

TERMINAL LOOP

Joe Rendace

Joe Rendace
Jrendace@gmail.com

INT. LGA AIRPORT - GATE - NIGHT

JOHN KITT, 47, lives his life on autopilot, stands with his roller baggage. FAY KITT, 68, kisses him on the cheek.

FAY
Have a safe flight, dear.

JOHN
Thanks for seeing me off, Mom.

FAY
(laughs)
You know I have to wait for your aunt to arrive. You didn't have to fly out near the same time she's landing. I think you did that on purpose.

JOHN
I can only listen to her same stories so many times. She's all yours.

Fay lightly slaps his arm.

FAY
She can be repetitive. But bless her heart, she's been there for us since you were little. It was just you and me, kid.

John rolls his eyes. He kisses the top of her head and turns.

JOHN
Love ya.

Fay holds her hands tight as she watches him board the plane.

TITLE: OCTOBER 21 2020. DELTA FLIGHT 006

INT. AIRPLANE - FRONT - NIGHT

John steps on the plane. Stewardess EVA, 35, content with making a living, smiles at John.

EVA
Joining us again already?

John grins back as he waits for the people in front to move.

JOHN
What can I say? Great peanuts.

EVA

You should have enough free miles
to buy your own peanut farm.

JOHN

How's the newlyweds doing?

Out of the cockpit steps the PILOT TOM, 37. He puts his arm
around Eva's waist and smiles.

PILOT TOM

I offered to take her to Hawaii and
she said no.

Eva pushes his hand off.

EVA

You needed a fill-in for a fourteen
hour direct flight! Working coach!

The line moves and John with it.

JOHN

True love, Tom. You'll go to the
ends of the earth for her, as long
as it's in First Class.

Eva laughs. Pilot Tom winks and returns back into the
cockpit. The steel door locks tightly.

INT. PLANE - MIDDLE

John stops and sighs as the passengers just do not know how
to board in an orderly fashion. A BALD SUIT MAN, 40, slowly
rolls his scarf into a neat square and places it above. The
TEENAGER, 18, in front of John erupts.

TEENAGER

Let's go, baldy! While we're young!

Bald Suit Man huffs and sits. John shakes his head.

A LARGE WOMAN, 34, blocks the aisle as she argues with her
LARGE SON, 12, about finishing his ice cream. It then hits
the TIMID GUY, 45, who's stuck between them, in his face.

Timid Guy just quietly wipes ice cream off his glasses.

John glances at a BIG GUY, 34, who sits with his eyes closed
and his hands locked together. He looks like he's meditating.

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION

John finally reaches his row. He places his bag under the seat in front of him and settles into his aisle seat.

LOIS, 28, simplicity wrapped in a smile, steps over John into her seat. There are only two seats in the row.

LOIS
Oh, yay! When I saw I had a middle
seat, I didn't know it was the
Emergency door row. No third seat!

John politely nods and shuts his eyes. He starts to fade to sleep when he feels her touch his hand on his knee.

LOIS (CONT'D)
Are you flying to or from home?

John opens his eyes and motions to kill the chat, but her smile is genuine. He wets his chapped lips.

JOHN
Yes.

Lois waits, but nothing more is said.

LOIS
Oh. I...well, so you--

JOHN
I fly a lot for work. Home is just
where I would pick up my mail, if I
still picked up mail.

John looks over at the bathroom door next to his aisle. There's an OUT OF ORDER sign on it.

SANITARY SAL, 30s, dressed in a white workman's jumpsuit, steps out of the bathroom with his toolbox. He sees John.

SANITARY SAL
We can't have you flying with this
broken, can we?

JOHN
A six-hour flight this packed with
one working bathroom? That's an
accident waiting to happen, and
nowhere for it to happen.

SANITARY SAL
(winks)
I agree. Let's make sure any
accidents can be prevented.

John shakes his head and closes his eyes. He nods off.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION

Lois nudges John awake. Eva stands next to her drink cart.

JOHN
I just closed my eyes. You're
serving already?

EVA
We left over 45 minutes ago,
sleepy. What'll it be, Mr. Million
Miler? Same as always?

John looks around. Rubs his eyes.

JOHN
Same as always.

LOIS
Ohh, that sounds intriguing.

JOHN
Not really. A Martini, shaken not
stirred, sounds intriguing.

John waits for a reaction. Lois is clueless. John sighs.

EVA
No, it's Honey Jack Daniels. He
gets it every time.

LOIS
Oh! Just water for me.

They get their drinks and Eva moves to the next row behind.
Lois pours her water into her steel Yeti tumbler.

LOIS
I love my Yeti! It's double
reenforced steel. I can crack
walnuts open with it!

John nods like she's crazy. She giggles.

LOIS (CONT'D)
So, a Million Miler? Wow. Does your
wife mind you flying that much?

