

Dr. Alban Mazal Tov

Jimmy was born at the age of 15. On his first flight a few years ago, he was delighted that he was having the entire row for himself. Now he is on a plane on his way to Milano, but the empty seat beside him makes him sad.

The plane is departing and he is eagerly waiting for the flight attendants to pass with the food cart. He is not hungry and he doesn't like Airplane food.

On Jimmy's left side there is a 47 year old man. He looks a bit like a camel. The empty seat between them feels like an ocean. Mr. Camel is carefully watching the back of the seat in front of him to avoid eye contact with Jimmy.

Camel works as a taxi driver in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is tired of people's shocked reaction while he tells them that he has never been to Europe. A couple of weeks ago, he picked up a passenger that didn't stop rambling on about her dreamy vacation in milano. Afterwards he was intensively targeted by American Airlines ads till he gave up and booked a flight.

Jimmy and Mr. Camel finished their meals. Then they nodded to each other with a polite smile and fell asleep.

Mr. Camel woke up from a pungent foot fungus smell. A new passenger was sitting in the seat between him and Jimmy. She is cutting her toenails.

Mr. Camel wondered how she got there, why she is cutting her toenails in the plane, and mostly- why her foot is so stinky? The strange lady left her toenails half cut and presented herself: "Hello, I am Dr. Alban Mazal Tov".

Dr. Alban Mazal Tov finished her medical studies 2 weeks ago, on her 33rd birthday. During her 7 years of studying, she had 19 dates, 3 different boyfriends and 4 orgasms. She also had more than 900 panic attacks of varying intensity, watched just 6 good movies and thought more than 10 times about killing herself.

After long 10 seconds, Mr. Camel finally asked: "Why are you cutting your nails here?" Dr. Alban Mazal Tov responded with ease: "Oh... I don't want to die with long ugly nails".

Mr Camel felt sorry that she did not die before she arrived on the flight with her smelly nails. Unfortunately, she went on:

"You see... I really tried to be happy, I am just tired of searching for a purpose to live. I am tired. Have you ever tried to convince yourself that the muffin you are eating is not dry? And one day you give up.

You sit with your friend at the coffee shop and you tell them that you are not enjoying the muffin anymore. It's dry and shitty, and the fact we are speaking so much about the tasteless muffin shows how distant we are from being connected to the basic instinct of being alive. And then.. I just gave up.

I need something stronger than a conversation about a muffin to feel alive. So I am going to blow up this plane :) "

Jimmy had a strange dream. In his dream he was dating a dinosaur, then they had a huge fight over a muffin and decided to break up. He was pretty happy to wake up near this barefoot hippie woman. But he didn't understand why the Camel guy was trying to convince her to kill herself in a "polite and harmless way". Jimmy enjoyed the bizarre conversation and decided to act like he is still sleeping and listened to what was going on.

"It's all because of your lack of orgasms. When we land I will buy you a vibrator, I am sure afterwards you wouldn't want to commit suicide. And if you still want to - do it politely. One woman told me that there are beautiful magical bridges to jump from in Milano."

Dr. Alban Mazal Tov started to lose her patience. She explained to Mr. Camel that the world is a place destined for destruction and demise, that we are all hopeless.

She gave him examples based on the sad meaningless history of human beings. She spoke about religion, corruption, money and climate changes.

Mr. Camel firmly announced that he is tired of her bullshit. "You are just a woman who likes to talk too much. You are not brave enough to commit suicide, let alone to blow up this plane."

Dr. Alban opened her backpack and took a Babushka (Matryoshka) out of it. The classic Russian grandmother doll had a unique ancient brown colour and two noticeable elements - it had the whiskers and claws of a cat.

Dr. Alban uncovered the first Babushka layer and asked Mr. Camel to uncover the next one. He did what she said.

Then she uncovered the third layer, and he opened the fourth one... He seemed to be more nervous with every layer that had been opened.

Dr Alban opened the fifth and final layer and took out the last smallest Babushka doll. This tiny one had a red button instead of a nose.

Mr. Camel looked nervous. Dr. Alban had a big crazy smile spread on her face. And Jimmy suddenly stretched out his hand and pressed the red button.