Devil - Script for 1292

Narrator: When I was a child, my mother would tell me a story: about how the devil roams the Earth.

Narrator: Sometimes, she said, he would take human form, so he could punish the damned on the Earth before claiming their souls. The ones he chose would be gathered together, and tortured as he hid amongst them, pretending to be one of them.

Narrator: I always believed my mother was telling me an old wives' tale.

@A

/Vince and Jane enter the elevator/

/Elevator people walk towards the elevator/

Anthony: Uh, could you hold that?

Vince: This I can do.
Anthony: Thanks. (walks in the elevator)

Ben: Hold on. (stops elevator door)

Sarah: Ah, wait! (walks in the elevator)

/All lights off/

Narrator: My mother's story would always begin the same way: the Devil would gather all who were to be punished -- and it would end with the deaths of all of those trapped.

@B

/Lights on/

/Elevator goes up/ (elevator music) (rumbling sound)

Vince: (starts to play with his cellphone)

/Elevator suddenly stops/

(elevator music)

Anthony: Uh-oh, this is not good.
Old woman: What's going on?

Ben: (pokes elevator) Oh, come on, man.

Vince: (looks up) Huh?

Sarah: (sighs) This is great.

@A
(Ramirez walks in, Lustig is reading newspaper)

Ramirez: Anything new?

Lustig: Jeremy Lin won the game... again.

Ramirez: (sits down, pauses and nudges Lustig) Hey, why's elevator six inspection mode?

Lustig: Huh? (looks at monitor)

Ramirez: Elevator six.

Lustig: Ah. Call Dwight, see if he's up to something.
Ramirez: Right. (speaks into walkie-talkie) Hey Dwight, we've got a problem here.

Dwight: (walkie-talkie) Tell me about it -- I'm already up on 35 fixing it.

Ramirez: The elevator?

Dwight: (walkie-talkie) No, the broken window.

Lustig: What broken window?

Dwight: (walkie-talkie) There's a broken window up on 35.

Lustig: So you're not fixing the elevator? Screen says six is on inspection mode. We've got people stuck in there.

Dwight: (walkie-talkie) -- okay, I'll go take a look.

@B

Ben: (hits elevator buttons) -- Just trying to get something to jump-start it.

Jane: Don't you have emergency procedures?
Ben: I don't know. I'm just a temp. I just started working here.

Jane: Well, don't you service these things?

Anthony: (annoyed) Try hitting the emergency button.

Ben: (pushes the emergency button)

(Alarm ringing)

Jane: Don't you keep up your equipment?

Ben: I don't know. Like I said--

Jane: Don't you have a walkie-talkie?

Ben: No, I didn't think I would need it.

Jane: Don't you think it would have been --

Ben: Can't you just shut up?

Anthony: Hey, take it easy.
Vince: You *don’t* have a walkie-talkie?

Lustig: (over intercom) Hey people, we see you in there.

Jane: We're stuck!

Lustig: (over intercom) Hang tough, we got the building engineer on his way.

Vince: Yeah, whatever.

Lustig: (over intercom) I can't hear what you're saying. Can one of you look towards the camera and say something loud and clear, please?

Vince: (looks towards the camera sarcastically) Your building sucks!

Lustig: (over intercom) I can't hear you. The speaker in the car is supposed to let us talk both ways, but you can hear me?

Ben: (yells) It's working on this end, yeah!
Jane: He just said he can't hear us, he didn't say we should talk louder.

Ben: (glares at Jane)

Lustig: (over intercom) Uh, give us a sec.

Sarah: Well, this is reassuring. (checks watch) I have to be somewhere.

(elevator music resumes)

Vince: Well, at least we got tunes. (vocalizing)

Vince: Come on, grandma, you know the words.

Sarah: Don't be a jerk.

Anthony: Maybe we should just stop talking for a while.

Vince: Sure.

