

11 Tell us a story

Karen: Did I ever tell you about that time I was heading off to Tunisia [*No, I don't think so.*] a while ago. It was quite a while ago. It must have been in the mid 1990's and they had all these strikes at – at Gatwick and we arrived and – and the plane was delayed and I think we ended up getting on our flight about eight hours later [*Oh, nightmare.*] or something around midnight. So, everyone's absolutely grumpy and complaining and we got onto the plane and sat down and Andy suddenly looked at me he said 'I've got a really weird feeling – a really odd feeling about this plane.'

Catherine: You're kidding.

Karen: No. I looked at him and I – I think I was quite disdainful. I just laughed and said – oh, don't be ridiculous just relax and you know – how can there be anything wrong with the plane? And he said 'No, I've got – I feel really, really uneasy, something's not right with this plane' and the engine wasn't even on, so I don't know how he would have that ...

Catherine: Is he like that normally?

Karen: No, not – not really. I mean, occasionally he has been but no not – not – not really. Anyway they ... again we were delayed about another hour and they eventually pulled off and we taxied out to the runway [*Yeah.*] and all seemed fine and he said 'nope still not happy about this plane.' But I just ignored him and ... um ... we got to the runway and ... they roared up the engines and we started to – to – to ... um ... roar down the – the runway and sure enough about ... uh ... 20 seconds into that there was a very loud bang.

Catherine: You're joking!

Karen: No, I'm not joking. It was appalling and ... uh ... the – the pilot came on in that very low key pilot way they do and he said 'Ladies and gentlemen, you may have heard, there's been a slight technical problem with the plane [*Sure.*] the engine has in fact exploded, and we ... ' [*No!*] Yes [*He didn't – he said exploded?*] he said 'the engine has in fact exploded and we will be returning to the terminal where we [*Oh.*] will be taking the plane that's due to go to Ibiza in the morning.'

Catherine: You must have been terrified.

Karen: So it was horrendous, people were just screaming [*Yeah.*] and freaking out it was awful but yeah – so, we did get eventually get to Tunisia but it was about fifteen hours late but on a different plane. No one was going back on that plane I can tell you [*And you found out your husband's got a sixth sense.*] I know he looked at me and he just gave me this really smug nod [*I bet, I bet.*] and ... uh ... said 'you'll listen to me next time.'