

FINDING FERRET BUELLER

Written by

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INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LAB - DAY

Down one wall of this hi-tech laboratory, a bank of animal enclosures containing various small mammals - GUINEA PIGS, RABBITS, RATS, FERRETS.

Slumped at a workbench, wearing brown scrubs, no make-up, is ELISE FRYE (25). She would exude drive, determination and a single-minded desire for success - if only she were awake.

A CLUNK as the double-doors into the lab unlock.

Elise's eyes snap open. She hides a LOGBOOK. Drapes a dust-cover over a piece of equipment - A MOLECULAR SYNTHESIZER.

DITZY TURD (O.S.)

Aww, how are my babies, this morning? Did you miss me?

DITZY TURD (25), curvy and cutesy, also in brown scrubs, enters the lab. She makes a beeline for the animal enclosure.

SLIMY TURD (O.S.)

You're getting way too attached to these mangy rodents.

SLIMY TURD (25), pretty frat boy with way too much product in his hair, identical brown scrubs, follows behind.

ELISE

Technically, they're not rodents. Well, apart from the guinea pig... and the rat, obviously.

SLIMY TURD

Whatever. They're all history once the food trial is over!

DITZY TURD

Don't say that!

Above each enclosure is a hand-written nameplate and release button. A MASTER RELEASE BUTTON is on top of the rack.

Ditzy Turd, presses the button next to "MISS PIGGY". One enclosure springs open. From it, she takes out a guinea pig.

SLIMY TURD

What are you doing here this early, anyway?

ELISE

I wanted to get the RFID logs done. You know what Hogan's like.

SLIMY TURD
 (suspicious)
 Right.

Elise grabs an RFID SCANNER. It looks similar to a retail barcode checker.

She scans the guinea pig as Ditzzy holds it. The display on the scanner reads "SCANNING RFID... GP-211". It BEEPS.

DITZY TURD
 I read somewhere that guinea pigs
 poop more when they're happy.

A pitying look from Elise.

ELISE
 That's not a thing.

Elise cleans the enclosure. Ditzzy cuddles Miss Piggy.

DITZY TURD
 How do you know?

ELISE
 It's basic physiology. They can't
 create more faeces according to
 their mood.

DITZY TURD
 But do you think they are... you
 know, happy?

Elise considers this.

ELISE
 They have food, shelter and an
 appropriate amount of mental
 stimulation. What more do they
 need?

DITZY TURD
 What about friends and family?
 (she kisses Miss Piggy)
 They've got me... but do you think
 they miss their real parents?

Elise visibly stiffens. A *sensitive subject*.

ELISE
 They're just animals!

SLIMY TURD (O.S.)

By stimulating the hippocampus, my experimental formula will result in an additive that's irresistible to the test subjects.

Slimy Turd is reading from Elise's logbook.

ELISE

Give that back!

She crosses to her workbench - lunges for the logbook. Slimy pulls it out of her reach.

ELISE (CONT'D)

It's an idea - purely theoretical.

Slimy REMOVES THE COVER from the molecular synthesizer. On its LCD screen, "SYNTHESIZING COMPOUND". A timer counts down.

SLIMY TURD

Theoretical?

A sheepish expression on Elise's face.

SLIMY TURD (CONT'D)

I thought we were a team?

ELISE

We are. This is a "pet project".

SLIMY TURD

You mean, some insurance to keep you around after the FDA trial?

ELISE

What? No.

Elise lunges for the logbook. Slimy THROWS IT TO DITZY.

SLIMY TURD

Heads up!

Ditzy, hands full with the guinea pig, DUCKS.

The logbook sails over her head. HITS THE MASTER RELEASE BUTTON of the animal enclosures.

DITZY TURD

Oops.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE - DAY

TAMARA BROOKS (48), African American executive assistant, walks past rows of identical cubicles towards the lab doors.

She swipes her access card. The doors CLUNK OPEN. She steps through into...

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LAB - CONTINUOUS

CHAOS! The test animals are free. They randomly scurry as the junior scientists try to catch them.

Slimy has wrestled one of the ferrets to the ground. This mischievous animal is FERRET BUELLER.

Ferret Bueller chirps, then BITES SLIMY'S HAND.

SLIMY TURD

Shit!

Slimy releases him. The ferret scurries towards the exit!

ELISE, DITZY TURD AND SLIMY TURD

DOOR!

Ferret Bueller darts between Tamara's legs. OUT THE DOOR!

TAMARA

What was that?

DITZY TURD

Ferret Bueller.

TAMARA

You do know Hogan's on his way?

A glance at the wall clock. It reads 8:23 am.

SLIMY TURD

You have to help us.

TAMARA

If you think I'm putting my ass on the line for another batch of junior...

ELISE

He's going to fire us. You know he is.

The junior scientists look doe-eyed at Tamara.

TAMARA

(to Ditzzy Turd)

You, come with me, we may be able
to slow Hogan down.

(to Elise and Slimy)

You two, work together to catch the
animals.

ELISE

Together? Is that really the
best...?

A stern look from Tamara cuts her off. Tamara exits the lab
with Ditzzy Turd.

SLIMY TURD

How do you want to do this?

She looks at his bloodied hand.

ELISE

I'll take care of these, you get
the ferret.

SLIMY TURD

How about you get the ferret?

ELISE

Rock, paper, scissors?

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE - DAY

Elise chases Ferret Bueller between the rows of cubicles.
Each time she lunges for him, he easily escapes.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - MAILROOM - DAY

One wall has an open grid of pigeon holes for internal mail.
Ferret Bueller POKES HIS HEAD OUT of one.

Elise tries to GRAB HIM. He disappears from sight.

He does the same from another pigeon hole - like a live
action version of whack-a-mole!

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LAB - DAY

Some of the animals are back in their enclosures but the LOCK
IS NOW BROKEN. Each time Slimy Turd puts one animal in,
another escapes.

He holds the enclosures closed while reaching for a rabbit.

A BEEP SOUND from the molecular synthesizer. Its LCD counter has reached zero.

The machine DISPENSES A CLEAR LIQUID onto a bowl of kibble.

All the ANIMALS STOP. Slowly turn to face the bowl of kibble.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE - DAY

The office door is PROPPED OPEN with a box of paper. Ferret Bueller bounds towards it - TO FREEDOM. Elise trails behind.

ELISE

WAIT!

Ferret Bueller stops. Elise is surprised.

He turns to Elise. Their eyes lock - *sharing a connection*.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Okay, let's both just take a moment here... I mean, I get it. You're curious about what's on the other side of the door.

Ferret Bueller looks to the door.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Sure, it's tempting. But you've got a good thing going on in here. Food, warmth, routine... You really want to risk all that?

Ferret Bueller sniffs the air. Something scary is coming!

HOGAN (O.S.)

Let me get this straight. You have a complaint about the scrubs I gave you - free of charge.

DITZY TURD (O.S.)

Not a complaint, more a suggestion.

BRUCE HOGAN (55) marches around the corner. He is the brash, Australian, CEO of the company. He is flanked by Ditzzy Turd and Tamara.

Ditzzy and Tamara SEE FERRET BUELLER - directly in their path!

DITZY TURD (CONT'D)

You see, it's this color.

Ditzy steps in front of him - blocking Hogan's view.

HOGAN
What about it?

Unseen by Hogan, ELISE DIVES, ROLLS, GRABS Ferret Bueller.

DITZY TURD
It kinda makes us look like...
like...

TAMARA
It makes them look like turds.

Hogan smiles sadistically.

HOGAN
There's a reason for that.

DITZY TURD
Oh.

Hogan pushes past Ditzy and heads for the lab. Ditzy and Tamara are surprised. *No Ferret Bueller?*

Hogan swipes his card. Enters to see...

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LAB - CONTINUOUS

DEVASTATION! Slimy Turd lies on the floor - scratched, bloodied and traumatized.

SLIMY TURD
They... they were like animals!

Around the room, lifeless bodies of the test subjects. Bloated like SMALL FURRY BALLOONS!

Ditzy is in shock. Wide-eyed.

HOGAN
Jesus Fucking Christ!

Tamara examines a rabbit - the SIZE OF A BASKETBALL!

TAMARA
It's dead...

HOGAN
Do you think?

SLIMY TURD

They kept eating... I tried to stop them, but...

HOGAN

Eating what?

Slimy Turd points to the molecular synthesizer.

From behind them, A LOUD POP!

Ditzy Turd is crouched next to the remains of a burst guinea pig. SPLATTERED IN BLOOD.

DITZY TURD

Miss Piggy!

The humans look around. The animals are STILL EXPANDING!

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE - DAY

Elise arrives at the door to the lab carrying Ferret Bueller. She is about to enter when...

A symphony of BLOOD AND FUR SPLATTERS against the clear panel of the door!

Elise covers Ferret Bueller's eyes with her hand.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - SUPER'S APARTMENT - DAY

This is a stoner's paradise. There's an impressive gaming rig with oversized HD displays, sound system and gaming chairs.

A separate grow area has rows of marijuana plants, hydroponic lights, and a drying rack.

SPOKE (25), Asian American with a shaggy mop of hair is in one of the gaming chairs. He wears overalls with an embroidered patch that reads ~~SUPER~~ AWESOME!

SPOKE

Hard right in five clicks... No, left! Wait... There are too many of them! We're not going to make it!

NOODLE (28), considerably more mellow, dressed entirely in black, sits next to him.

NOODLE

We've got this, dude. Focus.

The game is a first person shooter. They pilot a spaceship through an asteroid field. A swarm of ENEMY FIGHTERS EMERGE!

SPOKE

Focus on what? There are like five million Trilorian fighters!

A large SPACE-WORM appears on the screen.

SPOKE (CONT'D)

Not to mention the Squark. Did I mention the Squark?

A BULBOUS JELLYFISH with dozens of heads lumbers into view!

SPOKE (CONT'D)

And what the fuck is that? Seriously. What. The. Fuck?

NOODLE

Just breathe.

SPOKE

What?

NOODLE

Inhale...

Noodle has passed Spoke a bong. HE TAKES A HIT.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

And exhale.

EVERYTHING SLOWS DOWN. They become immersed in the action.

SPOKE

Breathing's good.

Now, they're crushing it. Both players effortlessly destroying waves of aliens.

In the game, A LIGHT FLASHES. Spoke becomes distracted by it.

NOODLE

Spoke?

Spoke snaps back to reality. The flashing light is real. Below it a label "CORRIDOR TRIP-WIRE".

SPOKE

Shit!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

DICKSTEYN (50's), a stocky man, wearing a cheap suit and carrying the last clipboard in existence, examines the TRIP WIRE he has just triggered.

He marches towards Spoke's apartment.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - SUPER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Spoke PRESSES A RED BUTTON. The apartment transforms into a regular room.

The gaming console LOWERS INTO A TABLE.

A PANEL DROPS in front of the grow area.

Each MONITOR SWIVELS. The reverse side is a whiteboard.

Spoke notices Noodle still has the bong in his hand.

SPOKE

Bong!

Noodle takes one more hit.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Dicksteyn reaches for the door handle. Opens it to reveal...

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - SUPER'S APARTMENT - DAY

The thick smoke is INSTANTLY EXTRACTED by a powerful fan. Dicksteyn does a double-take. *Did he see that?*

Noodle EXHALES A CLOUD OF SMOKE. *He definitely saw that!*

DICKSTEYN

What are you doing here?

NOODLE

I'm... leaving.
(heading for the door)
Later, dude.

Spoke nods a goodbye.

DICKSTEYN

Do you know why I'm here?

SPOKE
Am I Employee of the Month?

DICKSTEYN
You are not.

SPOKE
Then, it's probably something I've
done... again.

DICKSTEYN
It's safe to say that nothing could
be further from the truth.

SPOKE
Really?

DICKSTEYN
Indeed. Your having done
something... anything, would be a
vast improvement on the current
state of affairs.

Dicksteyn looks down at the clipboard.

DICKSTEYN (CONT'D)
The elevator phone is non-
functional.

SPOKE
Interesting story...

DICKSTEYN
The building's intercom panel is
missing.

SPOKE
That's a work in progress...

DICKSTEYN
The light fixture in the entrance
hall is dangerously loose.

SPOKE
A couple more days tops...

DICKSTEYN
And vermin has been sighted on the
south side of the building.

SPOKE
Vermin?

DICKSTEYN

Yes, under your fastidious care, it would appear that a family of rats has taken up residence in the vents.

SPOKE

And you're worried they're not paying rent?

Dicksteyn's expression hardens.

DICKSTEYN

I would tread very carefully if I were you. Your circumstances may afford you certain privileges but I am still your superior.

Attempting to be intimidating, he gets right in Spoke's face.

DICKSTEYN (CONT'D)

Remember, nobody is untouchable.

SPOKE

But the touching has to be consensual, right?

Dicksteyn tears off the list of tasks. Hands it to Spoke.

DICKSTEYN

Finish it, today. All of it!

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - TAMARA'S DESK - DAY

Tamara's desk is in front of Hogan's office. All around are children's drawings and picture day photos of her family.

A pensive Elise paces back and forth.

TAMARA

You wear that carpet out, you're buying me a new one!

HOGAN'S DOOR OPENS. Ditzzy and Slimy exit. Both shell-shocked.

ELISE

How did it go?

Ditzzy bursts into tears. Slimy comforts her.

HOGAN (O.S.)

Arse-Licking Turd!

TAMARA
(to Elise)
He means you, honey.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - HOGAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The office reflects Hogan's Australian heritage. Pictures of cattle stations, a boomerang, mounted bull horns. Hogan sits at an imposing desk. Elise sits in front of it.