John peers at his wedding ring. He rubs it with his thumb.

JOHN
No. She doesn't mind it now at all.
She left me two years ago.

Lois bites her lip. She fumbles for a response. He helps.

JOHN
It's fine. Some things are just
meant to be. I keep it on as a
reminder if the plane ever goes
down, there's somebody that would
hopefully remember me.

Lois pouts. She taps his hand a few times.

LOIS
I'm sure there's plenty of people
that would miss you! Kids?

JOHN
Yes. A teenage daughter...

LOIS
Well. There you go!

JOHN
...that stopped talking to me two
weeks ago.

LOIS
Kids! Right? Brothers and sisters?

JOHN
Only child.

Lois is running out of steam, and options.

LOIS
Uh, your parents?

JOHN
Mom would. Dad split when I was a
kid and we've never heard a word
from him since.

Lois pouts again.

LOIS
OK, you're breaking my heart.

John stares as he taps her hand the same amount of times.

JOHN
That's what you get for waking me.

Lois doesn't know how to react. Once he smiles, she's relieved. She giggles, then looks like she's in shock.

LOIS
Now I have to pee.

John's surprised by her bluntness. He looks over and people are lined to use the bathroom across from their seats.

A FLUSH is heard. They watch the Timid Guy come out with Ice cream stains all over his shirt.

JOHN
Maybe it wasn't a good idea to fix
this bathroom.

Lois makes a face and grabs her nose.

LOIS
Amen.

The plane hits light turbulence. Lois leans back. John clicks his phone on. A picture of his wife, DEBRA, 45, and his daughter EMMA, 16, smile in his background photo. Lois looks.

JOHN
I always like to look at them when
turbulence hits. You know, in case
it's the last thing I ever see.

Lois gulps and buckles her seat belt tighter. She clutches her Yeti.

JOHN
(laughs)
I'm kidding. Don't worry. It's
common.

LOIS
For someone that flies all the
time, you sure do talk like to talk
about crashing. Is it nerves or
something deeper?

John stares before he scoffs.

JOHN
I didn't know this was a
therapist's chair. Should I
recline?

Lois grins but doesn't smile.

LOIS
You're deflecting again with
sarcasm. Textbook diversion.

JOHN
Seriously, are you a therapist?

LOIS
Every woman is when men act crazy.
No, I just care.

JOHN
About me?

LOIS
About everyone. Now spill it, we're
here for a while.

Turbulence hits again. Lois is rattled.

JOHN
(laughs)
Relax. When you've flown as much--

The turbulence hits harder. Even John holds his arm rails.
Lois looks white as a ghost. John's not as dismissive now.

JOHN
OK, that was a little rough.
Sometimes we go through patch--

The plane starts to drop. Fast. People scream. Lights
flicker. Oxygen masks drop. Pilot Tom speaks over the P.A
System.

PILOT TOM
Please take your seats immediately.
All crew return to your seats.

Through the window, they see the right-side engine blows the
wing in half. The plane veers sideways. People jolt out of
their seats. Complete hysteria.

The Emergency door next to Lois rips open and starts to suck
her out of her seat. John grabs her arms as she screams.

LOIS
Oh God! Help me! Help me!

JOHN
I got you! Pull up on my--

She's sucked out.

JOHN
Nooo!

John unbuckles himself and tries to get away from the open door. People are hysterical and clawing their way in all directions. John is knocked into the bathroom.

INT. PLANE - BATHROOM

The plane veers and John is thrown up against the closing bathroom door and hits his head. He falls unconscious.

FADE OUT

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION - NIGHT

Lois nudges John awake. Eva stands next to her drink cart.

EVA
What'll it be, Mr. Million Miler?
Same as always?

John sits up in his seat. He startles Eva and Lois. He looks around. Rubs his eyes. He regulates his breath and relaxes.

JOHN
Talk about a nightmare at 30,000
feet.

Lois is confused, but shrugs. John takes a deep breath.

JOHN
(to Eva)
Yes, same as always.

LOIS
Ohh, that sounds intriguing.

John stares at her response. He gets and sips his drink.

JOHN
It's not.

Lois gets her water and Eva moves on. Lois faces John.

LOIS

So, a Million Miler? Wow. Does your wife mind you flying a lot?

John raises his brow. He peers down at his wedding ring.

JOHN

Yes. She hates it.

LOIS

Oh, I'm sure she does! My husband travels too, but not as much as you. I never travel, but we are trying to adapt a child, and I'm going to L.A to meet the mom while he's overseas for work. Exciting!

John take a genuine look at her sweetness. He smiles.

JOHN

Well, that's great. Congrats.
You'll make a great mom.

Lois is joyful. Almost glowing without the pregnancy. She gives his hand a squeeze.

John hears the door unlatch to the bathroom. He turns as he watches the Timid Guy walk out with Ice cream stains on his shirt. He takes a breath and shuts his eyes.

