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# Bangkok

de  
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traducción de  
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*(fragmento en inglés)*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

SECURITY GUARD: *Thirty-four years old*

TRAVELLER: *Sixty-eight years old*

The action takes place somewhere in Spain.

*An empty airport terminal with long rows of seats. Behind them large windows filter the light of a sunny day. Outside, a hooded falcon flies majestically. A standing traveller watches it, his back to the audience. Next to him stands a wheeled suitcase. On top of the suitcase, there is a light brown coat, neatly folded. Shortly afterwards a security guard appears. He is surprised to see the traveller. After looking in his direction, he continues to observe the figure of the traveller curiously. The guard is wearing a falconry glove on his left hand. The traveller continues to watch the flight of the falcon in silence until it suddenly disappears out of view.*

SECURITY GUARD

What are you doing here?

TRAVELLER

Me? I'm waiting.

SECURITY GUARD

Waiting? What are you waiting for?

TRAVELLER

My plane.

*Silence.*

SECURITY GUARD

I'm sorry but I can't let you stay in the airport. It's not allowed.

TRAVELLER

I don't want to stay in the airport.

SECURITY GUARD

I'd be fired.

TRAVELLER

I'm telling you that I don't want to sleep in the airport. I want to go to Bangkok.

SECURITY GUARD

Bangkok?

TRAVELLER

Bangkok. Thailand. Scheduled departure at 2pm. Sunrisefly

SECURITY GUARD

Sunrisefly?

TRAVELLER

Why aren't the screens on? Why isn't there anybody around?

*Silence.*

SECURITY GUARD

May I see your boarding pass?

TRAVELLER

Of course.

*The traveller looks in one of the coat pockets, removes a scrap of paper and hands it over. The guard reads it carefully.*

SECURITY GUARD

Where did you get this?

TRAVELLER

From the Internet. *(Pause)* What's the matter? Is there some kind of problem?

SECURITY GUARD

How much did you pay for your ticket?

TRAVELLER

One thousand five hundred euros return. With a hotel included.

SECURITY GUARD

What a bargain!

TRAVELLER

With breakfast as well.

SECURITY GUARD

Right. Scrambled eggs, bacon and chocolate croissants. Now listen...

TRAVELLER

Why are you wearing that glove?

SECURITY GUARD

For the falcons.

TRAVELLER

Falcons? What falcons?

SECURITY GUARD

The falcons that we have in the airport. *(Pause)* A lot of people don't know it but falcons are essential for good air traffic control. Can you hear the little bustards? Really annoying birds with

black and white necks? The little bustards get into the plane engines and can cause a disaster. They fly like this. *(He extends his arms and imitates the flight of a bird)* flapflapflapflap.

TRAVELLER

And the falcons scare them off?

SECURITY GUARD

Exactly. They cost a fortune but they're worth it.

TRAVELLER

So, you train them?

SECURITY GUARD

That's right. I train them and look after them.

TRAVELLER

Since when have security guards in airports trained falcons?

SECURITY GUARD

Since when?

TRAVELLER

Yes, since when?

SECURITY GUARD

I don't know. Maybe since everything turned to shit. Since when? I couldn't tell you the exact date. 1588? 1898? Or maybe 1939. Around then.

TRAVELLER

I see. Cost cutting. The economic crisis.

SECURITY GUARD

Cost cutting, the economic crisis and a weekend course on the fundamentals of falconry. Adapt or die. I'm also in charge of the ferrets. But they're not as interesting. Before there were ten of us guarding the airport. Now it's only Wei and I left and Wei finds animals disgusting so I'm in charge of them. It seems that's the way all the Chinese are. Well, the Chinese from Wei's region anyway. China's very big. Maybe in Beijing they love ferrets, I don't know.

TRAVELLER

So what do the ferrets do?

SECURITY GUARD

The ferrets are another key to good air traffic control. All the animals that surround the airport are important, of course. But the ferrets especially because they're responsible for getting rid of the rabbits. Their burrows can wreck the runway. All the ground wiring. It's a disaster.

TRAVELLER

Another weekend course on the fundamentals of the ferret?

SECURITY GUARD

You take it or leave it.

TRAVELLER

And there are another fifty thousand like you waiting.

SECURITY GUARD

And on top of it all you have to say thank you.

TRAVELLER

This airport is a zoo.

SECURITY GUARD

No. It's a long story.

TRAVELLER

Listen, where are the other travellers?

SECURITY GUARD

Other travellers?

TRAVELLER

It's almost time and there's nobody at the gate. And, although you probably won't believe it, there wasn't anybody at check-in either. Nobody. I got through without any problems at all. I could have taken a bomb through. Or a gun. Nobody checked my luggage. I know there have been staff cuts and all that but couldn't they reduce the numbers of falcons and ferrets and hire someone to do the check-in?

SECURITY GUARD

Good question.

TRAVELLER

I'm not asking for anything out of this world.

SECURITY GUARD

Absolutely not.

TRAVELLER

Would you like to check my luggage?

SECURITY GUARD

I'm not authorised to do that.

TRAVELLER

Do you want to frisk me?

SECURITY GUIDE

I'm not authorised for that either. Sorry.

TRAVELLER

All right then. That's fine. Just don't all of you complain later if the plane explodes at two thousand feet.

SECURITY GUARD

I wouldn't worry about that.

