

**LA --> Vegas**

"Pilot"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. BURBANK AIRPORT - DEPARTURE LANE - DAY

A second-rate airport busy with travelers getting away for the weekend. A Mazda zips into an opening too small for most cars to try. Jumping out of the passenger seat is

RONNIE (mid-30's). Practical, confident, capable but getting fed up with the bullshit. She grabs her travel bag, and in **ONE SHOT**, we FOLLOW HER into --

INT. BURBANK AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

She heads toward the Security Gate, walking quickly - not like someone who's running late, but like someone who's figured out how to get somewhere not a second sooner than they absolutely have to.

She glances at her watch. Shit, actually she is running late.

She hustles to the SECURITY LINE... pushes past a bunch of grumbling travelers...

PISSED TRAVELER

Hey! Dick.

RONNIE

Sorry, late for my flight --

Her shoes and belt come off with two deft moves. She shoves her shit through the X-ray... glides through the metal detector... grabs her shit off the belt...

Then HAULS ASS barefoot toward the gate.

Without missing a step, she slips on her shoes... pulls a shirt out of her bag... takes off the one she's wearing, just in a bra now --

She slips on the new shirt, buttoning it up just as she reaches --

The DEPARTURE GATE. A line of people waits to board. She jumps ahead of them, then races THROUGH THE JETWAY into --

INT. COMMUTER AIRPLANE - CABIN - CONTINUOUS

She stops, pins a nametag to her shirt - she's a FLIGHT ATTENDANT.

She stands in position... Realizes she's still holding her travel bag and LAUNCHES it into an overhead bin just as

The first passenger boards. Ronnie doesn't miss a beat - lighting up, huge smile, like nothing happened:

RONNIE

Welcome aboard... Good morning...

She spots the PISSED TRAVELER from the Security Line.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

(cheerful)

Hi! You called me a dick, right? Your flight is going to suck.

CUT TO:

CHYRON

FRIDAY

MORESKY AIRLINES FLIGHT #1710

**LA --> VEGAS**

(ON TIME)

INT. COMMUTER AIRPLANE - CABIN - BOARDING

We're inside a 90-seat, first-generation, Boeing-knockoff - a budget airplane for a budget, regional airline. This thing was already outdated when they bought it twenty years ago.

Ronnie and another flight attendant, AMANDA (20's, sarcastic), watch the passengers get herded in.

AMANDA

I think our passengers are getting uglier.

RONNIE

Maybe your standards are just getting higher.

AMANDA

Yes. I hear that's exactly what happens the older and more single you get.

RONNIE

Hey, did you hear about Margee Bennett?

AMANDA

Uh, yeah. She slipped in her bathroom Tuesday night and drowned in her toilet.

RONNIE

That's just a rumor. They found her head in the water but the fall is actually what killed her.

AMANDA

Who cares, she's dead. You know what that means, right? They need a new flight attendant for the JFK route.

RONNIE

I know.

(then, admitting)

I already asked for a transfer.

AMANDA

You bitch! At least wait until the body's dry.

RONNIE

I need a change. I have to get on a real plane, and work real hours, and deal with actual people instead of this collection of human garbage.

ARTEM (O.S.)

Ronnie! Ronnie! Where is Ronnie?!

Ronnie sighs and looks at Amanda - *see what I mean?*

AMANDA

Fine. But next death, I call dibs.

INT. AIRPLANE - ROW 19 - MOMENTS LATER

A passenger, ARTEM (50's, Armenian, shady but generally harmless), stands in the middle of the aisle, holding everything up. Ronnie gets through to see what's going on.

RONNIE

Okay. What's the problem?

ARTEM

This butt-faced bag of dicks is in my seat.

He points to KATIE (mid-20's, couldn't look sweeter) sitting in a window seat next to her fiancée, RYAN (mid-20's, somehow even sweeter).

RONNIE

We've been over this. There aren't assigned seats.

ARTEM

You know that is my lucky seat!  
 (pointing to other seats)  
 I sit there, I lose. I sit there, I lose.  
 (pointing to Katie's seat)  
 I sit here, I win. Or find half-eaten bag  
 Goldfish on ground I eat for snack.

RONNIE

If you want that seat, pay the extra seven dollars to get priority boarding.

ARTEM

What am I, millionaire? Why don't I just charter a fucking unicorn?

RYAN

We don't want to cause a problem, we were just looking for two seats next to each other.

Ronnie looks around. She spots a passenger, MICAH (early-40's, quietly intense), sitting alone in an aisle seat.

RONNIE

Hey, you. Do you mind sitting next to this pain in the ass and letting these two have your row?

MICAH

Um... Yeah, sure.

