

GHOSTBUSTERS III

Treatment by
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LOGLINE: On the verge of taking their business nationally as a franchise, a tragic accident convinces the Ghostbusters team to close their doors for good, sending their Ecto Containment System (ECS) to Columbia University for permanent storage. Seventeen years later, a genius scientist, Edward Tully, and his half-baked best friend, Oscar Barrett, invent a chamber that attaches to the ECS, allowing ghosts to materialize in a likeness of their previous selves to communicate with the living. When Oscar begins selling tickets to people wanting to communicate with their deceased loved ones, a ghost from their past begins haunting them in an effort to communicate with them. They must convince Dr. Stantz and Dr. Spengler to put their reservations aside and help catch the ghost and send him through the Conversion Chamber to learn what the ghost wants. There, they learn that the spirit world is restless and a great danger awaits. Stantz and Spengler will need to reunite the Ghostbusters and recruit a new team to take on this great threat.

Act One

Five years after Ghostbusters II, DR. RAY STANTZ, DR. EGON SPENGLER, DR. PETER VENKMAN and WINSTON ZEDDEMORE are poised to take their Ghostbusters business national, franchising locations throughout the United States. Arriving at Ghostbusters headquarters after their most recent capture their secretary, JANINE TULLY (formerly Melnitz, now married to LOUIS TULLY), informs the team that Louis (also the staff tax attorney) is on his way back from Los Angeles, and that Ghostbusters is ready to begin the franchising process. Spengler reflects that it won't be long before they have locations from New York to Alaska. Zeddemore wonders "Are there ghosts in Alaska?" to which Venkman replies "Have you been to Alaska? The living don't even want to be there."

The next call that comes in is from the Mayor's office. The Ghostbusters are now on contract with the City to capture ghosts classified as being a public nuisance, and bill to the City's blanket purchase order. The Mayor's office sends the Ghostbusters team out to capture a particularly disruptive ghost at a busy intersection.

At the scene, the four Ghostbusters are engaged in trying to catch the ghost, which is wreaking havoc on the busy sidewalks. Venkman replies "Twenty bucks to the first one to get a line on him." Stantz answers "I...only have seven fifty on me," to which Venkman says "Really. You must be a fun date. Seven fifty for the first person to get a line on him." Venkman gets a line on the ghost, but as he backs up to bring the ghost toward the trap, he falls and loses the ghost. As the ghost scurries toward a street light, all of the Ghostbusters take aim at the same time, and the pole comes crashing down towards Venkman. He jumps out of the way of the falling pole and into the street, narrowly missing getting hit. "Whoa. That was close. I thought I was a goner." Suddenly a bus comes speeding by and takes Venkman out of the frame. Venkman dies.

A newscaster is covering what is being called the biggest funeral event since former President Richard Nixon, as people come from far and wide to say goodbye to Dr. Peter Venkman. Helicopter footage shows miles of people waiting to get into the cemetery to say goodbye. Ground coverage of the event takes us to reporter Candace Cain who is interviewing people in line. She asks one attendee “You knew Dr. Venkman, is that correct?” The girl answers “Yes, well I was walking down the street one time when he drove by on the way to catch a ghost and he waved, so...yeah I pretty much knew him.” Then the girl starts to sob, saying “I’m going to miss him so much.”

Inside Venkman’s self-financed mausoleum, Spengler, Stantz, Zeddemore, Janine and Louis Tully and DANA BARRETT, are off to the side, watching droves of mourners pass through, touching the Ghostbusters hearse Venkman’s casket is in. Louis Tully comments “Gee, it sure was nice of you guys to make all these arrangements for Dr. Venkman.” Stantz replies “Oh, well we donated Ecto-2, but Peter arranged for the mausoleum himself some time ago.” Dana adds “He told me he had arranged for us all to have plots together, but I hadn’t seen them until today.” Cutting outside, there are small plots reserved for Dana, Spengler, Stantz and Zeddemore, right next to the huge mausoleum. As they are warmly remembering Venkman’s humor, a mourner begins crying uncontrollably, ending their brief happy moment. As they become suddenly somber, the scene ends by panning out of the mausoleum to find a life-sized statue of Venkman in his Ghostbusters gear.

