

# Oscar, Charity

(OSCAR smiles back and presses button. The elevator door 'closes' and THEY BOTH silently ride up. OSCAR, with his hat in his hand, stares quietly ahead. CHARITY does too, but then slyly glances his way, then looks back out at nothing ... Suddenly, THEY BOTH jerk

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ELEVATOR STING #1

forward and we get the impression that the elevator has suddenly come to a stop ... but the door did not open. THEY are obviously between floors. It is plain to see from the blanched expression on OSCAR'S face, HE is not comfortable in this situation.)

OSCAR

(Nervously)

What was that?

CHARITY

We stopped ... Press the button. It'll start right in again.

(OSCAR quickly presses the button but nothing happens. HE presses it again and again. It doesn't move.)

OSCAR

Something's wrong. We're stuck.

CHARITY

(Cheerfully)

These old elevators. You never can trust them.

OSCAR

(Nervously wipes forehead.)

Oh, boy.

CHARITY

I had a friend who was stuck in one for eight hours. With two German shepherds and a delivery boy.

OSCAR

(Getting extremely tense. HE loosens his tie.)

It's kind of stuffy in here, isn't it? Isn't it stuffy?

CHARITY

You think so?

OSCAR

(Unbuttons his top shirt button.)  
... You want to try pressing the buttons?

CHARITY

No, that's alright. I'm sure you pressed them very well.

OSCAR

(Nods)  
I did. I pressed them very well. I gave them a very good press ... Sooo ... I guess we're stuck.

CHARITY

I guess so ...  
(SHE looks at INSPECTORS' CARD on the wall and reads ...)  
"Maximum weight in pounds ... one thousand three hundred."

OSCAR

(Looks at her.)  
... What do you weigh?

CHARITY

A hundred and twenty-eight.

OSCAR

We're alright.

CHARITY

Sure.

OSCAR

Yeah, we're fine ... Fine ... We're just stuck in the old elevator ...  
(HE forces a little laugh.)

CHARITY

Are you alright?

OSCAR

(Quickly)  
Me? Me? Yes. Yes. Fine. Yes, I'm fine. Fine. Just have to get used to it, that's all ... It's my first time trapped in an elevator ... Trapped, trapped, trapped.

CHARITY

Hey! ... You don't have claustrophobia, do you?

OSCAR

(Scoffing)  
Oh, no. No. No, nothing like that. Claustrophobia? ... No... I just don't like to be in small, tight places that I can't get out of.

CHARITY

Oh, I understand. I used to have that with zippers. I was once trapped in a dress for twenty minutes. I screamed all over Orbachs.

OSCAR

That's claustrophobia. You've got to watch out for that. No, I can handle this because I know we'll get out of here in a couple of minutes.

CHARITY

Sure we will.

OSCAR

(Hopefully)  
You really think so?

CHARITY

I do. I really do.

OSCAR

But if you thought we were really trapped in here, what would you say?

CHARITY

But we're not trapped.

OSCAR

But if you thought we were, what would you say?

CHARITY

I'd say we were really trapped.

OSCAR

Oh, my God, I knew it, I knew it!

CHARITY

But we're not. You really shouldn't get so excited.

OSCAR

Isn't this awful? I never act this way. I'm really a very calm person. Highly organized. I can promise you that if it really comes down to it, you can depend on me ... You understand that?

CHARITY

I do.

OSCAR

I just hope it doesn't come down to it ... Maybe I should yell for help?

CHARITY

Why not?

OSCAR

I'm alright, you understand. But I know that you suffer from claustrophobia and I realize you're very uncomfortable and I wouldn't want you to be stuck in here any longer than I have to be. Help -- Help -- Hel --

(CHARITY touches him -- HE jumps violently.)

CHARITY

My name is Charity Valentine. Hey, you're shaking.

OSCAR

All over.

CHARITY

Let me rub your wrists.  
(She rubs them.)

OSCAR

... You know what I feel like doing now? What my impulse is? To take off my clothes.

CHARITY

Oh, well I don't think that would do much good.

OSCAR

(Snappy)

You'd think they'd have a telephone in here, wouldn't you? Never again. I'll never go in an elevator without a telephone. I'll always check for a telephone..

CHARITY

We really should change the subject. You wanna play actors and actresses?

OSCAR

(Yells down.)

Hey, come on ... We don't think it's funny anymore.

CHARITY

Try not to think of it. Play the game. Awright, what actress was in "Sabrina Fair"? You get three guesses. Ready? Julie Andrews --

OSCAR

I don't want to play. I really don't feel like playing. It's a stupid game for two people trapped in an elevator to play ... No offense.

CHARITY

I'm just trying to pass the time.