

THE FORTY THOUSAND DOLLAR MAN

Written by

John Francis Daley

"THE FORTY THOUSAND DOLLAR MAN"

FADE IN:

EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA - DAY

A Saturn V rocket stands on the launchpad as numerous NASA technicians prepare it for launch.

CHYRON: KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, 1973

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is bustling with activity as crew-cut, skinny tie-wearing TECHNICIANS prepare their stations for launch. Overseeing the operation is MAJOR COLBY STAFFORD, 30's, the clean-cut, hyper-competent mission chief.

COLBY

How we looking, Flight?

TECH 1

We are T-minus fourteen minutes,  
Chief. Go for launch.

COLBY

Roger that, Flight. Capcom?

TECH 2

All systems go, Chief.

COLBY

Thank you, Capcom.  
(turning to another  
Technician)  
How's our guy, Doc?

TECH 3

Funny thing about that, Major.  
Either he's not there... or he's  
dead.

ANGLE ON an EKG monitor which is flatlining.

COLBY

LOM, give me video of the cockpit,  
please.

TECH 4

Roger that. On main screen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We see the interior of an empty cockpit appear on the screen at the front of the room.

COLBY  
Oh, shoot. Not again.  
(to the room)  
We are T-minus fourteen, people.  
Where the hell is Buff Taggart!

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

MUSIC CUE: "Rubberband Man" by The Spinners

COLONEL BUFF TAGGART, 30's, the most famous living American astronaut, has just paddled his surfboard out to an imposing 20 foot wave.

BUFF  
That looks about right.

As the wave catches him, he mounts his board and rides it in toward shore. His eye is caught by something gleaming underwater and he leaps from his board into the sea. He swims several meters down, grabs an oyster from a coral reef and heads back to the surface.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

BONNIE SWANSON, late-20's, suns herself on a towel. She is the quintessential 70's TV star, complete with feathered hair, savage tan and generous bosom.

BUFF (O.S.)  
Got you another one, baby.

Buff stands dripping over her. He tosses a pearl onto a small mound of pearls beside her towel.

BONNIE  
Oh, Buff. All these pearls...

BUFF  
Let's make love.

BONNIE  
Shouldn't you be at the launch?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF  
(checks watch)  
Hmm. I guess I should. Colby  
hates when I'm late.

He bends down and kisses Bonnie.

BONNIE  
Be safe up there.

BUFF  
Honey, I'm just going to space.  
What could go wrong?

He quickly towels off, then picks up a full NASA spacesuit  
from the sand and steps into it.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Now in his spacesuit and holding his helmet, Buff climbs into  
his gold 1973 Corvette Stingray and peels out.

Pull back to reveal he is heading toward the nearby rocket.  
Above him we see a large billboard showing Buff in the  
driver's seat of a 1973 Corvette Stingray heading toward a  
nearby rocket. A caption reads "Corvette: the Car of  
Astronauts!"

EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER

Buff screeches to a stop at a red light. A KID in the car  
next to him does a double-take as he stares at Buff.

KID  
Buff Taggart!

BUFF  
That's right, son.

KID  
You going to the moon, Buff?

BUFF  
Not this time. Now, you listen to  
your mom and behave.

KID  
I will, Buff.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As the light changes and Buff zooms off, he tosses something to the boy. It's a pearl.

KID (CONT'D)  
Gee, thanks!

The Kid looks at his MOM, confused. She shrugs.

EXT. LAUNCHPAD - MOMENTS LATER

Buff pulls up to the base of the rocket and is immediately surrounded by NASA TECHNICIANS. He steps out of his car and heads for the elevator leading up to the command module of the rocket.

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colby watches Buff in the elevator on a monitor.

COLBY  
(into his microphone)  
Cutting it a little close, there,  
aren't you Buff?

BUFF  
(through speakers)  
Not as bad as on Apollo 16.

Colby shakes his head, amused in spite of himself.

COLBY  
Yeah. You endangered a lot of  
lives on that one.

BUFF  
(jokingly)  
Talk to my attorney.

COLBY  
(laughs)  
We did.

EXT. GANGWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Buff heads toward the entrance.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
(over P.A.)  
T-minus four minutes...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Buff greets various WORKERS as he goes.

                  BUFF  
Hey, Jimmy. Lookin' good.  
                  (to another worker)  
Jimmy! Love the moustache.  
                  (to another)  
Jimmy boy! See you on the flip  
side.

Buff climbs into the module.

INT. COMMAND MODULE - CONTINUOUS

The door is shut behind him and Buff moves to take his seat.

SFX: A tearing sound

Buff looks down to see the sleeve of his suit has caught in the door and torn a small hole.

                  COLBY (O.S.)  
Everything okay in there, Colonel?

                  BUFF  
                  (covering the tear)  
Uh... roger that. Just prepping  
the cabin for launch.

He latches his seat harness, then pulls out a tiny photograph from a pocket of his suit. He kisses it, then places it tenderly above his seat.

REVERSE ANGLE: We see the photo is of Buff

EXT. LAUNCHPAD - CONTINUOUS

Smoke begins to build up at the base of the rocket.

                  ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Ten, nine, eight, seven...

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colby watches the countdown.

                  COLBY  
Okay, people. Let's get this  
right. That rocket is carrying a  
national treasure.  
                  (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLBY (CONT'D)  
And a personal friend of mine.  
Godspeed, Buff Taggart.

EXT. LAUNCHPAD - CONTINUOUS

The rocket's engines ignite.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Three, two, one, liftoff.

The rocket gradually ascends from the launchpad.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Bonnie watches as the rocket blasts off. She blows it a kiss.

INT. COMMAND MODULE - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT with Mission Control.

Buff's face jiggles ridiculously as the rocket ascends.

COLBY (O.S.)  
You're looking good, Buff. How's  
your main bus power?

BUFF  
Uh, which one is that again?  
(beat)  
I'm just kidding.

Colby and the rest of the NASA Techs bust out laughing.

COLBY  
You had us going there.

BUFF  
Yeah. Anyway, main bus power is...  
low. Dangerously low. Pretty much  
off.

Colby and the others scramble to check their gauges.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
Kidding. Just kidding around.  
Power's fine. Thanks for asking.

Colby cracks a tight smile and turns to Tech 1.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLBY

Always gets me with that "main bus"  
gag. Funniest astronaut in the  
fleet.

TECH 2

Uh, Chief, we're picking up  
something on audio. Kind of a  
rattle.

COLBY

Put it on the box.

SFX: A loud rattling sound

COLBY (CONT'D)

Buff, we're getting a kind of  
rattling sound down here. Any idea  
about the source?

In the cockpit, Buff is holding a cocktail shaker. The  
vibrating of the rocket mixes his martini for him.

BUFF

I'm not hearing anything, Major.

COLBY

Okay. Well, let us know.

Buff takes a martini glass from a compartment and pours  
himself a nicely shaken cocktail, then plops an olive in. He  
removes his helmet and takes a sip.

EXT. SATURN V ROCKET - MOMENTS LATER

The nose of the rocket glows as it leaves the Earth's  
atmosphere. The command module separates from the booster  
rocket.

INT. COMMAND MODULE - CONTINUOUS

Buff takes the final sip of his drink as the spacecraft moves  
into zero gravity. The olive floats out of his glass.

BUFF

Where do you think you're going,  
little friend?

He chomps the olive out of the air and swallows it.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

COLBY

Buff, we're showing you at zero G's. Stable orbit achieved. You can go ahead and remove your helmet at this time.

Buff looks up at his helmet, floating above him.

BUFF

Uh, roger that. Let me just...  
(grunts)  
Unhook this...  
(more grunts)  
Taking off the old helmet... Whew,  
feels good getting that thing off.

COLBY

Okay. You can start your zero grav experiments whenever you're ready.

BUFF

Roger that.

Buff empties a bag containing a stopwatch, a cage of mice and a hammer.

CUT TO:

EXT. SATURN V ROCKET - LATER

The command module orbits high above the Earth.

INT. SATURN V ROCKET - CONTINUOUS

Buff straps himself into his chair, preparing for sleep.

INTERCUT with Mission Control where it is the night shift.  
Colby sits at his station drinking a cup of coffee.

COLBY

Okay, Buff. Great work today.  
That mouse-hammer study is really  
going to make a difference down  
here in a lot of people's lives.

BUFF

Thanks, Chief.

Colby gazes thoughtfully at the video feed of Buff on his monitor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLBY  
(to himself)  
God, I wish it was me up there.

BUFF  
You say something, Chief?

COLBY  
Me? Nope.

BUFF  
Okay, well, I'm gonna grab some  
Z's. Don't suppose you'd consider  
singing me to sleep?

COLBY  
(smiling)  
You got it.

Leaning into the mic, Colby sings. His voice is surprisingly beautiful.

COLBY (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
*Just yesterday morning they let me  
know you were gone, Susanne the  
plans they made put an end to you.  
I walked out this morning and I  
wrote down this song, I just can't  
remember who to send it to...*

Buff smiles contentedly and shuts his eyes.

Tech 1 and Tech 2 exchange a look and join in singing backing vocals on their own mics.

COLBY/TECH 1/TECH 2  
(singing)  
*I've seen fire and I've seen rain,  
I've seen sunny days that I thought  
would never end...*

SFX: A LOUD BOOM

Buff's eyes open as the entire craft shudders. An alarm goes off.

BUFF  
What the hell?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TECH 1

We have an impact on the hull.  
Repeat, impact on the hull!

COLBY

Buff, what's happening? Can you  
see anything?

Buff looks out a porthole and sees a small satellite with a  
TARANTULA EMBLEM spinning off into space. A stream of gas  
vents from his module.

BUFF

Appears I was struck by a  
satellite. I'm venting gas into  
space.

COLBY

A satellite?

TECH 2

That's impossible, Chief. We've  
got positions on every licensed  
satellite in Earth orbit.

COLBY

(to Tech 1, covering his  
mic)  
Did it breach the hull?

TECH 1

No, sir. But he's venting a lot of  
O<sub>2</sub>.

COLBY

Buff, I want you to check your  
oxygen gauge.

Buff floats over to a control panel.

CLOSE ON an oxygen gauge. The needle is moving slowly  
downward.

BUFF

(calmly)  
Oh, yeah. We've got a leak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TECH 2

(to Colby)

Sir, it appears the breach can only be repaired from outside the module.

COLBY

How much time does he have?

TECH 2

At this rate of outgassing, I'd say fifteen minutes, max.

COLBY

(over mic)

You hear that, Buff? Looks like we're going to need you to do an unscheduled EVA.

Buff is already putting on his spacesuit. As he puts his arm in the sleeve, he notices the tear from earlier.

BUFF

Right... Hey, Chief? I forgot to mention, upon entering the craft, I acquired a small tear in my suit.

COLBY

A tear? You tore your suit and you didn't tell us?

BUFF

In my defense, I did not expect to be leaving the module.

COLBY

Damn it!

(to Tech 1)

What are our other options?

TECH 1

Uh... He could suffocate and die in space.

BUFF

It's okay, guys. I can do the space walk and patch the leak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

COLBY

With a torn suit? How? You gonna hold your breath?

BUFF

Yup.

COLBY

Are you nuts? That's impossible.

TECH 3

It might not be.

COLBY

What? In the vacuum of space? He'll burst like a Christmas goose!

TECH 3

If he can create positive pressure in his thorax and keep a tight clench on his anus to prevent intestinal explosivity, he just might be able to pull it off.

BUFF

What about my eyes, Doc?

TECH 3

You'll have to keep them tightly shut, Buff, to prevent ocular explosivity.

BUFF

Okay. Colby? Do I have a go?

COLBY

I don't know, Buff. You'll be working blind. And that's a long time to clench your anus.

BUFF

I can do it. I've trained for this.

COLBY

(sighs, then)

All right. But don't you go and die on me. I don't want to be at the helm when we lose an American hero.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

TECH 2

What about Apollo 1, Chief? You  
were at the helm of that one. And  
they all burned.

COLBY

Larry, you know damn well I was in  
the bathroom when that happened.

