

ACTOR #1

Plays: DIANE (A slight Texan accent) and others

Side Side 1 of 1: Read Diane

On one of the buses, NICK approaches DIANE.

NICK

Mind if I sit here? The drunk people from our plane are snoring back there...

DIANE

Oh hello, Nick! Please do...I thought we'd lost you.

NICK

No – I just needed to get an emergency prescription filled – my medication is in my suitcase. Nothing serious. Not like, "Ohmygod,he's off his medication." I'll stop talking now.

DIANE

It's fine.

NICK

...It's heart medication. I've got a slight arrhythmia – nothing serious. There you go –everything you need to know about me.

DIANE

Okay. I'm allergic to bananas, and I have never had chickenpox.

THEY both smile.

NICK

Any news yet about your husband who was flying today?

DIANE

My-? No, do you mind if we just don't talk about that. I haven't been able to get to a phone.

NICK

I'm sorry. I'll help you find a phone as soon as we get... wherever we're going.

ACTOR #2

Plays: Hannah (A New York accent) and others

Side Side 1 of 2: Read Hannah

BOB turns out his window on the plane.

BOB

My dad is always saying, Bob, you've got to calm down. But the flight attendant is shaking like a leaf, so I figure I've got permission.

HANNAH turns out her window.

HANNAH

My son sends me on this vacation—he says, “Mom, you’ve never hone anywhere.” And when I get back, I’m telling him— this is exactly why.

The flight attendants keep telling us nothing’s wrong— but I’ve got kids and I’ve got grandkids—I know when someone’s hiding something. And when parents need their kids to stop asking questions... they start playing movies.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

We ran through every movie we had

Side 2 of 2: Read Hannah

BEULAH

She leaves message after message for her son—until there’s no more room on his answering machine. She finally got some news.

HANNAH

They said it was Kev’s day off – but someone else said there were more men down there than were scheduled. I should be looking for him. He’s always there for me – trying to make me laugh. Tells me stupid jokes. He loves jokes – tells them to the kids at the firehouse, while he fixes their bikes.

I should be there.

BEULAH

I know there’s nothing I can do to help. But I do know a few jokes. There was a sailor who was stationed in the South Pacific, far away from his wife who he’d just married. And when he was away, he wrote her a

letter. He said, "We're going to be apart for a long time – and this island is full of young, attractive local girls. I need something to take my mind off them."

So his wife sends him an accordion and says, "Why don't you learn to play this then?" So finally, he comes home from his tour of duty and says to his wife, "I can't wait to get you into bed." And she says, "First let's see how well you play that accordion."

SHE laughs at her own joke, but sees HANNAH'S face and stops.

HANNAH

That was a really stupid joke.

A pause.

Tell me another one.

ACTOR #3

Plays: Janice (Newfoundland Accent) and Flight Attendant (accent of your choice or natural voice)

Side 1 of 3: Read Janice

JANICE

Excuse me, I'm looking for the Mayor.

Everyone points at CLAUDE

JANICE

Mister Mayor— I'm Janice Mosher with Rogers TV. I'm new. To town—and new to reporting. It's my first day.

CLAUDE

Where you longs to, Janice?

JANICE

Port Aux Basque. So if you see me running red lights or anything, just forgive me because we don't have stop lights over there.

Side 2 of 3: Read Janice

JANICE

(to us) By the middle of the day on Wednesday, I'm coordinating menus for 7,000 people.

(to the camera) Ladies and Gentlemen, the Rotary Club is looking for some fish dishes. And we have a bunch of German passengers down at the Moose Club who'd like to try elk... No, sorry. That's the Elk's Club that's looking for moose. Sorry, I'm new.

Side 3 of 3: Read Flight Attendant

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

(to the passengers) Ladies and Gentleman, please fasten your seat belts. Looks like we'll be making an unexpected landing in Gander, New Found Land.

The PASSENGERS start murmuring restlessly.

(to us) Anybody in the business knows when you set down in Gander,

it's for an emergency. Now, we don't know what's going on, but the Captain tells us to keep everyone from panicking.

The FLIGHT ATTENDANT turns back.

