

# INERTIA

A Play

By Rachael Carnes

A brief summary:

Happy human-sock monkey relationships are all alike;  
every unhappy human-sock monkey relationship is unhappy in its own way.

## CHARACTERS

**BILLIE**      The biggest male-identifying actor you've got — Lumberjack size, ideally.

**MINKY**      A sock monkey, gender neutral, attached to a fishing line on a fishing pole.

## SETTING

BILLIE'S apartment

## TIME

Sunday morning.

Please note: Rather than providing prescriptive directions regarding a sock monkey on a fishing pole, the writer encourages creative teams to explore all the staging possibilities. Have fun!

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*At rise, lights up full, BILLIE on his back on the floor, eyes closed, with MINKY — an actual sock monkey — on his chest, face up.*

*BILLIE does a bit of breathing — Is he sleeping or just lying there? MINKY goes up and down for the ride.*

*MINKY (who is carrying a tiny suitcase) lifts into space —*

*BILLIE reaches for MINKY on his chest — Can't find it. This wakes him up.*

It's over between us. MINKY

Minky? BILLIE

I'm leaving you. MINKY

You can't! BILLIE

This is happening. I've packed my bag. MINKY

But you don't even wear clothes — BILLIE

You never listen to me. MINKY

I do listen — It's just sometimes I've had enough listening, you know? BILLIE

That's why I'm leaving you — And I'm taking my thimble. And my paste. MINKY

Why do you need a thimble? BILLIE

Everyone *might* need a thimble. MINKY

We can work this out. Don't take the paste! BILLIE

MINKY

Paste is just handy. I could decoupage something.

BILLIE

Let's go get brunch. You love French toast?

MINKY

I do love French toast — Don't distract me.

BILLIE

They do the French toast with the dusting of powdered sugar —

MINKY

I want to find someone to love me — who enjoys decoupage.

BILLIE

It's Sunday — We could get mimosas. And do the crossword. It's hard today.

MINKY

Of course, it's hard today — It's Sunday. Everyone knows that.

BILLIE

I just mean — Remember that time we did the whole puzzle?

MINKY

I don't want to go to brunch — I want to be with someone who loves decoupage as much as I do.

BILLIE

I can decoupage! If you'd just tell me what it is?

MINKY

I've told you before!

BILLIE

*(Rifling through magazine.)* It's pictures, right? Colors and shapes? Like this dog!

MINKY

Decoupage is more than just colors and shapes. It's an *art*.

BILLIE

How 'bout I glue this dog? Would that make you happy? Where's the paste?

MINKY

The paste is in my bag. I'm taking the paste with me.

BILLIE

But we bought that paste together! Remember —

MINKY

You don't even care about the paste.

BILLIE

We came out of the museum and there was that little art supply shop — And we tried the paints and all the pens on the little pieces of paper — remember that weird man in his smock, looking at us like we didn't belong? And we laughed — And then we bought paste?

MINKY

Shut up about Paris.

BILLIE

When we left the shop, it was raining —

MINKY

I remember the weather —

BILLIE

We walked along the Seine and we found that little café — and we had wine —

MINKY

You held my hand.

BILLIE

And then we went back to the hotel —

MINKY

That was a long time ago. What have we done since?

BILLIE

We went to the flea market just last weekend. We upcycled.

MINKY

*We* upcycled? You mean *you* upcycled —

BILLIE

I thought you liked the antlers?

MINKY

Perfectly good pair of antlers and you paint them pink and cover them in glitter?

BILLIE

It seemed trendy — on-point.

Antlers are over!

MINKY

Antlers are timeless!

BILLIE

No! — Their moment is *done*.

MINKY

But everyday people are just now awakening to Icelandic primitivist midcentury design.

BILLIE

I don't want to be everyday people.

MINKY

But you're my every day!

BILLIE

You don't respect my vision board.

MINKY

I let you put your vision board up on the fridge.

BILLIE

But you never *made* a vision board.

MINKY

I have everything I need. I don't need *vision*.

BILLIE

But what about your goals for the future?

MINKY

I moved my gym schedule so you could put your vision board on the fridge.

BILLIE

Gym schedule — there's another part of your life where you don't include me.

MINKY

They don't have classes for —

BILLIE

For what?

MINKY

BILLIE

You're already so flexible.

MINKY

But I'm stressed! I put yoga on my vision board, but you never noticed.

BILLIE

I did notice!

MINKY

When did you notice?

BILLIE

Every time I open the fridge!

MINKY

But you never helped me *take* a yoga class.

BILLIE

Why is that my job?

