

NO RETURN TO MYER'S ISLAND

EXTRACT

By

Out on a Limb

INTRODUCTION: A MODERN LIVE-ACTION/DRAMA PIECE SET BRIEFLY IN AN AIRPORT, FOLLOWED BY AN AIRCRAFT (SETTING FOR EXTRACT), AND LATER AN ISLAND. PASSENGERS AND CREW BOARD FLIGHT US TRUE 280 TO MIAMI. CO-PILOT RODNEY STRUGGLES TO BOND WITH DISTANT PILOT TOBIAS WHILE THEY COMPLETE THEIR NECESSARY AIRCRAFT CHECKS, COMMUNICATING WITH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AS THEY TAKE OFF FROM THE AIRPORT. CREW MEMBERS KYLE AND EMILY CLOCK IN THREE MORE STEWARDS THEY DON'T RECOGNISE ABOARD THEIR FLIGHT, DEEMING IT ODD BUT UNSUSPICIOUS. AS PASSENGERS SETTLE IN, RODNEY REHEARSES HOW TO PROPOSE TO HIS GIRLFRIEND EMILY. TOBIAS COMMUNICATES WITH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL.

INT. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER- PEACHTREE- SAME TIME

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER #2, MALE (30's) sits in front of radar screen, communicating with TOBIAS--

ATC #2

US TRUE 280.

(beat)

US TRUE 280, contact Jacksonville
118 decimal 3. Good night.

CUT TO--

INT. COCKPIT- AIRPLANE- EVENING

Tobias finishes off communication with ATC--

TOBIAS

Good night US TRUE 280.

He ends communication.

Tobias and Rodney sit with each other in awkward silence.

After a moment--

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Bathroom. I'm going.

He presses a button, getting up.

RODNEY

Oh, ok, cool. Have fun.

(under his breath; sarcastic)

I'll miss you.

INT. BACK END GALLEY- AIRPLANE- EVENING

A RED LIGHT FLASHES on the wall of the galley, designed to alert cabin crew to attend to the cockpit.

STEWARD #1 sees the light.

His eyes cautiously scan the galley. He looks out into coach. He spots EMILY AND KYLE, both along the aisles, talking to passengers. Too engrossed to have noticed the light.

STEWARD #1 proceeds with switching off the light, doing so surreptitiously. His eyes cast to STEWARD #2, who stands in FRONT GALLEY, in direct view of STEWARD #1's line of vision.

They lock eyes. STEWARD #1 nods. STEWARD #2 nods in reciprocation, moving off towards the cockpit.

INT. COCKPIT- AIRPLANE- EVENING

Tobias stands close to the door of the cockpit. Waiting.

Rodney remains in his seat.

A knock comes at the door.

Tobias opens the door, to STEWARD #2.

Rodney turns round to face the direction of the door. He acknowledges STEWARD #2 with a small smile, before turning back to face the cockpit window.

Tobias and STEWARD #2 look to each other. STEWARD #2 nods affirmatively.

Tobias starts to loosen his tie from his collar.

He heads back in the direction of Rodney. STEWARD #2 remains where he is.

ANGLE ON-- RODNEY. Eyes locked in on the engagement ring held in his fingertips. He smiles, thinking happily about memories to come.

He remains focused on the ring as-- TOBIAS WRAPS HIS TIE AROUND HIS NECK AND BEGINS TO STRANGLE HIM.

Rodney immediately throws his hands up, trying to reach for the tie-- HE DROPS THE ENGAGEMENT RING IN THE PROCESS. He stamps his legs repeatedly, his hands gripping at the tie already cutting off circulation.

Tobias brings more pressure. Rodney struggles, his legs flailing about. But he keeps fighting.

Tobias gives the tie another YANK-- IT'S TOO MUCH FOR RODNEY. HIS BODY GOES LIMP IN THE SEAT-- HIS EYES CLOSE.

Tobias removes the tie from around Rodney's neck-- Rodney's head subsequently COCKS TO THE SIDE.

Tobias redoes his tie. Turns back to face STEWARD #2.

TOBIAS
(*commanding*)
Let's go.