Inside the capsule, Buff opens a plastic cover on a button  
labeled "DEPRESSURIZATION. EMERGENCY ONLY!"

BUFF

Preparing to depressurize capsule.

COLBY

Roger that.

BUFF

Hey, Colby? If this doesn't work,  
do me a favor? Tell Bonnie there's  
a dead astronaut floating around up  
here who loves her very much.

In mission control we see all the Techs, including Colby, are  
sniffing and passing around a Kleenex box.

Buff grabs a crescent wrench. He then takes a deep breath,  
lets it out, shuts his eyes, clenches up and pushes the  
depressurization button.

SFX: A LOUD WHOOSHING SOUND

Buff feels his way to the door of the capsule and unscrews  
the hatch.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Gripping a handle outside the capsule, Buff works his way  
outside and over to the gas leak. Ice crystals immediately  
form on his skin.

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colby watches Buff on a monitor.

COLBY

(to himself)

Oh, this is not good.

(then, to Tech 1)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLBY (CONT'D)  
Tom, I'll be in the bathroom if  
anyone needs me.

Colby hurries off.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Clearly struggling to keep from exploding, Buff tightens a bolt with the wrench. The gas leak slows and stops.

Buff clambers back inside the capsule, shuts the door and hits a repressurization button.

INT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colby stands at a sink, furiously scrubbing his hands with soap as Tech 2 bursts into the men's room.

TECH 2  
Major! I think you'd better see  
this.

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Colby and Tech 2 hurry in to a room of applauding Techs. On the monitor, we see Buff in the capsule from behind, checking some gauges.

COLBY  
Buff! You did it!

BUFF  
Why do you sound so surprised?

Buff turns to the camera revealing that both his eyes have bugged out grotesquely. One seems to be hanging on by the optic nerve. The NASA Techs abruptly stop clapping.

COLBY  
Oh, sweet Jesus.

BUFF  
What's that?

COLBY  
Uh, you look great, Buff.  
Congratulations.  
(quietly to the room)  
Keep clapping.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Techs resume clapping uncomfortably.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FONTAINEBLEAU HOTEL - NIGHT

Limousines pull up to the famous Miami Beach hotel.

CHYRON: "ONE WEEK LATER"

INT. BANQUET HALL - CONTINUOUS

A large AUDIENCE applauds as Vice President SPIRO AGNEW moves to the dais. Buff, now in a double-knit polyester leisure suit, sits beside Bonnie on the stage. Colby sits a short distance away.

AGNEW

Thank you. Tonight we honor a true American hero. A man who laughs in the face of fear. A man who has been to the moon more times than any other human. And he was good enough to come back down and tell us what he saw up there.

BUFF

A lot of rocks, Mr. Vice President.  
A lot of rocks.

The crowd busts out laughing.

AGNEW

(chuckling)

Now, I understand our friends at NASA have prepared a kind of highlight reel of Colonel Buff Taggart's storied career. Gentlemen?

The lights dim and a screen descends as a projector rolls.

ON SCREEN:

A dramatic shot of the moon and stars. The camera tilts down to reveal a placid farm.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.)  
Buff was born in 1943 in the  
heartland of America to Jack and  
Greta Taggart. Jack Taggart had  
been a World War I flyboy...

We see a young Jack Taggart standing beside a bi-plane.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
...while Greta stayed at home,  
growing badly needed corn for the  
war effort.

In a series of photos, Greta squats beside an ear of corn.  
As it grows larger and larger, she stays in the same  
position.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
In 1951, when Buff was only eight,  
tragedy struck the Taggart farm. A  
powerful tornado took the life of  
his father. Then, one year later,  
the same tornado killed his mother.

We see a photo of Jack running from a massive tornado. Then  
one of Greta running from a tornado which now has a skeleton  
inside it.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
A devastated Buff was sent to a  
government home for wayward boys,  
where he developed a fascination  
with the heavenly bodies that  
floated above his squalid quarters.

Ten year old Buff lies on the roof of an orphanage staring up  
at the night sky.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Five years later, at the age of  
fifteen, Buff lied about his age in  
order to enlist in the US Air Force  
like his father before him.

We see fifteen year old Buff, wearing a fake beard, standing  
beside several taller, older pilots and their planes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Thanks to his fearlessness and  
outstanding flying skill, Buff  
quickly rose to the top of his  
squadron. And when the conflict in  
Vietnam broke out, it was Buff who  
led his fellow flyers into combat.

Twenty-something Buff sits in the cockpit of an F-4 Phantom  
fighter plane, giving a thumbs-up.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
After winning the war, Buff  
returned stateside. That's when  
NASA came calling. They were  
looking for a few brave men to join  
in the race to space.

On screen we see photos of Buff in his spacesuit, planting a  
flag on the moon. Then another, driving a lunar rover.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
In Apollo missions twelve through  
seventeen, Buff became the first  
man to drive the lunar rover, the  
first man to throw a javelin on the  
moon...

We see Buff in his spacesuit hurling a javelin.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
...the first to fire a gun...

Buff fires a pistol at a beer can on a pile of rocks in the  
distance.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
...the first to plant a tree for  
Israel.

Buff, wearing a yarmulke on top of his space helmet, plants a  
sapling on the moon.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Never satisfied to rest on his  
laurels, Buff Taggart continues to  
break records. Leaving behind his  
lover, Bonnie Swanson, star of the  
top rated television drama, "Lady  
Soldier..."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

On screen we see a clip of Bonnie in "Lady Soldier." She wears a skimpy camouflage uniform and fires an automatic rifle at unseen foes. Her breasts shake violently.

WILLIAM SHATNER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
...Buff keeps venturing out into  
the unknown. For that is what  
makes a man a hero. And a hero a  
legend.

On screen, Buff stands beside an American flag on the moon. At the edge of the photo we see two other astronauts looking resentfully at Buff, hogging the spotlight.

The crowd rises in a standing ovation as the vice president shakes Buff's hand. Colby embraces Buff. Finally, Bonnie gives Buff an inappropriately deep kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. BUFF'S CAR - NIGHT

Buff and Bonnie drive home.

BONNIE  
I'm so proud of you, honey.

BUFF  
Well, imagine how proud of me I am.

BONNIE  
The vice president himself came all  
this way to honor you.

BUFF  
And how about that plaque?  
(looks around)  
Did you grab the plaque?

BONNIE  
No. I thought you took it.

BUFF  
I didn't take it. Oh no. We  
forgot the plaque.

BONNIE  
Do you want to go back for it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

                  BUFF  
No. It's just a plaque.

They drive on in silence.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Was that a piece of moon rock in  
the plaque?

                  BONNIE  
I think so.

                  BUFF  
Damn. That was an expensive  
plaque.

                  BONNIE  
We can go back and get it, Buff.

                  BUFF  
Nah. It's late. No biggie.

                  BONNIE  
Are you sure?

                  BUFF  
Positive.

A long beat. Bonnie looks at Buff.

                  BONNIE  
Thinking about that plaque?

                  BUFF  
Yeah. Let's go back.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The car does a U-turn then stops at a stoplight. A teenage KID in a 1970 Mercury Cyclone pulls up beside Buff. The Kid notices Buff, then says something to his companion, a FAT TEEN. Both boys laugh. Buff nods to them, uncertainly.

INTERCUT: INT. BUFF'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

                  KID  
Excuse me?

                  BUFF  
Yes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KID

Are you that astronaut guy?

BUFF

Buff Taggart. You want me to sign something?

KID

Oh, that'd be great. Could you sign my balls?

Both boys crack up.

BUFF

Um, okay. Do you have a felt tip? You probably don't want me to use a fountain pen.

BONNIE

I think they're mocking you, Buff.

BUFF

What? Why would they--

KID

Astronauts are gay.

BUFF

Astronauts are not gay! They're not allowed to be.

KID

Oh, and those moon landings? Totally faked.

BUFF

(infuriated)

They were not faked! I was there.

FAT TEEN

My dad said our government faked the whole space program to make Krushchev jealous.

BUFF

Your dad's gay. And you're a fatty.

BONNIE

Buff!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KID

I bet you're too scared to even  
race me, spaceman.

BUFF

Are you kidding? I've pulled  
twelve G's on reentry.

KID

Was that before or after you had  
sex with a man?

BUFF

Okay. That's it. I'll race you to  
the Fontainebleau Hotel on Collins  
Avenue. I have to pick up a  
plaque.

KID

You're on.

BUFF

(to Bonnie)

I'll pick you up here in a few  
minutes.

BONNIE

What?! You can't be serious.  
You're going to leave me out on the  
street so you can race some kid?

(then, gently)

Come on, lover. You don't need to  
prove anything to him. Just as  
long as you believe in yourself.

Buff looks at her for a beat.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - SECONDS LATER

Bonnie stands on the side of the road in her elegant evening  
dress. The Fat Teen stands beside her. Buff and the Kid's  
cars peel out in a puff of burning rubber.

FAT TEEN

I love you in "Lady Soldier."

BONNIE

Thank you.

EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Buff and the Kid zoom down the street, neck and neck. Buff rolls down his window and calls out to the Kid.

                  BUFF  
                  (yelling over the wind)  
                  You need to learn some respect!  
                  And I'm the one who's going to  
                  teach you that respect!

                  KID  
                  (yelling)  
                  What?

                  BUFF  
                  I said, you need to learn--

Buff suddenly spots a possum crossing the road ahead. His eyes go wide as he swerves to avoid it. The car slams into a large wooden pole, demolishing the vehicle. Buff flies through the front windshield and lands on his back, badly injured.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
                  (barely conscious)  
                  --some respect...

Buff looks above him and sees the pole he hit was holding up the Corvette Stingray billboard we saw earlier. The entire thing collapses and falls directly on top of him. All that's left is Buff's smiling face on the advertisement and the slogan "Corvette: the Car of Astronauts!"

CUT TO:

BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. MILITARY HOSPITAL - HOURS LATER

CHYRON: NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER, QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

INT. MILITARY HOSPITAL HALLWAY

OSCAR GOLDMAN, late-40s, a no-nonsense government official, hurries down the hall to find Colby and Bonnie pacing tensely.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OSCAR  
What's Taggart's status?

BONNIE  
Who are you?

OSCAR  
Oscar Goldman. Director of OSI.

BONNIE  
What's OSI?

COLBY  
Office of Scientific Intelligence.  
(to Oscar)  
What are you doing here?

OSCAR  
There's no time to explain. What's  
Buff's status?

COLBY  
He's critical. He lost an arm, an  
eye, his nose and a leg.

A nurse exits the surgical room carrying a severed leg.

COLBY (CONT'D)  
Both legs.

BONNIE  
Oh god.

OSCAR  
I need to speak to him.

COLBY  
What? Why?

OSCAR  
Because I think we can save him.

COLBY  
What? How?

OSCAR  
I'm just going to...

Oscar gently pushes past Colby and Bonnie and enters the  
room.



INT. SURGERY - CONTINUOUS

The door swings open and Oscar enters to find Buff sedated on the operating table. He is missing his legs, an arm, and has bandages over one eye and his nose.

OSCAR

Buff? Can you hear me?

BUFF

(pouting)

That lady just took my leg.

OSCAR

I know. I'm sorry about that.  
You've been in a terrible accident.

BUFF

I can't smell.

OSCAR

You've lost your nose.

BUFF

I don't like this.

OSCAR

Look, Colonel, the government of this country considers you an invaluable asset. And we do not intend to lose that asset. We have the ability to repair you if you'll agree to undergo an experimental procedure.

BUFF

What sort of procedure?

OSCAR

We call them bionics. We've never used them on a human before, but we've been given an unprecedented forty thousand dollars to spend on you, Colonel Taggart.

BUFF

Forty thousand dollars! That's an insane amount of money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OSCAR

You're worth it to us, Buff. And  
if you say yes, you'll be the first  
bionic man.

BUFF

What are these bionics?

OSCAR

They're super-strong replacement  
parts. We've had great success in  
animal trials. Our bionic rat was  
able to lift three hundred pounds  
with one paw.

