

To Sonja -
From our flight - 2006
Sharon Surhoff

TEXAS AIR

By

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Synopsis

What happens when Homeland Security gets involved in the flight of a puppy from Texas to New Jersey

Characters

Stacey *26, stewardess, blonde, authoritarian, heavy, Gestapo attitude*

Margaret *56, middle-aged, soft-spoken, polite*

Steve *28-48, security officer newly promoted due to Homeland Security*

Maxine *4 months old Yorkshire terrier, leaving her dog family, sings, big ego, mouthy*

Setting

Place: airport boarding area, Dallas - Fort Worth airport

Time: afternoon, any day

Set

Podium for stewardess to collect tickets

(NOTE: songs and lyrics written before 1922 are considered public domain)

(STACEY stands at podium-type table to check tickets. Off-stage is heard MAXINE singing "America the Beautiful" 1895)

Maxine

(Off-stage)

Oh beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountains majesty
Above the fruited plain.
America, America . . .

(ENTER MARGARET carrying one very small shoulder bag luggage, shoulder purse, and pet carrier in hand actually carried by MAXINE, the Yorkie)

Maxine

(panting with excitement)

I'm going flying . . . I'm going flying!

Stacey

Whoa! Looks like you've got too many bags there. You've got to check one of those.

Margaret

You've got to be kidding! I paid extra for the pet carrier. Eighty dollars. She's got her own ticket.

Maxine

Yeah! And I'm going for "my wings!" Yorkies can do anything. I'll be "first Yorkie on flight."

Stacey

(deaf to extra ticket)

No. FAA regulations say one bag in the bin and one under the seat. You have one too many. You have to send one through baggage.

Margaret

You've lost your mind! I paid extra for a ticket for the puppy.

Stacey

No Ma'am. FAA rules. Open it!

(indicates the small luggage piece)

Margaret
It's her puppy food! Eukanuba puppy formula. It's all she eats.

(opens luggage)

Maxine
My kibbles! Woof!

Stacey
Oh my God! Toothpaste! Give it here, Lady!

(holds out her hand)

Margaret
(reluctantly hands it over)
It's medicinal. Special for my sensitive gums.

Stacey
Sorry. Rules are rules. Check it or lose it.

Margaret
(opens purse)
I'll just put it in here.

Maxine
(looks in purse)
More kibbles?

Stacey
(looking in Margaret's purse)
Deodorant! You just don't know how to travel, do you!
(takes deodorant from purse)

Maxine
(Backs away from purse and Stacy, leery)

Gr-r-r-r . . . Woof!

Margaret
I don't want to *smell* . . . I don't want *bad breath*.

Maxine

Ack! . . . Dog breath! . . . *Halitosis*. . . Don't look at *me* . . . I've got *puppy* breath.

Stacey

You want to blow up the plane? Don't you realize the consequences of having toothpaste and deodorant! Terrorism! That's what they use - Health and beauty products.. You're irresponsible . . . as much a threat as they are!

Margaret

You're nuts! You're . . . an automaton.

(pushes past Stacey)

I can't deal with this stupidity.

Maxine

I know what you mean . . . She's *untrainable!* . . . *Bad News!*

Stacey

(grabs Margaret. Blows whistle)

Rules are *rules*, Madam. I'll call security on you . . . We have *prisons!*

Margaret

(turns and knocks Stacey's hands off her)

Let go of me. *You're* the terrorist. . . turning this country into a police state. This is the last time I fly on an airline like this.

(ENTER STEVE)

Steve

What's the problem here?

Stacey

This woman assaulted me.

Maxine

Liar! *You're* probably part *pitbull*.

Steve

(addresses Stacey)

Assaulted you? . . . Is that so?

(turns to Margaret)

We don't condone violent passengers, Lady. Come with me.

(takes Margaret's arm to lead her away)

Margaret

Let go of me! What's the matter with you people? I'm trying to get on this flight to Newark.

Steve

Us people? *You*, Lady, are causing the ruckus. *I* was called to attend to *you*.

Maxine

(excited, shakes her carrier)

They're fighting like cats and dogs!

Stacey

She can't get on our flight. She has toothpaste and deodorant and she won't give them up. She has too many bags and she's causing disturbances. Let's flag her so she'll never fly again.

Margaret

What! A purse, a puppy and *one* bag . . . for *two* tickets!

Steve

I'm sorry, Ma'am. You're undesirable and need to be controlled. We can't let you on any airline.

Margaret

But . . . what about my rights?

Maxine

Show them your pedigree! Show them your *papers*!

Stacey

Lady, you lost your rights when you bought your ticket. You became subject to FAA rules and regulations and forfeited your Constitutional rights. You were in violation as soon as you brought toothpaste and deodorant into the airport.

Steve

If I'd known about *that*, I'd have arrested you on the spot. Instead, we discovered you concealing it in your bags like any ordinary terrorist, which resulted in all this commotion.

Margaret

(Sitting down, overwhelmed)

May I have a drink of water?

Steve

(shocked)

No, Ma'am! No liquids allowed in the airport. You *are* a glutton for punishment, aren't you?

Margaret

My God! Is there no reason left? What has become of common sense?

Maxine

Woof! Bad girl! . . . Bad girl.

Stacey

See? There you go again! You're right, everyone else is wrong.

Margaret

No. I'm only trying to take this puppy home with me.

Stacey

That confirms it! You're *unstable*. No one in his right mind would take a puppy on an airplane. It must be a diversionary tactic. You've probably got drugs or bombs stashed in the puppy carrier.

(addresses Steve)

Security! . . . Seize that carrier and take it to be imploded on the bomb range.

Margaret

(overcome, arms around carrier, hanging on with all her strength)

No! No! My puppy is in there. *Maxine!* Let go! . . . Help! . . . Help!

Steve

(tears carrier from her and gives it to Stacey, takes Margaret's arm)

I've got to remove you from here, Lady. You are a bad example to the other passengers.

Maxine

(shaken up)

Hey! What about New Jersey? Put me down. I have plans beyond this dust bowl. Listen! Get me out of Texas!

(Begins to sing altered Red River Valley - 1896)

From this valley they say I am going
They will miss my bright eyes and sweet bark
For they say I am taking the sunshine . . .

See? Even Texas isn't big enough for a Yorkie. We need *land* . . . lots 'a *land* . . .

(starts to hum)

Margaret

Maxine! . . . Maxine!

(trying unsuccessfully to escape from Steve)

Let go of me! Give me my puppy!

Steve

That would be irresponsible of me, Lady. I've got a job to do.

Margaret

(being hauled away)

But what about my puppy? She's why I took this trip.

Stacey

You should have thought more about the cur when you booked this flight.

(EXIT STACEY with dog carrier)

Margaret

(calling after STACEY)

But she has her own ticket! I paid eighty dollars . . .

Steve

You're the crazy one, Lady. Why didn't you put the small bag and your purse in a larger bag. No one would stop you with just one bag and the carrier.

Margaret

But I paid eightydollars for . . .

Steve

(pulling her off stage, roughly)

C'mon. . . Stop trying to make sense of it.

Maxine

(Off-stage singing: The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You - 1903 (to the tune of "I've Been Working On The Railroad")

The eyes of Texas are upon you,
All the live long day.
The eyes of Texas are upon you,
You cannot get away.

(Loud explosion off-stage)

End Play

