

Elevator Game

FADE IN:

SUPER - CLIFTON VIRGINIA USA

INT. APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

SADIE(16) thin build, short black hair, stands in front of an open elevator. She trembles as she looks around. The apartment block foyer is deserted.

An Iphone in her hand vibrates. Sadie answers and presses 'speaker'. Her friend RITA(16) talks...

RITA(ON PHONE)

All set? No one around?

SADIE

No. Just me.

Her voice is a bare whisper. Her eyes exude fear.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Hey, its alright. Remember I'm outside if you need me.

Sadie doesn't answer straight away.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Sade? Sade, you there? Look, if you want to...

SADIE

No. No, I'm fine.

She summons an inner strength, stands taller. SNIFFS loudly to clear her head.

SADIE

Lets do it. I want to see the Other World.

(beat)

Lets play the Elevator Game...

She steps forward, studies the vacant elevator.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Good girl...ok, step into the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Sadie walks into the elevator, turns and faces the door.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Press 4.

Sadie presses that button, waits. The doors close, the elevator rises. She watches the floors pass. 4 lights up.

The doors open.

SADIE

I'm at the fourth floor.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Yes, I can hear the chimes. No need to tell me, just concentrate on the sequence. You're doing well.

SADIE

Ok.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Now, don't get out. Press 2.

Sadie does this. The doors close. The elevator descends. Level 2 PINGS and the doors open. Sadie waits patiently.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Don't get out. Press 6.

Sadie presses the button. Doors close. The elevator rises. At Level 6, doors open.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Don't get out. Press 2.

Sadie presses this button. Doors close. Elevator descends. At Level 2, doors open.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Don't get out. Press 10.

(beat)

How you doing?

Sadie presses 10. As the elevator rises, she hugs herself, blinks, SIGHS.

SADIE

Good. I'm...good.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Thats great. Now...the fun starts.

The elevator finally gets to 10. The doors open. Sadie GASPS, falls to her knees.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Sade? Sadie, are you alright?

SADIE

Need to...get out. Calling me...

RITA(ON PHONE)

NO! Sadie you must ignore this!
DO NOT GET OUT!

Sadie MOANS, crawls towards the door, the phone still gripped tightly.

RITA(ON PHONE)
SADIE YOU GET UP NOW!

Sadie's head slumps to the elevator floor. Deep breaths.

RITA(ON PHONE)
SADIE TALK TO ME!

Sadie doesn't move for a few seconds. Then she rocks slowly back on her knees.

SADIE
I'm...fine. I shut it out. The chill...oh it was cold and beckoning me to join it.

RITA(ON PHONE)
Good girl. Rest up. You are strong. I know it.

Sadie nods to herself, stands up on shaky legs. More air sucked into her lungs.

SADIE
Ok. I'm ready.

RITA(ON PHONE)
Place your finger on number 5. Don't press it yet! Turn around and face the wall opposite the doors...

Sadie does this, her body turned in an awkward manner.

RITA(ON PHONE)
And when you're ready, press 5.

The door close, the elevator descends. At a painfully slow pace...

RITA(ON PHONE)
The travel to the fifth floor will be slower than usual. When you get there, you'll feel a gust of wind. Someone will enter the elevator with you. A girl who is not human.

(beat)
DO NOT TALK OR LOOK AT HER! Wait till the doors close.

Sadie nods. The elevator gets to Level 5. The doors open. Sadie keeps her gaze on the far wall. A wind sweeps in, ruffling her hair. A shadow falls upon her.

The doors close. Sadie can feel the presence that has joined her...

RITA(ON PHONE)
Press 1. And don't think about
even glancing at her.

Sadie presses 1. Nothing happens. She presses it again. Same result.

SADIE
(whispers)
Rita? Its not working. What do I...

RITA(ON PHONE)
Listen to me, Sade. You're almost
there. The elevator won't move
no matter what button you press.
(beat)
Close your eyes and count to ten.

Sadie takes her hand off the buttons, closes her eyes, still facing the wall.

SADIE
One...two...three...four...five...

The shadow moves past her towards the wall. She flinches at the closeness but continues to count, eyes tightly shut. The elevator light suddenly flicks off.

SADIE
Six...seven...eight...nine...
(beat)
Ten.

RITA(ON PHONE)
When you open your eyes...you'll
never be the same again.

Sadie takes a deep breath and...opens her eyes. She sees a huge figure in front of her, impassive but overwhelming. The phone drops from her hand.

RITA(ON PHONE)
Sadie! SADIE!

The doors open, throwing dim light in from the hallway. Sadie steps back through them, outside the elevator. The figure moves forward from the shadows to reveal itself fully.

Its THE BUNNY MAN! The Urban Legend himself in all his furry glory. His whiskers twitch as massive paws reach towards Sadie.

THE BUNNY MAN
Prepare for a fatal tickling, Sadie.

Sadie stands quietly, examining the rabbit shape. She smoothly grabs the phone.

SADIE

Rita?

(beat)

Do it.

A CHUCKLE from the phone. The Bunny Man is halfway across the elevator. A low RUMBLE seems to come from above. The Bunny Man glances up. His fluffy tail shakes.

THE BUNNY MAN

Oh fuck. Not again.

The elevator doors close as unseen weight pours down. Before they shut, a lone carrot bounces out, stops at Sadie's feet. As the doors completely close, the thunder of falling vegetables continues.

RITA(ON PHONE)

Sadie? All good? You ok?

SADIE

Never been better, hun.

She picks up the carrot, takes a CRUNCHY bite from it.

SADIE

Welcome to the Other World, Bunny Man.

THE END

FADE OUT.