



**PART ONE**  
**6:30 P.M. — 8:30 P.M.**  
**(CST)**

**1**

AT HALF-PAST SIX on a Friday evening in January<sup>1</sup>, Lincoln International Airport, Illinois<sup>2</sup>, was functioning, though with difficulty, **because of the meanest, roughest winter storm**<sup>3</sup> in half a dozen years<sup>4</sup>. The storm had lasted three days<sup>5</sup>.

A United Air Lines food truck, loaded with two hundred dinners, was lost in snow somewhere on the airport perimeter. A search for the truck in storm had so far failed<sup>6</sup>.

Out on the airfield, runway three zero was out of use. It was blocked by an Aéreo-Mexican jet—a Boeing 707. Its wheels were deeply mired in the ground beneath snow.

In the main passenger terminal, chaos predominated. Terminal waiting areas were jammed<sup>7</sup> with thousands of passengers from delayed or canceled flights.

The wonder was, Mel Bakersfeld, airport general manager, reflected, that anything was continuing to operate at all.

<sup>1</sup> *Пошестого в пятницу вечером в январе*

• Подробнее о предлогах времени см. с. 226, также сравните: *in the evening*, но *on a Friday evening*.

<sup>2</sup> *штат Иллинойс*

• Если события разворачиваются в США, при упоминании места/города чаще всего тут же указывается штат.

<sup>3</sup> *из-за самого сурового, сильнейшего бурана*

• Превосходная степень прилагательных *mean*, *rough*, об образовании степеней сравнения прилагательных см. с. 222.

<sup>4</sup> *6 лет.*

• Слово *dozen* — дюжина употр. аналогично числительным *hundred*, *thousand*, *million*

<sup>5</sup> *длился уже 3 дня.*

Действие предшествует описываемой ситуации в прошлом, подробнее о Past Perfect см. с. 268.

<sup>6</sup> *до сих пор не увенчался успехом.*

См. предыдущий комментарий

<sup>7</sup> *была блокирована... /...увязли... /...были заполнены*

Passive Voice; об образовании и употреблении пассивного залога см. с. 277.

<sup>8</sup> *их*

Разговорная, сниженная форма от мест. *them*. Апостроф обозначает, что первый звук опущен.

<sup>9</sup> *покачал головой.*

Устойчивое выражение для выражения несогласия

<sup>10</sup> *Им точно понадобится такая в этом году.*

*One* — слово-заместитель, позволяет избежать повторения слова *night*  
*would need* — о *Future-in-the-Past* см. с. 273.

<sup>11</sup> *Возможно, да*  
*Might* выражает низкую степень уверенности, см. с. 241.

At the airport, maintenance snow crews were nearing exhaustion. Within the past few hours several men had been ordered home over-fatigued.

At the Snow Control Desk near Mel, Danny Farrow—at other times an assistant airport manager, now snow shift supervisor—was calling Maintenance Snow Center by radiophone.

“We’re losing the parking lots. I need six more Payloaders and a banjo team.”

“Sure, sure. Six more Payloaders. We’ll get ‘em<sup>8</sup> from Santa Claus.” A pause, then more aggressively, “Any other stupid notions?”

Glancing at Danny, Mel **shook his head**<sup>9</sup>. He recognized the speakerphone voice as belonging to a senior foreman who had probably worked continuously since the present snowfall started. Usually, after a snow-fighting winter, airport maintenance and management had a party, which they called “kiss-and-make-up night”. **They would certainly need one this year**<sup>10</sup>.

Danny said reasonably, “We sent four Payloaders after that United food truck. They should be through, or almost.”

“**They might be**<sup>11</sup>—if we could find the truck.”

“You haven’t located it *yet*?”

“Listen, do you birds in the pent-house have any idea what it’s like out on the field? Maybe you should look out the windows once in a while.”

Mentally, Mel Bakersfeld filtered out most of the exchange, though he was aware that what had been said about conditions away from the terminal was true. And removing snow from the airport's operating area was equal to clearing seven hundred miles of highway.

