

Heavy Metal Airlines

by

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INT: MOTIONLESS PASSENGER JET - DAY

Two extensive rows of window, middle and aisle seats are all occupied. In the middle of the rows is an aisle, leading to the shut door of the pilot's cabin. Towards the back of the plane, seated by a window and looking out of it, is KEVIN (30). He waves to the people on the runway just to be friendly. He is wearing an Iron Maiden shirt and has long blonde hair. On his left are a couple of sleeping ELDERLY PEOPLE, and on their left is a FAMILY, consisting of a FATHER, BOY and MOTHER in that order. The PILOT (50) is heard through a plane speaker.

PILOT

Heeeello to everyone on Heavy Metal Airlines! As I'm sure you all know I was once frontman of the heavy metal band Heretic's Fork, but I was sacked for being too extreme. Now I'm a pilot!

The FATHER coughs, awkwardly.

FATHER

(to the mother)

This isn't what I was expecting. I didn't know the name of the company was so literal...

MOTHER

We'll be fine. The pilot is just being friendly and joking around. That's all.

PILOT

Let's finally get this plane started! Yeeeha!

The plane starts to move.

MOTHER

Ok, maybe not.

PILOT

Who here wants a singalong? Anyone like The Who?

FATHER

I do!

MOTHER

I don't think he can hear you...

PILOT

I know I do!

KEVIN scratches his ear, nervously.

PILOT
(singing)
I hope I die before I get old!

Everyone on the plane freezes.

FATHER
Oh no.

Clearly troubled, KEVIN bites his lip. The plane is taking off.

PILOT
Or how about this song?...

KEVIN
(desperately)
Please...

PILOT
(singing)
I'm going off the rails on a crazy train!

The MOTHER and FATHER shed a tear in silence.

PILOT
That's an old Ozzy Osbourne song. He's a great man! I really like him, but sadly we fell out because I was bit too intense for him...

BOY
Are we going to die?

FATHER
No, of course not, son. But I just want to take this opportunity to say I love you.

MOTHER
(to the boy)
I love you, too.

The MOTHER squeezes the BOY'S hand, hard.

PILOT
On the subject of Ozzy Osbourne, did you know his first guitarist, Randy Rhoads died in a plane accident? He's a legend. Isn't it funny the way people become worshipped when they die?

FATHER

I've had enough of this.

The FATHER unbuckles then jumps out of his seat and runs to the pilot's cabin door. He knocks on it in a fury.

FATHER

Hey, idiot! Randy Rhoads is worshipped because he was a great guitarist! Not because he's dead! Be sensible God dammit!

PILOT

Hello, passengers? I'm assuming some of you are troubled by my unique flying style. Of course it's not cool to die young, but some people do think that. Stupid people, but there are stupid people out there. I was just trying to reach out to them and be rock'n'roll. That's all. From now on, I won't even talk about dying a fiery death. Please forgive me.

FATHER

Thank you!

The FATHER sits back down with his FAMILY. KEVIN turns to them.

KEVIN

(whispering)

I think it's best we don't excite the pilot. Any hint we are 'rock'n'roll' could spread to the air stewards when they come back and get us all killed.

FATHER

(also whispering)

Couldn't agree more, mate.

The FATHER turns to his FAMILY.

FATHER

You heard the man; keep schtum.

The FATHER leaves his seat and spreads the word to the other PASSENGERS. One by one, they nod in silence.

PILOT
 (still through the
 speaker)
 Hey! Seeing as you're all terrified of
 crashing so much, how about I do the
 opposite and keep getting higher?
 We'll all be getting high together!
 Rock'n'roll!

The plane ascends quickly, knocking the FATHER over and
 forcing the other PASSENGERS back.

FATHER
 What are you doing, you moron?? At
 this rate, we'll be leaving the
 Earth's orbit!

The FATHER crawls to the PILOT'S door and bangs on it in
 desperation. The views out of the windows darken.

FATHER
 You don't know what you're doing!

PILOT
 (still through the
 speaker)
 This is our life now! We're space men!
 We'll travel quickly because this is a
 special plane with ultra-turbo
 boosters!

FATHER
 We don't want to be space men!

PILOT
 (yep... still through
 you know what)
 Yeah, well I don't want to be a pilot.
 Life's not fair.

FATHER
 Where are you planning on going??

PILOT
 The moon! I always wondered if the
 moon landing was a hoax and now we'll
 all be finding out. Let's find the
 flag and footprints!

The plane flies more horizontally and the FATHER stands back
 up. Then he starts to float.

FATHER
 Once we're on the moon, will we be
 rescued?

PILOT

Nope. To be honest, I'm not sure if I'll be able to work out how to land.

FATHER

Damn. If you ever come to your senses, could you maybe find a way back to Earth?

PILOT

(still...)

Look, if it really means that much to you, I'll contact the airport...

The FATHER sighs with relief as do many other PASSENGERS.

PILOT

(and still heard
through the speakers)

Hello base, it's me, Bruce. As you may know I'm in space, now. Got any tips on how to get back?... No?... Really? A rescue operation will take a whole month?

The PASSENGERS sigh with a mix of relief and frustration.

PILOT

I understand this is a complex situation, but what will we eat?... Ah. Time to go on a fast everyone! Who wants a singsong?

FATHER

No!

PILOT

(singing)

I'll send an SOS to the world...