

Confession Air

a short play by Matthew Konkel

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Cast of Characters

LISA: a woman with a deceitful past, 20s to 30s
BLAKE: Lisa's husband, unaffected, 20s to 30s
KIM: a passenger, 30s to 50s
CAROL: a flight attendant, 20s to 50s

TIME

Now.

SETTING

A commercial airplane on the verge of crashing.

(BLAKE and LISA sit next to one another. KIM sits across the aisle reading a magazine. They shake and convulse their bodies with the turbulence of the flight.)

(CAROL, the flight attendant stands upstage, at the back of the plane, and speaks into the PA.)

CAROL

Ladies and Gentlemen, I regret to bring you the news that we are currently in an out-of-control descent. Our pilots are doing everything they can to get us to safety. If necessary, oxygen masks will drop from the ceiling. Place the mask firmly over your face. Oxygen is flowing even though the bag may not inflate. Please remain in your seats with your seatbelts securely fastened and try to remain calm.

(CAROL exits upstage.)

LISA

Remain calm. What's the point of staying calm?

BLAKE

Try and focus on your breathing. Remember your yoga classes.

LISA

We're all going to die. Can't I panic if I want to?

BLAKE

We might survive.

LISA

We're crashing into the mountains from thousands of feet above the earth, Blake. How are we going to survive?

BLAKE

You never know. We might hit a soft spot.

LISA

Don't be ridiculous.

BLAKE

I love you, Lisa.

LISA

I love you too, Blake. So, I guess this is confession time. We should confess the wrongdoings we've committed since we've been together. So we can die with a clean conscience.

BLAKE

Okay. Good idea.

(CAROL enters and speaks into the PA. She struggles to maintain a professional, composed attitude within the escalating crisis.)

CAROL

Ladies and gentlemen, an update on our status. Our starboard engine has ceased to function and we continue our incredibly fast downward plunge into the earth. Please turn off and stow all electronic devices until the plane has come to a complete and total, um, destruction. Drinks and snacks are available for cash. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

(CAROL exits.)

LISA

Cooperation? What are we going to do, rebel against gravity?

KIM

Are you going to eat your peanuts?

(LISA gives KIM her bag of peanuts.)

KIM

Thank you.

(KIM munches on the peanuts while reading the magazine.)

BLAKE

We should get to our confessions before it's too late.

LISA

Okay. Complete disclosure. I'll go first and we'll take turns.

BLAKE

Okay.

LISA

Okay, uh, remember the meditation retreat I went to last spring?

BLAKE

Yes.

LISA

I had an affair with the yoga instructor. I'm sorry. It was just that one time. I'm sorry, Blake, I'm so sorry.

BLAKE

It's okay. It's okay, Lisa. I understand.

LISA

Your turn.

BLAKE

Okay. Remember that time you were away in San Francisco giving a lecture on hydroponics?

LISA

Yes.

BLAKE

I used your shampoo. I'm sorry.

LISA

My shampoo?

BLAKE

Yes. But not your conditioner, I swear.

(CAROL enters.)

CAROL

Ladies and gentlemen, I regret to inform you that our port engine has joined our starboard in malfunction. Any attempt that may have been possible of making it to a suitable landing site is now hopeless. Thank you for flying with us. Have you considered a Hawaiian getaway? Flights to the land of a thousand beaches are now twenty percent off if you book before June first. Hawaii. Get some sunshine in your life.

KIM

That sounds like a fun idea, doesn't it?

LISA

You used my shampoo?

BLAKE

Yes.

LISA

That's what you have to confess?

BLAKE

I feel awful. I know how you are about my using your shower products. I'm so sorry.

LISA

I tell you I had an affair, we're about to die and *that's* what you have to confess to me?

BLAKE

I tried to think of the worst thing.

LISA

That's the worst thing!?

BLAKE

Well, yeah.

LISA

There must be something else.

BLAKE

I might have used your towel, too. But I would have washed it immediately afterwards.

LISA

My towel. My fucking shampoo.

BLAKE

Well, I was out of mine and I had that presentation that day so—

LISA

I don't fucking believe this.

BLAKE

Don't be upset.

LISA

Upset? I'm astounded. What in the hell is wrong with you?