Katie and Ryan get up to switch. Artem takes the window seat. Problem solved. Ronnie turns to Artem:

RONNIE

Happy now?  
 (re: Micah)  
 Or is he bad luck too?

ARTEM

I don't know yet.  
 (to Micah)  
 Are you Jew?

INT. AIRPLANE - ROW 23 - BOARDING

A passenger, DAVE (40's, all-American, cocky but also a baby), talks to a group of YOUNG GUYS who are barely listening to him.

DAVE

Oh, man, I can't wait to get there, I'm gonna tear it up this weekend. It's going to be so much fun... and it's gonna be safe fun. The drug-abstaining, violence-free, wearing-protection-but-still-pulling-out-just-in-case type fun.

Ronnie approaches, looks at Dave.

RONNIE

We're boarded. Cabin doors are closed.

DAVE

(laughs)

Why are telling me?

(then)

Oh, that's right...

He stands and puts on his captain's hat.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(to the guys)

Because I'm the captain. You have a fun and safe 21st birthday, ya hear?

Captain Dave winks and heads to the front with Ronnie.

RONNIE

You really think that's a good use of everyone's time?

CAPTAIN DAVE

If I can't impart some wisdom and help these people, why am I even here?

RONNIE

To fly the goddamn plane. Go do that.

Ronnie pushes him through the door into--

INT. AIRPLANE - COCKPIT

Captain Dave's co-pilot, CO-PILOT ALAN, sits at the controls. Captain Dave sits next to him and picks up the INTERCOM. He offers it to Alan.

CAPTAIN DAVE

You want to do the honors, Alan?

CO-PILOT ALAN

Really?

Alan excitedly goes to take it. Captain Dave pulls it away.

CAPTAIN DAVE

No! You never touch this.

(into intercom)

Good afternoon, everybody! This is your captain speaking. I'd like to welcome you on MoreSky Airlines Flight 1710, service to Las Vegas...

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - SAME TIME

Applause from the douchier/already-intoxicated passengers. The cheering causes a FAULTY OXYGEN MASK to drop down at one of the seats.

ANGLE ON:

Katie, sitting alone in her row. Another passenger, NICHOLE (20, fresh-faced, savvier than people think), passes and notices her.

NICHOLE

Oh my god, are you a stripper?

KATIE

Am I a...? No, I'm not a stripper.

NICHOLE

Why not? You have such a good body. You could totally be a stripper. I'm a stripper. I go to Vegas on the weekends because you can make like ten times more there than in LA, especially on big fight weekends or when there's a trade show in town for hams or toilets or whatever. You wouldn't believe how lonely urinal salesmen are.

KATIE

That all sounds... neat, but I'm actually going to Vegas to get married.

NICHOLE

Oh, that's so romantic! Marriage is the best.

KATIE

(surprised)

Are you married?

NICHOLE

No, but most of the guys who solicit me for oral are. Anyways, if you want to come by the club to dance...

(handing her a card)

(MORE)

NICHOLE (CONT'D)

I get a bonus for any new girl I bring in. And don't worry, I'm not gonna make you trap or anything.

KATIE

Trap?

NICHOLE

(duh)

Tell you we're just going out to strip and party but then force you into prostitution.

KATIE

Oh. Well I wasn't worried about that but now it's the only thing I'll ever worry about.

INT. AIRPLANE - FRONT CABIN - SAME TIME

Ronnie and another flight attendant, DOUG (20's), perform the safety demonstration as Captain Dave narrates.

CAPTAIN DAVE (V.O.)

...Should the cabin experience sudden pressure loss, oxygen masks will drop down from above your seat. Quick note on that: your oxygen mask may also drop down due to a manufacturing defect our mechanics have yet to identify. If that happens, just go ahead and shove that fucker right back up there...

RONNIE

(whispering to Doug)

Guess who I talked to before.

(re: Micah)

Grapefruit Juice Guy.

DOUG

Shut up! No! What did you say?

RONNIE

I asked if he'd mind switching seats.

DOUG

And what did he say?

RONNIE

"Sure."

DOUG

Of course he did. What a dream.

RONNIE

I got something else: he sounded a little Southern.

DOUG

I knew it! He's a cowboy. I bet he owns horses. Like real majestic ones. Maybe he's a horse whisperer, and he goes to Vegas every week to volunteer at a ranch to help out underprivileged horses.

RONNIE

No, I've figured it out. He's a former FBI agent. A few years ago, he was sworn to protect a witness who was going to testify against the mob in Las Vegas. But he made one mistake: he fell in love with her. Then one night they were at the symphony, he let his guard down because he was going to propose... and that's when the mob took their shot. He's never forgiven himself. So he quit the FBI and now he spends his days traveling the country, protecting those who can't protect themselves. Except on Fridays, when he flies to Las Vegas to sit by her grave and read her Anna Karenina, because she always wanted to read it but never had the chance.

