

TERMINAL

A full-length play

By Joe Correll

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<< OR >>

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"Does anyone ever realize life while they live it...every,
every minute?"

- Thornton Wilder, Our Town

"The meaning of life is that it stops."

- Franz Kafka

Terminal

Cast of Characters

Jean... female 50's

Dan... male 50's

Maria ...female 30s

Karen...female 40s

Bryan...male 20s

Daryl...male 50's

Setting: The Elite Flyers Lounge of a small to mid size airport somewhere in the United States.

We are in an elite lounge of a mid to small size airport somewhere in the United States. The lounge has chairs, and some low tables with magazines. There is a television monitor with flight information on it. Towards the back is a desk for a host or hostess, with a microphone for them to make announcements from. The desk is unattended at this point.

Four passengers sit in various parts of the lounge. Off to one side is Bryan, a young African American man of about twenty five or so. He is working diligently on his laptop. He has noise cancellation headphones on.

Towards the back is Maria, a woman who is sound asleep taking a nap. Toward the center are Jean and Dan, a middle aged couple. Jean is dressed older than her years, and Dan is dressed a little too young for his age. Jean is reading a magazine. Dan is on his tablet. It is silent for a few moments as they each occupy themselves. A voice is heard over a PA system.

DARYL

(over speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen this is the final boarding call for those passengers headed to Kansas City on flight 643. Passenger Schmidt please come to the gate immediately. Doors are closing. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

After a moment...

DARYL (CONT'D)

(over speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, please remember you are allowed only one carry-on suitcase, and one purse or laptop bag that can fit under the seat in front of you. A second rolling suitcase does not count as a "large purse" as passenger Hannah Hill just found out.

We will be happy to check your bag to your final destination, although we cannot guarantee it will actually arrive at your final destination. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

JEAN
(clucks her tongue and
shakes her head)

Tsk, tsk, tsk.

She continues to read.

JEAN (CONT'D)
(sighs big)

A beat.

JEAN (CONT'D)
(sighs louder)

DAN
Okay. What is it?

JEAN
It's sad.

DAN
Of course it is.

JEAN
(shows him the magazine)
Look who's dead.

Dan looks at the magazine.

DAN
Eh. She was old.

JEAN
She was seventy five. You think that's old?

DAN
You're old when you start noticing every time someone dies.

JEAN

(knowingly)

It comes in threes you know.

DAN

What comes in threes?

JEAN

When celebrity's die, they always die in groups of three.

DAN

Where'd you get that?

JEAN

It always happens that way.

DAN

That's ridiculous.

JEAN

I'm just saying. That's how it usually happens.

DAN

Ridiculous.

JEAN

Just wait. You'll see.

A beat.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I wonder if we should go out and wait with the other passengers? It feels strange to be in here, while everyone else is out there.

DAN

What's the point of buying Business Class if you can't use the elite lounge? Just relax and enjoy it.

A beat.

DAN (CONT'D)

(a proclamation)

Comedy comes in threes!

JEAN

What?

DAN

Comedy comes in three's.

JEAN

I don't know what you're talking about.

DAN

For something to be funny it has to happen three times.

JEAN

What does that mean?

DAN

Say, if I hit my hand with a hammer once, it's just painful. Twice, I'm stupid. Three times- it's hilarious.

JEAN

Why would you want to hit yourself with a hammer?

DAN

I'm not going to hit myself with a hammer. It's just an example of how comedy comes in three's.

JEAN

Dan, you're not a comedy expert.

They stare down each other, while
the Speaker makes another
announcement.

DARYL

(over speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen flight 398 to Denver will now be at gate 16. Gate 16 is located directly between gates 11 and 12. We are sorry for any inconvenience. Thank you, for your patience and understanding.

A pause.

JEAN

Did you water the ficus tree?

DAN

Yes.

Silence.

JEAN

Did you take your pills?

DAN

Yes.

Silence.

JEAN

Did you leave the lamp on in the living room?

DAN

Yes.

Silence.

JEAN

I just want people to think we're home.

DAN

They're not going to think we're home, they're going to think we're wasting electricity.

Silence.

JEAN

We should put that lamp on a timer.

A beat.

DAN

Put your luggage up on the seat next to you.

JEAN

Why?

DAN

In case someone wants to sit there.

JEAN

It's almost completely empty in here. No one is going to sit there.

DAN

I just don't want anyone talking to me right now.

JEAN

Why not?

DAN

I'm writing some new material for my stand up.

JEAN

I don't know why you are wasting your time writing jokes. You should do the things other men your age do.

DAN

Buy a boat and have sex with my secretary?

JEAN

I was thinking more like "fly fishing". And stop fooling yourself, Denise would never have sex with you.

DAN

I'm not gonna be some old man in a fly fishing hat up to my nuts in fish guts. I think I'm a pretty good comedian. You just don't have a sense of humor, Jean. You're what they call "humerlous", meaning without a funny bone in your body.

A beat.

DAN (CONT'D)

"Humerlous"! Get it? ...The humerus is your upper arm bone? Get it? Funny bone? Humerus?

JEAN

(serious)

There is no such thing as a funny bone. It's a nerve. Not a bone.

Dan looks at her incredulously.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Look it up. And listen Dan, when we get to Cleveland, I don't want you telling your jokes to Aunt Marjorie. You know how frustrated she gets when she doesn't understand something.

DAN

I hate going to visit your relatives.

JEAN

Won't you want our kids, and grandchildren to visit us someday?

DAN

Not particularly. And we don't have grandchildren.

JEAN

Not yet. But Lori told me she and Dave are trying nearly every night. They're working very hard at it.

DAN

Thank you for that image.

JEAN

What image?

DAN

Our daughter underneath the hairy used car salesman.

JEAN

He also sells new cars.

DAN

I hate to break it to you, Jean, but our kids would be perfectly happy to see us six feet under.

JEAN

Dan, that's not true! Why do you have to say things like that?

DAN

It's true.

JEAN

It is not.

DAN

If we died tomorrow, they would cash in the ridiculous life insurance you bought, and Lori would buy a condo in Vegas and Kevin would put in a pool. You know I'm right.

DARYL

(on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I have your attention... will standby passenger... (sounding it out) Crackerhuntsbush please come up to the podium for a seat assignment.

Then "off mike" but audible.

DARYL (CONT'D)

(off mike but still audible)

What the fuck kind of name is Crackerhuntsbush?

A woman enters, with a rolling bag. This is Karen. She is a cosmopolitan looking woman who dresses well, but she is a frantic mess. She nervously looks at her watch, and back up on the screen where the flights are displayed.

KAREN

(to Dan and Jean)

Excuse me, are you on the flight to Cleveland?

JEAN

Yes we are. I think that's the last flight out tonight.

KAREN

It's still on time?

Dan points to a monitor.

DAN

That's what it says.

KAREN

I really thought it would be delayed because of the weather.

DAN

It's just some rain, no big deal.

KAREN

They fly in the rain?

DAN

(in bad cockney accent)

"The rain on plane is mainly just a pain."

KAREN

What?

JEAN

Don't mind him. He thinks he's funny.

A beat.

KAREN

I hate flying. I only do it when I absolutely have to. I'm always certain the plane is going down and I'm gonna die screaming with my hair on fire. Can I sit with you?

The place is big and has tons of seats to choose from. Dan looks around the empty lounge.

DAN

Ummm. Sure.

She sits right where Dan told Jean to put the luggage. Dan motions to Jean like, "see!"

JEAN

Hi, I'm Jean and this is Dan.

KAREN

I'm Karen. Nice to meet you. And you are?

Jean is polite and doesn't remind her she just introduced them.

JEAN

We're Jean and Dan.

Karen pulls out a mirror and tries to fix her hair.

KAREN

Nice to meet you. I think it's good to form strong alliances when your taking a flight, just in case things go south and tough decisions have to be made quickly...We should get to know each other...So, do you live in Ohio or just visiting?

JEAN

We're going to see my Aunt Marjorie. We don't know how long she has left.

KAREN

I'm sorry, is she sick?

JEAN

No, not yet. But she probably will be soon.

KAREN

(not listening)

Can you tell that I'm sweating? Do I look gross? Flying just terrifies me.

JEAN

You look lovely.

DAN

You know it's safer than a car right?

KAREN

That's what my mailman tells me.

DAN

The chances of dying in a plane wreck are, like, more than five million to one. You're more than one hundred times more likely to die in a car accident, than you are to die in a plane crash.

JEAN

Why do you know something like that, Dan?

DAN

I'm writing a joke about Asian lady drivers and I needed some accident statistics.

JEAN

It sounds like you're writing a very racist joke.

DAN

It's a little racist. But in a funny way. You're too politically correct.

KAREN

But, in a car wreck, I feel like you have a fighting chance. In a plane crash, one minute it's "I'll have the Pringles and a Diet Coke" the next minute it's "Oh my God, I never told Rob where I keep the backup toilet paper, and now I'm dead, and he's gonna be furious" ...There's no gray area. Can we change the subject, please?

Sure... DAN

Awkward pause.

DAN (CONT'D)
I saw they have a Wetzels Pretzels near security.

JEAN
(to Karen)
Are you okay dear? You're shaking a little. I really think it's all going to be just fine. I've flown many, many times and it's always uneventful.

Karen starts looking around for something to throw up in.

KAREN
I'm sorry to be rude, but I'm afraid I might just start uncontrollable vomiting.

DAN
(nervous)
What seat are you in?

KAREN
4B

DAN
(To Jean)
What seats are we in?

She looks at the tickets.

JEAN
Ummm. We are in 6C and D.

DAN
Okay great.

JEAN
If it's not too personal, Karen... why are you heading to Cleveland? For work or pleasure?

KAREN
I live there with my fiancee. I hope we're not delayed because of the rain, because he'll be really angry if I don't show up on time. We've got something tomorrow morning and he really wants me to be there for it.

JEAN

(cheerfully)

Oh! What do you have going on tomorrow?

KAREN

We have to put our dog to sleep.

JEAN

Oh no! How awful. I'm sorry.

KAREN

It's okay. She's nineteen years old, and blind. She had a good run.

JEAN

We've had to do that a couple of times. I know how hard it can be.

KAREN

It's his dog, so I'm not really that attached.

JEAN

Still, it's always hard.

Karen takes out makeup and starts putting it on and checking herself in the mirror.

KAREN

Hopefully not as hard as when we put my mother to sleep last Spring. That was just awful. It took all day.

She smacks her lips.

JEAN

I'm sorry.... All day?

KAREN

My sister was out of the country. Her flight was delayed, and we were all just in that little room just waiting around staring at my mother. It felt like forever. And I was like, "Let's get on with it" But my father insisted we wait for Kathy. Kathy is my sister, and she's a very inconsiderate person.

JEAN

Oh that's terrible.

KAREN

It's okay. It all worked out. Happy ending.

JEAN

Oh! You're Mom lived!?

KAREN

No, of course not. She had no working internal organs.

The sound of an announcement over
the loudspeaker.

DARYL

(off on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen for those of you on flight 3248 to Cleveland. We will begin our boarding process in about fifteen and a half minutes. Please remain seated and do not crowd the gate, only come forward when your group is called. Our flight will be full today so if you would like to check your carry on bags we will do so free of charge, just come see me at the counter. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and we do appreciate your business.

KAREN

I should call my fiancee, to give him an update. He gets so mad if I don't keep him in the loop. I have a bad habit of not keeping him informed.

DAN

He can check the flight status on the website you know.

KAREN

That's an awful lot of trouble for him to go through...or so he tells me.

She fumbles through her purse.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Oh Shit...sorry, I mean...crap. I know I had it in here...shit, shit, shitty, shit, shit.

JEAN

What's wrong?

KAREN

My phone. I can't find my phone.

DAN

When did you last have it?

KAREN

I don't know- security?

JEAN

They probably have it. People forget their phones there all the time.

KAREN

They do?

JEAN

Well, I don't know- but it seems like something people would do.

KAREN

Will you watch my bag? I'll be right back!

She runs off. A beat.

DAN

You know, we're not supposed to watch strangers bags. They say so over the loud speaker all the time.

JEAN

She's not a stranger, anymore. We had a very nice conversation.

The loudspeaker...

DARYL

(off)

Attention please. Ladies and Gentlemen, unattended baggage is a security risk and will be confiscated and destroyed immediately. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Dan acknowledges the loudspeaker to Jean. Like "told you so".