The maintenance foreman's voice came on the radiophone again. "We're worried about that truck too, Danny. The driver could freeze out there."

Mel said, "**That United flight took off, didn't it?**<sup>12</sup> Without food."

"I hear the captain told the passengers it'd take an hour to get another truck, that they had a movie and liquor aboard, and the sun was shining in California. Everybody voted to get the hell out. **I would, too.**"<sup>13</sup>

Mel nodded, resisting a temptation to direct the search himself. Action would be a therapy. At the same time, Danny was already doing the right thing— intensifying the truck search. The missing driver must be saved first.

Between calls, Danny warned Mel, "We'll hold up all the other food trucks till we find the guy."

Mel nodded. **There would be a flood of protests when other airlines realized**<sup>14</sup> their food trucks were not getting through.

With one hand, Danny was using a red telephone; with the other, leafing through emergency orders—**Mel's orders**<sup>15</sup> for occasions such as this.

<sup>12</sup> *А этот самолёт от «Юнайтед Эйрлайнз» вылетел, так?*

Разделительный вопрос, см. с. 291.

<sup>13</sup> *И я бы тоже так сделал.*

Краткий ответ, замещает *I would vote to get the hell out, too.*

*Would* — передаёт нереальное действие (сослагательное наклонение), см. с. 246.

<sup>14</sup> *Польётся волна протестов, когда*

*остальные авиалинии осознают, что*

*There would be* — *Future-in-the-Past* конструкции *there is/are*, т. к. идёт

повествование о будущем из контекста прошедшего, см. с. 286. и 273

*When ... realized* —

в придаточных времени, по аналогии с условными

придаточными, вместо *would + Inf.* употр. *Past Simple*, см. подробнее с. 296.

<sup>15</sup> **приказы Мела**

Притяжательный падеж, см. с. 209.

<sup>16</sup> **голова Дэнни**

*Danny's* – притяжательный падеж, см. с. 209.

<sup>17</sup> **Энни не любит отвечать за**

Глагол *dislike* – не любить, не нравиться употр. с герундием, подробнее о последнем см. с. 284.

<sup>18</sup> **Они уже пару часов работают, пытаются сдвинуть его.**

*'ve been working* = *have been working* – начали несколько часов назад и, не прекращая, работают до сих пор, о времени *Present Perfect Continuous* см. с. 272.

<sup>19</sup> **пассажиров высадили** форма *Past Simple Passive* от *disembark* - подробнее о *Passive Voice* см. с. 277.

<sup>20</sup> **Три года как он призывал к**

*had been urging* – форма *Past Perfect Continuous* от гл. *urge*, обозначает продолженное действие, начавшееся до определённого момента в прошлом и продолжающееся вплоть до него

• The red phone was to the airport's  
• duty fire chief.

• “And when we locate the truck,  
• let's get an ambulance out there. But  
• better not go until we know where  
• exactly. We don't want to dig you  
• guys out, too.”

• The sweat was gleaming on **Dan-**  
• **ny's** balding **head**<sup>16</sup>. Mel was aware  
• that **Danny disliked running**<sup>17</sup> the  
• Snow Control Desk and was hap-  
• pier in his own department of airport  
• planning, discussing aviation's future.  
• Such things were comfortably projected  
• well ahead, with time to think. Just as  
• there were people who lived in the past,  
• Mel thought, for Danny Farrows, the  
• future was a refuge. But, unhappy or  
• not, now Danny was coping.

• Mel picked up a direct line phone  
• to Air Traffic Control.

• “What's the story on that Aéreo-  
• Mexican 707?”

• “Still there, Mr. Bakersfeld.  
• **They've been working a couple of**  
• **hours trying to move it.**<sup>18</sup> No luck  
• yet.”