DOUG

Oh. My. God. That's exactly what it is.

Amanda stands behind them.

AMANDA

You're both retarded. He goes to Vegas to gamble and drink and be an asshole like everyone else.

(then)

Or he's a serial killer and his next target is in Vegas. Ooh, maybe we'll get to testify at the trial.

DOUG

Well today's the day I find out. I'm gonna talk to him. Might as well, right? It's my last chance.

RONNIE

Why, are you dying?

DOUG

I didn't tell you? Today's my last day doing LA to Vegas. They're putting me on the JFK route. I am done with all this.

AMANDA

They gave you Margee Bennett's spot?

Ronnie is seething but trying to hide it.

RONNIE

That's um... Excuse me.

She stops her demonstration, turns around and walks into --

INT. AIRPLANE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ronnie shuts the door and as she opens her mouth to scream --

EXT. LAX RUNWAY - TAKE-OFF - ESTABLISHING SHOT

The engines ROAR as the plane blasts down the runway and takes off.

INT. AIRPLANE - KITCHEN - IN-FLIGHT

Ronnie and Amanda load up the beverage cart.

RONNIE

I have seniority! How could they give that route to Doug instead of me?

AMANDA

Maybe because Doug never told the head of scheduling to suck your dick.

RONNIE

That was taken totally out of context.

AMANDA

In what context is, "Fuck you, Barry. Suck my dick" appropriate?

RONNIE

It was a joke. You had to be there.

AMANDA

I was there. So were many children.

RONNIE

That's not on me! Who brings children to a picnic?

Co-Pilot Alan has come in for a soda. They ignore him.

AMANDA

Maybe you'll get lucky and Doug will  
drown in his toilet too.

RONNIE

Doug's too selfish to ever die. I'm going  
to be stuck on this flight for the rest  
of my life. This isn't what my life was  
supposed to be. I thought I was going to  
travel the world.

CO-PILOT ALAN

I thought I was going to be a dancer.

AMANDA

Shut up, Alan.

RONNIE

I'm throwing my life away up here. I  
can't do it anymore.

(then)

Screw it, I'm done. I quit.

AMANDA

You can't quit mid-air. Where are you  
gonna go?

RONNIE

(removing her name tag)

Nowhere.

She grabs a few tiny vodka bottles and takes an empty seat in  
the cabin.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Maybe when we land I'll storm out and do  
a "who's coming with me" thing. Let's see  
how drunk I get.

She slams back the vodka. Amanda just stares, at a loss.

CO-PILOT ALAN

The problem is, there's a surprisingly  
small market for professional Argentine  
Tango dancers. And if you're a white guy,  
forget about it.

As Ronnie reclines her seat and slams back the vodka, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - MID-FLIGHT

Katie and Ryan look at pictures on an iPad.

KATIE

These are some of the chapel options I found. At this one, they'll do the ceremony in a jacuzzi.

RYAN

I don't know if I want to be underwater when we get married.

KATIE

Oh, it doesn't have to be water, they'll fill it up with whatever we want. Rose petals, puppies, whole-grain Cheerios --

Artem appears next to the seat.

ARTEM

I would like to apologize for my earlier rudeness. I never said congratulations for wedding!

(then)

You are eloping?

KATIE

I mean, we haven't actually been calling it that but... yeah, I guess that is what we're doing.

Artem glances at three other sketchy EASTERN EUROPEAN PASSENGERS, who are listening in.

ARTEM

I see. It is interesting decision to elope in Las Vegas... It is shotgun situation?

He points to Katie's belly.

KATIE

Please don't point at my body.

RYAN

No! God, no, she's not...

One of the Europeans throws his hands up, annoyed.

ARTEM

Of course not. Because you are virgins.  
It is religious thing. You want to get  
married quickly so you can finally enter  
her.

KATIE

I'm sorry, so he can what?

RYAN

We're not religious, we're just in love.

ARTEM

(disappointed)  
Oh.

RYAN

Our parents have spent the last eight  
months planning a giant wedding for us  
that we don't want. We finally decided we  
should do this on our own terms, because  
the wedding isn't what's important. The  
love is what's important.

They gaze lovingly at each other.

ARTEM

I see.

Artem trudges back to the Europeans.

ARTEM (CONT'D)

It is to piss off the parents.

They all react disappointed. Amanda swoops in.

AMANDA

Called it. Pay up, losers.

Artem and the three other gamblers hand over their money to  
her.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - A LITTLE LATER

Ronnie is reclining in a seat, eyes closed, enjoying the  
flight. Doug walks by with the beverage cart.

DOUG

You're not helping with cart service?

RONNIE

Not my problem anymore.

