

Stuck

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INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

JOSH (21) enters the elevator. TONY (49) is already in the lift. Josh recognises Tony, however, tries to keep it cool and avoids eye contact with him.

They stand next to each other as the elevator doors shut. As the elevator goes up a few floors, they both gaze into space. All of a sudden, the elevator rattles - they're stuck.

Tony takes a look at his wristwatch and heaves a sigh. He then pushes the alarm bell.

JOSH

Excuse me Sir, are you Mr. Ramazotti?

TONY

Yes, that's me. Do we know each other?

Josh extends his hand. Tony just looks at it.

JOSH

Not yet. We're supposed to have a meeting in a couple of minutes.

TONY

Yeah, sorry. I'm gonna be late for that.

They chuckle.

JOSH

I'm Josh Hughes. It's an honour to meet you, Mr. Ramazotti.

TONY

Well, Josh. Why don't you just save us both time and pitch the idea now.

JOSH

An actual elevator pitch?  
(laughs)

Tony is unamused.

TONY

Go ahead!

JOSH

Right, so my idea...

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - DAY

Shot of a busy Cafe.

JOSH (V.O.)  
...follows a story of a man...

TONY (V.O.)  
What kind of man?

JOSH (V.O.)  
\*Describes himself\*

TONY (V.O.)  
So... you?

JOSH (V.O.)  
Well...Yes.

Jump cut to Josh appearing on one of the empty seats.

JOSH (V.O.)  
You could say that...

TONY (V.O.)  
Right.

JOSH (V.O.)  
You know, I recently was at a cafe;  
writing.

Jump cut to Josh's notebook and laptop appearing on his table.

JOSH (V.O.)  
There was this song they kept on loop.  
And when I left for home...

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Josh walks down an empty street.

JOSH (V.O.)  
...it got bloody stuck in my head. It  
wasn't even a good song!

Josh continues to walk down the street while he snaps and hums to a tune.

Josh halts and ponders.

JOSH (V.O.)  
That got me thinking... You know how  
we often get stuck in life?

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Josh and Tony still stuck in the elevator.

TONY  
Get to the story.

JOSH  
Right. Sorry. So...

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - DAY

Josh at the table, brainstorming, with his notebook and laptop in front of him. He types on his laptop and then stops. He types again, deletes it and repeats...

JOSH (V.O.)  
...this man sits in the Cafe. He is in  
the midst of writing his novel. But  
just nothing will come to his mind. He  
had this great idea but now it's not  
so great anymore. He needs a break. As  
he tries to stand up, this man pushes  
his chair backwards and hits the chair  
behind him. He is stuck. He manoeuvres  
his left leg from under the table to  
give way for him to pick up his bag.  
He reaches for his bag but it is stuck  
under the leg of his chair.

The actions happen simultaneously as Josh explains.

Josh then ponders, gazes into space -- the epiphany hits him.

JOSH (V.O.)  
Then a moment of epiphany strikes him.

Background music (non-diegetic) gradually comes in. It gets louder and louder.

Slow track into Josh's expression as we...

CUT TO:

A MONTAGE:

1. Stuck in traffic
2. Shoe stuck in mud
3. Jam jar that is stuck and will not open
4. Blood transfusion - blood flows down a tube but gets stuck
5. Video game - stuck?

*THESE ARE PLACEHOLDERS -- THE ACTUAL IMAGES ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION. WHATEVER IDEAS YOU HAVE, NOTE THEM DOWN.*

Tony's voice suddenly emerges from this experimental bit...

TONY (V.O.)

I can't follow where this is going.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Josh stares blankly at Tony.

JOSH

I-- We-Well...

TONY

What is the point of this "Story" as you call it?

JOSH

That's the thing... I'm stuck.

The lift bell rings and the doors open.

CUT TO: BLACK

END.