• That trouble had begun when an  
• Aéreo-Mexican captain, taxiing out  
• for takeoff, mistakenly passed to the  
• right. Unfortunately, the ground to the  
• right had a drainage problem. Within  
• seconds of its wrong-way turn, the  
• hundred and twenty ton aircraft was  
• deeply mired in the mud.

• When it became obvious that the  
• aircraft could not get out, loaded,  
• under its own power, **the passengers**

were disembarked<sup>19</sup> and helped to hastily hired buses. Now, more than two hours later, the big jet was still stuck, its fuselage and tail blocking runway three zero.

“Right now we’re holding ten flights for taxi clearance, another dozen waiting to start engines.”

It was a demonstration, Mel reflected, of how urgently the airport needed additional runways and taxiways. **For three years he had been urging<sup>20</sup>** construction of a new runway to parallel three zero, as well as other operational improvements. But the Board of Airport Commissioners, under political pressure from downtown, refused to approve.

“The other thing,” the tower watch chief said, “is that with three zero out of use, **we’re having to route<sup>21</sup>** take-offs over Meadowood. The complaints have started coming in already.”

Mel groaned. Though the airport had been established long before the community, Meadowood’s residents complained bitterly about noise from **aircraft<sup>22</sup>**. Eventually, after long negotiations **involving<sup>23</sup>** politics and publicity, the airport had conceded that jet takeoffs and landings directly over Meadowood would be made only when essential in special circumstances.

Moreover, it was also agreed that aircraft taking off toward Meadowood would—almost at once after becoming airborne—follow noise abatement procedures. This produced protests from

• <sup>21</sup> **нам приходится**

• **направлять**

• *'re having to = are*

• *having to* — глагол

• *have to* обозначает

• необходимость

• что-то делать, зд.

• употр. во времени

• *Present Continuous*,

• об употреблении

• *to have to* см. с. 233,

• об образовании

• и употреблении

• настоящего

• продолженного

• времени см. с. 258.

• <sup>22</sup> **самолётов.**

• Формы ед. и мн. числа

• существительного

• *aircraft* совпадают,

• об образовании

• множественного числа

• существительных см.

• с. 207.

• <sup>23</sup> **включающих**

• Причастие настоящего

• времени от *involve* на

• русский язык можно

• перевести так же

• причастием, то же

• самое в следующем

• абзаце — *taking off toward*

• *Meadowood* — *взлетая*

• *над Медоувуд*; см. с.

• 230, 284.

• <sup>24</sup> **всё равно пилоты**

• **должны принимать**

• **меры по снижению**

• **шума.**

• Здесь конструкция

• *Complex Subject*

• (*сложное подлежащее*),

передаётся при помощи  
страдательного  
залога, часто  
переводится, начиная  
с неопределённо-  
личного или безличного  
предложения

— *Считается...*;  
*Говорят...* и т. п.)

<sup>25</sup> ***Если бы я был  
пилотом, тоже бы  
проигнорировал их.***

Условное предложение  
типа 2, глагол *to be*  
имеет для всех лиц  
форму *were*, о типах  
условных предложений  
см. с. 296.

*Neither* — аналог *too*  
в отрицательных  
предложениях, если  
стоит в начале, влечёт  
за собой инверсию  
(обратный порядок  
слов).

<sup>26</sup> ***Ты бы послушал  
предупреждения  
you'd have listened — you  
would have listened —***

сослагательное  
наклонение, тип 3  
условных предложений,  
действие относится  
к несбыточному  
прошлому, см. с. 296.

<sup>27</sup> ***Жаль, что я не могу  
облегчить его жизнь.***

*I wish* обозначает  
сожаление или сильное  
желание что-то сделать  
(*жаль, что не; как бы  
хотелось*), требует после

pilots, who considered the procedures  
dangerous. The airlines, however, had  
ordered the pilots to conform. Yet  
Meadowood residents were still pro-  
testing, organizing, and planning legal  
harassment of the airport.

“How many calls have there  
been?”

“Fifty at least, we’ve answered;  
and there’ve been others we haven’t.”

