



Sky Pirates

Story by Jim Caswell

Audioplay by Jim Caswell and Doug Zeitlin

Episode Summary

While flying toward Egypt, Geist's plane is attacked in the air and brought down by a group of modern-day pirates.

Starring

Derrick Geist

Ajit Singh

Lindsey Capparelli

Ryan Gilbert

Doug Zeitlin

April Sadowski

and Featuring

Reynolds

Deaton

Clarkson

Schmitz

Mr. Vargas

Mrs. Vargas

Captain Wilbury

Erick Greeva

Jonathen Michaels

Jerry Hallaron

Pete Nottit

Justin Bills

Joan Hallaron

Jim Caswell

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Michigan Suite – The Drake Hotel – Chicago

SOUND: Hotel door opens and closes. Stylized cell phone rings in background.

GEIST (in background)

Geist.

AJIT (British accent)

How did the press conference go?

LINDSEY

It wasn't so much a press conference as talking to the reporters who showed up.

AJIT

I am sure there is a difference in there somewhere.

LINDSEY

It's an industry thing. It went fine.

AJIT

Did they 'buy it?'

LINDSEY

They ate it up like kids in a candy store.

GEIST (in background)

Excellent. We'll be there in an hour.

SOUND: Cell phone closes and footfalls approach foreground (six steps during dialog).

AJIT

What did you tell them?

LINDSEY

We went back to the basics; A light show that went bad, coupled with a bit of a gas leak to explain the hallucinations, and a lot of panic due to an accidentally locked emergency exit. It's going to cost Wayne a little bit in fines, but his new buddy Lynch can handle it, I'm sure.

GEIST

That's pretty clever.

LINDSEY

Thank you very much.

GEIST

So you're done?

LINDSEY

I think so.

GEIST

Good. Get packed.

LINDSEY

I thought we were going to be staying for a while.

GEIST

The plan's changed.

LINDSEY

Did someone in the network call asking for help?

GEIST

Nope.

LINDSEY

Did you two uncover a new lead while I was gone?

GEIST

Nope.

LINDSEY

Then what's the hurry?

GEIST (irritated)

Because I said it's time to go. Now get packed or get left behind.

SOUND: Door gets slammed shut.

AJIT

I believe that Mister Derrick has come to the realization that in the hunt for his parents'.... kidnappers, they may have deduced Mister Geist's goals, and therefore they may be targeting him now as well.

LINDSEY

What would lead him to believe that?

AJIT

I told him so.

LINDSEY

And what would lead you to believe that?

AJIT

Tonight's ah... unexpected events.

LINDSEY

Unexpected? As in that pesky extra-dimensional portal that opened, or the lion-men who tried to rip our heads off?

AJIT

Both. The portal that opened tonight was not supposed to occur. It was unnatural magic.... dark magic. Magic that could only have happened through the force of someone's will.

LINDSEY

OK, but how does that connect to Geist?

AJIT

His presence, combined with the new information we have uncovered, is too great of a coincidence to be ignored.

LINDSEY (disbelieving)

What new information? We haven't learned enough about the glyph to warrant an attack.

AJIT

It appears that someone would disagree.

LINDSEY

Are we running?

AJIT

I have never known Mister Derrick to run from a challenge before. I do not believe he is going to start now. Think of it more as changing the playing field.

LINDSEY

So where are we going, then?

AJIT

I do not know. He has yet to inform me.

LINDSEY

So we're back to just being along for the ride.

AJIT

It appears so, yes.

SOUND: Cue Intro music.

ACT I

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: *Main cabin – Geist’s Plane – Passing over the New Jersey coast.*

SOUND: Jet engine in background. Cockpit door opens and closes.

LINDSEY

Any luck?

AJIT

Mister Derrick says he will continue piloting and will inform me if he wants to be relieved.

LINDSEY

Have you had enough lessons to take on a leg of the journey?

AJIT

I have learned enough to know that the takeoff and the landing are the hard parts. Once you are in the air, the process is fairly simple. My main concern is that, no matter how simple flying is, it is better to not have someone exhausted behind the stick.

LINDSEY

You haven’t gotten any more sleep than he has.

AJIT

This may be true, but I am far better trained to go on far less sleep. Speaking of sleep, you should get some yourself.

LINDSEY

I can’t sleep; I’ve got too much on my mind – too frustrated with Mr. Ego in there. Did you at least get an idea of where we’re headed?

AJIT

Nothing confirmed.

LINDSEY

But you have a suspicion.

AJIT

Of course.

LINDSEY

Then where do you *think* we're going?

AJIT

We are currently flying over the Atlantic, about fifty miles off of Atlantic City.

LINDSEY

New Jersey? Where are we headed, back to France?

AJIT

We would be headed northeast, rather than southeast. Granted, we're going more east than south, but...

LINDSEY

...Egypt. He's still set on going to Egypt. Don't people usually head for Europe first to refuel, rather than trying to fly straight for it?

AJIT

There is nothing to say he doesn't plan on to stopover for fuel somewhere, perhaps Madrid or Barcelona.

