

I GOT 99 PROBLEMS

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FADE IN:

INT. IMOTAKAN LOBBY - NIGHT

Beautiful and deserted. Above a sterile security desk, a plaque on the wall reads 'IMOTAKAN PLAZA'.

A plastic cup filled with steaming black liquid stands next to a bank of powerless security monitors.

A WHOOSH of compressed air breaks the silence as the entrance door slides open. In strides a MAN, late thirties, a big guy with a warm, constant smile.

Dressed as an office worker with his necktie hanging loose, the name tag on his shirt reads 'LARRY WILSON'.

Lost in a virtual world via his CELLPHONE, he types away earnestly as he saunters over to the elevators.

SUDDENLY Larry trips over something and goes down heavily, face first. The phone flies out of his hand, lands with a sharp CRACK on the Floor.

LARRY

Jeez!

He rolls onto his back, sits up and spots what caused the accident; a roll of ORANGE DUCT TAPE with the words 'OUT OF ORDER' blazing across it, is strewn across the corridor with a Larry-sized gap in the middle.

Larry rises, removes the remanent of tape from his trousers and looks hopefully at the bank of elevators on each side.

They are all marked as 'Out of Order'. But wait no, a glance back reveals one devoid of the offending duct tape.

He retrieves his phone. The screen is cracked, lifeless; an expensive paper weight.

LARRY

Gosh darn it!

He places the phone in his pocket as he presses the Elevator CALL BUTTON.

LARRY

Please, please, please, please!

The Elevator door gently slides open. A fist pump in the air.

LARRY

Yes!

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

On the wall next to the door is a panel with a vast array of buttons. The numbers go from the ground Floor to well above a hundred.

Larry presses for Floor 99. It lights up. The lights for Floors 1, 2, and 3 light up also.

Larry frowns as more buttons fire up.

LARRY

No, no, no, no, no, no, no!

He frantically jabs at lit buttons, to no avail, as Floors are auto-selected by the faulty panel.

Floors 1 to 99 are locked-in. The door begins to close. Larry halts it with his hand, it re-opens.

He stands half-in, half-out of the elevator.

LARRY

Hey John, you there buddy?

No response. Larry glances over at the other side of the lobby at a STAIRWAY sign hanging over a door.

With a SIGH, Larry steps back inside and presses the HELP button, it is dead.

The door begins to close again. Larry folds his arms.

INT. ELEVATOR - LATER

The electronic Floor indicator shows an UP ARROW and the Number 8 as the door opens to reveal a DESERTED CORRIDOR.

Larry yawns. He presses the Close Door button repeatedly.

A few seconds go by, the door closes.

Larry stretches, squints and passes wind with a loud PARP.

He chuckles to himself.

The Floor indicator flicks to 9, the door opens to reveal a heart stopping, stunningly BEAUTIFUL WOMAN (20s) with a Cupid's bow mouth and ice blue eyes.

She drifts into the elevator, favors Larry with a million dollar smile.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
Sixty-Six please honey.

The door closes. Larry has turned a crimson red; a mixture of desire and toe-curling embarrassment.

She notices the lit up panel. Her charming flirtation turns quickly into exasperation.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
Really?

LARRY
It's not my fault.

She sniffs the air, her lip curls up in contempt.

WOMAN
Oh man, really?

The door opens on Floor 10. She walks out in disgust, turns and heads towards the staircase cursing.

LARRY
Hey, it's not my fault!

The door closes. Larry kicks the wall.

LARRY
Muddy funsters!

A few self-deprecating moments go by.

The door slides opens at Floor 11. A vintage 12-inch tall CHIEF ROBOT MAN trundles into the elevator.

Larry stares in disbelief at the classic kids toy as it's body spins around.

He looks out into the corridor but there is no sign of the owner. The Robot's chest lights up, as it fires fake lasers in Larry's direction.

Larry grips his chest, feigns injury.

LARRY
Argh! You got me!

The door slides close.

LARRY
Looks like it's just you and me
Robbie.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS FLOORS

A) FLOOR 15: The elevator door opens. Larry is sat on the Floor with Robbie held in the palm of a hand.

LARRY
Danger Will Robinson, Danger!

B) FLOOR 20: The door opens, Larry continues his play with Robbie and shows off more of his impressive impersonations.

LARRY
Bidi Bidi Bidi, what a body Buck!

C) FLOOR 24: The door opens. Larry is on one side of the elevator facing off against Robbie.

LARRY
Exterminate, Exterminate!

D) FLOOR 35: The door opens. Larry is in the process of a push-up. He strains with the effort.

LARRY
One!

E) FLOOR 41: The door slides opens. Larry's push-ups continue. He is drenched in sweat and struggles to rise.

LARRY
Two!

He leaps to his feet.

LARRY
And I'm done.

F) FLOOR 52: The door shuffles opens to reveal Larry stood provocatively. His shirt is undone, he rubs a nipple slowly.

LARRY
Oh, good morning Mr. Tyler.
Going...down?

BACK TO SCENE

INT. ELEVATOR - LATER

Robbie continues his random patrol of the interior Floor. The Floor Indicator reads 63 and the door opens.

Larry glances out. All he can see is the same cloned, deserted corridor as per all the previous Floors.

LARRY

Only twenty six Floors to go
Robbie, hee-hee! Twenty-six, twenty-
six, two and six, pick and mix!

The door slides closed. Larry makes a WHOOSHING sound like the door closing effect from classic Star Trek.

LARRY

Computer, Bridge!
(beat)
Belay that. Take me to the Holodeck
and prepare to initiate the Seven
of Nine fantasy program.