ELISE
Let me start by saying this whole episode was unfortunate and I...

HOGAN
Who did it?

ELISE
I'm not sure it's productive to focus on apportioning blame.

HOGAN
You're saying, I should fire the lot of you? Not a problem.

He reaches for his intercom.

ELISE
Wait!
(conflicted for moment)
I had nothing to do with them getting out. It was the others. I just helped catch them. In fact, I was the one that saved the ferret.

Hogan considers this.

HOGAN
Why did they keep eating?

ELISE
What do you mean?

HOGAN
The other animals. They were chowing down like escaped chocoholics at a Tim Tam factory.

Elise takes a moment. How much does he know?

ELISE
Maybe they just love Hogan kibble. It could taste that good.

HOGAN
Trust me, it tastes like seven
shades of shit.

A puzzled look on Elise's face. *Does he eat it?*

HOGAN (CONT'D)
So, nothing else you wanted to
share?

ELISE
Only that being a Food Scientist
means everything to me! This isn't
a job, this is who I am! This is
who I'm meant to be!

Hogan is stunned.

HOGAN
I meant, about the furry meat
balloons in the lab.

ELISE
Oh...

He sizes her up, deciding her fate.

HOGAN
Get out.

ELISE
You mean you're not...?
(off his look)
Thank you.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LAB - DAY

The animals have been removed, but the lab is still blood splattered. Several ELECTRONIC RFID TAGS are on the bench.

Elise holds a GLASS PHIAL beneath the molecular synthesizer as it slowly fills. She seals it. Writes on its side "SUPER CATNIP?"

On hearing the CLUNK of the lab doors, Elise furtively resets the molecular synthesiser. SLIPS THE PHIAL into her pocket.

TAMARA (O.S.)
Returning to the scene of the
crime?

Tamara stands behind her. Elise grabs the RFID TAGS.

ELISE
I need the RFID tags from the dead
animals. To close their files...

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - CORRIDOR - DAY

Tamara and Elise exit the lab. Head towards Elise's cubicle.

ELISE
I can't believe he didn't fire me.

TAMARA
Did you ever consider he might have
a compassionate side?

Elise considers this.

TAMARA (CONT'D)
I'm messing with you. That old
bastard is the devil incarnate!

ELISE
So, why...?

TAMARA
Mr. Hogan has a special assignment
for you.

This puts Elise at ease. She smiles.

ELISE
Really?
(her smile fades)
What kind of assignment?

They arrive at...

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - ELISE'S CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS

Elise's desk is immaculately organized. Work journals are
arranged in alphabetical order, framed certificates on the
wall. Only two things here seem out of place...

1) A single framed photo of a young Elise (8) and her PARENTS
(30's).

2) A TRAVEL ENCLOSURE containing FERRET BUELLER! The
enclosure has solid plastic sides with a caged front.

ELISE
Oh, no! Absolutely, not. It belongs
in the lab.

TAMARA

You mean, the lab that was contaminated by your exploding animals?

ELISE

We must have another...

TAMARA

I don't think you realize how important this rodent is.

ELISE

Actually, he's a mustelid.

TAMARA

Actually, he's the only damn reason you still have a job!

Elise stares at the cage. It is labelled TEST SUBJECT FB-211.

ELISE

The FDA trial.

TAMARA

Ding, ding. Thousands of man-hours, millions of dollars, all wasted unless our little friend, here, survives to the end of the month.

She hands Elise the cage.

TAMARA (CONT'D)

For the next twenty eight days, this is the most important ferret in the world.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - NIGHT

Under an ORNATE LIGHT FIXTURE, there is a tall step ladder. Elise, laptop bag over one shoulder and Ferret Bueller's travel enclosure in hand, STRUGGLES THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

She stops at a wall of mailboxes. Rearranges her bags to take out a BUNDLE OF MAIL. Heads for the elevators.

Her laptop bag SLIDES OFF HER SHOULDER. Tangles with her legs. She TRIPS FORWARD.

LETTERS FLY EVERYWHERE. Ferret Bueller's enclosure SKIDS ACROSS THE FLOOR.

ELISE

Shit!

(on reflection)

SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!

SPOKE (O.S.)

Need a hand?

Elise JUMPS in surprise.

She looks up to see Spoke at the top of the stepladder. His face haloed by the bright light.

ELISE

I can manage!

She hurriedly gathers up her possessions.

SPOKE

No trouble...

Spoke looks at the partially completed repair of the light. Shrugs. Then slides down the ladder.

In the time it takes to reach the bottom, ELISE HAS GONE.

INT. ELISE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

An extension of Elise's cubicle at work. A desk, computer and science journals - all IMMACULATELY ORGANIZED. She sets down Ferret Bueller's enclosure. Empties her pockets beside it - her KEYS and the phial of SUPER CATNIP.

A TIMER GOES OFF on Elise's watch.

ELISE

Time to eat.

She carefully weighs some kibble in a bowl. Opens the cage.

Ferret Bueller pokes his head out. Gingerly.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Hey, you were the one who wanted
out of your comfort zone, buddy!

She crosses to her freezer, opens its door to reveal...
Dozens of IDENTICAL READY MEALS.

She takes one. Throws it in the MICROWAVE.

Ferret Bueller is still not eating.

ELISE (CONT'D)
 Here's some free advice. Suck it
 up, eat the food and we can both
 avoid the inconceivable possibility
 of this day getting any shittier!

She PRESSES THE BUTTON on the microwave. It WHIRS for a
 second, then STOPS DEAD!

ELISE (CONT'D)
 Oh, come on!

INT. ELISE'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Elise has DISMANTLED THE MICROWAVE on the kitchen counter but
 it is STILL PLUGGED IN. All the components have been lined up
 neatly. She measures voltages with an electrical multimeter.

Ferret Bueller chirps.

ELISE
 I know what I'm doing, okay?
 (she probes the circuit)
 Besides, the circuit breaker will
 kick in long before I get...

A FLASH and a LOUD CRACK. Elise is THROWN BACKWARDS.

The room is plunged into DARKNESS.

ELISE (CONT'D)
 Shocked.

INT. ELISE'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Elise wears a head-mounted flashlight. The room is dark apart
 from its beam. The electrical PANEL IS OPEN.

Elise peers inside. One of the circuit breakers has been
 REPLACED WITH A METAL SPOON!

A Post-it note beside the spoon reads "IOU one circuit
 breaker. Spoke (your super)!"

ELISE
 What???

INT. SUPER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

In the kitchen area of his apartment, Spoke is preparing a HOME-MADE PIZZA. He sprinkles grated mozzarella over it. Slides it into his toaster oven.

SPOKE

Well?

Noodle sits in front of the gaming rig. HE EXHALES.

NOODLE

Best. Blend. Yet.

Spoke crosses to his grow-op area.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

You should totally market this!
You're like a... weed blending
wizard.

Spoke picks up a baggie, containing his custom blended weed.

SPOKE

We're allowed to believe in wizards
now, are we?

NOODLE

Dude, we're allowed to believe in
whatever we want.
(he takes another hit)
And that includes ourselves.

Spoke ponders these inspirational words. On the side of the baggie, he writes "Best blend yet".

The TRIPWIRE ALARM FLASHES.

SPOKE

Shit! The button!

They launch into tidy-up mode. Noodle HITS THE RED BUTTON.

The GAMING CONSOLE LOWERS into the table. The PANEL DROPS in front of the grow area. Spoke just manages to ROLL UNDERNEATH it.

He stands up. Smiles.

His head is HIT BY THE MONITORS swivelling around. He FALLS to the floor.

A KNOCK at the door.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
 (dazed)
 Be there... right!

Spoke staggers to the door. Opens it to reveal...

Elise, still wearing the head-mounted flashlight, Ferret Bueller's travel enclosure in her hand. FURIOUS!

SPOKE (CONT'D)
 Whoa!

ELISE
 Which one of you is Spoke?

Noodle points to Spoke.

ELISE (CONT'D)
 Did you write this?

Elise holds up the IOU note for him to see. Spoke squints.

SPOKE
 Maybe.

ELISE
 Have you any idea how irresponsible
 it is to bypass a circuit breaker?

Her flailing arms WAVE FERRET BUELLER in Spoke's direction.

Spoke sees FUR, TEETH AND CLAWS! He BACKS AWAY.

ELISE (CONT'D)
 What were you thinking? I could
 have been killed! It could have
 started a fire!

NOODLE
 Dudes, let's take a moment here.
 Why don't you put your mutant
 attack rat on the ground and we can
 talk about this.

ELISE
 Attack rat? Are you high?

Noodle nods sheepishly. Spoke wobbles a bit (feeling faint).

ELISE (CONT'D)
 Of course you are. That makes
 perfect sense.
 (MORE)

ELISE (CONT'D)
 Why wouldn't you jeopardize the
 safety of this entire building by
 consuming mind altering...

Elise notices Spoke is BLEEDING from his temple.

ELISE (CONT'D)
 Wait, are you bleeding?

Spoke touches his hand to his temple. Looks at the blood.

SPOKE
 Uh-oh. Imminent faceplant scenario!

He FALLS FORWARD. Faceplants on the carpet.

INT. SUPER'S APARTMENT - LATER

Spoke opens his eyes to see A BRIGHT LIGHT. Elise's
 flashlight temporarily blinding him.

ELISE (O.S.)
 Are you okay?

SPOKE (O.S.)
 Should I go towards the light?

Elise turns off her flashlight. Her face comes into view.

ELISE
 Is that better?

Spoke is sitting on the sofa. Elise and Noodle tend to him.
 He now has a bandage around his head.

SPOKE
 Yeah. Everything's better.
 (He smiles at Elise)
 What happened?

NOODLE
 Dude, you passed out. Elise totally
 saved your life.

SPOKE
 Elise?

ELISE
 (she nods an introduction)
 I just applied a dressing.

Spoke's expression changes as he remembers...

SPOKE

Shit! The circuit breaker...

ELISE

It's fine. No harm done.

SPOKE

I've got spares. We can go now...

Spoke tries to stand up. He becomes dizzy.

ELISE

You should rest. Take it easy.

She looks at Noodle.

NOODLE

Totally on it!

Noodle PUSHES THE RED BUTTON.

The GAMING CONSOLE RISES out of the table. The PANEL RAISES to reveal the grow area. The white boards SWIVEL around.

ELISE

What is this place?

SPOKE AND NOODLE

Welcome to Dudetopia!

Elise crosses to the grow area. Examines the plants.

ELISE

This is impressive. These are hybrid plants.

Spoke smiles at the compliment.

NOODLE

Why do you have a mutant attack rat?

ELISE

He's a ferret. And that's a long story.

Spoke and Noodle look at her expectantly.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Another time. I'm tired and the attack rat and I haven't eaten yet.

The toaster oven PINGS. Everyone looks at the FRESH PIZZA.

INT. SUPER'S APARTMENT - LATER

The room is filled with smoke. A much more mellow Elise sits on a beanbag next to Spoke and Noodle. She eats a slice of pizza. They play a game on the console.

SPOKE

The animals exploded?

ELISE

Like furry little grenades.

She mimes this with her hands.

NOODLE

Whoa!

ELISE

But here's the best part.

Noodle passes a bong to Elise. She declines.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Even though I single-handedly saved the food trial, he makes me babysit the damn ferret!

(to Ferret Bueller)

No offense.

Ferret Bueller chirps.

SPOKE

Bosses are evil.

ELISE

I think that's a bit of a generalization.

SPOKE

Okay, then. Why do you always have to defeat the boss to get to the next level? If they weren't evil, you'd just shake hands and schedule a meeting.

They consider this.

NOODLE

He does make an excellent point.

ELISE

Huh. You two are good listeners.

SPOKE

Thanks. Although, we can't take all the credit.

NOODLE

Yeah, you're totally wasted.

ELISE

Wasted? How could...?

She looks down at the slice of pizza in her hand.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Wait, does this contain Tetrahydrocannabinol?

NOODLE

No... just weed.

She nods.

ELISE

Wait, what?

DRUG INDUCED MONTAGE

- Elise is crouched on the floor, staring at Ferret Bueller's cage. He has flipped the latch and ESCAPED! Unseen by her, Ferret Bueller is right next to her also staring at the cage.

- Elise and Ferret Bueller slowly turn to face each other. They notice each other at the same time and physically JUMP IN SURPRISE!

- Spoke and Noodle set up an OBSTACLE COURSE from the junk in Spoke's apartment. Pipes, duct tape, cushions, bong, snacks.

- They cheer as Ferret Bueller completes the course. He is rewarded with ferret food.

- They cheer as Noodle completes the course. He is rewarded with pizza.

- Ferret Bueller takes an elaborate route across the apartment to reach a container. He grabs a bag of weed and returns back to Spoke. He is rewarded with ferret food.

INT. SUPER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Elise is asleep on the sofa, crumbs embedded in the side of her face. There is no sign of Spoke or Noodle.

A LOUD RINGTONE. She sits bolt upright! Blindly rummages around for her phone.

ELISE

Hello.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HOGAN FOODS OFFICES - HOGAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Hogan paces back and forth, shouting hands-free at his phone.

HOGAN

Arse-licking Turd, where the fuck are you?

She looks around. *Where the fuck is she?*

ELISE

(still groggy)
Wait, what time is it?

HOGAN

What am I? George the talking clock?
(in the style of the Australian talking clock)
At the third stroke, your arse will be canned. Beep. Beep...

ELISE

Wait...!
(her face scrunched in concentration)
I'm working from home today.

HOGAN

Good onya...

A look of relief on Elise's face.

HOGAN (CONT'D)

It's not every home that comes equipped with an RFID scanner and a spectrum analyzer.

