

# DANCING WITH THE DEVIL AT MIDNIGHT

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FADE IN

SUPER: *POST PANDEMIC*

INT. AIRPORT – LAX – NIGHT

Travelers pulling Carry-ons and children dressed like skeletons. Halloween decorations at each gate. Pulling a Carry-On is the pilot MARVIN, 41, bodybuilder type. The flight attendant is LISA, 30, a Goth dressed in all black, hair black, black makeup. She rushes to catch up.

MARVIN

Hey, Lisa. How's our blushing bride to be?

LISA

I stopped blushing when I was a teenager.

MARVIN

TMI, Lisa. You excited?

LISA

I hate last minute assignments.

MARVIN

Yeah, but you're getting married. At thirty thousand feet no less! Why? You afraid he'll back out?

LISA

No. Afraid I would. Carl's just not that adventurous.

MARVIN

(smiling hopefully)

Hey, if Carl leaves you at the altar, I'm definitely available...?

LISA

You're not my type, Marvin. I can't stand your attitude. But you're adventurous. I like that in a man. Wham! Bam! Thank you, Ma'am. And you're gone before midnight -- Till I call you again. Whether it's tomorrow, or a year later.

MARVIN

Now that absolutely works for me...

INT. 737 MAX - GALLEY – NIGHT

Other than Lisa, the female flight attendants wear red pants, long-sleeve white blouses, red bow ties, and witch hats. Faces marked with face paint. The male flight attendants dressed identically in button down long-sleeve white shirts.

GAIL, 23, black, diminutive. Short Halle Berry hair style. Wears trendy large glasses.

FELIX, 26, short, Arrogant and conceited.

RALPH, 25, has a sarcastic and cynical attitude.

PASSENGERS are entering. Some dressed in Halloween attire. Several CHILDREN with face paint designs are given a fright mask and a small bag of candy.

INT. 737 MAX - COCKPIT - NIGHT

Marvin is stowing his charts and takes his seat in the Captain's chair.

The co-pilot is CARL. Tall, thin, anemic looking. He takes his seat in the First Officer's chair.

CARL

Any report about the weather?

MARVIN

One storm near Atlanta we'll fly around. It'll cost us two thousand feet of altitude and ten minutes on arrival.

A KNOCK on the cockpit door is HEARD O.C.

INSERT – COCKPIT VIDEO MONITOR

Showing Lisa at the door.

BACK TO SCENE

Carl flips the switch, Lisa enters the cockpit.

LISA

Hey guys. We departing on time?

Lisa bends down and gives Carl a long intimate kiss.

MARVIN

I thought the honeymoon was in Miami?

LISA

(MORE)

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'd)

A honeymoon is where you make it...In the cockpit. A phone booth. Or a toilet...

The phone BUZZ is heard O.C. Marvin answers.

MARVIN

Flight 919. Captain Marvin Bush speaking.

(a short beat)

I see...

(a short beat)

Yes. I'll alert the crew. Bush out.

(to Carl & Lisa)

FBI just notified us we have a FAM on board.

LISA

Federal Air Marshall. Now that should be fun. Any details? Like maybe he's escorting a dangerous prisoner?

MARVIN

No prisoner escort. She's still in training. Strictly an undercover job.

CARL

(surprised, sarcastic)

SHE? Is she even armed?

MARVIN

Same question George Armstrong Custer asked the Indians.

A KNOCK on the cockpit door is HEARD O.C.

INSERT – COCKPIT VIDEO MONITOR

Showing REV HOPPER at the door. He's 60, wearing a white tunic religious collar. Carries a small Bible.

BACK TO SCENE

Marvin flips a switch. Rev Hopper enters. Shakes Marvin's hand.

REV HOPPER

Marvin. And....?

MARVIN

(to Lisa and Carl)

(MORE)

MARVIN (CONT')

This is Reverend Hopper guys. Lisa and Carl.

Rev Hopper shakes hands with Lisa and Carl.