LINDSEY

He's going to have to, unless he's lined up an in-flight fueling, which I wouldn't put past him. This plane doesn't have tanks big enough to make it all the way there without getting a fill-up. I mean, it's got some good renovations to it, but I don't think it's *that* good.

AJIT

You are correct.

LINDSEY

And I thought we decided Egypt was going to be a dead end. After all, we found the Egyptian clue in Chicago.

AJIT

A clue that provided more questions than answers.

LINDSEY (building frustration)

So he just packed up and decided to fly off on a wild goose chase. Ooooooh, he is so frustrating sometimes. What gives him the right? Why is he so...?

AJIT

...Spontaneous?

LINDSEY (still frustrated)

...Aggressive. It's his way or the highway. He's always got to be right. And he jumps in fists-first or guns blazing and thinks about the situation afterward, if at all.

AJIT

He is.... Derrick Geist.

LINDSEY (confused)

You say it like it explains everything.

AJIT

In many ways, it does.

LINDSEY (disbelieving)

How so?

AJIT

Think about what we know of Mister Derrick's history.

LINDSEY

You mean the spoiled rich kid who's used to always getting his way.

AJIT

No. Not the role that the press has bottled him into. By now, I would have thought it dawned on you that most of what you think you know about him is very far from the truth.

LINDSEY

You're talking about his parents' disappearance.

AJIT

I am.

LINDSEY

From what I've seen, he was still taken care of pretty well. He still had Heinrich and Jeremy.

AJIT

Mister Heinrich is a great man, but he was not as active in Mister Derrick's upbringing as either of them would have liked.

LINDSEY

OK, but its not like he was living in an orphanage. Jeremy...

AJIT

...Was not his parent. The absence of a single parent, let alone both of them, can have a significant impact on a child's psyche. Despite the fact that their leaving was not their choice, there were still abandonment issues that I am sure surfaced.

LINDSEY

And in spite of your past together, he's recently had Jeremy 'abandon' him as well.

AJIT

In a manner of speaking, yes.

LINDSEY

So he has issues. Welcome to the 21st century. Everyone has issues in this day and age. But everyone doesn't fly around the world looking for parents who are probably long dead.

AJIT

Only because they don't have the funds to do so. And not everyone knows the truths that are out there.

LINDSEY

He didn't know either when he started the trip. And just because you have money, it doesn't give you the right to be as nuts as you want to be.

AJIT

Are you accusing Mister Derrick of being insane?

LINDSEY (backpedalling)

No. I don't think so. I don't know. Maybe just a little? <beat> Has anyone bothered to suggest that he seek some professional help?

AJIT

You mean to say a psychiatrist?

LINDSEY

Or at least a therapist.

AJIT

No.

LINDSEY

No, no one has suggested it, or no you don't think he needs it?

AJIT

Both.

LINDSEY (irritated)

After everything you've just said, how can you sit there and say he doesn't need therapy?

AJIT

First, part of the job, the reason we are traveling with him, is to be here when he needs to talk.

LINDSEY

I don't know about you, but I'm not a qualified therapist.

AJIT

It is often easier to open up to friends than to someone who is paid to hear your woes.

LINDSEY (doubtful)

Friends?

AJIT

The two of you have grown closer over the past few weeks than either of you care to admit.

LINDSEY (intrigued)

Why? What has he said about me?

AJIT

It is nothing that has been said, but a friendship has started to develop.

LINDSEY

Well, that's all it'll be.

AJIT

No one has said anything different. *<beat>* Second, Mister Derrick visited therapists in his childhood.

LINDSEY

This is him *after* therapy?

AJIT

He has faced his demons and this is how he has chosen to fight them.

LINDSEY

But...

SOUND: A stream of bullets bounce off the hull of the airplane.

LINDSEY

What was that?

AJIT

I do not know, but we're bound to find out.

SOUND: Movement toward cockpit of the plane.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO INT.: *Cockpit – Geist's plane.*

SOUND: Door opens. A plane buzzes close outside. More bullets outside.

LINDSEY

What the heck's going on out there?

GEIST (frustrated)

Three fighter jets came at us out of the sun. For some reason, they aren't coming up on radar, so they were on top of us before I knew what was going on.

LINDSEY (anxious)

Well, get us out of here.

GEIST (sarcastic)

Really? Here I thought we should stick around; see what they want. Maybe throw them a tea party.

SOUND: More bullets.

LINDSEY

What do they want?

GEIST (sarcastic)

They're shooting at us! Want to get out and ask?

AJIT

What can we do to help?

GEIST

Unless someone's fitted this thing with gun ports and didn't tell me, not much.

LINDSEY

Shocking. I thought this plane had everything.

SOUND: More bullets.

GEIST

Sit down and buckle in. It's going to be a bumpy ride.

SOUND: Two people sit down and buckle in. Plane changes direction suddenly. Cockpit door flaps closed and open.

LINDSEY

Did we cross into foreign air space or something? Who are they?

GEIST

We're over open water.