(to the passengers) Tray tables up, please. We will be dimming the lights in the cabin. Pushing the light-bulb button will turn your reading light on; however, pushing the flight-attendant button will not turn your flight attendant on.

ACTOR #4

Plays: BEULAH (Newfoundland Accent) and DELORES (New York Accent)

Side 1 of 2: Read Beulah

BEULAH

(to the guests) Welcome to Gander Academy – nicest hotel on the east coast, except for those with actual beds. My name's Beulah. Washrooms are just down the hall. There's food over there if you're hungry – and clothes, if you'd like to change. I'll show you now where you're going to sleep. Let us know if there's anything else you need.

KEVIN J

So what really happened?

BEULAH

Well... what's the last thing you heard?

KEVIN J

There was an accident in New York.

BEULAH

Okay... I'm going to show you now to your rooms, and then if you want to come back, we've got two TV's set up in the cafeteria with the news on – so you can see what's actually happened for yourselves...

JANICE

I didn't even think—they haven't seen any of it yet.

HANNAH

We're all staring at those images.

BEULAH

And we just stand helpless watching them.

Side 2 of 2: Read Delores

KEVIN T

This woman – this hot mess behind us kept completely freaking out.

DELORES is sitting behind them, completely freaking out.

DELORES

I don't understand why they can't let us off. I mean, just to stretch our legs, I mean really? I need to get some air! Oh my god! I need to get off

this plane!

KEVIN T

And my boyfriend, Kevin was not dealing with it well.

KEVIN J

I'm going to kill her.

DELORES pushes the call button above her over and over.

DELORES

Excuse me?! I would like to get off the plane. I am claustrophobic!

KEVIN J

Excuse me! Would you like some Xanax? Because you are freaking out and it is freaking me out and we are all FREAKING THE FUCK OUT!!!

ACTOR #5

Plays: BONNIE (Newfoundland Accent) and others

Side 1 of 1: Read Bonnie

DOUG

I said, you've got five minutes, Bonnie!

In the background, ACTOR 8 barks quietly.

BONNIE

(to Doug) There's hundreds of suitcases – I can hear barking – but I can't find them! They fast them before flying, so they're starving and they need water.

DWIGHT enters.

DWIGHT

Sir? Sir! Oh, Doug. You got to get out of there. We're keeping all personnel out of the holds until –

DOUG

Sorry, Dwight. It's the wife – you know, Bonnie – from the SPCA – she's feeding some animals inside. Nothing's coming off.

ACTOR 3 meows.

BONNIE

(to Doug) I found a cat! His name is Lyle! There's a pill taped to his carrier. Well I'm glad I got in here to GIVE IT TO HIM! (to Lyle) It's okay, Lyle.

DWIGHT

Bonnie – I need you to get out of –

DOUG

Bonnie, you got to move your arse!

BONNIE

Doug, I have found ONE cat! Do you think it's LYLE who's barking?

DOUG

(meekly underneath) No...

BONNIE

(to Lyle) Here's some crunchy, Lyle. I'll be back to give you your pill.

DWIGHT

Listen to me – FAA sent over new orders – we're treating all U.S. planes as bomb threats.

DOUG

Oh, god. Bonnie!

BONNIE

Doug... Doug!

DOUG

What? Bonnie? Bonnie, talk to me!

BONNIE

Doug! There are monkeys on this plane.

ACTOR #6

Plays: BEVERLEY (*Slight Texan Accent*) and ANNETTE (*Newfoundland Accent*)

Side Side 1 of 2: Read Beverly

BEVERLEY

(to a large group) Good morning. We are one of the first flights to leave...

The CROWD responds, relieved.

...which makes us one of the lucky ones as some planes may still be here for quite some time. Now, I have no control over this. You've paid for a flight from Paris to Dallas. If I get clearance, I will take you to Dallas. But if I am not cleared for Dallas, I have to take you back to France.

The CROWD starts murmuring.

But we will make arrangements as quickly as we can to get y'all back to the United States where you need to be.

(PASSENGER)

I can't go back. I just adopted my daughter – we could lose her if we go back to Europe...