STEWARD #2 nods. Exiting the cockpit.

Tobias takes his seat next to Rodney's body.

He turns his attention over to the TRANSPONDER DEVICE ON THE SWITCH PANEL. In the middle of the device is a SCREEN REVEALING THE ACTIVE MODE, REPORTED ALTITUDE, REPLY INDICATOR, FLIGHT ID AND SQUAWK. To the right of the screen is a CODE KNOB-- to the left a CODE KNOB SET TO ON.

Tobias places his hand over the CODE KNOB-- he moves it to OFF.

CUT TO--

INT. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER- PEACHTREE- SAME TIME

CLOSE UP ON RADAR SCREEN. We see VARIOUS PLANES AND FLIGHT NUMBERS scattered across the screen. Including US TRUE 280.

After a moment-- US TRUE 280 DISAPPEARS FROM THE SCREEN.

ANGLE ON-- ATC #2. Confused by what's just happened.

ATC #2
What?

He studies the screen closer. A *glitch in the system perhaps?*

But US TRUE 280 NEVER RETURNS TO THE SCREEN.

ATC #2 (CONT'D)
(*concerned*)
Where did you go?

INT. FRONT GALLEY- AIRPLANE- EVENING

STEWARD #1 and STEWARD #3 assist Kyle with preparing a galley trolley for duty free.

STEWARD #1 clocks STEWARD #2 returning from the cockpit. He taps STEWARD #3 on the shoulder, the latter follows his eye back to STEWARD #2.

They turn back to face each other. *Time to go.*

STEWARD #3 turns his attention to a preoccupied Kyle kneeling on the ground, putting different items into the galley trolley.

As Kyle rises-- STEWARD #3 PUNCHES HIM HARD ACROSS THE FACE.

Kyle falls back, hitting the ground, passing out.

INT. COACH- AIRPLANE- EVENING

ANGLE ON-- SHAUN sitting slumped in his chair, listening to music, looking bored. Ronnie sleeps, facing away from him.

Shaun's eyes casually shift about-- eventually landing on A MAGAZINE slotted in the back of the seat in front.

He reaches for it, flipping through the pages-- eventually landing on a page dedicated to BABY DIAPERS.

He studies the page: a MOTHER lying on her front on a FRESH WHITE CARPET, smiling at her GLEEFUL BABY who stands with one leg raised, about to take another step, wearing a FRESH DIAPER. The tagline: TAKING THOSE FIRST STEPS IN COMFORT.

Shaun stares at the page-- there is a blend of sadness and somewhat resentment in his expression.

He closes the magazine. Returns to his music.

ANGLE ON-- EDGEMOUNT BOYS. On their phones, sleeping etc.

CUT TO-- UMA AND BRENDA, observing from a few seats down.

UMA

Ok, but if you had to choose *one*?

Brenda contemplates.

She can't reach a conclusion.

BRENDA

I can't. They *all* have something to offer.

UMA

Your mom never teach you about gluttony?

BRENDA

Ok, fine... How 'bout *him*--

She points to EDGEMOUNT BOY #5, asleep in his seat.

Uma nods: *respectable*.

A mischievous smile then pops up across her face.

UMA

You should say hi later. Could be
the solution to our alcohol problem
this weekend.

INT. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER- PEACHTREE- EVENING

ATC #2, anxious, sits at his screen, trying to communicate
with US TRUE 280--

ATC #2

US TRUE 280, how do you read, do
you read?

Nothing.

ATC #2 (CONT'D)

Fuck.

He picks up the phone next to him. Presses a button-- the
phone rings--

ATC- JACKSONVILLE (V.O.)

(over phone)

Jacksonville, Good Morning.

ATC #2

Peachtree, Jacksonville, trying to
locate flight US TRUE 280,
scheduled for Miami. Has
disappeared from radar screen. Have
tried contacting numerous times but
no response. Flight should be in
Jacksonville airspace now. Please
confirm sighting.

ATC #2 waits in anticipation for their answer. Desperately
hoping--

ATC- JACKSONVILLE (V.O.)

