inside and shuts the door. Within seconds, a Guitar Hero game has started.

Klay slinks out of the cubicle and heads back towards the reception area. His devilish grin eludes to an evil plan being formulated.

INT. BREAK AREA

Chad and Nicole unwind over pizza. Nicole notices Chad's artwork on the fridge.

NICOLE

Someone's kid do those?

CHAD

Yes. Bob Hoogaboom's kid. Gonna pitch a kids game.

NICOLE

This place isn't known for kids games. Kind of a stretch.

CHAD

People's livelihoods depend on this game. Hard to say if everyone will rally with me on this.

NICOLE

Must be difficult knowing people close to you aren't confident in your abilities.

The silence says everything. Nicole swipes a slice and curiously moves to the fridge.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Care to explain your dried macaroni and glitter masterpieces?

Chad joins her. He points at a picture of a macaroni elbow boy riding a red liquorice bike.

CHAD

This is me, age eight, riding my red Schwinn, which I named Cinnamon Red Hots. Only Orioles cards were good enough for those spokes.

Nicole points to a picture that features pipe-cleaner Chad, Nicole and Adam hanging out in rock salt by a blue Saran Wrap ocean.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Every few years my parents would rent a place in Myrtle Beach. Thought we'd go there in a few years. Don't bury me in the sand. Fear of crabs.

NICOLE

I've never heard you talk about your childhood. That wagon has really brought out the kid in you.

CHAD

If you only knew.

Nicole doesn't catch Chad's quip. She is smitten with her husband's new outlook.

INT. CHAD'S OFFICE

Abe shuts down Guitar Hero as Chad wheels the wagon into the closet.

ABE

Leaving the wagon here?

CHAD

Figured I'd take Adam to the company outing at the Nats doubleheader while Nikki rehearses. Can't bring a wagon to the game.

ABE

Is leaving the wagon alone prudent?

CHAD

Abe, don't frag me. Nobody but Becky knows about it. Now, let's go. I'll let you drive.

The remark confuses Abe.

ABE
Drive what exactly?

CUT TO:

EXT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - STREET - NIGHT

A parking spot lies open next to the crushed car. The faint sound of a FINELY TUNED V8 ENGINE purrs in the distance. It grows LOUDER. STILL LOUDER. A CAR HORN chimes a bar of "Dixie".

In a whirl of orange, the General Lee executes a perfect skid into the open spot.

INT. GENERAL LEE - NIGHT

Chad and Nicole wobble from the hard stop. Abe is alive from the adrenalin rush.

ABE
It may have the flag of the
confederacy, but that's some true
Yankee ingenuity.

Abe begins to climb out the window, feet first.

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - BECKY'S CUBICLE - DAY

Becky and David sit on the floor and sort giveaway Everkey amulets. Becky scribbles on a yellow legal pad while David packs a box.

BECKY
Maybe we could print amulet facts
on the giveaway sheets. Do we have
backstory reference?

DAVID
Not unless we could chat with Sammi-
Len.

Becky realizes she can do just that.

INT. CHAD'S CLOSET

Becky places a Sammi-Len action figure inside the wagon. She anxiously awaits the arrival. Nothing. Then, a FEMALE SCREAM comes from somewhere in the studio.

INT. RECEPTION AREA

SAMMI-LEN points her Gelut sword at the frightened Megan.

SAMMI-LEN
Are you in league with Lord
Ironfists? Speak to me girl.

MEGAN
I... answer the... phone. So...
yes?

Becky scurries in, followed by Dave and Ollie. Sammi-Len sizes up her pseudo-twin and adjusts her fury.

SAMMI-LEN
Back away shape-shifting sorceress,
or I will strike you down!

BECKY
Gang, this is Sammi-Len. She's
going to help promote the game
tomorrow. Say hi.

The guys say nothing, entranced by the presence of the video vixen. Satisfied, Sammi-Len sheaths her sword.

SAMMI-LEN
Greetings. I am here to fight with
those who seek to defend the
Everkey amulet.

BECKY
Funny you should mention that.

INT. BECKY'S CUBICLE

Seated on the floor, Sammi-Len and Becky chat about the amulet, which is around Becky's neck. This amulet is noticeably more ornate than the giveaways.

SAMMI-LEN
A beautiful object. Yet, it defeats
such horror. I have made it my
solemn vow to protect the amulet,
until it can be joined by the other
half.

BECKY
You're a tough girl. It would take
a lot to defeat you.

INT. CHAD'S CLOSET

Chad peeks in to check on the wagon. He notices the Sammi-Len figure.

CHAD
How'd you get in here?

Chad scoops the figure out of the wagon.

BECKY'S CUBICLE

The girls continue to chat. Becky still wears the amulet.

BECKY
When did you realize the amulet --

ZAP. Sammi-Len disappears. Becky gasps.

CHAD'S OFFICE

Chad shows the Sammi-Len figure to Abe and Elvis. Abe bounces Adam.

ELVIS
Naw man, o'l Elvis don't need no date.

Chad lazily tosses the figure towards the door. Within seconds, Becky appears.

BECKY
What did you do?

She steps inside. CRUNCH. Moving her foot, she realizes she crushed her Sammi-Len figure. Chad catches on.

CHAD
Isn't dressing like her enough Becky? She could have fought the water delivery guy. You know he's a black belt.

BECKY
I'm trying to help this company get an investor.

CHAD
Then be a trouble shooter, not a trouble maker. Stop trying to be a video game hero.

Angered, but mostly humiliated, Becky exits. Abe and Elvis frown upon Chad's fury.

ELVIS
Need to work on keepin' the folks
who aren't plastic dolls 'round.

Chad scoffs at the comment before heading out the door.

INT. KLAY'S LOFT

Klay examines Chad's childhood activity pictures as Chad enthusiastically wraps up his pitch.

CHAD
It's not a game we'd normally do,
but it could open up a whole new
division for us.

KLAY
This is incredible thinking Chad.
(beat)
A video game that encourages people
to shut off their gaming console.
Why hasn't this been done before?

CHAD
Sir, there's a huge market for kids
games. There's nothing like this at
any other company in the country --

KLAY
Because it's a terrible idea.

The remark stabs Chad through the heart.

KLAY (CONT'D)
I'm sure that the pressures of
being a new dad are difficult.
You've got to teach him right and
such. Maybe all these childhood
influences, that silly wagon, have
got you off track.

Klay lets the subliminal berating sink in.

KLAY (CONT'D)
You're good at what you do. But the
idea guy needs to do what's best
for the company and not play off of
childish instincts.

Chad hits bottom. Klay springs up to comfort his pawn.

KLAY (CONT'D)

Look, go to the Nationals game. Be our cheerleader. I'll stay here and nail that investment. We good?

The fist is offered. Chad declines. He hopelessly heads out. Klay smiles. Wheels are in motion.

