

SWITCHEROO

written by

Sam Herriges

GERALD - GERRI's husband, emotionally attached, very dependant

GERRI - GERALD's Wife, Spitfire, nonchalant, sane

FLIGHT ATTENDANT - Passive-aggressive, "nice"

PASSENGER - Not wearing their glasses, senile

SWITCHEROO

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**INT - Airplane - Day**

GERALD and GERRI are walking down the aisle of an airplane looking for their seat.

**GERALD**

18, 19, 20, 21, 22...

**GERRI**

Hand me my bag, Gerald. This is me.

**GERALD**

(confused)

But, I'm in row 39.

**GERRI**

(Casually)

So, go to 39 then.

**GERALD**

But, I wanna sit with you.

**GERRI**

(sighing)

Yea, Jerry - me too. But we've gotta wait until everybody's on the plane before we can ask to switch. We aren't that important.

(STEWARDESS approaches.)

**STEWARDESS**

(smiling)

Hi there, folks. Is there a problem?

(GERRI snatches her bag from GERALD and cuts him off.)

**GERRI**

No, we're just finding our seats. Thanks.

**STEWARDESS**

Okay - well, I do just want to remind you that we have to seat the rest of the plane. So, once you're comfortable, we can get everybody else seated.

(STEWARDESS exits. GERALD and GERRI take their seats. The whole time that GERALD is trying to find his seat, he's looking back to GERRI with lost puppy eyes. Now in his seat, GERALD flags down the STEWARDESS.)

**GERALD**

Hi there, you remember me from earlier? Well, my wife is in seat 22A, and I was just wondering if you could ask her to move back here with me. It looks like I have a couple open seats.

**STEWARDESS**

(fake smiling)

Of course, sir - I'll ask her right away.

(STEWARDESS walks over to GERRI who is chomping airplane peanuts with a sleeping mask on.)

**STEWARDESS**

Ma'am, your husband has a few open seats next to him and would like to know if you could sit next to him?

**GERRI**

(looking at her, but not lifting the mask)

Wha? He wants me to come sit back by him, even though I also have two open seats? He would say that. No. I'm good. Tell him that I'm asleep or something.

(STEWARDESS walks over to GERALD who is eagerly awaiting her response.)

**STEWARDESS**

Your wife was asleep, sir. I didn't feel it polite to wake her.

**GERALD**

Oh, was she? Yea, okay – like she's never pulled that one before.

(speaking toward GERRI)

I literally saw you two talking.

(now towards the STEWARDESS)

Could you just tell her I said 'please'?

**STEWARDESS**

(sarcastically)

I'm certain that'll convince her.

(STEWARDESS walks over to GERRI who is still in her element.)

**STEWARDESS**

(sighing)

Ma'am, your husband told me to tell you he says 'please.'

**GERRI**

Oh, well in that case: no.

**STEWARDESS**

(starting to cry)

You're making this really hard.

**GERRI**

You know what, Lady? Life is hard. I've got four children. Three of them I popped out myself – no meds, not a big deal – and are back home with my parents. The other one is a fully grown adult man who is sitting in seat 39D. Now you might not have done the math, but I have, and this 3-hour flight is the only 'me' time I'll have for the next 17 weeks. So, if you would be so kind, could you please tell my manchild to eat some snacks, watch a Pixar movie, or play with his emotional support lizard that I miraculously snuck on here? Mamma wants her 'me' time.

**GERALD**

(yelling from the backseat)  
Is she coming back here?

**STEWARDESS and GERRI**

(snapping)  
Shut up, Jerry!

**GERALD**

Fine. You don't want to come back here. I'm coming up there.

(As GERALD gets up, he drops his backpack and his lizard sneaks out. He picks the backpack up and walks to confront GERRI and the STEWARDESS.)

**GERALD**

You two really suck, you know that? I've...

**PASSENGER**

Snake with arms! Snake with aarrmmms!!

(PASSENGER causes a frenzy in the back of the plane that cannot be quelled. Many of the passengers from the back flee to the front. The weight distribution throws the plane into a nosedive. The oxygen masks drop from the ceiling and everyone starts to scream.)

**GERALD**

(snapping)  
That's just, Thin Lizzy. He's my emotional support lizard.

(GERALD picks up Thin Lizzy as the passengers look on incredulously. He gives the lizard a little tickle under the chin.)

**STEWARDESS and GERRI**

(In control)  
Okay, everyone! Now that the 'snake with arms' has been found please return to your seats.

(The passengers leisurely begin to find their seats. As they pass GERALD, they each give him the dirtiest stank-eye possible. GERALD doesn't seem to notice. The plane stabilizes as everyone gets back to their seat.)

**GERALD**

(to his wife)

Woah, that was crazy. We almost just died. Kind of makes you think, huh? Like, sometimes when people die, they don't get to say goodbye to the people that matter most because they usually aren't next to them... can I please sit next to you?

**GERRI**

(calm and endearingly)

Gerald... you're insufferable. Go play with your lizard.

**GERALD**

(annoyed)

His name is Thin Lizzy!

(The STEWARDESS picks up a bag of airline peanuts and slaps GERALD across the face with them.)

**STEWARDESS**

(In control)

Go back to your damn seat, Jerry, or else I'm going to go into the pilot's cabin and crash this plane for real.

(FADE OUT.)