“I suppose you’ve told the peo-  
ple who’ve called that we’ve a special  
situation—the storm, a runway out  
of use.”

“We explain. But nobody’s inter-  
ested. Some of ‘em say that problems  
or not, **pilots are still supposed to  
use noise abatement procedures.**”<sup>24</sup>

“**If I were a pilot, neither would  
I.**”<sup>25</sup>

“I guess it depends on your point  
of view. If I lived in Meadowood,  
maybe I’d feel the way they do.”

“You wouldn’t live in Meadowood.  
**You’d have listened to the warnings**”<sup>26</sup>  
we gave people, years ago, not to build  
houses there.”

“I guess so. By the way, one  
of my people told me there’s another  
community meeting over there tonight.”

“Whatever they are planning,” Mel  
predicted, “we’ll hear about it soon.”  
Changing the subject, Mel inquired,  
“Is my brother on duty tonight?”

“Affirmative. Keith’s on radar  
watch—west arrival.”

West arrival, Mel knew, was  
one of the tough, tense positions in

the tower. It involved supervising all incoming flights in the west quadrant. “Is Keith all right?”

There was a slight pause before the answer. “Yes, he is. **I wish I could let him take things easier.**<sup>27</sup> But we’re short-staffed and everybody is under the gun.” He added, “Including me.”

“I know you are, and I appreciate your watching out for Keith the way you have.”

“Well, in this job most of us have combat fatigue at one time or another. When it happens we try to help each other.”

“Thanks.” The conversation had not eased Mel’s anxiety. “**I may drop in later.**<sup>28</sup>”

“Right, sir.” The tower chief hung up.

The “sir” was strictly a courtesy. **Mel had no authority**<sup>29</sup> over ATC. But relationships between controllers and airport management were good, and Mel saw to it they stayed that way.

Any airport was an odd complexity of overlapping authority. No single individual had supreme command, yet no segment was entirely independent. As airport general manager, Mel was closest to an over-all authority, but there were areas where **he knew better than to intrude.**<sup>30</sup> Air Traffic Control was one, airline internal management another.

Mel remembered **about the note delivered to him**<sup>31</sup> fifteen minutes before.

• себя сослагательное  
• наклонение, зд. с *could*,  
• см. с. 240.

• *let smb do smth* – букв.  
• *позволить кому-то*  
• *что-то сделать*,  
• обратите внимание на  
• инфинитив без *to* (*bare*  
• *infinitive*) после *let*

• <sup>28</sup> **Я, может, позже**  
• **загляну.**

• *тау* – низкая степень  
• уверенности, см. с. 541;

• *drop in* – *заскочить*,  
• *забежать*; фразовый  
• глагол, т. е. его смысл

• не складывается из  
• отдельно взятых  
• значений глагола и

• следующего за ним  
• предлога, такие  
• глаголы рекомендуется  
• запоминать

• <sup>29</sup> **Мел не имел никакой**  
• **власти над**

• *No* – отрицательное  
• местоимение; см. в  
• следующем абзаце *No*

• *single individual* – *Ни*  
• *один отдельно стоящий*  
• *человек*; подробнее об

• употреблении *no* см.  
• с. 210.

• <sup>30</sup> **он знал, что лучше не**  
• **вмешиваться.**

• *better* – сравнительная  
• степень от наречия *well*,  
• входит в устойчивое  
• выражение *to know better*  
• *than*

• <sup>31</sup> **о записке,**  
• **доставленной ему**



*delivered* – причастие прошедшего времени от глагола *deliver* – доставлять; на русский язык переводится страдательным причастием, см. с. 321.

<sup>32</sup> *Подумала, что должна предупредить тебя*

Таня намеренно сокращает и изменяет слова, см. далее в записке: *shd* = *should*, *u* = *you*, *bro* = *brother*, *becos* = *because*, *luv* = *love*.

<sup>33</sup> *по настоянию*

*Димиреста*

*Demerest's* – притяжательный падеж; об образовании и употреблении притяжательного падежа см. с. 209.

