

Place Your Seatbacks And Tray Tables In The Upright Position

By

The Mad Hatter

(C) 2021

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 alter, 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! And you're gone before midnight -- Till I call you again. Whether it's tomorrow or a year later.

MARVIN

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 except for button down long-sleeve white shirts.

GAIL, 23, black, diminutive. Short Halle Berry hair style.

FELIX, 26, short, acne pits on his face. Arrogant.

KIMBERLY, 24, voluptuous, vain, wears trendy large glasses.

DEDRA, 40, matronly, very little makeup, bored.

RALPH, 25, has an attitude, sarcastic and cynical speech.

PASSENGERS are entering. Some dressed in Halloween attire. Several CHILDREN with face paint designs.

As passengers enter, each one is 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 left 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 time.

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

INSERT - VIDEO MONITOR

Showing Lisa at the door.

BACK TO SCENE

Carl flips the switch, Lisa enter 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

A honeymoon is where you make it.
In the cockpit. Or a submarine.

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 undercover.

CARL

(surprised, sarcastic)

SHE? Is she even armed?

MARVIN

Absolutely.

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

INSERT - VIDEO MONITOR

Showing REV HOPPER at the door. He's 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)
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 more sane among us say it's
a bit cramped.

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

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 row 28.

GAIL
Lets see your tickets....seating is
right here, 28 -- A,B,C,D

Gail helps the nuns load their carry-ons.

CENTER SECTION - OPPOSITE AISLE

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

FAROUK
I must pray.

DEDRA
I beg your pardon?

FAROUK
It is my time to pray.

DEDRA

No one is stopping you, sir.

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

DEDRA

Whoa, hold up there! Wait just a minute sir. You can't do that? We're in the middle loading?

FAROUK

When Allah demands I pray, I pray.

DEDRA

I respect that, sir. But can't you see how you're holding up all these passengers?

A crowd of complaining passengers backing up behind Dedra.

DEDRA (CON'T)

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.

DEDRA

(sarcastic)

Tell your Allah that we are most grateful.

FAROUK

Allah will feel grateful when you are punished.

AFT. PASSENGER SECTION

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

KIMBERLY

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

ELAINE

Oh I don't mind. I usually choose
seats in the last row when I fly.

(beat)

I like those glasses.

KIMBERLY

You do? I don't really need them. I
wear them just because...

ELAINE

You're in style, girl. I see them
on Tik Tok all the time.

KIMBERLY

You too? I live on Tik Tok.

GALLEY - LATER

The 737 MAX is now filled. Kimberly, Felix, Lisa, Dedra and
Ralph are preparing the food carts.

Gail returns from doing the head count.

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 the seat belt sign
off and you are free to move about
the cabin. But before you do, and
before our Halloween party, I have
an announcement to make. One of our
flight attendants *MISS* 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'T)

And her husband to be is none other
than the man whose 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 (CON'T)

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

FELIX

My pleasure.

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 grabs the harness.

MARVIN (CON'T)

You got it? Hold on tight.

FELIX

Heard you the first time.

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

FELIX (CON'T)

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
(scared)
I...I don't know.

737 MAX - FIRST CLASS SECTION - LATER

Lisa and Carl stand together in the aisle. Kimberly, Dedra
and Gail stand as bridesmaids. Ralph as 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.

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 (CON'T)
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!

DEDRA
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 Kimberly)
Let me speak to the Captain.

737 MAX - COCKPIT

Marvin and Felix are watching the monitor.

ELAINE

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

MARVIN

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

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

ELAINE (CON'T)
 (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 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 (CON'T)
 (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. Captain needs help.

CARL (V.O.)
 In a minute.

737 MAX - FORWARD CABIN

Elaine grabs the phone.

ELAINE (CON'T)
 Situation under control, Captain.

MARVIN
 Where's my newly wed co-pilot?

Carl approaches, takes the phone.

CARL
 Right here, Marvin. Open up.

As Felix exits the cockpit, Elaine follows Carl.

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)
What are we doing at eight thousand feet?

MARVIN
Air Marshal said it would help.

ELAINE
You on autopilot?

MARVIN
Until we hit that storm near Atlanta. We'll have to go back up and around it.

ELAINE
No you won't.

From her jacket Elaine pulls out a GLOCK 19 handgun with a SILENCER. She FIRES a round into the back of Marvin's head.

And FIRES another round into the back of Carl's head.

Slips the gun back into her jacket and exits the cockpit.

737 MAX - GALLEY

Gail, Felix, Dedra, Lisa and Kimberly stocking food carts.

Elaine grabs her garment bag from the storage closet.

She straps on a parachute harness, opens the galley door.

The RUSH of WIND and COLD air BLOWS through the plane.

KIMBERLY
HEY? What the hell you do that for?

ELAINE
No reason. Just because I could.
Really like those glasses.

Elaine JUMPS into the nighttime void.

THE END