ELISE

Right, the daily data log for the...
(realization dawns)
Ferret!

HOGAN
You do still have it?

She stumbles around looking for Ferret Bueller.

ELISE
Absolutely. He's right here. Still completely in his cage. And let me assure you that...

She TRIPS OVER the near-comatose body of Spoke, who is lying on the floor.

The phone FLIES OUT OF HER HAND. Unintelligible swearing is heard as she scrambles to find it.

HOGAN
...get it here by this arvo or your arse is going to be skidding across the pavement faster than a root-rag chasing a ten inch snag! Do I make myself clear?

ELISE
Um...

Hogan hangs up.

BACK TO SCENE.

A beat as Elise comprehends the situation.

She GRABS SPOKE. SHAKES HIM to wake him up.

ELISE (CONT'D)
Where's Ferret Bueller?

SPOKE
Intense!

ELISE
I have to find him.

Spoke sits up. Looks at Elise.

SPOKE
Okay, you need to chill.

ELISE
No, I don't need to chill. Chilling is the last thing I need to do. I have exactly three hours to get that ferret to the lab or my so-called career is history.

Spoke gestures around his apartment.

SPOKE

Dudetopia is twelve hundred square feet of recreational paradise... it'll take like five minutes to search this place.

Elise calms down a little.

NOODLE (O.S.)

Breakfast is served!

Noodle enters the apartment carrying a brown paper bag with grease seeping through it.

He CLOSES THE DOOR behind him.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

That, my friends, is a security hazard. Someone totally forgot to shut the door.

ELISE

No!

NOODLE

It's okay. I've done it now.

She pushes past Noodle. Opens the door to the corridor.

ELISE

Bueller? Bueller?

Spoke heads for his container of weed.

SPOKE

Everyone needs to calm down.
(he opens the container)
Might I suggest a little...?

His face is frozen in shock.

NOODLE

Dude, what is it?

He shows Noodle the container. It is EMPTY!

NOODLE (CONT'D)

The seriousness of this situation has totally been escalated.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - VENTS - DAY

The dusty interior of a metallic heating vent. Ferret Bueller scurries towards a grate up ahead.

He looks through the grate.

He pushes it open. Jumps out of sight.

INT. SUPER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Elise gathers up her possessions. Spoke and Noodle finish their breakfast - greasy shawarmas.

NOODLE

You should eat.

SPOKE

Greasy indeterminate meat, wrapped in bread. It's the breakfast of champions.

ELISE

Hardly applicable to me, then.

NOODLE

Dude, don't say that. We've got this.

ELISE

We? Oh, no!

She heads for the door, laden with travel cage and kibble.

SPOKE

Three heads are better than one...

Elise looks at the heads in question. She struggles to open the door.

SPOKE (CONT'D)

Besides, I can't help but feel somewhat responsible.

ELISE

Somewhat???

SPOKE

Hey, your weed weasel stole my stash. We're in this together.

ELISE

I don't do "together".

She drops the bag of ferret kibble on the floor. It bursts!

ELISE (CONT'D)

Shit!

Elise tries to scoop up the kibble with her hands.

Spoke and Noodle watch the pathetic sight.

Spoke drops to the floor to help.

SPOKE

I'm just cleaning your ferret pellets off my floor. Not helping in any way.

ELISE

Good.

NOODLE

What if we work together, but separately? Elise needs the ferret. Spoke needs his awesome blend of weed. And I...

(considering this)

Okay, I may have a vested interest in the weed, too... So, why don't we help each other out?

SPOKE

A shared quest!

Spoke and Noodle look at her expectantly. She relents.

ELISE

Fine.

Spoke and Noodle high five.

NOODLE

All right, we have three hours to find the big bag of weed, recover the ferret and save Elise's job. Good luck, everyone!

Noodle heads for the door.

ELISE

Wait. Where are you going?

Noodle grabs a clerical collar from his pocket. Places it around his neck. Revealing he is a CATHOLIC PRIEST.

NOODLE
 Sorry, Dudes. I've got mass.
 (opening the door)
 But, you two totally have this!

Noodle leaves. Spoke and Elise share an awkward beat.

ELISE
 So, he's a priest...?

SPOKE
 St. Jude's finest.
 (off her look)
 I know, right?

Elise snaps into action.

ELISE
 Okay, give me your phone.

Spoke pulls a phone from his pocket.

Elise takes it. Calls her phone to exchange numbers.

ELISE (CONT'D)
 If we're going to do this, we do it
 my way. We have to enumerate every
 last variable and execute a
 methodical plan of action.

SPOKE
 Got it.

She crosses to the whiteboards and draws a grid pattern.

ELISE
 Let's draw up a grid and go through
 it systematically.
 (points to the whiteboard)
 You can cover sector A1 and...

A GIRLISH SCREAM comes from outside the apartment.

SPOKE
 That's gotta be the ferret!

Spoke SPRINTS OUT THE DOOR leaving Elise alone. She sighs.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

An apartment door SLAMS SHUT just as Spoke arrives. He KNOCKS
 ON THE DOOR.

SPOKE

Ma'am, are you okay?

Elise catches up with him.

SPOKE (CONT'D)

Ma'am, please, open the door. We're here to help.

REGINALD CLARKE (65), a nervous-looking man with a pathological attention to detail, opens the door a crack. He has a shocked expression on his face.

SPOKE (CONT'D)

Where is she? The woman that screamed?

REGINALD

Nobody screamed.

SPOKE

Okay, then the small child?

ELISE

(knowingly)

Maybe it was a television... or radio?

Reginald nods.

ELISE (CONT'D)

On a completely unrelated note, have you seen anything unusual recently...?

SPOKE

Like a screaming woman?

Elise elbows him in the ribs.

REGINALD

There was an animal in the corridor...

SPOKE

Big teeth, long tail, carrying a bag of... something?

REGINALD

How did you know?

ELISE

I think, it's my pet ferret. He accidentally got out of his cage.

REGINALD
Rodents aren't allowed in our
building.

ELISE
It's not a rodent!

REGINALD
No matter, I've called the
exterminator. It will be taken care
of.

ELISE
No! You don't understand. We need
to find him. He needs to be alive!

Reginald starts to close the door.

REGINALD
You should have thought of that
before you let him terrorize the
occupants of this building.

ELISE
Terrorize? It's a ferret, not a
velociraptor!

SPOKE
Which direction did it go?

REGINALD
I didn't see. I was...

SPOKE
Running away?

Reginald has had enough.

REGINALD
Good day.

He closes the door.

ELISE
Great! Now what?

INT. REGINALD'S APARTMENT - DAY

An apartment similar to Elise's in size. The main living area
is dominated by a large trestle table. On the table is an
intricate MODEL RAILWAY.

Reginald sits at the table looking through a LARGE MAGNIFYING GLASS. He carefully paints one of the tiny trees.

REGINALD'S POV: CLOSE UP ON THE MODEL TREE. FERRET BUELLER'S MAGNIFIED FACE SUDDENLY COMES INTO VIEW!

Reginald emits A HIGH-PITCHED SCREAM!

The door jamb SPLINTERS as the door BURSTS OPEN!

Spoke runs into the room followed by Elise.

REGINALD
(pointing to Bueller)
There it is!

Ferret Bueller STOMPS OVER the model railway - like Godzilla!

SPOKE
I'm on it!

REGINALD
Just be careful of my...

Spoke LAUNCHES HIMSELF headfirst towards Ferret Bueller.

He CRASHES ONTO THE TABLE just as Ferret Bueller LEAPS CLEAR.

The table collapses. The model is CRUSHED.

REGINALD (CONT'D)
... model.

Ferret Bueller DARTS INTO AN OPEN VENT.

SPOKE
Two can play at that game!

Spoke DIVES AFTER HIM. He squeezes through the vent and disappears from view.

Reginald and Elise stare at the devastated model railway.

She picks up a derailed locomotive.

ELISE
Would you like me to...

REGINALD
No!

She sheepishly places it back down. Trudges towards the door.

ELISE
How long have we got? Before the
exterminator...?

REGINALD
He arrives at three.

Elise perks up.

ELISE
Great! I'll be fired way before
then.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - VENT - DAY

Spoke wriggles through the dimly lit vent on his belly. The
light on his smartphone ILLUMINATES THE PATH ahead.

His phone RINGS.

ELISE (V.O.)
(handsfree on phone)
Can you see him?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Elise looks to the ceiling. She is trying to follow Spoke's
progress. She talks handsfree on her phone.

SPOKE
I can crawl through vents with the
best of them, but dude, that thing
is fast.

ELISE
Don't take it personally. He does
have an evolutionary advantage over
you.

SPOKE
You mean, he's the perfect shape
for crawling through small spaces?

ELISE
(playfully)
Yeah, that's what I meant.

Spoke smiles at the insult.

ELISE (CONT'D)
Which direction are you headed?

SPOKE
Towards the south side of the
building.

(He considers this)
If you can remove the vent cover, I
can drive him your way.

ELISE
That's not a bad idea.

SPOKE
Oh yeah, evolution baby!

ELISE
How do I remove the cover?

SPOKE
If it's the cold air return,
there's a master release wheel on
the top floor. You need to rotate
it counter-clockwise exactly three
and a half turns.

Elise writes these instructions on her palm.

ELISE
That seems overly complicated. What
if it's not the cold air return?

SPOKE
Give it a good kick.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - VENT - DAY

Light filters through a grate up ahead. Spoke wriggles
towards it - still handsfree on his phone.

SPOKE
I can see something ahead...

ELISE (V.O.)
Is it him?

A METALLIC GROAN as the vent strains to support his weight.
He stops dead.

SPOKE
Uh-oh.

The vent groans again.

ELISE (V.O.)
What is it?

SPOKE
I fear gravity may get the better
of me.

ELISE (V.O.)
What?

He DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW as the vent collapses! His phone
remains in the vent.

ELISE (V.O.)
Spoke? What was that? Spoke?

INT. MISS GREY'S APARTMENT - DAY

This apartment has graphic nude artwork adorning the walls.
An office desk with a computer and several webcams is in the
middle of the room.

Spoke is sprawled on top of a pile of freshly created debris.

MISS GREY (O.S.)
Were you spying on me?

Spoke looks up to see... MISS GREY (75), liberated, free-
spirited and VERY NAKED! She sits on an office chair with her
LEGS CROSSED.

Spoke lets out a yelp of surprise, fear and repulsion! He
puts his HAND OVER HIS EYES.

SPOKE
Sorry! No...! God, no! I had no
idea you were...

He sits up.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
What were you doing?

MISS GREY
I'm a webcam model.

SPOKE
Really? Why would...? Who would...?
How would...?
(he takes a moment)
No, it turns out I don't want to
know the answer to any of those
questions.

MISS GREY

Not that I'm complaining, but why
are you in my apartment?

SPOKE

I'm looking for a ferret.

MISS GREY

In that case, you're in luck.

Spoke is suckered into OPENING HIS EYES.

Recreating the scene from Basic Instinct (except mercifully
shot from behind!) Miss Grey UNCROSSES HER LEGS.

A horrified look on Spoke's face!

SPOKE

That's not a ferret!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Elise has arrived at the vent cover on the south side of the
building. Beside her is Ferret Bueller's travel cage.

She give the vent cover a SHARP KICK. It falls away.

ELISE

(into the vent)
Spoke? Can you hear me?

A SCURRYING SOUND comes from the vent.

Elise smiles. Grabs Ferret Bueller's travel enclosure.

The SCURRYING becomes louder.

In the vent, a pair of eyes are visible. Then another pair?
And another!

ELISE (CONT'D)

What...?

Elise backs away as...

RATS EMERGE from the vent! LOTS OF RATS! They overrun her.
Climbing up her arms. Into her hair!

She JUMPS TO HER FEET. Brushes them off!

They SCURRY DOWN the corridor. Round a bend and out of sight.

Elise breathes a sigh of relief.

A familiar HIGH PITCHED SCREAM comes from down the corridor!

ELISE RUNS towards the source of the scream. She rounds the corner to see...

Reginald STANDING ON A TABLE. He talks on a cell phone.

REGINALD

We're going to need that
exterminator now! No... right now!

INT. MISS GREY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Spoke still has his hand covering his eyes. He scrambles towards the door. Miss Grey follows.

MISS GREY

Where are you going? I'm about to
get started!

SPOKE

Good luck with that, bye!

Still covering his eyes, he opens the door.

The corridor is dark. Spoke fumbles for the light switch. He grabs something.

The LIGHTS COME ON revealing he is in the...

INT. RED ROOM OF PAIN - DAY

Bed, chains, sex-toys, rope - you get the picture.

MISS GREY (O.S.)

I see you've found Leeroy...

Miss Grey stands in the doorway. Hand on the light switch.

Spoke looks across to his hand. He's holding... a BIG BLACK DILDO!

MISS GREY (CONT'D)

You naughty, naughty boy.

Spoke drops the dildo.

As Spoke tries to move past her, she blocks his path.

SPOKE

I need you to stay over there!

MISS GREY

But I need you to come over here.

She pushes her sagging boobs together.

SPOKE

What? No!

She advances towards him. Spoke backs away.

MISS GREY

Haven't you ever fantasized about being with an older woman?

SPOKE

There's older and there's... Class of Betty White.

Spoke is now backed AGAINST THE WALL. Miss Grey still advancing.

MISS GREY

With age comes experience. A lifetime of knowledge, a lifetime of pleasures.

She runs her finger down his cheek.

MISS GREY (CONT'D)

Can you imagine the kinds of things I've experienced?

SPOKE

Dinosaurs?

She closes in for the kiss.