MINKY

You go every Sunday before brunch — every single weekend. You get your yoga mat and you put on your five-finger shoes and you go to yoga class — Without me.

BILLIE

You never said you wanted to come!

MINKY

It's on my vision board!

BILLIE

So is a Great Dane! — Do you want a Great Dane?

MINKY

Who doesn't want a Great Dane? And why do you still wear those Five-Finger shoes?

BILLIE

I'm staying in touch with the earth and preventing heel strike.

MINKY

But you know that all your effort to get all your stupid toes into them just makes me sad?

BILLIE

Why do my five-finger shoes make you sad?

MINKY

Because I don't have toes! You're just waving your toes in my face. It's a flagrant display of appendages and I've had it.

BILLIE

I can't help having toes —

MINKY

I'm looking for more empathy.

BILLIE

Minky —

MINKY

If we met now — would you even be attracted to me?

BILLIE

You're my Minky!

MINKY

I'm not "Yours" —

BILLIE

Don't go.

MINKY

I need room.

BILLIE

Room for what?

MINKY

Self-care — personal growth. I want to take Pilates.

BILLIE

No one's stopping you from taking Pilates.

MINKY

I just want to find someone who will try new things with me — go to Giant's Causeway.

BILLIE

I didn't know you wanted to see Giant's Causeway.

MINKY

Everyone wants to see Giant's Causeway.

BILLIE

I didn't know that was a thing for you —

MINKY

You would if you'd ever bothered to ask!

BILLIE

It's not on your vision board.

MINKY

It's the usual brunch-time conversation. I'm always bringing up volcanic basalt columns.

BILLIE

I've never heard you mention geology at all.

MINKY

We've talked about it plenty of times.

BILLIE

I thought we were just chatting — and doing the crossword.

MINKY

I wait for you to get back from yoga — And I read about Giant's Causeway on the internet.

BILLIE

That sounds lonely.

MINKY

And you come home and we go get French toast and mimosas and we do the crossword puzzle. And I say, "Do you want to go with me to see 40,000 interlocking basalt columns that are the result of ancient volcanic fissure eruptions?"

BILLIE

When have you ever said that?

MINKY

You take me for granted.

MONKEY

But you sleep in the crook of my arm — Like this — Right under my chin.

MINKY

Not anymore!

BILLIE

How will I sleep at night, without you there?



MINKY

You should have thought of that before it got to this.

BILLIE

What is this, exactly? I mean — You're inanimate.

MINKY

That is so mean.

BILLIE

I'm — I'm sorry — I'm just so upset.

MINKY

There are things I would never say — Lines I won't cross!

BILLIE

Minky — I — I do my best. I'm sorry. I'll try harder.

MINKY

You said that last Sunday — And the Sunday before that.

BILLIE

I do have scissors.

*BILLIE holds up scissors to the fishing line, considers.*

MINKY

Don't threaten me!

BILLIE

I could cut this thread — Once and for all.

MINKY

You can't even do it!

BILLIE

I can do it!

MINKY

Then do it! Cut the string. I dare you!

BILLIE

I — I —

MINKY

I've met someone else.

BILLIE

You did?

*BILLIE puts the scissors away.*

MINKY

I met him at Build-a-Bear.

BILLIE

When did you go to Build-a-Bear without me?

MINKY

I was eating a pretzel with dipping sauce and he was being filled.

BILLIE

But we go to the mall together. It's our thing.

MINKY

You were at work — I took the bus.

BILLIE

What *is* he? This —

MINKY

Boyfriend. He's my new boyfriend.

BILLIE

Is he a teddy bear? A rabbit? What?

MINKY

He's a corgi —

BILLIE

What's he got that I haven't got? Is it the tail? Because I can get a tail!

MINKY

He has a unicorn tank top and sparkly denim shorts.

BILLIE

I can get those things!

MINKY

It's what's on the inside that I'm attracted to.

BILLIE

His — stuffing? Or, what do they call it? His — Fill?

MINKY

When I squeeze his hand, he says, “I love you.”

BILLIE

Squeeze my hand! Go on — Squeeze it! Please?

MINKY

And he’s donut-scented. It’s an extra you can pay for, and we both really enjoy it.

BILLIE

Your new boyfriend is a donut-scented corgi?

MINKY

With wings. He’s my everything.

BILLIE

Okay, then — I guess this is really happening.

MINKY

Yes, yes, it is.

BILLIE

Can I visit the paste on weekends?

MINKY

It’s too soon for me to make that decision.

BILLIE

When you go see Giant’s Causeway — Send me a postcard?

MINKY

Okay.

BILLIE

Can we get brunch first?

MINKY

Okay.

*Blackout. End of play.*