DAN

(chastising)

I told you to put your bag on that seat.

JEAN

She seems very nice.

DAN

She seems like a loon. If she's not back in five minutes, I'm calling security.

JEAN

I hope she finds her phone.

DAN

I hope she can't find her way back.

JEAN

Dan. Be nice.

DAN

I'm just glad we're not sitting next to her. I never thought I'd hear myself say, "I can't wait to get to Cleveland", but I can't wait to get to Cleveland.

JEAN

She's just stressed out about flying is all. Some people are.

DAN

It's perfectly safe.

JEAN

People are afraid of all kinds of things that will very likely, never happen.

DAN

Well, you talk to her. I don't want to deal with that nut.

JEAN

Quiet. She's coming.

Karen returns to the lounge.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Hello dear, did you find it?

KAREN

No! I can't believe it. I'll bet somebody stole it. There was a lady right in front of me and she was very suspicious. She had this sort of creepy looking scowl and a weird accent. I think I heard her say she was from Quebec. I'll bet she stole it.

JEAN

Have you tried calling it? Maybe someone found it?

KAREN

(defensive and angry)

I can't call it! That's stupid. I don't have a phone!

JEAN

Oh, I'm sorry- here use mine.

DAN

You're giving a stranger your phone?

JEAN

Relax Dan. What's your number? If it's not too personal...

KAREN

I don't like to give it out. Would you mind if I just dialed it myself?

JEAN

Of course.

DAN

(to Karen)

But if you dial your number on her phone... Never mind.

Karen dials the phone.

KAREN

Rob is going to literally kill me for losing my phone AGAIN.

Then a muffled ringing from
someplace.

KAREN (CONT'D)

What's that? Anybody hear that?

DAN

It's coming from inside your bag.

KAREN

Oh my GOD, what an idiot! Of course! I put it in there before I went through security. I'm such an idiot!

DAN

(under his breath)

No argument here.

Dan goes back to his tablet to work on his material.

JEAN

There you go! Problem solved! Teamwork makes the dream work.

Karen pulls out the phone, the contents of her luggage start to spill out of her suitcase.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Now you can call Rob and give him your update.

KAREN

Ugh! Fuckity fuck, fuck, fuck.

DAN

Now what?

KAREN

The battery is down to 2%. I guess I forgot to charge it before I left the hotel. It looks like it's been playing Youtube videos inside my luggage this whole time.

JEAN

You can use my phone to call your fiancée if you like.

KAREN

(panicked)

NO!!! No! No,no,no! If I do that, he'll ask why I'm not calling from my own phone, and I'll have to tell him I forgot to charge my phone, and then he'll literally kill me.

JEAN

Forgive me, but he doesn't sound very nice.

KAREN

Oh, It's not his fault. I do stuff like this all the time. It's very irritating to people who know me. But fuckity, fuck fuck...

DAN

They have a charging station over at the counter. Just charge it up before we go...Hey, What's another word for "decapitated"?

JEAN

What do you mean "decapitaded"?

DAN

You know, "decapitated", like "your heads off".

JEAN

Use it in a sentence.

DAN

"...Then some color blind Korean lady runs the light, and the next thing you know, I'm decapitated."

A beat.

JEAN

Is that supposed to be funny? Because it sounds like it's a racist joke against the blind, Koreans, women, and people with head injuries.

Karen is fumbling through her purse.

KAREN

Oh fuckity, fuck, fuck, fuck.

DAN

Now what?

KAREN

I think I left my charger plugged in back at the hotel.

JEAN

You're sure it's not in your bag?

KAREN

No, it's not in my BAG! Why would it be in my bag??!

JEAN

Sorry.

KAREN

Do either of you have a charging cable I could borrow?

JEAN

I'm afraid they're in our checked luggage.

KAREN

Well, that wasn't very smart was it??

JEAN

Why don't you go ask that nice young man over there on the laptop- he looks very tech savvy. Maybe he has one?

KAREN

Good thinking-- What's your name?

JEAN

Jean.

KAREN

(trying to remember her
name)

Jean. Got it. Thanks. Jean... Jean, Jean, Jean.

Karen walks over to Bryan and
attempts to get his attention.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Excuse me!

Bryan looks up from his laptop
and takes off his headphones.

KAREN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to bother you, but do you happen to have a cable
that I could borrow to charge my phone? I know you people
like to be prepared.

BRYAN

You people?

KAREN

Students.... I'm sorry, aren't you a student? You look like a
student.

BRYAN

What do students look like?

KAREN

Like you.

BRYAN

Okay. Thank you?...What kind of phone do you have?

KAREN

I don't know. It's a...what is this?

She holds her phone out to him.

BRYAN

Let me see. I think I've got one that will work. I keep cables for everything.

He gives her the cable. She goes to the counter and plugs her phone in. A beat. After a moment Karen addresses the room.

KAREN

I'm just letting it get a little more juice.

A short beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(to everyone)

Almost there.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(to everyone)

That should do it.

She dials.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(to everyone)

It's ringing.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)
(to everyone)

Voicemail.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)
(super sweet)

Hi sweetie, I just wanted to check in and let you know I made it to the gate. Everything is fine. There's a little rain but the flight is on time so I should see you in about four hours or so. Let me know if you get this. Sorry, if you're in the middle of something. Call me back...If you're not too busy. Okay bye sweetie. Love you. I know you don't like when I say that, but anyhow...ok bye for now.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)
(To Bryan)

He's probably out with his friends. The bars can be really loud. Thank you for the cable.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Would you mind if I kept it for a bit so that the phone is charged when we land? Rob'll literally kill me if I don't text him when we land and he has to drive around and around the airport.

Bryan gives a thumbs up and puts his headphones back on. Then the loudspeaker...

DARYL

(off on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, for those of you on flight 3248 to Cleveland, I have some news about your flight. And that news, is unfortunately not good. Although I said we would be boarding shortly, that information was not entirely correct. We are now going to be delayed thirty minutes. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Everyone reacts in
disappointment.

DARYL (CONT'D)

(off on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, please don't over react. It's only thirty minutes, not the end of the world. Also, this is a very full flight, so if you will agree to check your carry-on, we will throw in some extra snack mix, and it's the good kind that has those crunchy sesame things in it... and also your choice of cocktail. Bearing in mind that your choice of cocktail may not be available. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Bryan takes off his headphones.

BRYAN

What's going on?

JEAN

We're delayed. Thirty minutes.

KAREN

I had a feeling this was going to happen. It's way too dangerous to fly. It's raining way too hard.

Karen dials her phone.

DAN

I'll go check at the gate and see what I can find out.

Dan goes out the door. Karen is
on her phone.

KAREN

(on phone)

Hey sweetie, sorry to bother you again! But actually, I spoke too soon. We are going to be delayed a half hour or so, and I know that makes it very late, so don't worry, I'll just Uber. And we can take care of poor little Cuddles in the morning. Sorry to say this, but I love you! Don't be mad!

She hangs up. The loudspeaker.

DARYL

(off, somewhat irritated)

Ladies and Gentlemen, please do not come up to the podium to ask for more information, because I have no more information regarding the delay on flight 3248 to Cleveland. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

KAREN

I'm going to leave my phone charging here. Someone please remind me to take it when we go. Rob will literally kill me if I lose my phone again.

BRYAN

Eh. I didn't want to go to Cleveland anyway.

KAREN

I'll let you know if there's anymore news. You can go back to listening to whatever you people listen to...uh- what is your name?

BRYAN

Bryan.

KAREN

Bryan? Really? That's a very plain name.

BRYAN

Is it?

KAREN

Sure, for someone like you.

BRYAN

(confused)

Thank you?

KAREN

Don't worry. Go back to whatever you were doing. I'll let you know if there's anymore news.

Bryan goes back to work on his computer. Maria, who has been dozing, speaks up.

MARIA

Excuse me, I must have dozed off...Oh, no...Did I miss my flight?

JEAN

Are you on the flight to Cleveland?

MARIA

Yes I am.

JEAN

You didn't miss it. We're delayed.

MARIA

For how long?

JEAN

Only thirty minutes.

MARIA

(wearily, but cheerfully)

Not so bad. Could be worse. Will someone let me know when we're boarding? I'm very tired, I'd like to rest my eyes.

JEAN

Of course!

Maria closes her eyes and rests.

KAREN

What do you think is wrong? Not something with the plane, right?

JEAN

There's lots of reasons for a delay. Maybe the plane got stuck in another airport, or ran into bad weather.

KAREN

What? Like a tornado?

JEAN

Nothing, nothing like that. It's very normal for planes to be delayed. You shouldn't be worried about it.

BRYAN

(reading the website)

It says on the website, "delayed". Doesn't say why.

KAREN

Why won't they say why? What are they hiding from us, Joanne?!

JEAN

Why don't you sit down and take a deep breath. It will all work out like it's supposed to. Things always do.

KAREN

Your name's not Joanne is it? What is it again? I feel sure you told me...No, don't tell me... I'm supposed to figure these things out for myself... it's... it's... fuck it. What is it?

JEAN

That's okay. It's Jean.

KAREN

Right. Jean. Jean. Like the pants. Like Dungarees. Jean. Got it. Sorry. Thank you, Jean.

JEAN

It's okay.

Dan comes back into the lounge.

DAN

Daryl said we might not be delayed after all. They're going to update us soon.

JEAN

Who's Daryl?

DAN

The guy at the podium. You hear him over the speaker.

KAREN

Good that you bonded with him, in case we need inside information.

DAN

We're not friends.

KAREN

I'll bet they just don't want to tell us what's the matter with the plane. I'll bet it's something bad.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

I better call Rob again...

She picks up her phone. Then she stops and thinks better of it.

KAREN (CONT'D)

No. No. I better not call him. He'll be mad if I call too many times.... But he did ask me to update him... But I guess I already did right? But he'd want to know about this... or wouldn't he? Would I be smothering him and ruining his life like all the other women he's been with again? I don't know? What should I do? What do you guys think? Should I call him or not? I think I might throw up.

Jean calms her down.

JEAN

You just called him. I'd wait a bit and see if there's any more news.

KAREN

(tries to remember her name)

Right. I just called him. Good thinking... J...J.... Ummm.

JEAN

Jean.

KAREN

Right. Like the pants. Got it. Jean and Harry. Got it.

DAN

I'm Dan.

KAREN

Dan! Yes, so sorry! Where did I get Harry from?? Don. Like don we now our gay apparel. Fa la la la la, and so on and so fourth. Got it. Jean and Don. Got it.

JEAN

That's right, dear.

DAN

No, it's not.

Jean motions him to be quiet.

Karen goes over to Bryan.

KAREN

Hello....Hello... Um...I'm sorry- What was your name again? I know it was something white.

BRYAN

Bryan.

KAREN

Brian.... Brian, Brian, Brian, Brian Williams, Brian Wilson,
Life of Brian. Got it.

BRYAN

I spell it with a "Y"

KAREN

Huh?

BRYAN

Like Bryan Cranston.

KAREN

Can I buy this cable off of you? I really need to show up in
Cleveland with a phone cable.

BRYAN

Keep it. Any more word on the flight?

JEAN

(speaking over to Bryan)

There's no more news Bryan with a "Y". What are you working
on so diligently over there?... If that's not too personal.

BRYAN

I'm just doing some writing.

JEAN

(brightening)

You're a writer?

KAREN

A writer? Really?

DAN

Leave him alone Jean. None of your business.

BRYAN

Yeah. Well, trying to be.

JEAN

That's wonderful. I love when people pursue their dreams.

BRYAN

I guess.

DAN

(in disbelief)

You love when people pursue their dreams? Really?

JEAN

(pointedly)

When they're talented at something, yes.

DAN

How do you know he's talented??

JEAN

Just look at him.

A beat. The loudspeaker.

DARYL

(off)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have some exciting news for those of you on flight 3248 to Cleveland. We are still delayed by approximately thirty minutes, however, we are now throwing in a free headset and unlimited episodes of Big Bang Theory if you will agree to check your carry-on. Come see me at the podium for all the deets...BUT, not about the delay please, I have no information about that. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

KAREN

Darrin sounds very anxious.

Jean motions towards Maria who is now sound asleep, snoring away.

JEAN

I better go tell that woman over there what's happening.

DAN

There is nothing happening.

JEAN

That's what I want to tell her.

DAN

You just want to spread bad news. You love spreading bad news. Don't wake her up.

She walks over to Maria.