(PASSENGER)

Hey! Hey! We can vote on this. We can make them go where we want to go.

(PASSENGER)

Well, who's for Dallas?

TEXAN PASSENGER

Fuck that! Who's for Switzerland?!

The passengers shout at her.

BEVERLEY

(cutting them off) This is not a democracy! I am the captain and this is coming from American Airlines and the FAA. You are not voting on our destination. Now, if we have any situation that needs to be dealt with, we will be pulled out of line and we will be the last flight to leave.

The CROWD is quiet

Thank you for your cooperation.

Side Side 2 of 2: Read Annette

BEULAH

Ladies and Gentlemen. We have an indelicate request. We need volunteers to help clean the bathrooms. As you can imagine, with 700 adults in a primary school, Health Canada needs us to clean them every hour and a half and we just don't have the people. So, we're asking for your help.

A pause as EVERYONE looks away.

ANNETTE

(to us)

But no one volunteers.

BEULAH

No one comes. And we're run off our feet with everything else. And then—

ANNETTE

Sweet Jesus in the garden.

This line of men comes walking down the hall.

Six men in doctor coats walk towards her in a slow motion burlesque.

ANNETTE's jaw drops.

ANNETTE

The top six cardiologists from all over the world. On their way to a conference. Highly qualified cardiologists.

And they know about the importance of cleanliness.

ACTOR #7

Plays: Oz (Newfoundland Accent) and others

Side 1 of 2: Read Oz

OZ

(Direct Address) That morning I'm in my car. The kids cross Airport Boulevard to get to school—and that time a day people are in a little bit of a rush to get to work and stuff, so normally I sit there and run my radar.

OZ cues the cast to make a "WOOP-WOOP" noise together.

And it they're speeding, I'll stop 'em and write out a warning ticket. I'll write "STFD"—Slow The Fuck Down.

I'm running my radar when Bonnie comes by. She pulls up, and she's wavin' at me like mad, so I roll down my window and she says...

BONNIE

Oz, turn on the radio!

OZ

(to Bonnie) Slow it down, Bonnie. Slow it down.

BONNIE

Jesus H.! Oz! Turn on your radio!

Side 2 of 2: Read Oz

OZ

(To Kevin J and Bob who have just asked how to get to USA)

Well, you take a taxi to The Goose—there's a bus there to Port Aux Basque, leaves once a day, that's about six hours. Once you're there, you take the ferry across the Gulf, right? That's eight hours or so, then you catch another bus, not sure how often they leave, but it's another eight hours to Yarmouth where you can get another ferry to the US Border, that's another four hours or so—and from Bar Harbor you should be able to grab a Greyhound to wherever you need to go.

It's about 2 or 3 days travel. But it's sure a nice view.

ACTOR #8

Plays: Kevin T (*Standard American Accent*) and Garth (*Newfoundland Accent*)

Side 1 of 2: Read Kevin T

KEVIN T

(*To us*) We'd been sitting there for 14 hours when we pulled out the Grey Goose.

KEVIN J

Kevin and I were kind of hiding it because, well.....

KEVIN T

Because we (indicating Kevin J) didn't want to share it. Anyway, this woman—this hot mess behind us kept completely freaking out.

DELORES is sitting behind them, completely freaking out.

DELORES

I don't understand why they can't let us off. I mean, just to stretch our legs, I mean really? I need to get some air! Oh my god! I need to get off this plane!

KEVIN T

And my boyfriend, Kevin— we're both named Kevin. It was cute for a while. Anyway, Kevin was not dealing with it well.

KEVIN J

I'm going to kill her.

DELORES pushes the call button above her over and over.

DELORES

Excuse me?! I would like to get off the plane. I am claustrophobic!

KEVIN J

Excuse me! Wouldn't you like some Xanax? Because you Are freaking out and it is freaking me out and we are FREAKING THE FUCK OUT!

Side 2 of 2: Read Garth

GARTH

Every school bus we got is goin' back and forth all night. Out at the Salvation Army Camp, we've delivered passengers from Germany, England, and France. And around three in the morning, my bus is designated to take all these African people out there.