INT. CHAD'S OFFICE

Elvis plays with Adam as Chad recounts his meeting with Abe.

ABE

Did your conversation go well?

CHAD

Yeah. He really put things in perspective.

Abe doesn't buy it.

ABE

My boy, your face says much more than your words.

CHAD

(snaps)

It's fine Abe. He liked it so much, he wants me to schmooze at the ball game. Be the good worker I am. Can we go?

ELVIS

(shakes his head)

Naw man. Gonna meet Nicole at the hall. Always catch some z's before performing.

He hops up onto the couch and gets comfy. Abe tries to lighten the mood.

ABE

Well, I'm excited to see this game you refer to as baseball. I'm sure it's a grand display of patriotism at its best.

EXT. NATIONALS PARK - PLAYING FIELD - DAY

The choreographed spontaneity of between innings bedlam. Stadium music BLARES as FANS fight over launched souvenirs. THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS RACING PRESIDENTS - WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON, T. ROOSEVELT and LINCOLN - dance on the dugouts.

EXT. LUXURY BOX

Chad and Abe sit amongst GAME INDUSTRY PROS. Gloomy Chad holds Adam while Abe makes sense of the spectacle.

ABE

I dedicate my life to serving my country and I'm remembered as some large head that dances to...
(struggles to say it)
... Cotton Eyed Joe?

Walter walks down the aisle and greets the duo.

WALTER

I see you are a big Lincoln fan.

CHAD

Walter, this is Abe.

Abe tips his hat. Walter goes with it.

WALTER

An inspiring two-minute address at Gettysburg sir.

ABE

It is not difficult to deliver two minutes of inspiration when the speaker before you drivels on for two hours.

WALTER

Chad, could hear your game pitch tomorrow. Say, eight thirty?

Abe is alarmed at the time. Chad realizes he has another shot. He takes it.

CHAD

Yeah, that's fine.

ABE

Pardon me sir, but is there not a way he could speak with you tonight?

WALTER

Afraid not. I have a small meeting of the minds in the Red Room at the White House. Not every day you're allowed in there.

Abe attempts to correct Walter, but Chad butts in.

CHAD

His hat's on too tight. Tomorrow's fine.

WALTER

Well, I'll see you at the convention center then.

Walter heads back into the suite. Abe resents Chad.

ABE

Your meeting conflicts with Nicole's theatrical debut. You would neglect your wife in perhaps the defining moment of her life?

CHAD

Klay hated my idea. Walter needs to love it, or this whole week will have been a huge waste of time.

ABE

My boy, we have enlightened you to the pleasures of being young again. The values on which your very game are based. Do not toss aside all that you have learned.

CHAD

Oh, I've learned all right. The guy who sticks his neck out gets his head bitten off. That's no great accomplishment.

ABE

All men are created equal, but you are capable of achieving greatness. Do not let the thoughts of other men deter you. Pursue the goal that you want and you may find yourself the leader you dreamed of becoming.

CHAD

Thanks for the great moments Mr. Lincoln, but I can do this without your help.

Disgusted with his pupil, Abe stands.

ABE

The one presidential trait you do possess is the ability to stick with decisions.

(MORE)

ABE (CONT'D)

For the sake of your family, I do
hope you change your ideals. Just
this once.

Abe reaches into his coat pocket. He takes Chad's hand, and
slaps the presidential coin inside.

ABE (CONT'D)

You may remember me with this
token. I no longer offer my
council. Good day.

Abe marches away. Chad snorts. Who needs him anyway?

Chad turns his attention to Adam, who is gleefully enjoying
the day. Adam's precious face makes Chad briefly question the
path he's about to take.

EXT. KENNEDY CENTER - DAY

The gleaming Kennedy Center sits on the banks of the Potomac.

INT. KENNEDY CENTER - PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Nicole carefully lowers her violin case and garment bag out
the window of the parked General Lee. She then clumsily
attempts to climb out.

NICOLE

Bo and Luke made it look easy.

She tumbles out and SMACKS the hard concrete.

INT. OPERA HOUSE

Nicole enters the orange and red walled theater. She is
immediately drawn to the exquisite chandelier that
illuminates the room.

Janice chats with some TECHNICIANS as she sees Nicole enter
the theater. Janice excuses herself.

JANICE

Hey girl. Where's your singer?

NICOLE

He'll meet me here.

JANICE

Well. For both of our sakes I hope
you're right.

(MORE)

JANICE (CONT'D)

Nothing worse than your dance partner losing directions to your once-in-a lifetime tryout with the San Francisco Ballet, eh?

(beat)

In a bit.

Janice heads towards the exit, while Nicole breathes in the moment.

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - BREAK AREA - DAY

Elvis enthusiastically loads a plate of meats from deli trays. Klay stands off to the side.

ELVIS

Thanks fer getting me a snack before my show.

KLAY

My pleasure. Nothing like a meal to distract yourself from what's to come.

Elvis grabs a table and digs in.

KLAY (CONT'D)

Enjoy. I need to check something.

Klay dashes out and moves to --

INT. CHAD'S OFFICE

Klay places a Rocky Rockett doll into the wagon. He waits for something to happen. Zilch. Confused, he turns around and sees --

ROCKY ROCKETT

ROCKY ROCKETT is square-jawed and dashing. An old-school aviator in futuristic spandex. His moves are sharp and swashbuckling.

ROCKY

Mighty meteorites! This isn't planet Moleaton?

(to Klay)

You're not Professor Griffith.

Klay recognizes Rocky's ranting.

KLAY
 (to himself)
 Episode fifty five. Rocky Rockett
 Versus The Mole People.
 (playing along)
 But Rocky, I'm Professor Jenkins.
 We defeated the mole people by
 feeding them your rations bars.
 Remember?

Rocky recalls his mission. Smiles grandly.

ROCKY
 Ha ha. We were this close to being
 part of their interstellar zoo. But
 they were no match for...
 (bellows)
 Rockeeeey Rooooocketttt!

Klay shushes Rocky.

KLAY
 Rocky, I need you to guard this top
 secret weapon. We're going to a
 science convention tomorrow, where
 we'll let everyone know about this
 weapon's true powers.

He is speaking Rocky's language.

ROCKY
 Like the time I flew those unstable
 atoms to Vinatur Four. I'll never
 forget that big, fat...

Rocky sees Elvis standing in the doorway.

ROCKY (CONT'D)
 Alien!

ELVIS
 Whussgoing on? Get away from that
 wagon!

Elvis strikes a karate pose. Rocky squares up his foe. Klay realizes something. He reaches into the wagon and removes the Elvis statue.

ZAP. Elvis disappears. Klay removes Lincoln and the General Lee.

KLAY
 Hope nobody will miss these.

INT. KENNEDY CENTER - OPERA HOUSE - STAGE - NIGHT

Becky, dressed in her performace gown, receives the fury of hurricane Janice.