Back at the Ghostbusters headquarters, Spengler, Stantz and Zeddemore are in the Ecto Containment System (ECS) room working on the unit, as a moving crew waits to take it away. With their decision to shut down Ghostbusters to prevent another senseless death (because the streams are too sporadic), the Governor’s office has put pressure on Columbia University to permanently house the ECS so that the ghosts will be prevented from being released back into the environment. Stantz and Spengler are preparing a bypass for the unit to be transported safely without having to shut it down. Once complete, Stantz gives the okay to the movers to take it away. Zoom into the ECS.

Act Two

Zooming back out from the ECS, the unit is now at Columbia University, but seventeen years later (total of twenty-two years after Ghostbusters II). EDWARD TULLY, son of Louis and Janine, is a straight-laced, brilliant scientist who is working on his Doctoral Dissertation at the age of twenty-one. Unlike his parents, Edward has seemingly no awkward mannerisms. Edward is working on his Dissertation with MADISON HASTINGS and OSCAR BARRETT. Madison, though often times clumsy and flighty, is an intelligent and beautiful blonde woman in her mid-twenties. In one moment, she can be falling over things and seems to be missing the most basic of human concepts, while the next moment she is rattling off technical jargon with the greatest of ease. She is soft on Edward, but hard on Oscar, who grates at her every chance he gets. Oscar, son of Dana Barrett (and father not definitively given), although not as brilliant as Edward, is

quite scientifically capable himself. His greatest gift tends to be his quick, sarcastic wit and his keen ability to find a monetary benefit to any good deed.

The three friends are working together to create a chamber, connected to the ECS, that will convert ghost DNA into a likeness of their prior living image. This Ectoplasmic DNA Conversion Chamber (EDNACC) isolates one ghost at a time, and allows them to be able to communicate with the living world. Edward hopes that once they are able to communicate with all of the ghosts in the ECS, that they may be able to find out what is keeping them tied to our world, potentially freeing them to move on.

During the first potential run of the system, Madison trips, accidentally turning the EDNACC on before the Cellular Isolation Tube (CIT) could be stabilized. Without the CIT being stabilized, the EDNACC begins pulling multiple ghosts into the chamber at the same time, causing the ghosts to intermingle, mutate and make their particles accelerate as they bounce off of the glass walls of the chamber. Once Edward turns it off and sucks the ghosts back into the ECS, Oscar (who was late and just arrived to see Madison trip) suggests maybe she shouldn't wear high heels into the laboratory. As they begin to quarrel, Edward neutralizes the situation by having Oscar look the system over for contamination or damage, and politely whispering in Madison's ear that it may, in fact, be a good idea not to wear heels in the laboratory.

When trace Ectoplasmic levels are found still in the EDNACC, Edward and Madison vote to put off further testing until the system can be properly scrubbed. Oscar reminds them that they are behind schedule and their advisor wants some results. "Dr. Fisto..." starts Oscar, to which Edward and Madison jointly correct him "Fusto" and Oscar continues "Whatever...has been breathing down our necks for results on this thing. Our Dissertation depends on this hunk of junk working." Oscar continues setting up the machine as Madison and Edward continue to advocate the consequences of not properly testing the unit before running it again. Madison, standing in Oscar's way from pulling the activation lever, moves out of the way when Oscar eventually agrees they should wait. Once she moves, Oscar "accidentally" trips and falls on the lever, activating the machine. Initially, it appears that the EDNACC is working, as a ghost appears in the chamber and smiles at them. However, just as they begin to celebrate, the ghost begins deforming, as the trace amounts of DNA begin absorbing into the ghost. As the deformation accelerates more and more quickly, Edward, who is reading a monitor, announces the CIT is breached and yells to shut the system down. Madison presses the same reversal button that Edward pushed earlier, and almost instantaneously the system shuts down and the power to the whole campus goes out.

Oscar and Madison begin bantering back and forth. "Great, now look what you did." Madison replies "Shut up, Oscar." "You know you want me." "You're impossible." "Oh, I'm possible." As the emergency power comes on (after only a few seconds), the ECS comes back on line. As Edward looks the system over, he reminds Oscar that this would not have happened if he had

waited to activate the EDNACC as Edward and Madison had wanted, and reminded Oscar that they are a team. Oscar sort of apologizes and reminds them that the system was working.