Vince: (vocalizing)
/Other people glare at Vince/

Vince: Okay, I was joking. Just joking.

Narrator: In her story, innocent people always die. Poor souls just trying to help out, who didn't realize what they were dealing with. He doesn't take kindly to those who stand in his way.

@A

Dwight: (walkie-talkie) Hey Lustig, it doesn't say inspection mode here. Circuits look fine.

Lustig: (into walkie-talkie) Okay. Try flipping the switch for elevator six. I'll tell the people in the car.

@B

Vince: "Inspected and certified August 12 by G. Carson." Hey, what do you say we go visit G. Carson when we're out of here? Tell him what we think of his inspecting prowess.
(elevator music)

Anthony: Oh, my god. They just keep playing this song over and over and over.

Jane: Can't they just turn the music off?

Sarah: Did you just touch my ass?


Sarah: I don't know who you think you are, but keep your hands off me.

Vince: Whatever.

(elevator music keeps playing)

@A@B

Anthony: Turn off the -- (yells) turn off the music!

Lustig: What's wrong with that guy?

Ramirez: Maybe they don't like the music.
Lustig: What, the music's still on? (snickers) Turn it off. It must be driving them crazy.

Ramirez: Okay.

(music stops)

Anthony: (yells) Thank you!

Lustig: (over intercom) People, we're gonna flip off the lights for one sec to see if there’s a short in the breaker.

Jane: Does that mean we could drop?

Lustig: You'll be fine. I just didn't want you to --

/Lights off/

Jane: What's happening?

Vince: Come on!

(whooshing sound) (rumbling) (dun dun dun) (glass breaks)

/Lights on/

/Vince is DEAD/

/Pause/

Sarah: (screams)

/People exclaim/

Lustig: What the --

Dwight: (walkie-talkie) Did it work?

Ramirez: (stares at the monitor) (into walkie-talkie) ... No.

Ramirez: (speaking in Spanish)

Lustig: Ramirez. Ramirez, you're freaking me out.

Lustig: We're calling the police. (turns to phone) (dials)
Hello, this is 333 Locust Street, someone's badly hurt,
possibly dead. We need help immediately. (pauses) Yes, thank you. (hangs up)

Ramirez: (muttering distinctively)

Dwight: (walkie-talkie) Hey, Lustig? I'll go up to the roof, go down from there and see if I can restart the car manually.

Lustig: (into walkie-talkie) Okay, do that.

/random person who works at the building walks in with Bowden/

RP: Sir.

Lustig: That was quick.

Bowden: (looks at monitor) What happened?

Ramirez: I-I'm not really sure.

Bowden: Do we have communication?
Lustig: Yeah, we have an open line right here. You can talk, but you can't hear.

Bowden: (into intercom) Hello, everyone. This is Detective Bowden, Philadelphia P.D. We're working on getting you out of there right now. Please just remain calm.

Bowden: (to Lustig) How soon until we get in?

Lustig: Engineer's working on it right now.

Bowden: I need to know who these people are. Markowitz, get to work.

Markowitz: 'Kay, boss. (walks out of the room)

Lustig: (looks at monitor) Hey, what's going on?

@B

(Loud crashing noise from roof of elevator)

Sarah: What's that noise?

Lustig: (through walkie-talkie) Dwight? Dwight! Where
are you?

Jane: (looks at ceiling) We're being saved.

Lustig: (through walkie-talkie) Dwight, I need you to keep talking so I know what you're doing.

Ben: (looks up) Oh my god, is that... blood?

Anthony: No! (starts beating at roof) Hey! Heeey!

Sarah: (starts screaming at camera)

@A

Bowden: It looks like something happened to your engineer.

Markowitz: Hey, I’ve found something about that old lady, she’s a thief. She stole a woman’s purse in the lobby just today. Looks like she’s called Jane. Jane Kowski.

/Lights in elevator start flashing again/
Ramirez: Look, look!

@B

Ben: Aw man.

Sarah: (starts shivering)

Anthony: They... they must be working on the lights again.

Jane: You have got to be kidding me.

/Lights off/

(thumping) (rumbling) (clamoring) (panicking)

/Lights on/

/Jane is DEAD/

/People clamor and panic and scream and yell/

@A

Bowden: -- I need to get into that elevator now. Lustig, go and help Markowitz with finding out who these people are. Tell the fire department and ask them to please do something.

Ramirez: (kneels to the ground and closes eyes and starts to pray in Spanish)

Bowden: What -- what are you doing?

Ramirez: Praying for these poor souls. They don't know what's happening...

Bowden: So you do?

Ramirez: Detective, I think --

@A

Lustig: (runs in) I think I found something about --

/Lustig splashes a cup of coffee on the table into Bowden/

Lustig: Oops! I'm sorry!
/Bowden takes out his splashed wallet and opens it/

Lustig: Hey, who are they?

Bowden: They are -- my wife and son, killed in a car accident. (turns and concentrates on monitor)

Ramirez: (barges in the conversation) See? I told you. Five people are stuck in elevator without a reason, two of them were killed, and now coffee is splashed on your precious picture.

Bowden: Yeah, what are you trying to say?

Ramirez: Look, how many times have you seen a child fall and barely miss the edge of the table without hitting their head?

Bowden: Get to your point.

Ramirez: I'm trying to say, sometimes he takes human form and torments the damned on earth before stealing
them away.

Ramirez: Where I come from, we call this "The Devil's Meeting".

Bowden: Is this guy for real?

Lustig: (to Ramirez) Stop embarrassing yourself.

Ramirez: You have to consider one of those people might be the devil.

Lustig: All right. Let's go. (pulls Ramirez away)

Bowden: I need you to stop telling campfire stories and get your head in the game.

Markowitz:(rushes in) Interesting news for you guys.

/everyone looks at him/

Markowitz: I've found out something about your guard. He's called Ben Larson, and he beat a guy into coma with a baseball bat two years ago.
Bowden: You hire this kind of guy as your security?

/the elevator lights start to flash/

@B

Sarah: Oh not again, please.

/elevator lights stop flashing/

Sarah: (shivers) (to Ben) I-I don't even know your name.

Ben: I'm Ben. (shakes hands with Sarah)

Anthony: I'm Tony. (waits for the others to shake hands with him)

Anthony: (puts his hand down)

Anthony: (murmurs) You look familiar.

Ben: What?!

Anthony: I think I've seen you on the papers or something. You seem to look like someone who beat another guy into
Ben: You trying to say something? Then say it. Say it!

/Ben throws himself at Anthony and the two start to fight/

Sarah: Kill him, Ben! Kill him before he kills us!
(hysterical)

/Anthony pushes Ben against the wall and starts to strangle him/

Sarah: (screams) No stop! STOP! Somebody help us!
Please!

Bowden: (through intercom) Stop fighting, you two! Back away from each other! Now!

/Anthony and Ben push each other apart/

/elevator lights start to flash again/

(people breathing heavily)
Sarah: (glances at Ben) Don't let him near me.

/the elevator starts to shake, lights off/ (rumbling sound)

Sarah: (screams) Turn on the lights!!!

(Ben's breathing noise)

Ben: Don't... don't you dare...

/lights on/

/Ben lies on the floor, dead/

Sarah: (at Anthony) Oh, my god. It is you.

Anthony: Please, lady. You don't have to pretend anymore. They can't hear you.

Anthony: (pauses and glares at Sarah) We both know who did this.

Sarah: Yeah, we do. (creepily calm)

/Suddenly the two each grab a piece of glass on the floor
and stand ready to attack/

Bowden: (through intercom) Put the glass down! Now!

/they still hold the pieces tight in their hands/

Anthony: I should kill you now, before you do anything else.

Sarah: And what will be your defense, huh? "She killed them all, so I have to kill her"?

Anthony: Yeah, something like that.

Bowden: (through intercom) Put the glass down!

@A@B

Bowden: (at Ramirez) In your story, what should I do?

Ramirez: What do you mean?

Bowden: What should I do to save them?

Ramirez: There is no easy answer. You can't make them
see themselves as they truly are. It's the lies that we tell ourselves. They introduce us to him.

Bowden: (takes a deep breath) (through intercom) Look at what you're doing. Don't think just because I'm a cop, I don't know what you're going through now.

Bowden: The thing is, when you're self-destructing, it looks like the world's fault. But the truth is, you are responsible for this.

Bowden: Take responsibility for what you're doing.

Bowden: Put the glass down.

Sarah: (deep shaky voice) I'll put this down if you do too, okay?

/Sarah throws the glass away and Anthony does so too after hesitating/

Bowden: Good. You're doing the right thing.
Markowitz: Boss, we found a woman who thinks she knows someone in the elevator.

Bowden: Send her in.

Ramirez: They made the choices that brought them here.

Bowden: They just happened to be here.

Ramirez: And I just happened to work here. You just happened to get the call.

Ramirez: There's a reason why we're all here. He never does this in secret. We were made to be the audience.

Bowden: What would happen next, according to your story?

Ramirez: They would all die. (pause) This is not your fault.

/elevator starts to shake again/
/lights flash/

Sarah: Stop it!

Anthony: (groans and bangs his head against the wall)

(rumbling sounds)

Sarah: (screams) Turn on the lights!!

(Sarah screams)

/lights on/

/Sarah lies on the floor with a deep cut on her neck and blood flooding out of it/

/Anthony tries to help her/

Anthony: No don't die, don't die, please don't die...

@A

/Guards and Bowden stare at monitor as Markowitz comes inside/
Markowitz: Boss, this is the woman.

/the woman walks in the office and sees the monitor, where Anthony's surrounded by four dead bodies/

Woman: (gasps) Tony!

Bowden: You know him?

Woman: Yeah. He's my fiance. He's getting a job here today and I was late to pick his things up.

Bowden: What's the name?


Bowden: Jane Kowski is... Janekowski?

Bowden: (pause) Then who's the old lady?

@A@B

/suddenly, Jane stands up from the dead body pile, eyes wide and black/
Jane looks right at Anthony/

Anthony utters a small scream and struggles to get as far away as he can from Jane/

Office people stare at the monitor/

Anthony: (gasps in horror and realization)

Jane: Now you know who I am, don't you?


Jane: Are you ready for your turn now, Anthony?

Anthony: Take me.

Jane: I intend to.

Anthony: N-No. Take me instead. Take me. I deserve this. Don't take her.

Jane: What?
Anthony: I should never have left. It's all my fault. Take me instead.

Jane: (suddenly shouts angrily) Stop saying that! You think you can be forgiven? You think you can make up for the choices you made?

Anthony: No. No, I don't. (grabs the walkie-talkie on the guard's body) (talks into the walkie-talkie) I-I killed a mother and her son in at Bethlehem Pike five years ago.

(Bowden stares at the monitor)

Anthony: It was a hit-and-run. I was never caught. I'm so sorry.

(Sarah wheezes and closes her eyes)

(Anthony looks at Jane hopelessly)

/LONG PAUSE/

Jane: Damn. I really wanted you.
Jane turns around and takes a last glance at Anthony /

lights off /

lights on, Jane's gone /

lights off /

Bowden: (voice) That was my son. That was my family you destroyed at Bethlehem Pike. I've been waiting for this moment for five years, thinking about what to say to you.

Bowden: The thing is... I forgive you.

Narrator: After my mother would finish her story, she would always comfort us.

Narrator: "Don't worry," she'd say. "If the Devil is real, then God must be real, too."

<The End>

lights on/
/actors actresses bow/