(over phone)

Jacksonville, Peachtree, cannot
confirm any sighting for flight US
TRUE 280. Have also received no
contact from crew aboard flight US
TRUE 280.

FUCK.

ATC #2

Request ALNOT immediately.

He puts the phone down.

INT. COCKPIT- AIRPLANE- EVENING

Tobias remains in his seat, looking over the control panel.

After a beat, Tobias bends down, retrieving a bag underneath his seat. He removes A PORTABLE OXYGEN SUPPLY FROM THE BAG.

The portable comes with A MASK, WHICH TOBIAS PLACES OVER HIS MOUTH.

He then extends his arm up to reach for a switch-- THIS DEPRESSURISES THE CABIN.

INT. FRONT GALLEY- AIRPLANE- EVENING

Kyle lies unconscious on the floor. STEWARD #1 and STEWARD #3 remain standing.

STEWARD #3 removes a key from the inside of his jacket. He crosses over to the galley lockers. Unlocks one-- PULLING OUT A BAG.

He kneels, reaching into the bag-- taking out PORTABLE OXYGEN SUPPLIES IDENTICAL TO TOBIAS'. He hands one to STEWARD #1.

They put them on.

STEWARD #3 then returns to the bag, retrieving A PAIR OF HANDCUFFS.

INT. COACH- AIRPLANE- EVENING

ANGLE ON-- ELISA in her seat, staring out of the window.

We hear LOUD SNORING in b.g. Elisa looks to her right-- Anthony is asleep in his chair, snoring obnoxiously so. He has on an eye mask, the right hand corner of his mouth is drooping. Drool pours from the open gap onto his shoulder.

Elisa shifts her focus back to the window.

All of a sudden, she feels light-headed. Continuously blinking her eyes.

ANGLE ON-- JANET AND ROSIE. Rosie is asleep on Janet's shoulder. Janet reads a book.

Janet looks to her wife affectionately, smiles.

She is then hit with a spell of wooziness. Her eyes start to roll back. She drops the book.

ANGLE ON-- UMA AND BRENDA.

Brenda's eyes slowly shut. Her body falls onto Uma, whose eyes also begin to close.

ANGLE ON-- SHAUN PASSING OUT IN HIS SEAT.

ANGLE ON-- EDGEMOUNT BOYS. FOLLOWING SUIT.

ANGLE ON-- EMILY. Making her coach aisle rounds. She sees that all of the passengers are passed out.

Must be tired--

She starts to feel faint. Beginning to stagger up the aisle, grabbing onto the tops of seats for support.

She stops, trying to get her bearings.

She then loses consciousness-- COLLAPSING TO THE GROUND.

A shadow shortly casts over her body-- CUT TO-- EMILY'S PERSPECTIVE: LOW ANGLE SHOT OF STEWARD #2, MASK ON, LOOKING DOWN AT HER.

He bends down, bringing into frame A PORTABLE OXYGEN SUPPLY-- PLACING THE MASK COMPONENT OVER EMILY'S MOUTH.

He then takes out A PAIR OF HANDCUFFS from his jacket pocket.

INT. COCKPIT- AIRPLANE- EVENING

Tobias drags RODNEY'S BODY to behind Rodney's seat. Dumping it there.

He goes to sit back down in his seat-- he retracts. Narrowing his focus on something off-screen.

He bends down-- coming back up into frame seconds later HOLDING RODNEY'S ENGAGEMENT RING IN HIS HAND.

He looks to Rodney, then back to the ring.

He places the ring in his shirt pocket.

He takes his seat again.

STEWARD #2, mask on, opens the door, walking in.

Tobias turns round to face him.

They lock eyes. *It's done.*

Tobias nods. STEWARD #2 then leaves the cockpit.

Tobias turns back round to face the window. He reaches for a switch-- THIS PRESSURISES THE CABIN AGAIN.

INT. FRONT GALLEY- AIRPLANE- EVENING

CLOSE UP ON UPPER HALF OF EMILY'S FACE. HER EYES ARE SHUT.

After a beat, her eyes open.

They shift about as she slowly gains consciousness.

Eventually they land on the corner of the galley. ON KYLE, STILL UNCONSCIOUS, slumped up on the ground.

Emily studies him closer-- sees he has A MASK OVER HIS MOUTH-- HANDCUFFED TO ONE OF THE BOTTOM FLOOR GALLEY LOCKERS.

Her eyes widen. She examines herself-- PAN OUT TO REVEAL-- her sitting on a JUMP SEAT. HANDCUFFED TO HER SEAT. MASK ON.

She immediately starts to panic. Trying to break free from the chain by hopelessly pulling the cuffs towards her.

INT. COACH- AIRPLANE- EVENING

ANGLE ON-- SHAUN. Asleep. MASK ON.

He wakes up abruptly. Gathers himself.

He goes to stretch his arms-- he only gets so far... something is restraining him.

He inspects his hands-- sees they're HANDCUFFED TO THE SEAT EITHER SIDE OF HIM.

SHAUN

(muffled)
What the fu--

He turns his attention to Ronnie. Still asleep. MASK ON. HANDS ALSO HANDCUFFED TO HER SEAT-- WHAT THE--

Unable to do anything else, Shaun lightly kicks RONNIE IN THE LEG WITH HIS FOOT, WAKING HER.

RONNIE

(muffled; annoyed)
What--

He rattles the small chains to alert her to the situation. She's quick to register. She follows his eye down to her own chained hands.

Her eyes shoot back up-- she looks to Shaun: WHAT THE FUCK?!

ANGLE ON-- UMA AND BRENDA. Both still asleep. MASKS ON.

Uma's phone PINGS WITH A NOTIFICATION. Waking her.

She searches for her phone. Eyeing it up on the ground.

She goes to reach out to grab it-- CAN'T.

She assesses herself. Sees that BOTH HER HANDS ARE HANDCUFFED TO THE SEAT.

She panics.

BRENDA (O.S.)
(muffled; vulnerable)
Uma...

Uma looks to a terrified Brenda. ALSO STRAPPED IN.

ANGLE ON-- ELISA. Asleep. You guessed it... MASK ON.

She is awoken by a SUBTLE THUMPING SOUND.

She looks to her right-- sees Anthony: eye mask over his eyes, MASK OVER HIS MOUTH, CHAINED TO HIS SEAT. He shifts about desperately in his seat, scared. Like a death row inmate awaiting execution, it's not a pleasant image.

Elisa looks to him horrified. She soon realises her own fate.

ANGLE ON-- EDGEMOUNT BOYS. The commotion caused by the other passengers WAKES THEM.

It doesn't take them long to figure things out.

ANGLE ON-- ROSIE AND JANET. Tears track down a scared Rosie's face.

Janet reaches out-- grasps her wife's fingers with hers.

She gives her a look: *it's alright, I've got you.*

ANGLE ON-- STEWARD #1, STEWARD #2 and STEWARD #3. Proceeding up the coach aisles.

They reach the front of coach. Facing the passengers. Arms by their sides. Their faces devoid of expression.

The fretted passengers look to them.

TOBIAS (V.O.)
(over speaker)
Flight 280. This is your captain
speaking--

CUT TO--

INT. COCKPIT- AIRPLANE- SAME TIME

Tobias sits in his chair. Speaking into the microphone in front of him. His look dead serious.

TOBIAS
I sense there might be some
confusion right now--

CUT TO--

INT. COACH- AIRPLANE- EVENING

CUT TO EACH PASSENGER (INCLUDING EMILY AND KYLE IN GALLEY),
listening to Tobias talk:

TOBIAS (V.O.)
(over speaker)
My crew and I have taken certain
precautions to ensure you avoid
doing anything we might deem
irrational at this moment. I am
sure you do not wish to place any
life in jeopardy due to foolish
acts of impulse.
(beat)
Undoubtedly, you have some
questions. I will answer what I
deem appropriate in due course. But
for now, be sensible and
cooperative by remaining seated
whilst my team come round to remove
your masks. We shall be beginning
our descent shortly. I'll talk to
you again soon.

The speaker cuts off.