AJIT

They are a hodge-podge of aircraft. I see an American F/A-18E Super Hornet and a Chinese J-11B 'Flanker.'

SOUND: A jet buzzes by the outside of the cockpit.

GEIST

And that was a Eurofighter Typhoon.

LINDSEY

The type doesn't bother me nearly as much as what was painted on its tailfin.

SOUND: More bullets.

AJIT

The skull and crossbones?

GEIST

The old international sign for pirates? Really?

LINDSEY

Either that or they're carrying poison. Either way, it's *not* a good sign. Can we outrun them?

GEIST (worried)

If I could get a straight-away, I could kick in the boosters, but even then it would be a tight race. But the way they're swarming us....
<beat> At least they haven't hit any of the ...

SOUND: More bullets, accompanied by the sound of breaking glass. Air rushing out, continuing for the rest of the scene. Engines start whining from going into a decent.

GEIST

... windows.

LINDSEY (yelling)

You just had to say it, didn't you! You couldn't just keep it to yourself and not tempt fate!

GEIST

We're losing air pressure and going down fast! Ajit, grab the other stick and help me level us out!

SOUND: Both men grunt against the controls.

GEIST

It's not working! We're going down!

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT II

SCENE 1 – ENTER EXT.: Downed airplane – Plane Graveyard Island

SOUND: A light breeze blows. Light waves are heard in distance. GEIST moans awake.

GEIST

Is everyone OK?

AJIT

It's good to hear your voice, Mister Derrick.

GEIST

Are you OK?

AJIT

I will be once we get me out of these straps. They may have helped save my life, but they have also served as my prison.

GEIST

Where's that.... What happened to the roof of the cockpit?

AJIT

It appears to have been sheared off in the crash.

GEIST

Is Lindsey OK?

AJIT

She has not regained consciousness yet, but her breathing is normal. Without seeing her, she appears to be fine considering the situation.

SOUND: Belt harness snaps open.

GEIST

Well, it appears mine are still operating properly.

SOUND: Movement out of pilot's seat.

AJIT

I have a knife in my boot, if you can just

SOUND: A knife blade flips open.

GEIST

No worries. I've got mine.

SOUND: Blade slices through two consecutive straps.

AJIT

Much better.

SOUND: Lindsey moans.

GEIST

Lindsey?

SOUND: Lindsey moans again, regaining a bit more consciousness.

GEIST

Lindsey? Can you hear me?

LINDSEY

Did anyone get the number of that freight train?

GEIST

More like an aircraft carrier.

AJIT

Do not move too swiftly. We must ascertain that nothing is broken.

LINDSEY

I don't think so. Everything's a dull ache, not shooting pains.

GEIST

All the same, let Ajit get to you and check you out before you start moving around too much.

SOUND: Two bodies rustle around in the small cockpit.

LINDSEY

Where are we?

GEIST

I'm not real sure. We were knocked severely off-course during the attack. It looks like we're on land – a beach somewhere. If I had to guess, we're somewhere north of Bermuda. But that's only a guess.

AJIT

Perhaps a part of the Bermuda Rise that is exposed.

GEIST

Maybe.

LINDSEY

Can't you check the GPS?

GEIST

I could, if it wasn't part of the ceiling.

LINDSEY

Oh. Can we radio for help?

GEIST

The radio was next to the GPS system.

LINDSEY

That's not good.

GEIST

No, it's not.

AJIT

It looks like she is fine. The seat has been jammed against the console, though.

LINDSEY

I don't feel any pressure.

AJIT

That's because it came within two inches of crushing you against it. You are a very lucky woman.

LINDSEY

If I were lucky, I wouldn't be pinned against a console on a deserted island without a radio.

GEIST

You might have a point there. I guess it's a matter of perspective. Can you reach the belt release?

LINDSEY (sarcastically)

I'm allowed to move now?

GEIST

If you're capable of it.

LINDSEY (struggling)

Nope. I can't get my fingers in there.

GEIST

OK. Sit tight a second. I'll be right back.

SOUND: Movement to the door of the cockpit. Struggling with jammed door.

LINDSEY

It's not like I have a lot of choices here.

GEIST

Door's jammed. I'll have to take the long way around.

SOUND: Movement over console and out hole in ceiling. Body lands on feet in sand.

LINDSEY

Do you have any idea who they were?

AJIT

They were flying under a pirate flag, so it is safe to assume they were pirates.

LINDSEY

I didn't know pirates still existed. I thought they went out with the old sailing ships.

GEIST (from a distance)

They did, but the old sailing ships wanted a commitment, so they broke it off.

LINDSEY (disbelieving and stage-whispered)

Is he trying to be funny?

AJIT (whispered)

I believe he is trying so-called witty banter to lighten the mood.

LINDSEY

Oh.

AJIT

Sometimes it works well for the two of you.

LINDSEY

And sometimes it doesn't.

AJIT

Too true. To answer your question, pirates have been around since man found ways of transporting valuables from one location to another. There's been a resurgence of them in Somalia recently as well.

