

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 being in 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
boarding 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.

A beat.

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 amount of 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 you're 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. She lives in Ohio.

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?