

**LEONA, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR, TOO**  
**By Gary Ray Stapp**

*(Excerpts may be used royalty free for auditions.)*

**AUDITION -- for 1 m, 3 w**

*In this scene, Leona is recovering from seeing her ex-husband. A neighbor drops by.*

*(AT RISE: A few hours later. The stage is empty for a beat, then ALBERT enters SR carrying a couple of small boxes as FRANCINE enters USC from hallway.)*

**ALBERT:** These are things from Leona's closet. Where do you want them?

**FRANCINE:** Just put them there on the table for now. Leona is still resting.

**ALBERT:** Is she awake?

**FRANCINE:** No, but my prescription sedatives I gave her are beginning to wear off, and she's talking in her sleep.

**ALBERT:** What did she say?

**FRANCINE:** Albert, you don't want to know. But what she said in her sleep was interesting. Do you own a bulletproof vest?

**ALBERT:** No.

**FRANCINE:** You might want to go buy one.

**ALBERT:** Leona wouldn't hurt me...would she?

**FRANCINE:** Of course not. But she's been carrying a lot of bitterness for several years. Tread lightly.

**ALBERT:** I will.

**FRANCINE:** I can't believe your timing. I didn't plan on you showing up until next month.

**ALBERT:** Sorry. I got my dates mixed up. I'm just wondering where I was supposed to be today! But, I'm glad I'm here. I have missed her, you know.

**FRANCINE:** Make sure you tell her that.

*(LEONA enters USC wearing a robe.)*

**LEONA:** Albert, I want you to leave.

**ALBERT:** But...but I just got here.

**LEONA:** Leave.

**ALBERT:** Leona, we need to talk.

**LEONA:** I don't want to talk to you, Albert.

**ALBERT:** I'm not leaving until we talk.

**FRANCINE:** I'll leave the two of you alone. I'll run over to the other house and tidy things up, or something.

**LEONA:** Leave the door open, Francine. Albert will be right behind you.

*(FRANCINE ignores her, closing the door, she exits SR.)*

**LEONA:** *(Cont'd.)* Nobody listens to me.

**ALBERT:** Well, maybe you should listen to someone else for a change. *(LEONA glares at HIM.)* I mean that with my utmost affection.

**LEONA:** That's not worth much, is it? *(Sits at the table.)*

**ALBERT:** I deserve that.

**LEONA:** Yes, you do. Now say what you want and then get out.

**ALBERT:** I want to explain why I left.

**LEONA:** I know why you left, Albert.

**ALBERT:** You do?

**LEONA:** I was not very nice to you, and you got tired of it and left.

**ALBERT:** Well...yeah. That's most of it.

**LEONA:** Most? Okay, the rest of it had to do with another woman, I suppose?

**ALBERT:** There was no other woman!

**LEONA:** Are you sure?

**ALBERT:** I think I would know. Leona, I swear, I did not leave you for another woman.

**LEONA:** Okay. I believe you.

**ALBERT:** Really? That was...easy.

**LEONA:** Albert, you're not that great a catch.

**ALBERT:** *(Laughs.)* Now, that's my Leona. I caught you, though, didn't I? *(Sits at the table.)*

**LEONA:** Don't try to get sentimental with me. Are you done?

**ALBERT:** Leona, I begged you to go traveling with me. All I wanted to do was show you the world, but you wouldn't go.

**LEONA:** I didn't need to see the world. I was content with staying home and raising my prize-winning marigolds.

**ALBERT:** To hell with your marigolds.

**LEONA:** Apparently.

**ALBERT:** I'm sorry, Leona. You have to understand, it's hard for a man to have to compete with a bunch of flowers. You spent more time doting over them than you did me.

**LEONA:** I don't need you to sit here and point out my faults as you perceive them. *(Stands.)* Now, I want you to leave. I have things to do. I am going to go shower and I will be locking the bathroom door.

**ALBERT:** But— *(Stands.)*

**LEONA:** Good-bye, Albert. *(Exits USC.)*

*(There is a knocking on the door and JUDY steps inside carrying a clipboard and pen.)*

**JUDY:** Yoo-hoo!? Leona? *(Sees ALBERT and is mildly surprised.)* Oh! You're not Leona. *(Looks around behind her.)* I must have taken a wrong turn in Albuquerque.

**ALBERT:** Albuquerque?

**JUDY:** That's what Bugs Bunny says when he gets lost. I watch a lot of cartoons. I have six kids. Sorry to bother you, sir. *(Closes the door behind her.)*

**ALBERT:** *(Shrugs.)* Nice to see you again, too, Judy.

*(JUDY bursts back inside.)*

**JUDY:** ALBERT?!

**ALBERT:** Judy!

*(SHE rushes to HIM and throws her arms around him.)*

**JUDY:** Albert, it's so good to see you again.

**ALBERT:** You haven't changed a bit, Judy.

**JUDY:** Yes I have. Look at me! I'm pregnant.

**ALBERT:** Congratulations.

**JUDY:** This is number seven. (*Patting stomach.*)

**ALBERT:** Seven?

**JUDY:** Yep. First we had Paul Junior. Then came Marsha, and the twins Jan and Peter, then Bobby and Cindy.

**ALBERT:** Hmm...those names kind of sound familiar.

**JUDY:** We named them after the kids on that TV show *The Brady Bunch*. Well, except Paul Junior. He's named after Paul.

