



1  
2 JOSIE Yeah, well, we're not Certified Public Accountants yet,  
3 Kate. By the way, Dave said he'd treat me to lunch after  
4 the CPA test, if I met him here at his office at one.  
5 He's two floors down and it's 12:30 now.  
6  
7 KATE Lunch! (STOMACH GROWLS) I'm starving! I overslept this  
8 morning and missed breakfast.  
9  
10 JOSIE You're more than welcome to join us.  
11  
12 KATE Thanks, Josie, but no. I don't want to butt in. Besides,  
13 I don't think I can wait till one o'clock.  
14  
15 EFX (SOUND OF DISTANT ELEVATOR DOOR OPENING AND FOOTSTEPS,  
16 MUFFLED CONVERSATION GROWING LOUDER AS PEOPLE COME OUT)  
17  
18 JOSIE There's the elevator!  
19  
20 KATE Run, the doors are closing! (TWO PAIR OF FEET BREAK INTO  
21 A RUN) Hold it! Mister! Mister, hold the elevator! What,  
22 is he deaf?! (DOORS BEGIN TO CLOSE, SOUND OF FIGHTING  
23 THEM OPEN, PANTING, THEN LAUGHING IN RELIEF AS DOORS  
24 CLOSE, HUM OF ELEVATOR MOVING)  
25  
26 ELEVATOR (FILTER) Going down. (HUM OF ELEVATOR THROUGHOUT)  
27  
28 JOSIE We made it!  
29  
30 KATE (MUTTERING) Yeah, no thanks to this guy!  
31

1 JOSIE (SOTTO VOCE) No wonder, he's plugged into his iPod and  
2 is reading a book.  
3  
4 KATE (SOTTO VOCE) Check out the title... *La Poesie Française de*  
5 *l'Age Romantique!*  
6  
7 JOSIE (CHUCKLES) He's in his own little world, isn't he?  
8  
9 ELEVATOR (FILTER) Fifteenth Floor: Consumer Product Safety,  
10 Office of Civil Rights, Drug Enforcement Administration.  
11  
12 EFX (SOUND OF ELEVATOR JERKING TO A STOP, DOORS OPEN, TWO  
13 SETS OF FOOTSTEPS ENTER)  
14  
15 CARSON (FOOTSTEPS OF TWO MEN, VOICES GROWING LOUDER AS THEY  
16 ENTER THE ELEVATOR, DOORS CLOSE, HUM OF ELEVATOR  
17 THROUGHOUT) I don't mind telling you, Mr. Richards, the  
18 board will never approve your latest design. My staff  
19 and I dismantled your Senorita Margarita machine in five  
20 minutes.  
21  
22 RICHARDS It's SUPPOSED to be dismantled! How else is the owner  
23 going to get out the squeezed limes?  
24  
25 CARSON It's not a question of how the owner cleans his  
26 Margarita machine; it's a question of the cutting blades  
27 slicing off a finger!  
28  
29 RICHARDS Look, Carson, it was just a little cut. Your guy's still  
30 got his finger. I don't see why...  
31

1 ELEVATOR (FILTER) Fourteenth Floor: General Services  
2 Administration, General Accounting Office, Occupational  
3 Safety and Health...  
4  
5 CARSON That's us, Mr. Richards.  
6  
7 EFX (SOUND OF ELEVATOR JERKING TO A STOP, DOORS OPENING, TWO  
8 SETS OF FOOTSTEPS LEAVE)  
9  
10 RICHARDS (FADING AS THEY WALK OUT) Well, all I got to say is  
11 anybody dumb enough to put his finger on top of the  
12 cutting blade screw while the machine's on deserves...  
13  
14 JOSIE My stop, too, Kate. Sure you won't join Dave and me for  
15 lunch?  
16  
17 KATE (LAUGHS) I'm sure. Thanks anyway.  
18  
19 EFX (JOSIE'S FOOTSTEPS FADE, SOUND OF ELEVATOR DOOR CLOSING)  
20  
21 ELEVATOR (FILTER) Going down.  
22  
23 EFX (HUM OF ELEVATOR, THEN SCREECH OF METAL, A LOUD RATTLING  
24 JOLT, SCREAM, LOUD THUMP AND STRUGGLING SOUNDS AS THE  
25 TWO PASSENGERS FALL AGAINST EACH OTHER)  
26  
27 FRANK Watch where you're going!  
28  
29 KATE Sorry...  
30  
31 FRANK Hey, what happened to the lights?  
32  
33

