

STEP IN TIME

"A Most Uncommon Elevator"

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COLD OPEN

INT. HOLLYWOOD TOWER HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

The Neo-Mediterranean lobby of the Hollywood Tower Hotel has more cobwebs than guests. Sitting underneath the dim chandeliers are six visitors in total. Four of them are dressed in era-appropriate attire for the 1930s aesthetic: a STAR, a STARLET, a CHILD STAR, and her NANNY. The fifth guest is a COWBOY, plucked straight from a John Ford movie and sitting alone at the bar. The sixth guest, MARY, is sitting on a dusty settee and reading a newspaper.

COWBOY

Barkeep! A whiskey, please.

A BARTENDER wipes down a cracked glass. Pretends to not hear.

COWBOY (CONT'D)

'Scuse me. Hello?

(beat)

Hey!

STAR

I don't think he can hear you, old boy.

COWBOY

Can't hear? He's standin' right there!

The Cowboy takes an empty shot glass (one of several littering his proximity) and chucks it at the wall behind the Bartender. If the yelling didn't work, the smashing did.

BARTENDER

Excuse me! That was a thirty-year-old bottle of scotch!

COWBOY

Well, put it on my tab an' get me a thirty-one-year-old bottle.

The Bartender stares at him tensely. The Cowboy rolls his eyes:

COWBOY (CONT'D)

Purty please.

The Bartender places the glass down. Takes a bottle off the shelf, blows on it. Sets it forcibly in front of the Cowboy.

BARTENDER

I'm not just some fixture for your amusement, mister. I have a name.

COWBOY

Well, ain't that nice. Whadda they call ya?

The Bartender thinks, like he's trying to solve an equation.

BARTENDER

I...I don't know.

COWBOY

(laughs)

And I thought I needed to lay off the sauce.

STARLET

You do.

The Cowboy swivels around to face her. Wasn't expecting that.

STARLET (CONT'D)

You've been loud all night. My head is ringing.

COWBOY

Well, ya got a room, ain't ya?

STARLET

Of course we do. We all do. We've been waiting to check in since we got here.

The group looks at the registration desk. It sits unattended. From the way the cobwebs have built up, you'd think it was never attended to begin with.

CHILD STAR

(at Cowboy)

How long have you been here?

COWBOY

Well, I got in about...

(burps, thinks)

Dang. I can't rightly remember.

STARLET

Hence the sauce.

COWBOY

You're...sauce!

STARLET

"You're sauce." I don't believe I know what that means.

NANNY

(sotto, to Child Star)

Let's not talk to the Cowboy any more. Remember what I said about this business eating people alive?

(nods towards the Cowboy)

COWBOY

I ain't no actor, and I been 'ere at least a day. I know that much. I woke up 'ere this mornin'. Hence, thus, ergo...

(beat)

What're we talkin' about?

STAR

We were talking about getting checked in. Isn't there a Bellhop around here?

(to Mary)

Madame? You haven't an idea about a bellhop, do you?

Mary looks up from her paper.

MARY

Me? Oh, no. I just got here myself.

STARLET

That's odd. I don't remember you arriving.

MARY

Well it's funny you say that, because I don't remember you arriving either.

They all sit in silence to think about this.

NANNY

Well, the girl and I arrived promptly thirty minutes ago. If you all are going to go daffy, I'd like it to be after she and I leave, thank you.

STARLET

No one is going to go daffy.

COWBOY

This conversation might do it.

The lights in the lobby flicker. A low HUM fills the silence around the group, then stops.

BARTENDER

Must be the generator.

COWBOY

The what?

BARTENDER

The generator. For power.

COWBOY

(beat, thinking)

Power?

STARLET

(scoffs)

Don't tell me you actually think you're a cowboy now.

COWBOY

What'n tarnation are you talkin' about? Of course I am!

STARLET

You're sure you aren't just staying in character?

COWBOY

Character? Fer what?

STARLET

...A cowboy picture?

STAR

(snooty)

Cowboy movies are a thing of the past anyway. Box office poison.

Mary chuckles under her breath, but the Star notices:

STAR (CONT'D)

Something funny?

MARY

No! Not at all. I just wouldn't underestimate cowboy movies, is all. Tastes change.