DOUG

I know you think you're screwing the airline, but really you're just screwing me.

RONNIE

(beat)

I can live with that.

Doug keeps walking. Ronnie closes her eyes again.

MICAH (O.S.)

Do you live in LA?

She opens her eyes. Glances around. Was he talking to her?

RONNIE

Uh... yeah. Why?

MICAH

You should have quit on the return flight. Now you have to pay for a ticket back.

RONNIE

Huh. I hadn't thought of that.

He goes back to his business. Ronnie isn't quite ready to let this go.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

You know, I've seen you every Friday and Sunday for the last eight months, and that was the most you've ever said to me.

MICAH

Maybe I find you a lot less intimidating now that you're unemployed.

He smiles and takes a sip of his drink.

RONNIE

I gotta ask, what's with the grapefruit juice?

MICAH

Um... I like it. And it helps fight scurvy?

RONNIE

It's just that most people on this flight order liquor.

MICAH  
I don't drink.  
(then)  
Recovering.

RONNIE  
Oh. So do you go to Vegas to gamble?

MICAH  
I don't gamble.  
(then)  
Recovering.

RONNIE  
So then... you go for work?

MICAH  
I go to help out at a ranch and mentor at-risk horses.

RONNIE  
Get the fuck out of here.  
(then, realizing)  
You heard us.

MICAH  
You are terrible at whispering.

RONNIE  
So you're not a cowboy?

MICAH  
I'm an accountant.

RONNIE  
Like a renegade accountant who plays by his own rules?

MICAH  
No, a regular accountant who plays by the federally-mandated GAAP guidelines.

RONNIE  
(disappointed)  
Oh.

Behind him, Nichole peeks over the seat.

NICHOLE  
Wait, did you say you're an accountant? Okay, question. I'm an exotic dancer, so like I get naked at work. But I also sometimes get naked at my house.  
(MORE)

NICHOLE (CONT'D)

Does that mean I can write it off as a home office?

MICAH

I don't think so.

NICHOLE

Uch, I am gonna kill Amber.

Nichole sits back down. Micah and Ronnie look at each other and shrug.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - SAME TIME

Captain Dave talks to a couple of jacked dudes.

CAPTAIN DAVE

I'm telling you, Muay Thai will change your life. I myself just started taking lessons, but I'm picking up on it so fast that I'm also giving lessons. Here's my card. When you're back in LA, we'll hit the mat.

Captain Dave gets up and walks through the aisle. He passes Ryan and Katie, who are still looking at chapels on an iPad.

RYAN

This one looks okay. They have different backdrops they can put behind us so one day we can lie and tell our kids we got married at the...

(looking at an example)

World Trade Center. I'm sure they have other ones too.

(as he looks)

Hm. Nope.

Captain Dave stops.

CAPTAIN DAVE

You kids getting married this weekend? That's fantastic.

(indicating himself)

You know, if you need an officiant...

RYAN

Actually, we might be. Are you ordained or whatever?

CAPTAIN DAVE

Uh, yeah. You're sitting in my ordination.

(they don't get it)

(MORE)

CAPTAIN DAVE (CONT'D)

You know how a boat captain can marry anyone? I'm a plane captain, it's the same thing.

ARTEM

It is not the same thing.

Artem chimes in from a few rows back.

CAPTAIN DAVE

Yes it is. What do you know?

ARTEM

I know you should be flying the plane instead of talking this bullshit.

CAPTAIN DAVE

If you understood anything about modern aviation, you'd know these planes fly themselves. This aircraft is a technological marvel.

The oxygen mask drops down. He shoves it back in.

CAPTAIN DAVE (CONT'D)

Besides, my job isn't just about flying the plane, it's about connecting with the passengers.

ARTEM

Connect with us by not crashing.

CAPTAIN DAVE

I'll connect however the hell I want!  
(then, realizing)  
But obviously, yeah, not crashing is on the list.

Captain Dave stomps off.

ARTEM

You still owe me three hundred from Chargers last week!

CAPTAIN DAVE

I'm good for it!

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - A LITTLE LATER

Micah has switched seats so he's now sitting next to Ronnie. They're mid-conversation:

MICAH

It's true, I've never left the country. Not even Canada. But I have watched a lot of hockey so I feel like culturally I'm pretty caught up... Actually, I'm just trying to impress you, I've never watched hockey, hockey sucks.

(she laughs, then)

What about you?

RONNIE

Um... Yeah. Once.

MICAH

You've been out of the country once? Don't you fly on planes professionally?

RONNIE

Not anymore.

MICAH

Good point.

RONNIE

I went to *Nice*. The French Riviera. For nine hours.

MICAH

(waiting)

Okay.

RONNIE

I was with a man. He'd swept me off my feet. He was rich and smart... and even better looking than you.

