

James Dillingham

Haibun

It's not like you've never done
this before. It's only four hours.
Only four hours. Trust that it is
no problem. You will be waited
on hand and foot. You can go to
sleep and it's over before you know it.
Smooth sailing.

Given free pillows
would you like coke or orange juice
Sir, that seat reclines

There won't be any smooth sailing.
There will be dips and turns. Loud
noises and compressed and filtered
air. I'll have a four-hour headache
that would resemble my skull
being compressed by a vice. I'll
have a week long backache from
a chair that just won't recline.
I'll have motion sickness from
the random pockets of turbulence
and I'll have a stomachache from

one too many prepackaged, preprocessed,
preartificially flavored, prechemically
treated, vacuum sealed over-salted
peanuts. And knowing my luck I'll end up
sitting next to someone who snores
louder than a stock car engine.

I'm gonna be sick
Can I please have a pillow
snoring in my ear

But then again once it's over
I can enjoy palm trees and the beach.
Constant 75° weather and endless
sunshine. New faces. New places.
I won't regret it. It should
be, no, it will be worth it in the
end.

Paranoid Airplane
Considered all my options
To California
The summer of a lifetime
I came home with no regrets