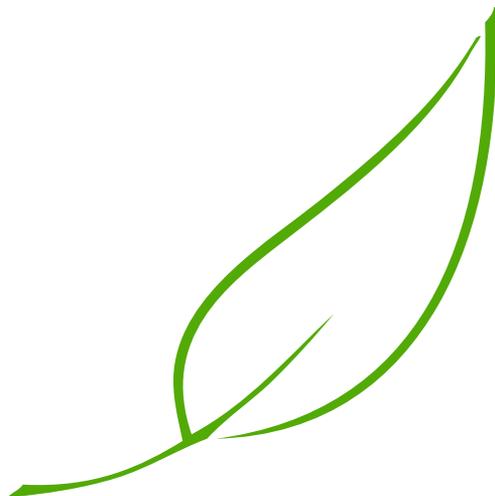


AIR FREIDA

by Ken Bradbury



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(two chairs are on stage, about two feet apart)

Connie: *(in a nasal-ish microphone voice)* We are now boarding Flight 173, Cleveland to Honolulu. All those passengers with small children or other special difficulties should begin boarding first. *(the following “thank you” never changes in its sickening sweetness)* Thank you!

Freida: *(works her way down an imaginary aisle, holding her imaginary parcels high in the air, twisting and turning, trying to wedge her substantial frame down the narrow passageway, speaking to imaginary passengers as she goes)* Scuse me ... sorry ... scuse me ... scuse me ... Oh, sorry ... I didn't see you foot ... Your child? Sorry. He looked like a foot ... Scuse me ... sorry ... *(checking the numbers above each seat)* Row 41 ... 42 ... 43 ... 44 B! Great! An aisle seat. *(as she reaches up)* Now ... to just put a few things away in this ... *(turns to speak to someone behind her)* What? Move what? *(pats her hip)* I can't. It's attached. Well, I'm sorry, but when I turn this way, it's gotta go that way. Yeh. You enjoy your trip, too. *(finally getting her packages stowed, now looking at her seat)* This is a seat? Somebody got a crow bar? Good grief. There's more of me than there is of it. *(turning again to the imaginary passenger across the aisle)* “Take a run at it?” If you're trying to be funny, you've picked the wrong lady, Bubba. *(turning herself to maneuver into the seat)* How can anybody sit in these things? Shoulda greased my hips before I got on board. *(makes a few painful noises as she forces her way down into the seat)* *(finally)* There! And they say your body swells during flight. Great. It's gonna be one swell vacation walking around Hawaii with this seat stuck to my ... What? *(looking up at her imaginary seatmate)* You've got the window seat? Great. *(she begins to pull herself up out of the seat)* Oh,

baby. Come on, Freida ... just a few more inches ... (*suddenly she springs to her feet ... the man across the aisle*) You did not hear a “pop!” (*to her seat-mate*) Here you go, honey ... just crawl right into your holding pen ... (*her seat-mate sits*) ... That looked so easy. You’re really disgusting, you know that? Sorry ... just kidding. (*seating herself again then looking at the space between them*) Hope we get to know each other. I can’t tell where I stop and you start.

Connie: (*in a super-sweet, obviously rehearsed presentation which she’s given every day for the last ten years and sounds like it, turning and facing the “rows” of passengers*) Good morning! Aloha and welcome to TransAmerican airlines! I’m your cabin supervisor, Connie Nental and here’s wishing you a very pleasant flight. In just ten hours ...

Freida: Oh my gosh.

Connie: ... you’ll be landing in beautiful Honolulu.

Freida: I’ll be in no shape ta’ hula.

Connie: ... Now if you would please lean forward and remove the instruction booklet from the seat-pocket in front of you ...

Freida: I don’t have to lean forward, sweetheart. The thing’s in my face already. (*she takes something out of the seat pocket*)

Connie: If you will notice on the back of the instructions ...

Freida: I don’t see any instructions.

Connie: ... You will notice that the emergency exits of today’s aircraft are ...

Freida: (*reading*) “In case of sickness, place bag over mouth ...”

Connie: ... (*making the typical exaggerated gestures*) ... are located over each wing and at the front and rear of the compartment ...

Freida: (*still reading*) “... then give the bag and its contents to the flight attendant for disposal ...”

Connie: (*having heard all this, marches quickly to Freida’s seat, pulls the correct material from the seat pocket*)

and hands it to her with a forced smile) These instructions. (same sick-sweet tone) Thank you! (then marches back to the front of the cabin)

Freida: Oh.

Connie: In case ...

Freida: I knew that.

Connie: *(to herself)* Dumb hick. *(into the microphone)*

In case we should experience a loss in cabin pressure ...

Freida: Honey, there's enough pressure between me and this seat to ...

Connie: If we should lose cabin pressure ...

Freida: Such a nice way of sayin' somebody just blew a hole in the side of the plane.

Connie: *(hearing this but maintaining her composure, again forced)* In case we should experience a loss of cabin pressure ...

Freida: *(to one of the passengers)* She means "In case the plane's goin' down and you're all gonna die!"

Connie: *(her voicing raising a notch or two)* In CASE we should lose cabin pressure, emergency oxygen masks will drop out of the ceiling above your head ...

Freida: *(looking up quickly)* Good grief!

Connie: Please put on your mask first then assist anyone who might be having difficulty.

Freida: *(turning to someone)* That's me. *(to someone else)* That's me.

Connie: Also, your seat cushions can be used as flotation devices ...

Freida: *(to the man across the aisle from her)* I'm gonna use you, Bubba.

Connie: Head phone jacks are located in your arm rest.

Freida: *(looking down at the space)* Sweetheart, there ain't even room for me, much less a headphone.

Connie: Restrooms are located in the fore and aft compartments for today's flight.

Freida: *(to her seat mate)* Where'd they put 'em on yesterday's flight? Can you see Kansas when you flush?



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