BUFF

That's amazing.

OSCAR

Well, that's in rat pounds, of  
course. But still--

BUFF

What are they made of?

OSCAR

High grade steel and wrought iron.

BUFF

Steel and iron...

Buff thinks for a beat, then

BUFF (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm in.

Buff moves to extend his arm, but there's only a bandaged  
stump. Oscar uncertainly shakes the stump. Buff recoils in  
pain as the bandage starts to turn red.

BUFF (CONT'D)

Ow! Oh, god!

OSCAR

Sorry.

(calling off)

Nurse?

DISSOLVE TO:

SURGERY MONTAGE

INT. SURGERY - LATER

A team of DOCTORS perform extreme surgery on Buff. We see one doctor open a steel case and remove a bionic arm. He hands it to another doctor.

OSCAR (V.O.)  
Buff Taggart. Astronaut. A man  
barely alive. Gentlemen, we can  
rebuild him. We have the  
technology.

A doctor carefully inserts a bionic eye into Buff's partially opened skull.

OSCAR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
We have the capability to make the  
world's first bionic man.

Two doctors attach bionic legs to Buff's pelvis.

OSCAR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Buff Taggart will be that man.  
Better than he was before. Better,  
stronger, faster.

A doctor cleans the nostrils of a flesh-toned bionic nose with a Q-tip, then attaches it to Buff's face. They step back from their patient and shake hands with one another as we

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAYS LATER

BUFF's POV as he slowly opens his eyes. Not yet in focus, Oscar and Bonnie stand over him. Behind them is a LUTHER, a technician in a lab coat. The right half of the view seems to be ZOOMING in and out.

OSCAR  
He's coming to.

BONNIE  
Oh, thank goodness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OSCAR  
Easy now, Buff.

BUFF  
Where---

OSCAR  
You're in a top secret government  
facility.

BONNIE  
How are you feeling, baby?

BUFF  
(weakly)  
I'm fine. Just a little car crash,  
that's all.

LUTHER  
I'm easing up on the morphine  
drip...

Luther turns a dial on a tube leading to Buff's good arm.  
Buff's face contorts in pain.

BUFF  
Holy mother of god! No! No! NO!

LUTHER  
Resuming morphine drip...

Buff's face relaxes.

BUFF  
Just a little car crash.

OSCAR  
Now, Buff, your body has  
experienced an enormous trauma.  
It'll be some time before you begin  
to feel like yourself again.

BUFF  
(glancing down)  
Are these the bionics?

OSCAR  
Yes. Your legs, your right arm,  
your right eye and your nose have  
all been... upgraded.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bonnie gently pulls Oscar aside.

BONNIE

Mr. Goldman, I know it's the least of his worries right now, but I'm wondering, will everything work properly... down there?

OSCAR

Miss Swanson, on that front you have nothing to worry about. Buff is every bit the man he was before the accident. Except that his penis probably won't work anymore.

BUFF (O.C.)

So thirsty.

Oscar returns to Buff. Bonnie, looking disturbed, joins him.

OSCAR

There's a glass of juice on the table in front of you, Buff. Why don't you see if you can reach for it?

Buff reaches for the glass with his good arm.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

No, with your bionic arm.

Buff slowly extends his bionic right arm toward the glass.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Good, good...

Buff grasps the glass and immediately shatters it in his hand.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Okay. That's to be expected. Luther, could we have another glass of juice, please?

Luther fills a new glass with juice and sets it on the table.

BUFF

I don't know, Oscar--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

OSCAR  
Just try again, Buff.

Buff again reaches for the glass. This time he does not break it. But he hurls it against the wall, shattering it.

BUFF  
Damn it!

OSCAR  
Not a problem.  
(to Luther)  
Little more juice?

Luther fills a new glass and sets it down. Buff immediately bats it off the table.

BUFF  
This is ridiculous!

OSCAR  
You're getting the hang of it.  
(to Luther)  
Juice.

Luther fills another glass but before he can set it down, Buff punches him in the stomach, then hurls the juice glass against the wall. Bonnie rushes to Buff's side.

BONNIE  
Buff!

Buff involuntarily cold cocks Bonnie, knocking her against the wall.

OSCAR  
Oh dear.

BUFF  
Bonnie!

BONNIE  
(checking her nose for  
blood)  
It's fine. I'm okay.

BUFF  
I'm so sorry, baby. It's this arm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BONNIE  
No, I know. It's bionic.

OSCAR  
(to Luther)  
Can we get another juice, please?

The now resentful Luther pours another glass of juice, nervously sets it down and backs away.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
Concentrate, Buff. You can do this.

Buff furrows his brow and slowly reaches for the glass. This time he picks it up, brings it to his mouth and drinks. Bonnie watches raptly.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
Good. Very good.

BONNIE  
You're doing it, honey. You're doing it.

Buff finishes the juice. A beat. He smashes the glass against his own face then punches Bonnie again.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUNNING TRACK - DAYS LATER

Buff, wearing an orange tracksuit unzipped to his chest hair, sits in a wheelchair. Oscar is with him.

OSCAR  
You've made great strides these last couple days, Buff. Now it's time to see what those bionic legs of yours can do.

Oscar extends his hand and Buff takes it, hoisting himself out of the wheelchair.

BUFF  
It feels good to stand again.

OSCAR  
Imagine how it'll feel to run sixty miles an hour.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

What?!

OSCAR

That's right. Your bionic legs  
were designed to achieve a top  
speed of a mile a minute.

BUFF

I thought you said sixty miles an  
hour.

OSCAR

That comes out to a mile a minute.

BUFF

I don't think so...

OSCAR

It does. You need to trust me.

BUFF

(still doubtful)  
You're the boss.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUNNING TRACK - MOMENTS LATER

Buff jumps up and down, stretching out his new legs.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

A Technician raises a starter's pistol and fires.

In SLOW MOTION:

Buff starts to run down the track. Oscar stands with Luther  
who holds a stopwatch. They grin as it appears Buff's legs  
are working according to plan.

NORMAL SPEED:

As the image returns to normal motion, we see Buff is not  
actually running all that fast.

OSCAR

How fast is he going, Luther?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

LUTHER  
Twenty miles an hour, sir.

OSCAR  
Slightly faster than a normal man.  
Disappointing.

Oscar picks up a megaphone and calls out to Buff.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
Buff, can you go any faster?

BUFF  
(yelling)  
I don't think so!

OSCAR  
All right. Then bring it in.

BUFF  
You got it, Oscar.

Buff waves and tries to slow down but he can't.

He continues to run quickly around the track, flailing his arms, clearly not in control of his speed.

LUTHER  
He's not stopping, Mr. Goldman.

OSCAR  
I can see that, Luther.  
(calling)  
Buff? You can stop now!

BUFF  
I... I can't. The legs won't stop!

OSCAR  
Damn it.

Buff continues running, his arms hanging at his sides.

BUFF  
Can anyone help me?!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RUNNING TRACK - ONE HOUR LATER

Buff cries softly as he continues involuntarily running around the track.

                  BUFF  
                  (weepy)  
          These legs are raping me.

Oscar watches as a pickup truck with Technicians in the bed drives alongside Buff. Luther reaches out, trying to slow Buff's pace.

                  LUTHER  
          Almost got you...

Just as he is about to grab hold of Buff, Buff's bionic arm punches him, sending Luther flying off the pickup onto the track.

                  BUFF  
          Sorry, Luther!

As Buff reaches a bend in the track, the truck continues straight towards the cement wall, forcing Buff to go straight as well. The truck comes to a stop but Buff speeds towards the wall.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
          Oh no.

Bam! Buff slams into the wall and goes down. His bionic legs continue to run as Buff lies face down, groaning.

Oscar, watching from a distance, shakes his head with disgust.

CUT TO:

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Oscar stands with Buff.

                  OSCAR  
          Today we're going to see how well  
          your bionic eye and nose function.

                  BUFF  
          Great.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OSCAR  
I want you to start by focusing on  
that eye chart with your right eye.

BUFF  
Okay.

Buff closes his left eye while squinting with his right.

From Buff's POV we see the eye chart.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

Suddenly, his view ZOOMS IN dramatically till we see nothing  
but the black ink of the letters.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
What the--

OSCAR  
Can you read the bottom line?

BUFF  
All I see is black.

OSCAR  
Black?

Buff looks over at Oscar. From his POV we see an EXTREME  
CLOSE-UP of Oscar's lips. They flap open horribly, saliva  
droplets clinging to the corner of his mouth as he speaks:

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
What do you mean black?

Buff jumps back, startled.

BUFF  
Ahh!

OSCAR  
What is it?

BUFF  
I think my eye is overzooming.

OSCAR  
Overzooming?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

                  BUFF  
Everything's too close. How do I  
pull back?

                  OSCAR  
Oh. It only has two settings.  
Zoom. And not zoom.

                  BUFF  
That doesn't seem very--

Buff's POV: we zoom in on Oscar's forehead. It's a sea of  
pores and blackheads.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Sweet mother! Your skin, Oscar,  
it's... terrible.

                  OSCAR  
Stop it, Buff.

                  BUFF  
I'm sorry, it's just--

CLOSE ON tiny droplets of oil on Oscar's face.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Uch! It's so oily.

                  OSCAR  
It's perfectly normal to have a  
certain amount of oil on the  
skin...

                  BUFF  
Certain amount? It's like the menu  
at a diner!

                  OSCAR  
Zoom out.

                  BUFF  
It's like the seat of a taxi.

                  OSCAR  
I said zoom out.

Buff does. His view returns to normal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFF

I don't get it, Oscar. What good  
is an eye that can only see your  
horrible pores and greasy skin?

OSCAR

We haven't ironed out all the kinks  
yet.

(then, testy)

Would you rather we had left that  
gaping hole you had when we found  
you?

BUFF

No.

OSCAR

All right then. On to your bionic  
nose. It's been designed to be a  
thousand times stronger than the  
normal nose.

BUFF

I hope it's not as oily as the  
normal nose.

OSCAR

That's enough!

Oscar indicates a row of pedestals concealed by small  
screens.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Now, behind each of these screens  
is an item. I want you to identify  
the items solely by their smell.

BUFF

Okay...

Oscar points to the first screen.

OSCAR

Let's start with this one. Can you  
smell what's behind it?

Buff inhales deeply through his nose, focusing his attention  
on the first screen.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BUFF

Okay, I smell something. I'm getting...

(Buff scrunches his nose)

It's kinda earthy. No, wait, funky. Ugh. It's feces. You put poop on that pedestal?

OSCAR

What? No, of course not.

Oscar lifts up the screen, revealing a lemon.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

It's a lemon.

BUFF

Oh.

Buff squints his eye.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

BUFF (CONT'D)

Wow, that is one oily lemon.

OSCAR

All right, try the next screen. Smell anything?

Buff sniffs and nods.

BUFF

Uh huh. Definitely doodie.

OSCAR

Buff, this is no time for horseplay.

BUFF

I'm not kidding, Oscar. All I smell behind that screen is poop.

Oscar sighs and lifts the screen to reveal a single rose.

OSCAR

You can't smell this rose?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

BUFF  
No, all there is is an overwhelming  
smell of turd. Actually...

Buff wrinkles his nose and heads toward the doorway.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
It seems to be coming from outside.

Buff exits into

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Buff makes his way down the hall, sniffing the air. Oscar follows.

BUFF  
Yup. It's stronger out here.  
(wincing)  
Ugh, how can anyone work in here?  
It's like a cesspool.

OSCAR  
I don't smell anything.

Buff reaches the door to the men's room.

BUFF  
It's coming from in here.

Buff opens the door and enters.

OSCAR  
Buff, wait.

INT. MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Buff and Oscar step into the men's room. Buff immediately crosses over to one of the stalls.

BUFF  
This is it! I'm sure of it.

Buff grabs the handle and using his bionic arm, tears the door off its hinges. Inside Luther sits on the toilet, his arm in a cast.

LUTHER  
Hey!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OSCAR  
Sorry about this, Luther.

BUFF  
Oh. Hi, Luther.