LINDSEY

Yeah, now that you mention it, I remember it being in the news. It drew a lot of attention when they hit an American ship.

AJIT

And lost interest again when America wasn't involved.

LINDSEY

Cynical much?

AJIT

Perhaps too honest sometimes. That's only the most recent reports, though. Pirates sometimes go by different names, but the idea is the same. The better term for our aggressors would probably be scavengers, but they seem to have a flare for the dramatic and want to equate themselves with their maritime counterparts.

LINDSEY

As opposed to people who do hijackings for political or religious reasons.

GEIST (from a distance)

Probably saw Captain Jack Sparrow one too many times.

AJIT

If their sole purpose is to steal, then yes, the pirate is a far more romanticized and respected outlaw than a terrorist.

LINDSEY

It doesn't look like there's that big of a difference from where I'm sitting. Either way, we were supposed to die under that hail of gunfire.

AJIT

No doubt.

SOUND: Metal rends outside the plane.

LINDSEY (panicked)

What was that?

GIEST (from a distance)

That was me. Sorry 'bout that. The bay doors are jammed shut and I can't get to any of the equipment back there, so I'm improvising a crowbar.

LINDSEY (recovering)

Let a person know next time. I thought the plane was going to collapse with me in it.

GEIST (from a distance)

It's banged up pretty good, but it seems to be structurally sound.

LINDSEY

Then how do you explain the giant hole above our heads?

GEIST (from a distance)

I'm not saying we'll be able to fly it out of here, but we should be able to rebuild rather than have to buy a brand new one.

LINDSEY

With your money, what's the difference?

AJIT

The way to keep money is to not spend it frivolously.

GEIST (closer, but still outside the plane)

Heads up, Ajit. Makeshift crowbar flying your way.

SOUND: A metal bar flying through the air and caught. Ajit "oof"s.

AJIT

A little warning on the weight would be appreciated next time,
Mister Derrick.

LINDSEY

Throwing metal bars around? He just won't be happy until we're
dead, will he.

AJIT

Mister Derrick knew full well that I wouldn't have let it hit you.

LINDSEY

Well, good for him – I didn't.

AJIT

Hold still while I pry you free.

SOUND: Metal creaking, then breaking. Seat falls to the floor with a thud. Lindsey "oof"s.

LINDSEY

Maybe we should have cut my straps *before* we broke the seat.

AJIT

My apologies. I didn't think the seat would break, just bend.

LINDSEY

Guess you don't know your own strength then. Get me out of this
thing, would you?

SOUND: Knife snaps open and straps are cut.

LINDSEY

Much better. Thanks.

GEIST (from outside)

Everything OK in there? Did you get Lindsey out?

LINDSEY

I'm fine.

GEIST (from outside - edgy)

Good. Would both of you join me out here then?

AJIT (picking up on edginess from Geist – switching to Hindu accent)

Is anything the matter, Mister Derrick?

GEIST

Nothing we can't handle. Come on out.... slowly.

LINDSEY

What's that supposed to mean?

REYNOLDS

He means that you've got company.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: *Wooded camp – Plane Graveyard Island*

SOUND: Fire crackling in the background, with seashore further back.

LINDSEY

Would someone please tell us what's going on here?

REYNOLDS

How about you start by telling us what you're doing here.

GEIST

Crashing.

AJIT (Hindu accent)

We were attacked by sky-pirates. We were lucky to land on the beach rather than crash into the ocean and die.

DEATON

Good for you, maybe. But only temporarily.

LINDSEY

How so?

CLARKSON

When the pirates realize you came down on land, they'll come down looking for you to finish you off. When they find you, they'll find us, and we'll all be dead.

GEIST

I take it you're all survivors of similar attacks?

REYNOLDS

At different times, yes. Deaton and Schmitz were the first.

DEATON

About three weeks ago.

REYNOLDS

Then the Vargas's and I were on our way to Greece when our plane was shot down. Of the fifteen aboard, we were the only survivors.

CLARKSON

So far.

SOUND: MR. VARGAS moans in sadness in the background.

REYNOLDS (reprimanding)

Clarkson!

CLARKSON

What? If the pirates come back, she'll be the lucky one.

DEATON

I still think we've got a chance. We know people are looking for us. Maybe they'll find us before the pirates come back.

CLARKSON

You've been here three weeks, Deaton. If your company hasn't found us by now, they're not going to. And if they did, they were probably shot down too.

LINDSEY

What's wrong with Mrs. Vargas?

REYNOLDS

She got banged up pretty bad in the crash. We think she has internal injuries, and her leg looks pretty awful.

SOUND: Mr. Vargas moans again.

GEIST

Ajit?

AJIT

May your humble servant, Ajit, look at the kind madam? I have a modicum of medical training.

MR. VARGAS

You do?

AJIT

A small amount, yes.

CLARKSON

Schmitz has been taking care of her.

SCHMITZ

I'm a podiatrist. I'm more than willing to let someone else take a look.

REYNOLDS

Go ahead. It can't hurt anything.

SOUND: Movement from log, walking away from group across sand.

GEIST

And Clarkson? When did you get here?

