

Synopsis for “Superfly!”
by David White

In the year 2012, the US President is flying back from a disastrous meeting with the heads of the Chinese government. Aboard Air Force One, the President receives an abrupt warning: the Chinese have launched nuclear missiles at Europe! Within seconds, the electronic displays show city after city disappearing from the Big Flat Panel Display (after a few delays due to sponsor logos swimming across the screen). The President’s military advisors — Generals Taylor, Wainright and Boomer — lead the call for a full retaliatory strike, even if it may mean the end of civilization as we know it.

Only one advisor calls for a limited response: Krell 510, the first cyber RepubliCrat, a robotic collage of both Republican and Democratic parties. (Oddly, his face and voice bear an uncanny resemblance to the President. But when the other advisors hear that, they all respond with “Really? You think? Gee, I never noticed.”)

Krell suggests attacking only Jhonankri, the sparsely populated rural hometown of the Communist Premiere, which just happens to be hosting the first world championships of Synchronized Team Trampoline Ballet. Though the town is small, it is in the heart of China and is heavily defended. Krell sifts through the vast databanks at his disposal, to come up with the one man who can perform this suicidal mission:

His name is Victor “Superfly” Villanova, the only Air Force pilot qualified to fly the ultra high-tech F-42, the new gravi-lectric jet fighter. Victor’s earned his nickname through unorthodox use of the advanced jet’s electronics, to play the ‘70s black exploitation tune “Superfly” in his cockpit during stressful portions of his missions. (Oddly, his face and voice bear an uncanny resemblance to both the President and Krell 510.) He accepts the mission with stoic resolve, until he realizes he’s made a mistake and is not doing a flyby over FTD Stadium during a Washington Indigenous Americans football game. Understanding what the mission really is all about, and with a final emailed farewell, he sticks all the good-luck charms he can manage into every crevice of his flightsuit, and takes off.

Meanwhile, Mary Beth Stannorettey, a National Guard Army electronics Specialist (when not raising her seven children and keeping her bored husband interested in their fading love life), discovers during routine satellite maintenance, that the Chinese are jamming the actual signals to Air Force One. (Oddly, she bears no resemblance to the President at all.) Mary Beth must blast off in a personal rocket device to reset the affected satellite, in orbit high up in space. She must squeeze into the rocket with another Army Specialist, the over-amorous rake, Sergeant Luke Pettigie (whose favorite line is “Another petticoat fer Pettigie!”).

Patching a couple of loose wires together, they signal Air Force One about the Chinese trick. The advisors realize it was all a ploy to get the US to launch nuclear weapons first, so that the Chinese could respond with a full attack and polish off the U.S. once and for all. Krell diagnoses that the Chinese could absorb a huge loss of life and survive — albeit without the Synchronized Trampoline Ballet championships — and absorb them much better than the US could.

With Krell working as feverishly as a cyborg could, they try to stop Victor, even going so far as to give the Chinese significant data about the gravilectric fighter to help them shoot it down. But despite the Chinese’ best efforts, Victor swoops down over Jhonankri and drops the single warhead-tipped bomb. Farther and farther it falls until it crashes through five floors of the Premier’s building, landing in the middle of a trampoline-filled meeting room, where the Premiere is performing one last routine before Doomsday — but amazingly, the bomb doesn’t explode! The Premiere and his advisors laugh at the failed American technology, when a strange humming noise appears outside the large double windows.

Victor swings the jet into a hovering position just outside the window, pointing the nose right at the Premiere. With an electronic override signal, he broadcasts his words to the Chinese leaders inside: “It doesn’t matter how many people you’ve killed in Europe. The war stops here.” They try to tell him they’re sorry, that they didn’t mean to go this far. Victor’s response: “You lie.” He pulls the plane up, then slides back down to add, “Like an Oriental rug!”

As he slides away into the distance, the Premiere mutters in awe, “Superfly.” The Advisor beside him adds softly, with practiced timing, “You gonna make it by and by.” The Premiere glares at him.

(Obviously, this is a modernization of the classic “Doctor Strangelove,” with the parts of The President, Krell and “Superfly” being played by the same comedian — say, Steve Martin.)