Turbulence hits. John's eyes pop open. Lois leans back.

LOIS

I know it's silly, but I feel like I'm a little girl when the plane shakes like that.

Turbulence hits harder. Her mood shifts. John grabs her hand.

JOHN

Look at me, Lois. And don't look away no matter what. Understand?

She looks at her hand in his tightened grip.

LOIS

John?

The plane starts to drop. Fast. People scream. The oxygen masks drop. Captain Tom speaks over the P.A System.

CAPTAIN

Ladies and gentlemen, please take
your seats immediately. All crew
return to your seats!

JOHN

That's our cue. Get up, NOW.

LOIS

But he just said--

JOHN

NOW!

John grabs Lois and pulls her through the aisle. He looks
back to see the emergency door rip open.

Through the window, John sees the engine blow the wing in
half. The plane veers sideways. People jolt out of their
seats. Complete hysteria.

John grabs her hand and tries to move them through the people
in the aisle towards the front, but the plane flips over.

Lois cracks her neck against the food cart. John screams.
Fire erupts from behind them. He sees the bathroom and claws
to it. He pushes a man, TED, 45, out of his way and sees
Ted's gun drop on the floor.

INT. PLANE - BATHROOM

John enters and kicks the bathroom door shut. All noise
ceases other than the hum of the moving plane.

John opens the door and everything is reset. Eva is serving
people with her cart. Lois sits watching TV.

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION

John slumps in his seat. He stares at Lois. She glances over
and smiles and returns to watching her TV. Eva rolls her cart
over. John cuts her off before she speaks.

JOHN

Nothing for me and water for her.

Eva is surprised. Lois is too, but smiles and nods.

EVA

So, no 'the usual'? That's quite
unusual, Mr. Miserable.

JOHN
I'm not miserable. I'm happily
unhappy.

LOIS
You two are funny. How many flights
have you shared?

EVA
Girl, I lost track years ago. I'm
starting to think he was born on a
plane.

The two women share a laugh. John is stoic.

JOHN
Now, if I only can die on one.

The women stop laughing. John realizes that was too much.

JOHN
Ignore me. I'm still too sober.

Eva stares at him as she makes him a drink anyway. She hands
it to him and leans toward his ear.

EVA
Take this. Text your daughter. Now
I know you didn't since the flight
to Nevada last week. Apologize.

John takes the drink and lowers his head. Eva serves Lois
water and moves on. Lois bites her lip.

LOIS
Daughter?

JOHN
Teenager. Fun years.

LOIS
Oh, I'm sure. I remember mine. My
poor dad.

John appreciates that.

JOHN
She's a lot like her mom. And I did
a bang up job there, too.

John hears the door unlatch to the bathroom. He turns, and
watches the Timid Guy come out with Ice cream stains on his
shirt. John lowers his brow and shakes his head.

JOHN
(mutters)
What the hell is wrong with me?

LOIS
Hmmm? Did you say something?

Light turbulence starts. John panics. He grips his seat.

LOIS
Oh, you too? I'd figure with all
the flying you do...

John puts his phone on. He looks at the photo of his family.

LOIS
Oh, cute. She looks like her. Well,
let's hope that's the end of--

The next bigger turbulence hits. The plane dips. Passengers
scream. John jumps up and darts into the bathroom.

LOIS
Wait! Where are you go--

INT. PLANE - BATHROOM

Once he shuts the door, everything goes quiet, save for the
hum of the working engines.

He peeks out the door. Everything is normal. Eva hasn't
gotten to their section yet. He closes the door and looks in
the mirror. He's sweating. He splashes water on his face.

JOHN
No more drinking, John-boy.

Through the mirror's reflection, he notices the door's lock
and clicks it shut. The bathroom lights go dark for a second.

When they turn back on, John notices the number 595 on the
lock plate. It wasn't there a second ago. He unlatches the
lock and steps out.

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION

John sits. The woman next to him has her body leaned away as
she sleeps. He hears the drinks cart stop and the STEWARDESS,
34, asks what he wants to drink. John looks up. It's not Eva.

JOHN
Where's Eva? Did you switch
sections?

STEWARDESS
Who's Eva?

John blinks a few times. Then laughs.

JOHN
OK. You all want to have a little
fun with me? Fine. Honey Jack.

STEWARDESS
Honey who?

John glares at her. He looks towards the front and back of
the aisle. No Eva. His patience wanes.

JOHN
The same drink I get every flight
since it came out in 2010.

The Stewardess is confused, but laughs.

WOMAN
That's funny. So, it comes out two
years from now?

John's eyes widen.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
We're good getting new alcohol
served here, but we don't have a
magic wand.

The woman next to him stretches and turns.

LADY
I'll have Coke, Miss.

John coils back. The LADY, 38, is not Lois.

