

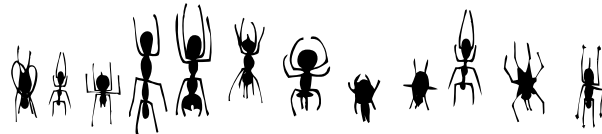
ELEVATION

Written by

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PILOT

ANT-TRAP



FADE IN:

EXT. ELEVATION ESTATE - MORNING - ESTABLISHING

A SPRAY PAINTED 'ANT' emblem marks the doors to the entrance of a gargantuan GOTHIC CASTLE. This is Elevation Estate. A FLUSTERED MAN (40's), storms out. He makes grave eye contact with...

LOUIS BORK (40's), gangly, gloomy, gawky and growing impatient to enter, steps forward.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

He paid great mind to the man
exiting. It was his eyes most of
all that bore the mark of a spook.

Louis stumbles. The man strides off, glancing nervously left and right as he high-tails it past the gated entrance.

INT. ELEVATION ESTATE - ATRIUM - DAY

Louis enters, a GREETER / TEAM LEADER (30's), smiles vacantly down at him.

GREETER

Welcome to Elevation Estate.
Checking in?

LOUIS

Yes.

GREETER

May I see your Permittance Ticket?

Louis hands the Greeter a THICK SHINY SILVER TICKET. It is blank save for the color. The Greeter holds it under an ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT - his NAME appears.

GREETER (CONT'D)

And the other please.

LOUIS

Other?

GREETER

Yes. You will have received it in
the mail, along with your
acceptance letter.

LOUIS

I didn't receive anything.

GREETER

Oh, I'm terribly sorry about that Mr. Bork. Please, right this way, we've been expecting you.

INT. ELEVATION ESTATE - FRONT DESK - DAY

The Greeter guides Louis to Reception and hands his silver ticket to the Desk Clerk, FRILLO (40's). Her face is so clear it's almost plastic - she looks stretched like rubber round a ball.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

He had been warned it was unusual to bring only one bag, so he brought three.

INT. DINGY MOTEL - FLASHBACK - DAY

Louis pulls PRICE TAGS off new LUGGAGE. He packs his BACKPACK full of his personal belongings and zips up the THREE SUITCASES with NOTHING IN THEM.

INT. ELEVATION ESTATE - FRONT DESK - DAY

FRILLO

Welcome, Mr. Bork. We're delighted to have you staying with us this month. I see here you've purchased our Silver Member's Package. Would you care to upgrade to Gold for another fifty-thousand?

LOUIS

No, thank you.

FRILLO

Are you sure? That would grant you access to Tiers Seven and Eight and open up the Grounds Games quite substantially for Courtship.

LOUIS

I'm fine with six.

FRILLO

We're talking about the rest of your life here, Mr. Bork. Do you want 'fine' or do you want to 'elevate?'

LOUIS
I want to elevate.

FRILLO
Excellent, I'll just require a credit card to make that upgrade change to--

LOUIS
No, I... I'm okay with Silver for now.

FRILLO
Alright. Well, just so you know, you always have the option to upgrade at a later date, should you change your mind.

She hands him a LARGE PACKET.

FRILLO (CONT'D)
Here is your Summit Packet. It includes your Activity Schedule, Rules for Quiet Block, Wardrobe Requirements, Dietary Restriction Survey, Fraternization Regulations and Pharmaceutical Request Form. The rest you'll get tomorrow in orientation.

LOUIS
Thank you.

FRILLO
Now, I have you booked in one of our Silver Suites with a grounds view. Would you prefer a Sphere Suite?

Frillo shows him a TABLET with several PHOTOS of a SPHERE SUITE. It's a round domed room with VIDEO PANELS that can be changed with the click of a remote. The man in the room has selected SPACE VIEW - a globe of stars. The bed is also round and vibrates via TOKENS.

Louis shakes his head NO.

Frillo hands him ONE SILVER ROOM KEY and points to her NAME TAG.

FRILLO (CONT'D)
My name is Frillo, should you require anything at all. Elevators are down the hall to the right.
(MORE)

FRILLO (CONT'D)

I'll have our Lobby Man show you to Bursary before taking you to your room.

(beat)

Percephos?

PERCEPHOS (50's), approaches. He's gaunt and skinny with sunken jowls and shaggy hair. Rough hands, rougher teeth. A wink lingers on the edge of his eyes.

FRILLO (CONT'D)

Percephos, please take Mr. Bork here to Bursary and then show him to his suite.

Percephos places Louis's luggage on a TROLLEY. They exchange eye-contact... it's much too light.

INT. ELEVATION ESTATE - INTERIOR / HALLWAY - DAY

Louis walks behind Percephos.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

He found him to be a haunched man, by which cigarette smoke clung to and leaked behind him like a snake shedding skin. An itchy guy who scratched a lot and barely made a sound when he walked.

A wall-mounted TELEVISION plays what appears to be an INFOMERCIAL:

INFOMERCIAL WOMAN (FILTERED)

The purpose of an elevated man is to aspire to reach higher. Higher, is the elevated man's intention. To rise, one must want more from themselves and others - one must elevate to achieve the life they desire.

Louis pauses to watch. The Man's name at the bottom reads DANNY, SILVER MEMBER, TIER SIX.

INFOMERCIAL DANNY TESTIMONIAL
(FILTERED)

After I elevated, my life improved in ways I can't even begin to explain.

(MORE)

INFOMERCIAL DANNY TESTIMONIAL

I got promoted at work - could barely afford my rent, now I make six figures, I bought myself a lambo, lost sixty-pounds, gained twenty back in muscle and landed the hottest girlfriend on the planet. Former Miss America. Look at this. Look at me and look at her. There's no explanation other than I elevated and got my dream life. I can't thank them enough. Don't wait. Elevate.

INT. ELEVATION ESTATE - HALLWAY / BURSARY - DAY

The men approach.

PERCEPHOS

Bursary. Pete'll sort ya out. I'll wait here.

INT. ELEVATION ESTATE - BURSARY - CONTINUOUS

Louis enters. PETER (40's), glides over. He wears a flashy suit, impeccably tailored and fit to perfection. Ostentatious jewels bedeck his bare skin and he's thrilled about it.

PETER

Mr. Bork, I presume?

Louis nods. Peter looks him up and down.

PETER (CONT'D)

Well, I can see you're in the right place. Do you want to keep them or should I have them burned?

(beat)

I'm kidding. Kind of. Did you pre-order?

LOUIS

Uhm... I can't remember.

PETER

Can't remember? Oh honey, I've never forgotten shopping in my life. Your room key please.

Louis hands him the room key and waits, glancing around at all the wild fashions - SUITS and TIES and HATS oh my.

Peter scans the key and looks at a TABLET screen.