OSCAR  
Well, the good news here is that  
your arm seems to be working.

BUFF  
Oh, yeah. Look at that.

OSCAR  
And your bionic nose is able to  
detect faint odors from a great  
distance.

BUFF  
But the only thing I can smell  
really well is shit.

OSCAR  
At least it's a starting point.

They consider this for a beat.

LUTHER  
Do you guys mind...?

OSCAR/BUFF  
Right./Sorry, Luther.

They move away from the stall.

CUT TO:

INT. OSI OFFICES - A FEW DAYS LATER

Buff, now wearing civilian clothes (silk shirt, bell  
bottoms), enters Oscar's office.

BUFF  
You wanted to see me, Oscar?

OSCAR  
Buff. Yes, come in.

Buff enters and sits.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

OSCAR (CONT'D)

It's been two weeks since your accident. How are you feeling?

BUFF

A lot better than when that sign fell on me.

OSCAR

I can imagine. And how are you adjusting to the bionics?

BUFF

Well, it was hard at first. But they're really starting to feel like a part of me.

He gives Oscar a thumbs-up with his bionic arm.

OSCAR

I'm glad to hear it.

Buff's thumbs-up remains up. Buff glances at it nervously. He obviously can't put it down.

SFX: Bionic sound effect continues over the following

BUFF

So, am I ready to go home? I sure do miss Bonnie.

OSCAR

That's actually what I wanted to speak to you about.

Buff casually tries to pull down his right arm with his left. It won't come down.

BUFF

What, uh, what do you mean?

OSCAR

You see, Buff... are you okay?

BUFF

I'm great.

He indicates the thumbs-up to emphasize his point.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Please, go on.

                  OSCAR  
The thing is, we didn't spend forty  
thousand dollars of taxpayer money  
just to save a dying astronaut...

With his good hand, Buff grabs Oscar's nameplate off the desk  
and tries to hammer down his frozen bionic arm with it.

                  BUFF  
You didn't?

                  OSCAR  
          (re: arm)  
Do you want me to get someone?

                  BUFF  
No, I've got this.

Buff grunts as he wrestles with his "thumbs-up" arm, finally  
forcing it down, breaking off the chair's armrest in the  
process. He grins sheepishly.

                  OSCAR  
The bionics program was designed to  
create a kind of super-agent. An  
agent who could carry out  
classified missions that no  
ordinary man could.

                  BUFF  
What sort of missions?

                  OSCAR  
I'm glad you asked.

Oscar presses a button on his desk. The lights dim, and a  
projection screen descends from the ceiling.

                  BUFF  
Neat.

Oscar narrates the images we see on the screen.

                  OSCAR  
For the last several years, our  
government has been tracking this  
man: Luis Guzman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

We see a squat, nefarious looking man in a flashy white suit.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Guzman's company is the number one provider of disco balls and disco-related paraphernalia in the world. OSI believes that this is merely a front.

BUFF

For what?

OSCAR

We raided one of Guzman's warehouses and found that each of his disco balls was packed with ten pounds of pure Columbian cocaine.

BUFF

Why not arrest him?

OSCAR

We've tried, but Guzman always gets wind of our plans. Our hope is that by sending in one lone agent, we can capture him before he even realizes we're there.

BUFF

And I'm that agent?

OSCAR

If you think you're ready.

BUFF

I know I'm ready.

Buff gives a thumbs-up again with his right hand. There's a beat as he realizes.

BUFF (CONT'D)

(shaking his head)

Stupid...

CUT TO:

INT. BUFF'S HOTEL ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Buff sits Indian-style on the bed. He is on the phone with Bonnie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

Well, I thought I would be home tomorrow, baby, but something came up.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. "LADY SOLDIER" SOUNDSTAGE - DAY

Bonnie stands at a phone cart, holding the phone in one hand and a rocket launcher in the other. She wears a sexy, tattered soldier's uniform as a MAKEUP LADY powders her cleavage.

BONNIE

What could be more important than being here with me? I haven't seen you in two weeks.

BUFF

I know. But Oscar asked me to do something for him.

BONNIE

What?

BUFF

I can't say. It's classified top secret.

BONNIE

Classified? Is it something dangerous?

BUFF

I really can't say. All I can tell you is I have to capture Luis Guzman who's smuggling cocaine in disco balls. And I don't even know if I can tell you that.

BONNIE

Luis Guzman?

MAKEUP LADY

The disco ball guy?

BONNIE

Yeah. Apparently, he's smuggling cocaine in them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF  
Hon, who are you talking to?

BONNIE  
Janice, my makeup girl.

MAKEUP LADY  
Hi, Buff.

BUFF  
Okay, please don't tell anyone else  
about this. It's highly  
classified.  
(beat)  
Bonnie? You there?

We see Bonnie is relating the information to a group of  
people on the set.

BONNIE  
...isn't that crazy? Guzman, the  
disco ball guy...  
(into phone)  
Hi. Sorry.

BUFF  
I'll be home as soon as this  
mission is over. I love you.

BONNIE  
I love you, too. Be careful.

BUFF  
Careful is my middle name. But  
it's pronounced "car-u-fal." It's  
Danish.

BONNIE  
I know your middle name, Buff.

They hang up.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - NIGHT

Buff, dressed in his best disco outfit, struts toward the  
entrance of a bustling dance club. He makes his way to the  
front of the line where a large BOUNCER stops him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOUNCER

Hold up, grandpa. You on the list?

BUFF

What? Of course. I come to...  
(looking up at the club's  
sign)  
Disco Very all the time.

BOUNCER

It's Discovery.

BUFF

Right. Well, I'm on the list. So,  
you don't need to worry about that.

BOUNCER

Name?

BUFF

(deliberately slow and  
unclear)  
Miiiiichaellll....angelllo...

BOUNCER

Michelangelo?

BUFF

No. Baaaaaaa....rrrrrr....

BOUNCER

I can't understand you.

BUFF

It's right there on the list.  
Laaaaaaaaa....

BOUNCER

(off list)  
Larry?

BUFF

Yes. Larry.

BOUNCER

Larry Morton? He already went in.

BUFF

Not Larry. Gllllllehhhh....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Another BOUNCER notices Buff.

BOUNCER 2  
Hey, aren't you that astronaut?

BUFF  
Uhhh...

BOUNCER 2  
You're Buff Taggart. This guy went  
to the moon. Let him in, Kenny.

BUFF  
Thank you, Kenny.

The Bouncer moves aside a rope and Buff heads into the club.

BOUNCER  
(to Bouncer 2)  
That guy's an astronaut? I thought  
he was retarded.

INT. DISCO - CONTINUOUS

Buff surveys the crowded room and bustling dance floor.

OSCAR (V.O.)  
Now, our intelligence informs us  
that Guzman wears a distinctively  
spicy cologne with leathery  
overtones. Your bionic nose should  
direct you straight to him.

Buff sniffs the air.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

He seems to catch a scent and moves toward the edge of the  
room.

INT. DISCO HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Buff slowly makes his way down a hall, sniffing the air as he  
goes. The smell grows strongest as he approaches a closed  
door.

BUFF  
All right, arm. Let's see what you  
can do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He winds up and slams the door off its hinges. He bursts into the room.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

                  BUFF  
Freeze, scumbag!

Pull back to reveal Buff is in an empty bathroom. The toilet in front of him is overflowing.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Aw, come on!

EXT. DISCO - MOMENTS LATER

Frustrated, Buff crosses to the bar and signals a BARTENDER.

                  BUFF  
Give me a Cutty Sark with a splash  
of plum wine.

The Bartender prepares the drink.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
I don't suppose you could tell me  
where I might find a guy by the  
name of Guzman? Luis Guzman.

                  BARTENDER  
Never heard of him.

                  BUFF  
Is that so?

Buff puts his hand on the Bartender's and begins to squeeze.

                  BARTENDER  
What are you... ow!

                  BUFF  
Have you heard of him now?

                  BARTENDER  
Oh god, you're really hurting my  
hand!

                  BUFF  
Just give me a location and this  
will all be over.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

BARTENDER  
Okay, okay, he's upstairs in the  
VIP area! Owwww!

Buff looks toward the VIP area and squints his bionic eye.

POV: Buff's view zooms in to where Guzman is sitting but once  
again zooms too far. All he can see is a close-up of  
Guzman's nostril hair.

BUFF  
Useless.

Back to normal view. Buff turns back to the Bartender.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
That wasn't so hard, was it?

He moves to release the man's hand but instead keeps  
squeezing harder.

BARTENDER  
Why are you doing this?! You said  
it would be over!

BUFF  
I'm sorry. I'm trying to let go  
now...

BARTENDER  
Oh sweet mother! Someone please  
help me!

Other disco patrons notice them. The Bartender starts to  
weep.

BUFF  
Gosh, this is embarrassing. I am  
really doing some damage.

BARTENDER  
I don't want to live!

Finally, Buff wrenches himself free leaving the Bartender  
with a mangled hand. A bone juts out from one knuckle.

BUFF  
Wow. That is a bone. I feel  
terrible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Buff backs away and hurries up the stairs.

INT. VIP AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Buff enters to see a group of thuggish MEN and slutty GIRLS lounging on sofas. In the center of the group sits LUIS GUZMAN.

OSCAR (V.O.)  
Once you ID Guzman, you'll need to  
lure him outside where he can be  
apprehended.

Everyone turns to look at Buff.

BUFF  
Hi. How is everyone? Stayin'  
cool?

LUIS  
Who the hell are you?

BUFF  
My name is... Michelangelo. Okay  
if I just...?

He goes to join them on the sofa.

LUIS  
No, it's not okay.  
(to Bodyguard)  
Get him out of my room.

BUFF  
Wait. I think you're going to want  
to hear what I have to say, Mr.  
Guzman.

LUIS  
How do you know my name?

BUFF  
You're the king of disco balls.  
I'm the king of... lights that  
shine on disco balls. We need each  
other.

LUIS  
I'm listening.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

I propose a joint venture. Shall we step outside?

LUIS

We can talk here, Mr. Michelangelo.

BUFF

(sitting)

Okay. Outside would've been great. But here is fine.

OSCAR (V.O.)

And be careful, Buff. If Guzman suspects you're an agent, he won't hesitate to kill you.

BUFF

(clears throat nervously)

Now, we have a variety of bright, shiny lights that, when combined with your mirrored balls, will create some terrific disco effects.

LUIS

What kind of effects?

BUFF

What kind of effects? Stars. Diamonds. Stars. You name it.

LUIS

What are you talking about?

BUFF

I'm talking about a joint venture-- is it hot in here? I am parched.

Buff goes to sip his drink but his hand shakes, sloshing some of the liquid onto his legs.

LUIS

Why are you so nervous?

BUFF

I'm not nervous. I just wish you'd come outside with me...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Buff looks down and notices a puff of smoke rising from his lap. His legs appear to be shorting out.

LUIS  
What's happening to you?

BUFF  
Nothing's happening to me. What's  
happening to you?

He tries to casually pat down his legs but the short circuit only gets worse.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
So, do we have a deal?

LUIS  
A deal? You're crazy, man.

BUFF  
I don't think that's--

Buff's legs are now burning. He tries to stay calm.

LUIS  
Your legs are on fire!

BUFF  
You know what these legs could use?  
Some fresh air. Come on outside.

Buff stands. By now his pants are in tatters. The fire continues to burn.

LUIS  
Doesn't that hurt?

BUFF  
I'll tell you what would hurt. You  
and I not going outside. That  
would hurt.

BODYGUARD  
Mr. Guzman, look.

The Bodyguard points to Buff's leg. His pants have burned away and the fake skin has seared off revealing a metal part on which "Property of OSI, Made in China" is engraved.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LUIS  
OSI? He's an agent. A robot  
agent! Kill him!

Guzman's THUGS surround Buff and move toward him.

BUFF  
I'm warning you. Stay back. I am  
unpredictable at best.

Three Thugs charge him. Buff swings his bionic arm, knocking them all across the room and over the railing. They fall to the dance floor below. Other disco patrons scream.

Buff turns to see Guzman making his escape.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
Stop!