1 KATE The elevator stopped.  
2  
3  
4 FRANK How can I read if the lights are out?  
5  
6  
7 KATE Let's hope it's just temporary. (SOUNDS OF NAILS ACROSS  
8 METAL AS SHE GROPEs HER WAY TO THE CONTROL PANEL.)  
9 There should be an alarm button here somewhere.  
10  
11  
12 FRANK (IRRITATED) Well, press it!  
13  
14  
15 KATE (SNAPS) I AM pressing it! I'm pressing everything and  
16 nothing works!  
17  
18  
19 FRANK Here, let me see. (SOUND OF FOOT KICKING BONE)  
20  
21  
22 KATE Ow! That was my ankle. Watch what you're doing! (SOUND  
23 OF HOBBLING OUT OF HARM'S WAY)  
24  
25  
26 FRANK Sorry. It's dark in here. The lights are out.  
27  
28  
29 KATE (GRUMBLING) Is that a fact!  
30  
31  
32 EFX (RAPID FIRE CLICKS AS BUTTONS ARE PUSHED, ACCOMPANIED  
33 BY CONTINUTAL MUTTERINGS, AND FINALLY HEAVY POUNDING)  
34  
35  
36 KATE What do you think you're doing to those buttons? If you  
37 break something, we'll never get out!  
38  
39  
40 FRANK Don't worry. I have a car just like this. (SOUNDS OF  
41 POUNDING METAL) A born lemon, cursed from its birth in  
42 Detroit. (MORE POUNDING) You just have to show it who's  
43 boss. Come on, you, get going! (POUNDING, KICKING)  
44  
45 KATE (MUTTERING TO SELF OVER THE POUNDING) Great! Just my  
46 luck to be in a stalled elevator with some weirdo, who  
47 repairs machinery with insult and intimidation!  
48

1  
2 FRANK (POUNDING SUDDENLY STOPS) Yes!  
3  
4  
5 KATE (EXCITED) What is it? Do you hear something? Did  
6 somebody hear you?  
7  
8  
9 FRANK Found the emergency phone. (PICKS UP RECEIVER) Hey,  
10 we're in here. The lights are out!  
11  
12  
13 KATE Tell them we're between the thirteenth and fourteenth  
14 floors.  
15  
16  
17 FRANK We're stuck on the elevator between the thirteenth and  
18 fourteenth floors. It's as black as a coal mine at  
19 midnight here. We need candles. A bottle of champagne  
20 and caviar would be welcomed also. Uh, Miss, you do  
21 like caviar, don't you?  
22  
23  
24 KATE What? I guess so. Say, who are you talking to? When are  
25 we going to get out of here? What happened, anyway?  
26  
27  
28 FRANK The elevator's on strike. But the good news is, they're  
29 sitting down at the bargaining table.  
30  
31  
32 KATE What?! Give me that phone!  
33  
34  
35 FRANK Sure. Help yourself.  
36  
37  
38 KATE Where are you?  
39  
40  
41 FRANK Here, of course!  
42  
43  
44 EFX (SOUNDS OF STUMBLING FOOTSTEPS, RUNNING INTO WALL OF  
45 ELEVATOR, SCRAPE OF FINGERNAILS ON WALL, THEN...)  
46  
47  
48 FRANK Ow! That's my face you're clawing!