JEAN

Excuse me Ma'am...

Maria wakes up.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Hi. Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to update you, and the update is that there's still no information about the delay, but if you want to check your bag, they've got some pretty good deals going on.

MARIA

Thank you for checking on me. But I don't have any luggage.

JEAN

Oh, you checked all your bags? It's nice to not worry about carry-ons isn't it?

MARIA

No, I don't have any luggage at all.

KAREN

No luggage? No luggage at all?

MARIA

No, I'm not in any hurry.

JEAN

People hurry around too much these days. They don't appreciate the little moments that just pass them by. That's what life is made of after all. Little moments.

MARIA

That is a wonderful way to look at things.

JEAN

You only live once. Make it count. Good times and bad.

MARIA

That's very true. Unfortunately, I've been having more bad than good lately...but...not for long!

JEAN

Oh that's wonderful! What have you got coming up? Something fun I hope!

MARIA

Six months to live.

JEAN

I'm sorry?

MARIA

(cheerfully)

Six months to live. I have six months to live.

A beat.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Or maybe three years. Somewhere in there, between six months to three years. But three years is really stretching it they said. So I'm looking at the worst case scenario. I'm a bit tired, so I'd like to rest, but please let me know if they call us or if there are any changes.

JEAN

Of course.

She closes her eyes to rest. Jean walks back to the others.

DAN

What did she say?

JEAN

Ummmm....She said she's terminal.

DAN

Terminal? What terminal?

JEAN

No. She's dying.

DAN

You mean she's terminally ill?

JEAN

That's what she said. She said she was going to die.

KAREN

She did? When?

JEAN

Either six months, or maybe three years, but her doctors said that's really stretching it.

KAREN

Well, we're all going to die. I just hope it's not on flight 3248 to Cleveland.

BRYAN

That's sad. I'm gonna go back to work. Let me know if anything changes.

JEAN

What are you writing Bryan with a Y?

DAN

Leave him alone, Jean.

BRYAN

Just stuff.

JEAN

What kind of stuff?

BRYAN

Just thoughts. Nothing important.

JEAN

You've been over there concentrating so hard and typing away, it must be something important.

BRYAN

Not really.

JEAN

Why won't you tell us what you're working on?

DAN

Will you leave the kid alone?! Kid... don't listen to her.

JEAN

Don't listen to him.

DAN

My wife talks so much her mouth is open more than a seven eleven.

A beat.

JEAN

He thinks he's a comedian. He thinks he's going to do an open mic night in Chicago someday. But he's deluding himself.

KAREN

(laughs)

Ha! Funny! I get it!

Dan tries to get under Jean's skin by spitting out jokes in her direction.

DAN

My wife talks so much lumberjacks tell her to "keep it down"

KAREN

(laughs, shaking her head)

Lumberjacks.

DAN

My wife talks so much they kicked her out of "jackhammers anonymous"

KAREN

(laughing)

You're too much, Dean.

DAN

My wife talks so much our parrot told her to shut up.

KAREN

(laughing shaking her head)

Those birds...

JEAN

We don't own a parrot.

Jean and Dan exchange looks. Jean turns to Bryan.

JEAN (CONT'D)

(to Bryan)

You go back to your writing, and I'll just let you know if we hear anything more. I don't want to be too nosy!

BRYAN

Thanks. Appreciate it.

Karen starts looking around, patting herself down, looking under magazines. She has misplaced something and is trying to find it.

KAREN

I'm getting nervous now. I wonder if I should change my flight to tomorrow...and if I should change all of my passwords since apparently I've lost my phone again.

JEAN

Your phone is over there on the counter charging. You didn't lose it.

KAREN

Oh, you're right! Thank God. Rob would literally kill me if I lost my phone again...or changed my flight. Or called him. I'm just going to leave things exactly as they are.

DAN

You keep saying that. But you don't mean literally. People don't use that word correctly.

JEAN

Will you stop correcting her? It's very rude.

DAN

You're rude. Why do you have to be up in everyone's business?

JEAN

I'm just being social. As long as we're all stuck here we might as well be social.

DAN

Being social and being nosy are two different things.

A beat.

KAREN

You two argue a lot. Rob and I never argue.

JEAN

Never?

KAREN

No. He's always right.

JEAN

Arguing is a sign of a healthy relationship.

KAREN

It is? But, if you don't get along...how do you two stay happy together?

JEAN

We don't tell each other anything that we're really thinking.

DAN

Exactly. I'm thinking something right now.

JEAN

Me too.

KAREN

I agree. I think it's best to keep your true feelings completely to yourself.

Daryl enters. He is dressed in an airline uniform, and is energetic and cheerful.

DARYL

Hello Elite Club members. How's everyone holding up? Good. Right. Okay. We are a little shorthanded tonight, but I thought I would come in and give you a little insider information. And the information is....I have no more information right now, and I do not know when the flight will be leaving. It is still delayed, but only by thirty minutes, so that's not so bad is it? They can probably make that time up in the air. They always do. I actually think they can make up any amount of time in the air if they put their minds to it. Anyhow, Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Daryl exits.

DAN

It doesn't look like we're going anywhere. I think I'll go get some frozen yogurt.

JEAN

Then be polite. Bring some for everyone.

DAN

You want me to get yogurt for everyone? We barely know these people.

JEAN

Dan.

DAN

(sighs, exasperated)

What flavor?

KAREN

None for me. You don't want to be with me in a pressurized metal tube if I start eating dairy.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(explaining)

I'll be farting all the way to Cleveland.

Dan turns away and goes up to Bryan.

DAN

Hey, kid- do you want some frozen yogurt?

Bryan takes off his headphones.

BRYAN

I'm sorry?

DAN

I'm going to go get frozen yogurt for whoever wants it while we're waiting.

BRYAN

No thanks.

DAN

What about that dying lady? You think she can handle yogurt in her condition?

JEAN

I don't know Dan. Go ask her.

He goes over to her. He pokes her lightly. She looks up.

DAN

Hey, do you want frozen yogurt?

MARIA

Do I what?

DAN

Want frozen yogurt? We're going to be here awhile. I just thought you might like some frozen yogurt.

MARIA

(smiles)

Someone told you I'm dying right?

DAN

Yeah, my wife mentioned it. You shouldn't tell her things; she can't keep a secret.

MARIA

Well, I don't keep it a secret. People are going to find out eventually.

DAN

What flavor would you like?

MARIA

I hope you're not only getting me yogurt because I'm dying.

DAN

No, I'm getting it for everyone.

MARIA

Okay. But I don't like special treatment. If they have sugar free, low fat cherry chocolate chip, I'll have that.

Daryl enters.

DARYL

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's getting ugly out there right now, so I'm going to hang back here with you for a bit if that's okay. You all seem reasonable. Poor people have no patience, and one nasty woman actually tried to bite me.

JEAN

We're happy to have you Daryl.

DARYL

How did you know my name was Daryl?

JEAN

My husband Dan told me.

Daryl turns to Dan.

DARYL

Oh! You. Yes. Sorry I was so rude to you out there, I thought you were in coach.

JEAN

I'm Jean, you know Dan, this is Karen, that's Bryan over there with the ear phones, and this is Maria. She has some sort of terminal illness.

MARIA

(raises her hand and smiles)

Hi.

DARYL

You're not contagious are you? You can't fly if you're contagious.

MARIA

It's not contagious.

DARYL

Good. Cause you can't fly if you're contagious.

JEAN

Maria, are you going to the Cleveland Clinic for treatment? They're supposed to be excellent. They did my sister Sam's episiotomy. Years ago, but what an amazing job.

MARIA

No, I'm not going there.

JEAN

Oh, then why are you headed to Cleveland?

MARIA

I'm going to see the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

JEAN

Oh, Dan is always bugging us to go there when we're in Cleveland.

MARIA

It's some place I've always wanted to see.

DAN

You never let us go.

JEAN

What disease do you have Maria, if it's not too personal?

DAN

(sarcastic)

That's not too personal.

MARIA

It's okay. But you've never heard of it. It's very rare.

JEAN

What is it?

MARIA

It's called Chromhidrosis.

JEAN

You're right. I've never heard of that.

MARIA

I tend to sweat in different colors. Yellow, green, blue. It's very, very rare. And under the right circumstances it can actually be kind of pretty.

JEAN

Really? I didn't know someone could sweat in different colors??

MARIA

I know. Like I said, very rare.

JEAN

And it's fatal?

MARIA

I guess it could be. But I also have leukemia.

The wall phone rings and Daryl picks it up.

DARYL

Hello? Yes, I'm back here.... Can't you handle that, Janet? ... Did you offer them a voucher?.... No one ever really gets to use them... I don't know Janet, if you can't handle it then maybe you should call security...Ugh. really? I'm the only one that can do that? Seriously? Okay. I'll be there in a minute.

He leaves abruptly.

MARIA

Why are you and your husband going to Cleveland?

JEAN

I have family there.

DAN

They're lunatics.

Karen looks through her purse.

KAREN

Oh fuckity fuck fuck fuck.

JEAN

What's wrong?

KAREN

I know I had some chapstick in here.

Karen opens her suitcase and begins to pull everything out looking for chapstick.

JEAN
Cleveland is nice. Dan and I go every year.

KAREN
Who's Dan?

JEAN
(points to Dan)
He is. My husband.

KAREN
Oh, I thought his name was Harry.

JEAN
It doesn't matter. You call him whatever you think is best.

Karen pulls a shirt out of her
luggage.

KAREN
This isn't my shirt! How did this get in here?

She goes through the luggage.

KAREN (CONT'D)
(frustrated)
These aren't my pants either, and I don't remember packing a
box of fig newtons.

JEAN
I think you got someone else's luggage!

DARYL
(on speaker)
Señoras y señores, si acepta revisar su equipaje de mano, las
azafatas cantarán una canción especial solo para usted.
(*Ladies and gentlemen, if you agree to check your carry-on
baggage, the hostesses will sing a special song just for you*)

KAREN
But THIS shirt IS mine. And so are these shoes. I don't know
why my stuff is mixed in with somebody else's.

DARYL

(off on speaker)

Mesdames et Messieurs, si vous acceptez d'enregistrer vos bagages de cabine, les hôtesse chanteront une chanson spéciale à votre intention.

(Ladies and gentlemen, if you agree to check your carry-on baggage, the hostesses will sing a special song just for you)

JEAN

Did you pack with someone?

KAREN

No, why would I do that? That's ridiculous. It must have been the baggage handlers messing with me.

DARYL

(on speaker)

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, wenn Sie einverstanden sind, Ihr Handgepäck zu überprüfen, singen die Hostessen ein spezielles Lied für Sie.

(Ladies and gentlemen, if you agree to check your carry-on baggage, the hostesses will sing a special song just for you)

DAN

But it's a carry-on.

DARYL

(on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, for those of you who do not speak Spanish, French or German, what I said was, "Ladies and gentlemen, if you agree to check your carry-on baggage, the hostesses will sing a special song just for you." Thank you for your patience and understanding.

KAREN

I don't want anyone to sing to me, I want to know how all these strange things got inside my luggage.

JEAN

Someone must have been packing right along side you. Are you sure you weren't sharing a room with someone?

KAREN

Of course I wasn't sharing a room with someone. I think I would remember that.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

But I do think there might have been a man I didn't know in my hotel room briefly this morning. I thought he was bringing me breakfast.

Daryl re-enters abruptly.

DARYL

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Elite Lounge, I finally have some good news. The plane has in fact arrived at the airport, but unfortunately the flight is now going to be delayed due to the fact that it's raining a little more than we'd like. In fact, the new departure time will be twelve thirty five. That's midnight, plus thirty-five additional minutes.

DAN

Three hours! Delayed three hours!!

Everyone acts in dismay.

DARYL

Sorry for the inconvenience, but your safety is our top concern. I'm not telling the people out there though, so keep it to yourselves. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Daryl runs out.

KAREN

I don't know what I'm going to tell Rob. He's going to be furious...

MARIA

It's not your fault.

KAREN

I know...I'll say someone died.

DARYL

(off on speaker)

Señoras y señores, por favor mantengan sus manos y brazos dentro del vehículo en todo momento.

BRYAN

Did they say something? Are we boarding?

MARIA

Delayed. Three hours.

KAREN

My High School Spanish isn't very good but I think Larry just said to keep our hands and arms inside the vehicle at all times. They can't fly with the windows down can they?

Bryan comes over to them.