Guzman bolts down the hall. Buff, now in his underwear, turns to chase him. He fails to notice that his burning pants have ignited a tablecloth.

INT. STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Guzman rushes down the stairs with Buff in hot pursuit. Buff grabs hold of Guzman's collar with his bionic arm.

BUFF  
Game over.

Guzman continues to run and Buff's arm detaches from its socket. The arm stays attached to Guzman's shirt.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
That's great. That's just great.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Guzman emerges from the club and jumps onto the back of a waiting motorcycle.

GUZMAN  
Go, go!

DRIVER  
You got an arm on you!

GUZMAN  
Ahhh!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Guzman pulls the arm off and tosses it behind him. The motorcycle pulls away as Buff bursts out of the disco. He sees his arm on the ground and picks it up.

                    BUFF  
Not so fast, Guzman.

Buff runs after Guzman's motorcycle.

SFX: Bionic sound effects

Without much effort, Buff catches the bike and stays alongside it for a couple blocks.

                    DRIVER  
This is impossible. How is he  
running this fast?

                    GUZMAN  
How fast are we going?

                    DRIVER  
Twenty miles an hour.

                    GUZMAN  
Well, drive faster, you moron!

                    DRIVER  
Right.

The bike begins to pull away from Buff.

                    BUFF  
Hey, come on! Wait!

The motorcycle turns a corner. Buff has lost it. He stumbles on a fire hydrant and rolls to a stop.

                    BUFF (CONT'D)  
Damn.

As he brushes himself off with his remaining arm, he notices the disco behind him is in flames. Panicked patrons stream out.

                    BUFF (CONT'D)  
Damn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OSCAR (PRE-LAP)  
Obviously, forty thousand dollars  
simply wasn't enough.

CUT TO:

INT. OSCAR GOLDMAN'S OFFICE - DAYS LATER

Buff, his arm reattached and legs repaired, sits glumly  
across from Oscar.

OSCAR  
Do you have any idea of the damage  
you did in New York?

BUFF  
The fire?

OSCAR  
The fire. The months we spent  
gathering intelligence on Guzman,  
all for nothing. That poor  
bartender whose hand you crushed!

BUFF  
It's these bionics, Oscar. They  
don't work right.

OSCAR  
I know. I'm not blaming you, Buff.  
We really thought we could do it on  
the budget we had. We were wrong.

BUFF  
Well, now that we know they don't  
work properly, we can fix them.  
Upgrade them. Right?

OSCAR  
I wish it were that simple. The  
hard reality is, we just don't have  
any more money. How can I go to  
Congress after this debacle and ask  
them for even more funding of the  
bionics program?

BUFF  
What are you saying?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OSCAR

I'm saying we're shutting it down,  
Buff. The bionics program is  
finished. I'm sorry.

BUFF

And what happens to me? I just go  
back to the space program?

OSCAR

I wish it were that simple. NASA  
has no use for an astronaut with  
faulty arms and legs. And a nose  
that smells nothing but shit.

BUFF

Can you give me back my old parts?

OSCAR

I wish it were that simple.

BUFF

Why do you keep saying that?!

OSCAR

I'm sorry. Luther will validate  
your parking.

Oscar stands.

BUFF

So, that's it? You're just  
shutting it all down? What am I  
supposed to do? How am I supposed  
to live like this?

OSCAR

I'd try and keep your legs dry.  
Good luck, Buff.

Buff stands and slumps to the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES TELEVISION STUDIO - A FEW DAYS LATER

Buff gets out of a taxi carrying a suitcase and heads into  
the lot.



INT. "LADY SOLDIER" SOUNDSTAGE - MINUTES LATER

Buff enters and sees Janice, Bonnie's makeup woman.

MAKEUP LADY

Buff. Hi. How did it go with your  
classified mission?

BUFF

Not great, Janice.

MAKEUP LADY

Oh. Did Luis Guzman get away?

BUFF

Yeah. Don't tell anyone, okay?

MAKEUP LADY

Of course not.

BUFF

Thanks.

Buff crosses away as Janice turns to a group of CREW MEMBERS  
and points at Buff, obviously telling them.

Buff spots Bonnie, in her sexy soldier uniform, chatting  
amicably with a young MAN.

BUFF (CONT'D)

Bonnie?

Oblivious, Bonnie and the Man laugh at something, then the  
Man opens a jewelry box and offers a ring to Bonnie. Bonnie  
appears to be surprised but smiles as the Man slides the ring  
on her finger.

Buff, stunned, uses his bionic eye to ZOOM IN on the ring,  
revealing a sparkling diamond.

BUFF (CONT'D)

No.

Without thinking, he bolts across the stage toward them.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

In SLOW MOTION Buff tackles the Man, knocking him to the  
floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BONNIE  
(slow motion)  
Buuuuuufffffff!

Buff hoists the Man in the air with his bionic arm and hurls him violently into a fake tank which collapses under his weight.

Back to normal speed.

Bonnie rushes up and grabs Buff's arm.

BONNIE (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?!

BUFF  
I could ask you the same question!  
Who is that man?!

BONNIE  
That's Chuck!

BUFF  
Are you in love with him?!

BONNIE  
What? Of course not.

BUFF  
Then why did he give you a diamond ring?

BONNIE  
He's the prop guy! It's his job.

BUFF  
It's his job to propose to my girlfriend? I don't like that job.

BONNIE  
You idiot. Lady Soldier gets married in this episode. The ring is a prop!

BUFF  
The ring is a-- Oh. I see.  
(calling off)  
Sorry, Chuck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BONNIE

What's gotten into you?

BUFF

OSI shut down the bionics program.  
I'm a failure, Bonnie.

BONNIE

You're not a failure. You're a  
national hero.

BUFF

Not anymore. Now I'm just an  
unemployed robot freak.

BONNIE

This doesn't sound like the Buff  
Taggart I know. The Buff I love.

BUFF

That's because that Buff died in a  
car accident while racing with a  
sixteen year old.

BONNIE

It's not true.

Just then, Bonnie's director, REED, hurries over.

REED

What the hell is going on here?  
Who broke my tank?

BONNIE

It's okay, Reed. It was a  
misunderstanding.

REED

Misunderstanding my balls. We're  
already a week behind schedule on  
"Lady Soldier Gets Married." The  
last thing I need is some washed up  
flyboy terrorizing my set.

BUFF

Washed up? Flyboy?

REED

Look, Taggart, we all know what  
happened at the disco.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFF  
Doesn't anybody know what  
"classified" means?!

REED  
You're a danger to yourself and  
others. The best thing for  
everyone here is if you just  
disappear.  
(calling off)  
Security!

BONNIE  
Reed--

REED  
I'm sorry, Bonnie. You can do  
better than this loser.

Two SECURITY GUARDS hurry over.

SECURITY GUARD  
Let's go, Colonel.

BUFF  
Take your hands off me!

SECURITY GUARD  
(to his partner)  
Call for backup.

As they attempt to subdue Buff, his bionic arm goes on the  
fritz and begins swinging around madly.

BUFF  
Oh no. Look out!

The Security Guards pile on top of Buff. Reed and Chuck, the  
prop guy, join in the melee.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TELEVISION STUDIO - MINUTES LATER

Two POLICEMEN load Buff into a squad car as flames come out  
of the stage behind him. From the back seat, Buff looks out  
to see a devastated Bonnie watching the car pull away. She  
turns and walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL CELL - LATER

Buff paces in a holding cell. From the reception area in the next room he can hear COPS talking.

COP 1 (O.S.)  
Did you see the "hero" we got back there?

COP 2 (O.S.)  
(laughs)  
Yeah. Some hero.

Buff grimaces. He looks down at the bars of his cage, then at his bionic arm. After a moment, he takes hold of the bar and begins bending it to the side.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

Just then, he hears a familiar voice from outside.

COLBY (O.S.)  
I'd like to post bail for Colonel Buff Taggart.

BUFF  
(to himself)  
Colby?

Buff quickly bends the bar back into place.

COP 1 (O.S.)  
Okay. Bail is set at five thousand.

COLBY (O.S.)  
Five thousand? I don't think I have that much with me.

Buff sighs and starts to bend the bar of the cage again.

COLBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Nope, wait, I have it. Here you go.

Buff bends the bar back into place again.

CUT TO:

INT. COLBY'S CAR - SHORT TIME LATER

Colby drives Buff to his hotel.

BUFF  
Thanks again, Colby.

COLBY  
No. Don't thank me. The way this government treated you after all you've done for it makes me sick.

BUFF  
I can't believe they would just shut down the program like that.

COLBY  
They didn't shut down the program, Buff.

BUFF  
What are you talking about?

COLBY  
There's something I need to show you.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Colby sets up an 8MM film projector as Buff sits on the bed.

COLBY  
This was given to me by a friend of mine at OSI. You're going to want to sit down.

BUFF  
I am sitting down.

COLBY  
Good. You're going to want to.

Colby switches off the light and starts the film.

ON SCREEN we see a MAN in a tracksuit step onto a treadmill. He begins to run and the speedometer attached to the treadmill climbs: 10 MPH... 20 MPH... 30... 40... 50...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

60 MPH! Another man steps into frame, smiling. It's Oscar Goldman.

BUFF  
What is this?

COLBY  
Steve Austin. The astronaut. Your successor.

BUFF  
What are you talking about?

COLBY  
Oscar lied to you, Buff. Not only didn't they shut down the bionics program, they put six million dollars into building a new, better version.

BUFF  
A six million dollar man?! Oscar told me they had no more funding.

ON SCREEN, we see Steve Austin throwing a football an impossible distance, leaping over a brick wall and hoisting an imposing dumbbell.

Throughout the film we hear the familiar "Six Million Dollar Man" theme.

COLBY  
After we pulled our troops out of Vietnam, there was a sudden surplus. OSI got their share.

BUFF  
Why didn't they use it to fix me?

COLBY  
They considered you "damaged goods."

Buff takes a moment as this sinks in. Then,

BUFF  
What is that music? Did they give him a theme song?

COLBY  
They had some money left over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFF  
It's not fair.

COLBY  
No, it's not. I thought you had a  
right to know the truth.

Buff sits silently watching the screen as his last shred of  
idealism dissolves. And we

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SATURN V ROCKET COCKPIT - DAY

CHYRON: One year later

CLOSE ON a porthole behind which we see a black field of  
stars. A hand reaches out and wipes the window. PULL BACK  
to reveal it is Buff. His hair has grown long, he is  
unshaven and slightly paunchy. He takes a spray bottle and a  
rag and wipes the porthole clean.

Suddenly, a bald head pops up in the porthole.

MR. NAGOPIAN  
Taggart! I told you not to go  
inside the exhibits!

BUFF  
Oh, sorry, Mr. Nagopian. I just  
thought I would clean in here.

MR. NAGOPIAN  
No cleaning! Now get out of there!

Buff sighs, gathers his cleaning supplies and climbs out the  
hatch.

INT. SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL AIR & SPACE MUSEUM - CONTINUOUS

Buff emerges in a display hall of the museum. We see the  
field of stars was just a backdrop.

BUFF  
You know, I used to work in one of  
these.

MR. NAGOPIAN  
And I used to be finance minister  
of my country.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

MR. NAGOPIAN (CONT'D)  
Now I boss janitors. We're both  
pathetic. Go clean up the puke in  
the Hall of Heroes.

BUFF  
Yes, sir.

Buff heads off.

INT. MUSEUM HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Buff wheels a bucket and mop down a row of displays. Each  
one shows a smiling photograph of a different NASA astronaut  
in front of a backdrop of the Earth.

Buff spots the mess and begins to mop it up. A YOUNG GIRL  
gazes up at a display that is dedicated to the career of Buff  
Taggart. She looks at the photo, then at Buff, then back to  
the photo. The girl tugs on her MOTHER'S hand.

GIRL  
Mommy, isn't that the astronaut?

MOTHER  
What, the janitor?

GIRL  
Yes. It looks just like him.

