

Lights up on the elevator of a luxury apartment building in Jersey City. Muzak, elevator music devoid of all soul and feeling, plays softly in the background. BLAKE sits on a wooden stool in front of the call buttons. He is dressed in a highly stylized uniform that makes him look like a cross between a bell hop at the Plaza and a member of the Shriners. Blake has a lot of hearing loss and speaks loudly as a result.

BLAKE

(fiddling with a button on his uniform)

Darn button never stays buttoned. It's going to bother me all day, I can tell already. I've got a right mind to tell that Mr. Andrews what I think of these cheap uniforms. Back in my day if you took the time to make a shirt, you made it right! Oh drat, I forgot to wish my wife/husband happy birthday this morning.

Blake hits a button and a loud ringing can be heard coming from the elevator speaker. There is a flash of static as the call is answered.

INTERCOM VOICE

(distorted through the elevator speaker)

What can I do for you, Blake?

BLAKE

(hitting the talk button)

Hey Jamie, I just remembered it's my wife's/husband's birthday today. Could you put a note on my locker reminding me to pick them up something on the way home?

INTERCOM VOICE

Sure thing, Blake. Wouldn't want you on the outs with your spouse. I'm going on my lunch break so I'll do it right now.

BLAKE

(hitting the talk button)

Thanks, Jamie.

The line goes dead.

BLAKE

Can't believe I forgot.

The elevator dings indicating that it has been called to a floor.

BLAKE

Here we go. Let's see, 8th floor. Oh God please don't let it be that punk kid Casey. It's too early in the morning to deal with his stupidity.

The elevator door opens to reveal CASEY dressed in a Scooby Doo costume. He wears a backpack over one shoulder. The sounds of Bob Marley's "Jammin" erupt loudly from his headphones and spill out into the elevator. He has his eyes closed and doesn't notice the open elevator door.

CASEY

(singing along very off key)

WE'RE JAMMIN  
I WANNA JAM IT WITH YOU  
WE'RE JAMMIN JAMMIN  
AND I HOPE YOU LIKE JAMMIN TOO

BLAKE

(Giving Casey a once over)

Casey, what in tarnation are you supposed to be?

CASEY

(noticing him, very excited)

Oh hey! How's it going G?

Casey turns off the music and hops into the elevator on one foot, making a game of it. He tries to give Blake a "fist bump" but gets no response so he fist bumps himself and then does the "blow it up" gesture.

BLAKE

Were you dropped on your head as a child? Repeatedly?

CASEY

I don't think so. Why, what have you heard?

BLAKE

You need to stop messing with drugs and focus on your school work.

CASEY

I don't use... *(Indicating Scooby Doo costume)* Oh, you think... chill. It's all good. I got a job working kids parties. This is my costume for today's gig.

BLAKE

That's the oddest looking clown get up I've ever seen.

CASEY

No, it's not a clown. It's Scooby Doo.

BLAKE

What a who?

CASEY

Scooby Doo. Come on, you know Scooby Doo, right? *(In the voice of Scooby Doo.)*  
Scooby-doobie-doo!

BLAKE

*(to himself)*

There's something wrong with that child.

CASEY

Scooby Doo is the best. And its so much better than when I have to dress up like Dora the Explorer.

BLAKE

Kid, I didn't understand a lick of what you just said and I think it's better that way. You going to the lobby I take it.

CASEY

Yeah. And can you step on it? I was supposed to be at the Miranda party 20 minutes ago.

BLAKE

For the love of spit. Kids today have no work ethic. This country is doomed.

CASEY

*(assumed)*

Blake, you say the funniest things.

BLAKE

That's Mr. Miller to you. In my day young people had more respect for adults.

CASEY

(laughing)

I hear you bro. And everyone was riding dinosaurs back then too, am I right Blake?

BLAKE

I give up.

Blake hits a button and the elevator door closes.

BLAKE

Next stop, the lobby.

A short beat of silence.

CASEY

(singing very off key and dancing)

WE'RE JAMMIN

I WANNA JAM IT WITH YOU

BLAKE

Will you stand still and stop singing please!

CASEY

Come on, Blakie: don't be a buzzkill. Bob Marley is the man! Who's your favorite singer?

BLAKE

Robert Goulet.

CASEY

Goulet? Sounds like a zombie. *(Beat)* Are we at the lobby yet? Man this elevator is slow.

BLAKE

It's fifty years old. You have to be patient.

CASEY

Fifty years? So it was made in the 1820s or something.

BLAKE

The kid can't even do basic arithmetic these days. This country is doomed.

The elevator comes to a stop.

CASEY

Finally, we're here!

The elevator doors open to reveal MICKEY, a very buff body-builder in a white tank top and tight jeans who is chewing gum loudly; DAPHNE, a dyed blonde wearing matching blue velour pants and a top; and CHRIS, who is dressed in a formal outfit and reading a copy of *The Wall Street Times*.

CASEY

(hoping out of the elevator)

Thanks G. See you later.

MICKEY

(flexing his muscles as he points, trying to show off)

Look babe, that kids dressed like Scooby.