BRYAN

Three hours? With the time change we're not going to get there until tomorrow morning!

DAN

At least four A.M. If we ever get there at all.

BRYAN

I'm starting a new job tomorrow. I can't be late the first day.

DAN

Then why did you wait till the last minute to fly there? That seems pretty irresponsible.

BRYAN

I was supposed to leave last week. I changed my flight.

JEAN

Why?

BRYAN

I guess I was putting it off. I really don't want to live in Cleveland. And I especially don't want to be an ERP manager in Cleveland.

JEAN

Then why are you?

BRYAN

It's a great job. I'm lucky to have it.

MARIA

What's an ERP Manager?

BRYAN

Enterprise Resource Planning. I'll be helping companies implement new software.

JEAN

I see, but your dream is to be a writer.

DAN

So write *while* you work. That's what I do. I work on my comedy nights and weekends.

JEAN

And look where that's got you...(Turns to Bryan) You can't get a job writing something? Brochures? Leaflets? Something like that?

BRYAN

I've looked into it. Not what I want to write.

JEAN

What do you want to write?

BRYAN

It sounds stupid. It's not gonna happen.

MARIA

What do you want to write?

BRYAN

You'll laugh. It's dumb.

JEAN

We won't laugh.

BRYAN

I want to write the fortunes for fortune cookies.

DAN

(laughs)

What??

BRYAN

You know how when you go to a Chinese restaurant you get those cookies for dessert with the slips of paper in them?

DAN

I know what fortune cookies are.

MARIA

I always wondered who wrote those.

BRYAN

I've reached out to the major companies, but it's mostly freelance work. No benefits.

MARIA

Could you do it as a side job?

BRYAN

Apparently I'm not very good at it. I've sent hundreds of them in, but they've all been rejected. They told me they were too unsettling.

JEAN

Too unsettling?

BRYAN

I just write very honest fortunes. I don't sugar coat them.

MARIA

I don't like when you get a fortune cookie that's not really a fortune. It's more like a "saying", like "He who waits alone gets left behind" or "It is far better to have an open mind than to have an open wound" Stuff like that.

JEAN

Yes, I agree! If it doesn't foretell or give advice about the future then it's not really a "fortune" is it?

MARIA

I wish I had gotten a cookie that said "Heads up. You're going to get leukemia" That's information I could have used.

KAREN

Every time I get a fortune cookie. It's empty.

DAN

What do you mean empty?

KAREN

I mean, there's no fortune or saying, or anything at all.

DAN

The cookie is empty? Every time?

KAREN

Every time. Yes. It's very embarrassing when I'm out with friends and they're all reading their fortunes to each other, and I have to say "Mine is empty again"

DAN

You never got a fortune inside a fortune cookie? Never? Not once?

KAREN

No.

DAN

I don't believe you. What are the chances of that??

KAREN

I don't know, but it happens to me every single time.

BRYAN

Well, did you know that not getting a fortune in a fortune cookie is actually very good luck?

KAREN

No, I didn't know that.

BRYAN

Yes, it means "fortune" owes you a fortune. So you must be a very lucky person.

KAREN

I don't know. I won a raffle once.

JEAN

What kind of raffle?

KAREN

A cake raffle. When I was a kid.

MARIA

What kind of cake was it?

KAREN

I don't know. I don't remember.

MARIA

You won a whole cake and you don't remember what flavor it was?

KAREN

I think it was coconut.

MARIA

(disappointed)

Oh, I really don't like coconut. Especially in a cake.

KAREN

You don't like coconut?

MARIA

No.

JEAN

We were talking about cookies.

BRYAN

Yes. Did you know a guy named Shuck Yee, invented the machine that makes fortune cookies, which allowed them to be mass produced?

JEAN

I didn't realize so much went into those cookies.

DAN

Has anyone seen that show Shen Yun?

A beat.

DAN (CONT'D)

I see the billboards for it everywhere. I was just wondering if it's any good.

JEAN

I always thought fortune cookies were kind of an afterthought.

BRYAN

What do you mean?

JEAN

Fortune cookies are one of those things people take for granted. They always show up at the end of the meal, but no one pays much attention to them. They're tasty, but not *that* tasty, so they just kind of happen. Everyone eats them, maybe exchanges fortunes, then they're forgotten, you pay the bill, dinner's over, and everyone goes home and is hungry again in about an hour. They're just not something you look back on and go, "Hey that was an outstanding fortune cookie!" It just doesn't happen. But I'd say they're a pretty important part of the meal wouldn't you? In fact they're a whole "section" of the meal, that people basically ignore.

MARIA

It's true. I can't remember any of the fortune cookies that I've eaten. And I'm sure I've had many. It's just not something you think about.

BRYAN

I think about them a lot.

JEAN

What made you want to write fortune cookies?

BRYAN

You don't want to hear about that. It's not that interesting.

MARIA

Well, something inspired you. You have to admit it's pretty specific and unusual.

BRYAN

Not a big deal really. Kind of a very boring story.

JEAN

I'm always interested in what makes people passionate about something.

BRYAN

Okay, but remember I told you it was very boring...

JEAN

We have nowhere to be.

BRYAN

Well, when I was eleven my family went out for Chinese food to Golden Palace like we did every Friday. After dinner we'd always get our fortune cookies and read them to each other. This one night, we finished dinner, and the cookies came. And my Mom opened her cookie, and her fortune said, "A journey to unknown places is in your near future". We all laughed about that, because she hated to travel. So we all ate our cookies and forgot all about it. Later, when we got outside the restaurant a freak storm had come in, and it was pouring. Mom ran to get the car, and while she was crossing the parking lot she was struck by a bolt of lightening and killed instantly. After that, the fortune she had gotten kind of stuck with me. Boring story, I know.

A beat.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

A "journey to an unknown place"? Kind of prophetic right? What are the chances? Anyhow, for some reason after that, I became very interested in what fortune cookies had to say.

MARIA

That is a terrible story. But it's really not that boring at all.

KAREN

It was okay.

JEAN

No wonder you became obsessed with fortune cookies.

DAN

Where was your Dad?

BRYAN

Huh?

DAN

Why didn't your Dad get the car? He made your mother do it?

BRYAN

Oh, my Dad died before I was born.

JEAN

Oh, that's so sad. How did he die?

DAN

Jean, don't ask the kid how his father died.

BRYAN

It's okay. He was also struck by lightning.

KAREN

Your father *and* your mother were both struck by lightning?

BRYAN

I know. It's weird right?

MARIA

What are the chances?

BRYAN

One in 960,000. I've been told it's highly unusual. And that I shouldn't go outside when there's a storm.

JEAN

Why don't you read us some of your fortunes, we can give you feedback on them? Maybe that would help you out?

BRYAN

I don't want to bother you with my dumb fortunes.

JEAN

We've got nowhere to go for at least three hours, if not longer.

BRYAN

You really want to hear some?

MARIA

I would.

JEAN

Me too!

KAREN

I'm really on the fence about it... But go ahead.

Bryan goes and picks up a backpack. He opens it and it is full of fortune cookies.

JEAN

Your fortunes are already inside actual cookies?? How did you manage that?

BRYAN

You can pay a company to make you personalized fortune cookies. I feel like you really have to get your fortune right out of the cookie. It's not the same as just reading it on a piece of paper.

JEAN

Let's go ahead and read some of your fortunes, Bryan with a "Y"

BRYAN

Okay... So, I'm still working on them, but you'll get the idea...

He passes Jean a fortune cookie.
She breaks it open and pulls out
the fortune.

JEAN

"Your life will be full of disappointment. Make this cookie count." Interesting. A little negative, but it's about seizing the moment and making it count right?

BRYAN

Sure, why not?

She eats the cookie.

JEAN

And this cookie is actually not bad. It's not amazing, but it's not bad at all. Just like I said. Very average. Let me do another.

DAN

She just wants more cookies.

Jean opens another cookie and
reads the fortune.

JEAN

"Throw away your toothbrush...Don't ask too many questions"
Hmmm. I don't know. I like it. It's very specific.

BRYAN

Here try these.

He hands a cookie to Maria, Dan
and Karen. Maria and Dan open
them and read them. Karen does
not.

MARIA

(reading)

"Lock your windows. That guy at Starbucks followed you home."

DAN

(reading)

"You should have that thing looked at."

JEAN

I like these. They're quirky.

KAREN

I'm not opening that cookie. It will be empty, like always.

BRYAN

Here's a dumb one I've been working on all month. Maybe you guys can help me out. Something isn't right about it.

JEAN

I'll open it.

Jean opens the cookie and reads
the fortune inside.

JEAN (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Enjoy this moment while you can, because that moment is
already gone."

MARIA

That's a great fortune! They didn't like that one?

BRYAN

I haven't sent that one in. It doesn't matter, I'm going to
Cleveland to be an ERP manager, and that's it. This is
stupid.

MARIA

I think you're a pretty good fortune cookie writer.

BRYAN

I really should just suck it up and just go to Cleveland. I
already went through mountains of paperwork I had to sign in
a zillion places, three Skype interviews, one face to face
interview that I actually had to fly to Cleveland twice to
get.

JEAN

You had to fly there twice?

DARYL

(off on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have some good news.

We have found another plane someplace and it is going to take you all to Cleveland. We will begin boarding in just a few minutes. We'll start with Platinum customers, then diamond, then captains club members, then topaz, then business and first class, then people who need additional assistance, then people with children and strollers, then folks with a marked limp, then those of you with priority boarding. And then Groups A, B, D, E and F. Once again, we know you have a choice when you fly and we thank you for choosing us and most of all, for your patience and understanding.

MARIA

Well I guess that's it! Nice meeting you all! Good luck Bryan!

BRYAN

Thank you all, and I appreciate the feedback.

DAN

There was no Group C.

MARIA

Karen don't forget your phone.

KAREN

Oh thank you! I was just about to walk off without it! I better call Rob and tell him I'm going to be there in a few hours.

She gets on her phone.

DAN

There was no group C. That can't be right.

JEAN

It was so nice getting to know you all. You made a bad situation into a good one.

DAN

That's got to be a mistake. There's got to be a group C.

JEAN

Who cares Dan?! Maybe they don't have a group C. Maybe it's bad luck like the thirteenth floor in a hotel.

KAREN

Maybe they don't have a group C because "crash" starts with a C.

DAN

They didn't skip C because it stands for "crash". I've been on a million planes that had a group C.

A beat.

KAREN

(on phone)

Hi Babe it's me, Karen. I'm just letting you know some good news. We're about to board, so I'll be home in a couple of hours. Love you. I'm going to have to turn off my phone soon, so call me if you get this. If you're not too busy. Okay. Love you see you soon. It's Karen...okay bye.

She hangs up.

KAREN (CONT'D)

God! I shouldn't have bothered him again! I'm such an imbecile!

MARIA

It was nice meeting you all!

JEAN

Good luck with your leukemia!

MARIA

Thank you! I appreciate the thoughts and prayers.

BRYAN

Karen, do you need help with your suitcase?

KAREN

What's wrong with my suitcase?

BRYAN

It's all over the floor.

KAREN

Ugh! It is?! How did that happen?? I'm such a blockhead. Okay well, help me if you're going to help me!

JEAN

Do you want us to wait for you?

DAN

They're not our friends, why would we wait for them?

JEAN

To not be a rude asshole Dan.

DAN

Come on! Let's go, Jean!

DARYL

(on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I apologize, but I was wrong before, and that plane I mentioned we found, actually belongs to another airline and apparently they won't let us borrow it...it is going somewhere else entirely. Not anywhere near Cleveland at all. So unfortunately that means we will still be delayed for about four to six more hours. Give or take a couple of hours.

DAN

Four to six hours??!

KAREN

Why is this happening to me???

They all complain. Daryl runs in.

DARYL

Guys, It's really more like eight hours. But that's on a need to know basis.

A beat.

DARYL (CONT'D)

(very, very quickly)

We appreciate your business, we know you have a choice when you fly.

Daryl rushes out.

KAREN

Rob is literally going to kill me!

DAN

Ugh!! Eight more hours!! What the hell are we going to do for eight hours???

MARIA

I try to be patient, but I don't have all the time in the world.

Jean makes a proclamation.

JEAN

Dan, I want a divorce.