MOTHER  
Nancy, don't be ridiculous. Why  
would an astronaut become a  
janitor? Astronauts are heroic,  
successful men. Janitors are  
repulsive social outcasts.

Having heard every word, Buff sadly continues his mopping.

GIRL  
Uh oh.

MOTHER  
What is it, Nancy?

GIRL  
I think I'm going to be sick again.

MOTHER  
Well, you go ahead. This man will  
clean it up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As the girl prepares to upchuck on the floor, we

CUT TO:

INT. MUSEUM BREAK ROOM - LATER

Buff deposits coins into a Coke machine and selects an item. Nothing comes out.

BUFF

Oh, come on.

He shakes the machine. Still nothing. He shakes it harder. Nothing. At last, he slams the front of the machine with his bionic arm. The front panel shatters and dozens of cans roll out onto the floor. Buff looks around self-consciously, picks up one can and walks off.

EXT. WASHINGTON DC STREET - A FEW HOURS LATER

Buff walking home. With each step we hear a noticeable squeaking noise. He looks down at his bionic arm and moves his elbow. The squeak is coming from there.

He notices a newspaper box. The front page shows a photo of Steve Austin beneath a headline: "Six Million Dollar Man Defeats Bigfoot." Buff grimaces and continues walking.

He goes into a supermarket.

INT. SUPERMARKET - MINUTES LATER

Buff pushes a cart down an aisle. He stops when he sees a shelf of "Six Million Dollar Man" breakfast cereal. The box says "Now with bionic marshmallows!"

BUFF

Bionic marshmallows.

He continues down the aisle, passing boxes of "Six Million Dollar Man rice," "Bionic Artichoke Hearts," "Six Million Dollar Man Feminine Napkins."

Buff arrives at the checkout counter and the CHECKOUT GIRL rings him up. As he waits he notices a People magazine cover with a story about "Steve Austin's Greatest Enemy: Dyslexia."

CHECKOUT GIRL

That'll be sixteen fifty-five.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

Oh, okay...

Buff takes out his wallet and pulls out a five dollar bill.  
It's all he has.

BUFF (CONT'D)

Um, you know what? I actually  
don't have that much on me right  
now...

CHECKOUT GIRL

Do you want to remove some items?

BUFF

That'd be great.

The PEOPLE behind him on line grumble impatiently.

BUFF (CONT'D)

I guess I don't need deodorant.  
It's not like I'm seeing anyone.

He laughs half-heartedly as he removes the item from the  
belt.

CHECKOUT GIRL

That makes it fifteen twenty-one.

BUFF

Oh. Okay, let's get rid of the  
bread and the mustard.

CHECKOUT GIRL

Ten eighteen.

GUY IN LINE

Come on, buddy.

BUFF

Sorry. Uh, what if I lose the  
bologna, the toothpaste and the  
toilet paper?

CHECKOUT GIRL

Six ninety-three.

BUFF

Can I break up these eggs?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHECKOUT GIRL  
Sure. Whatever.

BUFF  
Great.

Buff snaps the carton in half, leaving a half dozen eggs.

CHECKOUT GIRL  
(rolling her eyes)  
Five sixty.

GUY IN LINE  
Get a job, deadbeat.

BUFF  
Can I take out individual eggs?

CHECKOUT GIRL  
Fine.

Buff removes one egg from the carton and gently sets it back in the shopping cart.

CHECKOUT GIRL (CONT'D)  
Five forty.

Buff takes out another egg.

CHECKOUT GIRL (CONT'D)  
Five twenty.

Buff takes out one more egg.

CHECKOUT GIRL (CONT'D)  
Five dollars.

BUFF  
Super.

He hands her his five and takes his three eggs, trying to maintain his dignity.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
This will make a great omelette.

Buff exits the store as the impatient guy in line reaches the checkout counter. He puts one egg on the belt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GUY IN LINE  
Hi. Just the egg, please.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Buff continues down the street past a ball field where some KIDS are playing kickball. Suddenly, a kickball rolls up to Buff's feet.

KID  
Hey, mister! You mind kicking that back to us?

BUFF  
Sure.

Buff picks up the ball and kicks it. It flies past the kids, over a fence and lands on the roof of a distant building.

There's a beat. Then,

KID  
Asshole.

BUFF  
Sorry.

He sadly continues on his way.

EXT. BUFF'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - SHORT TIME LATER

Buff climbs the stairs of a dilapidated building. He unlocks and enters one unit.

INT. BUFF'S APARTMENT - THAT EVENING

Buff, wearing a ratty bathrobe, crosses into his tiny bathroom.

INT. BUFF'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Buff stands under the shower. He has garbage bags wrapped around his legs and arm, secured with rubber bands to keep them dry. It is a pathetic sight.

INT. BUFF'S BATHROOM - MINUTES LATER

Now wrapped in a towel, Buff opens the medicine cabinet which looks more like an auto repair shop: WD-40 cans, hydraulic fluid, bolts and screws, oil, etc.

He takes out a bottle of Armor-All and spreads a layer of it over the rubber skin of his legs. We see the "skin" has cracked and discolored.

INT. BUFF'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Buff sits in front of the TV, wearing boxers and a T-shirt. He has rolled back the skin on his elbow and is spraying the bionic joint with WD-40. A half-eaten omelette sits on the coffee table in front of him.

Buff lifts the can and sprays himself in the right eye.

SFX: A knock at the door

Buff stands, crosses to the door and opens it.

                  BUFF  
                  (eyes narrow)  
          You.

REVEAL Oscar Goldman standing before him.

                  OSCAR  
          Hello, Buff. Can I come in?

                  BUFF  
          Why would I let you in?

Oscar holds up a bag from The Palm steakhouse.

                  OSCAR  
          I brought dinner.

CUT TO:

INT. BUFF'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Oscar watches as Buff devours a steak dinner on the coffee table.

                  OSCAR  
          I know we haven't always treated  
          you as well as we could have.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

(snorting)

You mean when you gave me these  
useless metal parts and lied that  
you didn't have the money to repair  
them?

OSCAR

Yes, that's what I meant.

BUFF

(re: his bionic parts)

Look at this... the rubber skin  
turned beige. I have to oil myself  
like the Tin Man. I can't get a  
good job. My girlfriend left me,  
and I can't walk a block without  
seeing your precious Steve Austin  
and his second generation bionics.  
Bet his legs don't catch fire.

OSCAR

Steve Austin is the reason I'm  
here.

BUFF

What do you mean?

OSCAR

He's missing, Buff.

BUFF

Missing? He just defeated Bigfoot.

OSCAR

That was a cover story. Two weeks  
ago we sent Steve to a remote  
island where we believe a notorious  
terrorist known only as the  
Tarantula has set up operations.  
One week ago we received the last  
radio contact from Steve. Since  
then, nothing.

BUFF

Well, I'm sorry to hear that. I'd  
hate to think you wasted six  
million dollars. Now, if you'll  
excuse me, I've got to lube my  
ankles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OSCAR

We need your help finding him,  
Buff.

BUFF

My help? What, does he smell like  
shit?

OSCAR

We're prepared to upgrade your  
bionics.

BUFF

(excited)

You're going to give me six million  
dollar bionics?

OSCAR

No. Unfortunately, we spent nearly  
everything on Steve. We do have a  
discretionary fund.

BUFF

How much are we talking?

OSCAR

Five thousand dollars.

BUFF

Five thousand?! That won't even  
replace my toe. My toe fell off,  
did I tell you?

OSCAR

Fine. Ten thousand. But we'll  
have to go into petty cash.  
There's going to be less coffee  
around the office...

BUFF

So, you're saying you'd turn me  
into a fifty thousand dollar man  
just to save Steve Austin? Why me?  
Why not send in an army?

OSCAR

The Tarantula's defenses are too  
sophisticated. They'd never make  
it onto the island. And if they  
did, Steve would already be dead.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

OSCAR (CONT'D)

(beat)

Look, I know we're asking a lot of you, but don't do it for me. Don't even do it for your country. Do it for yourself, Buff. This is your chance to be a hero again.

Buff considers for a beat, then

BUFF

Get out.

OSCAR

What?

Buff leads Oscar to the door.

BUFF

I died once. I'm not going to let you guys kill me again. Thanks for the steak.

OSCAR

But--

Buff shuts the door on Oscar.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUFF'S LIVING ROOM - HOURS LATER

Buff snores on the sofa as the TV plays.

TV ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And now we return to "Lady Soldier."

Buff snorts and wakes up. He wipes spittle from his chin and turns to the television.

ON SCREEN we see:

EXT. FOXHOLE - DAY

Bonnie, as Lady Soldier, crouches over a wounded comrade, JIMMY, 20's. Explosions detonate all around them.

JIMMY

It's pointless, Lady Soldier.  
We're surrounded! There's no hope.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LADY SOLDIER  
Shut up, Jimmy. I don't want to  
hear that kind of talk.

JIMMY  
Just let me die.

LADY SOLDIER  
Not today, Jimmy. I know the odds  
are bad for us. Krakauer and his  
mercenaries are stronger than we'd  
thought and our air support never  
arrived, but there's still hope.  
There's always hope. Without hope  
there's no hope.

JIMMY  
But my leg is all shot up.

LADY SOLDIER  
Just because you've lost a leg  
doesn't mean you can't stand up for  
what's right, Jimmy.

Buff sits up. This is getting to him.

JIMMY  
I'm afraid.

LADY SOLDIER  
So am I, Jimmy. But it's here,  
when we're most afraid that we have  
to rise to the challenge. That's  
what makes us men.

JIMMY  
You're right.

Jimmy struggles to his feet and grabs his weapon.

JIMMY (CONT'D)  
I'm behind you, all the way, Lady  
Soldier.

LADY SOLDIER  
I'm proud of you, Jimmy.

They share a touching beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Then they both begin madly SCREAMING and firing their automatic weapons at dozens of oncoming foes. Blood and entrails are everywhere.

The show abruptly cuts to a very 70's producer's title card for Kanga Productions. A cute animated kangaroo hops in and pulls a typewriter out of its pouch, then winks at the camera.

BACK TO:

INT. BUFF'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Buff has tears in his eyes. We see a new-found determination sweep over him. He grabs the telephone and dials as the music begins to swell dramatically.

                  BUFF  
                  (on phone)  
Oscar Goldman, please.  
                  (beat)  
It's a residence. Thank you.

The music continues to swell. After a beat,

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
No, Goldman. With a G. No, G. As  
in golf. Oscar. Yes. Um, I don't  
know which neighborhood, Dupont  
Circle? Thanks.  
                  (beat)  
Nothing? Try Georgetown.  
                  (beat)  
That must be it. Thank you.  
                  (beat)  
Hello, Oscar, it's Buff. I'm in.

The music reaches a climax.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Buff. Taggart. Is this Oscar  
Goldman? Oh, I'm sorry. I must  
have the wrong Oscar Goldman...

CUT TO:

BIONIC UPGRADE MONTAGE

MUSIC CUE: "Hold On" by Santana

INT. SURGERY

Buff lies on an operating table as DOCTORS reattach his newly refurbished legs. After a moment, the doctors realize they have the legs reversed. They switch them around.

INT. OSI BRIEFING ROOM

Oscar goes over blueprints and schematics with Buff as enormous 1970's computer reels spin behind them.

A MAN leads Buff up onto a tailoring podium and puts a large-lapeled leisure suit jacket on him. He marks it with chalk.

EXT. RUNNING TRACK

Oscar and Technicians watch nervously as Buff runs. He comes to a stop and they all cheer. After a second, he involuntarily runs forward again. The cheers stop. Buff stops again and gives them a wave: "I'm okay." They cheer again.

INT. SURGERY

Buff sits self-consciously on the examination table clenching a doorknob in his fist as a DOCTOR adjusts cables inside his opened forearm. Buff's fist unclenches and he drops the doorknob. He thanks the doctor and tries to exit, but sees the doorknob is missing.

END OF MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OSCAR GOLDMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Oscar is at his desk as Buff enters. He now wears a handsome leisure suit with a wide collar shirt open to his chest.

OSCAR  
Come in, Buff.