The door opens at Floor 64. Yet another corridor presents itself. Larry claps slowly.

LARRY

Congratulations Floor sixty four.
You are officially the most boring
Floor I've seen so far.

Slowly, inch-by-inch the door begins to close as time seems to slow down for Larry.

Finally it shuts.

Larry GROANS in frustration.

SUDDENLY a loud RUMBLE shakes the Elevator. Larry struggles to maintain balance, Robbie topples over.

The mini-earthquake subsides. The indicator flips to 65.

The door slides opens at a normal speed. A stream of water flows inside, it splashes around Larry's ankles.

LARRY

What the heck?

Robbie is submerged in water. Larry rescues the robot.

Larry steps half-out of the elevator with his palm against the door and Robbie in the other hand.

He looks around and spots a toppled WATER COOLER, it's 5 Gallon Bottle GLUGS the final contents onto the Floor. Larry SIGHS in relief and steps back inside.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

The water drains down into darkness below as the elevator rises one more Floor, then stops.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Floor 66. Larry places Robbie back down.

He looks at the door expectantly, frowns, turns to the control panel, presses the OPEN DOOR button to no avail.

He BANGS on the door with a fist.

LARRY

Hello?

Silence.

LARRY

Oh for Pete's sake! Is anyone in this building awake?

A single BANG from the other side of the door makes him jump in shock. He quickly recovers.

LARRY

Hello? My name's Larry, I live in apartment 973.

Silence.

LARRY

Hello?

SUDDENLY a loud BANG, followed by another BANG.

Larry takes a step back. Another BANG, Larry covers his mouth with his hand. A fourth BANG, Larry goes to step back but comes up against the back wall.

Slowly, the door opens but only darkness is revealed.

Larry squints, takes a tentative step forward.

A few flickering lights in the corridor allow a small amount of illumination.

Another few steps forward, Larry sticks his head out of the Elevator. No sign of anyone but something catches his eye.

LARRY

Hello? Is anybody there?

Further down the corridor, Larry can see what appears to be a HUMANOID SHAPE stood stock-still in the shadows.

A spooked Larry steps back into the Elevator. The door does not seem interested in closing, so Larry tries to spur them on. He jabs the close door button.

Distracted, Larry does not notice Robbie trundle out of the elevator and head slowly towards the mysterious observer.

LARRY

Come on, come on!

He presses the alarm button, he jabs at any button he can.

A glance back into the corridor and he notices Robbie's run for freedom towards doom.

LARRY

Robbie!

Without pause he rushes out to rescue his little comrade.

The door starts to close, Larry spins around, leaps back at the elevator and just manages to block the door with his hand.

The door slides opens again, Larry looks over his shoulder nervously. Robbie is further down the corridor. It spins around, the chest lights fire at Larry, it spins back and resumes it's journey.

LARRY

Robbie no!

One of the overhead lights flick back on for a few seconds. Just enough to reveal the shape to be a FACELESS MAN, then the light flicks off again.

Larry dives back into the elevator. He smacks the panel over and over, presses every button he can.

LARRY

Oh my gosh, oh my gosh, oh my gosh!

Finally, the door slides close.

INT. FLOOR 67 - MOMENTS LATER

A normal, well-lit, deserted corridor on a normal Floor. The Elevator door opens to reveal an empty interior.

Larry's head peaks out from the side cautiously. With a sigh of relief the rest of him steps out into view.

SUDDENLY! The door slams shut.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The indicator arrow changes to point down, the Floor number flicks to 66.

LARRY

No!

With a whoosh, the descent continues at maddening speed downwards.

Larry grips the side rails tightly as the indicator goes down to 51, then zooms back up to 67.

The lights on the control panel flash randomly. Larry cries out in terror.

The ascent continues quickly to 90 then SHRIEKS to a halt.

The sudden stop sends Larry to the ground.

The indicator changes to 91. Larry shakily rises.

A pain causes Larry to clutch his chest.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ELEVATOR (FLOOR 11)

Larry stares in disbelief at the CHIEF ROBOT MAN toy as it's body spins around.

The Robot's chest lights up as it fires it's lasers in Larry's direction.

Larry grips his chest, feigning injury.

LARRY

Argh! You got me!

BACK TO PRESENT

The Floor Indicator reads 92. Larry still clutches his chest.

LARRY (V.O.)
Please don't!

A GUNSHOT rings out from Larry's unconscious memory as a bloodstain forms on his shirt around his clenched hand.

LARRY
Oh no!

The Floor Indicator flicks to 93.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. IMOTAKAN LOBBY

The DUCT TAPE surrounding the bank of elevators is now blue and reads 'POLICE - DO NOT CROSS'.

MALE WITNESS (V.O.)
It happened, so fast, the guy came
out of no-where and just shot him.

On the Floor is a Larry shaped body in POLICE OUTLINE TAPE. It is in the same position where Larry fell earlier.

FEMALE WITNESS (V.O.)
I don't understand. Who would want
to kill Larry? He's like the nicest
guy I know!

BACK TO PRESENT

A single tear travels down Larry's cheek.

The Floor Indicator flicks to 99.

The pain subsides. Larry reaches out a shaking hand towards the door. His finger lightly touches the metal surface.

The door slides opens and a brilliant, blinding light pours in. A wide-mouthed Larry takes a step back.

LARRY
Holy...shit!

He looks on in awe. Something catches his eye, he cocks his head to one side.

LARRY
Mom?

He breaks out into a wonderful, wide smile.

LARRY

Mom!

Larry stands up tall, he buttons up his collar, fixes his tie, brushes his hair into place.

...And steps boldly out into the light.

FADE OUT.