

Elevator Scene - Portfolio Version

Made during The Narrative Department masterclass, May 2023.

Purpose: differentiate character voices, focusing on style and pace.

Prompt: three characters (MCs or NPCs) meet in an elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

In the Underworld elevator, ZAGREUS (age unknown), prince of the Underworld, red-green clothes, skulls on his belt, yellow-crimson laurel crown, dark hairs, right red eye, left green eye, arms crossed, is looking at a web on the roof.

ZAGREUS

(tapping his finger on his arm)

This machinery hasn't been used
for some time. Better talk to
the clean-up crew when I'm back..

An organ sound spread in the vast of the Underworld. *Tum... tum... tum-tum*. The Underground elevator stops, and the doors suddenly open on a dark corridor. White-draped transparent ghost walks undisturbed.

ZAGREUS

...and Daedalus... this is not Styx.

One of the silhouettes in the corridor is opaque. A RED-HAIR GIRL (18 y/o), barefoot, in a light azure vest, is walking backward while looking around.

ZAGREUS

And that is not a ghost.

She stumbles on a skull, looks down, and jumps back into the elevator near Zagreus.

ZAGREUS

Going up, miss?

The girl stutters and looks at the Prince of the Underworld like she never saw one before.

RED-HAIR GIRL

Going... ehm... out of here. The
fastest you can.

Zagreus nods and clicks the red arrow on the elevator wall. A hellish trumpet introduces a dead-chill melody into the room.

RED-HAIR GIRL

This is much more than an illusion...
What kind of power did Earth's
humans have? All my assumptions
about this place were... incorrect!

ZAGREUS

Glad to still be surprised after
centuries. By the way, this is (MORE)

ZAGREUS (CONT'D)

not manpower, not entirely. More god's power. Olympus, more precisely. A little touch of mine, a little of my mother...

RED-HAIR GIRL

You?! You helped build this...
torturing land of the dead?

The elevator shakes and slows down. Stone dust crumbles over the black marble floor, a series of muffled bumps far away.

ZAGREUS

(flouncing)

Underworld is the official name.
And yours is...? Gotta put it into
the complaint list.

BETA (RED-HAIR GIRL)

Uh! Apologies... I hope I didn't...
My name is Beta. And this is so
extraordinary as unsettling.

Beta touches her left ear, and a circle of candles appears around his head. Tables of lights spread across her face, and from a circle in his hand, a map of the Underworld spreads up.

ZAGREUS

(surprised)

Ah-ah! A goddess, indeed. Never
heard about a Beta in my uncle's
courts. Are you from a distant
pantheon? I sense something
Eastern...

BETA

(while analyzing the elevator's wall)

A very distant one. Not a
pantheon, but we had our gods.
They are ruthless. Different
from the ones I met down here.

ZAGREUS

Now I'm curious! Was it Zeus,
perhaps? Athena? Ah, gotcha:
Apollo! He usually wears
something similar to yours...

BETA

(talking to herself)

Gosh, these walls are ancient. I mean, more than a Zenith.

(answering Zagreus without turn)

Heard about Apollo and met GAIA. Nice lady.

ZAGREUS

Wait, did you say Gaia? Wasn't she dead by any chance?

BETA

(turning to Zagreus)

She was. But we restored her.

ZAGREUS

Restor- what are you talking about?

A high-pitched scream comes from over the elevator, a series of rocky sounds, and a huge blast opens up the elevator ceiling.

Pieces of the walls crumble, revealing a mechanism of dark golden gears and huge obsidian chains. The gears are trying to lift the elevator, but something isn't working.

Zagreus and Beta move out of the debris, their face covered by white dust. Inside the elevator, a young lad, a FALLEN BOY (approx. 10 y/o), red hair, a greenish robe, and a golden bow.

FALLING BOY

Ah... I'm surely dead.

ZAGREUS

You're *in the land of the dead*, not thinking you're actually one of them.

BETA

So, is it cool to use the unofficial name now?

Zagreus shrugs his shoulders. The falling boy stands up and brushes his clothes, picks up the bow.

FALLING BOY

Underworld!? So I was right all along... Hela must be around here.

BETA

That's a function of GAIA I
don't recognize.

ZAGREUS

(walking around)

Another pantheon, Beta. A
colder, up north. Made some
winter holidays there when I was
a child. So my mother told me I
was too little...

(to the falling boy)

You're looking for Helheim. We
prefer fire around here. What
were you looking for?