Buff enters and sits.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
I'm really glad you chose to come back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

Well, as a friend of mine once said, it's when we're most afraid that we have to rise to the challenge. That's what makes us men.

OSCAR

Your friend sounds like quite a guy.

BUFF

Oh, she is.

Beat. Oscar's confused. Then,

OSCAR

Now, we've done all we can to prepare you for the mission. I'm sorry we couldn't improve your bionic nose, but there is one thing I want to give you.

Oscar slides a small box across the desk to Buff. Buff opens it, revealing a shiny new eyeball.

BUFF

(jumps)  
Ahh!  
(then)  
A new eye?

OSCAR

This one has a zoom that works.  
Try it out.

BUFF

Okay.

Buff sticks his thumb in his bionic eye and plucks it out with a "POP." It rolls onto the desk. He takes the new eye and squishes it into his eye socket.

We see from his POV as the new eye comes into focus. He zooms in and out effortlessly to different distances. The center of the view is obstructed by a thick cross-hair.

BUFF (CONT'D)

Wow. This is great. It really works.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OSCAR

I paid for that one myself. It's my gift to you. A small way of saying I'm sorry.

BUFF

Well, thank you, Oscar. I really appreciate it.

(beat)

The cross-hair's pretty thick, huh?

OSCAR

That's right. It will allow you to zoom in on your target with great precision.

BUFF

Uh huh. Kind of hard to see around the cross-hair, though...

OSCAR

I'm sure you'll get used to that.

We again see Buff's POV. The cross-hair does take up most of his field of vision.

BUFF

I guess so.

(beat)

So, there's no way they can make the cross-hair any thinner...?

OSCAR

I don't think so.

BUFF

Okay, not a problem. Thanks again.

OSCAR

You leave tomorrow, Buff. You'll be airdropped onto the island and you'll have to make your way into the Tarantula's fortified facility. We assume that's where he's holding Steve.

BUFF

Got it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

OSCAR

I will be in continual contact with  
you over this miniature earpiece.

Oscar hands Buff an earpiece the size of a naval orange.

BUFF

Wow. These things just keep  
getting smaller and smaller.

OSCAR

Now, get some rest. You've got a  
big day ahead of you. It's good to  
have you back, Colonel.

BUFF

It's good to be back.

They shake hands, and we

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY AIRFIELD - NEXT DAY

The sun rises as Buff, wearing his leisure suit and a  
parachute, approaches a waiting C-7 transport plane.

A pilot salutes him as he climbs the stairs.

INT. TRANSPORT PLANE - CONTINUOUS

Buff enters the dimly lit aircraft.

COLBY (O.S.)

Welcome aboard, Buff.

Buff squints his eyes and sees Colby, arms outstretched.  
Buff gives him an awkward hug.

BUFF

Colby? What are you doing here?  
Oscar didn't tell me you were  
coming.

COLBY

That's because I just volunteered  
this morning. I told Oscar there  
was no way Buff was going in there  
alone. You and I have been through  
too much together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

Well, this will be great. The Tarantula will be no match for the two of us.

COLBY

Let's get this plane off the ground.

He bangs on the cockpit door and we hear the engines start up.

EXT. MILITARY AIRFIELD - CONTINUOUS

The plane taxis down the runway and lifts off.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRANSPORT PLANE - HOURS LATER

The plane flies over water.

INT. TRANSPORT PLANE - SAME

Buff and Colby await their arrival at the jump location.

PILOT (OVER INTERCOM)

(badly garbled)

Uh, greshem hangred darble mento.

Buff and Colby look at each other, confused.

BUFF

Did you get that?

COLBY

I couldn't make it out.

BUFF

Did he say we were over the jump site?

COLBY

I can ask.

Colby yells through the cockpit door.

COLBY (CONT'D)

Excuse me? We didn't hear what you said.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

A long beat.

PILOT (OVER INTERCOM)  
Ramah clockstemper dosho lemming.

BUFF  
I am just not hearing him.

COLBY  
(calling into cockpit)  
Did you say it was time to jump or  
not?

Beat.

PILOT (OVER INTERCOM)  
Yes.

BUFF  
Yes it's time to jump or yes it's  
not time to jump?

PILOT (OVER INTERCOM)  
Roger that.

COLBY  
Roger what?

Suddenly, the rear hatch of the plane begins to open.

BUFF  
I guess it's time to jump.

As Buff and Colby tighten their straps and make their way to  
the rear of the plane, Buff's earpiece crackles to life.

OSCAR (O.S.)  
Colonel Taggart, do you read me?

BUFF  
Oscar. Yes, I read you. We're  
approaching the jump site now.

OSCAR (O.S.)  
Good luck, Buff. But before you  
jump, there's someone here who  
would like to speak to you.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. OSCAR GOLDMAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Oscar stands with Bonnie at a radio console. He hands her the microphone.

BONNIE  
Hello, Buff.

BUFF  
Bonnie?!

BONNIE  
Oscar told me what you were doing  
and I want you to know I've never  
been more proud of you.

BUFF  
It's great to hear your voice  
again, baby.

BONNIE  
When this is all over, I want you  
to know, I'll be waiting for you.

BUFF  
That's great to hear.  
(beat)  
So, you're not dating Richard  
Dawson?

BONNIE  
That was one time. It was  
completely blown up in the press.

BUFF  
Good. Bonnie?

BONNIE  
Yes, Buff?

BUFF  
I love you so much.

BONNIE  
I love you too, baby.

PILOT (OVER INTERCOM)  
(garbled)  
Cranford hellion tomtom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

                  BUFF  
          I've got to go, hon.

EXT. SKY - MOMENTS LATER

Buff and Colby jump from the rear hatch of the plane. Below them they can see an isolated jungle island with a large, walled complex of buildings in the center.

Buff points to the complex and Colby nods.

                  COLBY  
          (yelling over the wind)  
          So, is this what it's like to be in  
          space?!

                  BUFF  
          (yelling)  
          No!

Colby looks disappointed. Buff points to his altimeter, then deploys his chute. Colby does the same.

EXT. BEACH - MINUTES LATER

Colby and Buff descend onto a remote beach. They gather their chutes and remove their harnesses.

Buff takes out a map.

                  BUFF  
          OSI thinks the Tarantula is holding  
          Steve in this central complex.  
          We'll have to make our way there  
          over land.

                  COLBY  
          Okay. I'll lead the way.

                  BUFF  
          (unsure)  
          Uh... Okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - MINUTES LATER

Buff and Colby struggle to escape from a deep pool of quicksand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLBY  
Help me!

BUFF  
Stop struggling! You're making it worse!

COLBY  
(panicked)  
I don't want to die! Not like this.

BUFF  
I think I should be able to slither out of here...

Buff attempts to slither toward solid ground.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

BUFF (CONT'D)  
It's working!

Buff sinks deeper and deeper into the muck.

COLBY  
Buff, you're sinking!

BUFF  
Damn. So, slithering isn't the solution.

Buff spots a tree root nearby and reaches for it but it is too far away. He has an idea. He reaches into the quicksand with his left hand and after a moment pulls out his detached bionic arm.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
Now, if I can just...

He extends his bionic arm toward the root. When the hand touches the root, it grips it tightly.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
Quick, Colby, grab me around the waist. Good and tight.

Colby grabs onto him beneath the quicksand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFF (CONT'D)  
No, my waist. That's not my...  
Okay, fine. Hold onto that.

Buff pulls both of them onto dry land. They flop onto the ground, exhausted. Buff reattaches his arm.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
Good thing I stopped slithering.

COLBY  
We make a good team, huh?

Buff just looks at him.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - SHORT TIME LATER

Buff pushes through dense growth as a ridiculously sweaty Colby struggles to keep up.

COLBY  
(panting)  
You think we're almost there?

BUFF  
We've only been walking for a few minutes.

COLBY  
Okay, sorry. I can do this.

They emerge at the foot of a twelve foot high electric fence.

COLBY (CONT'D)  
Whoa. That's pretty high.

BUFF  
I think I can jump it.

COLBY  
Yeah, I think I can too.

BUFF  
All right, look, Colby, maybe I should just go on ahead. You can circle around and we'll rendezvous inside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLBY

What are you talking about? We're a team. I can do whatever you can do. I'm staying with you.

BUFF

Fine.

Buff leaps over the fence.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

Colby waves to him from the other side of the fence. He bends at the knees, prepares to jump but discovers he is ankle deep in another pool of quicksand.

COLBY

Oh, hell. Okay, you know what? You go on ahead. I'm going to circle around and we'll rendezvous inside.

BUFF

Great. Good plan.

(beat)

Do you need help getting out of the-  
-

COLBY

I got it.

Buff shakes his head and takes off at a jog.

CUT TO:

EXT. TARANTULA'S COMPOUND - MINUTES LATER

Buff slowly makes his way toward the buildings. Suddenly, his leg disturbs a tripwire.

BUFF

Uh oh.

A few feet in front of him, a panel slides open and dozens of tarantulas crawl out, heading towards him. Buff backs away nervously. He stomps on a couple of the spiders that get close to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Tarantulas! I guess now we know  
why they call him The Tarantula.

Suddenly, another panel opens and dozens of scorpions creep out in his direction.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Scorpions. Kind of muddies my  
tarantula theory.

As Buff backs away, a third panel opens and cobras slither out.

The creatures have backed Buff into a corner. It looks like he's in real trouble.

Gradually, the tarantulas, scorpions and cobras begin attacking each other, forgetting all about Buff.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Poor little guys.

He gingerly steps around the seething mass of fighting creatures and continues on his way.

EXT. TARANTULA'S COMPOUND - MOMENTS LATER

Buff spots two guard towers in the distance. He uses his new bionic eye to zoom in on one.

Buff's POV: despite the annoyingly thick cross-hair, he manages to zoom in on an armed GUARD in a jumpsuit. The pocket of the jumpsuit is embroidered with a distinctive tarantula logo.

Buff reacts. Why does that look familiar?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BUFF'S COMMAND MODULE -- A YEAR AGO

SFX: A LOUD BOOM

Buff's eyes open as the entire craft shudders. An alarm goes off.

                  COLBY  
Buff, what's happening? Can you  
see anything?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Buff looks out a porthole and sees a small satellite with a TARANTULA EMBLEM spinning off into space. A stream of gas vents from his module.

BACK TO:

THE PRESENT

Buff activates his earpiece.

                  BUFF  
Oscar, are you there?

                  OSCAR (O.S.)  
Yes, Buff. Where are you?

                  BUFF  
I'm inside the Tarantula's  
compound.

                  OSCAR (O.S.)  
Good work. Any sign of Steve?

                  BUFF  
Not yet. But the logo on the  
guard's uniform. It's the same one  
that was on the satellite that hit  
my ship last year.

                  OSCAR (O.S.)  
That means the Tarantula's reach is  
even greater than we thought. You  
need to find out what he's  
planning, Buff.

                  BUFF  
Roger. First I need to take out  
this guard.

Buff quietly approaches the base of the guard tower. He spots a small rock, picks it up and takes aim at the guard.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Time to say good night.

Buff hurls the rock with his bionic arm.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

The guard appears unhurt. Buff looks around to see where the rock went, then notices his hand is still clutching it.

Buff tries throwing the rock again, but it remains stuck in his clenched fist.

                  BUFF (CONT'D)  
Oscar, I thought you said you  
upgraded my arm.

                  OSCAR (O.S.)  
We did, Buff.

                  BUFF  
Well, I can't unclench my hand.

                  OSCAR (O.S.)  
That's because we didn't upgrade  
your hand.

                  BUFF  
...I see.

CUT TO:

INT. GUARD TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

The guard looks out over the complex. Suddenly, Buff leaps up through the entrance door in the floor. He springs at the guard and pounds him on the head with the rock that is still clenched in his fist. The guard goes down.

Buff pries the rock out of his hand and surveys the complex below.

                  BUFF  
Oscar, this place is enormous. I  
don't know how I'll find Steve.

A walkie-talkie on the unconscious guard's belt crackles to life.

                  GUARD 2 (OVER WALKIE)  
I'm taking the prisoner to the  
toilet. Will report in shortly.

