

One or two of the first-class passengers were in the lounge, despite the unsavoury appearance of Mr Perot's party; but when this villainous-looking crowd spread out several hundred thousand dollars in cash on the floor the other passengers vanished in about five seconds flat.

\*

The chief steward said: 'Mr Perot, asking whether your party a

have a word and reassure ev

'Sure,' said Perot. He introducing himself - most

him - and telling the story

They played one last trick

While he was collecting ten thousand dollars each,

The accounting came out brains to try to figure out could have gone.

Finally Bill confessed

Taylor did not think it

That made them laugh al

When Jay Coburn came through

airport, Merv Stauffer handed him an envelope containing Coburn's wedding ring, which he had left behind when he went to Tehran.

Coburn just thought that was a hell of a thoughtful thing for Merv to do.

① There was a technical problem with the movie projector on the plane. So Rashid and other people started working on it so they could see the rest of the movie

② Ross took Rashid by a window and showed him the country as they approached D.F.W

③ when the plane landed, doors remained closed until a lady came on board and asked "where is the man?" and Ross showed her Rashid. OVER →

1

2

3

first-class passengers were in the lounge,  
appearance of Mr Perot's party; but when this  
spread out several hundred thousand dollars  
the other passengers vanished in about five seconds

\*

'Mr Perot, sir, some of the passengers are  
they are bank robbers, and I wonder if you might  
see everybody.'

He went around the first-class cabin,  
most of the Dallas-bound passengers had heard of  
story of Paul and Bill. They were enthralled.

\*

pick on Keane Taylor.  
fecting the money he dropped three bundles of  
ch, and Bill slipped them into his own pocket.  
me out wrong, of course. Taylor racked his  
out where the other thirty thousand dollars

passed and handed the money over.  
nk it was funny, as usual.  
gh all the more, as usual.

4

rough the arrival gate at the Dallas/Fort Worth  
handed him an envelope containing Coburn's wedding  
behind when he went to Tehran.  
t that was a hell of a thoughtful thing for Merv

The ~~lady~~ took Rashid with her  
and after 5 minutes all the paper work  
and questions was over!

~~But then~~ "what a power"

Rashid thought as he was  
releasing him.

*[Faint handwritten notes and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page, including the word "OVER" and circled numbers 2, 3, and 4.]*

It seemed to Paul that they went through customs and immigration very quickly, as if someone had smoothed the way.

An EDS employee whom he vaguely recognised took his arm, saying: 'Come this way - we want to keep you away from the press.'

They went straight out of the airport and got on a bus. Paul wondered where the bus would take him - then he saw them: Ruthie, Karen, and Ann Marie, standing in the aisle waiting for him.

Ann Marie got to him first. He swept her up in his arms and squeezed her as tightly as he could, remembering all the times he had wondered whether he would ever see his little girl again.

Karen was too big to pick up, but he squeezed her just as hard.

Finally he got to his biggest little girl. He put his arms around her and kissed her long and hard.

He had almost forgotten how good it was.

\*

Bill got on the bus and saw the four children: Vickie, Jacquelyn, Janie and Christopher. The last he had seen of Christopher was the photograph Keane Taylor had brought into the jail, of Christopher standing in front of the Christman tree.

Well, this was better than Christmas.

He kissed them all. Exactly seven days ago he had felt angry because he thought he was about to die and he would miss watching them growing up.

He took Emily in his arms and said: 'It's over.'

'You look marvellous,' she said.

Bill knew he looked absolutely terrible. He said: 'I love you.'

\*

The bus started to move, but it did not go far. It stopped again a few yards away, at a different gate, and they were all ushered back into the airport and led to a door marked Concorde Room.

Paul walked in first, with Karen on one side and Ann Marie on the other; and three hundred people rose to their feet and clapped. Paul looked around, and realised that all his friends, including most of EDS's employees in Dallas, had come to the airport to welcome him back. They all looked so jubilant, so happy. Oddly enough, it made him feel very humble.

\*

Simons leaned over and spoke in Perot's ear. 'Remember you offered to pay me?'

'I sure do,' Perot said. He would not forget it: when Simons gave you an icy look, you froze.

'Look at them' Simons said.

Perot, still applauding, looked at Paul walking toward him with Karen and Ann Marie.

Simons said: 'I just got paid.'

\*

Simons listened while Perot, bursting with pride, told the story of the rescue to the hundreds of people in the Concorde Room, When he had finished he said: 'And now I'd like Colonel Simons to say a few words.'

Simons stood up. 'I'm very proud to have been part of this team,'

he said, then he sat down again.

They applauded all over again. Simons looked at them: the Gaylords, the Chiapparones, Keane Taylor and his wife and children, Ron Davis and Marva who was pregnant, tall Boulware, short Howell, jovial Gayden: happy people, happy families, lucky people.

Simons had had a family around him, once. Now Bruce was in Alaska, Harry was on a boat in the Gulf of Mexico, and Lucille ...

He wondered whether he would ever see Anita Melton, the stewardess, again.

He did.

But that's another story.

And introduced all the members.

He called Rashid next to him and said: 'Annon, 140 Pounds with Incan'