JOHN
Did you switch seats? Where's Lois?

LADY
I'm sorry. Who?

John notices the date/time on her TV screen. October 21 2008.

His eyes see it, but he's not processing anything. He laughs
at it in a scoffing manner.

JOHN

The entertainment system is on the fritz. Sure. Par for the course.

The bathroom door opens, and a woman exits. No Timid Guy.

John looks around the plane.

JOHN

Wasn't the interior blue and red?

The Lady leans over and excitedly whispers in John's ear.

LADY

Did you see who's on this flight?
Marla Reeves!

JOHN

The actress?

The woman giggles and nods.

JOHN

No, no. She died years ago... in a
plane crash.

John processes his words. The Lady stops smiling.

LADY

That's not funny. Maybe I will
switch seats.

John reaches in his pocket and looks at his ticket stub.

Seat 21D. Oct 21 2008. American Airlines Flight 595.

JOHN

2008? 595?

The interior lights blink off and back on. John looks around. They flicker again before the power goes off on the whole plane. TVs, lights; everything. John grips his handrails.

He pulls out his phone. It's a Nokia flip phone; circa 2006.

JOHN

No, no, no!

The background engine noise is gone and the plane nosedives. People scream. Chaos begins. John jumps up as the bathroom door opens with a panicking man about to exit.

Johns yanks him out and ducks in.

INT. PLANE - BATHROOM

John slams the door shut and the banging on the door and all other noise cease.

John sees the 595 on the lock plate. He clicks it closed and open. The light somehow still works in the bathroom and it flickers on and off for each click of the lock.

The number 499 appears. He gets angry and clicks it open and shut a few more times. Each time the lights flicker and a new number appears. It stops on 843.

JOHN

Stay sane, John. Stay sane. This too will pass.

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION

He clicks open the door and steps out to a smoke-filled section of the plane. The colors of the interior are orange and white, with floral patterns on the seats.

He leans back into the bathroom and is surprised by the view of himself in the mirror. He has long sideburns, a mustache, and shaggy hair. His shirt is psychedelic; his jeans tight.

He steps back out and sits down into his same seat. The seat next to him is empty. There's no TV screen, just a pouch on the back of the chair in front of him. He removes the newspaper and reads the headline.

PRESIDENT FORD ESCAPES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN CALIFORNIA

John stares at it.

A younger MAN, 28, comes up from behind John.

MAN

Coming through, sir.

John moves his legs so the Man can sit next to him.

MAN (CONT'D)

You were in the can for a while.
Made me have to use the one all the way up in the back.

John stares at the newspaper.

JOHN
1975. It's not possible.

MAN
Oh, it's possible. That pastrami
sandwich they served was spicy!

John looks at all the people around him. Classic 1970s style.

JOHN
(mutters)
Must be too much Honey Jack.

The Man is intrigued.

MAN
Honey? Now that would be a great
Jack Daniels drink.

John glances at him. He shakes his head and laughs.

JOHN
It certainly would be. I must be so
drunk that I'm modifying my same
nightmare.

John peers around the plane again before he looks at the Man.

JOHN
What the hell. I'll let this
...whatever, play itself out. So,
heading to or from?

The Man reflects.

MAN
Isn't that the eternal question?
What causes the answer to change
from day to day?

JOHN
You know. That's exactly how I
feel. But, I didn't mean to delve.
It's not like we have TV on the
back on these seats to stay busy.

John grins. The Man does too.

MAN
Wouldn't that be something?
Someday.

John nods.

JOHN
Someday, indeed.

They both get lost in their thoughts for a moment.

MAN
I'm heading to a new beginning.
Well, hopefully. My wife and I are
separated... and my two-year-old,
God love him, I'm hoping this trip
results in a new job that will
allow me to get my family back
together.

John can relate. His eyes feel his words.

JOHN
I'm sure they're rooting for you.

MAN
(frowns)
I didn't tell them I'm going out to
L.A. because I didn't want anyone
disappointed. You know, if it falls
through.
(beat)
Can you keep a secret? I even used
a fake ID for the flight, in case
it caused a problem with my
unemployment check.

John laughs.

JOHN
Don't worry. Your secret is safe
with me. It's 1975. Who am I going
to tell?
(beat)
And since none of this matters,
I'll tell you my little secret.

The Man is confused, but he turns and focuses. John leans in.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I'm done.

The Man leans back.

MAN
Sorry? Done with what?

JOHN

This. All of this. My wife left. My daughter won't talk to me. I don't really have close friends anymore. To be honest, I took this job years ago for less money because I knew it would be constant travel, and I thought...

John pauses. Frowns.

MAN

You thought?

JOHN

I thought my family would cash in on the insurance if I died in a plane crash. And I wouldn't have to do it to myself.

The Man sits back. He's floored.

MAN

That, Mister, is a lot. They love you. I'm sure of it. You can't just give up and run away.