The three of them begin to celebrate their small victory when DR. FUSTO arrives, yelling at Oscar and Edward, but taking a much more pleasant (yet creepy) tone with Madison. As Oscar and Edward try to explain why the blackout wasn't really their fault, Dr. Fusto reminds them that they never think it's their fault. When they tell Dr. Fusto that they had the unit working, Dr. Fusto demands to see. They explain that they will need to scrub the unit and check for damage before they can set it up again. Dr. Fusto says he will be back the next day to see it and the others protest they will need at least a week. Dr. Fusto yells they have three days as he leaves the room.

In a hallway, Oscar is knocking on a door to an apartment. Dr. Spengler opens the door and Oscar introduces himself. Spengler invites himself into the apartment where they spend some brief time catching up (it has been over fifteen years since they've seen each other). When Spengler asks why Oscar is suddenly at his door, Oscar tells him that he would like to set up Ghostbusters again. Spengler emphatically declines the proposal before Oscar can explain why he would like to set it up. After several attempts, and failures, to explain the situation, Oscar begins to leave, thanking Spengler for his time. On his way out, he tells Spengler about the EDNACC, and that they will be having another test run in three days time. He invites Spengler to the event, to which Spengler respectfully declines. He wishes Oscar well and closes the door.

On the day that the "official" testing of the EDNACC is to take place, Edward and Madison arrive to find Oscar is early and has a line out the door of people eager to pay twenty dollars to communicate with someone from the spirit world. Edward sends them away disappointed and begins giving Oscar the riot act when Dr. Spengler arrives with Dr. Stantz to see the unveiling of the conversion system. Stantz, wide-eyed at seeing, not only the ECS he helped invent after all this time, but also the EDNACC, begins having a technical conversation with Edward and Madison about how the unit works. Edward mentions that he has installed an internal scrubber that will prevent the cross-contamination that occurred in the first run. Oscar thanks Spengler for coming and bringing Stantz, to which Spengler assures him it was only to see his invention at work and that the Ghostbusters discussion is still closed. After a few minutes more, Louis and Janine Tully arrive and, moments after that, Dana Barrett also arrives in support of their children. They spend a few minutes catching up before Dr. Fusto arrives hastily and deliberately, demanding that he see the unit in action immediately.

Edward, Oscar and Madison quickly go to work, setting up and preparing the EDNACC for activation. As they are setting up, they explain to the audience that very few ghosts are able to maintain any strong resemblance to their own living form, and they believe that the longer they are trapped between here and the afterlife, the less they resemble their prior selves. They further explain that their system takes the intrinsic DNA of the spirit, and decodes it to allow for the ghosts to be viewed in a likeness of their bodies prior to death. They estimate that after ten years, almost every ghost would be unrecognizable without their device. After a few moments, they

successfully activate and convert a ghost, who ends up being the original SLIMER, into an image of a woman. She explains that her name was Isabella Vitolli, and that she had been murdered at the Sedgewick Hotel in 1973. She had decided to leave her husband for another man. She met the other man at the hotel in a room on the twelfth floor. She was not aware that the man owed a large debt to the mafia, and was planning to skip out of town on them. On the night she met her lover, a hitman arrived and killed the couple. She felt she was trapped here because of the pain she had caused her husband, and she wanted to tell him that she was sorry. She gave them the name of her husband and the three scientists vowed to find him and bring him to her so she could say goodbye.

After the successful run of the EDNACC, everyone in the room begins celebrating the victory, except for Dr. Fusto. Fusto, who has never really supported their work, and ultimately thought they would fail, leaves the room telling them they need to have the research for their dissertation with all of their findings ready for review in one week, and stomps out of the room. After a quiet moment taking in the scene Dr. Fusto caused, the group returns to their celebrating.

Oscar notices that his mother is standing quietly reserved as everyone else celebrates. When he asks her what is wrong, she tells the group that she has been getting harassed by a ghost for about a week now. When they ask her about it, she says that the ghost hasn't been trying to scare her, but has increasingly become a nuisance at her home. "Why is it always me?" she asks. Stantz offers "At least this one isn't trying to possess you. That's an improvement." Everyone looks at him and he looks down. Oscar mentions that they could catch the ghost if, and before he can say anything else, Spengler tells him no. "It is too dangerous." Stantz, after a moment, hesitantly tells the group that he developed a new Proton Pack some time ago. This new pack has a targeting system and shoots an almost completely straight laser stream, making it potentially safer. Spengler says "I never knew you had developed a new pack. Why didn't you tell me?" Stantz tells him that he knew Spengler didn't want to hear anything more about catching ghosts, and that it was more of a hobby for Stantz, and he never thought he would actually use it. With the new developments, Spengler and Stantz agree to don the new gear "just to catch this one ghost, and just because it's for an old friend. That's it. Once we catch it, you can use this machine to find out what it wants, and Ray and I can go back into retirement."