REV HOPPER

Lisa. Carl. Is this where the blessed moment will take place?

LISA

Actually I wouldn't mind, Reverend. But the saner among us say it's a little too cramped.

INT. 737 MAX - PASSENGER SECTION - CENTER AISLE - LATER

The passenger section has been decorated with Halloween paraphernalia. Hanging from the ceiling are fake pumpkins, spider webs, and skeletons.

Gail is escorting four nuns down the center aisle to their seats.

GAIL

Let's see your tickets....seating is right here,  
28 -- A,B,C,D...

Gail helps the nuns load their luggage in the overhead carry-on bins.

CENTER SECTION - OPPOSITE AISLE

Lisa is escorting FARUOK, a heavy-set man down the window aisle, stops at 28. As she starts to leave...

FAROUK

I must pray.

LISA

I beg your pardon?

FAROUK

It is my time to pray.

LISA

No one is stopping you, sir.

Farouk stands, reaches up to the overhead luggage bin, withdraws a prayer rug, begins to spread it on the aisle.

LISA (CONT'd)

Whoa, hold up there sir! Can't you see we're in the middle of loading?

FAROUK

When Allah demands I pray, I pray.

LISA

I respect that, sir. But you're holding up all these passengers?

A crowd of complaining passengers backing up behind Lisa.

LISA (CONT'd)

Sir, if you don't remove that rug, I'll have the captain notify the police and have you removed from the plane.

Farouk thinks about it. Reluctantly rolls up the prayer rug, gets back in his seat. He's aggravated.

FAROUK

Allah says all infidels will be punished tonight. Seat your passengers. I'll wait.

LISA

(sarcastic)

Tell your Allah that we are most grateful.

FAROUK

Allah will feel grateful when you are punished.

INT. 737 MAX – REAR SECTION – WINDOW AISLE

Gail is escorting ELAINE, 25, petite, short ponytail, and stylish trendy pantsuit.

GAIL

Looks like you're in the last row tonight. Here we are, 37 D.

ELAINE

Oh I don't mind. They say the tail is the safest part of the aircraft if there's a crash.

(beat)

I sure like those glasses.

GAIL

You do? I don't really need them. I wear them because they wear them on Tik Tok.

ELAINE

You too? I can't get enough of Tik Tok.

737 MAX - GALLEY - LATER

The 737 MAX is now filled. Felix, Lisa, and Ralph are preparing the food carts. Gail returns from doing the head count and closes the door in preparation for takeoff.

GAIL

Hundred and seventy-two souls includes eighteen children. I don't know who the FAM is.

35-THOUSAND FEET - GALLEY - LATER

Ralph takes microphone.

RALPH (V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, the captain has turned off the seat belt sign and you're free to move about the cabin. But before you do, I have an announcement to make. One of our flight attendants, Ms Lisa Archer is getting married tonight. And you can watch the ceremony right here on your monitors.

Lisa steps out from the galley and makes a quick bow to much applause, hand clapping and shouts of congratulations.

RALPH (CON'd)

And her husband to be is none other than the man who's flying the plane tonight, our own first officer, Carl Menlow.

INSERT: SEAT-BACK VIDEO MONITOR

Showing Carl waving to the camera.

BACK TO SCENE

RALPH (COT'd)

The FAA requires two people in the cockpit at all times....so Felix, you wanna do us the honors?

FELIX

Finally. My pleasure.

Felix does an exaggerated bow to the passengers and leaves the galley.

737 MAX - COCKPIT

A KNOCK on the cockpit door is HEARD O.C.

INSERT - VIDEO MONITOR

Showing Felix at the door.

BACK TO SCENE

Marvin flips a switch. Felix enters. Carl gets up. He helps Felix get strapped in the First Officer's seat. Places the earphones on his head. Carl leaves the cockpit.

FELIX

I always wondered how it would feel  
to fly a plane. Bet I could too.

MARVIN

Grab the harness, Felix.

Felix gets in the first officer's seat and grabs the harness.