JOHN

Why not? That's what my father did to us. What goes around... Except I'll leave them plenty.

MAN

I'm sure there's no amount of money that can replace you.

John grins. At least he tries to put one on.

JOHN

That's nice. But, now it makes sense. My head keeps making me think the plane is going down, and I'm not even man enough to die. I guess self-preservation is a bitch. But you know what? If it happens again, I'm not doing a damn thing about it.

The Man pats John's hand. Just like Lois.

MAN

That's heavy, man. Heavy.

John reflects. His eyes flutter to the side.

JOHN
The 70's must have been great. I
was only a kid.

MAN
Bud, you're trippin on something
that isn't done messing with you.

John laughs out loud. He nods. He's about to respond when
light turbulence hits. John looks around. It stops.

MAN (CONT'D)
Oh, don't worry. That's just a
little bump. Do you fly much?

John squints at him. The turbulence hits harder. John moves
to pull out his phone. No phone in 1975. He looks around.

JOHN
Is this really going to happen
again? C'mon! This is not real!

John's loud enough that people turn and stare.

MAN
Are you OK?

John touches his shirt pocket and pulls out his ticket.

JOHN
Delta Flight 843. 843. 843. What
happened on that flight? Was anyone
on it?

The Man is confused.

MAN
Are you asking is there's anyone
famous on this flight? Not that
anyone mentioned.

John relaxes.

JOHN
Good.
(beat)
But that doesn't mean...

Turbulence hits again. Harder. The fasten seat belt lightens.

JOHN

Fine. Bring it on. I'm not moving any more. This is what my psyche wants anyway. Have at it.

MAN

My friend, just relax. It's OK.

PILOT TOM (O.S.)

Please take your seats.

MAN

You think you have bad luck? This flight could go down and my little John-Boy won't know where I went, or get a cent.

John's eyes widen.

JOHN

John-Boy?

He lifts the Man's ticket sticking out of the seat pouch.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You said your name isn't Thomas Rett? What is it?

MAN

Excuse me?

The turbulence hits as hard as the last. John barks at him.

JOHN

What's your name?!

People stare. The Man's eyes show he's intimidated.

MAN.

It's Walter. Why?

John squeezes his eyes shut.

JOHN

Walter Hobbs?

The Man, now Walter, is surprised.

WALTER

Yes. Do I know you?

John opens his eyes. He unconsciously mouths the word...

JOHN

Dad?

Turbulence hits hard. The lights flicker. The plane dips. People panic. John folds his arms and doesn't move.

MAN

My God, what's happening?

The plane's left engine explodes. It rips through the emergency door and sucks out people.

JOHN

Damn it!

John unbuckles and jumps up while chaos erupts. He grabs Walter.

JOHN

Let's go! Now!

WALTER

Go where?!

They scramble into the aisle and John reaches for the bathroom door as the drink cart quickly rolls and jams in front of the door.

The left wing cracks off in the flames and takes part of the frame with it. People get sucked out of the plane. John clings to the drink cart and Walter.

WALTER

Let me go! Save yourself!

JOHN

We need to get in the bathroom!
Before the plane rips apart!

WALTER

No! We're doomed!

John grimaces. He slams his forehead into his Walter's head and knocks him out.

John kicks the cart out of the way and drags Walter into the bathroom. When John kicks the door closed, the shift of the plane causes his head to bang against the sink. He knocks himself unconscious.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PLANE - BATHROOM

John wakes on the floor, alone, back in his original clothes.

All is quiet. He stands and jiggles the lock latch until he finds the original flight number; 006.

He opens the door and he's back on the first flight.

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION

He sits in his seat. Lois smiles at him.

LOIS
Feeling alright?

JOHN
Hmm? Oh, yeah. Great. Like a cat
with nine lives. Purring along.

LOIS
There goes that wit again.

JOHN
(beat)
Since that means our therapist
session is still going, let me ask
you a question.

Lois is surprised, but happy.

LOIS
Therapist? Oh, OK? Fire away.

JOHN
Might not want to say 'fire' on a
plane.

LOIS
(giggles)
True. What's your question?

JOHN
Do you ever have a nightmare that
you can't wake from?

LOIS
Oh. Well--

JOHN

I mean like one that is on a loop.
Where you keep having it with some
variations, but ultimately the same
horrific ending?

Lois stares blankly at her TV screen. She bites her lip.

LOIS

I...uh. Not that I can remember?

John nods and squeezes his lips together.

JOHN

Right. Me either. I need a drink.

He looks down the aisle and doesn't see Eva.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Did I miss drinks?

LOIS

No, not yet.

John looks out at the engine on the wing.

JOHN

Wait. How long ago did we leave?

LOIS

Well, the bathroom tech had
trouble. We were delayed 30 minutes
while you napped. We just took off
a few minutes ago.

