

At rise: BETTY and BOB are discovered sitting on a sofa, downstage C. BETTY is studiously working on a crossword puzzle, while BOB is completely engrossed in a book that he's reading. After several moments, BOB suddenly and quite dramatically slams the book shut, causing BETTY to jump.

BETTY

Oh!

BOB

That is absolutely, positively, undeniably the most astonishing thing that I have ever read in my entire life – ever!

BETTY

Yes, well...do you think you could do it a bit more quietly, please?

BOB

Astounding!

BETTY

(refocused back on her puzzle)

Mmm...

BOB

Earth shattering!

BETTY

That's nice.

BOB

It's almost...too much to get my head around.

BETTY

So's twenty-two across.

(beat)

What's an eight-letter word for "memory meltdown"?

BOB

This changes everything, Betty. Everything we ever thought we knew and understood about our existence has just been turned on its head and tossed out the window – it's that big!

BETTY

It's frustrating is what it is. Fancy having your memory fail you on a clue called "memory meltdown."

BOB

But Betty...don't you want to know my discovery?

BETTY

Oh. Oh, yes of course.

(putting down her puzzle)

What is it, then?

BOB

Betty...are you familiar with...a parallel universe?

BETTY

It's popped up from time to time, yes.

BOB

It has?

BETTY

Yes. Every now and then.

BOB

(cautiously scanning the room)

Where, exactly?

BETTY

In the crossword.

BOB

Oh. No, no, no. Betty, what I'm asking is, are you able to fully comprehend what the existence of a parallel universe would actually mean in the true metaphysical sense?

BETTY

Um...I can't honestly say yes to that...so no.

BOB

No...no, because it's almost unthinkable, isn't it?

BETTY

Yes, I suppose so.

BOB

The implications of it are mind-blowing...frightening, even.

BETTY

What is it, then?

BOB

What it is, Betty...is a separate, entirely self-contained universe that coexists on the same parallel as our very own. Coexists, Betty. Just think about that.

BETTY

Another universe...right here?

BOB

Yes.

BETTY

In our living room?

BOB

Quite possibly.

BETTY

It must be quite a small one, then. Where is it, do you think?

BOB

Aha! That's the mystery. That's what we don't know.

BETTY

So how do you know it's there?

BOB

Oh, it's there all right. There's been all manner of research and studies done on this. Countless studies. It's undeniable. Irrefutable.

BETTY

But how did it get there?

BOB

Well, I, uh...as I understand it, it was, um...the result of a, uh...a quantum event.

BETTY

Which is what?

BOB

That, I'm, um...not *entirely* sure of, but I do have it on good authority.

BETTY

Oh.

BOB

Remarkable, isn't it? When I sat down here on this couch with you not thirty minutes ago, I thought it was just the two of us settling down to exercise our grey matter for a while. Little did *I* know.

BETTY

I still don't know.

BOB

Betty, it's all changed, don't you see?

BETTY

What's changed?

BOB

*Everything.*

BETTY

(cautiously scanning the room)

It all looks the same to me.

BOB

Ah, yes, it may look the same to the naked eye, but that doesn't mean that it is the same.

BETTY

Doesn't it?

BOB

Not at all – because now we know, don't we?

BETTY

Um...yes.

BOB

Now we're aware of that parallel universe. Here we are, Betty...sitting here, coexisting with it. Isn't it incredible?

BETTY

Mmm.

BOB

I wonder where it is, exactly.

(beat)

Perhaps it's right here...

(gesturing towards the fourth wall)

Right in front of our very eyes.

BETTY

But that's our wall.

BOB

Yes, yes, it may look like our wall to you and me...

BOB gets up from the sofa and places his hands flat against the fourth wall.

BOB

It may even feel like our wall...but perhaps it isn't our wall. Perhaps it's...a quantum event.

BETTY

Well, if it is a quantum event it's got our picture hanging on it.

BOB

Yes, and a little askew, if I'm not mistaken.

BOB makes a small adjustment to the picture that hangs on the fourth wall.

BETTY

Are you sure about all this, Bob?