MUHUMUZA

My family and I try to see out the bus windows. No one tells us where we are going.

GARTH

Silence comes on the bus. We get outside of Gander and you could hear a pin drop.

MUHUMUZA

My wife and daughter are scared. They ask me what is happening and I do not know.

GARTH

Finally, out of the darkness, my bus arrives at the Salvation Army camp.

MUHUMUZA

We pass through a large gate and the bus pulls to a stop. And through the windows— out there in the darkness—we see all these people coming out of the buildings.

GARTH

Now we rarely use them, but everyone's dusted off their Salvation Army uniforms to welcome these people.

MUHUMUZA

There are soldiers everywhere. The man at the front opens the door.

GARTH

I say, "Here you are. Out you go." But he's not moving. None of them are. But then I notice his wife. Well, she's clutching a bible. Now obviously I can't read it, but their bible—it'll have the same number system ours does. So I ask to see it and I'm searching for something... and then—in Philippians 4:6—I give them their bible and I'm pointing and saying (*to Muhumuza*) look! Philippians 4:6— Be anxious for nothing. Be anxious for nothing.

ACTOR #9

Plays: Kevin J (Standard American Accent) and Ali (Middle Eastern Accent)

Side 1 of 2: Read Kevin J

KEVIN T

(*To us*) We'd been sitting there for 14 hours when we pulled out the Grey Goose.

KEVIN J

Kevin and I were kind of hiding it because, well.....

KEVIN T

Because we (indicating Kevin J) didn't want to share it. Anyway, this woman—this hot mess behind us kept completely freaking out.

DELORES is sitting behind them, completely freaking out.

DELORES

I don't understand why they can't let us off. I mean, just to stretch our legs, I mean really? I need to get some air! Oh my god! I need to get off this plane!

KEVIN T

And my boyfriend, Kevin— we're both named Kevin. It was cute for a while. Anyway, Kevin was not dealing with it well.

KEVIN J

I'm going to kill her.

DELORES pushes the call button above her over and over.

DELORES

Excuse me?! I would like to get off the plane. I am claustrophobic!

KEVIN J

Excuse me! Wouldn't you like some Xanax? Because you Are freaking out and it is freaking me out and we are FREAKING THE FUCK OUT!

Side 2 of 2: Read Ali

ALI

(*to us*) I arrive at the airport and am pulled out of line.

BEVERLEY

I am responsible for the safety of my passengers and my crew. And security tells me any perceived threats must be taken extremely

seriously.

They bring me to a private room and he is brought in for questioning.

ALI

At first I do not understand what the police are asking. And then I do. In my culture, there is a word – “awrah” – the area between your stomach and your knees. It is forbidden in my religion for anyone to see this but my wife.

To have a woman in the room, watching this. Watching me.

You can't understand.

BEVERLEY

It is the most thorough body search I've ever witnessed. And when it's over, I find him and I tell him – I am so very sorry that happened.

ALI

(barely looking at her) Am I free to go now?

BEVERLEY nods.

ACTOR #10

Plays: BOB (*Slight New York Accent*) and Muhumuza (*African Accent*)

Side 1 of 2: Read Bob

BOB

(to us) People are saying ‘we want you to come to our house’. And I think, what is up with this? I mean, are they charging for these “free” showers? Or are they gonna go all Norman Bates... Anyway, I wasn’t falling for it. But finally, I’m invited back to the Mayor of Appleton’s house – that sounds fancy, but it’s not – there’s a mayor for every town of a thousand people in Newfoundland. There’s the Mayor of Gander (he points to CLAUDE). There’s the Mayor of Lewisporte (CLAUDE puts on glasses). There’s the Mayor of Gambo (CLAUDE puts on a moustache). Anyway, I’m staying with the Mayor of Appleton. (CLAUDE puts on a hat, becoming DERM.)

11 (DERM)

Come on in, son. The Irish Whiskey’s in the bar downstairs.

BOB

His wife shows me where my bedroom is and where the shower is and through it all, I keep thinking – where am I going to leave my wallet? Someone is gonna steal my wallet

Side 2 of 2: Read Muhumuza

MUHUMUZA

(to us) My family and I try to see out the bus windows. No one tells us where we are going.