DARYL

(On speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen may I have your attention please for a very important announcement. Because of the inconvenience, there will be a limited number of complimentary cereal bars available on the flight for those of you who's tickets say "cereal bar". Check in the lower left hand corner. But please bear in mind, due to limited quantities, that a cereal bar may not be available to you, even if your ticket has the words "cereal bar" printed in the lower left hand corner. Once again, thank you for choosing this particular airline. Also, we're completely out of orange juice. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

The length of the intermission has gone by (20 minutes). No one is talking at first. Karen is on the phone. Jean is reading her magazine, but occasionally glancing at the door looking for Dan who is absent. Maria is reading her phone and Bryan is on his computer.

KAREN

(on phone)

Hi honey, it's me, Karen... I'm sorry but there's still no word. It looks like we are going to be delayed for a few more hours. So I guess I'll see you in the morning. If you want to send Cuddles off to doggie heaven without me, that's totally fine, but I'm happy to go with you as soon as I get in from the airport. Okay, I'll see you soon sweetie. Have a good night. This is Karen.

JEAN

Does he ever call you? Are you always calling him and leaving messages?

A beat.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I hope that wasn't too personal.

KAREN

Not at all. I really don't mind if Rob doesn't return my phone calls, my last boyfriend used to beat the crap out of me.

JEAN

Oh, that's terrible.

KAREN

It was, but it was hard to blame him.

JEAN

But you deserve someone who treats you with kindness and respect.

KAREN

I'd settle for someone who treats for dinner occasionally.

Dan walks in eating a cup of frozen yogurt.

DAN

Nothing's going on out there, I tried to get some info from the podium, but everyone was crowding it. I guess we're going to be here for awhile.

JEAN

Of course, you only got yogurt for yourself.

DAN

You said we're getting a divorce. I don't have to get you yogurt anymore.

JEAN

Fine.

DAN

Fine.

JEAN

Fine.

DAN

Fine.

Awkward silence, which Jean cannot stand.

JEAN

Maria, if it's not too personal, What other things are you trying to do before...you know...

MARIA

When I found out I was sick, I made a list of the things I really wanted to do before I died.

KAREN

What kind of things?

MARIA

Just the usual stuff. I went to go see how Almond Joy's are made.

JEAN

I see.

MARIA

And that thing you do, where there's bees crawling all over you.

KAREN

Don't they get in your ears and up your nostrils?

MARIA

And I was in a spaghetti eating contest, and I won!

JEAN

Wow! Good for you!

KAREN

How much spaghetti did you eat??

MARIA

(proudly)

Two plates.

DAN

You won a spaghetti eating contest and you only ate two plates of spaghetti?

JEAN

(coming to her defense
against Dan)

Were they big plates?

MARIA

No, not really. They were average size.

DAN

How many people were in this contest?

MARIA

I don't know, maybe a hundred?

DAN

There was a spaghetti eating contest, with one hundred people, and the most anyone could eat was two plates of spaghetti??

MARIA

(defensive)

There was lots of sauce on it.

KAREN

Did the sauce get everywhere? Because that's what I'm imagining. People just shoving pasta into their pie holes, and sauce on everybody's hands, and all over their faces. Is that what it was? Be honest.

MARIA

No, not really. It was mostly just me eating pasta with a bunch of other people.

DAN

This doesn't sound like a spaghetti eating competition.

MARIA

(defending herself)

They told me I won!!! It was a real contest!

DAN

(skeptical)

Did you tell them you had leukemia?

MARIA

Yes, I told them winning a spaghetti eating contest was number eight on my list of things to do before I died.

DAN

Well, there you go! They just told you that you won, because you have leukemia. You didn't win any spaghetti eating competition.

JEAN

Dan! What a terrible thing to say! If she says she won a spaghetti eating competition, then she won a spaghetti eating competition.

MARIA

(getting very sad)

No, now that you say it, you may be right. I shouldn't have told them why I was there. They probably just took pity on me.

DAN

Did you fill out paperwork? Were their prizes?

MARIA

(defensive)

Yes, there was a prize. It was a free dessert.

DAN

The prize was free dessert?

MARIA

They gave me a brownie with a sparkler in it. It was a very nice place. A lot of things were free. They had unlimited salad and breadsticks.

DAN

Were you at Olive Garden?

MARIA

(cries)

Yes.

JEAN

Dan!! You made her cry!!

MARIA

(crying)

I knew it wasn't true, but I couldn't find a real spaghetti eating competition, so I went to Olive Garden and I told the hostess I was dying, and how number eight on my list was to win a spaghetti eating competition.

BRYAN

And what did she do?

MARIA

She gave me a pager and said it would be twenty to twenty five minutes. Then later on when I had finished my spaghetti, Carly, the hostess's name was Carly, came out with the staff and they sang a song to me, and she told me I had won Olive Gardens first and only spaghetti eating competition.... But now it doesn't count, does it?

Maria breaks down in tears.

JEAN

(to Maria)

Maria, you poor thing, it's okay!

She turns to Dan...

JEAN (CONT'D)

Look what you did!

Back to Maria...

JEAN (CONT'D)

(trying to change the
subject)

So Olive Garden was number eight... if it's not too personal
what was number nine?

MARIA

(crying)

I took a ride in a canoe.

A beat.

MARIA (CONT'D)

It's something I had always wanted to try. Rock and Roll Hall
of Fame is the last thing on my list, and then I'm ready to
die.

JEAN

But there must be so many other things you'd like to do with
the time you have left!

MARIA

Not really. I can't think of any. I've done all the things I
really wanted to do before I die. I can't think of anymore.
Believe me I've tried.

Daryl enters.

DARYL

How are my Elite Status passengers doing back here? It's
gotten very ugly out there.

DAN

Hey! How much longer are we going to be stuck here waiting
around with nothing to do?

DARYL

Do you want the truth, or do you want me to just make you
feel better?

JEAN

Daryl, As you know, Maria here is very ill and I wondered if
there was something special you could do for her?

DARYL

What's wrong with her?

JEAN

She has leukemia.

DARYL

Oh Thank God. I thought you were going to say the flu, and I haven't had my shot. I'm sorry. We don't do special things anymore.

JEAN

Nothing?

DARYL

No. You don't even get a discount if a loved one dies anymore.

JEAN

That's terrible.

DARYL

I don't make the rules Jean. I can ask if they could give you a free cocktail or something?

MARIA

No, I don't drink.

DARYL

Well, that's not my problem.

JEAN

How long have you worked for the airline Daryl?

DAN

Jean! Leave him alone. None of your business.

DARYL

Thirty five years.

DAN

Jean! He's busy!

JEAN

If we're going to be stuck here, we might as well make the most of it? Right folks?

EVERYONE

Sure, uh huh etc....

JEAN

Daryl, Did you always want to be a flight attendant?

DARYL

I'm not a flight attendant. I'm ground staff.

JEAN

Was that what you always wanted to do?

DARYL

Yes, Jean. Since I was a small child it has been my dream to be bitten by a woman who couldn't wait three hours to get to Cleveland, Ohio.

JEAN

But what did you want to do when you were young, Daryl?

DARYL

I don't know. It's so long ago I can barely remember.

JEAN

Everybody wanted to be something!

DARYL

I guess I used to like to sing, but I haven't done it in years.

JEAN

Oh, you should take it up again!

DARYL

I don't think so. I had a bad experience the last time I sang.

JEAN

Oh, did people laugh at you?

DARYL

No, Jean, people didn't "laugh at me". I was a very good singer.

JEAN

Then what happened?

DAN

Jean, he's working!

DARYL

Well, if you're really interested...after I graduated High School, me and some of my friends decided to form a band, and I was the lead singer. It was nothing super fancy, we played at birthday parties and bar mitzfaahs mostly. But one weekend we got our big break and we got booked to play at a pretty fancy wedding. There were quite a few muckity mucks from town, so we thought if this went well, we could be set with even better gigs. Everything was going splendidly, that is until I was right in the middle of the song "Pretty Woman".

A beat.

JEAN

Oh no, did you forget the words?

DARYL

No Jean, I did not "forget the words" to Pretty Woman.

JEAN

Did one of the band members mess up or something?

DARYL

No Jean. They were very professional.

JEAN

Then what?

DARYL

Well, everything was going great, and the bride and groom were dancing and smiling away, and then right when I got to that part that goes, "Pretty woman yeah, yeah, yeah, Pretty woman look my way... "

A beat. Jean nods.

DARYL (CONT'D)

All of a sudden out of nowhere the maid of honor grabs the cake knife and plunges it right through the brides cheek, and out it pops right out the other side of her mouth. Well, It was like the super volcano under Yellowstone went off and the blood went just went everywhere.

JEAN

Oh my God! Why would the maid of honor do that??

DARYL

Well, I don't know Jean. I didn't stick around to find out. Anyhow the band broke up, and nobody wanted to hear me sing anymore. When things go wrong, they always blame the band.

MARIA

But it wasn't your fault.

DARYL

Doesn't matter. In my home town I will always be remembered as the guy who was singing Pretty Woman when a very pretty woman, became not so pretty anymore.

KAREN

That poor bride.

DARYL

She got stitches. She was fine.

MARIA

I used to play the flute.

DARYL

There was no flute in our band.

MARIA

I mean, I used to play, and I miss it.

JEAN

Why'd you give it up, Maria?

MARIA

You know. I don't know. One day I put it away into my closet and I never played it again. So I guess there is something else I'd like to do before I... you know.

JEAN

Well, you should definitely play the flute again if that's what you want to do. Anything else?

MARIA

I guess I'd like to see my kids and my husband one last time.

JEAN

You're married?!

KAREN

You have kids?

DAN

You have a husband?

MARIA

Yes, why?

JEAN

Why aren't they with you?

Maria gives no answer. Daryl's cell phone rings.

DARYL

(on phone)

Hello?... Hello?...Hello!!...Janet, I know this is you. I told you not to use my personal number for business!... She did what? Did you call security? What do you mean they're too busy?? ...Okay, stop hyperventilating. I'll be right there.

To the others.

DARYL (CONT'D)

Could you hold that thought please? I need to pop out there and see what's going on. But I don't want to miss anything good!

He starts to go.

JEAN

Did you do all those things all by yourself??

MARIA

Yes.

DARYL

I said, I don't want to miss anything good, Jean!!

Daryl exits.

JEAN

They let you go off on a trip by yourself, in your condition?

MARIA

I'm sure they wouldn't like it, that's why I didn't tell them I was leaving. I haven't seen them in months. Once I got the bad news, I thought it would be better for everyone if I just disappeared.

JEAN

Did you really not tell your family where you were going? You just left? Don't you think they're worried sick about you?

MARIA

It's better this way, for everyone.

DAN

Jean, this is none of your business!

JEAN

Aren't they going to worry that you're off somewhere by yourself, struggling with your disease?

DAN

None of your business, Jean!

MARIA

Oh, I didn't tell them I was dying. I told them I was going to the bank.

JEAN

You lied to your husband and children?

MARIA

This leukemia thing would only have upset them horribly.

JEAN

But they're probably going crazy with worry, they may think you've been murdered, or worse.

DAN

What's worse than murder?

JEAN

How did you manage to completely disappear from your family and friends?

MARIA

It's not that hard. You just go to the dark web, and it tells you everything you need to do.

Bryan looks up from his work, and becomes very interested in what Maria just said. Apparently, he has heard this whole conversation.

BRYAN

You've been to the dark web?... Really?

KAREN

You were able to make yourself completely disappear? And no one can find you?

MARIA

Sure, you can get whatever you need, new identities, documents. Pretty much anything.

BRYAN

(amazed, intrigued,
concerned)

You went onto the dark web?

DAN

What is the dark web exactly?

BRYAN

It's a part of the web that you need special software and a specific type of browser to access. The software and the browser make you virtually untraceable. People do a lot of bad things on there. Drugs, terrorism, pedophilia, basically any disgusting, illegal thing that you don't want traced you can do on the dark web.

KAREN

Could you bring down a plane??

BRYAN

(taken aback)

What did you say?

KAREN

Could you go on the dark web, and arrange to take down a plane going to Cleveland?

A beat.

BRYAN

I don't know. I guess it's possible.

JEAN

But highly unlikely, right Bryan?

BRYAN

Right. Highly unlikely.

MARIA

He's right. You can do all kinds of stuff. You can even access all your rewards points and give yourself as many as you want.

DAN

What's that?

MARIA

You know how when you go to Petco or Winn Dixie and you buy stuff, you get bonus points towards your next purchase?

DAN

Yes.