John looks at the bathroom door.

JOHN

And I got up and used it?

Lois stops watching her TV.

LOIS

Are you alright?

John rises.

JOHN

Apparently not. Excuse me.

John takes a step and opens the bathroom door. A BIG GUY, 32,
stands looking at his Iphone with his back to John. On his
phone is a picture of a DIPLOMAT, 55.

The Big Guy, holds his phone down and glares at John.

BIG GUY
Occupied.

The Big Guy slams the door shut. The lock clicks.

INT. PLANE - BACK SECTION

John walks toward the back of the plane. He looks at rows of passengers, some returning his gaze. He sees the Diplomat sitting in the middle seat.

Two burly men sit around him. They eye John as he turns back.

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION

John returns to his seat. Lois smiles.

LOIS
Better?

JOHN
(beat)
Worse.

LOIS
Oh, a bad tummy, huh?

John does a double glance towards her. He closes his eyes.

JOHN
Do you ever wonder how many flights
carry someone of importance?

LOIS
Well, we're all important!

JOHN
Uh, sure. But I mean of cultural or
political importance.

LOIS
I don't really follow politics. But
I don't mind a good hunk or two.
Why? Who did you see?

John glances backward.

JOHN
No one of importance to me.
(beat)
But I think important to someone.

John notices Ted return to his seat from the front bathroom. He rises and walks toward Ted. When the woman behind Ted rises and walks to the bathroom, John slips in her seat.

John leans forward and whispers towards Ted.

JOHN
Excuse me.

Ted lifts his head from his reading his phone. He tilts it back toward John, but he doesn't turn around.

TED
Yes?

JOHN
I know who you are.

TED
Excuse me?

JOHN
I know who you are. We need to talk.

Ted slowly turns and studies John's face. John does the same.

TED
Who am I?

JOHN
You're the Air Marshall.

Ted's brow rises. He remains stoic. He glances around.

TED
I think you have me confused with someone else. Now, if you don't mind, I'd like to finish my show.

Ted turns back to his TV. John put his arm on Ted's shoulder. Ted looks at John's hand, but doesn't react.

JOHN
Listen to me. I've seen you on a lot of flights. And you've seen me.

TED

Buddy, please remove your arm.

John slowly pulls it back. He leans closer.

JOHN

There's a man in the bathroom. And I think he's meaning to harm a diplomat in the rear of the plane.

TED

(beat)

And why would you think that?

JOHN

He's got a picture of him on his phone. Not a pleasant-looking dude.

Ted turns his head back to John. He studies his face again.

JOHN

Don't look at me like I'm crazy!

Passenger heads turn. John pieces it further together.

JOHN

Oh my God. He's going to blow the engine! You need to stop him before we all die!

John's raised voice turns every head in their vicinity. Someone screams. Ted rises and takes John by the arm.

TED

Come with me.

Ted pulls John with him toward the rear just as the Big Guy exits the bathroom. He catches eyes with Ted and John.

John panics. He lifts Ted's jacket from behind and pats him down for a gun.

JOHN

Damn it! Where's your gun?! He's going to set off the detonator to the bomb!

Passengers scream. The Big Guy is surprised. Ted flips around and tackles John to the floor.

TED

Calm down! Stop it!

A gun falls from Ted's body as he punches John in the stomach. The Big Guy picks up the gun and points it at them.

BIG GUY
You should have just stayed out of
the bathroom, you fool.

The Big Guy shoots Ted in the head. He dies. People scream and duck down. John is splattered with Ted's blood.

The Big Guy points it at John.

JOHN
No! This isn't how it ends!

BIG GUY
(grins)
Everyone will be dead shortly. But
that's not your concern anymore.

The Big Guy shoots John in the chest. John hits the floor.

INT. PLANE - JOHN'S SECTION

John convulses forward in his seat. Lois is startled.

LOIS
Hey! Are you OK?

John's sweating. He needs a moment to regulate his breathing.

JOHN
What the hell just happened?

Lois is clueless.

LOIS
Uh, you nodded off again. Do you
not sleep well on all the flights
you've taken? You should try a
Tylenol PM or something strong.

John stares at the TV screen. He pulls out his phone and starts texting to his daughter.

ON PHONE SCREEN

Dad: Emma, I'm sorry about the fight we had.

Dad: I'm sorry about a lot of things. I should have been a better dad. And husband.

BACK TO JOHN

John stares at the phone. There's no response. Lois touches his shoulder.

LOIS
Really, are you OK?

John's response is a sad smile. He shrugs. His phone DINGS.

ON PHONE SCREEN

Emma: I didn't plan on responding, but that was some pretty crazy 'End of Days' stuff. Are you drunk?

John: No. Just being honest with you.

John: And myself, for once.

Emma puts the Heart emoji on both his last texts.

BACK TO JOHN

John smiles and leans back. He looks at Lois. He's content.