NICOLE

I'm so, so sorry. I've been practicing all week, I can do this.

JANICE

This isn't good. I took a risk and it bites me in the butt.

(to Nicole)

I know what it's like to taste the dream kid. Sometimes it's just not meant to be.

NICOLE

I can do this. I'm meant to do this. I'll find out where my singer is. Please.

Nicole's eyes beg. Janice stares back, possibly seeing a younger version of herself.

JANICE

Don't blow it.

Janice storms off. Nicole peers out at the empty hall. She is so close, yet nowhere near her dream.

INT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Chad paces the living room while a zonked out Adam lies in his bouncer seat. The front door UNLOCKS and an extremely irritated Nicole strides in.

CHAD

Where's the General Lee?

NICOLE

Your missing car is the least of my problems. Ask Abe why Elvis didn't show up.

CHAD

Abe's not here. The last time I saw Elvis was at...

Chad realizes why Abe, Elvis and the car have vanished.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I've gotta get to work.

NICOLE

Oooh no. I've got to find someone to fill in for Elvis at the performance. I'm down a singer and a baby-sitter.

CHAD

He wasn't supposed to be performing with you he was supposed to be baby-sitting you so I --

Chad catches his tongue, but the damage has been done.

NICOLE

Baby-sitting me?

It all makes sense.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

You needed to be at work. Away from your son. Away from me. Could've cared less about my performance. You're such a jerk.

CHAD

No, I wasn't at work, I was... playing.

The hole keeps getting deeper. Nicole's tears begin.

CHAD (CONT'D)

You want the truth? Will you listen to the truth?

Nicole manages a nod through her sniffing.

CHAD (CONT'D)

You wanted me to find the kid inside? Well, the red wagon has helped me do that. That's because the wagon works. Abe, Elvis, they're all real! Action figures helped me play Cowboys and Indians. I even sang with the Boyz of Summer at the Tidal Basin.

Chad sighs. It's all out there. He hangs on Nicole's words.

NICOLE

It's one thing to lie to me, it's another to insult me.

CHAD

I've had an eye opening few days
Nikki. I need to you believe me.

Chad reaches for Nicole's hand. She sharply pulls it away. He looks at his sleeping son and disbelieving wife.

CHAD (CONT'D)

You and Adam mean everything to me.
Will you wait for me to get back?

Nicole doesn't budge. Chad solemnly exits the house.

Nicole exhales. Time for her to leave as well.

INT. BEDROOM

Nicole tosses a suitcase onto the bed and hurls clothes inside. Adam peacefully sleeps in his car carrier.

INT. KITCHEN

Packing up her laptop bag, Nicole grabs a stack of sheet music and other papers. One of the papers in the pile slips loose and falls to the floor - it's one of Chad's childhood artwork pictures. It appears that Nicole has just packed the rest of them.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Nicole places a note on the coffee table. She notices the Wonderful Red Wagon DVD set and swipes it.

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - CHAD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Holding the Abe and Elvis figures, Chad frantically searches for the wagon.

The RUMBLING of A METAL WAGON comes from outside. Dashing over to the window, Chad peers out and sees --

EXT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Klay chats on his phone. He motions for Rocky to place the wagon inside the back of his Land Rover.

KLAY

Press, TV, everyone. Innovative
Gaming to unveil its ground-
breaking new gaming system tomorrow
night at Wonder Expo. Thanks.

He hangs up. With the wagon secure, Klay shuts the hatchback. The duo climb into the car and drive away.

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING - CHAD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Devastated, Chad slouches into his chair.

INT. BECKY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hand-scribbled notes and a video game strategy guide share the floor with empty ice cream containers. The flat screen shows the familiar "Game Over" ending with Sammi-Len fallen prey to the Ironfists Smash.

Becky methodically rocks in a gamer chair. She glares at the "Game Over", as if its been taunting her for hours.

INT. HOOGABOOM TOWNHOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Grasping Nicole's note, Chad realizes he's been abandoned. Teetering on breaking down, he pulls himself together.

CHAD
(to himself)
Need to get her back. Need to get
the wagon back. Gonna need help.

As he places his hands inside his jeans, he feels something. It's the ticket stub from the Nationals game and Abe's coin. Chad remembers something --

CHAD (CONT'D)
Walter. But, he's at the White
House.

Chad stares at the coin, looking for an answer. His eyes wander from the coin to a framed picture on the wall. That's it!

The picture features Chad and Nicole in their wedding clothes, standing outside the White House.

INT. MASTER BATHROOM

Chad hurriedly fashions a beard with a black eyeliner pencil.

INT. BASEMENT

Carrying the plastic Happy New Year hat, Chad grabs the tuxedo bag.

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - EAST GATE - NIGHT

A slow night at the East Gate. SECRET SERVICE AGENT PARKER stares out into nothing.

Chad emerges, wearing the tuxedo, painted-on beard, black hat and black Chuck Taylors. He looks like Abraham Lincoln. Kind of.

Parker rubs his eyes. Really?

Chad gets "presidential" by gripping his jacket and striding like a proud eagle.

CHAD

Evening my good man. Just want to head to my office and see how the Nationals fared in the second game.

PARKER

Lost five to four in the ninth.

CHAD

Sweet Gettysburg, are we ever going to get a decent closer?

Oops. Chad falls back into character.

CHAD (CONT'D)

You look surprised to see me. Surely you heard that President Lincoln was here Tuesday.

PARKER

Secret Service doesn't just let anyone in.

Secret Service? That rings a bell. What was it that Abe said?

CHAD

(fast)

Under Secret Service Public Law, article one dash zero one, past presidents are allowed safe haven inside at any time.

PARKER

Well yeah, that's true, but--

CHAD

I have this.

Chad pulls out Abe's presidential coin and hands it to Parker. The agent turns pale as he examines the artifact.

PARKER
But. But, you couldn't know --

CHAD
The presidential code?

Chad breaks out into an awkward cheer routine.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Wikka wooka, hoot and hollah, sis
boom blah, zippy zing, bingly
bling, rah rha rhah.

Chad stands proud. Waits to be let in, but prepares to be tackled. Then --

PARKER
Welcome back mister President.

Chad sprints up the driveway.

CHAD
Go Nats!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Nicole weeps as she runs her finger across the window, which looks out at the D.C. skyline. Adam peacefully sleeps in a portable playpen.

NICOLE
A magical wagon. He'll never
change.

Nicole wipes her eyes and pulls herself together. Glancing back towards her luggage, she notices some construction paper sticking out of her laptop bag.

Curious, she grabs the papers and looks through them. It turns out that the papers are --

CHAD'S CHILDHOOD PICTURES

- Torn-out photos from magazines and Hoogaboom photos show the family in an old timey photo shoot. Adam has female legs.

- Pipe cleaner Nicole plays a toothpick violin in front of a crowd of cashew nuts.

