

## Up or Down

Written by

Danny Dame

**EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

A car gets parked at its designated spot.

SETH(40s) gets out of the car. He is in his formal office clothes.

He stretches and yawns.

He checks his watch. It shows 11:15. He chuckles.

SETH  
Right on time.

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT**

Seth gets to the elevator, pushes the button, and waits.

The elevator descends slowly.

DING!

Elevator door opens.

Seth steps inside.

**ELEVATOR**

He hits the 9th floor button on the panel. The door glides shut.

The elevator starts to climb up.

Seth stands patiently. Sleep makes his eyelids heavy.

A sudden jolt and, the elevator stops on the 2nd floor.

Alert, Seth pushes the emergency button. Waits.

Nothing happens.

SETH  
Great!

He again the pushes the emergency button. No effect.

His breathing gets heavy. He looks uncomfortable.

Seth pounds on the door.

SETH  
Help!

He undoes two of his top shirt buttons. Sweat breaks from his temples.

SETH  
Fucking somebody help!

The light goes out.

SETH

NO!

The sound of him pounding and kicking on the door is heard.

He is petrified.

He sobs.

The light turns on.

Seth gasps.

SETH

Help me!

He shouts. He grabs the door handle and pulls it with all his might.

It won't budge.

Seth now repeatedly punches the emergency button.

SETH

Help! Fucking people! Help!

He flops down in a fetal position at one corner.

He shivers uncontrollably. Sweat wets his face and soaks his collar.

The elevator starts to ascend rapidly.

Seth gets up, again pushes the emergency button. Screams.

The floor counter quickly reaches to the 12th floor and stops with an impact.

Seth swallows hard.

Suddenly, the elevator plummets.

Seth slams into a corner and screams at the top of lung.

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT**

Ding!

Seth jolts, wide-eyed.

SETH

(murmurs)

Fuck no. Fuck no.

He sighs in relief.

He looks to his left, sees TWO TEENAGERS using their phone. Probably, unaware of their surrounding.

SETH

Guys.

He points at the open elevator.

TEENAGER#1

Oh.

Both of them step inside. Seth follows them.

**ELEVATOR**

Seth seems confident.

Teenager#2 pushes the 2nd floor button.

Seeing this, Seth looks concerned.

TEENAGER#2

Yours?

SETH

Huh? 9th.

Teenager#2 pushes the 9th button next.

The elevator starts to ascend.

Seth grows nervous.

It stops on the 2nd floor. The Teenagers get out.

SETH

Guys.

They look back at him.

SETH

(beat)

Nothing.

They shrug.

The door closes and the elevator starts to go up.

Seth looks up at the light. He touches his collar, nervous.

The light flickers.

Seth gasps.

The light flickers again.

SETH

No.

The light goes out.

**END.**