DAPHNE

Oh, I love dogs. They're the cutest!

MICKEY

(a little annoyed that she didn't comment on his muscles)

Yeah. Dogs are great.

Chris, noticing Casey's outfit, rolls his eyes and gets on to the elevator.

CASEY

Thanks. I'd love to stay and talk Scooby but I have a party to get to. (*Patting his pockets under the costume.*) Hey, where did I put my keys? And my wallet?

BLAKE

(to Chris)

Good Morning. Where are you headed?

CHRIS

The 12th floor. And hurry please. I'm meeting my boss and she hates it when I'm late.

BLAKE

Everyone's in a hurry these days. 12th floor it is.

DAPHNE

Mickey, can we go play with puppies at the pet store?

MICKEY

Maybe later. I told you I wanted to cook you lunch.

Daphne and Mickey get on the elevator.

MICKEY

(to Blake)

15th floor please.

Casey leaps back in the elevator loudly.

MICKEY

Watch where you're going dog.

BLAKE

I thought you had a party to get to?

CASEY

I forgot my keys and wallet in the apartment. I have to go back.

BLAKE

Be more careful next time. You could break the elevator with all that wild jumping around.

CHRIS

Can we please go? Some of us are in a hurry.

BLAKE

We're on our way now.

Blake hits a button and the elevator doors start to close.

LOGAN

(calling from off stage)

HOLD THE ELEVATOR!

CHRIS

Oh for the love of God.

BLAKE

(hits a button and the doors stop closing)

Is that my friend Logan?

Logan rushes in front of the elevator pushing two large packages on a dolly. He is dressed in the typical uniform of an package delivery person.

LOGAN

Morning, Blake. Got a rush delivery for Mrs. Martin on 18.

BLAKE

We're pretty full, Logan. You should take the next one.

LOGAN

Please, Blake? I've got two more stops on this run and I'm trying to make it to my cousin's birthday party and it started twenty minutes ago.

CASEY

The Miranda party?

LOGAN

How did you know?

CASEY

I'm working that gig. You're fine.

BLAKE

Okay, alright. Get in.

Logan gets on with the packages and dolly. Everyone in the elevator has to shift to make room. Things are crowded now. Chris is visibility annoyed.

CHRIS

Hey I'm trying to read the paper here!

LOGAN

Sorry.

CHRIS

Can we please go now?

BLAKE

On our way.

Blake hits a button. The elevator doors close.

BLAKE

Next stop, 8th floor.

CHRIS

(annoyed)

8th? Who's going to the 8th floor?

BLAKE

The dog.

CHRIS

Wonderful. If I'm late for my meeting, Mrs. Barvey won't be happy.

CASEY

Sorry. Forgot my keys and wallet.

CHRIS

Whatever Scooby.

CASEY

(to Blake)

See, he knows who Scooby Doo is!

DAPHNE

I thought you were going to take me go-kart racing, Mickey?

MICKEY

Jimmie's Go-Karts ain't open. Remember we drove by there first, and it was closed?

DAPHNE

(she doesn't remember)

Oh, right.

BLAKE

Jimmie's Go-Karts got shut down. Turns out Jimmie there was keeping two sets of books. The IRS got wise and seized the business.

DAPHNE

Why should the government care what Jimmie reads?

CHRIS

Is she serious?

MICKEY

Look, Daphne, forget about Jimmie's Go-Karts. I'm going to cook up lunch and then we can watch a movie or something.

DAPHNE

Can we watch *Finding Nemo*?

MICKEY

Sure.

DAPHNE

In 3-D?

MICKEY

Whatever you want.

CASEY

Oh I love that flick! Can I come?

DAPHNE

Mickey, why is Scooby talking to me like he knows me? (*To Casey.*) You don't know me. Do you, dog?

CASEY

Um... no.

DAPHNE

That's right. You don't. So don't go getting all informal with my person. Got it?

CASEY

Yeah. Sorry. I didn't mean anything by it.

CHRIS

How slow is this elevator? I'm going to be late.

BLAKE

We're almost at the 8th floor, sir. I'll have you on the 12th floor in less than a minute.

There a loud crashing sound, the elevator shakes violently, and then comes to a complete stop. Everyone is knocked off balance in the process.

MICKEY

What was that?

Mickey save me!

DAPHNE

Oh no, not this again.

BLAKE

Wha-wha-wha-wha-what's happening?

LOGAN

(stuttering)

It's the mothership calling me home!

CASEY

Everyone relax. This happens some times with these old elevators. I'll call down and they'll get us moving again in a jiffy.

BLAKE

Wait, are you saying we're stuck?

CHRIS

Afraid so.

BLAKE

Blake hits a button and a loud ringing can be heard coming from the elevator speaker.

For how long?

CHRIS

Hard to say. Could be a few minutes. Could be an hour or two. Why isn't Jamie answering the line?

BLAKE

An hour! I'm going to get fired.

CHRIS

Oh wait, Jamie went to lunch. No one's on the other end.

BLAKE

Blake hits the button again and the ringing stops.

So we can't call anyone for help.

CHRIS