LOIS
Everything all better?

JOHN
No, but it's a start.

He grips her hand and they share a smile together. Moderate turbulence hits. John's trance is broken. He panics.

JOHN
I can't stop it. It just keeps happening.

LOIS
Stop what?

JOHN
It's too late. We left an hour ago.

LOIS
OK, well, I don't know what you're talking about, but no, the bathroom tech had trouble. We were delayed 30 minutes while you napped. We just took off a few minutes ago.

John stares at her.

JOHN

I napped? The whole time?

She politely smiles.

LOIS

Out like a baby. Well, after you
came back to your seat.

John stares ahead. Starts to rock as he talks to himself.

JOHN

Came back when? Which time?

Lois starts to put her TV earbuds back in and stops.

LOIS

Excuse me? Oh. Uh, well, I was kind
of watching my show--

JOHN

So did I dream it all? Or some of
it? I had to.

John clenches his teeth and squeezes his eyes closed.

JOHN (CONT'D)

But if I didn't, there's still time
to land. Maybe. Right?

LOIS

Uh, are you talking to me?

He rocks more and more until he bursts his eyes open.

JOHN

Fuck!

He grabs her Yeti tumbler and jumps from his seat.

JOHN

You're going to get to meet your
baby out in L.A!

Lois is finally at a loss for words. She stares as he runs
toward the front of the plane.

LOIS

But I didn't tell you...

John focuses on the back of the head of Ted.

Just before Ted turns, John slams the Yeti into the back of the head of Ted. People scream, but no one moves.

As Ted slumps forward, John pats down his chest and pants.

JOHN
Come on! Son of a bitch!

The Big Guy starts to rise from two rows behind John.

BIG GUY
Easy there, buddy. Leave him alone.

John searches furiously. The Big Guy steps into the aisle.

BIG GUY
I'm only asking once more bef--

John pulls the gun out and points it at the Big Guy. People gasp and more screams fill the cabin.

JOHN
Aha! I knew it! I knew it!

John shakily points the gun at the Big Guy. He sits.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Don't test me! I'm trying to save
this plane! Where's the detonator?
Tell me!

The Big Guy stares at John. He keeps his hands raised.

BIG GUY
Sir, you need to calm down and
lower the gun. No one knows what
you're talking about.

John's sweat drips down his cheek. He looks at everyone looking at him. Some in horror. A few in shock.

JOHN
Empty your pockets! Now!

The Big Guy slowly complies. All he has is his phone, gum and a package of tissues. John hears Eva from behind him.

EVA
Oh, dear Lord! John!

John turns towards Eva and their eyes lock. John's hysteria scares Eva. She backs a step as he takes one toward her.

JOHN
No, please. You don't--

The Big Guy tackles John from behind. They fall to the floor as he hits John repeatedly. John hits him in the head with the gun and the Big Guy falls unconscious. Eva runs.

John staggers up and limps after her.

JOHN
Stop! Eva, please!

More screams as John runs toward the front of the plane, straight at Eva and the Pilot's door. He runs shoulder-first into the steel reinforced door, but it doesn't budge.

JOHN
Open this door!

Passengers are hesitant to do something, but a few rise and move slowly into the aisle. John Notices. Eva is frozen in fear and shock. John locks eyes with her.

EVA
John?

He grabs Eva and puts the gun to her head. The passengers stop in place. Women scream. Babies cry. Eva sobs.

JOHN
Stand back or she dies first!

John whispers in her ear.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I'll never hurt you. Ever. Please
help me.

John pulls the phone receiver off the wall.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Get Tom on the phone. Now.

Eva is terrified, but complies. Pilot Tom answers.

PILOT TOM (O.S.)
Who is this?

JOHN
I have a gun to her head, Tom. Turn
around and put the plane down now!

PILOT TOM (O.S.)
John? What the... remain calm. We--

JOHN
Put it down now, Tom! Or I'll shoot
one person every minute you delay
it! And I'll start with Eva!

Ted slowly walks toward John, rubbing his head.

TED
Sir, put the gun down. Let's take a
deep breath.

John points the gun at him.

JOHN
Stop! We don't have time! If we
don't land now, the left engine
will blow and kill us all!

Ted keeps his arms raised as he looks out the window.

TED
Are you saying you planted a bomb?

John's frustrations boil over.

JOHN
No. No! That man has to have a
detonator! Or maybe there's someone
else with him back there! I don't
know, but it will blow!

EVA
John, please. You're scaring me.

John is erratic. He whispers to Eva.

JOHN
Trust me, I know what's going to
happen. How do you think I know he
had a gun?

Eva is paralyzed in fear. She stutters.

EVA
John, you... you've been on so many
flights that we both recognize him.

Her rationale is plausible. John gets lost in his head.

Lois walk up behind Ted. She's in tears.