**ALBERT:** You must be a big fan of that TV show to name your kids after them.

**JUDY:** Not really, I just couldn't think of anything else.

**ALBERT:** So, what are you planning to name this one?

**JUDY:** Well, if it's a boy, we'll call him Greg, since we skipped him.

**ALBERT:** And if it's a girl?

**JUDY:** I guess we'll name her Alice after the housekeeper.

**ALBERT:** Makes sense. Wow, you and Paul have been busy.

**JUDY:** I'll say-ay-AY-AYYY-AYYYYYY! (*Hands ALBERT her clipboard and grabs HER stomach.*)

**ALBERT:** Judy?! Are you okay?

**JUDY:** (*Breathing heavily and nodding HER head.*) I just-need-to-sit.

**ALBERT:** Here, let me help (*Leads HER over to a chair.*). Are you in labor?

**JUDY:** No. I've just been having...uh, discomfort. This kid is quiet the kicker!

**ALBERT:** Must have a little soccer player in there.

**JUDY:** No. It's just a baby.

**ALBERT:** No, I mean—

**JUDY:** Ahhauggggh! There it goes again.

**ALBERT:** Score!

**JUDY:** Huh?

**ALBERT:** Nothing.

**JUDY:** To be honest, the way this one has been acting, I'm afraid she or he is going to be a mean one! Now, enough about me. Albert! I can't believe you're here! Was Leona excited to see you?

**ALBERT:** Not—not exactly.

**JUDY:** I'm so glad you're back. This will be just like old times. I can't wait to tell Paul.

**ALBERT:** How is Paul?

**JUDY:** He's good! Good, good, good, good...good. Well, actually, he's a little mad at me at the moment.

**ALBERT:** *(Sits.)* Mad at you? About what?

**JUDY:** Well, Albert, I've kinda signed up as a member of a couple of animal rights groups.

**ALBERT:** Well, that's nice of you. Surely Paul doesn't mind you supporting a couple of animal organizations?

**JUDY:** Well, it's actually more than a couple.

**ALBERT:** How many?

**JUDY:** Fourteen. And counting! Which is why I came over here! I wanted to ask Leona to sign my petition.

**ALBERT:** A petition? For what?

**JUDY:** It's about deer crossing signs.

**ALBERT:** I'll sign it, if you want.

**JUDY:** *(Handing HIM the clipboard.)* Thank you, Albert.

**ALBERT:** This part of the country could use as many deer crossing signs as possible.

**JUDY:** *(Takes the clipboard away.)* Not more! I want the signs taken down!

**ALBERT:** What?

*(LEONA enters USC.)*

**LEONA:** Albert, what are you still doing here? I told you to leave.

**ALBERT:** Look who dropped by!

**LEONA:** Whoop-de-do. Judy's over here all the time. Judy, what are you doing here? Never mind, I don't care. Judy, please leave and take Benedict Arnold with you.

**JUDY:** Who?

**ALBERT:** That's low, Leona.

**LEONA:** Would you prefer Hitler?

**JUDY:** Who?

**ALBERT:** That's hitting below the belt.

**JUDY:** I'm so confused.

**LEONA:** What's new?

**ALBERT:** Leona, be nice.

**LEONA:** I am done speaking to you.

**ALBERT:** Leona—

**LEONA:** (*Holds HER palm out to HIM as she sits down at the table.*) Talk to the hand.

**ALBERT:** That's a little juvenile.

**LEONA:** Probably. I could turn my hand around and drop a few fingers. But, I'm too much of a lady.

**ALBERT:** (*Laughs.*) Lord, I've missed you, Leona.

**LEONA:** Whatever. Judy, are you here to apologize for the savagery accosted upon my person by your offspring?

**JUDY:** Well, since I'm not exactly sure what you mean, I'll go with no. What I'm here for is to get your signature on my petition to have deer crossing signs taken down.

**LEONA:** Really? And why are you petitioning for that?

**JUDY:** Leona, you won't believe it! I have just today learned that the state highway department has posted deer crossing signs out on the interstate!

**LEONA:** So?

**JUDY:** So, why would those people be so mean and cruel to those poor unsuspecting animals?

**LEONA:** What are you talking about?

**JUDY:** Well, Leona, you don't have to be as smart as a brain surgeon to know that the last place deer need to be crossing the road is on an interstate highway! They should put those signs up in school zones where people are already driving slow and on the lookout for other pedestrians. But no, the highway people are intentionally leading those poor unsuspecting animals onto roads with thousands and hundreds of cars speeding back and forth at ninety miles an hour. Deer are going to get hit left and right! It's inhumane, don't you think?

**LEONA:** Honestly, I'm at a loss for words.

From: *Leona, Love thy Neighbor, Too-* By Gary Ray Stapp

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