<sup>34</sup> *Димирест из записки*

Определённый артикль с именем собственным обычно не употребляется, но в тех случаях, когда надо подчеркнуть, что речь идёт именно об этом человеке, употребляется; здесь определённый артикль указывает, что это именно тот Димирест, который упомянут в записке.

<sup>35</sup> *у Мела с зятем были не самые лучшие отношения*

M -

*Thought shd warn u*<sup>32</sup> – *airlines snow committee (on demerest's urging*<sup>33</sup> ...*why does your bro-in-law dislike you?) preparing critical report becoss run-ways & taxiways snow clearance inefficient... report blames airport (meaning u) for flight delays... also claims 707 wouldn't have stuck if taxiway plowed sooner, better ... and where are you?... buy me coffee soon.*

*luv t*

The “t” was for Tanya—Tanya Livingston, passenger relations agent for Trans America, and a special friend of Mel’s. Mel read the note again, as he usually did messages from Tanya, which became clearer the second time around.

**The Demerest in the note**<sup>34</sup> was Captain Vernon Demerest, also of Trans America. As well as being one of the airline’s more senior captains, Demerest was a campaigner for the Air Line Pilots Association, and, this season, a member of the Airlines Snow Committee at Lincoln International.

Vernon Demerest also happened to be Mel’s brother-in-law, married to Mel’s older sister, Sarah. However, **there was little cordiality between Mel and his brother-in-law**<sup>35</sup>, whom Mel considered conceited and pomp-

ous. **Others**, he knew, **had the same opinion**.<sup>36</sup>

Mel was not greatly worried about the report. Whatever shortcomings the airport might have in other ways, he knew they were coping with the storm as well as any organization could.

Mel decided he would make an inspection of the present snow clearance situation at the same time that he was out on the airfield checking on the blocked runway and the mired Aéreo-Mexican jet.

He had remembered what Tanya said in her note about having coffee together. He would stop at his own office first, then he would drop by Trans America to see her. The thought excited him.

## 2

MEL entered his own interior office. The only reason he had stayed through most of **this three-day storm**<sup>1</sup> was to be available for emergencies. Otherwise, he mused, as he put on a heavy topcoat and fur-lined boots, **by now he would have been home**<sup>2</sup> with Cindy and the children.

Or would he?

No matter how objective you tried to be, it was hard to be sure of your own real motives. **Not going home seemed lately to have become**<sup>3</sup> the pattern of his life. His job was a cause, of course. But—if he was honest with himself—the airport also offered an escape from the quarrels between

*little cordiality* — букв.  
мало сердечности, об  
употреблении *little* см.  
с. 213;

*between* — между,  
предлог, употр. при  
наличии двух объектов  
<sup>36</sup> *Другие ... тоже так*  
*думали.*

*Others*, в отличие от *the*  
*others*, означает *другие*  
из неограниченного  
количества объектов

<sup>1</sup> *этого трёхдневного*  
*бурана*

*a three-day storm* =  
*three days' storm* —  
синонимичные  
конструкции

для обозначения  
временного отрезка

<sup>2</sup> *сейчас он уже был бы*  
*дома*

*would have been* —  
условное предложение  
типа 3, нереальное  
условие, см. с. 296.

<sup>3</sup> *Казалось, последнее*  
*время не возвращаться*  
*домой стало*

Вновь конструкция  
*Complex Subject*,

стоит переводить,  
начиная с безличного  
предложения –

*Казалось...*

*not going* – герундий, об  
употреблении см. с. 284

*to have become* –

Perfect Infinitive,

об употреблении  
инфинитива см. с. 280.

<sup>4</sup> *ещё один из*

*утомительных*

*благотворительных*

*вечеров его жены.*

*another* – ещё

один, употр. с

существительным в ед.

ч., когда выбор идёт из

неограниченного числа

предметов;

*his wife's* –

притяжательный падеж,

см. с. 209.