1  
2  
3 KATE Oh, I'm so sorry! Are you bleeding?  
4  
5  
6 FRANK (GASPS, PANICKY) Yes! Yes, I am. I'm bleeding!  
7  
8  
9 KATE Just a minute. I have a band aid in my purse.  
10  
11  
12 FRANK (IN DISPAIR) You'll never find it in the dark. I'll  
13 live. Maybe.  
14  
15  
16 KATE (FUMBLING IN PURSE ALL THE WHILE) Here it is. I always  
17 carry a little zipper bag for emergencies. You know,  
18 rubber bands, paper clips, scissors, needle and thread,  
19 a button or two, and band aids. Hold your hand out, and  
20 I'll give it to you.  
21  
22  
23 FRANK (BOTH AWED AND ANNOYED) Good Lord, what organization!  
24  
25  
26 KATE Here it is. (SOUND OF ZIPPER, THEN OF KATE RIPPING  
27 PAPER OFF BANDAID) Hold out your hand.  
28  
29  
30 FRANK No, no, you do it. I can't stand the sight of blood.  
31  
32  
33 KATE But it's too dark to see anything!  
34  
35  
36 FRANK Blood is blood!  
37  
38  
39 KATE All right, show me where to put it.  
40  
41  
42 EFX (TWO SETS OF FEET SHUFFLING, GRUNTS AS THEY BUMP INTO  
43 EACH OTHER. KATE'S STOMACH GROWLS)  
44  
45 FRANK (EXCITED) Did you hear something just then? Like a  
46 muffled yell?  
47  
48

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1 KATE (ANNOYED AND EMBARRASSED) No! I didn't! Now where does  
2 this go? Here?  
3  
4  
5 FRANK (GASPS IN PAIN) Yeah, that'll do. Say, you got a permit  
6 for those fingernails?  
7  
8  
9 KATE Humph! Where's the phone?  
10  
11  
12 FRANK Here... (HOLLOW SOUND OF RECEIVER BANGING ON A HEAD)  
13  
14  
15 KATE Ow! Give me that! (FUMBLING CHANGE OF HANDS) Hello, the  
16 elevator's stopped between . . . Hello. Hello? Is  
17 anyone there? Hello? (PAUSES) Who were you talking to?  
18 The line's dead.  
19  
20  
21 FRANK Yeah, I know. The phone's on strike too. Everything's  
22 on strike! They should never let union members make  
23 elevators, or telephones. Gives the things ideas.  
24  
25  
26 KATE You seem to think machinery is alive.  
27  
28  
29 FRANK Not only alive, it's perverse!  
30  
31  
32 KATE (SARCASTIC) I suppose you threaten to shoot your car if  
33 it gets a flat tire.  
34  
35  
36 FRANK Do you think it would help?  
37  
38  
39 KATE (ATTEMPTS TO SMOTHER A LAUGH) But . . . (GIGGLES) but  
40 if you knew the phone was dead, why on earth were you  
41 talking about candles and champagne?  
42  
43  
44 FRANK I LIKE candles and champagne.  
45  
46  
47 KATE This is ridiculous! I like candles and champagne, too.  
48 But not at a time like this!

1  
2  
3 FRANK Why not? What else is there to do? I can't read without  
4 light.  
5  
6  
7 KATE (SARCASTIC) How about trying to get us out of here. Did  
8 you ever think of that?  
9  
10  
11 FRANK I kicked the door. At least, I think it was the door.  
12 It didn't open.  
13  
14  
15 KATE Look, we've got to be calm about this and use our  
16 heads.  
17  
18  
19 FRANK Okay. What do we do?  
20  
21  
22 KATE Let me think. The elevator's stopped, the lights are  
23 out, the phone's dead, and we're stuck between floors.  
24 Say, isn't there usually a ceiling panel that lifts  
25 out? I've see it in the movies. The hero climbs out and  
26 shinnies up the cable to the floor above.  
27  
28  
29 FRANK Yeah, I saw that film, too.  
30  
31  
32 KATE So?  
33  
34  
35 FRANK So? So what?  
36  
37  
38 KATE So find the loose panel, climb out and shinny up!  
39  
40  
41 FRANK Me?(LAUGHS) No way.  
42  
43 KATE (ANNOYED) What's so funny? Boys are always climbing up  
44 trees and ropes and things. You must have done it in  
45 P.E. at school, if nowhere else.  
46  
47  
48 FRANK You know what I did during P.E.? Kept bees.

