

Lola Palooza Airways



“Please place your tray tables in the upright and locked position and fasten your seatbelts. We’re coming in for a landing.” After Lola made her perfunctory announcement, she reduced power to 100 knots, lowered her flaps, and extended the landing gear. Because of the dense cloud cover, she was on full instrument approach. She checked the camber of her saxophone – no problem there. However, according to the trip odometer, her glide path was skewed 355 degrees, so she adjusted her pitch from B flat to C sharp. Abruptly the clouds were above her and she *could* see sharp. And she saw that she was coming in too fast! Immediately, she spun the rudder like a casino roulette wheel and the plane executed an emergency loop-the-loop, much to the dismay of an airsickness-prone passenger. Worse, her action didn’t curtail the plane’s speed. The ground was still approaching much too quickly. On a whim, Lola reached back into the passenger cabin and released the nearest tray table. As it fell down, it was like someone had confuted Einstein’s theory of general relativity and gravity no longer played by the rules. A mere dozen feet from the ground, the aircraft suddenly stopped dropping ... and just stayed there, frozen in midair. A crash no longer seemed imminent – *that* was good news. However, Lola had filed a flight plan, and she was determined to follow it to its end. Since the plane no longer responded to her controls, the wily pilot proceeded to kick her feet like a flamenco dancer on amphetamines. Gradually, the aircraft sank lower and lower until it finally came to rest on the tarmac, where her passengers gratefully disembarked. Some of them applauded her heroics, and she graciously bowed to them. After all, it was all in a day’s work for Lola Palooza Airways!