

A NEW LEASE

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

GERTIE

ALICE

AND A SPECIAL GUEST STAR

Time:

8:48pm on a Sunday evening, 1962

Place:

In a car. On Main Street. In Miles City, Montana. The United States of America. Continent of North America. Western Hemisphere. The Earth. The Solar System. The Universe. The Mind of God.

A NEW LEASE

SETTING: Somewhere between First Avenue North and the Roundup turnoff on Main Street in Miles City, Montana. We see a brand-new 1962 Ford Galaxie 500, turquoise in color with a peacock blue interior. The car has that new vinyl smell. It is a lovely spring Sunday evening during the second half of *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

AT RISE: Two lesbians are seen inside. GERTIE drives while ALICE sits in the passenger seat sound asleep. The doors are locked and the windows up. Local shops and their denizens blur by at 35 mph.

GERTIE

For the love of God. What's the matter with this idiot?

(honks)

Come on! Yeah, I'm talking to you!

(rolls down her window and shouts directly
to a specific audience member)

What's the matter with you, you fucking hillbilly? We're trying to make *Bonanza*!

(rolls up her window, honks some more)

ALICE

(bolts awake, gasps)

What a frightful vision I've had!

GERTIE

What's that, babe?

ALICE

Quick! What time is it?

GERTIE

Eight forty-eight. Hold on. I'm turning right.

(turns the wheel and leans)

ALICE

No. Year. What year?

GERTIE

What do you mean, what year? It's 1962. We're coming home in our brand-new Ford Galaxie 500. We've got it under a five-year leash.

ALICE

I have seen a parallel universe!

GERTIE

You just had a bad dream. Hold on. I'm turning left.
(turns the wheel and leans)

ALICE

Did you hear what I said? We co-exist in an alternate reality! Wait a minute. Where am I?

GERTIE

What's gotten into you, babe? You're scaring me. I'm pulling over.

(pulls over and puts the car in park)

ALICE

You're doing what?

GERTIE

I'm stopping the car. *Bonanza* be damned. I want to know what's going on with you, Alice.

ALICE

Who's Alice? I'm [ALICE actor's real name].

GERTIE

You're who?

ALICE

I'm [ALICE actor] and I'm on a stage. We're sitting on mere blocks.

GERTIE

Have you lost your mind?

ALICE

Au contraire. Life has never made more sense. I'm [ALICE actor] at the [name of the theater] in a very low budget production of [name of show].

GERTIE

That's it. I'm making a U-turn and see if I can check you in at the Warm Springs Nuthouse. Hang on.

(GERTIE turns the wheel and leans)

ALICE

What are you doing, [GERTIE actor]?

GERTIE

Huh? I'm Gertie. Come on. I'm turning left. Lean in.

ALICE

Why?

GERTIE

I don't know. Centrifugal force?

ALICE

But that's ridiculous.

(stands up beside the blocks)

GERTIE

What are you doing? Get back in the car! You'll get killed.

ALICE

But I'm not in a car.

GERTIE

(applies the breaks and turns the engine off)

Quit fucking around, Alice, and get back in.

ALICE

Back in what?

GERTIE

Our 1962 Ford Galaxie 500.

ALICE

What are you holding onto?

GERTIE

What do you think? A steering wheel.

(sees the audience member, rolls down
the window)

ALICE

What are you doing?

GERTIE

Just a minute.

GERTIE (continued)

(shouts out)

Hold your horses, buster. I'm having a crises with my special friend whom I do not share a bedroom with.

(rolls up the window)

ALICE

Now what are you doing?

GERTIE

I'm rolling up the window.

ALICE

No you're not.

GERTIE

Yes I am. Now get in.

ALICE

Get in where? There's nothing here.

(waving her hands in thin air)

GERTIE

Hey! Stop that! You're scratching the paint.

ALICE

Am I? Am I really? Let's see what else I can do.

(walking around in front of the blocks)

GERTIE

Hey, are you crazy? Get off the hood.

ALICE

Really, [GERTIE actor]? The hood?

(now dancing around the blocks and ends up on GERTIE's side)

GERTIE

Be careful. This car will give us a new leash on life.

ALICE

(poking GERTIE in the head)

You're not saying that right.

GERTIE

Cut that out.

ALICE

I thought you rolled up your window.

GERTIE

I did.

ALICE

Then how come I can do this?

GERTIE

I'll be damned. The window must be broken.
(rolls up the window again)

ALICE

How's the window now?

GERTIE

What? I can't hear you. Talk a little louder.

ALICE

(right up to GERTIE's ear)
How's this, you loopy ol' bitty?

GERTIE

You're insane! Stay away from the car. I'm locking the doors.
(locking both doors)

ALICE

That'll help.

GERTIE

I'm getting the hell out of here.
(starts up the engine and floors it)
Eat my dust, bitch!

ALICE

OK. You want to play it that way? Fine.

(ALICE pulls her block away and sets it slightly behind GERTIE. She sits down and makes siren noises, now acting the part of motorcycle cop)

GERTIE

(looking in her rearview mirror)
Shit. The fuzz.

ALICE

Pull over!