MISS GREY

(whispers)

Let me share them with you.

As she lunges towards him, Spoke DUCKS DOWN. He is SMOTHERED by her naked body!

MISS GREY (CONT'D)

Now you're getting the hang of it.

Spoke tussles with her to get free. He slips through her bony fingers. RUNS towards the door.

MISS GREY (CONT'D)

Come back and finish what you've started!

She hears the door SLAM SHUT.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Spoke is crouched against a wall in the fetal position. Elise arrives.

ELISE
Well? How did you make out?

A look of horror on Spoke's face.

SPOKE
We didn't make out, okay?

ELISE
Okaaaay.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A VAN PULLS UP in front of the building. On its side, a Ghostbusters style logo with a rat instead of a ghost.

Under the logo: "Sherman The Vermin Exterminator - 100% effective".

SHERMAN (30), stocky and muscular with a steely gaze. He has a buzz cut that is by far the most emotive thing about him. He exits the van.

He walks to the rear of the vehicle and OPENS THE DOORS to reveal...

An awesome arsenal of VERMIN-KILLING EQUIPMENT.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Spoke sits with his back against the wall - still recovering from his geriatric encounter. Elise paces back and forth.

She checks her phone. The time is 11:03.

ELISE
We've got less than an hour.

SPOKE
Why don't you just tell your boss what happened?

ELISE
You mean give up?

Spoke shrugs.

SPOKE
He might be okay with it.

ELISE
Trust me, he won't.

Spoke notices something behind her. He subtly tries to get her attention.

ELISE (CONT'D)
In fact, I'd go as far as to say
that unless we find that ferret...

Spoke more obviously gestures down the corridor.

ELISE (CONT'D)
I'm exactly fifty seven minutes
from being unemployed!

SPOKE
Shhh.

ELISE
Did you just shush me!

Spoke gives an exaggerated gesture for her to turn around.

Elise spins around to see... FERRET BUELLER! Her sudden movement causes him to RUN!

ELISE (CONT'D)
You could have said something!

Spoke and Elise GIVE CHASE.

Weighed down with her bag, Elise struggles to keep up.

She DROPS THE BAG on the corridor floor.

A WHIRRING SOUND can be heard.

SPOKE
Is that you?

ELISE
Yes, I'm making a whirring sound!

A MODEL DRONE FLIES alongside them.

SPOKE
Whoa!

ELISE
Wall.

SPOKE
What?

The corridor TURNS SHARPLY to the right. Spoke doesn't. He SPLATS AGAINST THE WALL!

Ferret Bueller DISAPPEARS into a vent.

ELISE
Are you okay?

The drone swoops down towards them.

SPOKE
(dazed)
Don't tell me, I know this one.

ELISE LEAPS to catch the drone.

On top of the drone, Sherman The Exterminator's logo is clearly visible. A camera is mounted on its underside.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
Where did it come from?

ELISE
The exterminator. He's here!

A determined look on her face.

ELISE (CONT'D)
(into the camera)
That ferret is the property of Hogan Foods...

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

Sherman is in the lobby holding the DRONE CONTROLLER. Elise's rant plays out on its screen.

ELISE (V.O.)
If you so much as cause him one iota of distress. I assure you that my company will sue you and your pathetic excuse of a...

Sherman PRESSES A BUTTON MARKED "SHOCK".

Elise yelps in pain. DROPS THE DRONE.

ELISE (V.O.)
Son of a bitch!

On the screen, Elise's foot is seen STAMPING on the camera.
The screen goes black.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRWELL - DAY

Elise and Spoke run down the stairs towards the lobby.

SPOKE
Maybe he's using humane traps?

ELISE
He's an exterminator. You do know
what that means?

SPOKE
Okay, glad you asked. Is he an
exterminator or an Ex-hyphen-
Terminator? Big difference.

ELISE
What?

SPOKE
An exterminator is paid to kill
small animals...

ELISE
Right. Which would be a bad thing.

SPOKE
Correct. But an Ex-hyphen-
Terminator is a retired time-
traveling-cyborg-assassin sent back
from the future to kill mankind.

ELISE
(breezily)
I guess we'll find out.

They exit the stairwell into...

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Sherman has set up his awesome array of FUTURISTIC WEAPONS in
the lobby. Spoke and Elise stare at them.

SPOKE
That so doesn't help narrow it
down.

Elise examines a piece of equipment on a tripod. It resembles a surveyor's theodolite.

ELISE
Take a look at this!

SPOKE
(clueless)
Ah, the JB-104, an excellent choice.

ELISE
It's a thermal sensor. He's tracking Ferret Bueller through the building.

On the sensor, a red dot represents Ferret Bueller.

SPOKE
Where are they headed?

ELISE
Up.

They both look across to the elevators. One is going up, the other has its doors open.

Spoke runs towards it.

SPOKE
What are you waiting for? We know where they are!

Elise hesitates for a moment... *something isn't right*. She reluctantly follows Spoke.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

To the right of the doors is the CONTROL PANEL. Beneath it, a small compartment for the EMERGENCY HANDSET.

Spoke presses the top-floor button. The DOORS CLOSE.

ELISE
This is bad.

SPOKE
I know, right? Going up against a cyborg assassin is our best case scenario.

ELISE
 Why would he leave all his
 equipment downstairs?

SPOKE
 No biggie... if you can manipulate
 time and space.

ELISE
 Or, if you didn't actually go
 anywhere...
 (realization dawns)
 Stop the elevator!

The ELEVATOR STOPS. By itself! Spoke looks at Elise in awe.

ELISE (CONT'D)
 It wasn't me. He's cut the power!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

Sherman CLOSES AN ACCESS PANEL next to the elevator. Hangs a
 notice on the panel that reads "OUT OF SERVICE".

He collects some awesome weaponry. Heads to the stairwell.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR - DAY

Spoke and Elise are still in the elevator. Elise is agitated.

SPOKE
 Noodle can bust us out of here!
 Give him a call.

Elise reaches for her bag. She doesn't have it!

ELISE
 Shit!
 (off Spoke's look)
 I left it in the corridor. Yours?

SPOKE
 In the vent.

She OPENS THE EMERGENCY PANEL. Picks up the elevator handset.

ELISE
 Hello...? Hello...?
 (to Spoke)
 He's cut the phone line.

She pulls on the cable. It's not connected.

SPOKE
Yeah, that was totally him.

ELISE
What...?

SPOKE
It may already have been broken.

ELISE
And you knew about it?
(off his look)
Why would you not fix the elevator
phone? It's kinda useful... you
know, when you're stuck in an
elevator!

SPOKE
If it's any consolation it's right
at the top of my "to-do list".

She looks as if she's about to explode!

SPOKE (CONT'D)
You're right, that doesn't help.

ELISE
Okay, think! There has to be
something...

SPOKE
Dude, we're sealed inside a steel
box with no way of communicating
with the outside world.

ELISE
What a surprise! You think we
should just give up!

Spoke shrugs. Elise refuses to be beaten. She looks up at the
roof of the elevator.

ELISE (CONT'D)
What about the emergency hatch?

SPOKE
Locked on the outside.
(Off her incredulous look)
I know, right?

ELISE
The doors, then? Can they be
forced?

Spoke's face lights up.

SPOKE

Okay, that might work! There's a latch above the door that releases the lock.

He points to a small gap at the top of the doors.

SPOKE (CONT'D)

My hand's too fat... I mean, "muscular"... but you might be able to reach it.

Elise reaches up. The gap is too small.

ELISE

It's no good.

SPOKE

We need something small to reach through. Maybe a child... Or a small animal.

ELISE

You mean, like a ferret?

SPOKE

Yes!
(realization dawns)
Oh.

Elise scans the small space. Out of ideas, she slumps to the floor.

ELISE

We're screwed, aren't we?

SPOKE

Totally.

ELISE

I can't believe my career is over because of a fucking ferret!

SPOKE

It's just a job. You'll get another one.

ELISE

Not around here...

SPOKE

What's so good about here?

ELISE
My parents are... they're nearby.

SPOKE
Mine too, but what's so good about here?

She smiles. They both sit contemplating their predicament.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
Okay, that's it...

He heads to the rear wall. Starts to UNSCREW A PANEL.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
I'm breaking out the emergency kit!

ELISE
What...? There's an emergency kit?

He takes out a RED CONTAINER from behind the panel.

ELISE (CONT'D)
You didn't think to mention this earlier?

He reveals the EMERGENCY KIT... It's a red box with a glass front. Inside, TWO FAT JOINTS and a box of MATCHES!

SPOKE
It wasn't an emergency before!

Elise stares at it incredulously. Is she going to explode with anger?

No, SHE SMILES. Then she starts to laugh. Spoke joins in.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - CORRIDOR - DAY

Tamara looks through a window into the lab. A CLEANING TEAM (various), in white overalls, scrub to clean ANIMAL ENTRAILS from the work surfaces.

She checks the clock on her phone. It reads exactly 12:00.

Tamara sighs deeply. Starts to text a message.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - BOARDROOM - DAY

The room has large picture windows to the corridors outside. Hogan sits at a conference table. Other EXECUTIVES (50's), in expensive suits, listen to the CHAIRMAN (60's) drone on.

CHAIRMAN

...and although your Universal Kibble has the potential to disrupt the marketplace, diverting all our resources...

Hogan's PHONE VIBRATES. The Chairman stares at Hogan.

Hogan turns it off.

CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)

Diverting all our resources to its development represents a significant risk. Especially, if we fail to get FDA approval.

HOGAN

Yeah, well. No balls, no glory.

Through the window, Tamara tries to get his attention.

CHAIRMAN

Mr. Hogan, we have a fiduciary responsibility to our shareholders.

She holds up a notepad with a message. Hogan squints, but cannot read it.

HOGAN

The shareholders don't know a snag from a dingo's donga. I built this company from the ground up and last time I checked, my name's still on the door!

Tamara SCRIBBLES A NOTE on a piece of paper. Scrunches it into a ball.

CHAIRMAN

You'll be glad to know that rebranding is not an expensive endeavor.

Tamara opens the door. THROWS THE NOTE towards Hogan.

Hogan (useless at catching) reaches for it. It bounces off his forehead.

Hogan retrieves the note. Unfurls it to reveal the message - "THE FERRET IS MISSING!"

CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)

Something wrong?

HOGAN
 (unconvincing)
 No. Great news!

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - CORRIDOR - DAY

Hogan storms through the conference room door. Barrelling past Tamara, he heads for the exit.

HOGAN
 Hold my calls! Clear the calendar!
 And get me a meeting with legal!

TAMARA
 Legal? Why do you need...?

HOGAN
 I'm about to kill a fucking food
 scientist!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR - DAY

The cramped space is now FILLED WITH SMOKE. Elise and Spoke each have a joint.

ELISE
 How do you get to become a Super?

SPOKE
 Looking for a new career?

ELISE
 I'm thinking, I should probably
 keep my options open.

SPOKE
 (mystically)
 Well, young apprentice, the paths
 to Super-dom are many and varied.
 (he takes a hit)
 Personally, I can recommend
 training as an architect, fucking
 that up and then gradually working
 your way down.

ELISE
 You were an architect???

She giggles.

SPOKE
 You think that's funny?

ELISE
Sorry, it's just...
(choosing her words)
That doesn't seem to be a good
match with your skillset.

SPOKE
Clearly, you're right!

ELISE
So, why choose it?

He considers this.

SPOKE
It wasn't my choice to make.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Sherman consults the ferret-tracking device. A red dot represents him. Another red dot represents Ferret Bueller - STRAIGHT AHEAD.

Sherman looks ahead to see... Ferret Bueller at the end of the corridor. Backed against the wall. No escape.

Sherman unfurls a customized "stinger". Similar to the device police use to stop cars, this is a CHAIN OF MOUSE TRAPS linked together.

Ferret Bueller watches with interest.

Sherman sets up a LASER SENSOR. A red beam of light crosses the corridor.

He places a METALLIC BOX in the center of the corridor. Looks up to see... Ferret Bueller has DISAPPEARED!

Sherman looks around.

He CHECKS the ferret-tracking device. Looks down at its screen. Just ONE RED DOT is visible.

Sherman's expression changes. *Something is wrong.*

He moves the ferret-tracking-device aside to reveal... Ferret Bueller has climbed his leg. He is at CROTCH-HEIGHT!

Ferret Bueller OPENS HIS MOUTH!

Sherman FREAKS OUT. He dances around, arms and legs flailing.

Ferret Bueller JUMPS CLEAR.

Sherman TRIPS OVER the metallic box. FALLS ONTO THE STINGER.

The mouse-traps SNAP SHUT across his body! He stifles a scream.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR - DAY

The smoke is more dense now. Elise uses a BUSINESS CARD to sweep ash from her joint into several neat piles.

SPOKE

Okay, your turn...
(looks at her card)
Miss Frye. Why Food Science? Was it
for the outfit?

ELISE

I can tell you're jealous.

SPOKE

Few people can pull off that shade
of brown, but you totally nail it!

ELISE

You'll be disappointed to know that
when they finally promote me, I get
my own monogrammed white labcoat.

SPOKE

White after Labor Day? Just as well
you're getting fired.

ELISE

Hey!

She playfully punches him.

SPOKE

So, if it's not for the awesome
outfit...?

She resumes sweeping the ash into neat piles.

ELISE

I guess, it was for my parents.

SPOKE

They made you do it?

ELISE

No, I chose it... My parents died,
when I was younger.

SPOKE

Dude, I'm so sorry.

ELISE

It's okay... It was a long time ago. A random car accident.

SPOKE

Whoa.