The star rises dramatically and approaches the settee with Brando-level confidence. He sits next to Mary and confides:

STAR
You're a producer, eh?

Mary doesn't answer. He thinks he's got it.

STAR (CONT'D)
I knew it! Fantastic! Who do you know? I've done all kinds of work: stage, screen...
(beat)
Stage.

The Starlet comes to gather the Star.

STARLET
That's enough, darling. No one likes a peacock.

CHILD STAR
I like peacocks!

NANNY
(smiling)
Of course you do, dearie.

COWBOY
Good lord! Where's the Bellhop to shut these morons up?

The group continues to bicker until the front doors of the lobby open, revealing FIGMENT, BUZZY and SONNY. The group in the lobby stares for a beat...and the Nanny faints.

SONNY
(to Figment and Buzzy)
Hah! I told you that one would faint! You all owe me five Disney Dollars!

Figment and Buzzy grimace.

ROD SERLING (V.O.)
"Five Disney Dollars." A simple amount. Five being less than six, but more than four. Four heroes who embark on a journey with six strangers to the darkest depths...of the Twilight Zone.

END COLD OPEN

ACT I

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Figment helps the Child Star fan the Nanny back to consciousness.

SONNY

You know, it's been a while since someone fainted at the sight of me. You'd think it would make me sad, but it kind of reminds me of the before-times.

STARLET

"Before-times"?

SONNY

Before...we showed up to this hotel. Whatever year it may be.
(clears throat)
Mary, a little help here?

Mary silently hands Sonny the newspaper she was reading. Sonny looks at the date: **OCTOBER 31st, 1939.**

SONNY (CONT'D)

What is this, a prop?

MARY

Nope. I checked for any "lorem ipsum" and got bupkis.

BUZZY

"Bupkis"?

MARY

Sorry, I've been trying to remember period lingo. "Bupkis" means "nothing."

BUZZY

Bupkis!

Buzzy pulls out a notepad and jots this down. The Nanny stirs.

NANNY

(weary)

What happened?

FIGMENT

You saw Sonny and passed out.

NANNY

...Are you Sonny?

FIGMENT

No, I'm Figment. Sonny is the alien.

NANNY

Alien?

STAR

Goodness. That one sounds like he's gone crackers.

MARY

(to Buzzy, winking)

"Crackers" means "crazy."

Buzzy nods, and jots this down as well.

MARY (CONT'D)

(to Nanny)

Yes! He's playing an alien in a big production coming up. All three of these guests are principle cast, and I'm producing the picture. That's our story.

SONNY

(sotto)

Overselling it.

MARY

Do you have a better idea?

SONNY

I don't have any ideas! Have you met me?

COWBOY

What kind of horse opera has an alien, a dragon, and a child soldier?

SONNY

None of 'em! That's why we're going to make a billion dollars at the box office!

The group stares.

SONNY (CONT'D)

A million dollars?

(beat)

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)

A thousand? How much is money worth right now?

Figment flies to Mary.

FIGMENT

Mary, what's going on? Why would we be brought to a time before the parks existed?

MARY

I don't know. I know that this is the year according to the story of the Tower of Terror, but I can't figure out if we're actually here. Did you see anything outside when you came in?

FIGMENT

No.

MARY

Crud. That tracks. Every time I open a window, I just see black. The gates to the gardens are locked, too.

FIGMENT

So we're trapped here?

MARY

It seems that way.

CHILD STAR

(to Sonny)

Ugly alien, if you all are here to use the hotel, where are your bags?

SONNY

They're under your eyes.

BUZZY

Whoa!

NANNY

What did you just say?

SONNY

She called me ugly!

FIGMENT

(intervening, to Child Star)

(MORE)

FIGMENT (CONT'D)

You're very perceptive! You must have a big imagination.

CHILD STAR

If I had an imagination, I'd be in the Writer's Guild.

STAR

(scoffs)

Don't be so sure.

The Star and Starlet share an inside laugh.

SONNY

(to himself)

Ugh.

Sonny sits next to Mary. They watch the Child Star engage Figment:

CHILD STAR

Answer me, dragon. Where are your bags?

FIGMENT

Well...we don't have any. We're here to inspect the building!

Figment's eyes shift, hoping no one can tell that he's a terrible liar.

NANNY

I thought you said you were actors.

FIGMENT

We are! We're playing building inspectors.

COWBOY

(to Bartender)

Seems suspicious.

The group murmurs amongst themselves. Sonny leans to Figment:

SONNY

I know how to talk to these types.

(to group)

Listen, you mugs! If any of you want to work in this town, you'll do as you're told! If I like you, I may be able to get you a cushy background part. Maybe as a...scientist, or some nonsense.

STAR
 (to Starlet)
 He's got pull!

The Star approaches Sonny.

STAR (CONT'D)
 Excuse me, mister...

SONNY
 Call me Eclipse. Sonny Eclipse.

The Star begins dancing the jitterbug and singing:

STAR
 Sonny Eclipse/Sounds good on my
 lips/Give me a part/In one of your
 scripts!

Buzzy and the Child Star watch in horror.

STARLET
 That's enough, darling. You're
 embarrassing yourself in front of
 the children.

The Star grudgingly complies.

STAR
 Who needs ya? I've worked in this
 town before, and I'll work again!

Mary sits up.

MARY
 (realizing)
 Oh, no.

Figment, Sonny and Buzzy look at her. *What's wrong?*

MARY (CONT'D)
 I wouldn't be so sure about that.

The Cowboy snorts.

STAR
 What's that supposed to mean?

MARY
 Figment, Sonny, Buzzy: Can I have a
 word with you in private, please?

The rest of the guests watch as the trio sidebars with Mary.

NANNY

There's something unusual happening here.

COWBOY

Yeah. The girl's gone.

The Nanny looks around: he's right. The Child Star has gone missing.

NANNY

Dearie?

(frantic)

Dearie?!

INT. BROOM CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Mary, Figment, Sonny and Buzzy all cram into a cramped broom closet. Mary pulls on a chain from the ceiling, allowing a tiny lightbulb to illuminate the space.

SONNY

Yeesh. They've got a lot of mops in here.

FIGMENT

Mary, what's going on? Who are those people?

MARY

I can't believe it took this long for me to realize: those people are supposed to disappear tonight.

BUZZY

What?!

MARY

Yeah. According to the story of the Tower of Terror, there's a lightning strike tonight at midnight that hits an elevator while all of those people are on it.

(beat)

Well, except the Cowboy. He's just creepy.

SONNY

So what, are we supposed to help them?

MARY

No! They aren't even real. None of this is real.

FIGMENT

If they aren't real, what are we?

SONNY

We don't have time for philosophy right now, Figment! This is a horror story!

MARY

Sonny's not wrong.

FIGMENT

So the machine brought us here to watch a bunch of people get golluted?

SONNY

We- Wait, what?

FIGMENT

What?

SONNY

What was that word you just used?

FIGMENT

Golluted! You know...
(draws a line across his neck)

BUZZY

..."Killed"?

FIGMENT

Don't say that! It's not a nice word!

SONNY

And "golluted" is?

MARY

We don't have time for this! We need to figure out why were brought here before it hits midnight, and we need to stay together.

NANNY (O.S.)

Dearie!

SONNY

I guess it's too late to tell that to the Nanny.

MARY

Great. Okay, let's just relax and try to find out as much as we can. We stick to the lobby and talk to everyone. Do not get on any of the elevators. Cool?

FIGMENT

Cool.

BUZZY

Cool.

Mary, Figment and Buzzy stare at Sonny, who's busy batting at the lightbulb.

SONNY

(noticing)

What?

BUZZY

What did Mary just say?

SONNY

I don't know. Something about escalators?

Mary rolls her eyes, then opens the door to the broom closet, revealing...

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The lights in the lobby are now out. The dusty entryway is blanketed in darkness, save for a few lit candles.

SONNY

What happened?

STARLET

We don't know. The little girl went missing, and then the lights went out.

MARY

Where's the Nanny?

STARLET

She popped away as soon as she noticed the child was gone.

STAR

I don't blame her. I'd fall to pieces if I lost a talent like that. I should know; I was a "Teens Choice Award" winner.

Lightning crashes outside, startling the group.

COWBOY

Huh. That's weird. It ain't even rainin'.

STARLET

Should we try to help find the girl? What if she went outside? She could catch cold!

BARTENDER

That won't be necessary. Please, everyone, stay out here in the lobby. I'll help find the girl.

The Bartender bends down and grabs a brimless cap, putting it on to become...THE BELLHOP. He leaves his station and walks to a large closed door.

STAR

You were there this whole time and couldn't check us in?

BELLHOP

Union rules.

The Bellhop slowly pulls on the handle of the large door. Its hinges groan as the door opens. Standing in the passageway is the Child Star.

STARLET

(startled)

Oh! You're safe!

FIGMENT

Where's your Nanny?

The Child Star smiles...then begins to speak in a deep, menacing tone.

CHILD STAR

My governess will no longer be joining us.

The group stares in horror. The moonlight from the windows disappears, then reappears. The group is gone, except for Mary, Sonny, Figment, Buzzy...and the Cowboy.

FIGMENT

(to Mary)

Did this happen in the story?

MARY

(gulps)

No...this is new.

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

The group is face-to-face with the Child Star.

FIGMENT

What happened to everyone?

CHILD STAR

I did away with them.

MARY

Who are we talking to right now?

CHILD STAR

I am the caretaker of this establishment. I'm so glad you could finally visit.

SONNY

"Finally visit"? What's going on? What year is this, anyway?

CHILD STAR

You'll have to visit my true form to find out. I'm in the Tip-Top Club on the thirteenth floor. Try not to let anything get in your way.

The Child Star lurches backwards, and the door shuts itself.

SONNY

(to Cowboy)

Do you have any input here?

COWBOY

Nope. But there's definitely some output.

MARY

Gross. Okay, well at least we know what we're supposed to be doing. We have to get to the top floor.

FIGMENT

Top floor? With no elevator?

COWBOY

There's some stairs through that other door. Opposite th' creepy girl one.

BUZZY

Are you coming with us?

COWBOY

I'll take my chances with th'
whiskey, thank ya.

SONNY

You know all of those bottles are
empty, right?

The Cowboy looks at the bottles behind the bar: he's right.

COWBOY

Eh. I'll take my chances with th'
whiskey, thank ya.

MARY

Come on. Let's get upstairs.

INT. HOTEL STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Mary, Figment, Sonny and Buzzy ascend several flights of stairs before finding their path blocked by a pile of unused luggage.

SONNY

Good lord. Doesn't anyone clean
around here?

MARY

These were put here on purpose.
We'll have to find a way around to
the opposite stairwell.

SONNY

What, go down a hallway? No thank
you. I've been down plenty of
normal hallways, and frankly those
were disturbing enough.

FIGMENT

Come on, Sonny. As long as we stick
together, we can make it in no
time!

MARY

Right. We just need to stick to the
plan, and avoid any doors.
Whoever's behind this will try to
find ways to split us up.

SONNY

Simple. Buzzy, avoid any Vincent
Shiavelli-types who offer you
candy.

BUZZY

(defensive)

One time and it's a trend!

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY # 1 - CONTINUOUS

The gang creeps down a hallway, careful not to step on any
traps or make any loud noises.

SONNY

(whispers)

You know, hardwood floors in a
place like this seem like a lot of
work.

MARY

Shh!

SONNY

I'm not even being loud!

VOICE (O.S.)

Shh!

SONNY

I did!

(beat)

Wait.

Sonny turns. That last "shh" came from behind him...and he's
the last in the line.

VOICE (O.S.)

Shh!

A door slowly opens, no creaks or groans. From inside, a warm
light emanates, casting a glowing sliver of amber onto
Sonny's face. Sonny squints, then grabs the door handle to
shut it, but not before looking inside...

INT. HOTEL ROOM #1 - CONTINUOUS

Inside the hotel room, sitting on the bed, is comedy legend
MEL BROOKS.

SONNY

Comedy legend Mel Brooks?

That's right.

MEL BROOKS

Sonny! I've been looking everywhere for you!

SONNY

Mel Brooks, what are you doing here?

MEL BROOKS

Did you do what you came to Earth for, Sonny? Did you become a famous entertainer like me?

SONNY

I...

MEL BROOKS

Please don't tell me you became a lounge singer like you feared. I can't stand another reason to not respect you!

SONNY

Mel Brooks, no! I love you!

The light fades, and Mel Brooks disappears. Standing in his place is the Star.

SONNY (CONT'D)

You?

STAR

Did I fool ya, Sonny? I told you I was a good actor!

The actor begins to step towards Sonny, but falls apart...limb from limb...into a pile.

His head rolls towards Sonny like a bowling ball, screaming:

STAR (CONT'D)

(demonic)

Now come kiss Mel Brooks!

SONNY

(horrified)

Goo!

Sonny bolts down the hallway, back into the stairwell.

MARY

Sonny!

BUZZY
We have to help him!

MARY
No, wait!

It's too late. Buzzy has gone after him.

FIGMENT
Mary, we should follow them!

MARY
Follow where?

Figment stays put. *She's right.*

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

The Cowboy sits at the bar by himself, balancing shot glasses on his fingers. He pauses for a moment...*did I hear?* Yes. Footsteps, growing louder.

The door to the stairwell bursts open and Sonny hustles to the bar, taking a seat.

COWBOY
What're you doin' here? You should be upstairs.

SONNY
I need a drink!

COWBOY
The bottles are empty, remember?

SONNY
Water! I need water!

Sonny reaches over the bar and finds a tap. He fills a glass with water and chugs it. He slams the glass down.

SONNY (CONT'D)
(hiccup)
Oh, mama! That takes the edge off.

COWBOY
Water does that to you?

SONNY
I only have to hydrate once every few years. My species is like your Earth camels.
(off Cowboy's look)
(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)
 My species of actor, I mean.
 (beat)
 Shut up!

INT. HOTEL STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Buzzy climbs a flight of stairs...then descends the flight.
 Then climbs two flights: he's lost.

BUZZY
 (whisper-shouting)
 Sonny! Where are you?

NANNY (O.S.)
 Dearie!

Buzzy's ears perk. He follows the call to the nearest door
 leading into a new hallway.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY # 2 - CONTINUOUS

Buzzy opens the door, cautiously peering through the crack
 before opening it all the way. Standing in the hallway is the
 Nanny. She's motionless.

NANNY
 Dearie! Are you there?

Buzzy approaches her.

BUZZY
 You should come with me.

NANNY
 I can't leave without my dearie.

BUZZY
 I'll help you find her. Just come
 with me! We can team up!

The Nanny looks at Buzzy, lovingly.

NANNY
 You look like my first dearie.

The door behind her dings...she is standing in front of an
 elevator door.

BUZZY
 That elevator isn't safe!

The elevator doors open, then slam shut. This repeats with increasing speed, like a pair of jaws opening and closing.

The Nanny steps towards Buzzy. An elevator cable shoots out from the shaft and wraps around her leg.

The Nanny screams as she's dragged into the shaft. The elevator doors shut...and stay shut.

Buzzy hears a rumble, like a digestive system at work. He's frozen in fear.

VOICE (O.S.)
Say, Flattop. You look lost.

Buzzy slowly turns. Standing behind him is DICK TRACY, sporting his classic yellow coat & hat and flipping a nickel.

DICK TRACY
You should come with me.

He sneers and pulls his face off, revealing a ghoulish robotic skull.

DICK TRACY (CONT'D)
I'll keep you safe!

BUZZY
Agh! Bad Word Tracy!

Buzzy bolts down the hallway. Dick Tracy screams with laughter as he watches Buzzy run.

INT. HOTEL STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Figment and Mary ascend the stairwell. They pause when they hear Dick Tracy's CACKLE.

MARY
Did you hear that?

FIGMENT
Maybe there's a comedy show upstairs?
(off her look, defensive)
What? I'm scared!

MARY
There's nothing to be scared of. The time machine wouldn't have brought you here to get... "galuttet." None of this is real. You trust me, right?

Figment smiles, then nods.

MARY (CONT'D)

So come on. Let's solve this
mystery and get our friends out of
here.

They reach the top of the stairwell.

MARY (CONT'D)

That's weird. It doesn't seem like
we've been climbing for thirteen
floors.

She opens the door to the hallway. Before Figment can follow,
the door slams shut behind her, separating them.

MARY (CONT'D)

Figment!

Mary bangs on the door, pulling the handle. No luck.

FIGMENT

Mary!

MARY

Stay put, okay? I'll find a way
back to you!

Figment stands alone in the stairwell.

FIGMENT

(to himself)

Okay. Deep breath, Figment. If you
can make it through *The Brave
Little Toaster*, you can make it
through this.

He grabs the handle and pulls. Instead of the hallway Mary
went into, there is an empty elevator car.

The Bellhop stands, waiting. He speaks in a deep voice, the
same as the Child Star:

BELLHOP

Going up?

Figment gulps.

END ACT II

ACT III

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY # 3 - NIGHT

Mary creeps down the empty hallway. As she walks, the air gets chillier. Mary bristles, and rubs her arms.

MARY

The next hotel we go to better be
Coronado Springs.

She sees snow falling in the hallway. A fog conceals anything further than a few feet ahead.

MARY (CONT'D)

What in...

The hallway is now an icy blue color. Mary clears away some of the mist, revealing a statue of ice - it's the Starlet, frozen solid.

MARY (CONT'D)

Well, this is just stupid.

Mary circumvents the statue.

Standing at the end of the hallway, blocking Mary's exit, is a regal SNOW QUEEN, dressed in a beautiful white gown made of ice.

SNOW QUEEN

Are you the one who has come to
save us?

MARY

I think you have me confused with
someone else.

SNOW QUEEN

Bow to me.

MARY

Okay, you definitely have me
confused with someone else.

SNOW QUEEN

Bow to your queen!

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Sonny and the Cowboy sit in the Lobby. The Cowboy is heartily singing "Oh! Susanna," but the words are all gibberish.

SONNY

(fed up)

How do you not know the words to
this song?

COWBOY

Feller, I know some things. I know
other things. But boy...

The Cowboy laughs for a beat, then falls asleep.

SONNY

...Did you just die?

The Cowboy is jolted awake and shivers.

COWBOY

Ooh! Got nippy, didn't it?

He grabs his hat and dusts it off.

COWBOY (CONT'D)

You ready t' hit the trail?

SONNY

You want to help me?

COWBOY

Well, why not? I like the cut of
your sirloin, Eclipse.

SONNY

Hm. "Sirloin Eclipse." That's got a
nice ring to it.

(beat)

Wait, does that mean you want to
eat me?

COWBOY

Heck, no! I'm a vegetarian.

Buzzy bursts through the doors.

SONNY

Buzzy?

BUZZY

Sonny! A detective tried to eat my
soul!

SONNY

That's it! I have had it with this
place! Let's go!

COWBOY
I know the way.

Sonny and the Cowboy hustle past Buzzy and into the stairwell. Buzzy stays, trembling from fear. Sonny reaches back through the door and yanks him along.

SONNY
Come on, you.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY # 3 - NIGHT

Mary squares off against the Snow Queen.

MARY
Why are you here?

SNOW QUEEN
We do not know. We long to find out.

MARY
How many of you are there?

SNOW QUEEN
We do not know.

MARY
Why-

SNOW QUEEN
Let me just stop you now, and tell you that we do not know.

MARY
(skeptical)
So you don't know what happened to the Starlet, either?

SNOW QUEEN
(smiles)
You must go upstairs, or suffer the same fate as the soubrette.

Buzzy, Sonny and the Cowboy kick the door to the hallway open. The mist clears.

BUZZY
Mary, we've come to...
(sees Starlet)
...frozen...solid...actress.

SNOW QUEEN

You dare threaten your ruler?

SONNY

There's only one ruler, ma'am. His name is Mel Brooks, and I am forever traumatized from seeing him in this hotel.

MARY

Sonny! Buzzy!

SONNY

Mary!

(beat)

Wait, where's Figment?

MARY

We got separated.

SONNY

Curses! You were right to tell us to stick together.

BUZZY

Yeah, a detective tried to eat my soul!

SONNY

You keep saying that. Did he really try to do that?

BUZZY

I don't know. I guess! Did you want me to ask?

MARY

Wait!

The standoff pauses.

MARY (CONT'D)

The Cowboy, the Snow Queen, Dick Tracy and Mel Brooks...I know what's going on here!

SONNY

Oh, no. We're in an early *SNL* sketch, aren't we?

SNOW QUEEN

(sighs)

This charade has become pointless.

She claps her hands. Dick Tracy appears from the shadows. He the Cowboy turn their weapons on the group.

SNOW QUEEN (CONT'D)

All I needed to do is send you upstairs. It's a shame you didn't prefer the easy way.

SONNY

Cowboy? You were bad this whole time?

MARY

It's okay. Neither of their guns will fire anything.

DICK TRACY

That's right, Moon Maid. But if I pull these triggers, you'll get sprayed with warm hot dog juice.

SONNY

Gross! Okay, you win.

MARY

Sonny!

SONNY

Did you not hear about the warm hot dog juice?

The group is hauled into the elevator. The Cowboy hits a button, and the doors shut.

INT. HOTEL TOP FLOOR - NIGHT

The top floor of the hotel is one large dimly-lit room, previously a dance floor. Regal portraits line the walls, and ornate decorations festoon every corner.

The elevator dings and the doors open. Figment tentatively steps out. The Bellhop follows him.

FIGMENT

Hello?

A large canopy bed sits in the center of the room. The sheets are formed in a way that suggests there's a body.

A deep, gravelly voice pours from the canopy bed:

VOICE

You want to kill me?

FIGMENT

What? No! The Bellhop just brought me here.

(beat)

Also, I prefer the term "golluted."

The Bellhop shakes his head, like he just woke from a daze.

BELLHOP

(normal voice)

What the...? Where are we?

A beam of light flashes from the canopy bed, zapping the Bellhop. He screams. His figure is broken down, then transported into a nearby window. The window, once transparent, is now a stained glass portrait of the Bellhop.

FIGMENT

(scared)

Oh, no! It's so pretty!

The sheets begin to rustle, and the figure rises from its rest. A golden halo around the figure appears, and the owner's form is revealed.

It's an older man, in a white suit with a rainbow sash. His hair is white, and he has a white handlebar mustache. This is the LANDKEEPER.

LANDKEEPER

Apologies for the theatrics, Figment. I needed it to be just you and me for a moment.

FIGMENT

You know me?

LANDKEEPER

Know you? You and I are practically siblings! Children of EPCOT!

FIGMENT

What are you talking about?

The elevator dings again and the doors open. Mary, Buzzy, and Sonny step out. They are followed by the Cowboy, the Snow Queen, and Dick Tracy.

LANDKEEPER

Ah, friends.

MARY

Figment! We've been had!

FIGMENT

Mary! What's going on? Who are these ghosts?

MARY

Figment, the hotel isn't haunted by ghosts. It's by ideas that never came to pass!

SONNY

Oh, what? Really? Why didn't you explain that earlier?

MARY

I thought you figured it out too.

SONNY

How would I have figured that out?

MARY

Listen: the Cowboy is from the *Western River Expedition*, which was Orlando's answer to *Pirates of the Caribbean* before they decided to just build *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

COWBOY

(tipping hat)

Howdy.

MARY

The Snow Queen was meant to be in Fantasyland, and Dick Tracy was supposed to be right where this hotel was built. Even after they settled on the hotel idea, it was supposed to star Mel Brooks!

BUZZY

I knew it!
(beat, then sad)
I didn't know it.

FIGMENT

But what about the Landkeeper?

MARY

He was supposed to be the face of the Land pavilion.

The Landkeeper slow claps.

LANDKEEPER

Well done. It's all true: the ghosts you've seen here are the ghosts of sparks. Sparks that you four have either already stopped or will stop.

FIGMENT

We don't stop sparks!

LANDKEEPER

Oh, but you do! I was sent to show you that your actions have consequences. I am tasked with preventing our pre-emptive demise. As long as you stay here, we have a chance at existing.

MARY

That's not your choice!

LANDKEEPER

I know. It's what we were programmed to do.

BUZZY

Someone programmed you to do this?

DICK TRACY

Enough flimflam! It's time for us to blow this popsicle stand.

SONNY

You can't just leave us here!

DICK TRACY

You rats are staying in this tower forever, and we'll be free to fulfill our destinies! We've been waiting ages for this!