                  BUFF  
Toilet.  
                  (lightbulb)  
                  (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

                    BUFF (CONT'D)  
Never mind, Oscar. I think I have  
a lead.

Buff sniffs the air with his bionic nose.

SFX: Bionic sound effect

Buff leaps from the tower down onto the roof of another building. He hurries over to a ventilation duct, tears the metal cover off and shimmies inside.

INT. TARANTULA'S COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

A dimly lit hallway. Suddenly, Buff falls from the ceiling and lands in a heap on the floor. He picks himself up and sniffs the air again.

                    BUFF  
He's close.

Sniffing as he goes, Buff turns a corner and sees another Guard in a jumpsuit standing outside a bathroom. The Guard spots him.

                    GUARD 2  
Hey, you! You're not supposed to  
be in here.

The Guard pulls out a billy club and swings at Buff, who blocks it with his bionic arm. The club bends harmlessly against Buff's arm.

                    GUARD 2 (CONT'D)  
What the...?

The guard takes off down the hall toward a red button labeled "Alarm."

                    BUFF  
Not so fast.

Buff takes off after the guard.

In SLOW MOTION, we see Buff gradually catch up with the guard and overtake him before he can get to the alarm button. Buff punches the guard in the chest, causing him to fly into the button, setting it off.

                    BUFF (CONT'D)  
Oh, shoot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The guard falls to the ground, unconscious. Buff hurries back to the bathroom.

INT. COMPOUND BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Buff bursts into the room to find STEVE AUSTIN flushing the toilet.

STEVE  
All right, all right, I'm finished!

BUFF  
Steve Austin?

STEVE  
Yes...

BUFF  
The six million dollar man?

STEVE  
That's right. Who are you?

BUFF  
My name is Buff Taggart. I'm the  
forty thousand dollar man. And I'm  
here to rescue you.

As Steve reacts, we

CUT TO:

INT. TARANTULA'S COMPOUND - MINUTES LATER

Steve and Buff stealthily make their way down a hall and into a large control room area. Buff contacts Oscar.

BUFF  
Oscar, I've got Steve.

OSCAR (O.S.)  
Is he okay?

BUFF  
Yes.

OSCAR (O.S.)  
Good. What happened to him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF  
(to Steve)  
What happened to you?

STEVE  
I was closing in on the Tarantula  
and was about to capture him when  
everything went black. Next thing  
I knew, I was in a holding cell and  
I couldn't get my bionics to work  
properly.

BUFF  
Been there.

STEVE  
We need to stop the Tarantula.  
He's planning something big. I  
just don't know what.

BUFF  
All right. Colby should be around  
here somewhere.

OSCAR (O.S.)  
Colby? Major Colby Stafford?  
What's he doing there?

BUFF  
He told me he cleared it with you.

OSCAR (O.S.)  
I knew nothing about this.

BUFF  
Why would Colby come here without  
authorization?

COLBY (O.S.)  
Why indeed?

Steve and Buff turn to see Colby, now wearing a white lab  
coat, standing beside some oversized 1970's computer banks.

STEVE  
The Tarantula!

BUFF  
What?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

COLBY

That's right, old friend. Colby  
Stafford is the Tarantula.

STEVE

I've got him.

Steve moves to grab hold of Colby but before he can, Colby  
pulls a control box from his pocket, pulls out the antenna  
and pushes a button. Steve immediately freezes and stands  
stiffly immobile.

BUFF

What have you done to him?

COLBY

Oh, he's fine. I simply implanted  
an RC chip in his bionic neural  
core. With this device, I can  
control Steve's every move.

Steve flails in Colby's direction with his left arm.

COLBY (CONT'D)

Well, not his every move. His left  
arm isn't bionic.

BUFF

But why? Why would you do this?

COLBY

I needed Steve out of the way.  
Just as I needed you out of the  
way, Buff. Your bionics made you  
two the only ones capable of  
stopping my plan.

BUFF

What plan?

COLBY

My plan to destroy the moon.

BUFF

Wait, what?

COLBY

That's right. The moon. I'm going  
to bring it down. And the best  
part? You helped me do it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

COLBY (CONT'D)  
You, Armstrong, Aldrin, all of you  
Apollo hotshots.

FLASHBACK TO:

GRAINY VIDEO FROM VARIOUS LUNAR MISSIONS

NEIL ARMSTRONG plants a flag on the moon.

COLBY (V.O.)  
I ran those Apollo missions and I  
saw to it that every one of those  
flags you planted on the surface  
contained a powerful nuclear  
device.

The video of Armstrong zooms in and we see a small, blinking  
light in the flagpole.

In another video, ALAN SHEPARD plants a flag.

COLBY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I made sure the location of each  
flag would align with the moon's  
natural fault lines.

A final video: The image we saw earlier of Buff planting a  
flag on the lunar surface. Zoom in to see another blinking  
light on the pole.

COLBY (CONT'D)  
And now that I have you both here,  
you will be witness to this great  
moment. The moment when it'll be  
one small step for man, one giant  
boom for moonkind.

BUFF  
You're insane, Colby.

COLBY  
A little, maybe. But wouldn't you  
be too if you'd spent your life  
watching your pals go on to fame  
and glory, while you sat there on  
the ground, monitoring heart rates  
and singing them to sleep? Didn't  
it ever occur to you that I might  
want to go to the moon just once?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

Well, that wasn't really up to me--

COLBY

It was up to NASA! And they rejected my application to join the astronaut corps. Again and again they told me I wasn't astronaut material. Well, I'm going down in history one way or another.

BUFF

How did you get the money to do all this?

COLBY

My dad invented the yo-yo with the light in it.

BUFF

Oh, nice.

(then)

And what do you think is going to keep me from stopping your crazy plan?

COLBY

That's easy. He is.

Colby pushes a button on his remote control and Steve suddenly lurches towards Buff.

COLBY (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Buff.

Colby hands the controller to an ASSISTANT and crosses off to the detonation room as Buff backs away from an advancing Steve Austin.

BUFF

Easy, Steve, easy.

Steve takes a bionic swing at Buff. Buff dodges the blow.

BUFF (CONT'D)

Okay, I know that wasn't you.

Buff looks over at the Assistant with the controller and lunges towards him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Before Buff can reach him, Steve tackles him and hurls him against a wall, fifty feet away. Buff goes down hard.

BUFF (CONT'D)  
Man, those are good bionics.

CUT TO:

INT. DETONATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colby hurries in to the room where another Assistant, VINCE, is waiting.

COLBY  
Is everything ready, Vince?

VINCE  
Yes, sir.

COLBY  
Very well. Let's blow up that damn rock.

He turns to a wall on which we see two keyholes set more than arm's length apart.

COLBY (CONT'D)  
Insert your key.

Colby takes a key from his pocket and inserts it into one keyhole while Vince does the same at the other keyhole.

COLBY (CONT'D)  
Now, on my mark, we turn our keys simultaneously. Three, two, one...

Vince turns his key before Colby.

COLBY (CONT'D)  
I didn't say "mark."

VINCE  
Oh, I'm sorry. I thought we were doing it on "one."

COLBY  
No, on "mark." Let's try it again...

BACK TO:



INT. TARANTULA'S COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

Buff gets up and spots a fire extinguisher on the wall. He grabs it and throws it as hard as he can at Steve. Steve swats it away effortlessly and starts to cross toward Buff.

BUFF

This is so unfair.

Buff looks up and notices a large electromagnet hanging from a crane directly above where Steve is walking.

BACK TO:

INT. DETONATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colby and Vince are as we left them.

COLBY

(frustrated)

Come on, Vince. I gave you three Mississippiis.

VINCE

I'm sorry. I thought you were going to say "go" after the third Mississippi.

COLBY

No, we were going to turn them on the third "pi." Mississippi. How do you expect us to blow up the moon if we can't work as a team?

VINCE

Okay, how about if I do the countdown?

COLBY

You've never done a countdown before.

VINCE

I can do this.

COLBY

You better. This is huge day for me, you know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VINCE  
No, I totally get that. Now let's  
just turn them on "one."

COLBY  
All right.

VINCE  
Three, two, one.

Colby and Vince simultaneously turn their keys. Nothing happens.

VINCE (CONT'D)  
Wait. Do I turn to the left or the  
right?

Off Colby's frustration,

BACK TO:

INT. TARANTULA'S COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

Buff sprints toward the crane. Before the Assistant controlling Steve can react, Buff activates the electromagnet. Steve is hoisted into the air and held fast by the magnet. Buff jumps out of the crane and walks toward the Assistant, who shrieks and runs away.

BACK TO:

INT. DETONATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Colby now stands, arms outstretched, holding both keys. He tries desperately to reach both keyholes at the same time. Vince pouts nearby.

VINCE  
(whiny)  
I can do it, Tarantula.

COLBY  
You've demonstrated that you can't.  
So now you'll sit there and I will  
do it.

Suddenly, the door flies off its hinges and Buff bursts in.

COLBY (CONT'D)  
What?! How is this possible?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF

Let's just say Steve Austin has a magnetic personality.

COLBY

You used the magnet out there?

Buff nods.

COLBY (CONT'D)

(to Vince)

Didn't I tell you to put that away?

VINCE

(sheepish)

Sorry...

BUFF

Drop the keys, Colby. It's over.

Colby drops them.

COLBY

It doesn't have to end like this, Buff. We can work it out. That's what friends do.

BUFF

Sorry, Colby. Not this time.

(into earpiece)

Oscar, it's Buff. The Tarantula's been caught. You can send in an extraction team.

COLBY

(pathetically)

Oh, come on. Don't extract me. I promise I won't blow up the moon.

OSCAR (O.S.)

(over earpiece)

That's great news! Is Steve all right?

BUFF

He'll be fine.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. OSCAR GOLDMAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Oscar stands with Bonnie.

OSCAR  
Good work, Buff. You've got a very grateful government waiting for you here.

BONNIE  
Not to mention a girl who loves you.

BACK TO:

INT. DETONATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BUFF  
(into earpiece)  
I love you, too.

COLBY  
I love you, Buff.

BUFF  
Stop it.

Colby grabs Buff's sleeve imploringly.

COLBY  
(singing)  
*Just yesterday morning they let me know you were gone--*

BUFF  
Stop that!

COLBY  
(tearing up as he sings)  
*Susanne the plans they made put an end to you--*

BUFF  
(into earpiece)  
Oscar, how long till that extraction?

Colby, now lying on the floor, clutches Buff's legs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLBY  
(singing)  
*Oh, I've seen fire and I've seen  
rain... Come on, Buff. You know  
the words. I've seen sunny days  
that I thought would never end...*

Vince has been watching all this.

VINCE  
This internship sucks.

Off Buff's disgusted look, we

CUT TO:

EXT. BONNIE'S MALIBU BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

CHYRON: ONE WEEK LATER

A full, intact moon hovers over the Pacific. We pan down to find Buff and Bonnie canoodling in a hot tub on the deck.

BONNIE  
So, when do they want you to go  
back into space?

BUFF  
Oh, NASA's got some crazy plan for  
a kind of "space shuttle." Lands  
like an airplane. They want me to  
captain the first mission. I told  
them I had to clear it with the  
wife first.

BONNIE  
The wife?

Buff reaches into the water and pulls out a dripping ring box. He opens it and shows her a diamond ring.

BUFF  
Will you marry me, Lady Soldier?

BONNIE  
Oh, Buff! Of course I will!

He puts the ring on her finger. She admires it for a beat, then a shadow crosses her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFF  
What is it, babe?

BONNIE  
It's nothing. I was just thinking  
about what Oscar told me about  
your... your-- we'll work around  
it.

BUFF  
Oh, right. About that. Turns out  
Oscar had just enough money left in  
the budget for one last upgrade.

MUSIC CUE: "Rubberband Man" by The Spinners

He takes Bonnie in his arms and kisses her passionately, as  
we tilt back up to the moon.

SFX: Bionic sound effects

BONNIE (O.S.)  
Ohh, Buff!

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END