

Stairway To The Other Place

Joannie works in a large metropolitan office building. She is thoroughly familiar with building layout. The building has several elevators. It also has many flights of stairs for emergencies and for those brave enough to use them. The building is well maintained and in fact has been commended for its cleanliness and beauty.

Joannie works on one of the top floors in the building. She rarely uses the stairs. The majority of the time she waits for the elevator. One day she was on her way to work. She entered the building and pressed the elevator button. She waited for a while but nothing happened. She pressed it again.

At that time, a guy in the lobby informed her that the elevators were malfunctioning. He said that maintenance was working on them, so they maybe slow. She thought today of all days, I have a meeting to attend. I am going to be late if I do not leave now. Against her better judgment, she decided to take the stairs to the next level and take the elevator from there.

She entered the stair room and started to walk up the stairs. It was a long way up each flight of stairs. About half way up, she stopped to adjust her shoe. She slipped and went tumbling down to the bottom of the stairs. She landed a few yards from the entrance door. She felt an awful pain in her ankle and could not walk. All she could think about was getting out of there.

She pulled out her cell phone and tried to dial for help. The transmission was blocked. She screamed for help but her voice was not loud enough. She was in pain. She knew it would be hours before anyone would use those stairs. The thought of lying there for hours in pain frightened her.

She started thinking of ways to get someones attention. She took some objects from her purse and started throwing them against the metal door to make a sound. An hour had passed and still no one came to help. She was starting to run out of ideas. As it happens, the maintenance crew was coming on duty. One of their assignments today was to take care of the stairway.

One of the guys wanted to know how much work he had to do on the stairway. He went to take a quick look at the stairway. He opened the door and there was Joannie lying there almost in shock from the pain. He quickly reported the emergency and Joannie was rushed to the hospital. It turns out, she had damaged some internal organs and broken her ankle.

Emergency workers say she could have died if she had not been found. She has since fully recovered. She never forgets that day. She has been a major force behind new safety implementations in the company.

You never know when an emergency may arise. Being able to let some one know where you are if trapped or in danger can save your life. Do not depend entirely on your cell phone. Have a personal safety and self defense strategy in mind.

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About the Author

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