BACK TO NICOLE

Nicole resumes crying, but a smile accompanies these tears of joy.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - RED ROOM - NIGHT

The majestic state parlor room hosts a half-dozen WELL DRESSED GAME EXECUTIVES. Walter holds court with colleagues MURRAY and JIM.

WALTER

I just haven't seen anyone there doing anything... innovative.

Chad dashes in and is immediately spotted by Walter.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Chad? How in the world did you get in here? What's with the outfit?

CHAD

I know a guy. Look, I need your help. Klay --

WALTER

Called me about his crazy new system. Frankly I'm more interested in hearing your idea.

CHAD

I won't be able to pitch my game tomorrow because --

WALTER

Then pitch it now. My partners would love to hear it.

JIM

(to Chad)

Walter told us you had your programming team play Cowboys and Indians?

MURRAY

Did you really toss sushi to avoid eating it?

Chad looks at Walter. You saw that? Walter gives a wink.

CHAD

Fine. My game. It's a kids game, but it also teaches parents to be playful. After the role play part, there's an activity. But, whether it's playing hide and seek or drawing a picture, it encourages active imagination, instead of just moving a character.

The rush of pitching the game ignites Chad.

JIM
Doesn't seem quite marketable.

CHAD
We can merchandise characters.
Educational DVDs. Playsets.

Walter likes it. The innovation he's been looking for.

WALTER
You seem to have a playful way of
doing things. What's your secret?

CHAD
That's why I'm here. This whole
week I've been doing crazy things
because I've...

Chad realizes that his behavior has been quite childish.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Found the kid inside.
(pause)
This is awesome! I can get the
wagon back.

The three gentleman stare at Chad. Wagon?

MURRAY
Well, playful may work on the
playground, but it won't turn
around a company.

Chad darts around the room, motioning to his video game
brethren.

CHAD
The reason we got into this
industry was because we love to
play. Pretend. Imagine. We've gone
from Play-Doh to software. Let us
do what we love and we can solve
any problem.

JIM
Can you make Innovative Gaming a
leader in the industry Chad?

Chad summons his inner Abe. Oddly, "THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE
REPUBLIC" starts to play from an unseen source.

CHAD

A leader does what's in the best interest of the many. To help the cause. In order to achieve greatness, we must not let the thoughts of other men deter us. Pursue the goal that you desire, and you may find yourself the leader you dreamed of becoming.

The music swells. Nobody can quite comprehend the experience. Chad finishes staring off into the future.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Good evening gentlemen. I have a war to fight and a family to save.

INT. CROSS HALL

Empowered by his own enlightenment, Chad marches through the hall. The three gentlemen watch. The music still plays. Finally, Walter nudges Murray.

WALTER

Are you going to answer that?

Murray grabs his phone and silences his ringtone. Walter eagerly turns to Jim.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Jim, run the numbers on starting a new company instead of buying one.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - GRAND LOBBY - NIGHT

The majestic entrance to the three-floor convention center. Huge "Wonder Expo" banners hang from the walls. COSTUMED GAMERS and BUSINESS FOLKS head up escalators and the grand central staircase.

INT. EXHIBIT HALL

A maze of vendor booths peddle games and other paraphernalia. Some booths sell action figures. Others sell replicas of fantasy weapons.

INT. INNOVATIVE GAMING BOOTH

Dressed in her best Sammi-Len outfit, Becky halfheartedly hawks amulets. She's unaware that she's wearing the real Sammi-Len's amulet.

A MAN IN AN ILL-FITTING LINK COSTUME, 29, (from The Legend of Zelda) nervously approaches. Becky morbidly greets him.

BECKY

(monotone)

Sir, would you like a free Everkey amulet, so that you may defeat Ironfists in the newest title in the best-selling Rokkatar series.

LINK

Can I have your amulet? It's cooler.

Becky spots HALO DUDE and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG whispering to each other. Becky lazily motions to them.

BECKY

They send you up here?

LINK

I'm the brave one. Hence the outfit.

Link flashes a "tah-dah". Becky dejectedly hands over the amulet.

LINK (CONT'D)

Thank you. Your costume is very becoming on you.

Becky waves it off. She hates her life.

INT. MEETING ROOM

Carrying his messenger bag, Chad slinks past empty chairs towards a portable stage with a large Innovative Gaming banner backdrop.

Half-expecting someone to jump him, Chad reaches the stage and goes --

BEHIND THE BANNER

The wagon lies in front of two huge potted plants and piles of Innovative Gaming boxes.

Chad rushes the wagon. Rocky leaps out from behind the plants and tackles Chad, quickly slapping on a headlock.

ROCKY

I got em' professor.

Klay triumphantly emerges.

KLAY

I don't fully understand how it works, but this wagon of yours is a gold mine. Picture a revolutionary new gaming system where you can fight any creature imaginable alongside any superhero.

CHAD

You can't pit people against video game creatures. Someone could get killed.

KLAY

Adds to the realism. Besides, we'll have lawyers draw up some waivers.

CHAD

Good luck with that.
(motions to Rocky)
Slim Goodbody here isn't incredibly convincing.

Rocky thinks it's a complement. Klay confidently struts over to the pile of boxes and opens one.

KLAY

Good point Hoogamaroon. We'll need something that grabs people's attention.

Klay pulls out an Ironfists figure. Chad realizes Klay's intentions.

Ironfists is placed in the wagon. The room RUMBLES. A SMASH causes the banner to fall, revealing --

LORD IRONFISTS

Having shredded the entryway doors, the towering ten-foot rhino walks to the stage, crushing chairs as if they were cans. He is more "real" than digital.

KLAY (CONT'D)

Hey boy. Head out into the hall.
Let everyone see you. Smash things
if you'd like.

The rhino snarls his understanding and tromps back towards the entryway.

Chad breaks free, but Rocky quickly hurls him onto the smashed folding chairs. Chad picks up a smashed chair and swings it at Ironfists. It's like stopping a tank with a paddle-ball.

Ironfists swipes the chair out of Chad's hands. Out of options, Chad zips through the beast's legs and rushes towards the --

INT. EXHIBIT HALL - INNOVATIVE GAMING BOOTH

Becky scribbles on her legal pad as Chad runs up.

CHAD

Klay knows about the wagon.

BECKY

What's he done?

A ROAR signals that her answer is --

IRONFISTS

The beast enters the Exhibit Hall. COSTUMED ONLOOKERS barely pay attention to him, as he seems to blend in with the array of oddity. Ironfists scans the hall and spots --

CHAD

CHAD

Tried to stop him with a folding chair. He didn't appreciate that.

BECKY

You can't destroy him unless you're wearing the other half of the Everkey amulet...

(realizing)

Which I was wearing when you destroyed the Sammi-Len figure.

CHAD

What did you do with it?

BECKY

I thought it was a giveaway.

CHAD

OK. Not hard. You've given out, what a few dozen?

BECKY

(off legal pad)

Eight hundred and forty four.

They gaze out at the never-ending sea of ATTENDEES. Almost all of them are wearing Everkey amulets.

BECKY (CONT'D)
This is the part where the words
'Game Over' usually appear.

IRONFISTS

A GUY IN A PAC-MAN SUIT poses for a picture with the confused creature. MS. PAC-MAN snaps the photo.

CHAD

Opens his messenger bag and starts digging though.

CHAD
There's got to be something.

Pushing aside action figures, Chad finds a layer of assorted candy bars. He picks up a Twix bar and grabs a STREET FIGHTER GUY wearing one of the amulets.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Hey, Street Fighter. Trade you Twix
for the amulet?

STREET FIGHTER GUY
Hey now.

The trade is made. Chad digs into his bag and hands Becky a handful of candy.

CHAD
Let's make some deals.

As Becky heads off, Chad notices a rugged treasure seeker, PITFALL HARRY wearing an amulet. He grabs a long liquorice rope from his bag.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Hey, Pitfall Harry. Trade you the
amulet for the liquorice rope.

Pitfall Harry takes off the amulet and gazes at it while theatrically rubbing his chin. He squares off with Chad.

PITFALL HARRY
Throw me the rope.

CHAD
Throw me the amulet.

PITFALL HARRY

No time to argue. The rope.

Chad tosses Harry the rope. Harry smiles. Tips his fedora.

PITFALL HARRY (CONT'D)

Adios, senior.

Pitfall Harry whips around and finds himself face-to-face with an angry Ironfists. Hot breath from huge nostrils terrifies Harry. He runs away, leaving the amulet and rope.

Ironfists charges Chad, who uses his messenger bag as a shield. Ironfists sniffs the bag and takes interest in what's inside.

CHAD

You want something? Yeah? Let's see what Chad has for you.

He reaches into the bag and removes a Charleston Chew.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Want it?

Ironfists GRUNTS.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Fetch.

Ironfists chases the tossed candy like an obedient dog.

CHAD (CONT'D)

No way Becky is doing something this humiliating.

INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE EXHIBIT HALL

Becky approaches Link and his accomplices at a table full of replica weaponry.

BECKY

Um, hi. Remember me? I was handing out the amulets.

The threesome turn around and smile. Sonic the Hedgehog leans to Link.

SONIC

Told ya she liked you.

Becky turns on the girly charm. She seductively runs her hand across Link's amulet.

BECKY
 (selling it)
 I was hoping that a big strong man
 like yourself would give a poor
 girl her amulet back.

Link slaps her hand away.

LINK
 I'm not some basement-dwelling geek
 who's never touched a woman. I sell
 multi-million dollar condos to the
 Hill. I'm tired of people assuming
 I'm an obsessed fanboy because I
 dress like this. Why can't people
 accept me for who I am?

Becky swoons. This man understands her.

BECKY
 (softly)
 For a kiss?

LINK
 Done.

Becky sweeps him into her arms and plants a passionate kiss.

CHAD AND IRONFISTS

Ironfists downs another candy bar. Chad realizes that all the
 candy is gone. Gulp. Ironfists returns.

CHAD
 Sorry boy, all gone.

Ironfists swipes the bag and looks inside.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 Well, who's up for burgers?

Ironfists ROARS as he hits Chad with the messenger bag. The
 blow knocks Chad out. Ironfists flips Chad's body over his
 shoulder and stomps away.

BECKY AND LINK

The lustful kiss ends. They both exhale. Link removes the
 amulet and places it on Becky. A ROAR from Ironfists startles
 them. Becky sees her unconscious friend.

LINK
 Wow. Nobody could stop that thing.

Becky rubs the Everkey amulet. She turns to the men, but her gaze is on something else... the weapons table... the sword of Sammi-Len... the Gelut.

Becky grabs the sword and turns to the boys.

BECKY

Excuse me boys. I need to correct a programming error.

She aggressively dashes off.

SONIC

That's it? A programming error?
Signature catchphrases are just so weak now.

HALO DUDE

(to Link)
Good kisser, bro?

LINK

Better than Counselor Troi at Comic-Con '99.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The bedside digital clock reads 6:30 p.m. Nicole stares out the window, fixated on the Kennedy Center. Adam COOS in his playpen. Nicole remembers something.

NICOLE

Forgot your medication.

Nicole moves over to the suitcase and digs for medication. She comes upon the DVD set of the Red Wagon Show. She turns to her son.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Your dad's a piece of work Adam.
Thought I'd believe his action figures came alive.

Nicole glances at the description on the box.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

(reading)
Red Buttons... Burt Reynolds...
Elvis Presley?

It can't be. She throws open the case and inserts a DVD into her laptop. A few taps and she finds the Elvis Presley episode.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TREE HOUSE SET (ON TELEVISION) - DAY

Elvis chats with Timmy and Debbie in the tree house.

ELVIS

It's easy for me, because I believe
in what I'm singing. You can have
the best song, best band, but if
you don't mean what you're singing,
audience won't believe it.

Nicole stares at the screen. That's exactly the same thing
Elvis said to her only days ago.

TIMMY

That's neat. Can you show us?

ELVIS

Only if you kids join me. Now, get
like me... bend yer knees.

Elvis bends his knees. Timmy and Debbie follow suit.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

Alright. Now, the key is to think
that you're performing to one
person, not a whole crowd. Don't
move around like yer on eggshells.
Move with purpose.

Nicole realizes that Chad was telling the truth.

ELVIS (CONT'D)

All right, now let's put it all
together. Sing that song. .

The kids pick up their instruments and start playing "I
Couldn't Be Me Without You". Everyone sways Elvis style.

Nicole listens to the lyrics. It all makes sense. She bolts
to her son.

NICOLE

Let's go help your dad find that
wagon.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - MEETING ROOM - STAGE - NIGHT

Ironfists drops Chad onto the stage. Chad wakes up and finds
Klay, Rocky and Ironfists looming over him.

KLAY

I know Walter wants to hear your kiddy idea, but even he couldn't market that clunker.

CHAD

You wouldn't know a good idea if it kicked you in the --

KLAY

I created one of the industry's most memorable characters.

CHAD

It's a rhinoceros. It's not iconic like Monkey Wrench Muldoon or...

That's it! Muldoon.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Monkey Wrench Muldoon would whip rhino boy's butt any day.

KLAY

Please. Ironfists would mop the floor with that nit wit.

Chad reaches into his messenger bag and tosses the Monkey Wrench Muldoon figure at Klay's feet.

CHAD

Show me.

Happy to oblige, Klay tosses the figure into the wagon. BOOM. Monkey Wrench Muldoon kicks at the shattered doorway.

MONKEY WRENCH

Blimey, fixing this door will be a project in itself.

CHAD

(yells)

Monkey Wrench.

Monkey Wrench sees what's going on and rushes the stage. Rocky counter attacks, sending both of them tumbling off the stage and into the back area.

Chad scratches for the wagon, but he's blocked by Ironfists. Suddenly, the beast SCREAMS in pain and drops to the ground.

Chad sees the source of the pain is --

BECKY

Holds the Gelut sword. Looking like the video game heroine she is.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Troubleshooting this one yourself?

BECKY
Someone's got to fix the design
flaws.

Chad hears the WAGON RUMBLE and turns to see Klay pulling the wagon out a side door and into a service tunnel. Chad smugly turns to Becky.

CHAD
My favorite part of the game.

BECKY
Which is?

CHAD
Beating the boss.

Chad dashes after Klay. Becky takes another whack at Ironfists. The beast ROARS, then gets up and lumbers towards the smashed doorway. Becky follows him out.

STAGE

Rocky pops his head out from behind the stage.

ROCKY
Professor Jenkins?

Monkey Wrench pops up nearby.

MONKEY WRENCH
Get her pucker over here, so I can
smash it tu next Tuesday.

Rocky puts up his dukes then quickly reconsiders, opting to sprint for the exit.

INT. SERVICE KITCHEN

Chad enters the vacant kitchen. A large steel prep counter runs lengthwise of the room. Every imaginable type of cooking utensil lines the walls.

Chad looks underneath the table and sees Klay crouched under the other end. Deja vu.

He picks up a metal frying pan and repeatedly SLAMS it on the prep counter.

Irritated by the pounding, Klay bolts up. Chad hurls the frying pan at Klay.

CLUNK. The pan lands just short. Klay grabs the pan and charges Chad. Chad swipes a soup ladle and saucepan cover.

Klay attacks. A kitchen utensil sword fight begins. More clumsy than coordinated.

KLAY

That wagon has been your greatest contribution to the company. Shame that I'll get all the credit.

Klay lands a blow to Chad's face. Chad tumbles to the ground, landing near a door.

The door swings open and a cart wheels in. It stops inches from Chad's head. He sees two PAIRS OF SHOES.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

The bride wants the groom to see it first. Leave it here.

The shoes exit. Chad stands and examines the beautifully decorated wedding cake on the cart. Seeing that Klay has made it back to the wagon, Chad hurls the top layer of the cake at him.

SPLAT. A direct hit covers Klay in red cake and white frosting. Chad desperately heaves the cake cart at Klay. Klay catches the cart and tosses the second layer. BOOM. Chad is hit in the chest.

KLAY

See you later, Betty Crocker.

Klay rolls the cart back at Chad. Chad slips on frosting and drops to the ground. The cart arrives and tumbles onto Chad. CRASH. SPLAT. Klay exits.

As Chad shoves the cart and cake, he inadvertently eats some cake. He's impressed.

A BRIDE and GROOM enter from the swinging door.

BRIDE

What do you think?

A stranger emerges and nonchalantly scrapes their cake off of his clothes. Upon seeing the couple, Chad shoots a thumbs up.

CHAD

Good call on the red velvet.

He scoops a frosting flower onto the groom's tux and exits. The newlyweds consider their destroyed cake.

GROOM

We should have done cupcakes.

INT. INDOOR LOADING AREA

Becky slinks under a RUNNING semi-tractor trailer. The massive wheels begin to roll. As Becky tumbles out of the way, she notices Ironfists hanging out of the truck's open back door.

Becky starts to give chase, but the truck accelerates.

She sees an ally in SECURITY OFFICER NATHAN, who glumly reads the paper inside his golf cart. Becky approaches. Nathan recognizes the video game heroine.

BECKY

Officer, I need your assistance in defeating Lord Ironfists.

Nathan smiles with glee.

SECURITY OFFICER NATHAN

Officer Nathan at your service
Sammi-Len. How can I help?

INT. GOLF CART - NIGHT (TRAVELING)

Becky stands in the rear seat of the golf cart as it backs up in pursuit of the rig. Nathan steers. Ironfists ROARS.

BECKY

Closer Nathan.

Nathan punches it. The poor golf cart putters at full tilt. Closer, but still a considerable gap.

Becky's eyes hone in on the answer -- the Everkey amulet swaying back and forth around the rhino's neck.

BECKY (CONT'D)

I'm going to jump.

SECURITY OFFICER NATHAN

If you don't make it --

BECKY

Sammi-Len always makes it. Once I grab onto him, stop. Don't be anywhere near us.

Becky concentrates on the amulet. She rocks in time to the swaying. Ironfists doesn't get it.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Three... two... one.

BECKY

As if in slow motion --

-- Becky leaps from the cart.

-- Soars through the air.

-- Grabs the amulet.

-- Yanks Ironfists off the truck.

-- They fall to the ground.

INDOOR LOADING AREA

The beast SLAMS onto its back, which CRACKS the concrete.

Becky tumbles off and draws her sword. Ironfists swipes her away like a flea. The blow sends Becky across the corridor. Ironfists stumbles back towards the loading dock.

Nathan reaches Becky and assists her up.

SECURITY OFFICER NATHAN

You OK?

BECKY

Yes, but I must hold off Ironfists until my friend retrieves the magic wagon that brought him to life. Good evening Nathan.

She grabs her sword and runs after Ironfists. Nathan chuckles.

SECURITY OFFICER NATHAN

Haven't seen this many nut jobs since that crocheting convention.

INT. EXHIBIT HALL - VENDOR BOOTH

Rocky quizzically observes a booth full of vintage Rocky Rockett memorabilia. Fake guns, coloring books, action figures and more. He interrogates the VENDOR.

ROCKY

What kind of strange place is this where people would buy things of this nature?

VENDOR

America.

As Rocky considers this 'America', he spots Monkey Wrench charging from down the aisle. Rocky grabs a Rocky Rockett spark gun.

ROCKY

Stop creature.

Rocky pulls the trigger. The SPARK MECHANISM WHIRLS and tiny sparks shoot from the barrel. Rocky is flabbergasted.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

In the name of Jupiter?

He tosses the gun and takes a plastic bubble machine in the shape of Rocky's face. As he turns the crank, bubbles whirl out of plastic Rocky's open mouth. Monkey Wrench arrives.

MONKEY WRENCH

Gonna wash me mouth out with soap?

Rocky tosses the machine and picks up the 'Rocky Rockett Sings' record album. The cover shows a portrait of Rocky crooning into a futuristic microphone.

MONKEY WRENCH (CONT'D)

Yer big smash eh?

Rocky SMASHES the album over Monkey Wrench's head.

VENDOR

You owe me eight bucks man!

POW. Monkey Wrench slaps Rocky with an old-time Rocky Rockett metal bank. Rocky stumbles off and grabs a Rocky Rockett lunch box. BAM.

The duo trade blows as CONFUSED ATTENDEES look on.

