

First Flight

The door creaked as it opened slightly. A tiny bit of light from the hallway crept in to the darkness of Hinda Chopra's room. "Hinda," whispered her mother. "Wake up. We are leaving soon."

Hinda opened her eyes. She looked at the clock in her room. It was five o'clock in the morning. Hinda and her family were going on vacation. Since they needed to get to the airport two hours before their flight, they had to leave the house by six o'clock. Hinda slowly got out of bed and got herself ready. She went to see if her younger sister, Kasi, was awake.



Of course Kasi was awake. She was already in the kitchen, eating some strawberries and a big bowl of cereal. Her suitcase was next to the front door. Kasi was always excited and ready to go!

Hinda ate a slice of toast with butter. She wasn't very hungry because she was nervous. It was her first time on an airplane. Her mother had told her all about flying, but she wasn't sure what to expect. Kasi wasn't nervous about flying. She wanted to get on the plane and go. Hinda wished she could be more like her sister.

"I think we are ready," said Mrs. Chopra. "Are you sure you have everything?"

"I thought you made sure of that last night," laughed Mr. Chopra.

As soon as the Chopra family loaded their suitcases into the car, they drove to the airport. The airport was not far from their house. Hinda and her sister had always enjoyed watching the planes fly over their yard. Today, they would finally see what it was like to be on one of those planes.

The airport was very crowded. Hinda could not believe it! It was so early! Since Mrs. Chopra had printed their boarding passes the night before, they only had to check their luggage. Hinda and her family waited in line for about ten minutes.



Finally, they got to the front of the line. They had to put each suitcase on a scale. Then, the airline agent put a tag on each suitcase.

"That way the airline knows where our bags are supposed to go," said Mrs. Chopra.

Next, it was time to go through the security checkpoint. The line was very long. It was hard to find the end of it! The girls waited with their family as they slowly moved toward a woman who was sitting at a tall desk.

"Hello," said the woman to Kasi, "what is your name?"

"My name is Kasi Chopra, and I am going on vacation," said Kasi as she handed the woman her ticket.

"Nice to meet you, Kasi," replied the woman. "Have a wonderful time!"

Mr. and Mrs. Chopra showed the woman their tickets. Then, it was Hinda's turn. She told the woman her name.

The woman told them to go to the security machines. They waited for their turn. Each member of the family went through the machines one at a time. After finishing at the security checkpoint, they went to the gate.

"Welcome to flight 405 to the Bahamas. We are ready to board," said a happy man behind a counter.

When it was their turn, Hinda and her family walked down a long hallway. Hinda could see part of the plane at the end of the hallway. Two men and two women were greeting people as they walked on the plane. One of the women was the pilot. The other

people were the flight attendants. Hinda tried to smile at them as she walked onto the plane.



Mrs. Chopra put the girls' luggage into the compartments above the seats. Kasi and Hinda found their row of seats.

"Let me take your picture," said Mrs. Chopra.

The girls smiled as Mrs. Chopra took a picture. Then, Kasi sat next to the window, and Hinda sat in the seat in the middle. Mrs. Chopra sat in the aisle seat, and Mr. Chopra sat in front of Mrs. Chopra.

"I want to sit by the window so I can see everything," said Kasi. Hinda did not mind letting Kasi have the window seat. She was too scared to look out of the window.

All of a sudden, Hinda heard the pilot's voice. "Ladies and gentleman, we are about to prepare for takeoff. Please make sure your seatbelts are fastened. We will land in the Bahamas in about two hours and forty minutes. We hope you have a comfortable flight."

The flight attendants gave instructions as the airplane started to move. Slowly, the plane made its way around the runway. Then, it stopped. Hinda heard a very loud sound beneath her.

"That's the engine," Mrs. Chopra said. "We are going to take off!"

Hinda held onto her mother's hand. She was a little scared. The plane started to move forward. It accelerated with a lot of power and force. Hinda felt the airplane start to go up into the air. She looked out of the window next to her sister. They were flying!



It felt a little bit like a roller coaster ride. The plane moved up and then it went back down a bit. It was a little bumpy. Hinda had a strange feeling in her stomach. All of a sudden, Hinda started to giggle.

Kasi looked at Hinda. As the plane went higher into the air, Kasi started giggling, too. Then, the two ladies who were sitting next to Mr. Chopra started laughing. Mr. and Mrs. Chopra laughed, too. Pretty soon, everyone around them was laughing.

"It's their first time on an airplane," explained Mr. Chopra. The other passengers smiled and nodded.

"I can't believe I made everyone start laughing," Hinda said to her mother.

"Sometimes people laugh when they are nervous," replied Mrs. Chopra.

"This isn't so bad," said Hinda as she relaxed back in her seat. She even thought about sitting in the window seat on the flight home!