MICAH

Story already doesn't hold up.

RONNIE

There was a car waiting for us when we landed. Took us to our villa just outside the *Cours Saleya*. We drank champagne and ate foie gras. It all felt like a fairy tale. And then, just as we were about to make love on the balcony overlooking the city... Interpol ruined it.

MICAH

Interpol? Did the Louvre get robbed?

RONNIE

The FBI was there too. It turns out he had stolen - I think, about eighty million? - from the hedge fund he managed. They were tracking him the whole time.

MICAH

I can't wrap my head around this. Were you dating a Bond villain?

RONNIE

He was charming, I thought he was saving me. But I think he was mostly using me for my luggage. He hid \$200,000 dollars in it. But that's not the worst part. What really pissed me off was that I wasn't even the first woman he invited.

MICAH

Who was?

RONNIE

A few girls from his office. And his wife.

MICAH

Ouch.

RONNIE

So that was my nine hours out of the country. Actually, it was really six hours. I spent the other three at the American Embassy and that's U.S. soil so...

MICAH

You've had a rough day so I'll let you count those.

RONNIE

That whole thing is how I ended up here. On the flight home, I was talking to a flight attendant who mentioned the airline was hiring, and... look at me now.

MICAH

See that? Maybe everything happens for a reason.

RONNIE

Yeah, I think the reason is that I used to make very bad decisions.

MICAH  
 ("disappointed")  
 Used to?  
 (then)  
 Not anymore?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE - BATHROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Ronnie and Micah are clumsily making out and fumbling at each other in the plane's cramped bathroom.

MICAH  
 This is... so much grosser than I thought  
 it'd be.

Ronnie looks fearfully at the blue chemical toilet water.

RONNIE  
 All I can think about is accidentally  
 drowning in that.

MICAH  
 Raincheck?

RONNIE  
 Sounds good.

As they straighten up and walk out --

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPLANE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LANDING

The plane starts to make its landing. We hear CHEERS as it touches down.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - DEBOARDING

Captain Dave stands by the door as the passengers deplane.

CAPTAIN DAVE  
 Stay safe... Be smart... Split eights...

Katie and Ryan hold hands as they walk toward the exit.

RYAN  
 This is it. Almost there, babe!

They kiss and walk out. Behind them --

RONNIE AND MICAH

They stand together awkwardly by the exit door. They're both clearly a little embarrassed.

RONNIE

Look, I've never done that before. I don't want you to think --

MICAH

I don't. And by the way, neither have I, so I hope you don't think --

RONNIE

I don't.

MICAH

Good. So neither of us think.

The other passengers are getting impatient behind him.

MICAH (CONT'D)

Maybe we can try this again when I'm back in LA. Except, like, for real. An actual date. Nothing fancy, but I promise Interpol won't show up. Probably.

RONNIE

That sounds nice. And lucky for you, my schedule just got wide open, so...

They smile. It's a sweet moment... until the antsy passengers start elbowing their way through.

MICAH

I'll call you --

Micah is nearly pushed out. The other passengers excitedly exit.

There's a palpable energy in the air. It's electric. For all the newly 21 year olds, the bachelor/bachelorette parties, the gamblers and EDM-heads, there's a sense of adventure and hope and endless possibilities. As they cheer...

PASSENGERS

Vegas! Vegas!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MCCARRAN AIRPORT - GATE 31B - SUNDAY

The passengers all look hung over, miserable, and half-dead as they wait at the gate. Amanda approaches the podium to make an announcement:

AMANDA

I'm sorry for the inconvenience, but due to maintenance, Flight 1322 with service to Los Angeles will be delayed another hour.

A collective GROAN.

RANDOM GIRL (O.S.)

Just get me the fuck out of here.

**CHYRON**

**SUNDAY**

**MORESKY AIRLINES FLIGHT #1322**

**VEGAS --> LA**

**(DELAYED)**

INT. MCCARRAN AIRPORT - GATE 31B - DAY

Ryan sits alone at a SLOT MACHINE, dead-eyed, vacantly pressing buttons and staring at the screen.

ARTEM

My friend! Hello!

Artem approaches and sits down next to him.

ARTEM (CONT'D)

How was the wedding? Magical?

RYAN

Uh, yeah, it was fine.

ARTEM

And where is your lovely new bride?

RYAN

She's... in the bathroom.

ARTEM

Better get used to that, am I right? It is mystery what they do in there for so much time. I believe it is that their smaller anuses make it more challenging to defecate.

RYAN

Just do me a favor and leave me alone, okay?

Ryan stands and walks off. Artem watches, confused.

ARTEM

Wait, you still have money left in--

Artem stops himself - no need to point that out. He starts playing the machine himself.