CLARKSON

About three days ago, I think.

LINDSEY

You're this cynical after only three days?

CLARKSON

Let's see how chipper you are after eating bugs and sleeping in mud. If you get three days.

GEIST

And it's just the six of you?

REYNOLDS

Until you got here, yeah. But we aren't the first ones on this island. It's a veritable burial ground.

SCHMITZ

There's got to be five to ten years of dead bodies on the island. These guys have been busy for quite a while.

GEIST

What steps have you taken to get help? Were you able to scrounge a working radio from all these heaps?

REYNOLDS

Our planes all crashed off the island and we had to swim in. The wrecks around us were all here before us, and they've been pretty picked over.

CLARKSON

And when the pirates realize that you didn't go into the drink too, they'll be coming to do the same thing to that fancy jet of yours.

GEIST

Well, there's got to be at least fifty years of aero-engineering around us. We should be able to cobble something together. A raft, if nothing else.

REYNOLDS

We don't have any tools to build anything.

GEIST

Then, when first light breaks, we'll go back to my plane and see what we can salvage. Between the six of us...

LINDSEY

Eight of us.

GEIST

Between the eight of us, we should be able to get the back hatch open and get a good chunk of what we need.

CLARKSON

You're making a lot of assumptions for being the new guy.

LINDSEY

Yeah, he does that.

GEIST

You're probably right. The pirates will come back. I figure we have a couple of days before they do, though, because they'll want to give the elements a chance to finish us off first. Why waste good bullets on someone the heat can kill for you?

MR. VARGAS (upset)

Would you people please stop talking about people dying?

LINDSEY

Come on, Mr. Vargas. Let's go see what Ajit has to say about your wife.

SOUND: Two move from logs, walking away from group through tall grass and fallen leaves.

MR. VARGAS (slightly fading into distance as they move away)

Do you think your friend will be able to help her?

LINDSEY (farther fading)

If Ajit says he can do something, he usually can. If he tells you he can help your wife, he will.

GEIST

With all these planes around us, maybe we can cobble together enough parts to get one of them up in the air.

CLARKSON

What part of 'they've been pretty picked over' didn't you understand?

GEIST

One man's trash is another man's treasure. We'll never know what we can do if we don't try. The way I see it, we have two choices. We try all of our options to try to get off this island, or we sit here and twiddle our thumbs, waiting to die. It's clear that the latter option hasn't worked for you so far, so what's the harm in trying the former?

CLARKSON

Which one of us died and left you in charge? Who the hell are you, anyway?

SCHMITZ

You don't know who he is? Did you come to the island from a cave?

REYNOLDS

Maybe Clarkson prefers real news rather than celebrity fluff.

GEIST

I wouldn't blame him if he did.

SCHMITZ

He's basically the male equivalent to Paris Hilton.

GEIST

There's no need to get insulting.

CLARKSON

Hilton I've heard of. Who the heck are you?

REYNOLDS

He's Geist. Derrick Geist.

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT III

SCENE 1 – ENTER EXT.: *Bi-Plane Crash Site - Plane Graveyard Island*

SOUND: Screwdriver grinding against piece of metal.

GEIST (grunting)

Come on! Get on there!

SOUND: Metal slips and bangs hard. Footfalls approach.

GEIST (frustrated)

Damn it!

SOUND: Footfalls stop.

LINDSEY

Are you alright?

GEIST (pained)

Banged up my knuckles real good, but I'll live.

LINDSEY

How's it going?

GEIST (run-on frustration)

Considering that I'm pulling rusted and broken parts from dozens of different models of planes to rebuild a freakin' bi-plane that's probably been here since World War I and probably won't leave the ground no matter how much work I do.... everything's fine. How about you?

LINDSEY

Worried.

GEIST

What about?

LINDSEY

What is there to not be worried about? Between the castaways and you, I'm not sure who's the craziest. I still think you're nuts for trying this. It's suicide.

GEIST

It's the only way.

LINDSEY

No, its not. You could cut away the wings and seal it up. Use it like a canoe and paddle to shore.

GEIST

And take ten times longer. Plus, I know a lot more about planes than I do about making one into a boat. This is our best bet for getting the authorities back here to rescue everyone else before the pirates come back.

LINDSEY

I still don't like it.

GEIST

Tough. What else?

LINDSEY

The natives are getting restless.

GEIST

Of course they are. Has it dawned on them yet that the plane only has two seats?

LINDSEY

Among other things. Fortunately the food stored in the hold of our plane put a meal in them.

GEIST

Not to mention the tools and weapons we were able to recover.

LINDSEY

Yeah, that's another one of their complaints. They want some of the guns.

GEIST

They can have them.... if the pirates show up. Until then, the last thing we need is a bunch of armed, pissed-off people. Then it would be just a matter of time before they start blowing each other away for the second seat.

LINDSEY

Not to mention the first one.

GEIST

They could try.

LINDSEY

Is it going to work? The plane, I mean?