1  
2  
3 KATE (STUNNED) Kept . . . bees?  
4  
5  
6 FRANK I went to a private school. The biology teacher had six  
7 beehives and needed an assistant. I don't like sports.  
8 A guy can get hurt out there! Anyway, none of the other  
9 fellows volunteered. They were afraid of getting stung.  
10  
11  
12 KATE Didn't you?  
13  
14  
15 FRANK Get stung? No, bees don't sting, if you're not afraid  
16 of them. I've carried swarms on my arm and brushed them  
17 off into new hives. Bees don't bother you, if you know  
18 how to handle them. You have to be gentle, but firm.  
19  
20  
21 KATE Oh. (LONG PAUSE) So you're not going to climb up the  
22 cable.  
23  
24  
25 FRANK Absolutely not. A guy could get hurt out there.  
26  
27  
28 KATE I see. Okay, then, how about helping me up.  
29  
30  
31 FRANK (SURPRISED AND ADMIRING) Are you going to climb up the  
32 cable?  
33  
34  
35 KATE It may not be necessary. We should be just below the  
36 doors on the fourteenth floor. If they're open, we can  
37 get out easily. If not . . . Well, we really ought to  
38 see what the situation is.  
39  
40  
41 FRANK All right. What do you want me to do?  
42  
43 KATE Brace yourself against the wall. I'm taking off my  
44 shoes, then I'll climb up on your back. We'll just have  
45 to probe, until we find the panel. If there is one.  
46  
47

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1 FRANK There better be one! Unngh. Watch out. Your foot's in  
2 my coat pocket.  
3  
4

5 KATE I'm going to have to sit on your shoulders. The  
6 ceiling's not high enough for me to stand. (SOUNDS OF  
7 HEAVY BREATHING AND MOVING AROUND) There, is that all  
8 right? Am...am I too heavy for you?  
9

10

11 FRANK It's fine, fine. Do you feel anything?  
12  
13

14 KATE Feel? Oh, um, uh... (SCRATCHING OF FINGERNAILS ON  
15 CEILING) There's nothing loose just above me. Take a  
16 few steps to the right.  
17  
18

19 EFX (STUMBLING, RUNNING INTO WALL)  
20  
21

22 KATE I said to the right! We'll go clockwise around the  
23 walls until we get back to the doors. Since we can't  
24 see anything, we have to be systematic to make sure  
25 we've covered the entire area.  
26  
27

28 FRANK Sorry. I always get right and left mixed up.  
29  
30

31 EFX (SCRATCHING OF FINGERNAILS ON CEILING)  
32  
33

34 KATE (EXICTED) This panel's loose! (SOUND OF SHOVING IT  
35 ASIDE) Feel the cool air? I think I can get through, if  
36 I stand on your shoulders.  
37  
38

39 FRANK (SOUND OF SHUFFLING FEET AND GRUNTING) Okay, I've got  
40 you. Do you see any light? What's out there?  
41  
42  
43

2/26/2012

1 KATE (FILTER) No. No, I don't see any light. It's cold out  
2 here, dark. I can smell oil and metal (FINGERNAILS  
3 SCRATCHING METAL) Oh! I feel the cable. It's greasy.  
4 (MORE SCRATCHING) Here's the door! We must be just  
5 below the Fourteenth floor! (POUNDS ON DOOR) Hello!  
6 Does anyone hear me? (POUNDS AGAIN) We're stuck on the  
7 elevator. Hello! Hello! Hello? (SIGHS) There must be a  
8 general power outage. Everybody's probably gone down  
9 the emergency stairs. I don't see any light anywhere.  
10 I'll leave the panel open, so it won't be so stuffy  
11 inside. I'm coming down now.  
12  
13  
14 FRANK Okay, I've...  
15  
16  
17 KATE (SCREAMS, RIP OF CLOTH, TWO BODIES FALLING, GRUNTS AND  
18 GASPS, SILENCE A MOMENT, THEN ...)  
19  
20  
21 FRANK (MUFFLED) You alright?  
22  
23  
24 KATE I...I think so, once I get untangled. My foot slipped  
25 into your coat pocket again. How about you? You were on  
26 the bottom.  
27  
28  
29 FRANK I still am.  
30  
31  
32 KATE Oh. Sorry. (SOUNDS OF MOVING ABOUT)  
33  
34  
35 FRANK What are you looking for?  
36  
37  
38 KATE My jacket. I took it off to climb up and now, with the  
39 panel open, it's drafty.  
40  
41  
42 EFX (SOUNDS OF TWO PEOPLE CRAWING AROUND)  
43  
44  
45  
46 FRANK Found it! But this jacket won't keep you very warm.  
47 Let's sit on it and cover ourselves with my overcoat.  
48 It's bigger and heavier.