INT. "FLYERS" BAR - MOMENTS LATER

A shitty little airport pub right off the gate. Ryan walks in and heads right to the bar. Captain Dave and Co-pilot Alan are already sitting there, nursing drinks.

CAPTAIN DAVE

...then she says she can't be with someone who's always somewhere else. So I say I'll cut back my flights, and she says, 'no *emotionally* somewhere else.' And, well, I can't do anything about that. Because I don't know what it means. Anyway, she took everything. Even the dog. To be fair, it is her dog.

(realizing)

I think it's a cat. I don't know, I only met it like once.

He gets the bartender's attention.

CAPTAIN DAVE (CONT'D)

One more for the road, Donny. I'm wheels up in ten.

He looks over to see Ryan staring at him, horrified. In fact, the entire bar is staring at him, horrified.

CAPTAIN DAVE (CONT'D)

Oh, relax. It's club soda.

He turns back to Donny the Bartender, who's slightly confused and about to pour from a GIN bottle. Captain Dave gestures slyly with his fingers - *just a little bit*.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - BOARDING

The passengers trudge through the aisle to their seats. Everyone looks like shit except for the regulars (like Artem and Nichole) who are pros at this.

NICHOLE

How'd you do this weekend?

ARTEM

(downplaying)

So-so.

He flashes a big stack of cash.

ARTEM (CONT'D)  
What about you?

NICHOLE  
Pretty good.

She flashes a stack three times bigger than his.

ARTEM  
Maybe I should quit cards and become  
stripper.

NICHOLE  
(laughs, then)  
Don't even think about it. I'll crush  
you.

ANGLE ON MICAH, who's at war with the overhead compartment,  
trying to shove a bag in.

RONNIE  
That's not gonna fit. You should know  
better.

Micah turns to see Ronnie, in her airline uniform.

MICAH  
Hi! I wasn't expecting to... I'm  
confused, is this how you dress normally  
because I thought --

RONNIE  
(embarrassed)  
Yeah. Didn't last long. The thing I  
forgot about jobs is that if you quit  
them, they have to stop paying you. And I  
need money to live so...

Here she is. Micah laughs awkwardly. It's clear he wasn't  
expecting to see her and is caught off guard.

RONNIE (CONT'D)  
Look, this doesn't have to be weird. Just  
saying hi.  
(re: the bag)  
I can hold this up front for you if you  
want.

MICAH  
No, don't worry about it, I --

RONNIE

It's no problem, we have plenty of --

Before she can take the bag, a WOMAN approaches and picks it up.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me, that's his bag.

MICAH

Oh, um --

SARAH

Actually, it's mine. It's okay, I'm his wife.

Ronnie shoots a look at Micah, who clenches his eyes shut like an infant trying to make it go away.

RONNIE

His wife. Oh. Then I guess there's no problem here.

She walks off. Off Micah's look...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - ESTABLISHING SHOT - TAKE-OFF

The plane takes off.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - IN-FLIGHT

Micah stares at the illuminated Seatbelt Sign. As soon as it goes dark, he rips off his seatbelt and jumps up.

SARAH

Are you okay?

MICAH

I have to -- bathroom.

He heads down the aisle toward --

INT. AIRPLANE - KITCHEN - IN-FLIGHT

Micah finds Ronnie.

MICAH

Listen, it's not what you think. She left me a year ago, and then all of a sudden yesterday she decides she wants to come back with me to LA for a few days to try working it out.

RONNIE

At least this solves the mystery why you're in Vegas every weekend: you go to see your wife.

MICAH

No! I go to see my kids.

RONNIE

Okay, I'm out.

She claps her hands (like an exiting blackjack dealer) and starts walking away. He follows.

MICAH

This was just a case of terrible timing. Of course she wants to work things out the first time I... I haven't even touched a woman in a year.

RONNIE

Let me guess. Recovering?

MICAH

I have a few demons.

(then)

Look, I know I should have told you the truth --

RONNIE

Nothing even happened, okay? Let's just forget it.

MICAH

You were just so easy to talk to and I didn't want to ruin it --

RONNIE

It's over. I'm not talking about it.

MICAH

I just don't want you to think this was some kind of --

Seeing he's not giving up, she picks up the INTERCOM.

RONNIE

(to the plane)

Ladies and gentlemen, the Captain has just turned on the "Fasten Seatbelt" sign. Please return to your seats and keep your seat belts fastened. Thank you.

MICAH

The seat belt light isn't on.

She does a SPECIAL KNOCK on the cockpit door. The seat belt light DINGS on. She stares at him expectantly.

MICAH (CONT'D)

For what it's worth, I am sorry.

Micah heads back to his seat and sits down next to Sarah, who's trying to shove a wayward oxygen mask back into its compartment.

