

Ten Minutes Till...

Book by Veronica Driscoll

CHARACTERS

Tracy - The girl who cannot tell a lie. Fiona's best friend.

Fiona - The girl who received honorable mention in the beauty pageant. Tracy's best friend.

Earl - The man with a hearing aid. Old and spacey.

Josh - The hunky pizza delivery boy. A total gym bro.

Smith - The singing telegram delivery person. Small in size but great in character.

TIME

5:30pm. Just before rush hour.

PLACE

An elevator stuck between floors of a luxury apartment complex in Los Angeles, California.

Scene 1

An elevator stuck between floors of a Los Angeles Luxury apartment complex. Five people are inside. Tracy and Fiona, bestfriends, Smith the singing telegram delivery person, Josh the HUnky Pizza delivery boy and Earl an old man with a hearing aid.

SMITH

Doooooooooooo. Do re mi fa sooooooolllllll.
(lip trills)

JOSH

Floor zero and floor one. Of course it had to be stuck right where I can't get any service. And it's been twenty minutes, what's the point of this stupid emergency button if no one is going to answer!

FIONA

(leaning on Tracy's shoulder, under her breath)
Ick. Honestly, can you complain louder?

TRACY

I think he's kind of hunky.

(Earl laughs and the whole crew looks to him abruptly in silence)

SMITH

I'm actually cool with the delay. I needed time to warm up for my singing telegram gig. I'm not looking forward to today's breakup song. Kinda awkward when I have to do the dirty work on someone else's behalf.

JOSH

(Walking over to the elevator door)

SOMEONE HELP!

(To the left)

I HAVE PIZZA!

(To the right)

IT WILL GET COLD

(Upward)

PLEASE I HAVE A PHOBIA

TRACY

We might as well eat the pizza. By now it's probably cold anyways. No one's expecting that thing to show up a half hour late.

SMITH

That's why I'm glad no one expects me. I kinda just show up. I do have to pee though. I've got maybe ten more minutes in me before things get painful.

FIONA

I'm starving but I absolutely CANNOT eat and jeopardize my look for today's show. Wait, WHAT TIME IS IT?!?!

JOSH

6:50.

FIONA

Oh my GOD, the show starts in ten minutes! How could this happen?!

TRACY

Stopped elevator. That's how.

FIONA

When we get out of here, I don't have any time to get my earrings like I wanted to. Do you think I look okay? I cannot get an honorable mention again. This can't be like last time. Do you think I look okay?!!

(She looks at herself in a compact mirror)

TRACY

Fiona, FIONA. As your best friend and pageant manager I can confidently say that you look horrible.

(EARL coughs over Tracy's last word)

I mean absolutely amaaa...eeesss a huge mess of colors and bad choices.

(EARL coughs again with the grossest, loudest sound he can make over Tracy's entire line. Everyone's eyes bounce between him and Tracy. EARL adjusts his hearing aid)

FIONA

Wait, what did you say?

JOSH

You look fine. But I'm not looking too hot considering I've got another 3 minutes and 30 seconds until this pizza is free of charge by company standards.

SMITH

Wow. That's a lot of pressure. What floor are you going to?
Maybe you'll make it just in time.

JOSH

Floor 2, apartment 218.

TRACY

Apartment 218!?!

SMITH

Hey, that's my delivery location!

JOSH

Yeah?

TRACY

Oh shit.

FIONA

(Recording a video on her smartphone's front facing camera)
For future reference, this is where I was when I was late to
today's pageant which I'm going to win! Sorry not sorry, Tiffany
Crane! Maybe you'll get an honorable mention this time.

(EARL coughs loudly again)

FIONA

Honorable mention. I think you meant third place! Here I am
stuck in this elevator, obviously the most beautiful one here.

TRACY

You always undersell yourself, that's why you got honorable
mention. You're underselling and you dress terribly.

(EARL coughs over her last word again)

TRACY

You should delete all of that because I said what I wanted to
and this old ass man keeps coughing up a lung every five
seconds! Did no one teach you any manners?

(beat)

I'm Sorry.

(beat)

No, I'm not sorry. AND you're creeping all of us out not saying
anything! HELLO?

FIONA

(Hyperventilating)
Okay everyone back up!

(EARL adjusts his hearing aid again)

FIONA

I need space, I can't believe this is happening to me. It's hot in here! Who gets stuck in an elevator with four other people?! Me. Only me!

TRACY

And me.

SMITH

And me!

JOSH

And me.

EARL

And me.

(The group looks at Earl for a moment. JOSH reaches for his water jug and SMITH starts warming up again. EARL adjusts his hearing aid)

FIONA

I guess so...

(FIONA sits back against the back wall)

SMITH

You think I sound flat? Maybe I should stand.

(They stand. EARL adjust his hearing aid)

JOSH

Screw this.

(JOSH frantically begins pushing the elevator emergency button)

SMITH

How's this?

(SMITH SINGS)

I am breaking uuuuuppppp with yoooouuu

(EARL adjusts his hearing aid off again)

FIONA

I really needed that wake up call.

TRACY

GOD, FIONA, WAKE UP! We might not be where we want to be! We might be stuck between floors with strangers, but maybe that's where we need to be right now. You're not built for pagenting. You've fallen at every show we've gone to and you hate high heels. Stop.

Josh, I don't know you, and even though you get on my nerves, you should ask me out.

Smith, the apartment you're going to is mine! So just stop singing and give me the damn card because I hated that man anyways. And how DARE he send me a telegram when I've tried breaking up with him three times!

And you! What is even your name?

EARL

Earl.

SMITH

A man of few words.

EARL

And of many tricks.

TRACY

Weirdo.

FIONA

You think I'm not meant for pagenting?

TRACY

(Struggling with the lie in her throat)

YES! FUUUUUGGGGHHHH. Yeah. Truth is, I haven't been able to get a single lie out since this morning. I don't know what happened but as soon as I ran into Earl on the way downstairs I just felt different.

JOSH

Hey, I thought you were into me.

TRACY

Don't get cocky now.

EARL

Tracy.

(Everyone looks)

The truth will set you free.

(The elevator starts again)

JOSH

YES!

(To TRACY)

Call me!

(JOSH presses floor 2 and squeezes out of the door like it's his last chance at life)

SMITH

He must've forgotten that you're the person he's delivering to. Sorry about your relationship.

TRACY

That's okay, I've got better ones on the way.

FIONA

I guess you're right, Trace. I just really needed to breathe.

TRACY

Pizza at my place, anyone?

(They all giggle and exit, except for EARL, who coughs until the elevator door closes)

END OF PLAY