MARVIN (CONT'd)

You got it? Hold on tight.

FELIX

(arrogant)

Heard you the first time.

Marvin turns the autopilot OFF. A slight jerk is FELT.

FELIX (CONT'd)

What was that? What happened?

MARVIN

I turned off the autopilot. You're flying  
the plane.

FELIX

Huh?

MARVIN

Said you wondered what it felt like. How  
does it feel?

FELIX

(humbly)

I...I don't...Uh, maybe you'd better put  
it back on....you know how it is –



(MORE)

FELIX (CONT'd)

till I get my bearings?

A slight JERK is FELT. Felix clasps the harness tightly in panic.

MARVIN

(facetious)

Sure Felix, I know how it is...getting  
your bearings....

737 MAX - FIRST CLASS SECTION - LATER

Lisa and Carl stand together in the aisle. Gail and Ralph as bridesmaids and best man. Rev Hopper reads from the Bible. He closes it.

REV HOPPER

...I now pronounce you man and wife...

Carl kisses Lisa passionately, then break apart as cameras click to applause, hand clapping and shouts of best wishes. They enter the lavatory as the SIGN shifts to OCCUPIED.

737 MAX - FORWARD CABIN - LAVATORY

Lisa and Carl kissing and fondling, start undressing in preparation to make love.

737 MAX - FIRST CLASS SECTION

Ralph grabs the microphone.

RALPH

All right everybody. It's trick or treat time.  
Will all the children come up here please.

Eighteen children come running up the aisle towards Ralph.

RALPH (CONT'd)

Parents, each of you was given a bag of candy.  
The children here are going to walk down the  
aisle and...

Holding a box cutter, Farouk starts screaming as he runs down the aisle like an NFL linebacker.

FAROUK

Infidels! All of you. Infidels! But you will  
pay according to Allah!

Farouk grabs up LILLIAN, a child 7, and continues running past Ralph toward the cockpit door.

## 737 MAX - FORWARD CABIN

Still holding Lillian, Farouk SLAMS all three hundred pounds into the cockpit door. The door holds.

FAROUK

(to Ralph & Gail)

Open the door, or I kill the child!

GAIL

You know we can't do that, Mr. Farouk!

Lillian's mother is BLANCHE, 33, runs screaming toward Farouk. She stops as Farouk presses the box cutter against Lillian's throat.

FAROUK

You killed eight of my children. Now you will pay. Open the door!

Elaine rushes down the aisle to the cockpit door. She flashes her FAM badge to the frightened crew.

ELAINE

(to crew)

I'm Elaine Dodge, Federal Air Marshal.

( to Farouk)

Who killed your eight children, Mr. Farouk?

FAROUK

When you left Afghanistan. A drone. They thought I was a terrorist. Now you must pay. Open this door!

ELAINE

I can't imagine how you must feel. Eight children.

(to crew )

Let me speak to the Captain.

## 737 MAX - COCKPIT

Marvin and Felix are watching the cockpit monitor.

ELAINE

Elaine Dodge, FAM, Captain. You secure in there?

MARVIN

Door made of steel. Nobody gets in. Where's

(MORE)

MARVIN (CONT'D)  
my co-pilot?

ELAINE  
On his honeymoon.  
(beat)  
We have a situation out here...

MARVIN  
I heard that. But this door stays locked!

ELAINE  
I agree. But I think I can defuse things if  
you bring your altitude down to say...eight  
thousand feet? Can you do that for me?

MARVIN  
If you think it'll help?

737 MAX - FORWARD CABIN

The plane is making a rapid descent.

ELAINE  
(to crew)  
Get everybody back in their seats.  
And someone sit with this child's mother.  
Help calm her down.  
(to Farouk)  
What were their names...your eight children?

Still holding Lillian, Farouk can hardly speak.

ELAINE (CON'T)  
It must be very painful. And I know you don't  
want to harm that little girl.

Farouk begins to cry uncontrollably. He drops the box cutter and holds Lillian tightly as if she were his own child.