SARAH

I don't know how you fly on this nightmare airline.

MICAH

It grows on you after a while.

INT. AIRLINE - CABIN - A LITTLE LATER

Captain Dave is talking to a cute passenger.

CAPTAIN DAVE

...and the thing that really took my Muay  
Thia to the next level was when I  
realized it's not a fighting technique.  
It's an art form --

The girl could not be less interested. A beat, then:

CAPTAIN DAVE (CONT'D)

You know, they let me have a gun in the  
cockpit now. You want to see it?

She nods excitedly. They get up and head to the cockpit  
before Ronnie cuts them off.

RONNIE

What are you doing?

CAPTAIN DAVE

Taking a walk.

RONNIE

Uh huh. And what's in your pocket?

Captain Dave has a hand in his pocket, clearly holding  
something. She pulls it out --

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Is that a sock? Were you going to put a  
sock on the cockpit door?

CAPTAIN DAVE

The thing is, a big part of my job is  
about connecting with passengers --

RONNIE

That is not okay! You can't just go  
around putting socks wherever you want.

CAPTAIN DAVE

Yes I can! Captain Steve who flies the  
JFK route says he has sex all the time  
with passengers! How come I'm not allowed  
to do anything cool? How come I can't  
bond with twenty-one-year-old bros, or do  
a wedding ceremony, or get air-head in  
the cockpit from some EDM ho?

CUTE PASSENGER

(offended)

Uh, excuse me, I'm into House.

CAPTAIN DAVE

(to Ronnie)

You think this is how I pictured my life? I grew up wanting to be a fighter pilot, not flying the puddle jumper to Vegas and living in Parking Lot D next to divorcee Line Maintenance Technicians. All I ever wanted was to be a hero. Now I'll just settle for one decent story. Is that so much to ask?

RONNIE

(thinks about it)

You know what? You're right. You should do what makes you happy. And so should I. I quit again.

She hands her pin and nameplate to Captain Dave and sits down. Captain Dave turns to the girl, who's back in her seat, done with him. He sighs - so much for that.

CAPTAIN DAVE

(to Ronnie)

Can I at least have the sock back? My foot's freezing.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - SAME TIME

Ryan sits alone, looking like shit. Nichole stops at his row.

NICHOLE

Hey, where's Katie?

RYAN

She's uh... in the bathroom.

NICHOLE

(confused)

I just came from the bathroom.

RYAN

The other bathroom.

NICHOLE

You mean that overhead bin? Because we're only supposed to use that for emergencies.

RYAN

She's not here, all right?

NICHOLE

Oh. Well I just wanted to tell her thanks. I got a hundred dollar Talbots gift card because of her!

RYAN

What are you talking about?

NICHOLE

She came to my club to dance last night and said I referred her.

RYAN

To "dance?" You mean to strip?

NICHOLE

Yeah. I wasn't there but the girls said she was amazing. They hated her.

(then)

Didn't you see?

RYAN

No, I didn't. The last time I saw Katie was Friday night.

Artem pokes his head in.

ARTEM

So the wedding, it did not happen?

RYAN

No, okay?! When we got to Vegas and she saw the New York, New York and the Venetian, it hit her that she'd never seen the real New York, or the real Venice, or had a hundred other experiences that she suddenly realized she didn't want to have with me. And apparently one of those experiences was Being a Stripper and, last I saw, snorting mescaline with a guy pretending to be a Saudi Prince.

NICHOLE

Oh, you guys met Raja?

RYAN

So she decided she's going to stay in Vegas for a while and "wing it." That's the story. Are you happy now?

ARTEM

No. That means there's a winner.

RYAN

A winner?

Artem goes through his ledger.

ARTEM

"The girl stays in Vegas." Twenty-five to one.

RYAN

Wait, you bet on my life falling apart?

ARTEM

No, no, no. I took bets. I was the house. I was rooting for you two to be happy because no one bet that.

NICHOLE

I had that you'd realize you were gay. That was five to one.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - SAME TIME

Micah sits next to Sarah and stares out the window.

MICAH

We should go to Nice.

SARAH

Nice?

MICAH

It's in the French Riviera.

SARAH

I know where Nice is. Maybe we just start by going to Dr. Cobin and seeing if we can make this work.

MICAH

Yeah. But, you know... after that. We should go to Nice.

Artem approaches and hands Micah a wad of money.

ARTEM

This is for you. Congratulations.

MICAH

Hey, I won?

SARAH

What is that for?

MICAH

Just a bet we made about that kid and his fiancée.

SARAH

You were gambling?

MICAH

No. It wasn't really gambling, it was for fun.

RYAN

So betting on my life going to shit was for fun? Cool. Did you have a good time?

MICAH

Well, I won so... yeah.

RYAN

Who else?