ELISE

My Dad was a physicist at CERN. My Mom owned a little patisserie in Geneva. That's where they met.

SPOKE

Food and science.

ELISE

Exactly.

(she smiles)

I remember, they used to ask me what I wanted to be when I grew up. Not what I wanted to do... Or what job I wanted... What did I want to be.

SPOKE

So, being a food scientist is like your destiny?

ELISE

(dismissive)

Something like that.

SPOKE

What?

ELISE

I don't believe in destiny. The universe just doesn't work like that.

SPOKE

Dude, I have several hundred graphic novels that beg to differ.

She smiles.

ELISE

You know about entropy, right? The second law of thermodynamics?

SPOKE
Remind me again.

ELISE
It basically says that the universe is becoming more disordered every day. There's no master plan. Everything is just getting more random, more chaotic. That's the opposite of destiny.

SPOKE
I guess.

She looks around. Then passes him her joint.

ELISE
Okay, take a hit.

Spoke does as he's told. He exhales.

ELISE (CONT'D)
Now, look at the smoke. Watch how it disperses. How it spreads out.

They both stare at the swirling smoke.

ELISE (CONT'D)
We can never put the smoke back again. You've just created more chaos in the universe.

SPOKE
Whoa!

Spoke looks at the piles of ash that Elise was making.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
What about the ash? You made that less random.

ELISE
For a brief moment, I made this part of the universe less chaotic... but we can't do that for everything.

Spoke has a moment of lucidity.

SPOKE
We have to focus our effort. That's how we make a difference!

ELISE

Right.

SPOKE

Find the one thing that's important
to us...

They look into each other's eyes - *sharing a moment.*

Spoke leans in towards Elise. *Will they kiss?*

Elise accidentally leans against the Alarm Button on the panel. A LOUD RINGING SOUND starts up!

They exchange an earnest look. Then both start to giggle.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

The elevator alarm is ringing. A hand removes the "OUT OF SERVICE" sign and opens the elevator panel.

The hand throws a knife-switch to power on the elevator.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR - DAY

A CLUNK as the elevator starts moving. Elise and Spoke share an awkward smile.

ELISE

Finding Ferret Bueller. That was
the one important thing, right?

SPOKE

(unconvincing)
Right.

The ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN to reveal... Miss Grey. She is wearing a silk robe.

MISS GREY

Going down?

Spoke has a scared expression.

ELISE

You're a life saver! I could kiss
you.

MISS GREY

Hold that thought.

Miss Grey pulls out some LIPSTICK from her robe pocket.

She turns to face the reflective elevator panel. CAREFULLY APPLIES it.

She drops her robe. NAKED AGAIN! Turns back to see...

Spoke and Elise HAVE DISAPPEARED.

Reginald STEPS OUT OF THE STAIRWELL. Gets an eyeful of the naked Miss Grey.

REGINALD
Hubba, hubba!

Miss Grey purrs with delight.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRWELL - DAY

Spoke and Elise run up the stairs.

ELISE
I don't get it. What's he after?

SPOKE
The exterminator?

ELISE
Ferret Bueller. He's gone from your apartment, to the third floor, to the attic. It's completely random.

SPOKE
He spent the whole night in a smoke filled apartment consuming bong water and weed pizza.
(off her look)
He's totally wasted!

ELISE
Oh my God! They leave me alone with the ferret for twenty four hours and I turn him into Willie Nelson!

SPOKE
Willie Nelson? How old are you?

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - TOP OF STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Elise puts her finger over her mouth to indicate silence. They crouch down.

Spoke pokes his head around the wall to take a look. He makes some INDECIPHERABLE GESTURES.

Elise doesn't understand.

He tries gesturing again. Still nothing.

SPOKE
(miming each word)
The... Coast... Is... Clear.

ELISE
You could have just said that.

SPOKE
I saw it as a teaching opportunity.

They step out into...

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - TOP FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The various different traps and sensors have been reset - the STINGER, LASER TRIP WIRE and METALLIC BOX.

A ROPE LADDER hangs from a hatch to the attic. SHERMAN'S LEGS can be seen on the top rungs.

ELISE
He's trapped Ferret Bueller in the attic. Is there any other way up there?

SPOKE
Nope, just that hatch.

ELISE
How did he even get up there in the first place?

SPOKE
Same way he's been getting around the building all day.

Spoke gestures to the vents - in an obvious way.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
The vents.

ELISE
Yeah, I got that one.

They take a moment to consider their options.

SPOKE
Why don't we use your magic potion? The one that started all this.

ELISE

The Super Catnip? Yeah, that's kinda like the nuclear option.

She mimes the small animals exploding again.

SPOKE

Maybe we're over-thinking this. Ferret Bueller is stoned, right?

ELISE

Out of his furry little mind.

He smiles broadly.

SPOKE

That happens to be my area of expertise!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ATTIC - DAY

A dark, cramped space. The entrance to the COLD AIR RETURN is clearly visible. It has a metallic grate across its front.

Sherman has placed portable lights either side of the hatch. They illuminate a scared-looking FERRET BUELLER.

Sherman advances. Ferret Bueller backs away.

Strapped to Sherman's back is a FUTURISTIC WEAPON CASE.

INT. SUPER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Spoke opens a pantry door to reveal...

Rows of assorted stoner snack food - CHIPS, CANDY, FUNYUNS. He holds a toy walkie-talkie in his hand.

SPOKE

(into walkie-talkie)

We are a go for Operation Munchies.
I repeat, go for Operation Munchies!

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Elise (still stoned) also has a walkie-talkie. She approaches the mouse-trap stinger.

As she gets closer, it appears to EXTEND IN WIDTH.

ELISE

Whoa!

SPOKE (V.O.)

Can you see the vent release? It's like a big wheel.

ELISE

Yeah, I got it.

SPOKE (V.O.)

Remember, once you turn that wheel, every vent on the cold air return will open.

She attempts to step over the stinger. The traps appear to SNAP AT HER!

ELISE

What about the traps. I'm not sure...

SPOKE (V.O.)

Elise, you've got this.

A deep breath. She runs and JUMPS.

She SEEMS TO FLY. Soaring high above the traps.

She lands faster than anticipated. FACEPLANTS on the floor.

She looks to her side. A BRIGHT RED BEAM. She has tripped the laser trip wire!

A PANEL OPENS in the side of the Metallic Box. LITTLE ROBOTS file out of it - they look like cute toys.

ELISE

Aw!

As she heads towards the vent release, the robots follow.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

Spoke is now atop a STEP-LADDER in the lobby. At around head height, is a vent. The step-ladder is also PERILOUSLY CLOSE to the LIGHT FIXTURE.

Spoke opens a BAG OF POTATO CHIPS. Empties them into a bowl and places it on the top of the ladder.

ELISE (V.O.)
Okay, I'm turning the wheel now...
You have to catch him!

SPOKE
Dude, I was first team catcher in
my little league two years
straight! It's in the bag.

He struggles to put on a CHILD'S BASEBALL MITT.

He accidentally DROPS THE MITT. It falls to the floor below.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A black BMW pulls up in front of the Apartment Building.
Hogan exits the car. Stern expression on his face.

He presses the intercom button next to Elise's name. No
reply.

Spoke can be seen through the door, retrieving the mitt.

Hogan BANGS ON THE DOOR.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ATTIC - DAY

Ferret Bueller SNIFFS THE AIR. He can smell the potato chips
through the vent. He follows his nose.

Sherman unstraps the futuristic WEAPON CASE from his back.

The vent cover is still in place. Ferret Bueller is UNABLE TO
GET THROUGH.

Sherman opens the weapon case to reveal... A LARGE MALLET!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Elise turns the vent release. Robots SWARMING around her
legs.

ELISE
Get off!

She KICKS one of them. It FLIES through the air and SMASHES
against the wall.

RED LIGHTS start to flash on the remaining small robots.

ELISE (CONT'D)
That's probably not a good thing.

The little robots ATTACK ELISE! They SCRATCH and SHOCK her ankles.

She LASHES OUT at them with her feet.

ELISE (CONT'D)
Die, you little bastards!

One last turn of the vent release. A CLUNK as it locates.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ATTIC - DAY

The vent cover FALLS AWAY. Ferret Bueller DIVES THROUGH the opening.

Sherman's mallet SLAMS into the space where Ferret Bueller was standing!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - VENT - DAY

Ferret Bueller SURFS DOWN THE VENTILATION SHAFT riding the metal grate cover! His fur is blown back.

He CHIRPS happily.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Hogan runs his finger down all the intercom buttons.

VARIOUS VOICES (V.O.)
(over each other)
Hello... What... Who is it...?

HOGAN
Who wants free pizza?

A BUZZING SOUND as the door is unlocked.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

The vent cover has been released but Spoke doesn't realize yet. He is distracted by...

Hogan storms through the door. It STICKS OPEN.

HOGAN
Where is she?

SPOKE
 Sorry, Dude, kinda busy.

HOGAN
 Where's the food scientist?

SPOKE
 You mean Elise?

There is A WHOOSHING SOUND. Hogan GASPS in surprise.

He sees Ferret Bueller, surfing on the ventilation cover, shoot out of the vent towards his head!

Hogan DIVES FOR COVER on the sofa as Ferret Bueller FLIES OUT the open doorway!

The sofa PUSHES AGAINST THE STEP LADDER. Spoke JUMPS CLEAR!

The step ladder FALLS AGAINST THE LIGHT FIXTURE.

The light fixture (that Spoke didn't secure earlier) FALLS TOWARDS THE SOFA! CRASHES DOWN ON TOP OF HOGAN.

The dust settles.

Spoke's walkie-talkie CRACKLES to life.

ELISE (V.O.)
 I released the vent. Ferret
 Bueller's on his way!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Elise steps out of the stairwell - excited and exhilarated. Her face drops as she sees the devastation.

Hogan lies face down on the sofa. The remains of the light fixture PROTRUDING FROM HIS ASS.

Spoke is trying to help him up.

HOGAN
 Get your fucking hands off me!

ELISE
 What happened?
 (to Spoke)
 Dude, where's my ferret?

Spoke gestures towards the door.

SPOKE
I got distracted for one minute...

HOGAN
That was our ferret?

ELISE
(to Spoke)
You said you had this! I trusted
you!

HOGAN
There's your first mistake.

ELISE
(to Hogan)
Keep out of this!

HOGAN
And there's your last!

Elise runs past both of them out to...

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Elise bends down to pick up the vent cover.

ELISE
(shouting)
Bueller? BUELLER!

There is NO SIGN OF FERRET BUELLER!

She looks back at the forlorn Spoke. Fierce expression on her face.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Sherman loads his equipment into the back of the van.

He reaches into a pouch on the rear door. Takes out a sticker. Stares at it.

Sherman sticks the sticker over his company logo.

It now reads "Sherman The Vermin Exterminator - 99% effective".

Behind him, Hogan is wheeled towards an ambulance on a gurney. The chandelier still protruding from his ass.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - EVENING

Spoke tidies the debris from the accident. He sweeps broken glass from a light fixture into a pile.

DICKSTEYN (O.S.)
Wonders will never cease. You are
actually capable of using a broom.

The smug-looking Dicksteyn has arrived.

SPOKE
Can we do this another time?

DICKSTEYN
Do what?

SPOKE
I'm a worthless piece of shit.
You're going to make my life hell.
And then you threaten me in some
weird-ass creepy way. That's why
you're here, right?

DICKSTEYN
No. I'm here to watch.

SPOKE
Watch me sweep?

DICKSTEYN
Not exactly.

A small, yet intimidating, Asian man, steps out from behind Dicksteyn. This is SPOKE'S DAD (60's). He wears an expensive suit and an emotionless expression.

SPOKE'S DAD
(in Cantonese. Subtitled)
Sun Wei, with me.

Spoke hesitates.

SPOKE'S DAD (CONT'D)
Now!

Spoke's Dad turns to leave.

Spoke props his broom against the wall. Follows his father.

DICKSTEYN
That's it? You're not even going to
shout at him?
(he looks at the mess)
(MORE)

DICKSTEYN (CONT'D)
 Wait, who's going to finish
 cleaning this up?

No reply from Spoke's Dad. Dicksteyn picks up the broom.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Hogan lies on his front on a hospital bed - his head raised.
 A fireproof curtain blocks our view of his lower half. Tamara
 faces him.

TAMARA
 We can do this later, if you
 prefer...

HOGAN
 No! Where is she?

Tamara reluctantly crosses to the door and opens it.

Elise enters. A sadistic smile from Hogan.

ELISE
 Mr. Hogan, let me start by
 saying...

HOGAN
 No, let me start.

DOCTOR (O.S.)
 You may want to brace yourself for
 this.

A DOCTOR (30's) pops his head over the curtain. He brandishes
 an angle-grinder.

Elise nods.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
 I meant, him.

Hogan opens his mouth to rant at Elise but his words are
 drowned out by...

The ANGLE GRINDER STARTING.

SPARKS FLY. Hogan's face contorts in pain as he continues his
 unheard rant.

INT. SPOKE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

A formal dining room, impeccably staged with Asian antiques. Spoke's Dad is at one end of a long dining table, SPOKE'S MOM (50's), Asian, moneyed, fierce, is at the other.

Spoke sits between them, excluded from an INTENSE DISCUSSION IN CANTONESE.

SPOKE

Guys, a little help?

SPOKE'S MOM

You'd understand if you'd stuck with your lessons.

SPOKE

There's an argument I never get tired of.

SPOKE'S MOM

Learning a language takes patience... discipline.

SPOKE

What if it's not the right language for me?

SPOKE'S MOM

You don't care that it's the language of your parents?