TRAVELLER

I hope that there are more staff in the airport in Bangkok, honestly.

SECURITY GUARD

And planes.

TRAVELLER

And planes. What do you mean by that?

SECURITY GUARD

Take a look outside. How many planes do you see?

TRAVELLER

What do you mean by planes?

SECURITY GUARD

I mean those modern era devices in a cylindrical form with 2 flat extensions that come off the sides, most of the time moving at a supersonic speed around space. How many do you see?

TRAVELLER

Well...I can see, at a quick glance...none...I don't see any planes around here. They must be in the hangars.

SECURITY GUARD

In the hangars...where the fuck are you from? Get your things and get out of here at once. Come on.

TRAVELLER

Excuse me.

SECURITY GUARD

Go home. There are no planes here. The airport isn't in use.

TRAVELLER

What about my flight?

SECURITY GUARD

Your flight? What flight? Your flight doesn't exist. You've been swindled, sir. You've paid one thousand five hundred euros for a flight that doesn't exist leaving from an airport that has no planes.

*Silence.*

TRAVELLER

So what do I do now?

SECURITY GUARD

Very simple. You have to leave the building.

TRAVELLER

I can't.

SECURITY GUARD

Yes you can. Come with me please.

TRAVELLER

Just a second, just a second...this...this isn't happening, is it? I have a ticket. A legal ticket. I have the right to travel. What about the falcons? What about the ferrets? What do you train falcons for if there really are no planes at this airport? What...what's really going on here? I want to speak to the head of SunriseFly and be compensated somehow. Or have my flight changed. Something.

SECURITY GUARD

Listen. The only thing that you can do in this airport is go to the bathroom. Do you want to go to the bathroom? I'll take you.

TRAVELLER

No. I have to go to Bangkok.

SECURITY GUARD

Listen, you can't go to Bangkok! You'd have to fly yourself like a falcon! And you're not a falcon! You're a poor idiot that's been fooled in the most foolish way! An old ignoramus, that's what you are! (*Silence*) Excuse me. I'm sorry. Seriously. I didn't mean to say that. It's not your fault.

TRAVELLER

Yes, it is. I'm an idiot.

SECURITY GUARD

No, you're not. It could happen to anyone.

TRAVELLER

Really?

SECURITY GUARD

No. I mean yes. They take advantage of people. That's all. Those bastards don't see people, they see euros. They're sick. We live in a completely commercialised world, you know. There are no people anymore, rather collectives that generate expenses who are subjected to those who can impose taxes on them for the simple act of breathing. It's terrible. But don't you worry about it.

TRAVELLER

No?

SECURITY GUARD

No. Soon everything will completely change.

TRAVELLER

I'll get my money back?

SECURITY GUARD

I'm not talking about that.

TRAVELLER

What are you talking about then?

SECURITY GUARD

Soon there is going to be a substantial change in the world order.

TRAVELLER

So then I'll get my money back?

SECURITY GUARD

No.

TRAVELLER

Then, what's in it for me if there is a substantial change in the world order?

SECURITY GUARD

Nothing at the moment but think of the long term.

TRAVELLER

I don't have time! I want my money now!

SECURITY GUARD

I'm not talking about your money.

TRAVELLER

Ah, no?

SECURITY GUARD

No. I'm talking about how the ruling commercialisation of our society will make way for a new dawn based on empathy and equality for all.

TRAVELLER

And that has something to do with me?

SECURITY GUARD

It has something to do with all of us.

TRAVELLER

Where's your boss? I want to speak to him.

SECURITY GUARD

There's nobody here.

TRAVELLER

Where's the Sunrise fly office? I want to speak to whoever's in charge. They sold me the ticket.

SECURITY GUARD

I've never heard the name of that company. Here, at least, they don't have an office. And do you know why I'm so sure? Because there isn't any office of any airline here. There never has been.

TRAVELLER

There's no justice.

SECURITY GUARD

Not at the moment.

TRAVELLER

Sons of bitches.

SECURITY GUARD

Pisses you right off.

TRAVELLER

Makes me want to beat them to death.

SECURITY GUARD

Skin them alive.

TRAVELLER

Yank their teeth out with pliers.

SECURITY GUARD

Send them to hell.

TRAVELLER

Remove their intestines and strangle them.

SECURITY GUARD

Ok, I think that's enough.

TRAVELLER

Slice off their cocks and stick them up their arseholes after castrating them with a blunt knife.

SECURITY GUARD

That's enough, don't you think?

TRAVELLER

Take a Black and Decker and drill into their bodies, then pour sulphuric acid into the holes, let them melt slowly like Swiss cheese and throw them into the toilet.

SECURITY GUARD

Listen.

TRAVELLER

That's what they deserve. The bastards.

SECURITY GUARD

Listen!!

TRAVELLER

What? Don't shout at me, ok? I can hear you perfectly.

SECURITY GUARD

Sorry. *(Pause)* Why do you want to go to Bangkok?

TRAVELLER

I think it's a good place to disappear.

SECURITY GUARD

Amidst all the people, you mean?

TRAVELLER

No. I mean physically.

*Silence.*

SECURITY GUARD

Hey, listen...don't even think of doing something silly in Bangkok, ok? The authorities there take self-harm very seriously. And not in this airport either. We don't even have a first-aid kit. The other day Wei split his eyebrow open when he fell off the scooter and we didn't even have a band-aid to put on the gash.