GEIST

I'm not sure. The fundamentals are there. I had to rebuild the engine. It's more sports car than plane under the hood, but I should be able to get it up to speed, if I can get this belt attached. The problem is that I can't get the right angle and it's too tight. If I'm not careful, I'll break the belt and then we're screwed.

LINDSEY

My arms are smaller and might fit in there better. You want me to give it a shot?

GEIST

Nah. I'll get it.

LINDSEY (irritated)

Listen. Get over you macho ego and let me give it a shot. Just because I'm a woman doesn't mean I don't know how to work on an engine. I'll let you know that my father taught me how to take an engine apart and put it back together when I was fifteen.

GEIST (irritated)

And if it was any other situation, I'd be willing to let you, but this is the only belt on the island, and if it gets broken, I don't want you taking the heat for it.

SOUND: Footfalls approach.

LINDSEY (still irritated)

But if you let me try, then there may be less of a chance of it breaking.

GEIST (still irritated)

It definitely won't break if we just stand here and argue about it all afternoon.

SOUND: Footfalls stop.

AJIT

Ajit would humbly request the argument be ending, as we do not have a hose on the island with which to cool the two of you off.

GEIST

How's Vargas doing?

AJIT

Mr. Vargas is in his same panicked state. The señora has improved a tiny bit, but is going to need professional care soon if she is to keep her leg. Gangrene has begun to set in.

LINDSEY

Which means she could lose more than just her leg if we aren't careful.

AJIT

You are correct.

GEIST

We know who the second passenger is then.

CLARKSON (from a distance)

And because you say so, that makes it law, right?

SOUND: Footfalls approach.

GEIST

You've got a problem with that?

CLARKSON (closer)

As a matter of fact, I do. I don't think its fair that the new guy and the woman who's going to die anyway get to be the ones to escape the massacre.

GEIST

You think you should go instead.

SOUND: Footfalls stop.

CLARKSON

I think we should do the fair thing and draw lots for the seats. Let those who know how to fly pull for one of the seats, and the rest of us get to pull for the other one.

LINDSEY

You're right. That would be the fairest way to decide.

CLARKSON

See, Geist. Your girlfriend agrees with me.

GEIST

We're not dating!

LINDSEY

We're not dating!

LINDSEY

And, while that may be the fairest way to decide, life isn't always fair.

CLARKSON

Why, because you guys have all the guns?

LINDSEY

No. It's a case of need. Mrs. Vargas needs medical attention. And we need for the authorities to listen to whoever goes. Geist is very famous and will draw a lot of attention and respect, whether he likes it or not.

CLARKSON

And he can use it to make himself even more famous. <mocking> 'Sole survivor' makes millions selling his story.

LINDSEY

Yeah, it's pretty obvious you never heard of him before we got here. Even his worst publicity doesn't have him doing anything like that.

GEIST

You have my word, as soon as we hit land, I'll contact the Coast Guard and get them out here immediately. I've got a few favors I can call in.

CLARKSON

The Coast Guard doesn't come out this far.

GEIST

Then I'll call my people in the Navy or Air Force. I've got quite a few options to choose from.

CLARKSON

Meanwhile, the rest of us sit here and wait for the pirates to show up and slaughter us all.

LINDSEY

You have got to be the most negative man I've ever met. And I've dealt with newspaper editors.

SOUND: Screwdriver clangs against metal as the belt slips into place.

AJIT

Enough talking. The engine is completed. I go to get Mrs. Vargas. Mister Derrick must test the engine and start pre-flight. Miss Lindsey, please come help humble Ajit.

LINDSEY

One last thing. Keep this in mind before you complain too much more. The plane is being held together with twine and duct tape. If it actually gets up in the air, there's no guarantee it'll stay there. And on the off chance it does, the pirates are still up there and will more likely than not shoot it out of the sky before it gets anywhere close to the States or Bermuda or whatever land mass is the closest. So ask yourself, where do you think your chances for survival are best?

SOUND: Two sets of footfalls walk away.

GEIST

So, do you want to help me push this thing over to our makeshift runway, or do you still want to try to convince me to take you up?

CLARKSON

I'll take the left side. You take the right.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: Bi-plane Cockpit – Somewhere between PGI and Bermuda

SOUND: Bi-plane engine, propeller and wind are predominant throughout scene.

MRS. VARGAS coughs and moans in pain.

GEIST (talking over background noise – whole scene)

You still with me back there, Mrs. Vargas?

MRS. VARGAS (struggling to be heard – whole scene)

I think I will be with you longer than this plane will be, señor. But that doesn't mean anything.

SOUND: Engine sputters, but keeps running.

MRS. VARGAS

I think the plane, she agrees with me.

GEIST

We got her up in the air, Mrs. Vargas. That's half the battle.

MRS. VARGAS

Si. The other half is staying there.

GEIST

How are you feeling?

MRS. VARGAS

Like I've been kicked in the chest by a mule and my leg set on fire.

GEIST

I'll be keeping us low to try and keep it from getting bumpy, so we don't add to your injuries. We'll avoid the thermals but it burns fuel faster.