1  
2 KATE (GLOOMY) Might as well. Looks like we're here for the  
3 duration.  
4  
5  
6 FRANK Looks like.  
7  
8  
9 EFX (SOUNDS OF TWO PEOPLE BREATHING A MINUTE OR TWO)  
10  
11  
12 KATE (ABRUPT) It seems like we've been in here forever!  
13  
14  
15 FRANK Best not to think about that.  
16  
17  
18 KATE I can't help it. I'm starving!  
19  
20  
21 FRANK Oh, if that's all . . . (SOUND OF TWO CLICKS, LIKE  
22 LATCHES ON A BRIEFCASE) Caviar, *mademoiselle*?  
23  
24  
25 KATE Caviar?! What...?  
26  
27  
28 FRANK Here, give me your hand. There!  
29  
30  
31 KATE Wha... It's a sandwich! (RUSTLE OF PAPER)  
32 Mmmm...(MUNCHING SOUNDS AS SHE SPEAKS) Marvelous! What  
33 is it?  
34  
35  
36 FRANK Garlic salami. Don't worry, I'll have a couple of bites  
37 in self-defense.  
38  
39  
40 KATE (LAUGHS) Here, your turn.  
41  
42  
43 FRANK Thanks. Hey, you're shivering! Snuggle up closer!  
44 (EATING SOUNDS, THEN..) You take the rest. Y'know,  
45 maybe if we close our eyes, it won't seem so dark. We  
46 can pretend we're somewhere else.  
47  
48

1 KATE Okay. My eyes are closed. Where are we?  
2  
3  
4 FRANK Tahaiti. In hammocks in Tahaiti. Gently swaying in the  
5 warm, tropical breeze.  
6  
7  
8 KATE Tahiti? Hm... (SARCASTIC) I suppose there are a dozen  
9 native girls hovering over you.  
10  
11  
12 FRANK At least a dozen! Peeling bananas, breaking open  
13 coconuts . . .  
14  
15  
16 KATE So where am I?  
17  
18  
19 FRANK You're in another hammock, surrounded by a dozen native  
20 men.  
21  
22  
23 KATE Peeling coconuts and breaking open bananas.  
24  
25  
26 FRANK (LAUGHS) You got it. Meanwhile, the sensuous rhythms of  
27 Caribbean music come wafting across---  
28  
29 KATE Wait a minute. Caribbean? I thought we were in Tahiti.  
30 Tahiti's in the Pacific.  
31  
32 FRANK No, it's not. Tahaiti's in the Caribbean, not far from  
33 Cuba.  
34  
35  
36 KATE That's Haiti! Where they have witchdoctors and voodoo.  
37  
38  
39 FRANK It is? Tahaiti?  
40  
41  
42 KATE I wondered why you were pronouncing it funny. Here we  
43 are in Tahaiti, gently swaying on skewers over a warm,  
44 tropical fire, surrounded by a dozen native witch  
45 doctors rattling bones and shrinking heads. THAT  
46 certainly takes you away from everyday problems like  
47 stalled elevators!  
48

