

# ELEVATION

by Ken Bradbury



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*Cast: Ralph, the dog; Whistler, his owner; Grover, an elevator operator; Tolliver; Landis, a precocious child*

*The scene: In an elevator. Grover, the elevator operator, stands at semi-attention. The imaginary doors open.*

**GROVER:** Going up!

**TOLLIVER:** (*rushing in from the side*) Oh! Wait! Wait! I'm going up! Hold the elevator!

**GROVER:** No problem. (*as Tolliver boards holding Landis by the hand*) What floor ma'am?

**TOLLIVER:** How many do you have?

**GROVER:** All of them.

**TOLLIVER:** I've forgotten. It's where they're casting the commercial.

**GROVER:** 22<sup>nd</sup> floor. Been hauling folks up there all morning.

**TOLLIVER:** You mean there are others?

**GROVER:** Half the state, I'd guess. Mind the door. We're going up.

**LANDIS:** I'm hungry.

**TOLLIVER:** You're not eating until the audition is over, Landis. Remember your figure.

**LANDIS:** I'm still hungry.

**TOLLIVER:** (*grabbing his hand as he touches the wall of the car*) And don't touch anything! You don't know where this car has been.

**GROVER:** (*a long look, then*) Huh?

**TOLLIVER:** (*grabbing Landis and shielding the child*) See ... you just never know.

**GROVER:** Listen lady, I ... (*looks up*) Got a call. Look out. Door's opening.

**LANDIS:** I'm hungry.

**GROVER:** (*as the doors open*) Going up!

**WHISTLER:** (*entering with Ralph on his leash*) Come Ralph. Come on, sweetheart.

**TOLLIVER:** A dog. You have a dog in this elevator.

**WHISTLER:** I know he's a dog. What's that with you?

**TOLLIVER:** This is Landis. He's my child.

**WHISTLER:** Does he fetch?

**TOLLIVER:** Fetch? You're taking him to the auditions for the commercial, right? Landis is going to get the leading part in the commercial!

**LANDIS:** I'm hungry.

**WHISTLER:** That's impossible. The leading role is the dog and this is the world-famous Ralph the Wonder Dog. He's going to get the role.

**LANDIS:** Does he have any food?

**TOLLIVER:** Keep away from the beast, Landis. Dogs have germs.

**WHISTLER:** Germs! Ralph has been washed, dried, groomed and manicured three times just this morning! Can you say the same for your little Loomis?

**TOLLIVER:** Landis! And he's perfectly clean. Landis, get your finger out of your nose. Besides, I've never heard of Ralph the Wonder Dog!

**WHISTLER:** Ahh!

**RALPH:** *(in a rather doggie voice, grabbing his chest in horror)*  
Ahh!

**GROVER:** Ahh. We've stopped.

**TOLLIVER:** What do you mean we've stopped?

**GROVER:** I think that pretty much covered it. The elevator's stuck between floors.

**LANDIS:** Are we going to die, Mommy?

**TOLLIVER:** Not when you've got an audition! *(to Grover)*  
Please fix it. Landis hyperventilates easily.

**LANDIS:** I'm hyperventilating.

**WHISTLER:** Oh, I wish this were a movie! Ralph always saves the day in his movies.

**LANDIS:** I can't breathe.

**WHISTLER:** Good. Ralph, remember your first picture ... Ralph the Wonder Dog in Space? Oh, it was simply breath-taking! *(all five inhabitants of the elevator begin moving in slow motion, becoming characters in the movie as Whistler relives the scene)* Young Luke Skyjacker was being attacked by the Klingrays from the Dark Planet! *(Grover becomes Luke with an imaginary laser sword as Tolliver and Landis attack him ... all in slow motion)* He called out for help!

**GROVER:** *(as Luke)* Oh help! Help!

**WHISTLER:** But Barth Nader, the evil Lord cried out!

**TOLLIVER:** (*as Barth*) Die, earthling! Die!

**WHISTLER:** And little R2-DDT shouted...

**LANDIS:** (*as R2-DDT*) Do you have Twinkies on earth?

**WHISTLER:** Then just as the forces of evil were about to overtake poor Luke he screamed..

**GROVER:** Oh! If I only had a Wonder Dog to save me!

**WHISTLER:** The evil forces responded ...

**TOLLIVER:** "Not Ralph the Wonder Dog!"

**LANDIS:** Does he come with mustard?

**WHISTLER:** And suddenly through the haze on intergalactic smog, Ralph appeared!

**RALPH:** Ruff!

**WHISTLER:** He attacked the forces of evil!

**RALPH:** Ruff! Ruff! Ruff! (*Ralph lays siege to Tolliver and R2, karate chopping, laser-swishing, and a bit of leg biting ... all in slo-mo*)

**WHISTLER:** He chewed! He bit! He fetched! He begged! He rolled over! He slashed! He ... won!

**RALPH:** Ta-Dah! (*Ralph bows and the actors return to real time and their original characters*)

**TOLLIVER:** I never saw that movie.

**GROVER:** (*pushing buttons*) It must be the main power. I can't get anything to work.

**LANDIS:** When's lunch?

**TOLLIVER:** We're going to be late. I just know we're going to be late and someone else will get the part. (*to Grover*) Can't you hurry up?

**GROVER:** Hurry up doing nothing? There's nothing I can do until somebody fixes the elevator, lady.

**WHISTLER:** Oh, remember Ralph ... you had a situation just like this in Towering Doghouse Inferno!

**RALPH:** (*smiles*) Ruff! (*strikes a noble pose*)

**WHISTLER:** The hundred-story doghouse was on fire and the people were trapped in the elevator!

**RALPH:** (*begins making siren noises*)

**WHISTLER:** (*as the other actors assume their positions*) Flames were everywhere and President was stuck in the elevator with his family!

**GROVER:** (*as the President*) Keep calm, everybody! Just keep calm!



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