INT. GRAND LOBBY

Klay runs along the third floor concourse, tugging the wagon. Chad gives chase as he cleans cake off his clothes.

SCREAMING ATTENDEES run out from an adjoining concourse, causing a human wall that cuts off Klay from Chad. Chad's path is further blocked as Ironfists appears, holding off an attacking Becky.

Becky performs a drop kick that sends the beast towards the glass railing. She spots the cake covered Chad.

CHAD
Red velvet. Not bad.

BECKY
Where's Klay?

Chad spots Klay rapidly pressing an elevator button. The "Down" directional light blinks on.

KLAY

Wheels the wagon inside the elevator. Pleased at the clean getaway he's about to make.

CHAD

Examines his options. A giant rhino in front of him. Escalators and staircase full of panicked attendees. He realizes that the hanging Wonder Expo banner would deliver him right to the floor.

CHAD
Glad we're insured.

BECKY

Preps for her killer blow. She notices Ironfists's hooves illuminate.

BECKY
The Ironfists Smash. Here we go.

NICOLE

Enters the Grand Lobby amongst the chaos. Adam is secure in a backpack child carrier. She notices a figure climbing over the top railing --

CHAD

Hangs onto the top of the banner support. He tries not to look down. Fails miserably.

IRONFISTS

Raises his glowing hooves.

BECKY

Concentrates. Waiting for just the right --

IRONFISTS

Eyes glow red. Hooves start down.

BECKY

Sprints towards Ironfists's legs. She slides through, narrowly missing the massive hooves that SMASH into the ground. She's made it behind the creature.

POW. Lightning flashes. Concrete shatters. Shards of rubble launch Becky. She flips. Lands on the back of Ironfists.

KLAY

Exits the elevator and moves into the Grand Lobby.

CHAD

Spots Klay. He takes a deep breath. Moves his hands from the support beam to the banner. SLASH. Part of the banner tears off. Chad drops a few feet.

NICOLE

Gasps when she sees her husband.

NICOLE
(yelling)
Chad!

Klay dashes by with the wagon. Nicole realizes --

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Hey, that's my husband's wagon.

She grabs the back of the wagon, which jolts Klay. He turns and sees Nicole.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
 Don't mess with the Hoogabooms
 mister.

Klay grabs the wagon handle. A tug-of-wagon ensues.

BECKY

Thrusts her sword into Ironfists's back. He SCREAMS.

She tries to leap off, but can't. Her right hand has become caught in Ironfists's vest. Tug. Tug. Ironfists convulses, causing Becky to lose her sword. He stumbles backwards and --

SHATTERS the glass railing. The two plummet towards the ground.

CHAD

Sees the tumbling Becky. The struggling Nicole. He yanks at the banner. It SNAPS. He drops. Fast. Air catches the banner, turning it into an impromptu parachute.

Chad crash lands near Klay and Nicole. Too involved in the struggle, Klay doesn't see Chad.

CHAD
 Fist bump.

Chad's right hook nails Klay, which also sends the wagon flying. The figures tumble out.

ZAP. Ironfists disappears. Becky tumbles into Chad's awaiting arms. He turns to Nicole and addresses his son.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 Adam, even though it was wicked
 awesome, don't ever let me catch
 you doing that.

Nicole looks at her husband with pride and bewilderment.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

Chad holds Adam as Nicole drops the Abe, Elvis and Monkey Wrench figures into the wagon. They appear. Abe notices the reconciliation.

ABE
 Guess you didn't need my help after
 all. Well done.

Nicole timidly approaches Elvis.

NICOLE

Thanks for the performance lessons.

ELVIS

Oh mahn. Gotta get you to our show.
(to Abe)
Ready to see ol' Elvis do his thing
Abe?

ABE

Thank you, but no. My last trip to
the theater was...
(how to say it)
Not very pleasant.

CHAD

Neither of you are going. I need to
make sure nobody else gets a hold
of the wagon.

Chad motions to a nearby IDLING big rig and its huge wheels.
They get it. Chad looks at Abe.

ABE

A drastic decision. But the
appropriate one.

ELVIS

What about the show?

Nicole takes her husband's hand.

NICOLE

I know of someone who can fill in.
He's not bad.

Chad smiles. Redeemed. Elvis takes Adam's tiny hand.

ELVIS

Take care boy.
(to Nicole)
Boy's gonna break 'lotta hearts.

Nicole tears up and hugs Elvis. Abe extends his hand to Chad.

ABE

You're presidential material Chad.

The uncontrollable sobbing of Monkey Wrench Muldoon breaks up
the moment.

MONKEY WRENCH

I never said goodbye to that Rocky
fellow. Might I thank him on
fighting a good fight before I go?

Chad tosses the Rocky Rockett figure in the wagon. Rocky
appears. He spots Monkey Wrench.

ROCKY

Fear not, for I, Rocky --

PING. Monkey Wrench hits Rocky upside the head with an
object. Rocky drops. Monkey Wrench holds up the metal Rocky
Rockett lunch box.

MONKEY WRENCH

Really took him ta school, didn't
I? Ha-ha.

The group shares a chuckle. Chad takes one last look at his
friends.

CHAD

Thanks guys.

Abe, Elvis and Monkey Wrench wave good bye. Nicole removes
the figures from the wagon. ZAP. They vanish. Chad hands off
Adam and picks up the wagon. He hops from the platform to the
floor and places the wagon near a gigantic wheel.

The rig HONKS and starts to move. CRUNCH. The wagon is
flattened into a pancake. The rig rolls away.

The Hoogabooms hold a moment of silence for the item that
saved their small family.

NICOLE

I get the Monkey Wrench guy. And
Elvis. But Abe?

CHAD

I wanted to be president when I was
a kid. Thought he'd rub off on me.

NICOLE

Did it work?

CHAD

(no big deal)

I can get us into the White House
if you want to attend a state
dinner or something.

INT. GRAND LOBBY - NIGHT

With Link by her side, Becky chats with TV REPORTERS. WELL WISHERS beg for an autograph or photo.

BECKY

Sammi-Len doesn't get scared. When you know the right moves, any enemy can be defeated.

OLLIE

Cries as he sees Becky and Link together. A GIRL IN A SLAVE LEIA COSTUME approaches him.

LEIA

Excuse me, where's exhibit hall A?

They size each other up. The mutual interest happens at light speed.

OLLIE

This way your worshipness.

WALTER

Chad, Nicole and Adam meet up with Walter. Nicole wipes cake off of Chad with paper towels. Walter is surprised to find Nicole attached to Chad's arm.

CHAD

What. Think I can't get a violin beauty?

Walter laughs.

WALTER

(to Nicole)

Nice to meet you again.

(to Adam)

And this must be your greatest creation.

CHAD

So far. Nobody seems to like my game ideas.

WALTER

Don't be so sure of that. Do you have a moment?