MARIA

You can go into the deep web and give yourself as many of those points as you want...I didn't do it. It's illegal. But it was very tempting.

DARYL

(over speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen we are now looking for volunteers to give up their seat and take a later flight. There is no reason to stay on this flight when we have literally no idea what time it will leave. But if you are willing to alter your plans we are offering a free foot massage done by Amy, who did take a class in it. Thank you for your patience. And your understanding.

DAN

Could you give yourself more frequent flier miles?

MARIA

I don't see why not.

DAN

Does anybody know how many miles it takes to go to Chicago?

KAREN

So you could completely make yourself disappear? There's no chance someone's going to track you down? Zero?

MARIA

Well, I don't know, but it's been very easy so far.

DAN

How do you find the "dark web"? W, w, w, dot, dark web dot com?

BRYAN

The websites on the deep web, aren't dot com or dot org, They're all, dot onion.

DAN

Dot onion? That's a joke right?

BRYAN

No. It's real. That's the extension they use.

DAN

So you've been to it... you've used it?

BRYAN

I work with software. I had to see what it was about.

DAN

Did you? It doesn't seem like a requirement.

BRYAN

(defensive)

I need to know what's out there to protect my employers.

KAREN

Can you really create a whole new identity? Make yourself disappear off the face of the earth?

JEAN

You don't want to do that, dear.

DAN

(referencing Jean)

Could you make someone else disappear?

BRYAN

Yeah, you can do just about anything.

KAREN

A whole new life?

BRYAN

Yes.

JEAN

(to Karen)

If you don't like your life, why don't you change it?

KAREN

Why don't you change yours?

JEAN

I love my life.

KAREN

Do you? Because it doesn't seem like it.

DAN

How much longer are we going to be here?!

JEAN

I'm enjoying the time we're having together right now. It's very interesting meeting new people.

KAREN

I'm torn. Should I call Rob again and tell him that's there's still no update?

JEAN

He hasn't called you back. He probably hasn't even gotten your messages yet.

DAN

I think he got them.

JEAN

How did you and Rob meet, Karen? If it's not too personal.

KAREN

Just the usual way people meet.

JEAN

People meet all different kinds of ways, don't they?

KAREN

It started at the dentist.

JEAN

Is he a dentist?

KAREN

No, no. He'd be a terrible dentist. It started at the dentist. No, actually it started before the dentist.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

My sister, Kathy, the one who left the country when my mother was sick?

JEAN

Yes...

KAREN

She was taking a trip to Brazil for Carnivale in Rio, and she asked me to stay at her place and watch her kids, Oasis and Weezer. So, I agreed, even though I know my niece's don't really like me. So everything is going fine for about a month or so, but then one particular, typical, every day, kind of day, while they were at school, the nurse called me and said that Weezer had choked on an eraser. And I thought, how is that even possible, they're huge and covered in chalk??! But it turns out it's wasn't the kind of eraser you erase blackboards with, it was the kind of eraser that comes on the end of a pencil. So, the nurse said I had to come in and pick her up at school. So, I look everywhere for my keys, and I can't find them anywhere, and I'm trying to decide what to do, and that makes me nervous and my mouth dries out, and I get very thirsty, so I go to the fridge for a glass of iced tea, and can you believe it? There were my keys on top of the eggs, and I have absolutely no idea who put my keys on top of the eggs in the fridge, but I suspect it was Weezer, because she's like that. So then, I grab my keys, and I head over to the school. But while I was on my way to school, my phone died and I lost my GPS and all my info and contacts, and then all of a sudden I realize, I don't know what school Oasis and Weezer go to. So I just started stopping at all the schools I can find to see if they were enrolled there, and let me tell you, I got some very dirty looks from people when I asked if my niece's Oasis and Weezer went to their school. Anyhow, as I was driving around to all these schools, all over town, I noticed the gas in my car was almost empty, so I went to the gas station to fill it, but when I got there, I realized I didn't have my purse or any of my credit cards to buy gas. I asked this red haired freckle faced clerk if he could advance me some gas and I would come back and pay him later, but he said that, that wasn't company policy. So then I asked if I could use his phone, and he said that, that wasn't company policy either. So I started asking people at the gas station if I could borrow five dollars or their phone, their choice, so that I could pick up my niece Weezer, who had choked on an eraser. But no one would help. So I decided I was going to have to walk home. I walked about a mile or so, until I realized I actually had no idea where my sister lived, because I had only found it through GPS before.

And now I'm completely lost, no car, no phone, and it's like one hundred degrees and I'm sweating like crazy- and the sunscreen I had on started running into my eyes and stinging me, and then all of a sudden I was completely blind. I could see shapes, but I'd say if I was asked right there and then to take a test, I would have been legally blind. So I am wandering along a sidewalk, no idea where I am, and I crash into a streetlight, and I cracked my tooth.

JEAN

So then you went to the dentist?

KAREN

Yes, that's right! But not right away. So I chipped my tooth, and I'm stumbling around, and I feel this mans hand on my arm and he's leading me along, helping me, but not saying anything. And I thought, "okay, there are some decent people in the world" Then he sits me down and he puts some kind of hat on me. And I think, well, that's odd. But I wasn't too nervous yet. Then he had me put on a sweater that smelled terrible, and that's when I started getting nervous. He starts messing with my eyes, and I figure he's trying to help me get the sunscreen out of them, but it turns out, which I found out much, much later, that he was putting eyeshadow and rouge on my face. When my eyes finally cleared, he was gone and I found myself sitting in a pile of trash. Then I realized by some crazy chance, I was in the alley behind my dentists house. I knocked on the door, and he wasn't home, but his wife was, and she was very skeptical at first, but eventually I convinced her I was one of Dr. Sapperstein's patients. She called him to confirm that I was who I said I was. Then she helped me get my car, and some gas, and find the school, and took me to her husbands office to get my tooth fixed. And that's where I met Rob. In the waiting room. So that's my story of how I met Rob.

JEAN

That's quite a story.

DAN

You could have just said you met him in your dentists waiting room.

KAREN

It was actually a fairly typical day for me.

JEAN

It was serendipity that you were both there to get your teeth worked on, and now you're engaged!

KAREN

He wasn't getting his teeth worked on. He was waiting for his wife.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

She's my dental hygienist.

JEAN

Oh, I didn't realize... he broke up with his wife to become engaged to you?

KAREN

They haven't quite broken up yet. But he says they will. Right now we just have an apartment but he says we're going to get a house right after we put the dog to sleep.

JEAN

Forgive me if this seems forward, but It doesn't seem like you really want to be with this man.

DAN

Why do you know where your dentist lives??

KAREN

He's the first person I've been with that could tolerate me. I'm trying to stay positive about the whole thing.

She turns to Maria.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(to Maria)

I don't know how you stay so positive with all your diseases. I'm afraid to even go to the doctor in case there's bad news.

MARIA

Well, I'll admit, it's not a text anyone wants to get.

JEAN

You got a text? You're doctor sent you a text that you had leukemia?

MARIA

No, it didn't say Leukemia. It said, "you have cancer" with a little sad face. I guess she didn't know how to spell leukemia. I have very cheap insurance.

DAN

That's pretty funny. Do you think I could use it in my act?

JEAN

You don't have an act.

DAN

I have an act. You don't know.

KAREN

Would you do your act for us Dean? I could use a laugh and a distraction. But don't make me laugh too hard because I got a lot going on down here...

Motions to her stomach.

KAREN (CONT'D)

And if a joke really strikes me as very funny something may come shooting out of one of my ends.

Daryl enters.

DARYL

Okay. What'd I miss?

MARIA

We're trying to convince Dan to do his act.

DARYL

I feel like I missed a lot.

DAN

I'm not doing my act in an airport lounge for five people.

JEAN

Maybe Daryl can fulfill his dream and sing as a warm up. I wish we had a flute that Maria could play.

DARYL

What kind of flute do you need? Bass, alto, piccolo?

BRYAN

You have a flute?

DARYL

I'm sure we have dozens. We confiscate lots of musical instruments and then never return them. They take up a lot of bin space.

BRYAN

A flute is pretty small.

JEAN

Maybe Daryl and Maria could sing a song, and then my husband can show us all what he's been working on for the last eleven years.

DAN

I'm not doing my act.

DARYL

If I sing something- and I mean IF... it has to be public domain.

JEAN

Why?

DARYL

This airport hasn't paid ASCAP or BMI in years.

MARIA

I haven't played the flute in years.

DARYL

Wait right here. I'll be right back.

Daryl goes.

MARIA

I hope I still remember how to play.

JEAN

Did you play in high school?

MARIA

I think so.

JEAN

Were you in a marching band?

MARIA

That sounds about right.

Daryl immediately returns with a flute.

DARYL

Here- I'd rub it with your sleeve. I don't know where it's been.

MARIA

What should we play?

DARYL

I don't know. We really need some accompaniment if we're going to do it right.

BRYAN

You can pull up instrumental music on my computer- just type the song you want and it will come up on Youtube.

JEAN

You're so clever with computers Bryan!

Daryl thinks about what he could sing.

DARYL

Hmmmm. Let's see...

He types something into Bryan's computer, and shows it to Maria.

DARYL (CONT'D)

(to Maria)

Do you know this one?

MARIA

Maybe?

DARYL

I think someone should announce us. If we're going to do it, let's do it properly. I have to admit I'm a little nervous. The last time did not go well, as you all know.

KAREN

I'll announce you!

She takes the microphone.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen of the elite lounge, please welcome to the stage... Donald and Consuelo!

Jean and Bryan clap.

DARYL

Ok, hit it.

Music plays from Bryan's computer. Maria plays along on the flute, but she doesn't know flute at all.

DARYL (CONT'D)

(sings)

Alouette, gentille alouette,
Alouette, je te plumerai.

Je te plumerai la tête.
Je te plumerai la tête.
Et la tête ! Et la tête !
Alouette, Alouette !
Alouette, gentille alouette,
Alouette, je te plumerai.
Je te plumerai le bec.
Je te plumerai le bec.
Et le bec !

JEAN

Et le bec!

DARYL

Et la tête !

JEAN

Et la tête !

DARYL

Ohhhh....
Alouette, gentille alouette,
Alouette, je te plumerai.
Je te plumerai les yeux.
Je te plumerai les yeux.
Et les yeux !

JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et les yeux !

Et le bec !
DARYL

Et le bec !
JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et la tête !
DARYL
Ohhhhhh....
Alouette, gentille alouette,
Alouette, je te plumerai.
Je te plumerai le cou.
Je te plumerai le cou.
Et le cou !

Et le cou !
JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et les yeux !
DARYL

Et les yeux !
JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et le cou !
DARYL

Et le cou !
JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et le bec !
DARYL

Et le bec !
JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et la tête !
DARYL

Et la tête !
JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

DARYL

Ohhhhhh....
 Alouette, gentille alouette,
 Alouette, je te plumerai.
 Je te plumerai les ailes.
 Je te plumerai les ailes.
 Et les ailes !

JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et les ailes !

DARYL

Et le cou !

JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et le cou !

DARYL

Et les yeux !

JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et les yeux !

DARYL

Et le bec !

JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et le bec !

DARYL

Et la tête !

JEAN, BRYAN AND KAREN

Et la tête !

They all sing and encourage Dan
 to sing, but he will not.

ALL

Ohhhhhh....
 Alouette, gentille alouette,
 Alouette, je te plumerai.
 Alouette, gentille alouette,
 Alouette, je te plumerai!

Laughter and applause.

JEAN

(joking)

Maria, you really can't play the flute at all, can you?!

MARIA

(laughing)

No, I can't, can I? I must have been thinking of something else.

DAN

Are you sure that's public domain?

DARYL

It better be, or we're going to owe some French person a very hefty sum.

KAREN

What does that song mean anyhow? I've always wondered. It's so fun.

DARYL

It's a song about a little bird.

KAREN

How sweet.

DARYL

And ripping it apart with your bare hands to eat it.

JEAN

That can't be right.

DARYL

Look it up, Jean.

KAREN

Okay Dave- it's your turn.

DAN

I think I'll pass.

KAREN

Come on Don!

BRYAN

I'd actually really like to hear your act. You all read my cookies out loud.

JEAN

Now's your chance, Carrot Top. Do your act.

DAN

There's no one here. I'm not doing my act in the airport lounge for five people.

DARYL

You have to start somewhere.

JEAN

Let these nice folks tell you if your funny or not.

DAN

I'm not doing comedy right now.