SPOKE

Just because you speak Cantonese, I have to? What about all the other languages? How do I know which ones I want to learn unless I try them?

SPOKE'S MOM

Clearly, the burden of choice is overwhelming.

SPOKE

I wouldn't say overwhelming...

SPOKE'S MOM

Which is why we have relieved you of it.

SPOKE

What?

SPOKE'S DAD

Tomorrow, you resume your training.

SPOKE
To speak Cantonese?

SPOKE'S DAD
To be an architect.

SPOKE
Wait, weren't we talking about
languages?

SPOKE'S DAD
(in Cantonese. Subtitled)
Are you sure he's mine?

Spoke's Mom shoots him a "look of death".

INT. SPOKE'S HOUSE - SPOKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is decorated for a teenage boy - an eclectic mix of Eastern and Western influences. A "Journey to the West" poster is prominent.

Spoke is seemingly asleep in a small loft bed - feet dangling over its end. His EYES SNAP OPEN.

He creeps out of bed - towards the window.

Opens the window to reveal... A CHILDREN'S SLIDE down to the ground below!

EXT. SPOKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Spoke SPIRALS DOWN the slide to freedom - a broad smile on his face.

He tumbles off the bottom of the slide onto a manicured lawn. Looks up to see...

A BURLY ASIAN HENCHMAN (30's). Busted!

SPOKE
(feigning nonchalance)
Awesome! That still works.
(he gestures to the house)
I'll head back in now.

The Burly Asian HENCHMAN is stoic. Spoke trudges back to the house.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE - DAY

Elise carries her "just fired" box of possessions in a walk of shame through the office. OFFICE WORKERS (various), avoid eye contact with her.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

At a security station, SECURITY GUARD (50's), wearing a creased uniform, watches a CCTV monitor. The camera is zoomed in on a FEMALE OFFICE WORKER (30's) with a low-cut top.

A CLUNK as the doors to the office area open.

Security Guard, resets the camera. Guilty expression.

Elise hands him her ID badge but REFUSES TO RELEASE HER GRIP.

He YANKS IT out of her hand.

INT. ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE - DAY

A bright airy office space in a heritage building. Spoke sits in front of a desktop computer using design software. He adds detail to a 3D RENDERING OF A MODEL.

He zooms out to reveal the full image. A building that closely resembles a GIANT BONG.

His ARCHITECT MENTOR (40's), sharp suit and a stern expression, shakes his head.

EXT. ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE - DAY

The rear of the heritage building. A DOOR OPENS, Spoke SNEAKS OUT of the office. Checks the coast is clear.

He PULLS A BONG and LIGHTER from his pocket. He is about to take a hit. He looks up to see...

Burly Asian Henchman standing beside him - hand outstretched.

Spoke reluctantly HANDS OVER HIS BONG.

EXT. CHURCH GRAVEYARD - DAY

Elise walks through the quiet graveyard. She carries some flowers and a paper bag. She stops at a grave.

It is engraved with names "WILLIAM AND CHANTELE FRYE", both died on the same day.

Elise places her flowers on the grave. Takes a CROISSANT from the paper bag.

She sits next to the grave and eats the croissant.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

In the alley at the back of the apartment building, Elise puts down a BOWL OF KIBBLE.

She looks around for Ferret Bueller. No sign.

As she turns to leave, A RUSTLING SOUND.

She looks back to see... A RAT checking out the bowl of kibble.

The rat tries some. Recoils backwards at the taste!

ELISE

Yeah, seven shades of shit!

INT. ELISE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Elise is searching through her "just-fired" box of possessions for her framed photo. As she takes it out, the bag of RFID TAGS falls on the floor.

She crouches down to pick them up, then NOTICES SOMETHING by the vent cover.

Inside the vent, a collection of stolen items - Ferret Bueller's treasure trove. A MODEL CAR, A VIBRATOR, the PHIAL OF SUPER CATNIP and the BIG BAG OF WEED.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Elise KNOCKS AT REGINALD'S DOOR. Muffled SOUNDS OF ACTIVITY can be heard from inside.

ELISE

Hello? Mr. Clarke?

REGINALD (O.S.)

Um... Now, is not a... convenient time.

A GIRLISH GIGGLE can be heard.

ELISE
Okay... it's just, I have something
for you... A model car.

MISS GREY (O.S.)
(whispering to Reginald)
I've got something for you too, you
naughty, naughty boy.

Elise shudders at the mental image.

ELISE
I'll come back later.

The DOOR OPENS a crack. The top half of a naked and sweaty
Reginald peers out.

REGINALD
What type of car?

ELISE
It's a...

She examines the model car.

REGINALD
Nineteen thirteen Ford Model T
Delivery Truck.

Elise hands him the model. His face lights up.

REGINALD (CONT'D)
Where did you...?

ELISE
The ferret... He took it back to my
apartment.

A flash of fear on Reginald's face. He looks around.

ELISE (CONT'D)
It's okay... he's not coming back.

REGINALD
I won't pretend I'm sorry to hear
that...
(looking at the car)
But thank you for returning this.

Elise smiles. Turns to leave.

ELISE
I don't suppose Miss Grey is...?

Miss Grey pops her head around the door - at crotch height.

MISS GREY
How did you know?

ELISE
Lucky guess.
(she rummages in her bag)
I think, I may have something of
yours too.

She pulls out the VIBRATOR. Sealed inside TWO ZIPLOCKED BAGS!

MISS GREY
You keep it. Consider it a gift.

ELISE
Really, I couldn't possibly.

MISS GREY
It's not like I need it anymore.

Miss Grey winks. Closes the door.

Muffled SEX NOISES start.

Elise walks towards the elevators holding the double-bagged vibrator at arms length.

Without looking, she DROPS IT IN THE TRASH.

INT. CHURCH - NAVE - DAY

Noodle is preparing for mass. He carries a tall STACK OF HYMN BOOKS in front of him (he cannot see over them).

He negotiates his way down a row of pews - almost dropping the books.

He carefully places the books down, revealing...

ELISE
Hello, Noodle.

He JUMPS IN SURPRISE, knocking over the books.

NOODLE
Jesus Christ...!
(looking around guiltily)
... Our saviour!

ELISE
Sorry.

They hug.

INT. CHURCH - NOODLE'S CHAMBERS - DAY

A wood panelled room with a fireplace and an abundance of crucifixes. Noodle and Elise sit in worn but comfy armchairs. A THURIBLE (spherical incense burner) is on a table.

ELISE

I was hoping you could give this to Spoke...

(pulls out the BAG OF WEED)

If you see him.

NOODLE

Awesome!

He takes it from her.

ELISE

It's the least I can do... all things considered.

NOODLE

Yeah, he'll be totally stoked.

Noodle looks down at the weed.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

You know, sometimes... weed doesn't keep, if it's not stored properly.

ELISE

I've heard that.

NOODLE

It would be a shame to get his hopes up and then find out it's gone bad.

INT. CHURCH - CORRIDOR - DAY

An OLDER PRIEST (60's), grey hair, wearing robes and a warm, jovial expression, approaches Noodle's chambers. GIGGLING can be heard from inside.

HE KNOCKS on the door.

INT. CHURCH - NOODLE'S CHAMBERS - DAY

The room is now filled with smoke. Noodle is holding a joint.

He furtively looks around. THROWS THE JOINT INTO THE THURIBLE.

Elise WAVES THE AIR to disperse the smoke.

NOODLE

Enter.

Older Priest pops his head around the door.

OLDER PRIEST

Sorry, I didn't realize you had company.

ELISE

Hi, I'm...
(searching for the answer)
I'm a...

NOODLE

This is Elise. She's a friend of mine.

OLDER PRIEST

Lovely to meet you.
(to Noodle)
Father Butler, do you happen to have the...?

He sniffs the air. Sees the smoking thurible. Smiles.

OLDER PRIEST (CONT'D)

Oh, you've already prepared it.
You're such a Godsend.

Noodle's eyes widen as the Priest TAKES THE SMOKING THURIBLE and leaves.

The DOOR CLOSES.

Elise and Noodle burst out laughing.

ELISE

I can't believe you did that!

NOODLE

At least, I can remember my own name. Dude, you're totally wasted.

ELISE

Yeah...
(she becomes serious)
Or maybe, I just don't know who I am.

Noodle gets up. OPENS A WINDOW.

NOODLE

Okay, someone needs some fresh air.

ELISE

I used to be a food scientist...

NOODLE

That's right, your name is Elise and you used to be a food scientist.

ELISE

No, you don't get it. That was who I was. My schedule, my colleagues, my entire life was being a food scientist... Then they took that away...

NOODLE

Dude, you're so much more than your job title... We all are.

He sits beside her.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

Who we are, our identity grows, with us. It changes over time... Evolves.

ELISE

You believe in evolution?

NOODLE

That's what you took from that?

They laugh.

Elise's expression changes. A realization!

ELISE

What if we are given our IDs?

NOODLE

What do you mean?

She pulls out the RFID TAGS from her bag.

ELISE

These are RFID tags. Ferret Bueller has one embedded under his skin. That's his ID.

Noodle still doesn't get it.

NOODLE

Okay?

ELISE

We can use this to track him
down... and I can get my job back!

NOODLE

Is that really what you want?

Elise shoots him a puzzled look. *Of course, it is.*

She starts PACING THE ROOM. Energized.

ELISE

We can't do it on our own,
though.... We're going to need
help... Lots of help.

INT. CHURCH - NAVE - DAY

Older Priest is leading a service. A young ALTAR SERVER (15), swings the weed-filled-thurible. The CONGREGATION (various) looks stoned!

Noodle and Elise sheepishly head for the exit.

The PRIEST WAVES at them - a stupid grin on his face.

NOODLE

Okay, I may be going to hell.

INT. SHERMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The morose Sherman sits at a workbench, tinkering with a powerful-looking, futuristic, weapon. Behind him, the modified logo with "99% EFFECTIVE", is visible.

ELISE (O.S.)

How would you like to help us catch
that ferret?

Elise and Father Noodle stand at the door.

A smile spreads across Sherman's face. He cocks the barrel of his new weapon. It HUMS AS IT CHARGES.

ELISE (CONT'D)

I said catch the ferret.

His smile fades. He shrugs an "Okay".

INT. SPOKE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Spoke lies on his bed, staring at the ceiling. Above him, a seemingly random pattern of GLOW-IN-THE-DARK STARS.

On closer inspection, some of the stars are brighter than others. They make out a SERIES OF ARROWS.

Spoke smiles. He follows the arrows across the room... To his "Journey to the West" poster.

He peels back the poster to reveal... A HIDDEN CAVITY.

Inside the cavity... AN EMERGENCY JOINT!

SPOKE

Young me was awesome!

INT. SPOKE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The room is filled with smoke. Spoke sits on the edge of his loft bed SMOKING THE JOINT.

In the poster, the image of a monk WINKS AT HIM! He does a double-take.

ANIMATED MONK

(with Elise's voice)

Spoke, can you hear me?

SPOKE

Tripitaka?

ANIMATED MONK

What?

Now the image of a PIG TALKS TO HIM.

ANIMATED PIG

(Noodle's voice)

Dude, I think he's stoned.

SPOKE

Pigsy!

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE BACK OF SHERMAN'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Elise, Noodle and Sherman are in the back of the van. Sherman is piloting a drone - the video feed from it, is shown on a monitor. The drone is in Spoke's bedroom.

NOODLE
Pigsy? That's harsh.

ELISE
Spoke, we need your help.

SPOKE
You mean, like, for a quest?

ELISE
Exactly! We have to find Ferret
Bueller.

NOODLE
Dude, we have to finish our quest!

Spoke processes this.

ELISE
Listen, I'm sorry about what
happened in the apartment building.
That was all on me. But we can make
it right. We can finish this!

NOODLE
What do you say, buddy?

SPOKE
It's time to fire up the magic
cloud and kick some daemon ass!

The bemused Elise looks at Noodle.

NOODLE
That was a "yes".

BACK TO SCENE.

Spoke slides forward off the loft bed (not using the ladder) and FALLS FLAT ON HIS FACE with a loud THUD!

SPOKE
That was higher than I remember.

He grabs a bag. Throws some clothes inside it.

His BEDROOM DOOR OPENS. Spoke's parents enter.

SPOKE'S MOM

What was that noise?
 (she sniffs the air)
 Have you been smoking weed!

SPOKE

No...
 (he considers this)
 Okay, yes. Yes, I have. I've smoked
 weed. A lot of it. I inhaled and I
 liked it.

SPOKE'S MOM

Your punishment will be severe.

SPOKE

You can't punish me. I'm not your
 little boy. I'm a grown man. I get
 to smoke weed. I get to fuck up. I
 get to complete my quest - to find
 the ferret.

SPOKE'S DAD

(in Cantonese. Subtitled)
Did he say "find the ferret"?

SPOKE'S MOM

It's a drug thing.

SPOKE

Now, if you'll excuse me. I have a
 magic cloud to catch.

Spoke slings his bag over his shoulder. Heads for the door.

SPOKE'S MOM

You walk through that door and
 we're done. You understand? No more
 money. No more bailing you out.

SPOKE

What if I take the window?

SPOKE'S MOM

That too.

Spoke opens the window. He throws his bag into the darkness.

SPOKE

Then I guess, we're done.

One last look at his parents. Smiles. DIVES OUT THE WINDOW!

SPOKE'S MOM

We should have told him we took
away the slide.

SPOKE (O.S.)

Aghhhhh!

The sound of TREE BRANCHES SNAPPING. A distant THUD.

SPOKE'S DAD

(in Cantonese. Subtitled)
He figured it out.

EXT. URBAN STREET - NIGHT

Sherman's van is parked in front of Spoke's house. There is a tall stone wall around the ground and an imposing set of metal gates.

A bedraggled-looking Spoke DROPS TO THE SIDEWALK. He smiles as he sees the van.

The VAN DOORS OPEN and Noodle jumps out. Spoke and Noodle embrace.

NOODLE

Dude!

Elise steps out of the van.

ELISE

Hello, Spoke.

Spoke's face lights up.

SPOKE

Elise!

An awkward beat. Do they embrace? Kiss? They settle for a way-too-formal handshake.

INT. REGINALD'S APARTMENT - DAY

In the center of the room is a new model. It is covered by a drop cloth. Elise, Spoke and Noodle stand on one side, Reginald is on the other.

ELISE

Okay, the FDA inspection is
tomorrow so we only have one shot
to capture Ferret Bueller.

NOODLE

I still don't understand how you were able to track him down.

SPOKE

We weren't, but we know a retired-time-travelling-cyborg-assassin who was.

NOODLE

The ex-hyphen-terminator.

Elise shoots them a pitying look.

ELISE

You do know he's not actually from the future, right?

Spoke and Noodle nod their heads sheepishly.

As Elise looks, away Spoke mouths the words "HE TOTALLY IS" to Noodle.

INT. SHERMAN'S VAN - DAY [FLASHBACK]

Sherman sits in front of a monitor showing a map of the city. Elise hands him one of the RFID TAGS.

ELISE (V.O.)

Sherman was able to use the RFID tag to trace Ferret Bueller's location.

Sherman uses a keyboard to enter some data. The map zooms in.

ELISE (V.O.)

It was like a homing beacon.

INT. ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE - DAY [FLASHBACK]

Spoke's Architect Mentor stands in front of a STORAGE RACK containing rolls of BLUEPRINTS. Spoke holds out his hand for one of the blueprints.

The Architect Mentor shakes his head "NO".

SPOKE (V.O.)

Then I used my contacts to pull the building's blueprints for Reginald's scale model.

Spoke's Burly Asian Henchman STEPS INTO VIEW behind Spoke.

The Architect Mentor HANDS OVER THE BLUEPRINTS.

BACK TO SCENE.

NOODLE

So, where was he? Ferret Bueller?

Elise nods to Reginald. He UNVEILS HIS NEW MODEL... A scale-replica of the Hogan Foods building.

ELISE

Hogan Foods. He's been living in the vents all this time.

(to Reginald)

Reginald, this really is incredible.

REGINALD

Thank you. As you can see, I've made cutaways for the vents, highlighted the routes to the lab area and even added a working elevator system...

Spoke and Noodle LIFT THE MODEL. Walk it towards the door.

REGINALD (CONT'D)

I think you'll find I've considered each and every conceivable possibility.

As they reach the door, it is obvious it IS TOO WIDE TO FIT!

SPOKE

Um...?

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE - DAY

Hogan walks gingerly down the corridor towards Tamara's desk (suffering the after effects of the chandelier). Tamara is talking with a YOUNG WOMAN, African American, smartly dressed.

HOGAN

Don't tell me it's drag your sprogs to work day again?

(to the young woman)

Listen love, your mum's kinda busy, maybe next year, okay?

TAMARA

This is...

HOGAN

Get down to reception and stop that pencil pushing bureaucrat from the Ministry of Fucking Me Over from getting to the lab.

The Young Girl holds out her hand.

YOUNG WOMAN

You must be Mr. Hogan.

HOGAN

What is this?

TAMARA

This is Dr. Jones.

YOUNG WOMAN

The pencil pushing bureaucrat from the Ministry of Fucking You Over.

Hogan is gobsmacked.

HOGAN

But you're...

FDA INSPECTOR

Black?

HOGAN

A child.

FDA INSPECTOR

I could take that as a compliment... but I'm not going to.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

The Security Guard sits at his desk, checking out another office worker on the CCTV monitor. Spoke, disguised as a delivery man, enters. He WHEELS A LARGE PACKAGE on a trolley.

ELISE (V.O.)

(on Spoke's earpiece)

The FDA inspector is already on site, so you need to unpack as quickly as you can.

SPOKE

(into cuff mike)

Piece of cake.

SECURITY GUARD

What?

SPOKE

Err... I just had a piece of
cake... And it tasted good.

SECURITY GUARD

Well, aren't you special.

Spoke thrusts the SIGNATURE TERMINAL towards the guard.

SPOKE

Sign this.

SECURITY GUARD

Deliveries are round the back.
(off Spoke's panicked look)
Strange you wouldn't know that.

SPOKE

How about you buzz me through
anyway?

SECURITY GUARD

Yeah, I'll let a suspicious looking
operative, with wireless comms,
access to our secure facility.

Spoke laughs. He ducks behind the large package.

SPOKE

(into cuff mike)
We're blown! Abort! Abort!

ELISE (V.O.)

It's okay, just wait.

SPOKE

Wait?

ELISE (V.O.)

Wait.

Spoke CASUALLY LEANS against the package.

SECURITY GUARD

Why are you still here?

SPOKE

I'm waiting.

SECURITY GUARD

Waiting for what?

SPOKE
That, my friend, is a good
question.

MISS GREY (O.S.)
He's waiting for me.

Miss Grey saunters into the lobby wearing a flamboyant
costume - all feathers and sequins.

She starts to do a STRIPTEASE.

SECURITY GUARD
Ma'am, stop what you're doing.

MISS GREY
Do you really want me to stop?

She continues to disrobe.

SECURITY GUARD
Yes.

MISS GREY
Do you, though?

SECURITY GUARD
I'm... almost certain of it.

MISS GREY
Almost?

She runs her fingers down the front of his shirt seductively.
He gulps. She GRABS HIS KEYS.

Miss Grey RUNS OUT THE EXIT.

SECURITY GUARD
You sneaky little...!

Security Guard CHASES AFTER HER.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
(to Spoke)
You, wait here.

SPOKE
Still waiting.

EXT. HOGAN PET FOOD - DAY

Miss Grey scampers from the building, chased by the Security
Guard. Elise passes her in the opposite direction.

SECURITY GUARD

Stop!

Miss Grey stops.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Turn around, slowly.

Miss Grey turns around seductively. EMPTY HANDED.

MISS GREY

Are you going to frisk me?

The Security Guard looks back at the building.

Elise HOLDS UP THE KEYS for him to see! LOCKS the front entrance from the inside.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - HOGAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Hogan sits at his desk opposite the FDA Inspector. He gestures to a VIDEO FEED on his computer monitor.

HOGAN

You have all the research data and as you can see from the video feed, the animals are all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

The video feed shows the animals in the lab. ALL THE ANIMALS from before the massacre!

FDA INSPECTOR

Not that I don't trust you... but that could be a recording.

A guilty look on Hogan's face.

HOGAN

Would I do that to you?

He selects a different feed. The new feed is FROM THE LOBBY.

HOGAN (CONT'D)

See, completely live.

On the screen, Elise and Spoke can be seen preparing. Hogan's eyes widen.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

Spoke has opened the large package. Inside is Reginald's scale model of the building, a SLEEK DRONE and an ELECTRONIC GADGET.

Spoke CONNECTS THE GADGET to a CCTV Monitor.

Elise takes out her PHIAL OF SUPER CATNIP. Attaches it to the drone.

SPOKE

I thought you said this was the nuclear option.

ELISE

Sherman's modified the drone to dispense a micro-drop of the solution.

(unconvincing)

It should be fine.

Elise POWERS ON THE DRONE. Waves her hand in front of it.

ELISE (CONT'D)

How's the feed?

SPOKE

(watching the CCTV)

Looking good.

ELISE

Noodle?

INT. SHERMAN'S VAN - DAY

Noodle and Sherman are in the back of the van. Noodle holds the DRONE'S REMOTE CONTROL. In front of them, the video feed can be seen.

NOODLE

We are a go for Angel One.

Noodle readies himself on the controller. Sherman has a concerned look on his face.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

Trust me, dude. I know what I'm doing.

The drone ABRUPTLY VEERS to one side. Sherman is alarmed.

Noodle ADJUSTS THE CONTROLLER in his hand.

NOODLE (CONT'D)
(sheepishly)
Had it upside down.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

Spoke has removed a cover from the nearest vent. The DRONE
FLIES INTO IT.

Elise unlocks a cabinet. Takes out a SPARE ID BADGE.

SPOKE
Good luck.

ELISE
We don't need luck. We're on a
quest!

She smiles. SWIPES THE ID CARD and ENTERS...

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Elise heads towards a series of lockers. She opens each one
in turn, looking for something.

She finds it. A MONOGRAMMED WHITE LABCOAT!

She cherishes it for a moment. Slips it on.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICES - DAY

Hogan, Tamara and the FDA Inspector track through the
offices.

HOGAN
And this is our marketing
department. They also prepare the
artwork for the packaging...

He picks up a PETFOOD PACKAGE. Shows it to the FDA Inspector.

FDA INSPECTOR
Mr. Hogan, I asked to see the
laboratory.

HOGAN
Did you?

She shoots him a stern look.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

Spoke is coordinating the assault. He follows the action on the CCTV monitors. Moves tiny figures of Elise, Ferret Bueller and Hogan around Reginald's model.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THESE POVS AS REQUIRED.

Inside a vent, Ferret Bueller sniffs the air. SCURRIES TOWARDS the scent of the FERRET CATNIP.

Noodle FLIES THE DRONE through the vents. Just like in the video game they played earlier, he follows Spoke's direction.

SPOKE

Hard left in three clicks...
Gradient high and to the right...
The target is at your twelve!

NOODLE

Roger that! Throttling down.

SPOKE

The RFID has him right in front of you. You should have a visual.

NOODLE

Dude, I've got nothing.

Sherman and Noodle STARE CLOSELY at the video feed of the dimly lit vent. It's EMPTY.

Suddenly, FERRET BUELLER'S FACE fills the screen!

Noodle SCREAMS. Spoke SCREAMS. Sherman opens his mouth in a SILENT SCREAM!

Noodle HITS THE THROTTLE on the drone. Ferret Bueller chases.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

We have the payload in tow!

A BANGING SOUND from outside the lobby. The Security Guard is trying to break down the door.

ELISE (V.O.)

Spoke? I need Hogan's position.

Spoke is beginning to get overwhelmed.

SPOKE

One sec!

The drone reaches a fork in the vents.

NOODLE
Dude, left or right?

SPOKE
Take the left, then up!
(consulting the model)
Hogan's heading for elevator 2!

ELISE
He's going to the lab. Spoke you
have to stall him.

Another BANG on the door. It is STARTING TO GIVE.

SPOKE
No can do. Kinda busy!

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - ELEVATOR - DAY

Tamara stands next to the elevator panel. Hogan and FDA Inspector are beside her.

HOGAN
Hypothetically, if none of the
animals were 'available'. How would
that affect our application?

FDA INSPECTOR
Hypothetically, it wouldn't affect
it at all...
(off his relieved look)
Because there wouldn't be an
application.

The ELEVATOR STOPS.

FDA INSPECTOR (CONT'D)
Is there something you need to tell
me?

The DOORS OPEN TO REVEAL ELISE! She doesn't enter.

HOGAN
What are you doing here?

Tamara holds the DOOR OPEN button.

ELISE
I thought you might need some help
with the inspection... An extra
pair of little furry hands.
(MORE)

ELISE (CONT'D)
 (off their blank faces)
 You know, to ferret around... and
 make sure everything is back where
 it should be...

Tamara gets it.

TAMARA
 We were just about to check on the
 animals... in the lab. It would be
 great, if you and Mr. Bueller could
 meet us there.

FDA INSPECTOR
 I'm sorry, who is this?

TAMARA
 This is Elise, she works here.
 (to Hogan)
 Isn't that right?

Hogan is slow on the uptake.

HOGAN
 Are your roos loose in the top
 paddock...?

Tamara elbows him.

TAMARA
 Elise is in charge of making sure
 the animals are "safe in the lab".
 That's why she works here.

He clues in.

HOGAN
 Yeah, she's a Food Scientist.

ELISE
Senior Food Scientist.

HOGAN
 (through gritted teeth)
 Senior Food Scientist.

ELISE
 So, I'll see you down there?
 (a knowing look to Tamara)
 In a few minutes.

To buy time, Tamara 'accidentally' PRESSES ALL THE BUTTONS on
 the panel. The DOORS CLOSE.

TAMARA
Oops, wrong button.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - STAIRWELL - DAY

Elise SPRINTS down the stairs, racing the elevator.

ELISE
(into radio mic)
How close is Ferret Bueller?

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

Spoke stares at the model. There is a RHYTHMIC POUNDING as the Security Guard attempts to break down the door.

SPOKE
We're close, five minutes tops.

ELISE (V.O.)
We don't have five minutes!

INT. SHERMAN'S VAN - DAY

Sherman points to the BATTERY INDICATOR on the drone controller. It is FLASHING RED.

NOODLE
Flashing red is good, right?

Sherman shakes his head.

NOODLE (CONT'D)
(into microphone)
Dude, we may have a problem.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE

Elise BURSTS OUT of the stairwell. Runs towards the lab.

The elevator indicator shows it is almost there!

ELISE
Spoke, I need Ferret Bueller now!

SPOKE (V.O.)
Okay, does he have to be alive?

ELISE
 Of course he has to be alive!
 (she considers this)
 Why?

SPOKE (V.O.)
 No reason.

ELISE
 Spoke?

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

Spoke studies the model of the building. He looks at the video feed from the drone. Running out of time!

NOODLE (V.O.)
 Spoke?

