

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

The doors shudder open in a rusted-metal elevator, revealing two figures outside - SAMANTHA (19, serious, backpack in tow) and DUSA (floating green Gorgon who's constantly on the edge of a nervous breakdown). They exchange a look.

As the women step in, the doors start to creak their way shut - but not in time to top VINCENT (10, trying to play it cool/put on a brave face). Dusa immediately goes into a panic, but Sam has already pulled the LEVER on the wall.

DUSA

V--Vincent!! What are you doing here?! I thought you were going to stay home. Safe!

VINCENT

(only slight remorse)

I know... Mom said I shouldn't, but I never get to explore like my brother. Or you two! It wasn't too far so I thought...

As the elevator starts to descend, we see through the slats in the metal that we're heading down into a MINESHAFT.

SAM

Are you serious? Kid, you could get yourself killed! Do you have any idea what might live down here? We have to take you back up.

VINCENT

No! Please, it'll be fine! If you two can go, why can't I?

DUSA

Because you're too young! Ohhhh, if your mother found out we let you come..! She would have our heads! Which is-- actually, that's ALL OF ME. Sam..!

SAM

Look, it's fine, we'll just turn this thing around once it stops, yeah? And you'll go home. Understand?

Vincent mopes and falls dramatically against one wall of the elevator. As he THUDS against it, the metal screeches despite his small frame. The elevator JOLTS to a HALT.

There's a moment of tension - Sam scowls at Vincent as his eyes go wide; Dusa whimpers anxiously.

VINCENT
(whispers)
Sorry...

Sam takes off her backpack and digs around for a flashlight. Vincent peeks through the thin slats in the wall, sees only dark below until Sam points the flashlight towards the ground through another wall.

DUSA
If they don't kill us, I'm going to have to clean the bedroom and stock the pantry and probably even tidy the garden somehow--

Beneath Dusa's rambling, a distant but approaching SCREAM. Sam drops the flashlight, sending light flickering around the elevator. Her hand shakes as she picks it up again.

SAM
(whisper/hiss)
Shhh! Do you hear that?

DUSA
--Ohhh, and what if they want me to fetch things? I can only hold so much at once!

VINCENT
I heard it, Sam. What--?

SAM
It's what we were afraid might be here.

Skittering down below, a WENDIGO comes racing from around a bend in the mineshaft. It claws its way up the wall below just as Sam points her flashlight back out and spots it.

SAM (CONT'D)
Nobody move!

The wendigo latches onto the elevator and screams in their faces. Vincent starts crying, and in her terror, Dusa accidentally PETRIFIES the creature. Sam looks over her shoulder, gives Dusa a thumbs up.

SAM (CONT'D)
Okay, badass.

Dusa giggles nervously as Sam pries one hand off of the elevator. Vincent notices and begins working on the other, his small hands able to fit through and work faster.

DUSA

It--it was nothing! I won't do it to you two, I promise!

Though momentarily skeptical, the others laugh - only to freeze as another SCREAM echoes down below.

SAM

I should've known. There's always more than one.

Sam looks around for a way to get the elevator moving again - she instead spots a square carved out of the top. A LATCH.

SAM (CONT'D)

Dusa! If we get this open can you help me get Vincent out and take him up top? We didn't get too far.

In place of a nod, Dusa floats up and down. Vincent keeps a lookout down below with the flashlight as Sam and Dusa force the latch open. Dusa flies up through it -- Sam turns to Vincent, hands out.

VINCENT

I'm scared.

SAM

I know. But we'll protect you.

VINCENT

I don't look it, but I'm a good climber.

SAM

Good! Time to practice, then. That's all it is. Practice.

VINCENT

Right.

Sam hoists Vincent up to Dusa, who uses a serpentine lock to carefully help him up onto the roof. Vincent gulps loudly but starts climbing.

Down below, the wendigo turns the corner, throws itself into a flying leap towards the elevator as it senses Sam's movement within. She hurriedly finds some way to lift herself up - stepping on the lever that she pulled downwards earlier.

SAM
Gonna have to do.

Sam drags herself up with Dusa's aid. While Dusa hovers below, ready to protect them, Sam follows Vincent up despite the shaking and rocking of the elevator box below as it pulls on the cables.

VINCENT
Sammm?

SAM
It'll hold. Keep going.

There isn't too far to climb, as Sam expected -- they make it to the mouth of this elevator shaft just as the wendigo squeezes its way around the box - and Dusa petrifies this one as well! Jittery but proud, she flies up and follows them out to the surface above.

DUSA
Okay, you were right. Those are way more terrifying than some of the things my um, friend, Zagreus fought.

SAM
Just be glad it couldn't fit through those bars. One bite and you're done.

VINCENT
What? I heard that new farmer wants to come down here and explore!

SAM
We'll just have to find a way to seal this place up.

VINCENT
Can I help?

DUSA
Ummmmmm--

SAM
There's no time to take him back, now. Come on, let's look around.