

CAPTAIN QWARK (Ratchet & Clank, 2002) a very tall humanoid

CAPTAIN QWARK (Ratchet & Clank, 2002) a very tall humanoid bipedal with a big chin and three-fingered hands. Goofy personality.



Marlene (Last of Us, 2013), a serious human woman with long dark hair and a sharp mind.



Booker DeWitt (BioShock Infinite, 2013), a brutish human man with a rough-around-the-edges personality.



*SPOILER WARNING - KEY PLOT EVENTS FROM THE ABOVE GAMES ARE REFERENCED TO BUT NOT REVEALED.

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INT. EVENING - THE DOWNTRODDEN HOTEL

CAPTAIN QWARK (30s), dressed in his favorite green jumpsuit, enters a futuristic hotel that appears normal to him but cartoonish to us.

CAPTAIN QWARK

Well, isn't this a swanky place.
But why isn't there anyone here to
receive me?

He looks around. The lobby, shining with chrome and riddled with adverts for the latest futuristic hygiene gadgets, is empty. Qwark sighs, then perks up as he sees something.

CAPTAIN QWARK

Well, THERE'S a handsome devil who
can help me!

He's found a mirror behind the hotel reception desk. To his left the elevator up arrows have lit up. A single elevator dings and its doors open. There's no one inside. Qwark looks around. It seems the elevator's meant for him.

CAPTAIN QWARK

Well, Captain, it's not like this
can get any worse. You've been
beaten by Ratchet and his oil-
leaking friend again. Not to
mention you still have that rash
from the Hygienator...might as well
take the lift.

CUT TO: INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR

The elevator is full of mirrors. He checks his chin, tries to straighten his bent antenna, and winces at his burns, bruises, and tired appearance.

CAPTAIN QWARK

You're still the great Captain
Qwark! Believe in yourself, man!

The elevator dings again. It only went one floor up. The doors reveal a dingy, dark space with scant sunlight. MARLENE (30s, holding her hand over a gunshot wound) stands in a lobby that's flooded and worn down by time. There appears to be something growing up the walls.

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CAPTAIN QWARK
Good galaxies, you looked surprised
to see me! I'm Captain Qwark, hero
of the-

MARLENE
(wincing)
Why so loud and proud about it?
Move.

Qwark shifts, looks around, and fiddles with his fingers.
The elevator closes. Marlene frowns.

MARLENE
I didn't hit a button. Did you?

CAPTAIN QWARK
Where I'm from, these things go
when you step on.

MARLENE
And where I'm from, these don't
work anymore.
(She mutters)
Nothing works anymore.

The elevator dings. Another lobby opens before them. Beyond
the windows is not a street, but the clouds. BOOKER DEWITT
(40s), looks over from the bar, where he's nursing a drink,
and comes over.

BOOKER
Well ain't this the strangest thing
I've seen.

MARLENE
Just get on. We're all going to the
same place.

BOOKER
And that is, miss?

MARLENE
Marlene. And it's taking us
to...wherever people like us go
when we're done.

Booker enters the elevator, which now feels very cramped.

BOOKER
Jesus, you both look like hell.

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CAPTAIN QWARK

You don't understand. I just keep trying and trying, but that Lombax keeps knocking me down.

BOOKER

I get it. More than you know. We all got debts to pay and the world don't forgive.

CAPTAIN QWARK

It's all just so unfair!

BOOKER

I've seen strange things. Walked through windows to other worlds. Watched myself live other lives... But I never been on a lift heading to...nowhere? Heaven? Hell?

The elevator screeches to a halt.

MARLENE

Definitely hell. Maybe I wouldn't be here if I'd done things differently.

BOOKER

Trust me, Marlene, it all ends up the same. Lives, lived, has lived. Dies, died, has died.

MARLENE

So...what's the point? All that struggle? All that pain? Qwark, don't you cry on me.

CAPTAIN QWARK

But you're getting somewhere.

BOOKER

Truth is, this lift's taking us nowhere.

MARLENE

Oh, Jesus.

BOOKER

What is it, miss? Your wound?

MARLENE

No, no. We're here for a reason. Look at us. Beaten down. Stabbed in the back or made the fall guy.

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We're...

CAPTAIN QWARK

(Gasps)

No! I'm a hero!

MARLENE

No, you're not. I'm not. That's the point. Aren't you tired of fooling yourself?

BOOKER

Damn straight. I'm tired of being my own worst enemy.

CAPTAIN QWARK

And I...Well, I guess I'm tired of pretending to be a hero.

There's quiet again. Captain Qwark hugs Marlene. She doesn't refuse. Booker crosses his arms until Marlene pulls him in. Captain Qwark cries loudly. Marlene, bitterly. Booker, silently. The elevator doesn't move.

MARLENE

I feel good. Shot in the gut, but good.

BOOKER

I guess it ain't so bad being the bad guy...if you're not alone in the end.

CAPTAIN QWARK

Okay! Great! Now that we've had our self-realization-psychology-thingy, will this spirit elevator let us go?

The elevator refuses to budge. They are stuck. Qwark eyes the mirror.

CAPTAIN QWARK

At least I still have my looks...

Booker and Marlene groan. They wonder if they're trapped there, with each other, forever. Truth is...they are.

CUT TO:

THE END.