CHAD

Actually, we're headed to the Kennedy Center. Car's at valet.

WALTER

Perfect. There's someone there who needs to hear this news.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - VALET AREA - NIGHT

Klay leans against a pillar and ices down his jaw. He is still covered in cake. Chad gets in his face.

KLAY

Houdabaloon!

CHAD

Listen you possessive little brat. It's Hoog-a-boom. As in, tell me why I shouldn't boom you into next week for taking my wagon.

KLAY

Why you... you're fired.

Chad steps back. Relieved. Walter steps in.

WALTER

Klay, the numbers suggest that I'd be better off starting my own company rather than buying one.

KLAY

Whuh? No. We'll miss our milestone. I'll have to close!

WALTER

I'll hire everyone at your studio. Even you. We'll need a receptionist. And a game designer.

Walter eyes Chad, who gives his new boss a huge bear hug. After a moment, he breaks it.

CHAD

Gotta go.

EXT. KENNEDY CENTER - NIGHT

WELL DRESSED ATTENDEES flow into the center.

INT. KENNEDY CENTER - OPERA HOUSE - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Wearing appropriate outfits, Chad and Nicole wait in the wings of the stage and silently ponder the moment.

NICOLE

Nervous?

CHAD

No. I'm fully comfortable singing in front of the penguin suit crowd in a performance that will, let's not beat around the bush here, make or break your career.

NICOLE

And I wouldn't want anyone else to torpedo my career but you.

She kisses her husband.

ANNOUCER (O.S.)

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is proud to introduce violinist Nicole Hoogaboom accompanied by her husband, Chad.

Applause from the crowd. They glance at each other. Let's do this. In unison they step out onto --

THE STAGE

White hot spotlights shine in their faces, partially obscuring the CAPACITY CROWD. Nicole gracefully nods, while Chad contemplates his now full boxer shorts. They step up to a set of microphones.

NICOLE

One of my musical influences was a show about a magical wagon. I knew the wagon was fake, but the lessons... they were real. I'm dedicating this performance to everyone who still finds time to dream.

CHAD

I will attempt to not wet myself.

Laughter from the crowd. Nicole takes Chad's hand and plants a kiss.

NICOLE

(whispers)

Everything's OK when you're standing next to someone who believes in you.

Chad smiles. How true.

Nicole begins playing "I Couldn't Be Me Without You".

Chad starts singing. Comfortable from the start. Nicole sways and plays. Her bow relays the emotions behind the lyrics.

She winks at him. He blows a silly kiss. It's an intimate moment shared by everyone in attendance.

The song winds down. Nicole performs her final strum. The house rips into ecstatic applause.

Basking in the performance, the duo look offstage to see Janice holding Adam. Both look extremely proud.

Chad and Nicole hold hands and bow, ending their perfect performance.

CUT TO:

INT. THE ROKKATAR COLISEUM (VIDEO GAME DREAM) - NIGHT

The same pixilated scenario as before. Chad and Ironfists square off over Hungry Hungry Hippos. Eyes squint. Hands at the ready. CHILDISH GIGGLING breaks the tension. Confused, Ironfists looks --

UNDER THE TABLE

ADAM HOOGABOOM ,18 MONTHS, laughs when he sees the silly rhino. Chad peeks under.

CHAD

There you are. Wanna fight a rhino?

CHAD AND ADAM

Each take a hippo. Ironfists feels overmatched.

A HORN sounds. Chad and Adam pound their levers. Hippos munch. Two levers is too much for Ironfists. Hoogabooms lead. Two. One. Done.

Chad high-fives his son. Adam waddles over to Ironfists and hugs the beast's horn. It's cute. Adam turns back to his father and WARBLER in infant speak.

CHAD (CONT'D)

What was that, buddy?

Becky's voice comes out of Adam's mouth.

BECKY (V.O.)
Chad... it's show time. Wake up.

Adam shakes his dad, causing Chad to be sent back to --

INT. CHAD'S NEW OFFICE - DAY (END VIDEO GAME DREAM)

Chad jolts up from his chair and notices Becky.

BECKY
Let's go.

Something on the floor gets Becky's attention.

BECKY (CONT'D)
(to the floor)
Wanna see what's going on?

She picks up her daughter, SAMMI, FOUR MONTHS, who is dressed like her mom.

BECKY (CONT'D)
Wish you slept as well as mommy's
boss does Sammi.

CHAD
You can institute nap time lead
programmer!

For the first time, we get a better view of Chad's office. Ornate wooden desk. Victorian furniture. A rug featuring the Seal of the President. This is the Oval Office. Or at least a good replica.

On the small table behind the desk are various Hoogaboom family photos, as well as a bunch of new figures and trinkets. To the side of the table is Chad's childhood toy chest.

Predominately displayed on the desk are Abe, Elvis and Monkey Wrench.

OVAL OFFICE DOOR

Becky yanks open the office door and they step out to --

INT. RED WAGON GAMES - DAY

Huge murals of iconic Washington D.C. locations fill the large space. Chad and Becky have emerged from the White House. A door plaque reads: "Chad Hoogaboom - President."

Familiar faces (Ollie, Dave, Megan, Stacey) populate computer stations. CURIOUS CHILDREN observe the work while Walter chats with PARENTS. Everyone is having a good time.

CHAD

(to the group)

Now that we've squeezed some free child labor out of you, who's up for some music?

CURIOUS CHILDREN

Yeah!

Chad marches off, followed by the Kids and Parents.

INT. RECEPTION AREA

Receptionist Klay glumly hands each kid a balloon.

INT. D.C. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - HALLWAY STAIRCASE - DAY

Chad and Becky lead the parade down the staircase in the Children's Museum. The "Kid D.C." logo has been replaced with a sleek sign that reads : "Red Wagon Games".

INT. D.C. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - PERFORMACE THEATER - DAY

Nicole cheerfully plays "Daydream Believer" on her violin, backed by a HOUSE BAND.

Chad, Adam, Becky and Sammi clap along with the PACKED HOUSE. Everyone is having a blast.

EXT. 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - NIGHT

Chad and Nicole affectionately walk past the gated White House lawn as TOURISTS waddle about.

CHAD

It's a bold idea, but it has potential. Teach kids about music. Might need someone to provide the score. Know anybody?

NICOLE

Perhaps. Need to see it first. Don't want to lend my talents to a piece of trash.

CHAD

I am Chad Hoogaboom. Maker of worlds. You doubt me?

Nicole turns and looks at an object that Chad has been pulling --

A BATTERED YET FUNCTIONING WONDERFUL RED WAGON

Adam lies asleep in the tattered wagon. It looks like a truck ran over it.

Nicole turns back to her husband. Pulls him closer.

NICOLE

Not anymore.

The young couple continue down the picturesque street as the battered Wonderful Red Wagon carrying their son CLUNKS and CREAKS behind them.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END