MRS. VARGAS

And flying low will limit how far we have to fall.

GEIST

Actually, that part's academic. Once you hit critical velocity, it doesn't matter how far you fall. Whether it's a hundred feet or ten thousand, it's the same amount of damage.

MRS. VARGAS

It just means you wait longer for the splat.

GEIST

I suppose, if you need to look at it that way.

MRS. VARGAS

I'm sorry, mi amigo. I have been listening to Señor Clarkson too long.

SOUND: Silence – two count.

GEIST

I hope you don't mind, but I'm going to keep you talking so I know you're alright back there. If things get any worse for you, I want you to let me know.

MRS. VARGAS

OK, but is there really anything you can do if I do get worse?

GEIST

Over open water like this, in a plane I'm already pushing as hard as she'll take...

MRS. VARGAS

That's what I thought. But if it will make you feel better...

GEIST

It would. Tell me about your husband. How long have you been married?

MRS. VARGAS

Thirty wonderful years. Marriage is a marvelous institution.

GEIST (sarcastic)

Institution. A good word choice.

MRS. VARGAS (snickering)

I take it, then, you and your lady-friend won't be ...

GEIST

Why does everyone assume that we're dating?

MRS. VARGAS

Some would say that you two fight like an old married couple, but as an old married couple, I can't say that. My husband and I, we don't fight nearly that often.

GEIST

We do seem to know how to push each other's buttons.

MRS. VARGAS

But it's also the way you look at each other, when you don't think the other is looking.

GEIST

I don't look at her like that.

MRS. VARGAS

Maybe not consciously.

GEIST

Not consciously, not unconsciously not any other kind of -ly. You must be delusional.

SOUND: MRS. VARGAS laughs, and then rolls into a coughing fit.

MRS. VARGAS

It is possible. It would explain the purple elephants flying beside us. But in matters of the heart ...

GEIST

We can't be in the same room with each other without picking a fight.

MRS. VARGAS

Then why do you travel with her?

GEIST

I was told I had to.

MRS. VARGAS

A man of your wealth and stature doesn't do things because he's told. He tells others.

GEIST

If you only knew.

MRS. VARGAS

I'm sure, if you really wanted to get rid of her.... Señor. What is that?

GEIST

Where?

MRS. VARGAS

On our left. Just below the sun. Or am I really seeing things?

SOUND: Fighter jets approach from a distance.

GEIST

I wish you were.

MRS. VARGAS

Is it what I think it is?

GEIST

If you think it's the pirates, then I think you're right.

MRS. VARGAS

Can you out-fly them?

GEIST

In this thing? Definitely not.

MRS. VARGAS (getting frightened)

Oh no. We're going to die, aren't we?

GEIST

Not if I can help it. Hang on back there. It's going to get a bit bumpy.

MRS. VARGAS

Bumpier than it's been so far?

GEIST

Sorry. I've tried to keep it smooth for you; but yes, bumpier.

SOUND: Fighter jets close and begin to fire in short bursts. Fully automatic rifle pulled from cockpit floor.

MRS. VARGAS

What's that? An assault rifle?

GEIST

An equalizer. I had Ajit bring it from the toolbay of my plane before we took off. I was afraid we might need it. It packs quite a punch, but I need to make sure my shots are accurate 'cause we don't have a lot of ammo to spare. Hang on.

MRS. VARGAS

I'll try.

SOUND: Jets do another fly-by while firing. Rifle blasts five rapid-fire shots, which connect. Jet screeches past with a failing engine.

GEIST

That's one.

MRS. VARGAS

How are you steering and shooting at the same time?

GEIST

You don't want to know!

SOUND: Another fly-by with gunfire. One shot hits the bi-plane. More rifle shots with another hit. First plane crashes into the water in the distance.

MRS. VARGAS

We're hit!

GEIST

They just hit the hull. I don't think it did any damage.

MRS. VARGAS

Tell that to my heart. Is there anything I can do to help?

GEIST

Do you know how to fire a rifle?

MRS. VARGAS

No.

GEIST

How about fly a plane?

MRS. VARGAS

No.

GEIST

Then just hang in there. This'll be done soon, one way or the other.

SOUND: Another fly-by with gunfire. More rifle shots, this time without connecting.

MRS. VARGAS

You missed.

GEIST (sarcastic)

Yeah, I noticed. May have something to do with flying and shooting at the same time.

SOUND: Another fly-by with gunfire. More rifle shots, with several more hits. Second jet explodes.

MRS. VARGAS

You do seem to be a much better shot than they are.

GEIST

Don't jinx us.

SOUND: Another fly-by with gunfire. More rifle shots, with another hit and glass breaking. Third jet flies away.

MRS. VARGAS

A *much* better shot. Did you just....

GEIST

It's probably best if you don't think about it too much, señora.

MRS. VARGAS

What is the last one doing?

GEIST

I'm not sure. I can't see him.

SOUND: The last jet engine grows louder as it approaches.

MRS. VARGAS

Where?...

GEIST

Hang on!

