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.

MINKY

It's over between us.

BILLIE

Minky?

MINKY

I'm leaving you.

BILLIE

You can't!

MINKY

This is happening. I've packed my bag.

BILLIE

But you don't even wear clothes —

MINKY

You never listen to me.

BILLIE

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

MINKY

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

BILLIE

Why do you need a thimble?

MINKY

Everyone *might* need a thimble.

BILLIE

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

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

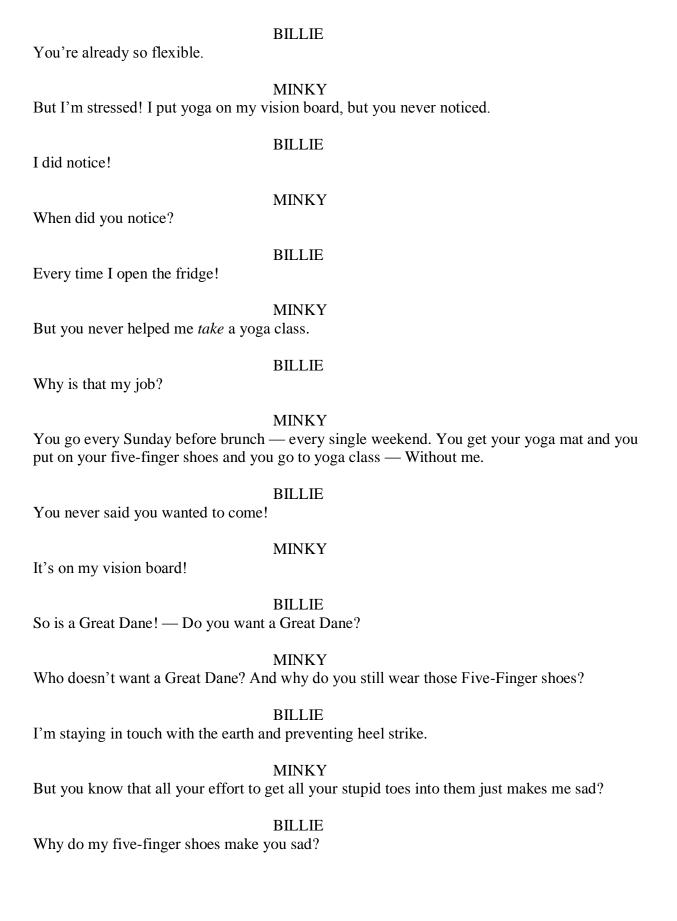
How 'bout I glue this dog? Would that make you happy? Where's the paste?

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.

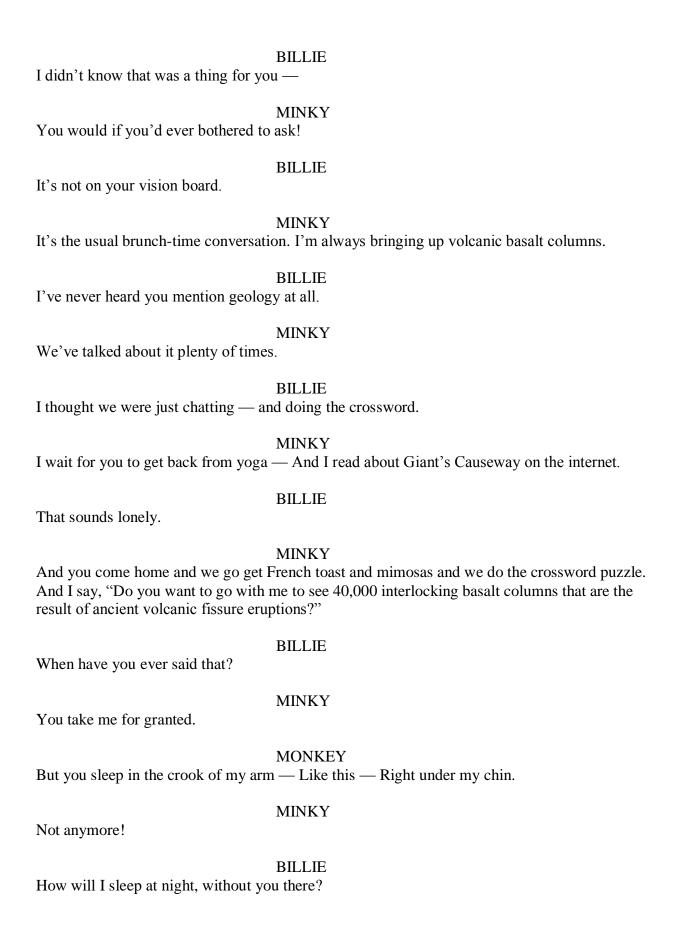
Antlers are over!	MINKY
Antlers are timeless!	BILLIE
No! — Their moment is <i>done</i> .	MINKY
But everyday people are just now aw	BILLIE vakening to Icelandic primitivist midcentury design.
I don't want to be everyday people.	MINKY
But you're my every day!	BILLIE
You don't respect my vision board.	MINKY
I let you put your vision board up on	BILLIE the fridge.
But you never <i>made</i> a vision board.	MINKY
I have everything I need. I don't need	BILLIE d vision.
But what about your goals for the fut	MINKY ture?
I moved my gym schedule so you co	BILLIE uld put your vision board on the fridge.
Gym schedule — there's another par	MINKY t of your life where you don't include me.
They don't have classes for —	BILLIE
For what?	MINKY



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.

I can't help having toes —	BILLIE
I'm looking for more empathy.	MINKY
Minky —	BILLIE
If we met now — would you even be	MINKY attracted to me?
You're my Minky!	BILLIE
I'm not "Yours" —	MINKY
Don't go.	BILLIE
I need room.	MINKY
Room for what?	BILLIE
Self-care — personal growth. I want	MINKY to take Pilates.
No one's stopping you from taking P	BILLIE ilates.
I just want to find someone who will	MINKY try new things with me — go to Giant's Causeway.
I didn't know you wanted to see Gian	BILLIE nt's Causeway.
Everyone wants to see Giant's Cause	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

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.

His — stuffing? Or, what do they ca	BILLIE ll it? His — Fill?
When I squeeze his hand, he says, "I	MINKY love you."
Squeeze my hand! Go on — Squeeze	BILLIE e it! Please?
And he's donut-scented. It's an extra	MINKY you can pay for, and we both really enjoy it.
Your new boyfriend is a donut-scent	BILLIE ed corgi?
With wings. He's my everything.	MINKY
Okay, then — I guess this is really h	BILLIE appening.
Yes, yes, it is.	MINKY
Can I visit the paste on weekends?	BILLIE
It's too soon for me to make that dec	MINKY ision.
When you go see Giant's Causeway	BILLIE — Send me a postcard?
Okay.	MINKY
Can we get brunch first?	BILLIE
Okay.	MINKY

Blackout. End of play.

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