

Confession Air

a short play

by

Matthew Konkel

Cast of Characters

LISA: a woman with a deceitful past
BLAKE: Lisa's husband, unaffected
KIM: a passenger
CAROL: a flight attendant

TIME

Now.

SETTING

A commercial airplane on the verge of crashing.

(BLAKE and LISA sit next to one another. KIM sits across the aisle reading a magazine. They shake and convulse their bodies with the turbulence of the flight.)

(CAROL, the flight attendant stands upstage, at the back of the plane, and speaks into the PA.)

CAROL

Ladies and Gentlemen, I regret to bring you the news that we are currently in an out-of-control descent. Our pilots are doing everything they can to get us to safety. If necessary, oxygen masks will drop from the ceiling. Place the mask firmly over your face. Oxygen is flowing even though the bag may not inflate. Please remain in your seats with your seatbelts securely fastened and try to remain calm.

(CAROL exits upstage.)

LISA

Remain calm. What's the point of staying calm?

BLAKE

Try and focus on your breathing. Remember your yoga classes.

LISA

We're all going to die. Can't I panic if I want to?

BLAKE

We might survive.

LISA

We're crashing into the mountains from thousands of feet above the earth, Blake. How are we going to survive?

BLAKE

You never know. We might hit a soft spot.

LISA

Don't be ridiculous.

BLAKE

I love you, Lisa.

LISA

I love you too, Blake. So, I guess this is confession time. We should confess the wrongdoings we've committed since we've been together. So we can die with a clean conscience.

BLAKE

Okay. Good idea.

(CAROL enters and speaks into the PA. She struggles to maintain a professional, composed attitude within the escalating crisis.)

CAROL

Ladies and gentlemen, an update on our status. Our starboard engine has ceased to function and we continue our incredibly fast downward plunge into the earth. Please turn off and stow all electronic devices until the plane has come to a complete and total, um, destruction. Drinks and snacks are available for cash. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

(CAROL exits.)

LISA

Cooperation? What are we going to do, rebel against gravity?

KIM

Are you going to eat your peanuts?

(LISA gives KIM her bag of peanuts.)

KIM

Thank you.

(KIM munches on the peanuts while reading the magazine.)

BLAKE

We should get to our confessions before it's too late.

LISA

Okay. Complete disclosure. I'll go first and we'll take turns.

BLAKE

Okay.

LISA

Okay, uh, remember the meditation retreat I went to last spring?

BLAKE

Yes.

LISA

I had an affair with the yoga instructor. I'm sorry. It was just that one time. I'm sorry, Blake, I'm so sorry.

BLAKE

It's okay. It's okay, Lisa. I understand.

LISA

Your turn.

BLAKE

Okay. Remember that time you were away in San Francisco giving a lecture on hydroponics?

LISA

Yes.

BLAKE

I used your shampoo. I'm sorry.

LISA

My shampoo?

BLAKE

Yes. But not your conditioner, I swear.

(CAROL enters.)

CAROL

Ladies and gentlemen, I regret to inform you that our port engine has joined our starboard in malfunction. Any attempt that may have been possible of making it to a suitable landing site is now hopeless. Thank you for flying with us. Have you considered a Hawaiian getaway? Flights to the land of a thousand beaches are now twenty percent off if you book before June first. Hawaii. Get some sunshine in your life.

KIM

That sounds like a fun idea, doesn't it?

LISA

You used my shampoo?

BLAKE

Yes.

LISA

That's what you have to confess?

BLAKE

I feel awful. I know how you are about my using your shower products. I'm so sorry.

LISA

I tell you I had an affair, we're about to die and *that's* what you have to confess to me?

BLAKE

I tried to think of the worst thing.

LISA

That's the *worst* thing!?

BLAKE

Well, yeah.

LISA

There must be something else.

BLAKE

I might have used your towel, too. But I would have washed it immediately afterwards.

LISA

My towel. My fucking shampoo.

BLAKE

Well, I was out of mine and I had that presentation that day so-

LISA

I don't fucking believe this.

BLAKE

Don't be upset.

LISA

Upset? I'm astounded. What in the hell is wrong with you?

BLAKE

What do you mean?

LISA

What do I mean? I didn't know I married the control subject at some university study in morality.

BLAKE

What?

LISA

Well, apparently, besides the numerous extreme bathroom etiquette violations, you haven't done anything!

BLAKE

Sweetheart, it's okay. It's not a contest. I forgive you for all your missteps in our marriage.

LISA

All my missteps? It was just once. One stupid sexual happenstance.

BLAKE

So, I didn't cheat on you, um, I'm sorry?

LISA

I doubt you could so much as cheat on a diet for me.

BLAKE

I don't understand, you're upset because I never had an affair?

(LISA turns to KIM.)

LISA

Excuse me.

KIM

Just one second— let me finish this paragraph...Okay.

LISA

What's the worst thing you've ever done in your life?

KIM

Jaywalking.

LISA

Jaywalking?

KIM

I got a ticket, too. That's what I get for being in a hurry.

(CAROL enters.)