ELAINE (CONT'd)  
(to Blanche, softly)  
Don't worry. He's not going to hurt your child.  
(to Farouk)  
Come with me, Mr. Farouk. Tell me all about

(MORE)

(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'd)

your family.

Elaine cautiously picks up the box cutter. She takes Farouk's arm, helps him stand up, and guides him back down the aisle to his seat followed by Blanche and Ralph.

ELAINE (CONT'd)

(to Nun #1)

He needs someone to comfort him. And the child's mother. He won't hurt the child.

737 MAX - FORWARD CABIN - LAVATORY INSERT:

A SIGN READS OCCUPIED

BACK TO SCENE

ELAINE

Hey in there! Save the honeymoon for later. Your captain needs help.

CARL (V.O.)

In a minute.

737 MAX - FORWARD CABIN

Elaine grabs the phone.

ELAINE (CONT'd)

Situation under control, Captain.

MARVIN

Where's my newlywed co-pilot?

Carl and Lisa exit the lavatory. The sign reads AVAILABLE. Carl approaches, takes the phone.

CARL

Right here, Marvin. Open up.

As Felix exits the cockpit, Elaine follows Carl into the cockpit.

737 MAX - COCKPIT

The plane has leveled off. Carl straps himself in the First Officer's chair. Elaine stands behind the pilots.

CARL

(checking instruments)

The fuck are we doing at eight thousand feet?

MARVIN

Air Marshal said it would help.

ELAINE

(to Marvin)

You on autopilot, captain?

MARVIN

Until we hit that storm near Atlanta. Then we'll have to fly around and above it.

ELAINE

No you won't.

From her jacket Elaine pulls out a GLOCK 19 handgun. She attaches a SILENCER and FIRES a point blank round into the back of Marvin's head as he collapses over the harness.

CARL

(in shock)

Hey, what the...?

Elaine FIRES another round into the back of Carl's head as he collapses over the harness. Elaine removes the silencer and slips the gun back into her jacket and exits the cockpit.

737 MAX – GALLEY

Gail, Felix, Lisa and Ralph stocking food carts. Elaine grabs her garment bag from the storage closet. She removes a parachute harness and slips it on. With no one noticing she opens the galley door.

The RUSH of WIND and COLD air BLOWS through the plane. The oxygen masks drop. The passengers become panic stricken and start screaming.

GAIL

HEY? What the hell you do that for?

For God's sake close the door. Its freezing!

Gail goes to close the galley door but Elaine pulls out the gun, waves Gail to the galley.

ELAINE

No you don't! Get back to your work!

LISA

Are you mental or something?

ELAINE

Or something is right. The moment I go through that door I'm doing you guys the best favor you'll ever have.

FELIX

For God's sake close the damn door. It's freezing in here!

ELAINE

No reason to.

RALPH

Oh yeah? Well let's see what the captain has to say about it?

Ralph grabs the phone. Screams for the captain to answer. No answer. Elaine makes no effort to stop him.

ELAINE

Your wasting time my friend. Captain and first officer are both dead.

FELIX

What's all this nonsense about a favor?

ELAINE

Life sucks. Farouk will spend the rest of his life mourning the loss of his eight children. You and everyone else on this plane will have years of boring jobs and unhappy marriages to unfaithful men...or women, who will bear you ungrateful children. I'm saving you from all of that.

LISA

Well let us make that decision for ourselves?

ELAINE

I did. And look what it got you --?

GAIL

(MORE)

GAIL (CONT'd)

But you said you liked Tik Tok...?

ELAINE

(beat)

Tik Tok is a game honey. I'm talking about  
the rest of your life.. ..

(checks her watch)

ELAINE (CONT'D) ...

...which tells me you've got about five and  
a half hours to live. I know it's a short life.  
But hey, it's a hell of a lot better than the years  
you'd be facing otherwise.

LISA You're not God?

ELAINE

And you don't have a parachute.

Elaine JUMPS into the nighttime void.

THE END