

Flakes On a Plane

By

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INT. AIRBUS, ECONOMY CABIN - DAY

There is applause and jubilation as the passengers celebrate they're alive.

A young FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT looks out a window.

HER POV, a river bed and the shore at a distance.

FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT
(watery eyed)
Oh God thank you.

A FIRST MAN, young, tall, and robust, wearing khakis and a buzzcut, in the front row next to the econo class exit row, stands.

FIRST MAN
Alright people, let's organize
this! Women and children first!

A SECOND MAN, young, thin, not quite as tall as the first man sitting across the aisle from him, grimaces. He ignores the first man's instruction and proceeds to the nearest exit.

FIRST MAN (CONT'D)
Hey, hey, wait there for a second
bud. Let the women and children go
first.

SECOND MAN
Who are you to give orders?

FIRST MAN
I'm me, that's who.

SECOND MAN
Well coincidentally I'm me too, and
I'm simply going to the nearest
exit which is in fact the best and
most orderly way of doing this.

FIRST MAN
This doesn't have to be difficult
bud-

SECOND MAN
Difficult? No, it doesn't. And
that's what digging out the women
and children and having them crawl
and trip over everyone to get here
would surely be.

FIRST MAN

Not if you step aside and get out
of the way.

The first man puts his arm before the second man to push him out of the way as a MOTHER with her children walk by to the exit. The female flight attendant is struggling with the door.

MOTHER

Is the door opening?

FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT

No, I think it's jammed or
something.

FLOOR ANGLE VIEW of the aisle from under the seats shows passengers' feet splashing through water that seeps into the plane from a rupture in the fuselage.

SECOND MAN

No no, wait a minute. You hold me,
yourself, and every other man here
as somehow a lesser valued being,
less worthy to live, simply by
default of being male?

FIRST MAN

If you would actually think about
it bud the kids can't go alone. The
mother's need to go along with them
- step aside.

SECOND MAN

Why do they? There are fathers that
can accompany their children too.
There are lots of fathers that make
better parents than mothers.

FIRST MAN

(glares)
Step aside.

SECOND MAN

What? Is your program on repeat?

A MALE PASSENGER, around the same age as the men, listens in nearby, turns to the second man.

MALE PASSENGER

I bet you think lots of fathers
make better breastfeeders than
mothers too.

He and the first man laugh.

SECOND MAN

Well what does that have to do with anything? Yeah I don't have two x chromosomes and so cannot generate mammary glands in order to breast feed. Somehow I don't think that makes me any less fit as a parent, or human being, overall.

MALE PASSENGER

Yeah but maybe biology's what it's all about. It takes much fewer males to reproduce number of women because of limited egg count and unlimited sperm count. So maybe that's why it's more important to save women.

FIRST MAN

I didn't think of that. That's true, good point.

SECOND MAN

No it isn't! What are we trying to repopulate the planet? Did we crash in a river bed or on Mars? No, that's bullshit.

FIRST MAN

Dude, dude, get outta here. Just go with the women and children because obviously you're not a man anyway.

SECOND MAN

(rolls eyes)

Yeah gee, I must not be a man because I value and respect the lives of myself and other men.

A young FEMALE PASSENGER listens in on the conversation. She grabs a cigarette from her purse.

FEMALE PASSENGER

Yeah, I get your point
(points cigarette at the second man)
because grouping women in with children also devalues the lives of women as adults. We're all just adults, and as equal adults I guess from a moral standpoint we have no

(MORE)

FEMALE PASSENGER (cont'd)
 more a right to go ahead of you
 than you do ahead of us.

SECOND MAN
 Thank you!

He offers his hand to her to shake.

FEMALE PASSENGER
 And by the way, sperm count is not
 as unlimited as you may think.

He withdraws his hand.

FEMALE PASSENGER
 Got any matches?

A MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT sees the woman with the cigarette in
 her mouth.

MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT
 I'm sorry miss --

FEMALE PASSENGER
 I'm not a miss. I'm a hit.

MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT
 But you can't smoke in here.

FEMALE PASSENGER
 Please? I just thought since we've
 landed under such extraordinary
 circumstances and all...

MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT
 I'm sorry ma'am --

FEMALE PASSENGER
 Ew...I guess I am a miss.

MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT
 But you must observe the No Smoking
 sign while on the plane.

She rolls her eyes and plucks the cigarette from her mouth.

SECOND MAN
 Why let an able bodied adult modern
 woman go before me, right? It isn't
 1911 anymore.

FEMALE PASSENGER
1912.

SECOND MAN
What?

FEMALE PASSENGER
If you're referencing the year of
the Titanic, it was 1912.

SECOND MAN
I stand corrected.

FEMALE PASSENGER
I stand sinking -
(shouts)
Is the rescue crew here yet!?

SECOND MAN
Even the captain of this plane is a
woman!

The flight attendant grabs the phone.

CUT TO

INT. FLIGHT DECK - DAY

The CAPTAIN, 30s, is talking on the headset. The FIRST
OFFICER, 20s, is checking over the instruments.

CAPTAIN
What?...Please say you're
joking...You don't open the hatch
anyway on a plane floating in a
river while people are still
waiting to be rescued!...I know,
we're all not use to this. Just
please don't touch the door again.
The rescue crew should be here any
minute, just please don't touch the
door again until they arrive.
Thanks.

(disconnects from headset)
Well! In trying to open the economy
class hatch, the stewardess
discovered it's jammed.

FIRST OFFICER
She tried to open the door?

CAPTAIN
(sighs)
Unbelievable.

FIRST OFFICER
(half smiling)
Well, it's probably just the excitement of the thing gets people a little too anxious I guess.

CAPTAIN
That's no excuse in my book.

FIRST OFFICER
You mean your flight log?

The captain looks at the grinning first officer, rolls her eyes and smirks at the facetious joke.

CUT TO

ECONOMY CABIN

FIRST MAN
(stern)
I told you to back off.

SECOND MAN
I'm telling you because I think you need to hear it. It's an archaic practice from the time guys wore twelve inch lancelots on their belts throwing them into each other's faces and kept alive today by pussy pathological bonobozos.

First man flexes his jaw muscles and gives him a cold glare.

FEMALE PASSENGER
What does it matter? The plane is safely landed and we're all going to get off safely so why don't you just stop arguing. When the rescue team gets here we'll all just file off when our rows come, ok?

FIRST MAN
You don't tell me what I need to hear. I've seen and been through things that would make you shiver and shit yourself boyo.

SECOND MAN

Gee how'd you know my name. By the way, thanks for referring to me, a grown man, in the diminutive.

FIRST MAN

Grown man? You're a crying baby.

SECOND MAN

So you've seen things that would make me, how did you put it? Shiver and shit? So if you really do have all this experience you'd hope you come up with some better wisdom than your life and mine is not as valuable as hers
(points to female passenger)
based on sex alone?

FIRST MAN

Yeah because I can base something on sex, which is something I'm sure you can't.

MALE PASSENGER

Oh snap!

SECOND MAN

Pff. And is looking like you with that goofy-ass 1940s military poster boy haircut what you got to do to grovel for female approval?

The first man gives another one of those glassy, cold as Plutonian ice looks that stands in to say all he wants.

SECOND MAN (CONT'D)

I'll bet you're one of those military freaks that sniffs his kid's hair in public to see if it's washed right and then screams at him in the kiddie wheel line if it isn't, then you take him home later and lock him in the basement.

The first man in a no bullshit manner stands imposingly before the second man.

FIRST MAN

Are you talking about my kids?

The first man stares coldly at the second man.

The second man stares fixedly on the first man. He rolls his eyes and turns away.

SECOND MAN

There I blinked dude. You won the little pointless macho posturing staring contest, you happy?

FIRST MAN

(stares unblinkingly)

Yeah, I'm very happy. But I'm not posturing, boy.

The cabin phone RINGS. The female flight attendant enters view and answers.

The cabin continues to fill with water.

FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT

(on phone)

Oh...oh good...oh thank you so much, bye.

(presses another button on the phone)

Attention passengers, the rescue teams have arrived. The door will be prized open shortly. On behalf of the crew, I'd like to thank you for all your patience and for keeping a calm order. And thank you for fly -- oop!

She hangs up the phone in haste.

FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT(CONT'D)

(low to herself)

Well that was kind of stupid.

SECOND MAN

Well look at that sir. We get to live, all of us. Now I'm going to calmly line up here and just for the future don't think so little of yourself and your fellow men. Excuse me.

The second man goes to move but is held back by the first man, his thick arm's like a cross bar on a roller coaster.

FIRST MAN

Alright, women and children first -- Wait a minute, women and children first!

The second man struggles to get free.

He manages to get around the lockbar arm but is caught again by the hand of the first man and continues to be held.

SECOND MAN

What are you doing? Let go
asshole!

FIRST MAN

Go ahead, ma'am. It's alright,
nothing to get excited about.

SECOND MAN

Get the fuck off me asshole! Hey
everyone! Line up in an orderly
que! One by one, seat by seat, row
by row!

The first man keeps waving curious women and children on.

CLOSEUP of the first man's face wincing in pain.

The second man kicks repeatedly at the back of the first man's thigh and knees.

The first man turns around and grabs the second man by the face and tries to head butt him.

The second man dodges and slips free passed him but --

The first man grabs his shirt collar and pulls him back and punches his head, on the top, on the side, in the face, then his torso, repeatedly and frenetically while the first man clumsily tries to block and dodge.

The first man puts the second man in a CHOKEHOLD.

Passengers SCREAM in shock of what's happening.

The men's feet SPLASH through the now over shin deep water as they struggle in the cabin.

The captain runs into the econo cabin and grabs the first man's arm trying to get him to release the second, who's fast losing his breath.

There's HYDRAULIC RESCUE TOOLS heard from outside the cabin door.

The captain still attempts to pry the first man off the second man.

In two quick movements the first man drops the second man into the water on the floor and throws with the force of a bale compactor the captain.

Her head hits a sharp metal corner on the refreshments cart, killing her, her body drops, splashing into the water on the floor.

The body of the second man lies inert and lifeless in the water.

People stand around shocked as --

The CABIN DOOR opens and RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS file into the plane. They survey the scene.

RESCUE TEAM MEMBER
What the hell happened here?

The people stand around in a paralysis. No one ventures to say a word.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER SIDE - DAY

A news team is reporting on the incident. Footage is shown of stone-faced people being taken ashore on a large rubber raft.

REPORTER (V.O.)
In a cruel irony, a miracle landing on a river bed has ended in tragedy when, after the plane had made its unlikely safe landing, an apparent dispute between two men broke out on the plane. The dispute between the men escalated eventually leading to the deaths of one of the men as well as the crew's captain.

The footage shows the FIRST MAN being led away by police in cuffs.

REPORTER (V.O.)(CONT'D)
At this time, survivors are unwilling to give any more information.

END