Ryan stands and addresses the whole plane.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Who else put money on me?

Some hands go up. Other people look down, embarrassed. It was pretty much everyone.

RYAN (CONT'D)

You monsters. Is this what you all do? You go to Vegas every week so you can rob people of all the money and dignity they were naive enough to bring with them? You're all sick!

Ronnie stands and tries to diffuse the situation.

RONNIE

You're right, most of these people are garbage. Now why don't you sit down, I'll get you some water --

RYAN

Now you want to get involved? Really? Because you could have done something about all this, you have power. But instead you ignore it to have sex in the bathroom. Yeah, we all know about that. It wasn't subtle.

Ronnie glances at Amanda, who nods. Artem gets up to help.

ARTEM

I think I know what this is really about.  
 (re: Micah's winnings)  
 The kid wants a taste.

MICAH

Oh, sure. I mean, he earned it --

Micah takes a few bills from the wad and tries to hand them to Ryan.

RYAN

I don't want your money! You know what I want? I want every single one of you dead.

NICHOLE

Whoa. Things just got dark.

MICAH

(reaching his hand out)  
 Just calm down --

RYAN

Don't you touch me! I swear to God, if any of you touch me, I'll go "Passenger 57" all over this plane.

AMANDA

Passenger 57 was a good guy.

RYAN

I'm a good guy! You people are the villains. And you know what happens to the villain? They. Go. Down.

People start looking legitimately scared.

RYAN (CONT'D)

That's right. I'll take out this whole plane. They'll call me a hero. They'll throw parades in my honor. I can make the world a better place and all I have to do is blow this thing out of the sky!

An OXYGEN MASK pops out next to him. It gets his attention just long enough for --

Captain Dave to RUSH HIM and tackle him to the ground with an impressive Muay Thai move. He buries a knee into Ryan's back, holding him down.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Ow! Too far, I get it. It was too far.

CAPTAIN DAVE

The situation is under control, everyone!

He pins Ryan's arms behind his back, restraining him. People cheer. Ronnie looks down at him, impressed.

RONNIE

This is a pretty good story.

CAPTAIN DAVE

Getting blown while I flew a plane would have been a better one.

INT. BURBANK AIRPORT - GATE 7 - LATER

The plane has landed and deboarded. We see our buddy Ryan get handcuffed and escorted out by POLICE OFFICERS, but all of the other passengers have to hang around the terminal until they've given a statement to the police.

Ronnie sits alone on the ground, away from the activity. Micah approaches, points to the spot next to her.

MICAH

May I?

She nods. He takes a seat.

RONNIE

Where's your wife?

MICAH

Probably somewhere along the 210 right now.

(off her look)

She rented a car, she's driving back to Vegas. Said this was a mistake.

RONNIE

I'm sorry.

MICAH

(shrugs)

She doesn't think I can change.

RONNIE

Is she right?

MICAH

Well. I've had a terrible day, and there's a bar right there... but I don't have a drink in my hand.

RONNIE  
That's something.  
(beat, then)  
I'm sorry, I have to ask... You're a sex  
addicted alcoholic with a gambling  
problem, and your wife moved your family  
to Las Vegas?

MICAH  
She's good at revenge.

RONNIE  
(fishing)  
You must have done something real bad...

MICAH  
Let's save that story for the next  
flight.

RONNIE  
You'll have to tell it to someone else.  
It turns out if you quit the same job  
twice in one weekend, they're not super  
eager to give it back to you.

He takes something out of his pocket and flips it to her.  
It's her PIN and NAMEPLATE. She looks at it, surprised.

MICAH  
You think I was going to let you leave me  
alone every week with these lunatics?

RONNIE  
How'd you --

MICAH  
I told them you were the best flight  
attendant I ever had and you saved me  
from having a mid-air mental breakdown. I  
also gave that guy in the yellow tie  
three hundred dollars.

RONNIE  
You didn't have to do this. I stopped  
looking for a guy to waltz in and save me  
a long time ago.

MICAH  
That's good because I can't even save a  
receipt. Look, I'm not trying to -- It's  
just nice to have someone to talk to.

RONNIE

(putting the pin back on)

Thank you for this. But you should have saved your three hundred bucks. That guy in the yellow tie doesn't work for the airline.

He looks concerned. She smiles, screwing with him.

MICAH

So. Friends?

She looks at him. Right now, maybe, they're just ports in a storm. But there's something more there... it might just be a while until they find it. She's about to say something --

Then notices they have an audience. It's our other regulars - Amanda, Artem, Nichole, and Captain Dave - all watching them intently.

RONNIE

What?

AMANDA

We put money on when you two are going to bang again.

RONNIE

We didn't even --

ARTEM

I have 8:33 so don't waste time with kissing.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE