

THE TRANSIT PLAYS

MEGAN / KAREN
JACK / HENRY / JOE
BRENDA / JESSICA
THOMAS / GUNTHER / WALLACE

PLANE

JACK and BRENDA and THOMAS are seated in a row on an airplane. Airplane is suggested by metal and fabric. THOMAS has headphones on. He is snoozing. They each have trays of food before them.

Music. They sing occasionally.

BRENDA

Nothing with corners. The windows, the cushions, the grey plastic trays. A microcosm based entirely around the contours of a tic-tac. Delightful.

JACK

A crass and cornerless tube of people shooting through a lawn of blue air. We're all going to die.

BRENDA

How can we die if there are no corners? Corners make you poke eyes out when you trip, corners are cut by bad people in a hurry. Corners are turned by people who decide to take control of their lives. No corners equals no evil.

JACK

Of course we're going to die. Didn't you see the red arrows?

BRENDA

What red arrows?

JACK takes out the fold-out safety card.

JACK

All the little red arrows. Pointing down the aisle, down the blow-up safety slide, down with the oxygen bags that do not inflate when air is going through them. Why is everything pointing down when the purpose of flight is to stay up? I'll tell you. The arrows show you which direction to deliver your panic when it is time to die.

BRENDA

It's just regulations. Everything about airplanes is regulations. Look at the hostesses. They wear regulation faces. Mildly catatonic with a bit of airbrushed pleasantness. Look at the dropdown

televisions. No corners, trim boxes of brain confection to smoothe your brooding. The air vents blow safety air, neither too hot to burn or too cold to chill. Regulations.

JACK

We're going to die.

THOMAS begins to scream. Long, loud. Pieces of luggage tumble out of his mouth.

THOMAS

I dreamed I was eating luggage.

BRENDA

Carry-on or checked?

THOMAS

Checked.

BRENDA

Then you're perfectly safe.

They begin to eat their food.

THOMAS

This food has no corners. Look. This piece of chicken. It's square but the corners are missing. Who took them?

BRENDA

Don't be silly, nothing on airplanes has corners. Everything is regulation.

THOMAS

And these green beans. Someone took the green. And the purple is gone from the eggplant. Someone took my corners and my colors!

BRENDA

It is regulation to cook the colors out of the vegetables and to remove the corners from everything

THOMAS

If there are no corners and no colors in my food, how do I know I am not eating luggage?!

JACK

He's got a point.

THOMAS begins to scream again. BRENDA clamps a hand over his mouth. She removes one set of corners and one set of colors from her purse.

BRENDA

Don't tell anyone.... They'll thrust me down the red arrow road if they find out.

Thank you.

THOMAS

We're all going to die.

JACK

Suddenly, BRENDA, THOMAS and JACK do not die.

BOAT

Scene One.

JESSICA, KAREN, and HENRY are standing in a line on a ferry. They are reading various newspapers. The American flag waves somewhere nearby.

They move and speak incredibly slowly.

Music. Boat suggested by fabric and metal.

After a long time.

Crisis

KAREN

Nothing

JESSICA

War

HENRY

KAREN slowly puts her paper down. She slowly takes off her shoes. She slowly jumps into the water.

JESSICA and HENRY slowly peer over the side. They slowly return to their papers.

Scene Two.

JESSICA, KAREN, and HENRY are standing in a line on a ferry. They are reading various newspapers.

Saturation, saturated

KAREN

My mouth tastes funny

JESSICA

An eyelash

HENRY

KAREN stuffs her newspaper in her shirt. She takes off her shoes. She pushes JESSICA into the water.

KAREN and HENRY peer over the side. They return to their papers.

Scene Three.

JESSICA, KAREN, and HENRY are standing in a line on a ferry. They are holding newspapers but not reading.

KAREN

As the bar poured the others into the white dust of a two AM snowstorm, the motorist noticed an upturned ugliness inherited by that winter's most notorious cherry stem tongue-knotter

JESSICA

Hats off to the designers of the first beige corduroy pant suit

HENRY

Why don't you have a seat

HENRY very quickly lifts JESSICA into his arms like a baby. He quickly cradles her and coos. JESSICA continues to read her paper.

KAREN quickly takes off her shoes and stands on the railing. She flaps two pieces of newspaper and tries to fly. She falls into the water.

JESSICA and HENRY quickly peer over the side once. Then again. They dance on their papers in slow motion.

Scene Four.

JESSICA, KAREN, and HENRY are standing in a line on a ferry. They are holding nothing.

Not first anymore. KAREN

Not first JESSICA

Not ever. JESSICA, HENRY

HENRY and JESSICA kiss violently.

KAREN takes off one shoe and taps HENRY on the shoulder with it.

Not first anymore. HENRY

Not first KAREN

Not ever. JESSICA

JESSICA and HENRY peer over the side. KAREN begins to laugh hysterically.

A huge explosion mauls the air. Lights explode. JESSICA, HENRY and KAREN thrash violently, and then freeze in a post nuclear tableau.

Scene Five.

JESSICA, KAREN, and HENRY are lying dead on the ferry.

After a long time. They speak incredibly slowly.

Crisis KAREN

Nothing JESSICA

HENRY

War

The ferry begins to slowly sink.

THIS PLAY IS NOT OVER!
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