DARYL

Why not? We've got at least seven hours.

BRYAN

We'll be nice. I'm a very good laugher.

DAN

I don't know.

JEAN

You've been saying you wanted to do stand up for eleven years. Now's your chance.

KAREN

Come on...I'll introduce you...

She takes the mike.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(into the mic)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Elite Flyers club lounge, presenting, all the way from ... where are we again?

No answer.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome to the stage, Stan!

DAN

Okay, okay...

Dan begins a performance, low key. He paces back and forth, nervously shuffling about, looking at the floor, glancing up at his "audience"

DAN (CONT'D)

Hey. Hey. So how's everyone feeling tonight? ...I guess not good since we're stuck in this airport and we're all headed to Cleveland, things could be better.

A beat.

DAN (CONT'D)

Anyhow. So, what's up with everyone obsessed with how many steps they take everyday? At my age, if I step out of bed I feel like it's been a good day.

A beat. No reaction from anyone.

DAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, getting old sucks, doesn't it?

KAREN

(yelling at him)

Yes it does! Whoo! Go Dale!

DAN

I'm in my fifties now. But it's not so bad....I've still got seven or eight more years left in my fifties...If they change how math works.

Karen laughs loudly!

KAREN

(shouting at him)

Ha! They're not gonna change how math works!

Dan ignores her and continues his routine.

DAN

My kids, they're what people are calling "Millennials". I don't really get where that name "Millennials" comes from? Is it because there's literally thousands of them?

JEAN

(interrupting)

It's because they came of age near the turn of the millennium. And there's millions of them, not thousands.

DAN

I'm not gonna keep going if you're going to interrupt me, Jean.

JEAN

I'm sorry, but that's what people are going to do when you tell that joke. It doesn't make sense.

DAN

Okay. I'm done.

MARIA

No! Go on. You're funny.

BRYAN

Yeah, go on. This is great!

DAN

Okay...Well...um...um...What's the deal with all these choices of TV these days?

KAREN

(yelling at him)

Yeah! What's the deal with that??!

DAN

You've got your cable networks, your Netflix, your Hulu, your Amazon, it's just too many choices. In my day we had four choices. ABC, CBS, NBC, or static!

KAREN

BOOOOO!!

DAN

(to Karen)

What the hell?

KAREN

I'm heckling. Something you'll have to deal with in the biz. Heckle back at me.

DAN

I'm not heckling back at you.

KAREN

Say something like, "Hey lady, you look like someone who's boyfriend used to beat her, but she never recovered from the emotional bruises"

DAN

I'm not saying that.

KAREN
(to the others)

Well, it's true.

MARIA
Go on Dan, you're funny.

JEAN
You think he's funny?

MARIA
Yeah. There's something about him that's really funny to me.

JEAN
(surprised)
Huh.

DAN
(pacing back and forth)
Okay... well... My wife... my wife....

KAREN
(blurting at him)
Jean! Like the pants!

DAN
She's two years younger than me, but she's already picked us out matching caskets. I guess I should feel lucky that she didn't find a double wide coffin to spend eternity in. She'd probably still steal all the covers.

KAREN
Dark! You're so dark, Dick!

JEAN
(aside to Maria)
They don't make double coffins, I looked into it.

Maria pipes up cheerfully. Dan watches this conversation that is interrupting his act.

MARIA
(proudly)
I'm going to be cremated. I got a very good deal on it.

JEAN
How much?

MARIA
Only 450\$.

JEAN

That's it? That's so cheap.

MARIA

I know. But that doesn't include a casket.

JEAN

The caskets I bought for Dan and I were three thousand a piece. They're very nice though. I want to have something nice, but not too showy.

BRYAN

We couldn't have an open casket for my mother. She was disfigured from the lightning strike. But we did have a very nice service.

MARIA

I'm planning on something very simple for my funeral. I'm not even going to have a service, since no one will even know that I've died...unless...

She looks at them tentatively.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You all want to come?

JEAN

To your funeral? That's so nice of you!

DARYL

I think I have something that day.

MARIA

I thought I'd have something very casual. Like coffee and doughnuts. Something like that. What do you think?

DAN

Okay, that's enough. This was a stupid idea.

KAREN

No, no, Dean, finish your act! You're hilarious.

DAN

Everyone keeps interrupting me!

KAREN

We promise not to interrupt. Promise- right everyone?

ALL

Right (etc...)

DAN

Okay then...Just a couple more is all I got left. How about some airline humor? It's new jokes, I've been working on them tonight.

He paces back and forth and goes into his "routine" again.

DAN (CONT'D)

These days the airlines want to charge you for everything...

Daryl's phone rings, interrupting Dan again.

DARYL

I'm sorry, I really need to take this. Hello... Hello... Hello?!... Janet, I know it's you...I'm in the middle of something right now, what is it this time?...You really have to learn how to handle things like this yourself, Janet. You can't keep using your handicap as a crutch... No, I'm not being mean, I'm being honest with you, Janet. I'm not the only one that thinks this about you... ask Pam... I'm sorry, but she just says that to be kind. Look, I'm not going to argue with you right now...are you crying?... Okay, stop crying. Stop, Janet. I'll be right there.

He hangs up.

DARYL (CONT'D)

That woman needs to be fired, but everyone's afraid to do it because of the thing with her legs. I'm sorry, I have to deal with something. Dan, you can finish your act. I think I got the general gist of it. And to be honest, I think it's a little unfocused.

Daryl leaves.

DAN

Where was I?

KAREN

Airlines suck!

DAN

Right...These days the airlines want to charge you for everything...You're charged if you want to *check* a bag, you're charged if you *carry-on* your bag, they charge you if you want a seat that doesn't crush your balls.

You want an exit row where you'll have to help the stewardess in a plane crash? That'll be extra sir...if you want to make sure you get bin space, that'll cost extra, it's really gotten out of control. The last flight I was on the hostess asked me if I wanted to upgrade to a softer brand of toilet paper.

KAREN

(yelling out)

The softer stuff is worth it! No one wants a scratchy ass!

DAN

But I fooled them. I just used that flimsy blanket they still give you for free.

They all laugh.

JEAN

I guess that is kind of funny.

MARIA

Maybe you should take him to Chicago to try an open mic night?

JEAN

Huh... Maybe... He's asked me dozens of times to listen to his jokes but I never thought they'd be any good.

Dan has become more confident and is having some fun now.

DAN

An airplane is where you really learn your place in society... yeah... so you've got the "battle for the bin space", you've got that "to put your seat back or not and ruin someone else's flight, battle". You've got the, "Do I sit here and hold my pee in pain or wake that old lady up and climb over her for the fifth time, battle" ... and you've got the infamous "battle of the armrest" Whoever gets the arm rest, that's your alpha right there.

They laugh.

JEAN

(to the others, proudly)

That's true, you know. Dan always gets the arm rest. Doesn't matter who we're sitting next to.

Dan continues his routine.

DAN

And what's up with those cheap ass headphones with two prongs on the end?? Is that just so you can't use your own and have to buy their shitty headsets?!

DARYL

(over speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I apologize for the interruption. For those of you traveling to Cleveland, for a limited time, you may come to the podium and change your flight to go anywhere our airline travels in the continental United States including Mexico and Canada, which are not technically part of the continental United States, but our airline treats them as if they are. Montreal is a very nice city if you like something that feels foreign, but you don't care for Mexicans. Come see me for a complete list of alternate destinations, or if you want to cancel your flight entirely and just stay here, we will refund nearly all of your money. Come see me for details. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Dan continues his routine.

DAN

...And what's up with them always thanking us for our "patience and understanding"? Did they leave us any choice? I checked both my patience and my understanding in that luggage that's half way to Kalamazoo that I'm never gonna see again.

They all laugh.

DAN (CONT'D)

Thank you, and have a good night, be safe! Dan, out!

They all applaud. Daryl renters.

DARYL

How did it go? Did it get any better?

JEAN

You're not completely unfunny.

DAN

Thanks.

JEAN

Maybe we'll go to Chicago.

KAREN

They said we could go anywhere we wanted? Anywhere?

DARYL

That's the offer on the table right now. Could change any minute though, so you better make up your mind.

BRYAN

They'll let us change or cancel our flights?

DARYL

For a limited time.

BRYAN

None of us really want to go to Cleveland.

MARIA

I do.

A beat.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I really do want to see the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It's on a list I found on the internet of the top ten museums to see before you die. And I'd really like to see it. And I'd like to see it with you...

Points to Daryl.

DARYL

With me?

MARIA

You made me appreciate music again.

DARYL

I did?

MARIA

Yes.

DARYL

Well, I can't go to Cleveland.

JEAN

Why not?

DARYL

Janet is very incompetent.

BRYAN

Can't you fly wherever you want? I thought that's why people worked for the airlines?

DARYL

I can, yes. If there's an available seat. But I'd have to bump somebody.

KAREN

Can you do that?

DARYL

We do it all the time.

KAREN

It is tempting to pack up and just go somewhere else completely. Like maybe Orlando or San Diego or San Antonio.

A beat.

KAREN (CONT'D)

There's Seaworld's in all of those cities.

DARYL

Time is running out Karen. Tick, Tock.

A beat.

KAREN

But I don't know what to do about Rob.

JEAN

You seem terrified of this Rob person.

KAREN

(paranoid)

Who told you that??

JEAN

It's pretty clear.

KAREN

It's not like I can just change my whole life that easily is it?

DAN

Apparently on the dark web you can.

KAREN

Maybe I can talk to him, and tell him I need a few things to change. I can't keep living like this right?

JEAN

Right!

KAREN

I shouldn't be afraid to call him, or ask for things I want, right?

JEAN AND MARIA

Right!

KAREN

I deserve a little happiness, right?

JEAN AND MARIA AND BRYAN

Right!

KAREN

Just because I'm a little disorganized doesn't mean he can push me around, right?

JEAN AND MARIA AND BRYAN

Right!

KAREN

I should just tell him all that, right?!

JEAN AND MARIA AND BRYAN

Right!

KAREN

But I should wait to do it till after we put his dog to sleep, right?

JEAN

Probably, yeah.

Daryl's phone rings.

DARYL

What is it Janet?... I see. Well, that's finally some good news. Thank you for letting me know. No, you can't go home yet.

He hangs up.

DARYL (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have some good news. There's been a change and Flight 3248 to Cleveland will be leaving very shortly. Our offer is rescinded, and it is now too late to change your plans.

MARIA

Will you come see the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with me Daryl?

DARYL

Hmmmm. I don't know...

MARIA

It would mean a lot to a dying lady.

DARYL

Don't guilt trip me Maria. Okay, I deserve some time off-I'll come with you. But don't think this means we're life long friends.

BRYAN

I guess we better get going... to Cleveland.

JEAN

Bryan, If you don't want to move to Cleveland to be an ERP manager, and you really want to write fortune cookies, then you shouldn't go.

DAN

Jean, don't tell the kid how to live his life. Kid, do what you want to do.

BRYAN

I have to go to Cleveland. I can't just call them and say I'm not coming at this point.

JEAN

Why not?

BRYAN

It's a good opportunity for me, out there in Cleveland.

JEAN

But it's not really where you want to be going, is it?

BRYAN

I guess not.

JEAN

If you really want to write fortune cookies, then I don't think you should go to Cleveland at all.

BRYAN

They're stupid. They're just made up fortunes. They're not real. They don't come true like the one my mother got.

A moment.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

(sincerely)

Why did that one come true? But mine never come true?

JEAN

Bryan, I think that what happened to your Mother was just what was supposed to happen that night. Nothing to do with the cookie she got.

BRYAN

But her fortune cookie came true.

JEAN

Some things are just random. You can't control the future.

BRYAN

But you just said we could control our future.

JEAN

Not with a cookie. With our decisions and choices.

DARYL

I'm not sure what's going on. I think I missed the whole fortune cookie thing.

JEAN

Bryan wants to write fortune cookies for a living.

DARYL

I don't know, it seems like a risky career move.

JEAN

(a revelation)

That's why you want to write them so badly, isn't it?

Because your mother got the one about going away somewhere on a journey, and then, well.. She went away on a journey. Maybe you're just trying to make sense if it all.

DAN

Why don't you just go hop on to the dark web and ask whoever runs the thing to just make some fortunes come true. Seems like they can make shit happen. Okay, Jean, let's go!

JEAN

Dan, Bryan is not involved with the Dark web.