FALLING BOY

(looking up)

The source of... them.

All three look up: a crowd of ice-blue zombie-like
creatures spider down on the elevator's wall. Half a
dozen use their ice-swords to slow the falling, speeding
up towards the elevator platform.

FALLING BOY

Hel-walkers.

BETA

It was supposed to be safe here!
I'm not the fighting one in my...
family...

ZAGREUS

Oh, for the Gods! Critters!

BETA

(using her focus)

...but I'm not gonna die from a
bunch of holograms. Keep them
occupied!

(speaking to herself)

That... sounded a *lot* like Aloy.
Wish she was here; that's her
line of work.

The falling boy starts shooting arrows towards the
enemies while Beta analyzes the gears.

ZAGREUS

(drawing the sword, speaking to Beta)

Don't worry. Fighting hordes of
hellish creatures is *mine*.

ZAGREUS

(pointing up)

In the name of Hades, I
accept this challenge!

FALLING BOY

(shooting arrows)

Can you cut the bark? I can
hold it, but not for long.

The Hel-walkers climb down in droves, screaming at the
three warriors. Zagreus and the falling boy are back to
back, protecting Beta in the corner.

ZAGREUS

I know a lot of archers in the
pantheons. What's your name?

ATREUS (FALLING BOY)

It depends on the pantheon. From
my father's side, I'm Atreus. My
mother is Loki.

ZAGREUS

Sounds familiar. I think
Achilles knew an "Atreus" when
he was alive.

ATREUS

Achilles? Who are you?

ZAGREUS

Zagreus. Prince of the
Underworld, son of Hades and
Persephone.

ATREUS

I see.

(to himself)

I'm curious what my father will
have to say about this. I mean,
if this is not fate...

BETA

(using her focus)

I think I found the problem!

Beta stands up, dodges a Hel-walker's lunge, and manifests a shield to take the slash from another. She walks backward to the wall and touches six stones in the wall that form a circle. A cylinder comes out, and she types something in her focus.

BETA

Hang onto something. This is going to be rough!

ZAGREUS

(pointing up)

Rough's my second name. Or was it "devilish"?

ATREUS

(shooting arrows)

My father's rough; this is easy.

Beta pushes a button on the focus. The cylinder falls on the floor, followed by other stone semi-columns. A noise spread from the walls, chain breaks whipping the air, slashing Hel-walkers in the process. A rising roar builds up, and... *boom!* The elevator is pushed up into the shaft.

BETA

HELP ME OUT!

Beta, Zagreus and Atreu put some of the cylinders up moments before the elevator meets the floor. Beta smashes a column into the wall, hitting a gear.

Some minutes later, the three opened a giant stone door between the ceiling and the elevator floor. Atreus slips out, climbing down on a corridor floor.

Zagreus looks out.

ZAGREUS

Uh. I don't remember Father approving this wing building.

The stone doors start closing, and the mechanism automatically awakens. The columns inside the elevator tremble.

BETA

(shouting)

Guys! The columns will not last forever!

ZAGREUS

(to Atreus)

If only Sisyphus were around here... go call him!

A dark figure rises from the corridor, keeping the stone doors open with his bare hands.

BALD MAN

Out. Quickly.

Beta activates her shields and slashes a column while Zagreus helps her out. The duo find themselves under the towering figure, a bald man with white skin, full plate armor, and a couple of swords on his back.

Once the duo is out, the bald man lets the stone door crush each other. A cloud of dust rises.

The bald man turns to Atreus.

BALD MAN

(resentful, low voice)

I told you shortcuts ALWAYS have a price.

ATREUS

(to the others)

Don't be scared. It's just following me in this quest.

BETA

What is not with you or following you?

BALD MAN

(resigned)

Boy, I'm not a fate puppet nor a sidekick. You follow me, not the opposite.

(resigned)

Keep the pace. You can call me Kratos.

Kratos takes the torch from the wall and starts marching in front of the group, heading into the darkness of the Underworld.

ZAGREUS

(checking Kratos)

Your father?

ATREUS

How did you...

ZAGREUS

Resentful shoulder, furrowed
gaze, lovely absence of
happiness. Trust me, I know a
Pantheon godfather when I see
one. What was his specialty?

ATREUS

God-slaying.

Beta and Zagreus look at each other and gulp.

BETA

It was supposed to be safe.

ATREUS

Better not talk about this to my
father.