MARY

But you haven't been waiting for ages! None of this is real!

SNOW QUEEN

Are you so sure?

The Cowboy and Dick Tracy push the group into the center of the room. The Snow Queen forms a thick sheet of ice around the doors and windows.

The four villains group together in the cramped elevator.

LANDKEEPER

Good luck sleeping on that bed.
It's lumpy!

The Landkeeper shuts the scissor doors of the elevator.

SONNY

You monster!

Mary tries not to panic:

MARY

None of this is real, none of this
is real...

Mary looks around the room. Spots a grandfather clock in the corner: it reads **11:59**.

MARY (CONT'D)

Buzzy!

Buzzy looks at her, then the clock.

MARY (CONT'D)

Crackers!

Buzzy nods, and goes absolutely wild. He dives at the elevator, grabbing the cage doors and shaking them.

DICK TRACY

Stop it, Big Boy! We need that door
clear!

Buzzy licks his hand and sticks it through the door, trying to touch Dick Tracy.

BUZZY

This is for trying to steal my
soul!

DICK TRACY

What are you talking about? You're
being gross!

Buzzy grabs at Dick Tracy, but his hand goes straight through. *What the...?*

The Snow Queen rolls her eyes, and snaps her fingers. A blast of ice blows Buzzy back. He slides to Mary's feet.

LANDKEEPER

Enough stupidity!
(straightens rainbow sash)
See you in the history books!

The Landkeeper secures the scissor door and presses a button. The elevator starts to descend...then jerks back up. The power dims. Mary checks the clock again. It chimes.

MARY

Time's up.

A lightning bolt strikes the top of the tower, traveling down into the elevator cage. The four villains stand frozen, engulfed in bolts of electricity.

DICK TRACY

(clenched teeth)

You dirty...rotten...hoods!

The lights dim again, then return to normal. The elevator sits still, completely empty.

FIGMENT

Where did they go?

BUZZY

(amazed)

My hand went right through them!

FIGMENT

Maybe they really were ghosts. Or Pepper's Ghosts!

MARY

Yeah, but way more advanced. Like "Shanghai" advanced.

SONNY

Who would be crackers enough to build them? And why on earth did the time machine bring us here?

MARY

You're right. It's not like we helped any sparks.

The time machine flashes into the room.

SONNY

Well, look who decided to show up!

FIGMENT

Huh. Maybe...the spark was meant for us this time!

MARY

What do you mean?

FIGMENT

I think the machine wanted us to see! It would have saved us no matter what!

The machine beeps.

SONNY

But why?

MARY

We're gonna find out.

BUZZY

You're coming with us?

MARY

Well, I can't stay here. The bed's lumpy, remember?

The four friends stand on the platform together.

SONNY

Well, as long as we don't visit any more spooky hotels, I'll be happy.

FIGMENT

Never say never!

SONNY

Why would you say something like that?

FIGMENT

(shrugs)

It's my thing!

SONNY

Take a day off, would you?

FIGMENT

Nope. That's your thing.

The machine flashes out of the room.

Among the portraits on the wall is a small framed black-and-white photo. In the photo...the STAR, STARLET, CHILD STAR, NANNY, BELLHOP, SONNY, MARY, FIGMENT and BUZZY. The photo reads:

**THE HOLLYWOOD TOWER HOTEL
OCTOBER 31ST, 1939**

END ACT III

STINGER

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MORNING

Sunlight beams into the ancient lobby of the Hollywood Tower Hotel. A door near the bar slowly creaks and swings open...the Child Star walks out.

CHILD STAR
(calling)
Hello? Hello?

She approaches the receptionist's desk, and picks up the handset of a Bell Model 102 telephone. She spins the rotary dial and waits.

CHILD STAR (CONT'D)
Hello, mommy? Yes. Yes, it's me.
Listen, I think the Nanny has gone batty on me. I know! Another one!

She twirls the cord around her finger.

CHILD STAR (CONT'D)
What's for supper tonight?

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW

Thank you to the creators of the following videos and articles that were used for research:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x8EOgJSDZg>

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<http://studioscentral.com/column/matt/early-development-of-the-tower-of-terror/>

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