Act Three

Spengler and Stantz get the new gear ready and head to Dana's house with Oscar to try and catch the ghost. The ghost puts up almost no fight, to which Stantz says "Yeah, we still got it." They take the ghost back to the research lab, install it into the ECS, analyze it, and send it through the EDNACC. Once in the EDNACC, to the surprise of Stantz, Spengler, Edward and Oscar, the form of Dr. Peter Venkman appears. "Wow, those lasers sting! I'm going to have to call the Spirit Cruelty Society on you guys." Spengler and Stantz are speechless and solemn, to which Venkman states "Come on guys, you look like you just saw a ghost. Oh yeah, right." Venkman sees Oscar and Edward, and asks them who they are. Edward introduces himself as Louis and

Janine Tully's son, to which Venkman says "How did *that* happen?" Oscar introduces himself to Venkman, who softens up saying he's missed him and his mom. Spengler and Stantz, feeling a little less somber after seeing Venkman with such shockingly similar spunk, ask him what he's been doing for the last seventeen years. Venkman tells them he has been travelling the United States, looking for hot chicks to spook. He further says he has been having a blast until recently. All of the ghosts have been restless as of late because an evil force has been growing and recruiting spirits for an event five times the magnitude of Gozer. If successful in his attempt to pass through the gates of Middleworld, Kielto would seize the living and enslave them to do his bidding. "If that happens, all of us who oppose him will be destroyed. This is big stuff guys. Now get out there and kick some evil ghost butt. Oh, and could you get me out of here? I'm feeling a little claustrophobic."

Venkman agrees to lead them, when they are ready, to the gateway from Middleworld so they can destroy Kielto and his army. Spengler and Stantz, realize that the outcome from doing nothing is much more dangerous than putting the gear back on to fight this demon. Realizing they are going to need help from everyone they can get, Spengler and Stantz call on old friends to help in their effort. Spengler and Oscar call on Zeddemore for one last mission, and recruit Louis, Janine and Dana to join in the fight. Meanwhile Stantz, Edward and Madison beginning modernizing and building enough packs and traps to take on whatever they will be up against. After training the new team of Ghostbusters, they are ready for Venkman to lead them to the Middleworld gateway.

A hard-fought battle ensues, with mass destruction everywhere that can be seen. The team of nine Ghostbusters work feverishly to implement their plan. With one massive trap in the middle, the team will lay eight traps out in an octagonal perimeter. If they can lure Kielto and his army into the center of the octagonal perimeter, they can activate a chain reaction with the traps, with each trap connecting lasers with each other and also connecting at a point above the center trap. This octagonal prism would imprison Kielto and his army. Setting up the traps and luring Kielto to the containment area proves more difficult than expected and Venkman's ghost will help distract the evil army to allow the team to get lasers on Kielto. Once they successfully get their lasers on Kielto, they draw him into the center of the containment area, drawing the army toward their leader. Once they are all contained, the traps are activated and Kielto, Venkman and the army are all caught in the traps. The end of the world is staved off for another day.

Back at the research lab, the ghosts are inserted into the ECS, and Venkman is isolated into the EDNACC. "Guys, we've got to stop meeting like this." After a tearful goodbye, they release Venkman and he takes off to torture some girls down in Malibu. Shortly after he leaves, Dr. Fusto enters, telling them that they are no longer welcome to house their equipment at the University as the Board of Regents has deemed their work too risky. With the need to find a new place to house the equipment, and the realization that the work they do is too important to ignore, Spengler and Stantz agree to allow Edward, Oscar and Madison to reopen Ghostbusters with their blessing. They will help them set up and will stay on as advisors, where they will consult

from Hawaii. The scene zooms into the EDNACC, and zooms back out to show it being set up at the old Ghostbusters fire station. The crew is all on hand, cleaning and repairing the building that has sat vacant for seventeen years. The final scene continues panning through the building, leading the way out of the building, with the camera ending up panned to the Ghostbusters sign outside the building. Fade out to credits.