

text messages hurt more when you're sitting at the airport

# EXTRACT

## text messages hurt more when you're sitting at the airport

a short play

by

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## **text messages hurt more when you're sitting at the airport**

### **characters**

KANE      twenty something

DORIS     sixty something

### **time**

night.

### **setting**

a gate at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris.

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Gate. Charles de Gaulle Airport. Paris. Evening.

The lights come up on **KANE**. He is sitting listening to an ipod, reading a book.

After a few moments **DORIS** enters. She struggles with a large backpack.

**DORIS** puffs and pants trying to catch her breath. She looks at **KANE**, trying to make contact. **KANE** is oblivious to her presence.

She sits a few seats away from **KANE**.

**KANE**'s iphone vibrates in his pocket. He takes it out and looks at it. He smiles as he recognizes the sender.

He opens the message. After a few moments his face starts to change. He says loudly:

KANE: YOU ARE KIDDING!

**DORIS IS STUNNED AND LOOKS AT KANE.**

KANE: NO WAY!

**DORIS STANDS AND GOES TO KANE. SHE GESTURES TO HIM.**

KANE: (STILL LOUD) What's wrong?

**DORIS POINTS AT HIS EARPHONES. KANE RIPS THEM OUT.**

KANE: Sorry. Did I just –

DORIS: You might want to wind down the volume or we may have an international incident.

KANE: I'm sorry – it's just –

DORIS: Bad news?

KANE: You could say that. (LOOKING AT MESSAGE AGAIN) I can't believe this!

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**KANE STARTS TAPPING OUT A REPLY.**

DORIS: What are you doing?

KANE: Sending a reply.

DORIS: Is that such a good idea? Many an email written in anger has got me in trouble. Just ask husband no.3. We arrive in Singapore in 13 hours. Wait till then.

KANE: 13 hours!

DORIS: I know it seems a lifetime at your age – but it's not that long. Trust me.

KANE: A lot can happen in 13 hours.

DORIS: Bake a cake? Complete a triathlon? Watch the Mahabharata?

KANE: (FINISHES TYPING. HITS SEND) Done.

DORIS: Did you at least check it first?

KANE: Punctuation isn't too important at this point.

DORIS: As long as you didn't write *buy* 1.2 million shares, instead of *sell* 1.2 million shares.

**KANE LOOKS AT HER.**

DORIS: So it's a girl then?

**KANE TURNS AWAY.**

DORIS: You don't look the *buy and sell* type - husband no. 1 played the market, I can usually pick them – but then they don't always look like the *buy and sell* type either. Look at that Jeff Stuckenberg from what's-its-face.

KANE: Mark Zuckerberg.

DORIS: Listen love, if you're worth 25 billion dollars it doesn't matter what people call you.

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KANE: So how do you know it's a girl?

DORIS: To get a reaction like that it had to be a girl or a load of money and since it's not that it has to be a girl. Unless of course it's a boy.

**KANE LOOKS AT HER.**

DORIS: Okay, it's a girl.

**KANE LOOKS AT HIS PHONE.**

DORIS: She's not going to reply.

KANE: How do you know?

DORIS: Well not before we get on the plane.

KANE: How do you know?

DORIS: Motherly intuition.

**KANE LOOKS AT HER.**

DORIS: You've got a nasty pair of eyes, you know that?

KANE: You're the one initiating this conversation.

DORIS: I'm just trying to help.

KANE: How do you know she's not going to reply? You didn't even read her message.

DORIS: No but I'm pretty sure it wasn't "Hi babe, can't wait to see you. Kiss kiss." I'd say it was probably closer to: "Hi babe, you're dumped."

KANE: That's not what it said.

DORIS: What word are they using these days? "Outmoded, deleted, I'm taking you off my Friend list."

KANE: She didn't dump me.

DORIS: Let me read the message then.