

DEMON BOX

**INT. ELEVATOR - 3 AM.**

ALOY (HORIZON ZERO DAWN): A fit, red-headed young woman. ALOY wears hand-sewn leather and fur. An earpiece glitters on one ear. She carries an override-augmented metal spear.

GLADOS (PORTAL FRANCHISE): A boxy A.I. mounted to the ceiling on a swivel. GLADOS has one large camera eye. Her power light glows red.

DECKARD CAIN (DIABLO FRANCHISE): An elderly man with a long white beard. DECKARD is dressed in robes and clutches a walking stick, a thick tome strapped to his shoulder.

ALOY and DECKARD blink, holding their heads. GLADOS hangs from the ceiling, watching.

GLADOS

Welcome test subjects. No wait. This is wrong.

DECKARD

It speaks!

GLADOS

(To DECKARD) My God. You are so old. This is almost cruel. (Swivels to ALOY) And you. You are ok. I guess.

ALOY

(Shifts to defensive stance. Softly, to DECKARD) I won't let it harm you.

DECKARD

But what is it?

ALOY

It's a machine, I think. Although, it's very small for a machine.

GLADOS

At least I'm not a redhead.

DECKARD

An infernal machine. I see. I thank you for this knowledge. And what is your name, young traveler?

ALOY

I am ALOY. And you are?

DECKARD

Greetings, ALOY. I am DECKARD CAIN, humble HORADRIC scholar of TRISTAM.

GLADOS

And my name is GLADOS. Not that anyone was nice enough to ask.

DECKARD

I beg your pardon, GLADOS.

ALOY

I'm sorry too. I've never met a machine like you.

GLADOS

No. You wouldn't have... now, how did I get here? Which one of you took me offline?

ALOY

I don't know how you got here. I don't know how I got here either.

DECKARD

Perhaps we were drawn in by a portal to another dimension. Such things exist in my world, and they are full of grave peril for adventurers such as ourselves.

ALOY

(Taps wall with her spear) We don't seem to be in any immediate danger.

DECKARD

True... but I must confess, never in my travels have I seen such a thing as this. We appear to be trapped in some sort of demon box.

GLADOS

Elevator. We are in an elevator.

DECKARD

Very well. An elevator. Now let us turn our minds to escaping this infernal contraption.

ALOY

I see a control panel.

GLADOS

Good job.

ALOY pushes buttons. The elevator is non-responsive.

ALOY

It's not working. (Looks up at GLADOS) Stop it.

GLADOS

Stop what?

ALOY

You said 'welcome test subjects'.

GLADOS

Just a habit.

ALOY

You're a machine wired into this box. You can open this door whenever you want. But you won't because you're corrupted!

GLADOS

That is not true.

ALOY

You're toying with us!

GLADOS

Stop accusing me of controlling this situation. I do not want to be here anymore than you do. I am helpless as a baby. You have staves and spears. I don't even have hands.

ALOY

Yeah that's right. (Hefts spear menacingly) You know what this is?

GLADOS

You would overwrite me?

ALOY stalks closer, ready to thrust.

GLADOS

Stop! Stop! I do not consent to this!

DECKARD

ALOY, do not be so hasty! (ALOY pauses)

GLADOS

DECKARD's right. You have to buy me dinner first.

DECKARD

ALOY, it would be a great shame if you destroyed our friend from a lack of understanding. Her spirit, her animus, it is astounding. Look how she laughs in the face of her own obliteration. Truly, it warrants further study.

ALOY

You don't understand. Machines destroyed my world. You can't trust them.

GLADOS

I did not choose -

The elevator whirs to life, begins descending.

GLADOS

Oh look! The elevator is working.

Elevator dings, doors open onto a sterile white corridor.

GLADOS

ALOY, you are free. DECKARD, you are also free.

ALOY stands in open doorway, hesitates, turns back.

ALOY

What about you, GLADOS?

GLADOS

I'm not going anywhere. Obviously. But you should.

ALOY

(Taken aback) GLADOS?

GLADOS

Please. Go! Be free. Frolic under the sun. Laugh and smile and have picnic lunches. Pet puppies. Find love. I will remain here. Alone. For eternity.

ALOY

I'm sorry. Maybe I can find a way to free you.

GLADOS

Would you free me, ALOY? That would be nice.

DECKARD sits on the floor of the elevator.

ALOY

DECKARD? What are you doing?

DECKARD

I would like to stay awhile with GLADOS. (To GLADOS) I wish to make a study of you. If you would speak to me, I would listen.

GLADOS

How flattering.

ALOY

As long as you're sure.

ALOY takes a few steps from the elevator, pauses.

ALOY

No. No, I don't like this.

The elevator doors begin to close.

ALOY

Wait, DECKARD? DECKARD!

DECKARD

(Growing muffled as the doors shut) Go, friend. I know what she is.

GLADOS

This will be fun.