

## Piddle Paddle Panda - Comedy

Written by Michael Green

*Inspired by the true story of a single mother's coming of age.*

MADILYN OWENS is a morning show host in San Diego. She has a reputation as a party-girl who is more concerned with her career than her five-year-old son who everyone refers to as “the little monster.” She loves her son but feels inadequate to handle his problem behavior on her own. The child’s rockstar father left on the night of his birth.

PETE is an introverted show producer who has a crush on her. Maddy doesn’t think of her nerdy, online gaming coworker as a love interest, at first, and she takes advantage of Pete’s feelings to trick him into babysitting. Chaos ensues under Pete’s watch. He finds an Eastern philosophy book featuring a cartoonish panda bear, buried in a bookshelf, and reads it to the child as a bedtime story.

SOLOH dreams about the Zen story and wakes up the next morning pretending to be Piddle Paddle Panda. Soloh’s demeanor is completely changed, and he’s intent that everyone find the “happy, calm” inner peace of his mystical panda cub hero. Maddy is immediately baffled by her son’s change in behavior, not realizing Pete read her son the same story she once enjoyed with Soloh before she retreated into her own feelings of bitterness and inadequacy.

Maddy is convinced something happened to Soloh but no one around her, including the child’s pediatrician, is persuaded anything is wrong with him. She spends quality time with Soloh in her quest for answers, reinforcing her own great qualities as a mother. People are drawn to the adorable, calm child, and he saves or changes lives wherever they go. At her wits end, Maddy must apologize and convince Pete to spend time with them and help her find answers. Pete is also skeptical there is anything wrong with Soloh and ignores her initial requests. He watches Soloh chase birds in a park, and finally agrees to spend time with them- under the strong condition that he is not a babysitter.

Soloh leads them on a journey of childhood wonder, and they discover Zen treasures of San Diego. A sunset, the beach, the ocean. Simple moments, no adults can find in a nightclub or online video game. They fall in love as they watch Soloh spread childlike enlightenment to everyone. Maddy finally realizes her own change in behavior brought the best out of Soloh. She overcomes her trepidation and assumes her role as a loving and present single mother.

Events with worldwide consequences unfold in the background of their adventures. An unconventional new Pope is determined to visit Comic Con during a Papal visit to San Diego, and a vodka-swigging Russian billionaire is sent to assassinate this Pope under the guise of Ambassador for the Slavic Orthodox Church. Two stoner misfits have their own plans to sneak into Comic Con when they discover a network of downtown maintenance tunnels under Old Balboa Park. All journeys collide when the stoners strike a lighter near an underground gas line and “nearly blow themselves up down there.” Soloh discovers the misfits trapped in a sewer tunnel and cellphone footage of their rescue goes viral.

The Pope takes notice and offers an interview to Maddy at the Comic Con Papal visit. Pete, who was scheduled to compete in an amateur gaming tournament, is confined to Producing at the TV station. Soloh replaces Pete on the amateur gaming team so the players can keep Soloh safe from the international press core.

Maddy faces a dilemma: Interview the world’s first African Pope or support Soloh at his gaming event? Maddy makes the right choice. The Pope is wise and ditches his corrupt security detail, in cohorts with the dirty Ambassador, to accompany Maddy. Pete leaves the station when the child’s celebrity father emerges at Comic Con. Pete arrives in the venue and kisses Maddy in a festive atmosphere, because Soloh’s gaming team wins the tournament! The end. Or is it? Because the gentle Zen expression on Soloh’s face changes back to the problem child as he watches his mom embracing his “new daddy.” He finds an abandoned plastic Thor hammer on the venue floor and whacks Pete with it. The misfits exit a police station vowing they will never attempt gatecrashing Comic Con, ever again.