

# exiting

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**A ten minute play**

**By**

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**Cast**

MARK

STEPHEN

**Setting**

Lift.

**Time**

Early Friday evening.

**exiting**

Lift. Evening.

**STEPHEN** IS IN THE LIFT. WE HEAR A BELL RING.

THE LIFT STOPS, DOORS OPEN. **MARK** ENTERS. HE PUSHES A BUTTON. BEAT. THE DOORS CLOSE. BEAT.

STEPHEN: Did you hear ?

BEAT.

MARK: Sorry.

STEPHEN: Did you hear ?

MARK: What ?

STEPHEN: Two people are being exited from this office.

BEAT.

MARK: That so.

STEPHEN: Two.

MARK: That so.

**STEPHEN** NODS.

STEPHEN: Don't you want to know who ?

MARK: Not really.

STEPHEN: Not a little bit curious ?

MARK: Not really.

BEAT.

STEPHEN: The first one is Morris.

MARK: Don't know him.

STEPHEN: Marketing.

BEAT.

MARK: And the other ?

STEPHEN: Thought you weren't interested.

MARK: You've tempted me.

STEPHEN: Windshuttle.

BEAT.

MARK: Windshuttle?

STEPHEN: Finance. Don't know him.

BEAT.

MARK: Who told you this?

STEPHEN: Just heard.

MARK: Where ?

STEPHEN: Around.

MARK: But where exactly?

STEPHEN: Various people.

MARK: But which people?

STEPHEN: Various.

BEAT. **MARK** SUDDENLY PUSHES THE EMERGENCY BUTTON – A BELL RINGS LOUDLY. THE LIFT GRINDS TO A HALT.

STEPHEN: (PANICKED) What are you doing ?

MARK: We need to chat.

STEPHEN: I'm ...

MARK: Just for a while.

STEPHEN: Claustrophobic. I don't like ...

MARK: Won't take long.

STEPHEN: Lifts.

MARK: Just a minute or two.

STEPHEN: Can we just –

MARK: I'm Windshuttle.

BEAT.

STEPHEN: Oh. (BEAT, HOLDING OUT HIS HAND) Nice to meet you.

MARK: (IGNORING THE HAND) Now are you going to tell me ?

STEPHEN: Can we start the lift again first ?

MARK: No.

STEPHEN: The bell is ringing. I'm not sure the bell is meant to be ringing.

MARK: It's not.

STEPHEN: Well if you stop pushing the button –

MARK: I'll let the button go when you tell me.

STEPHEN: Like I said –

MARK: Yes ?

STEPHEN: Around.

MARK: Yes ?

STEPHEN: Various ...

MARK: Still pushing.

STEPHEN: Please.

MARK: Bell ringing.

STEPHEN: We might ...

MARK: Not good.

STEPHEN: Just take your finger –

MARK: Not until you –

STEPHEN: Please –

MARK: Tell me.

STEPHEN: Just take –

MARK: Tell me.

STEPHEN: I'm not –

MARK: (LOUD) Tell me !

BEAT.

STEPHEN: Smythe.

BEAT.

MARK: Penny Smythe?

STEPHEN: Now will you ...

**MARK TAKES HIS FINGER OFF THE BUTTON.**

STEPHEN: Thank you.

MARK: Then I guess it's ...

STEPHEN: We're not moving.

MARK: Penny Smythe.

STEPHEN: You took your finger ...

MARK: She'd know.

STEPHEN: We should be ...

MARK: If anybody would know ...

STEPHEN: I'll have to ...

MARK: Penny ...

**STEPHEN HAS TAKEN THE EMERGENCY PHONE OUT.**

STEPHEN: (INTO PHONE) Hello. Hello.

MARK: Smythe.

STEPHEN: We're stuck on the ...

MARK: She wouldn't –

STEPHEN: Between – between the –

MARK: Would she –

STEPHEN: 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> –

MARK: Make something up –

STEPHEN: No – 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> ...

MARK: Not Penny.

STEPHEN: Can you ...

MARK: She wouldn't.

STEPHEN: We're stuck.