The DOOR JAMB SPLINTERS. The Security Guard BURSTS THROUGH.

SECURITY GUARD
 Step away from the monitors!

Spoke scrunches up his face in concentration. EVERYTHING SLOWS DOWN.

ELISE (V.O.)
 Spoke, you can do it. You've got this.

SPOKE
 I've got this.

He studies the model one more time. A smile spreads across his face. *He has a plan.*

EVERYTHING RETURNS TO NORMAL SPEED.

NOODLE (V.O.)
 Dude, we're outta runway.

SPOKE
 Speed up!

NOODLE (V.O.)
 What?

SPOKE
 We're breaking through!

INT. SHERMAN'S VAN - DAY

Noodle looks apologetically at Sherman. The video feed shows a DEAD END!

NOODLE
Sorry, dude.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE - DAY

High above Elise, the DRONE SMASHES THROUGH THE GRATE. The grate and PIECES OF DRONE rain down on her.

Elise catches the PHIAL OF SUPER CATNIP as it falls.

ELISE
What now?

SPOKE (V.O.)
(to Elise)
On my mark, Ferret Bueller is going to appear twelve feet above your head. You need to catch him.

ELISE
Catch him? How?

SPOKE (V.O.)
The exercise ball. Use the ball...

On the radio, SOUNDS OF A STRUGGLE.

ELISE
What do you mean "use the ball"?
Spoke?

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

Security Guard is wrestling Spoke to the ground. He struggles to see the screens.

SPOKE
Now!

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LOBBY - DAY

Elise sees the EXERCISE BALL. Realization dawns. She sprints towards it.

She LEAPS, BOUNCES on the ball, SOMERSAULTS and HANGS IN MID-AIR.

Ferret Bueller FLIES OUT OF THE VENT.

Elise CATCHES him. They both fall to the ground.

ELISE
Hey, little fella. Long time, no
see.

Ferret Bueller chirps. He snuggles into her neck.

The elevator PINGS. Panic on Elise's face.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - ELEVATOR

The DOORS OPEN into the office area. No sign of Elise or
Ferret Bueller.

HOGAN
And these are our offices. How
about a tour?

FDA INSPECTOR
Take me to the laboratory, now!

HOGAN
We could stop off for refreshments?
Tea, coffee, an ice cold tinnie?

FDA INSPECTOR
You have beer on the premises?

Tamara shakes her head, no!

HOGAN
The lab's this way.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LAB - DAY

Hogan, Tamara and the Inspector enter the lab. Elise stands
by the animal enclosure - slightly out of breath.

ELISE
I was beginning to think you'd got
lost.

FDA INSPECTOR
You're not the only one.

ELISE
Inspector, this is Ferret Bue... I
mean, test subject FB-211.

Ferret Bueller is safely BACK IN HIS ENCLOSURE. The FDA Inspector examines him.

FDA INSPECTOR
 Excellent. And the others?
 (off Elise's look)
 The video feed from earlier had
 more animals.

ELISE
 Right, the others. They're...

TAMARA
 They're exercising! At the animal
 gym. I can fetch them if you want.

Elise and Hogan stare at her. *Animal gym?*

FDA INSPECTOR
 That's okay. I only need one.

Tamara's phone RINGS.

TAMARA
 (picking up)
 What kind of security breach?
 (she looks at Elise)
 I'm on my way.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LAB - DAY

The FDA Inspector sits at a workbench. Hogan and Elise watch on nervously.

The Inspector CLOSES HER BRIEFCASE and stands.

FDA INSPECTOR
 Thank you, I have everything I
 need.

HOGAN
 You're going to leave us in
 suspenders?

FDA INSPECTOR
 You can expect the report of my
 recommendations within seven to ten
 weeks.

HOGAN
 Seven to ten weeks???

FDA INSPECTOR
But if I were you, I would make
preparations to start production.

HOGAN
Ah, you beauty!

Hogan gives her a bear hug. Then immediately WINCES IN PAIN.

ELISE
Would you like me to show you out?

FDA INSPECTOR
No, I'm painfully familiar with
every last inch of this facility.

The FDA Inspector leaves as Tamara arrives back with Spoke.

SPOKE
Well?

ELISE
We did it! We actually did it!

They hug. Look into each other's eyes. *Share a moment.*

HOGAN
So, I guess you get your old job
back...

Spoke and Elise break off their embrace.

TAMARA
And that promotion.

HOGAN
Yeah, congratulations. You're now a
Senior Arse-Licking Turd.

Elise's smile falters.

Ferret Bueller emits a sad chirp from his cage. Elise and
Spoke look at him.

SPOKE
Cheer up, little guy, you're back
where you belong. That's a good
thing...
(to Elise)
Right?

ELISE

I guess, once you've had a taste of freedom... Once you've seen what else is out there...

SPOKE

You can never put the smoke back in the joint.

Elise exchanges a knowing smile with Spoke.

ELISE

(to Hogan)

Mr. Hogan, thank you for this opportunity. But it's not for me.

She takes off the white labcoat. Runs her fingers over the monogrammed job title. Senior Food Scientist.

She throws it to Hogan. He FUMBLES IT to the floor!

ELISE (CONT'D)

I quit.

HOGAN

Is that right?

Elise nods.

HOGAN (CONT'D)

Well, good luck in your future endeavors...

(he holds out his hand)

Now hand over the formula.

ELISE

What?

HOGAN

The formula you used to attract the ferret. And the animals in the lab.

ELISE

How did you know...?

HOGAN

As it was developed using company resources and on company time, it belongs to me.

TAMARA

You don't think she deserves it?

Hogan shoots her a look of death.

TAMARA (CONT'D)
Just trying to help.

HOGAN
Did I ask for your help?
(to Elise)
Hand it over.

Elise takes the PHIAL from her pocket. Considers her options.

ELISE
It's all yours.

She TOSSES THE PHIAL to Hogan.

He stretches to reach it. Naturally, he FUMBLES IT!

The PHIAL SMASHES. It SPLATTERS HOGAN with the formula.

Elise heads for the door.

ELISE (CONT'D)
Spoke?

Spoke is by the animal enclosures. He follows after her.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - ELEVATOR - DAY

Elise and Spoke step into the elevator. Spoke looks a little uncomfortable.

SPOKE
I can't believe you didn't take the promotion.

ELISE
It turns out that getting promoted wasn't my one important thing.

She looks him in the eyes.

SPOKE
What was?

ELISE
I don't know... yet.

Spoke is disappointed.

ELISE (CONT'D)
But I was hoping, you'd help me find that out...

SPOKE
You mean like a quest?

ELISE
Like a shared quest.

Spoke smiles. They move closer. *Will they kiss?*

Elise pulls back.

ELISE (CONT'D)
Wait, is that what I think it is?

SPOKE
If you think it's a ferret, then
yes.

FERRET BUELLER'S HEAD pops out of Spoke's pants.

EXT. HOGAN PET FOOD - DAY

Spoke and Elise exit the building carrying Ferret Bueller.
Sherman, Miss Grey and Noodle are waiting for them.

Hugs and high fives all around.

Sherman PEELS OFF THE 99% STICKER from his van. Restored to
its original state, it reads "SHERMAN THE VERMIN EXTERMINATOR
- 100% EFFECTIVE"!

Behind them, random animals run into the building. CATS,
RACCOONS, SQUIRRELS (attracted to the formula).

NOODLE
Did you guys see that?

Spoke and Elise exchange a knowing look.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - LAB - DAY

Hogan is on his hands and knees trying to scoop up the Super
Catnip solution. Tamara watches on.

HOGAN
What are you gawking at? Get on
your knees and help!

TAMARA
Oh, so now you want my help?

HOGAN

Yes. Would you please take some time out of your busy fucking schedule and help me collect up this formula.

TAMARA

I don't think so.

She heads for the exit.

INT. HOGAN PET FOOD - OFFICE - DAY

The LAB DOOR OPENS. Hogan steps out into the office area - an amazed expressions on his face.

HOGAN POV: HE IS COMPLETELY ENCIRCLED BY THE RANDOM ANIMALS. CATS, DOGS, SQUIRRELS, RACCOONS. THEY STARE AT HIM HUNGRILY.

Hogan looks down at the compound splattered on his clothes. A terrified look on his face.

The animals CHARGE TOWARDS HIM.

EXT. THE BAKERY - DAY

SUPER: 12 months later

Bunting and signs depict the grand opening of this new business. A SMALL CROWD of well-wishers and DIGNITARIES have assembled in front of the building.

Elise and Spoke hold an oversized pair of scissors. They prepare to cut a ribbon.

ELISE

And we'd like to thank you all for coming out to support us. This has been a long journey...

(she smiles at Spoke)

And I can honestly say, we wouldn't have been able to do it on our own.

She offers Spoke the microphone.

SPOKE

Let's do this!

They cut the ribbon.

ELISE
Welcome to The Bakery!

The crowd applauds.

NOODLE
Congrats, Dude! This is awesome.

They high five.

SPOKE
Want a tour?

NOODLE
Is the pope catholic?

Spoke smiles.

NOODLE (CONT'D)
No, seriously, I need to know. A
ton of people have been asking...

They head towards the entrance. Spoke looks back. No sign of his parents.

INT. THE BAKERY - CORRIDOR - DAY

Spoke and Noodle walk down a clean, white corridor. Through a picture window, the automated kitchen can be seen. Mixers, ovens, cooling racks.

SPOKE
With Elise's new recipes, our
latest products are amazing.
Customers love them...

Some samples have been left out on a plate. Noodle tries some brownies.

He nods appreciatively.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
...and hardly any of them have
exploded.

A look of panic on Noodle's face. He stops chewing.

Spoke smiles. *He's kidding!*

NOODLE
What about your area of expertise?

SPOKE
No complaints yet.

They reach a viewing platform. Below them, row upon row of perfectly cultivated CANNABIS PLANTS.

NOODLE
Whoa!

SPOKE'S MOM (O.S.)
Just as I thought. You're a drug dealer!

Spoke's Mom steps out from behind Noodle.

SPOKE
Mom, we make edibles. It's not like I'm selling crack.

SPOKE'S MOM
(in Cantonese. Subtitled)
He's a drug dealer.

Spoke's Dad steps out from behind Spoke's Mom. Stoic.

SPOKE
(in Cantonese. Subtitled)
I'm sorry I'm not an architect or some big real estate guy, or even the Super of your building. But you've got to have a passion for what you do. And this is my passion. And I'm good at it.

Spoke's father smiles for the first time.

SPOKE'S DAD
(in Cantonese. Subtitled)
Welcome to the family business.

SPOKE
What does he mean, family business?

SPOKE'S MOM
Back in Hong Kong, you think we made our fortune buying and selling buildings?

Spoke's Mom gives him a knowing wink.

An ALARM SOUNDS.

NOODLE
Dude, what is that?

A cat flap opens in the wall beside them. Ferret Bueller jumps through it carrying a SMALL PACKAGE in his mouth.

SPOKE

Shit!

NOODLE

Is that Ferret Bueller?

SPOKE

Yeah, he's on the payroll.

Spoke, Noodle and Spoke's parents run after Ferret Bueller.

He bounds towards a SMALL DOOR at the end of the corridor.

SPOKE'S MOM

Where's he going?

Ferret Bueller stops at the door.

SPOKE

The Ferrevator.

SPOKE'S MOM

The what?

The FERRET-SIZED DOOR opens in the wall. Ferret Bueller steps into the Ferrevator (Ferret Elevator)!

The DOORS CLOSE just as the humans arrive.

NOODLE

That's so awesome!

INT. THE BAKERY - TESTING ROOM - DAY

Ferret Bueller enters the room. Comfy chairs, beanbags, snacks, video game consoles. Elise is waiting for him.

He drops the package into her hand. It is, of course, a BAG OF WEED.

ELISE

Thanks, buddy.

A large wall clock changes from 4:20pm to 4:21pm. Noodle and Spoke enter the room.

ELISE (CONT'D)

You're late!

SPOKE'S MOM (O.S.)
That would be our fault. Sun Wei
was giving us a tour.

Spoke's parents step out from behind Spoke and Noodle.

SPOKE'S MOM (CONT'D)
What is this place?

ELISE
This is our testing room.

Spoke's Mom looks Elise up and down.

ELISE (CONT'D)
Hi, you must be Spoke's mom.
(she outstretches her hand)
I'm Elise - Spoke's partner.

SPOKE'S MOM
Business or otherwise?

SPOKE
Mom!

Elise fetches an ELECTRONIC GADGET. Places it on the table.

ELISE
We can test the potency of our
plants using this device.

Noodle looks disappointed.

SPOKE'S DAD
Why wouldn't you just smoke it?

Spoke's Dad pulls out a CHINESE WATER BONG from his pocket.

NOODLE
He does make an excellent point.

INT. THE BAKERY - TESTING ROOM - DAY

The room is filled with smoke. Spoke and Elise sit on a bean-
bag together. Spoke's Mom takes a MASSIVE HIT from the bong.

NOODLE
Whoa!

ELISE
Your mom's awesome!

SPOKE
Yeah, who knew?

He reaches behind his back to retrieve a WRAPPED PRESENT.

SPOKE (CONT'D)
Almost forgot. This is for you.

She unwraps the gift. It's a WHITE LABCOAT with her name embroidered on it. It reads "ELISE: CHIEF WHATEVER-THE-FUCK-YOU-WANT-TO-BE!"

SPOKE (CONT'D)
I wasn't sure about the job title.

ELISE
It's perfect.

They kiss passionately.

Spoke's Mom passes the bong to Noodle. He takes a hit.

NOODLE
Best. Blend. Ever.

FADE OUT.