1  
2 FRANK You're sure about this. Haiti?  
3  
4  
5 KATE Haiti.  
6  
7  
8 FRANK Hm.  
9  
10  
11 KATE (SILENCE, THEN SIGHS...) The worst of it is, nobody  
12 knows we're here.  
13  
14  
15 FRANK We know we're here.  
16  
17  
18 KATE (EXASPERATED) How is that going to help us get out?  
19  
20  
21 FRANK I didn't say it would. But it's an interesting  
22 metaphysical point. Are we really here? For example, is  
23 there a sound when a tree falls in a forest with no one  
24 there to hear it?  
25  
26  
27 KATE Of course, there's a sound!  
28  
29  
30 FRANK But how can there be, if there are no eardrums to  
31 receive the vibrations and turn them into sound? Just  
32 so, no one knows we're in this elevator. So maybe,  
33 we're not here at all. Reality consists of people's  
34 perceptions. If no one perceives us here, we don't  
35 exist.  
36  
37  
38 KATE (EXASPERATED) In that case, maybe you're just a figment  
39 of my imagination!  
40  
41  
42 FRANK Exactly! 'An undigested bit of beef'.  
43  
44  
45 KATE (CONFUSED) Wha . . . Beef?  
46

1 FRANK Dickens. 'A Christmas Carol'. You know, when Marley's  
2 ghost appears to Scrooge, he thinks it's because of  
3 something he ate.  
4  
5  
6 KATE (SLIGHT HYSTERICAL GIGGLE) Wha... What are you, anyway?  
7 I mean, who are you?  
8  
9  
10 FRANK Frank De Luca. Pleased to meet you. I'm the new  
11 assistant professor in the University's World  
12 Literature department.  
13  
14  
15 KATE Ahhh... I'm Kate O'Connor. I got a Master's in Math at  
16 the U last spring and have been working part-time sales  
17 jobs ever since. I came here to the Federal Building to  
18 take the CPA exam. Why are you here?  
19  
20  
21 FRANK I renewed my driver's license. My birthday's next week,  
22 February 13th.  
23  
24  
25 KATE My birthday's next week too, the 15th!  
26  
27  
28 FRANK You're kidding! We ought to celebrate together on the  
29 14th, Valentine's Day! Champagne. Caviar . . .  
30  
31  
32 KATE What a great idea! And candles, too. Let's not forget  
33 the candles! After being in the dark so long, I want  
34 some light!  
35  
36  
37 EFX (GRINDING OF GEARS, JERKY SOUND, THEN HUM OF ELEVATOR)  
38  
39  
40 FRANK Wow! It's like magic! You say you want light and it  
41 comes on! Plus, the elevator's moving again! Sooo...  
42 Now I get to see the mystery lady, who's been sitting  
43 beside me, sharing my coat... Ahh... I thought from  
44 your voice you'd be blond.  
45  
46

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1 KATE You thought from my voice that my hair would be blond?!  
2 Weird! But it so happens I was blond as a child, then  
3 it turned red.  
4  
5  
6 FRANK Not red, copper! Looks good with your green eyes...  
7 accented by a grease smudge...  
8  
9  
10 KATE Grease? Oh, no! Where? But you have a smear too, around  
11 your mouth.  
12  
13  
14 FRANK I thought the salami tasted slightly off... Here, hold  
15 still while I wipe the grease away with my handkerchief  
16 ... There, that's better.  
17  
18  
19 KATE My turn. Give me the handkerchief. Well, well, well!  
20 What have we here?  
21  
22  
23 FRANK (NERVOUS) Wh.. What's wrong??  
24  
25  
26 KATE (GENTLE LAUGH) Nothing's wrong... Black hair, dark  
27 eyes. Hmmm... Italian and Irish. Will that work?  
28  
29  
30 FRANK Let's see. (PROLONGED KISSING SOUNDS, THEN...) Oh! I've  
31 thought of one more thing for our birthday celebration  
32 to remind us of this special day.  
33  
34  
35 KATE (NUZZLING) Mmmmmmmmmmm.... What's that?  
36  
37  
38 FRANK Garlic salami.  
39  
40  
41 KATE (LAUGHS) You're such a romantic, Professor De Luca!  
42 (PROLONGED NOISY KISSING TO END)  
43  
44  
45 EFX (ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN, GASPS AND CRIES OF SURPRISE FROM  
46 PEOPLE OUTSIDE)  
47  
48