

A Poem by Jane Vella – 1990s
Pan Am Flight 103: The Next Day

From Frankfurt to London –
A handful of brave passengers met
The shaken crew
From London to New York
The quiet rose intensely
No shuffling of magazines
No ordering of drinks
Flying over Lockerbie
One thought was shared by all aboard
'Why me?'

Looking down from this
Cumulus Bridge of San Luis Rey
We felt the pain, the horror of all below
Families, friends, beloved

Here were we
The next day

A moment in time last November
'What day will you come home? The third or the fourth?'
'Oh, best the fourth
So much to finish up!'

Choose life!
I did!
'Why me?'

Grateful and subdued, we traveled home
The quiet plane ride across the Atlantic
Was a route to all the rest of our lives.