GARTH

Silence comes on the bus. We get outside of Gander and you could hear a pin drop.

MUHUMUZA

My wife and daughter are scared. They ask me what is happening and I do not know.

GARTH

Finally, out of the darkness, my bus arrives at the Salvation Army camp.

MUHUMUZA

We pass through a large gate and the bus pulls to a stop. And through the windows – out there in the darkness – we see all these people coming out of the buildings.

GARTH

Now we rarely use them, but everyone's dusted off their Salvation Army uniforms to welcome these people.

MUHUMUZA

There are soldiers everywhere.

The man at the front opens the door.

ACTOR #11

Plays: CLAUDE (Newfoundland Accent) and DERM (Newfoundland Accent)

Side Side 1 of 2: Read Claude

CLAUDE

(To us) On the northeast tip of North America, on an island called Newfoundland, there's an airport—it used to be one of the biggest airports in the world. And next to it, is a town called Gander.

It's a small place— on a giant rock in the ocean. Everybody knows everybody else. And everybody in this room has a story about how they started that day.

I starts my day at Tim 'Ortons. Don't drink coffee. Don't drink tea. An' I've no use for donuts. But I'll grab a Pepsi and get a lay o' the land. As the Mayor, it's 'ow I keep in touch with the people an' such. Everything starts and ends at Tim 'Ortons.

CLAUDE enters Tim Hortons.

Morning, Garth.

Side 2 of 2: Read Derm

BOB

Watching the news all day, some of us are starting to lose it. So these people here, they decide to have a big cook out for the whole community – just trying to get our minds off of everything. And Derm, the Mayor of Appleton, says to me...

DERM

(simply to Bob) Right, m'son, do me a favor and start to round up some grills.

BOB

Round up some grills?

DERM

Yeah, just go to people's yards and take their grills.

A pause.

BOB

...Take their grills? Someone's gonna shoot me.

DERM

No, no,no,no,no...Just go to people's yards and grab their grill.

Another pause.

BOB

(to audience)

So I'm going from yard to yard and I keep thinking, someone is going to shoot me in the back.

ACTOR #12

Plays: NICK (*British Accent*) and DOUG (*Newfoundland Accent*)

Side Side 1 of 2: Read Nick

On one of the buses, NICK approaches DIANE.

NICK

Mind if I sit here? The drunk people from our plane are snoring back there...

DIANE

Oh hello, Nick! Please do...I thought we'd lost you.

NICK

No – I just needed to get an emergency prescription filled – my medication is in my suitcase. Nothing serious. Not like, "Ohmygod,he's off his medication." I'll stop talking now.

DIANE

It's fine.

NICK

...It's heart medication. I've got a slight arrhythmia – nothing serious. There you go –everything you need to know about me.

DIANE

Okay. I'm allergic to bananas, and I have never had chickenpox.

THEY both smile.

NICK

Any news yet about your husband who was flying today?

DIANE

My-? No, do you mind if we just don't talk about that. I haven't been able to get to a phone.

NICK

I'm sorry. I'll help you find a phone as soon as we get... wherever we're going.

Side 2 of 2: Read Doug

BONNIE

(For context only, do not read in tape. Bonnie is Doug's wife)

Doug's helping me feed the animals—and after security checks each plane— slow as cold molasses— we finally find eight dogs, nine cats—of of whom's epileptic—not to mention two rare Bonobo chimpanzees! And the female Bonobo is pregnant.

DOUG

FAA was pretty clear about “No rare chimpanzees on Canadian soil.”

BONNIE hands a bucket to DOUG

BONNIE

Doug. Take that.

DOUG takes it.

DOUG

—What is that?

BONNIE

It's rare chimpanzee shit. What do you think it is? *(Into the phone)* Yes? The mayor! Yes! I'll Hold!

DOUG

(finally losing his patience)

I've got to get back to Air Traffic Control!

BONNIE

Doug— look up! Do you see anything flying?

DOUG

I can't see across the friggin Atlantic!

BONNIE

Just get me more litter from the truck!

DOUG

Get your own litter!