

STUCK IN AN ELEVATOR

by

Kevin Human

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OVER BLACK:

DING!

FADE IN:

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN

-- and DUKE NUKEM strides inside. All six-foot-four, two hundred thirty five pounds of his immaculate frame.

Nursing a helluva hangover.

He glances down at Q-BERT, the only other passenger in the elevator, and gives an arrogant nod of acknowledgment without actually looking at them.

DUKE NUKEM

Sup, 'bro?

Q-bert furrows their brow in a polite expression. Duke winces at the elevator lights as it begins its descent.

DUKE NUKEM (CONT'D)

Yo man, you got any aspirin?

Q-bert shakes their head, which is pretty much their entire body.

DUKE NUKEM (CONT'D)

Right. Cause you ain't got hands.

Q-bert looks sad about that.

DUKE NUKEM (CONT'D)

(mean spirited)

You started your club yet?

Q-bert gives a quizzical look.

DUKE NUKEM (CONT'D)

Your club! The one where you and Zeratul sit around listening to MCR, painting your nails black, complaining about how your moms won't take you to the mall on Saturday!

Q-bert looks hurt.

DUKE NUKEM (CONT'D)
Look at you, you're like a Koosh
ball that's all Koosh, no balls.

Qbert looks devastated.

Suddenly --

-- the dignified, powerful baritone of ZERATUL rings out --

ZERATUL (O.S.)
You will not demean Friend Q-bert.

-- and the black inky tendrils of Zeratul's magic appear and
dissipate as HE EMERGES FROM STEALTH...

He's been in the elevator the entire time.

DUKE NUKEM
(to Zeratul)
You would be lurking around him
like a creeper.

ZERATUL
A protector.

DUKE NUKEM
You're a perv, bro.

ZERATUL
I am a friend.

DUKE NUKEM
And I'm out.

Nukem hits the elevator button to stop, but when he does --

THE ELEVATOR SCREECHES TO A HALT.

They're stuck between floors.

ZERATUL
You must face me.

DUKE NUKEM
I ain't facing shit bro, so how
'bout you stop acting like some
flaccid edgelord in training, turn
the voodoo jank off, and get this
elevator back on track?

ZERATUL

I have exerted no control over the destiny of the elevator. The Khala has pitted us here to vie for Friend Q-bert's allegiance.

DUKE NUKEM

Alright, fine.

(cracks neck)

How 'bout I beat your ass right now and take his allegiance?

ZERATUL

If Friend Q-bert has been pulling away from you, it is because of your treatment of him. If you are to regain his friendship, it will be through your words to him. Not through battle with me.

DUKE NUKEM

(a cheap distraction)

Where'd the little guy go?

Zeratul looks up to see that Q-bert has climbed out the open hatch atop the elevator and is using their long nose as a hand to make repairs.

Duke Nukem takes a CHEAP SHOT at Zeratul -- slams him against the elevator wall. It rocks to and fro -- Q-bert is tossed off the side and plummets down the shaft --

END CUT SCENE / RESUME PLAYER CONTROL

GAMEPLAY: The Player (Zeratul) must disengage from Duke Nukem, dive down the elevator shaft, and use their Dark Templar abilities to prevent Q-bert from meeting their untimely demise.