CAROL

Ladies and gentlemen, I've got bad news and worse news. The bad news the pilots will try and hold us up as long as possible but our total obliteration looks to be an eventuality. The worse news is that our black box has failed along with everything else so, if they ever find us, they won't even know what happened. There's a few things I want to say: we do indeed talk about you passengers behind your backs and usually say the most derogatory things. Those bags that don't inflate, yeah, there's no oxygen flowing in them. That's all bullshit. Of course there's no oxygen flowing! It's not inflated! If anyone wants a drink, find it yourself. I'm gonna have one. Or ten.

(CAROL exits.)

BLAKE

Baby, I don't understand. I only told you the truth.

LISA

Well, aren't you just Mr. Peter Perfect.

BLAKE

Did you want me to lie?

LISA

YES! Lie. Curse. Covet. Self flagellation. Anything to get you off the nice list.

(LISA turns to KIM across the aisle.)

LISA

Excuse me. Excuse me again. I'm sorry, I know this may not be the best time, what with the plane crashing and everything, but would you have sex with my husband?

BLAKE

Sweetheart, no.

LISA

I know it's a lot to ask.

KIM

I would, but I've taken a vow of celibacy until marriage.

LISA

But we're going to die.

KIM

You don't know that. We might hit a soft spot.

LISA

Fuck. Am I the only immoral person on this plane?

KIM

I did eat your peanuts.

LISA

My peanuts?

KIM

I'm allergic but I love them. A few hives are worth the risk.

BLAKE

You're not immoral, darling, you just had a momentary lapse of judgment. It's completely reasonable.

LISA

Oh, shut up.

(CAROL enters. Now drunk, she holds a bottle of alcohol which she slugs from during her next speech.)

CAROL

Ladies and gemel- gemel- gemeelmine- ah, forget it. Hey. Everybody. Listen up. We're about to crash into a large fucking rock. Bodies will be flying everywhere. Make sure you're buckled up nice and tight- or don't, what the fuck does it matter?

LISA

I'm going to get the flight attendant.

BLAKE

No, Lisa, please-

LISA

Oh, excuse me. Excuse me.

(CAROL stumbles over to LISA.)

CAROL

Oh, of course, what can I do for you? I mean, we're all gonna be smoke and detritus in a minute, but in my last few golden moments alive there's nothing I'd like more than to get you whatever you want.

LISA

I'm sorry, but will you to have sex with my husband?

CAROL

I'd be happy to.

LISA

Great. Thank you.

CAROL

But we're about to crash. Can I do it after the destruction?

LISA

No, no. How can you— It has to be before. That's the whole point.

CAROL

The point?

LISA

Yes. I don't want to go to my death being the only adulterer in our relationship.

CAROL

Adul—Aldulta—what?

LISA

Adulterer.

CAROL

Aldulurererer—

LISA

Adulterer— Never mind. I need you to have sex with—

CAROL

Hey, you're cute, let's get naked.

LISA

No, not me. My husb—

CAROL

Come on, peaches, what does it matter? We're all going to die.

LISA

Exactly. That's why you should have sex with my husband.

(CAROL looks over at BLAKE, then back at LISA.)

CAROL

I need to somefess comthing. I've always liked women.

LISA

Oh, God...

CAROL

What do you say? You tell the world bye-bye and go out bi-bi-happy. C'mon, it's your last chance to 'splore new horizons.

LISA

Oh, geezus. *(To the entire plane.)* Is there any women here who want to have sex? Someone who isn't a closeted lesbian. Not even someone from coach?

CAROL

Well, everybody, time to say sayonara to this...goodbye adios.

KIM

Excuse me, is there a window seat I could switch to?

LISA

I never knew meeting my demise could suck so much.

BLAKE

Try to stay positive. Maybe we'll see each other in the afterlife.

LISA

Blake, if there's an afterlife, I don't think we're going to the same place.

(The plane lurches. All scream as we go to blackout.)

CONFESSION AIR was first produced in 2015 as part of Over Our Head Players' annual Snowdance Festival in Racine, WI. It was audience voted as the festival's Best In Snow. It was directed by Rich Smith with the following cast: LISA – Kristin Althoff, BLAKE – John Adams, KIM – Quanashia Myers, CAROL – Rich Smith.

MATTHEW KONKEL is an award winning film-producer and screenwriter. His co-written feature film *Neptune* from Last House Productions was an official selection of the 2016 Slamdance Film Festival and is currently making the festival circuit. Matthew is also a widely published author of fiction and poetry in publications including *Danse Macabre*, *The Eunoia Review*, *Linguistic Erosion*, *Liquid Imagination*, *the Newer York*, *Paragraph Planet*, *Postcard Shorts*, *Sein and Werden*, *Streetcake Magazine* and *Theme of Absence*. His plays have been produced nationally and internationally by theater companies including *Eager Risk Theatre*, *Open Space Arts*, *Cupcake Lady Productions*, *Edmonds Driftwood Players*, *Organised Chaos Productions*, *Over Our Head Players*, *Pink Banana Theatre* and *Screaming Media Gi60*.
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