MARK: Not that.

STEPHEN: Hello. Hello –

MARK: Not – her.

STEPHEN: There's no one there.

BEAT.

MARK: They'll send someone.

STEPHEN: How long will it take ?

MARK: I don't know.

STEPHEN: Can I just say –

MARK: What ?

STEPHEN: Can I just say –

MARK: Yes?

STEPHEN: What you just did

MARK: What ?

STEPHEN: It was very selfish of you.

BEAT.

MARK: Really?

STEPHEN: Very selfish.

MARK: Really ?

STEPHEN: Very.

MARK: I've got a few things on my mind.

STEPHEN: No excuse.

MARK: You've given me a few things –

STEPHEN: Doesn't matter.

MARK: You've *put* a few things –

STEPHEN: Still no reason.

MARK: You have given me quite a bit to –

STEPHEN: (SUDDENLY ANGRY) That's still no reason to push the emergency stop button and trap someone in a lift who really hates being in a lift!

BEAT.

MARK: I accept that.

STEPHEN: Good.

MARK: You've got a point.

STEPHEN: Great.

MARK: But –

STEPHEN: That's it really.

MARK: But –

STEPHEN: No more to say.

MARK: If you don't want someone to trap you in a lift then don't tell them they are being 'exited' !

BEAT.

STEPHEN: Windshuttle ?

MARK: They who just found out they are being exited.

STEPHEN: I didn't know.

MARK: Well – now you do.

BEAT.

STEPHEN: I really didn't.

MARK: Right.

STEPHEN: Got that –

MARK: Wrong.

STEPHEN: Right.

MARK: I'm just saying –

STEPHEN: Four hundred employees

MARK: Right.

STEPHEN: How was I ...

MARK: Now if you'd –

STEPHEN: The one guy I get in the lift is –

MARK: I'm trying to –

STEPHEN: Would be –

MARK: If you'd –

STEPHEN: Could be –

MARK: Shut up! (BEAT) Just answer me one question – Penny Smythe.

STEPHEN: What about her?

MARK: Why would she ...

STEPHEN: Yes?

MARK: Why did she ...

STEPHEN: Yes ?

MARK: Tell you ?

BEAT.

STEPHEN: Why did Penny Smythe tell me ?

MARK: That's what I'm asking.

BEAT.

STEPHEN: I don't know.

MARK: There must've been a reason.

STEPHEN: We're friends.

MARK: Right.

STEPHEN: We talk.

MARK: Right.

STEPHEN: I guess she needed to tell someone.

MARK: Right.

STEPHEN: So I ran into her in the corridor and she –

MARK: Yes but why *you*? Why did *she* tell *you* I was being 'exited' so *you* could blurt it out to *me* in a *lift* on a *Friday night* on my way *out* of the building ?

BEAT. THE LIFT STARTS TO MOVE.

STEPHEN: Oh thank god. We're moving. Thank god. 15, 14, 13 –

MARK: Why tell –

STEPHEN: 11, 10, 9 – Keep going

MARK: It doesn't -

STEPHEN: 7, 6, 5 – Please please.

MARK: If anybody –

STEPHEN: 3, 2, 1. Ground ground.

THE LIFT STOPS. THE BELL RINGS.

STEPHEN: Yes we made it. (KISSING LIFT WALL) Thank you lift.  
(KISSING BUTTONS) Thank you buttons. (KISSING GROUND)  
Thank you ground.

**MARK BLOCKS THE ENTRANCE.**

STEPHEN: (TRYING TO GET OUT) No, but I need to -

MARK: Why did Penny Smythe tell you that Windshuttle and Morris  
were being exited from this office?

STEPHEN: Perhaps she thought I needed to know.

MARK: Why?

STEPHEN: (HOLDING OUT HAND) Because I'm Morris.

BEAT. **MARK SHAKES STEPHEN'S HAND.**

MARK: Good to meet you.

STEPHEN: And you.

THE LIFT DOORS OPEN.

STEPHEN: Have a good weekend.

**STEPHEN EXITS. MARK ALONE. LIGHTS FADE.**