

The Journey

Drena Heizer





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THE JOURNEY

by Drena Heizer

PLOT

Bob should have stayed home from this airline trip, but of course he couldn't have known about these odd people on the plane or about the strange and alarming announcements from the cockpit. And then there is that thing with the maple syrup...

CAST

NARRATOR

THE VOICE: Male actor.

ALICE

BOB

GERTRUDE

STAGE POSITIONS: From stage left toward stage right: Gertrude, Alice, Bob. At stage right is The Voice, separated slightly from the others if he has to remain onstage. Ideally, if the sound system allows, he would be hidden from sight.

PROPS: None

PERFORMANCE NOTES: Alice's character attempts to speak the Spanish language, but she does it very poorly, so we wouldn't want anyone in this role who speaks it fluently.

Reminder: Actors frequently look at whoever is speaking, but in this skit it is important to remember that THE VOICE is supposed to be 'elsewhere,' so if he is onstage they should not look in his direction. Airline passengers usually look up when there is someone speaking on the intercom.

NARRATOR: Our scene opens aboard a plane, now cruising at 30,000 feet on its way to New York City. There are some unsuspecting passengers who are going to find this trip rather unnerving.

THE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome aboard Flight number three. It would have been Flight four, but one of the wheels fell off. Thank you for choosing Breakwind Airlines for your flying pleasure. Our motto is: If we can't get you there, you're lucky you didn't go.

ALICE: What's that supposed to mean?

BOB: I don't think I want to know.

VOICE: Our other motto is: If you're not satisfied, we're not surprised.

BOB: Oh, wonderful.

ALICE: Now I know why I didn't want to fly until the law of gravity was repealed.

BOB: Then why are you flying now?

ALICE: I've always wanted to go to Spain. But I wish there was another way to get there.

BOB: Have you considered swimming?

ALICE: Oh, fine. A comedian.

GERTRUDE: I never learned to swim. My parents wanted me to take swimming lessons, but I didn't want to get wet.

BOB: Oh, really?

GERTRUDE: Yes. My parents were very wealthy, so they paid another kid to take my swimming lessons for me.

BOB: That's interesting.

GERTRUDE: Yes. We were so rich that I never had to do anything for myself.

BOB: I suppose when you took piano lessons they paid somebody else to practice?

GERTRUDE: That's right.

BOB: And when you went to the bathroom they paid somebody else to—

VOICE: Oh, Stewardess—do you remember where we put the instruction manual for this aircraft? There are so darned many buttons and dials up here!

(Passengers glance at each other in alarm)

BOB: *(rolls eyes)* Oh, great!

GERTRUDE: Don't worry, dear. Worrying gives you a headache.

BOB: So does being on his plane.

GERTRUDE: Just think happy thoughts.

BOB: All I can think of right now is that I wish I had hit an iceberg in the road on my way to the airport.

ALICE: All I can think of right now is that I wish I had brought an umbrella for my overseas flight. I hear the rain in Spain falls mainly in the plane.

BOB: That's ON the PLAIN—the flat part of the county. It doesn't rain in the airplane!

ALICE: Well, that's a relief.

GERTRUDE: By the way, Miss—uh—what is your name, dear?

ALICE: It's Alice.

GERTRUDE: Mine's Gertrude.

ALICE: It's a pleasure to meet you.

GERTRUDE: *(haughtily)* Yes, I know...So, Alice, do you have family in Spain?

ALICE: No.

GERTRUDE: Friends?

ALICE: No.

GERTRUDE: Then why are you going to Spain? Why not Greece or Italy—or Oklahoma?

ALICE: Oh, Spain is so romantic. The men are so good-looking. I hope to find myself a bullfighter, or a wine grower, or maybe one of those bird dancers.

BOB: Bird dancers?

ALICE: Yes. Flamingos.

BOB: That's FLAMENCO. Flamenco dancers.

ALICE: Whatever. I just want one of those yummy Spanish guys—so I've taught myself to speak the language.

BOB: You taught yourself Spanish?

ALICE: Oh, yes. And when I meet that special man I'm going to tell him right away that I'm free, I'm available. Listen this: *Soy una libreria.*

BOB: Uh—I hate to tell you this, but I studied Spanish in college, and you chose the wrong word there. What you actually said was, "I am a bookstore."

ALICE: Oh. Well then I'll flatter him. I'll say he looks like a movie star: *Usted parece un siluro muerto.*

BOB: I don't think he'd be thrilled about that. Literally translated, what you just said was, "You look like a dead catfish."

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Now buy the entire show — such fun!