

BETTER THAN PRE-CHECK

Maddie McDowell

INT. LAX AIRPORT

BEN and CLAIRE, a couple in their 50s, have checked their bags and stand just beyond airport security. It's busy in the terminal and the line is long and winding.

CLAIRE

Wow, look at the line for security.
I've never seen it like this!

BEN

It's a holiday weekend, sweetie.
But, hey, that's what we've got Pre-
Check for!

CLAIRE

True. I'm really glad we signed up
for that. Although, it looks like
even the Pre-Check line is still
pretty long...

A STRANGER a few steps ahead of them, turns around having overheard their conversation. He starts to talk in a conspiratorial tone.

AIRPORT STRANGER

Have you heard of CLEAR?

Ben and Claire look at each other before both shaking their heads.

BEN

CLEAR? No, we haven't heard of
that.

AIRPORT STRANGER

It's even better than Pre-Check.

CLAIRE

Better than Pre-Check?! How is that
possible?

AIRPORT STRANGER

Came out a few months ago. Super
new and WAY better than Pre-Check.

(MORE)

AIRPORT STRANGER (CONT'D)

All you gotta do is scan your fingers and your eyeballs at that machine over there and you can totally skip to the front of the line.

BEN

Scan my eyeballs?! Sounds pretty sci-fi. But that line... So long...

BEN glances over at the throngs of people gathering at the security gate.

CLAIRE

I think we should do it.

BEN

You're right. Hey man, thanks for the tip.

BEN and CLAIRE walk over to the Clear machine and scan their fingers and their eyeballs.

BEN (CONT'D)

Welcome to the future, Claire! Just call me George Jetson!

CLAIRE

Now we're CLEAR-ed for departure, ha ha!

A woman walking by stops when she hears Claire.

AIRPORT STRANGER 2

Did you guys just get CLEAR?

BEN

Yeah! And thank goodness because that security line is only getting longer.

AIRPORT STRANGER 2

You know that there's something even better, right?

CLAIRE

What? No. Seriously?

AIRPORT STRANGER 2

Yeah. It's called TOTAL TRANSPARENCY. They started doing it two weeks ago.

(MORE)

AIRPORT STRANGER 2 (CONT'D)

All you gotta do is tell the agent your deepest darkest secret and you can skip the line AND keep your backpack on the whole time.

BEN

Wow, geez. That's very...personal. But if it means we don't have to deal with the bottle neck at the luggage scanner, we're in!

BEN and CLAIRE walk up to the TRANSPARENCY agent and take turns whispering in the man's ear. CLAIRE whispers quickly and the agent shows no reaction. BEN whispers for a good long while. The agent's eyebrows raise very far up on his forehead.

CLAIRE

Seems like you had a lot to say there, Ben.

BEN has a far-away look in his eye.

BEN

Timmy Brown.... A toaster.... 1976....

As they walk away, another stranger approaches them.

AIRPORT STRANGER 3

You guys just get TOTAL TRANSPARENCY?

CLAIRE

Yep! The booth is right over there.

CLAIRE points towards the booth they just exited.

AIRPORT STRANGER 3

TT is old news, compadres. The new thing is LITERALLY A GHOST.

BEN

LITERALLY A GHOST?

AIRPORT STRANGER 3

Yeah. Started doing it yesterday. All you gotta do is die for a hot sec so they can scan the essence of your soul. But when you come back, you get to skip the line, keep your backpack on, AND you get to speed-walk through the metal detector.

BEN

Holy crap! Just for ten feet of speed-walking? I mean, I guess that could be the difference between making and missing your flight.

CLAIRE

Let's do it for Arubaaaaa!

BEN

God, forgive us!

CLAIRE and BEN walk through the door. After a few minutes, they re-emerge. Ben looks wide-eyed and dazed.

BEN (CONT'D)

Either Heaven is terrible or Hell could be worse...

CLAIRE

Time to fast-track through security!

They scurry up to a chipper-looking SECURITY OFFICER and show her their LITERALLY A GHOST credentials.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

We're LITERALLY A GHOST-level, officer. Can't wait to breeze right through!

SECURITY OFFICER

Of course. Boarding Passes and IDs please!

CLAIRE and BEN hand their passes and IDs over. The officer glances at their boarding passes, then up at the departures screen, then back at the passes.

SECURITY OFFICER (CONT'D)

Hmmm. You two must have missed the overhead announcements. Long bathroom break or something? I get it. Travel can be hard on the ol' G.I. system. Anyway, my point is, your flight has been delayed until tomorrow morning!

BLACKOUT.