

NICE HAT

Cinematic Screenplay Sample by Patrick Laffoon

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INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

DING. The steel doors of an old elevator with dirty carpet slowly open to reveal JOHN MARSTON, a gruff, no-nonsense wild west outlaw. He steps inside, looks at the many buttons, then presses his. The doors start to close when John spots JACKIE WELLES, the brawny cyberpunk merc, barreling toward him.

JACKIE

Ey! Hold that, amigo!

John pretends to press the "open door" button as the doors close... SLAM. Jackie's meaty arm pops in between the doors just in time and forces them open, then he steps inside and adjusts his stylish leather jacket.

JACKIE

The fuck, man? I said hold it.

JOHN

Sorry, mister. Button didn't work, I guess.

JACKIE

Yeah, okay, whatever, amigo...

Jackie goes to press his button, but it's already been pressed.

JACKIE

You going to nineteen, too, eh?

JOHN

Looks that way.

The doors shut and the elevator lurches upward with a GROAN. Jackie leans against the wall and eyes John up and down.

JACKIE

Ey, where'd you get that hat,
choom?

JOHN

Don't remember. Had it for a long
time.

JACKIE

Been thinking about getting one
like that. But, like, a nice one,
you know? Boga. Gotta stay guapo
for the ladies. There must a be a
primo store for that kind of
thing, no?

John SIGHS. DING. The elevator stops abruptly and the doors
open to reveal the young and bubbly ninja, YUFFIE KISARAGI.

YUFFIE

Wrong floor! Whoops.

She literally HOPS into the elevator in between John and
Jackie. She smiles at both of them, then ogles John's hat.

YUFFIE

Ooooh, nice hat! Where'd you get
it?

JACKIE

Gonk doesn't remember.

The doors close and it lurches upward again, sounding worse.
Yuffie then presses every. single. button.

YUFFIE

I don't remember which floor I'm
supposed to go to, so I'll have to
try 'em all. Sorry, fellas!

THUD. The elevator violently stops and shakes. It's STUCK.
Yuffie starts frantically pressing buttons.

YUFFIE

Uh oh... Uh, it's okay, I can fix
this... Ummm... Errr... Come
on...

JACKIE

Don't think that's gonna work,
chica.

JOHN

What the hell did you do, little girl?! We're stuck now, ya damned fool!

Yuffie plops on the ground, cross-legged, head in her hands. She starts to repeatedly smack her head with her fist.

YUFFIE

Yuffie, you dumb-dumb! You ruin everything!

JACKIE

Come on, give her a break, ja? She's just a kid.

JOHN

Hell... Alright, look- Hey, stop that, will ya? I'm sorry I yelled. Maybe we can find us another way outta here.

Yuffie looks up at John with doe eyes, then she narrows her gaze and looks past him. She jumps up, hands on her hips.

YUFFIE

That's it! Another way out!

She points up. There's a tiny escape hatch.

JACKIE

Oye, there's no way I'm fitting through that.

YUFFIE

Nope. But I can! Ready to be impressed?

She jumps up, ninja kicks the hatch open, then flips through the opening, landing atop the elevator. She pokes back in.

YUFFIE

I'll go get help and be back in a flash! In the meantime, you two can have a scratchy voice contest.

Yuffie winks, then flips away and disappears. John SIGHS, then removes his hat and strokes his beard to calm himself.

JACKIE

My voice isn't that scratchy, is it?