<sup>5</sup> *Он всё ещё мог бы*

*успеть туда,*

*could* – сослагательное

наклонение – *мог бы*, об

употреблении *could* см.

с. 240.

<sup>6</sup> *после осмотра лётного*

*поля.*

После предлога

*after* употребляется

герундий, см. с. 284.

<sup>7</sup> *его старшая дочь*

*elder* – сравнительная

степень от *old*, употр.

только при описании

родственников

<sup>8</sup> *Она ушла.*

*go out* – выйти из дома

ненадолго, часто для

himself and Cindy which seemed to  
occur nowadays whenever they spent  
time together.

“Oh, hell!”

A glance at a typed reminder  
from his secretary confirmed what he  
had just recalled. Tonight there was  
**another of his wife's tedious charity  
affairs.**<sup>4</sup> A week ago, reluctantly, Mel  
had promised to attend.

Fortunately, the starting time was  
late—almost two hours from now. **So  
he could still make it**<sup>5</sup>, even **after  
inspecting the airfield.**<sup>6</sup> Mel would  
be downtown only a little late. He  
had better warn Cindy, though. Mel  
dialed his home number. Roberta, **his  
elder daughter**<sup>7</sup>, answered.

“Hi,” Mel said. “This is your  
old man.”

Roberta's voice came coolly. “I  
know.”

“How was school today?”

“Could you be specific, Father?  
There were several classes.”

Mel sighed. Did all fathers, he  
wondered, abruptly lose communication  
with their daughters at age thirteen?  
Less than a year ago, the two of  
them had seemed as close as father  
and daughter could be. Mel loved both  
his daughters deeply—Roberta, and  
her younger sister, Libby. There were  
times when he realized they were the  
only reasons his marriage had survived.

“Never mind,” Mel said. “Is your  
mother home?”

“**She went out.**<sup>8</sup> She said, if you phoned, to tell you, you have to be downtown to meet her, and for once try not to be late.”

Roberta was undoubtedly repeating Cindy’s words exactly.

“**If your mother calls, tell her I might have to be a little late, and that I can’t help it.**”<sup>9</sup>

“Libby wants to talk to you.”

“In a minute. I was just going to tell you—because of the storm I may not be home tonight. There’s a lot happening at the airport.”

“Will you speak to Libby now?”

“Yes, I will. Goodnight, Robbie.”

“Goodnight.”

The telephone changed hands.

“Daddy, Daddy! **Guess what!**<sup>10</sup>”

Libby was always breathless **as if**, to a seven-year-old, **life were** excitingly **on the run**<sup>11</sup> and she must forever keep pace. “Well, at school, Miss Curzon said for homework we have to write down all the good things we think will happen next month.”

He could understand Libby’s enthusiasm. To her, almost everything was exciting and good, and **the few things**<sup>12</sup> which were not were brushed aside and speedily forgotten.

“That’s nice,” Mel said.

“Daddy! Will you help me? I want a map of February.”

Mel smiled. Libby had a verbal shorthand of her own which sometimes seemed more expressive than conventional words.

- проведения досуга
- <sup>9</sup> *Если мама позвонит, скажи ей, что, возможно, мне придётся немного задержаться и что я ничего не могу с этим поделать.*
- Условное предложение реального условия, поэтому в условном придаточном Present Simple; о типах условных предложений см. с. 296.
- Модальный глагол *might* выражает предположение, вероятность
- *have to* выражает вынужденное действие
- *can’t help doing smth* — быть не в состоянии что-то не сделать, быть не в состоянии удержаться, чтобы не сделать что-л
- <sup>10</sup> *А знаешь, что случилось?*
- *Guess what!* — букв. *угадай что*,
- повелительное наклонение, устойчивое выражение; об образовании и употреблении повелительного наклонения см. с.
- <sup>11</sup> *словно... жизнь постоянно... бежала вперёд*
- *as if* — *будто, словно*
- влечёт за собой