SOUND: Bi-plane does a roll as the jet flies past. Both sets of guns fire, with contact made on both planes. Planes fly separate ways for a few seconds, then the jet explodes.

GEIST

Sorry about that, Mrs. V. Didn't have time to warn you about that roll, but he was coming up from underneath us.

SOUND: Silence over the engine – 3 count.

GEIST

Señora?

SOUND: Silence over the engine – 2 count.

GEIST (worried)

Mrs. Vargas?

SOUND: Transition music.

EPILOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER EXT.: *Shoreline – Plane Graveyard Island*

SOUND: Water gently beating against sandy shore. Footfalls walking across sand.

LINDSEY

What'cha looking at, Ajit?

AJIT (Hindu accent)

The same thing you came down to look for: to see if Mister Derrick will return.

LINDSEY

Any sign of him?

AJIT

It is almost midnight. It is hard to see anything in this darkness.

LINDSEY

True, but it wouldn't be the first time you've seen things that we haven't.

AJIT (chuckling – switching to British accent)

Ahhh, you've caught on to that, I see.

LINDSEY

Yeah. I've caught on to a lot of things. So, do you see anything?

AJIT (Hindu accent)

There is something moving out there, but I'm not sure where or how close.

LINDSEY

Should we get the guns and hand them out?

AJIT

Too soon to tell.

LINDSEY

Well, be sure to let me know when it isn't too soon.

AJIT

Are you worried?

LINDSEY

Of course I'm worried. Those pirates could show up at any minute.

AJIT

No. They would not come at night. You are worried about Mister Derrick.

LINDSEY

Aren't you?

AJIT

Of course, and it is fine for you to admit it as well. That is one of the things that friends do. They worry for one another.

LINDSEY

He should have listened to me. It was too dangerous, flying that hobbled together death trap.

AJIT

Mister Derrick does as Mister Derrick sees best.

LINDSEY

And it's going to get him and / or us killed one of these days.

AJIT

I believe you will find in time that Mister Derrick is willing to take chances, but is not foolishly. He knows what he is doing.

LINDSEY

Are you saying that because you're hoping its true?

AJIT

No. I say it because I know it is. Just ask him yourself.

SOUND: A motorboat coasts through the waves to land on the shore.

GEIST (joking)

Ahoy there, ye land lubbers.

SOUND: Several people jump out of the boat into the surf.

LINDSEY (excited)
Geist!

GEIST
You didn't miss me, did you Lindsey?

LINDSEY (teasing)
Of course not. I'm just shocked you're alive.

AJIT
Mrs. Vargas?

GEIST
She's fine. The flight to Bermuda wasn't particularly pleasant for her, but she's in a hospital and was in serious but stable condition when we left.

LINDSEY
You came back in a motorboat? What happened to 'I have contacts in the Coast Guard, Navy and Air Force?'

GEIST
Let me introduce Captain Steven Wilbury of the Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre. He was closer than the Navy.

WILBURY
Pleasure to meet you, ma'am.

AJIT
You approached quiet because you were concerned the pirates may have taken the island?

GEIST
No. That wasn't a concern. We were more worried about startling everyone if they were sleeping.

LINDSEY
Only to wake them up once you got here.

AJIT
It is far better to be awakened with a nudge than with an alarm.

GEIST

Exactly. So how about you two gather the troops so we can head for home? A ship will be out tomorrow to collect the plane and tow it to Miami for repairs. We'll stay there until it's fixed and we can get underway again.

LINDSEY

Before the pirates come.

SOUND: Splashing out toward the boat.

GEIST (from a distance)

Again, not a concern.

LINDSEY

Why not?

GEIST (from a distance)

I shot them all down on the way out.

LINDSEY

You shot down three of the most sophisticated fighter jets in the world with a cobbled up bi-plane and a handgun?

GEIST

It was a fully automatic, military-grade rifle. Let's go. Chop chop.

SOUND: Two sets of footfalls begin walking.

LINDSEY

I still don't buy it. They should have shot him out of the air.

AJIT

They probably would have, if they had been able to see the plane clearly.

LINDSEY

Why wouldn't they.... Ohhh, did you do something to the plane?

AJIT

What could a humble servant like Ajit possibly do to the plane? As if humble Ajit had powers over earth, water and sky. It is

ridiculous.

LINDSEY

There's far more to you than meets the eye.

AJIT

Nonsense. I am but humble Ajit.

SOUND: Silence – two count.

LINDSEY

I don't care what you say. We need to do something before
Geist's obsessions and ego get us all killed.

CUT: Ending music and credits.

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Ending Credits

You have been listening to the Adventures of Derrick Geist – Episode 5: Sky Pirates, starring (in order of appearance) Ryan Gilbert as Derrick Geist, Doug Zeitlin as Ajit Singh and April Sadowski as Lindsey Capparelli.

This presentation also featured Erick Greeva as Reynolds, Johnathen Michaels as Deaton, Jerry Hallaron as Clarkson, Justin Bills as Mr. Vargas, Joan Hallaron as Mrs. Vargas and Jim Caswell as Captain Wilbury.

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