

CRASH POSITIONS

by  
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Cast of Characters

MEREDITH, thirtysomething and afraid of flying  
GEORGE, same age but calmer

(An airplane over the Atlantic Ocean somewhere between New York and Bermuda. GEORGE and MEREDITH, thirtysomethings, sit in a pair of airplane seats-- probably just chairs-facing the audience, their chins between their knees. Periodic airplane noise suggests turbulence.)

MEREDITH

I've never had a near-death experience before.

GEORGE

What?

MEREDITH

I said I've never had a near-death experience before.

GEORGE

(not what he wants to hear)

How is this near death?

MEREDITH

An airplane crash is near death.

GEORGE

Have we crashed?

MEREDITH

Not yet.

GEORGE

We are still very much in the air.

MEREDITH

We are, but--

GEORGE

The flight attendant said this is only a precaution.

MEREDITH

Is that why she duct-taped pillows all over her body?

GEORGE

I think she may be pregnant.

MEREDITH

She's drinking an awful lot of vodka for a pregnant woman.

GEORGE

Maybe it's a hysterical pregnancy.

(beat)

There's no reason to assume we're going to crash.

MEREDITH

We've lost an engine.

GEORGE

Lots of planes do perfectly well with one engine. Lots of planes start with only one engine.

MEREDITH

Smaller planes. Smaller planes start with only one engine.

GEORGE

Yes...

MEREDITH

One engine can lift a small plane. Not a big plane. You need more engines to lift a big plane. I consider this a big plane. Do you think the stewardess would give me some of her vodka?

GEORGE

She'd probably charge you three dollars.

MEREDITH

I should have upgraded.

GEORGE

If we do crash, the people in first class'll get it first.

MEREDITH

Don't even joke about a thing like that.

GEORGE

I only-you're the one who keeps saying we're going to crash.

MEREDITH

I didn't say we were going to crash. I mentioned the words "airplane crash." That isn't the same.

GEORGE

(beat)

I had a near-death experience once.

MEREDITH

Is that supposed to make me feel better?

GEORGE

You started talking about near-death experiences.

MEREDITH

I used the words. I used the words "near-death."

GEORGE

Right next to the words "airplane crash."

MEREDITH

I was making conversation. What was I supposed to say? Nice clouds-why are we dropping through them so quickly? Or good day for a water landing? I was trying to get my mind off the details.

(beat)

I can't take this anymore.

(She sits up.)

GEORGE

Get down!

MEREDITH

I'm getting nauseous!

GEORGE

They said to stay down.

MEREDITH

They're not in crash position.

GEORGE

That's because they're attending to the passengers.

MEREDITH

(watches the imaginary flight attendants)

I don't think so.

GEORGE

(peeks at the attendants)

That is really...interesting.

MEREDITH

Isn't that illegal?

GEORGE

I don't know what the rules are about, uh...

MEREDITH

(to the attendants)

Hey, there're children sitting by the bulkhead!

(to a child)

Sweetheart, close your eyes.

(to the attendant)

At least close the curtain!

Like what you see? Hit the back button and follow the instructions to order a perusal copy of the full script