

FLOOR HALF by Ibrahim Asif Mirza

1 INT. CORRIDOR - UNKNOWN 1

The little BOY stands frozen in front of the small elevator. He takes a step forward, stands on his toes and presses the "call elevator" button.

A soft thud and the doors open. A gust of wind blows, pushing the BOY towards the elevator.

The BOY takes a deep breath and steps inside.

2 INT. ELEVATOR - UNKNOWN 2

VOICE (O.S.)
(in cool monotone)
Which floor, sir?

The BOY jumps and turns around. He sees a tall, slender ELEVATOR-MAN.

The BOY goes through his pockets and produces a small coin. The ELEVATOR-MAN takes the coin, inserts into into a slot and presses a button.

The elevator pulsates, comes to life and starts to climb.

FADE TO:

Time passes by and the elevator abruptly grinds and comes to a halt.

BOY
What's happening?

The ELEVATOR-MAN twists and starts to bend towards to BOY, *like a giant tree about to fall*.

ELEVATOR-MAN
"Two-halves you can see. One
in-between, that makes three."

He slides open the compartment and the BOY sees that the coin is broken; it's missing a piece. The BOY starts to protest but-

ELEVATOR-MAN (cont'd)
(grinning, cutting him off)
Half.Coin. Half.Way.

The ELEVATOR-MAN's fingers wiggle around the elevator control panel.

BOY
Wait!

(CONTINUED)

Too late. The elevator distorts and starts to speed towards somewhere.

BOY (cont'd)
Where are we going?!

No answer. The elevator continues to speed up until finally-

ELEVATOR-MAN
Floor.half.

-the elevator stops and the doors open.

3 EXT. FLOOR HALF - UNKNOWN

3

A dark silhouetted crowd stands before him; it looks like a giant dark grey blob.

Around, everything is in shades of grey; the elevator and its occupants are the only ones with colour.

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ELEVATOR-MAN
Watch.step...
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The ELEVATOR-MAN beckons the BOY to go out. He does so.

BOY
But...what am I supposed to do
here?

ELEVATOR-MAN
I.deliver. Not.answer.

The dark crowd (SHADOWS) speaks to the BOY in whispers.

SHADOWS
Welcome, child.

The BOY, confused, turns around.

Welcome! SHADOWS

SHADOWS
Welcome, child!

The whispers rise in intensity. The BOY, terrified, tries to climb back into the elevator, but finds himself unable to do so.

BOY
(to the ELEVATOR-MAN)
Let me in! You broke the coin!
It's not my fault! LET ME IN!

INSIDE THE ELEVATOR: The ELEVATOR-MAN watches as the BOY waves his fists in air and shouts in mute.

(CONTINUED)

BOY (cont'd)
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME!?

SHADOWS
Forget... Embrace...

The BOY's knees buckle as he slows down. His feet change to grey and the shadows slowly move towards him.

SHADOWS (cont'd)
Lost ones. Broken ones. The grey.

The shadows inch closer and closer until they engulf the boy.

FADE TO:

The BOY lays sprawled on the ground, eyes staring into space, his colour fading away.

One shadow dislodges from the silhouetted crowd, like a piece of paper being torn, and fades away.

BOY
(weak)
Wh-what...happened to?

SHADOWS
It chose...the void... Permanent
solace...

FADE TO:

The BOY hears the ELEVATOR-MAN in his head.

ELEVATOR-MAN
C.o.i.n.

BOY
You...broke...Leave...me...

The BOY closes his eyes again.

FADE TO:

One dark shadow from the crowd comes in front of the now colour-drained BOY. He looks up and reaches out.

His hand gets engulfed in the darkness. He smiles, and tears well up in his eyes.

SHADOWS
The void...permanent...solace....

The BOY starts to fade. He closes his eyes and starts to laugh.

(CONTINUED)

BEGIN MONTAGE:

Intercut with the BOY in the present slowly fading away.

A) EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY - The BOY is laughing with his friends.

B) EXT. STATE-FAIR - EVENING - The BOY, on a ride, is screaming with delight.

C) INT. HOME - NIGHT The BOY is looking at his parents; they lovingly look back at him.

END MONTAGE.

Some lone shadows tear away, but instead of fading they move closer towards the BOY.

TORN-SHADOW#1

Accept, not reject! Go forward,
child!

TORN-SHADOW#2

To go forward... is to go through
the grey. And to go through the
grey... is to never go alone.

Light catches the BOY's eyes. He looks around and sees that his right hand, clenched, is glowing.

He opens his palm...and is shocked to see the other half of the coin.

TORN-SHADOW#1

Help...from others. Family.
Friends. Never alone.

TORN-SHADOW#2

We took comfort in the solace.
Long enough to become part of the
grey.

The BOY's body starts to materialize. The other SHADOWS see this, and start to close in on him.

TORN-SHADOW#1

But know that without the grey,
there is no going forward.

The SHADOWS rise, growing intense and angry.

TORN-SHADOW#2

Now GO!

The SHADOWS come down crashing like a wave and engulf the TORN-SHADOWS. The BOY gets up-

(CONTINUED)

SHADOWS
EMBRACE! FORGET! SOLACE!

BOY
NO!

-and sprints towards the elevator.

BOY (cont'd)
(to the ELEVATOR-MAN)
I FOUND IT! I FOUND THE COIN!

The shadows twist and morph and try to stop him, but the BOY runs through them.

He runs as fast as he can, until he leaps-

4 INT. ELEVATOR - UNKNOWN

4

-and lands face-first in the elevator. *His body is back to normal now.*

ELEVATOR-MAN
Coin.

The BOY thrusts the coin into the ELEVATOR-MAN's hands. The ELEVATOR-MAN smiles and places the coin-piece beside the other. The elevator comes to life and starts to climb again.

FADE TO:

The elevator stops and the door opens to a long corridor.

The ELEVATOR-MAN hands the BOY a new golden coin-

ELEVATOR-MAN (cont'd)
For.next.level.

BOY
Will it break?

ELEVATOR-MAN
I.deliver. Not.answer.

-and points to the long corridor.

5 INT. CORRIDOR - UNKNOWN

5

The BOY steps off, walks the long corridor and finds himself in front of another elevator.

He stands frozen in front of it.

He takes a step forward, stands on his toes and presses "call elevator" button.

END