BRYAN

Something made her get that particular cookie, that particular night. I just know it.

JEAN

I don't think so. I think that was just something that was supposed to happen.

Bryan becomes visibly upset.

BRYAN

But things like that don't just happen. What are the chances?

JEAN

Sometimes things do "just happen".

BRYAN

(upset)

But if she had just gotten a different cookie...

JEAN

The cookie didn't cause your mother's death... Come here...

Jean hugs Bryan closely.

KAREN

I really like the idea of a cookie telling you how to live your life.

JEAN

(to Bryan)

Maybe the fortune cookies are not meant to predict the future, but they're meant to influence the future. To inspire people.

DAN

This is nonsense Jean!

JEAN

Hey, guys, Maybe Bryan's cookies could inspire us and give us all some direction?

DAN

Jean!

JEAN

(wanting to help Brian)

Dan, why don't we help this boy out.

Jean motions to everyone that they could all help Brian, and they agree.

JEAN (CONT'D)

We'll each take a fortune cookie and see how they inspire and influence us! Then we'll all keep in touch and let each other know how it worked out?

KAREN

Mine will just be empty again, I know it.

JEAN

You have a whole back pack full of fortune cookies. Why not pass them out and put them to use?

DARYL

Folks, this cookie conundrum is just fascinating, but we're about to begin boarding.

DAN

Come on Jean, let's get out of here! You're going to make us miss the flight! We have to go to Cleveland now, like it or not.

Bryan goes to get his backpack.
He hands out fortunes...

BRYAN

Well, if you really want to try...

JEAN

Okay, lets see what fortune has in store for us.

DAN

Come on, come on guys! We're running out of time! I'm not missing the flight because of a damn cookie!

They open the cookies- except for Karen.

JEAN

Should we read them aloud to each other?

MARIA

If we do, then they won't come true.

DAN

That's birthday wishes, not fortune cookies.

JEAN

I'll go first.

KAREN

I hope they're all good fortunes!

JEAN

He wouldn't write a bad fortune cookie, would you Bryan?

A moment between Bryan and Jean.

BRYAN

(would he write a bad fortune?)

No, of course not.

JEAN

Here we go! Mine says, "Don't worry about your high adjustable interest rate mortgage. It's going to be taken care of for you soon!" Well, that's a very good one! I've been meaning to pay that loan off!

Dan has become suspicious.

DAN

How did you know we have an adjustable interest rate? Did she tell you that? Did you give her that cookie on purpose?

BRYAN

(possibly defensive)

No, not at all! It's the luck of the cookie!! She just happened to pick that cookie!!

DAN

(skeptical)

Hmmm.

JEAN

Dan read yours.

DAN

(opens his cookie)

This is so stupid... "Great wealth is coming to your family."

A beat.

DAN (CONT'D)

Now I know this is crap. We don't have any rich relatives with money. This ain't gonna happen.

JEAN

Your cousin Kevin plays all those lottery tickets! Maybe he's going to hit it big! Think positive!

DAN

I've never heard you say THAT before!

JEAN

Daryl?

DARYL

"Your current career is ending. Get ready for a big change!"

JEAN

I think that means you're going to sing again!

DARYL

I don't know. It doesn't read like explicitly good news. It could go either way. I don't like the sound of it. I need to go. I find that fortune very disturbing.

JEAN

I'm so glad your coming along with us on this trip Daryl!

DARYL

I'm still on the fence about it, Jean. But okay.

Daryl leaves.

JEAN
 Maria read yours.

Maria opens her cookie.

MARIA
 Oh my... this can't be right...

JEAN
 What does it say??

MARIA
 It's just too strange.

JEAN
 Tell us.

BRYAN
 Yeah tell us!

MARIA
 "Just relax. A cure for what ails you is on the way."

BRYAN
 Wow!? Really??

DAN
 He gave her that cookie on purpose! He planned this somehow.

JEAN
 How could he possibly have known that a lady with a disease was going to be here tonight? There's no way he could have known that, Dan!

BRYAN
 Right. Completely random.

JEAN
 That seems very prescient. Bryan, I think you may be very good at writing fortune cookies after all. Out of the whole back pack what are the chances that Maria gets that one?

DAN
 I don't know. It seems like a
 trick. You want your dumb
 fortunes to come true so
 badly.

BRYAN
 Three hundred to one.

JEAN

Bryan, you open one.

BRYAN

I can't write my own fortune.

JEAN

Why not? Of course you can!

Bryan opens a cookie.

MARIA

What's it say?

BRYAN

"Your life is about to make sense. You were right all along!"

JEAN

Wow! I think that means that you should start your own fortune cookie business!

BRYAN

Really?

MARIA

You should! I don't know if it's true, but my fortune did make me feel a little better about my situation.

JEAN

Karen, read us yours.

KAREN

No, I don't want to. I'll save it. I'm sure it's empty like always... But if there's anything on there about bad weather, or turbulence, I'll never get on that plane and Rob will literally kill me. I'll just hang on to it.

DARYL

(on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen flight 3248 to Cleveland will begin boarding in two minutes.

JEAN

Are you still going to come to Cleveland, Bryan?

BRYAN

I don't know. I'm thinking about what to do.

DARYL

(on speaker)

We will start with very, very old people who move very, very slow, and then we'll move on to babies who cry a lot.

BRYAN

Maybe I won't go. Maybe I'll just tell them to forget that stupid job.

JEAN

Good for you!

DAN

Yeah, good for you. Okay, Jean, let's go!!

BRYAN

Dan, I thought you were great, by the way.

DAN

(taken aback)

Really? Thank you. Well, maybe someday I'll get the chance to perform for a real audience.

BRYAN

Maybe.

JEAN

I'm going to take you to Chicago, Dan. Right after this trip. We'll stop on the way back and you can do your open mic night.

DAN

Really?

JEAN

Yes.

DAN

Oh...I better work on my Asian lady driver routine!

KAREN

(to Bryan)

Are you really going to just drop everything? Completely change your life, just like that?

BRYAN

Yeah. I guess I am.

KAREN

I'm jealous.

BRYAN

You could too.

KAREN

(sad)

No. I can't.

DARYL

(on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen we will now be boarding those of you with super-duper extreme platinum elite status.

JEAN

Okay, we better go.

DAN

Yeah, Aunt Marjorie is waiting.

BRYAN

Okay, well, I guess I'm gonna go! It was nice meeting you all. Thank you for reading my fortunes!

JEAN

I'm so glad to have met you all. You know, when you walk through the airport, you see the very best in people- people hugging, seeing each other again after a long time, or tearful goodbyes- who knows, maybe for the last time ever. I'll bet we will all remember this night for the rest of our lives.

MARIA

I know you're right, Jean.

BRYAN

I'm glad to have met you all. You might have just changed my life! I think it's all starting to make sense.

JEAN

Life doesn't have to make sense Bryan. Life is messy. Life is what happens when you're not paying attention. It may seem like nothing is happening, but something is always happening, even when it seems like just a lot of arguing about yogurt, and spaghetti eating contests. So go enjoy it. Because it comes to an end before you know it. Make it count.

BRYAN

I will. I promise I will.

JEAN

Good fortune Bryan!

They all hug.

ALL

Bye! Etc...

Bryan leaves.

MARIA

I'm kind of jealous of him just running off like that. Life just beginning.

JEAN

I'll bet you have a lot of life left in store. Your family is going to be very happy to see you, Maria.

MARIA

I hope so...

DARYL

(on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will soon be boarding our first and business class passengers. Please make your way to the gate.

KAREN

I guess this is it guys! See you on the plane.

JEAN

And Karen don't be nervous! Everything will be just fine!

KAREN

I know it will be, Jean. I'm just a nervous person.

DAN

Yes, everything is going to be just fine! Let's go!!!

KAREN

Thanks Dan.

She hugs Dan.

JEAN

Before we go- I really would love it, if you would read your fortune Karen. Aren't you curious? I am.

DAN

You're not curious. You're nosy.

KAREN

I'm too nervous to read it. What if it's bad?

JEAN

But what if it's good?! Do you want me to read it for you?

KAREN

Sure, but if it's bad, don't tell me. Make something up about how I get a new fiancée and win a lot of money.

JEAN

Okay, deal!

Karen hands her the cookie. Jean opens it and pulls out the fortune.

JEAN (CONT'D)

It's not empty!

KAREN

Really?

JEAN

(reading)

Really...."You're getting a new boyfriend and winning a lot of money"

KAREN

What?? Really? Is it that bad?

JEAN

I'm kidding! It's a good fortune!

DAN

Wow. My wife, actually told a joke!

KAREN

What's it say?

DARYL

(on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen we are about to board our business class passengers. Please make your way to the gate.

JEAN

"A journey to unknown places is in your near future" See that's good! The future is always unknown, make it what you want it to be.

KAREN

Maybe Rob is taking me on vacation somewhere!...No, he says traveling with me is like hiking without feet.

DAN
Come on Jean, let's go!!

KAREN (CONT'D)
But I feel like I've heard
that fortune before. Where
have I heard it?

DARYL
(on speaker)
Now we will board groups A B D and E. That is, everyone else.

DAN
Still no Group C.

KAREN
If I have a panic attack on the plane, just force a couple of
these down my throat.

She hands Jean pills.

KAREN (CONT'D)
I may be shaking too much to get them in my mouth.

Dan gets visibly upset with
Karen.

DAN
(irritated with Karen)
Nothing is going to happen to this plane!! It's ridiculous.
There is a one in five million chance of something happening
to this plane! It's next to impossible!

KAREN
Okay, but if the plane crashes, I'm going to be very upset
with you!

DAN
There is absolutely no chance that this plane is going to
crash.

JEAN
Don't say that Dan, it's bad luck. It's all going to be just
fine dear. There's no need to be upset about anything.

DAN
You know who won't be upset if we crash? The kids! Cause
they'll be cashing in your stupid insurance policy! The kids
will be rich and we'll be dead.

JEAN

They won't be that rich. They'll have to pay off all our bills first.

MARIA

I'm sure your children wouldn't be happy if something happened to you.

DAN

They'd be upset at first. Then they'd get over it, and buy a condo and a pool.

KAREN

I don't know. I have a very bad feeling about this flight. But then again, I have bad feelings about everything!

DAN

Then stay here, you crazy loon! Let's go!!!!

KAREN

Should I call Rob, just in case something happens?

DAN

Nothing is going to happen to the plane. Jean, come on!

JEAN

He's so grumpy.

Dan leaves in frustration. Maria follows as Daryl speaks.

DARYL

(on speaker)

Ladies and Gentlemen this is the final boarding call for flight 3248 to Cleveland, Ohio. Please make your way to the gate, if you wish to be on this flight. And also, I have some good news!... I will be joining you on your journey. See you on the plane, Maria!

KAREN

Maybe we shouldn't go!? I have a very bad feeling, Jean. I know, I know, I always have bad feelings. But something just doesn't feel right. Maybe we all shouldn't get on that plane.

JEAN

We have to go dear. But don't worry. A plane ride is not something to be afraid of. You can switch seats with Dan, and sit next to me if it makes you feel better.

KAREN

Are you sure I shouldn't worry?

JEAN

Nothing to worry about. It's an adventure! You know, life isn't about the destination, it's about the journey. And now we're all going to Cleveland together!

KAREN

(resigned)

I guess everyone ends up in Cleveland...eventually.

JEAN

We're all of us headed in the same direction. The future. The unknown. And isn't that really what makes life exciting and worth living? Not knowing what's next, or when it's all going to end?

A beat.

KAREN

(nervous)

But what's gonna happen?

JEAN

If we knew what was going to happen, I don't think it would be nearly as interesting. Take my hand Karen, and don't be nervous. Everything is going to be okay.

KAREN

(smiling)

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

They laugh. Jean hugs Karen tightly, and they begin to exit.

KAREN (CONT'D)

We're all gonna die right?

JEAN

Eventually.

KAREN

I mean on this flight.

JEAN

It's a possibility.

KAREN

You're not nervous at all?

JEAN

I always try to look on the bright side, Karen. At least I won't have to worry about my adjustable rate mortgage.

They laugh.

KAREN

Can I have the aisle seat?

They leave the lounge.

The lounge is empty. After a few moments Karen's phone, still sitting on the counter begins to ring...and ring...and ring... and ring...but there is no one to answer it. It continues to ring as the lights fade.

SLOW BLACKOUT.

END OF PLAY