LOIS

Please, John. Don't do this.

Turbulence hits and Eva trips against John, causing him to accidentally shoot a window in first class. The inner glass shatters but the seal to the outer window remains intact.

Surprised by his own actions and the passengers jumping up, John is caught off guard when Ted tackles him.

The two men fight as the plane suddenly tilts. John rolls and hits Ted twice in the stomach. Just as he's about to knock Ted out, John notices the left engine spark out on the wing.

Ted kicks John hard and jumps on top of him. He flips John over and wire ties his arms behind him.

The plane's left engine blows.

Eva sees it. She stares at the passengers in full panic and notices the Big Guy sitting calmly in his seat with his eyes closed and a smile on his face.

EVA

Oh, no.

She looks at John, beaten and bloodied on the floor. Ted rises and shoves a knapsack in the shot-out glass window.

Captain Tom speaks over the P.A System.

CAPTAIN TOM (O.S.)

Everyone please fasten your
seatbelts and prepare for an
immediate landing!

Most passengers comply, others run for the back of the plane.

As the airliner shakes erratically, luggage crash from the top bins. As one is about to drop on John, Eva grabs it.

EVA

I got you. I got you.

John looks at her as she shields his body from anything else.

Eva rises and walks briskly through the aisle. In one swift motion, she lifts the Yeti tumbler from Ted's empty seat and slams it into the side of the Big Guy's head, just as he opens his eyes. He slumps unconscious.

A detonator rolls out of his clenched hand.

EXT. LGA - RUNWAY - NIGHT

The plane skids down on the runway. Flames engulf the left wing and the underbelly of the plane as the wheels collapse.

INT. LGA - AIRPORT GATE - NIGHT

Passengers and workers run towards the multi-story windows. Fay hurries along to look out. She yells behind her.

FAY
Hurry up, we'll miss it!

EXT. LGA - RUNWAY - NIGHT

Cop cars, ambulances and fire trucks scramble to the wreck.

EXT. PLANE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

The maintenance crew prys the damaged door open. The passengers all scramble off the plane. Crew and Pilots next.

EXT. LGA- TARMAC - NIGHT

Both the Big Guy and John are led away separately in handcuffs. Eva and Lois talk to a COP, 38.

EVA
Please. He kept saying it was going to blow. He must have learned that the guy was going to blow the engine! That's why he wanted us to land! Ask others who heard him!

LOIS
He did! He's not a terrorist!
Please, listen to us!

The Cop calmly writes his notes like he's writing a ticket.

COP
Everyone will be interviewed, Miss.

Lois turns to Eva.

LOIS
I never mentioned I was going to see about adopting a child.

Eva hugs Lois. She makes eye contact with John as he's led away. He sadly grins.

The authorities escort John toward the door to the Terminal. He see Sal standing in front of his Sanitary Toilet truck.

Sal gives John a wink and a thumbs up. John is puzzled. He walks past a fire truck that impedes his view. When he gets on the other side of it, there's no sign of Sal or his truck.

INT. LGA - AIRPORT GATE - NIGHT

Security cops form a barrier to keep the gawking passengers and airport worker back as they walk John out. Smartphones are held in the air as they snap pictures and videos.

John lowers his head, but raises it when he sees his mother. Fay gasps. Her eyes water as she clutches her arms.

John's head drops until he realizes she's not alone. Walter, his now aged father, stands behind Fay with his arm around her waist. Sadness envelops Walter's face.

Coming up from behind Fay is Debra and Emma. They hold each other as Debra mouths the words 'I love you' to John.

John's stoic expression slowly turns into a genuine smile.

AFTER CREDITS SCENE

EXT. LGA- TARMAC - NIGHT

Sanitary Sal's van drives out of the airport.

INT. SANITARY SAL'S VAN (MOVING)

Sal drives. He tosses his hat on the seat next to him. His van radio is in the shape of a large video screen.

He presses the screen and a picture of Walter Hobbs appears.

A phone call RINGS. Sal hits a button to put it on speaker.

VOICE (O.S.)
Is Walter secured.

SANITARY SAL
He's alive. A bit old.

VOICE (O.S.)
Age is irrelevant.

SANITARY SAL
That's what you keep saying. What happens to John?

VOICE
Also irrelevant now. But, if you require happy endings, he will be released after a thorough investigation.

SANITARY SAL
That's good.

VOICE (O.S.)
You've played your role quite effectively. Continue your course and you'll get what you seek.

Sal's usual smile fades. He looks at a picture pinned to his window visor. It's a photo of Sal, VANESSA, 34, and PETER, 7.

VOICE (O.S.)
With these three now secured, we can move on to the next piece.

Sal's video monitor of Walter changes to 3 pictures. Walter, JESSICA REED, 35 and EVERETT CANE, 45. Sal exhales.

SANITARY SAL
Name and year?

END