

The Sloth Play!

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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Pat	Reckless, curious, an adventurer	23	F
Bob	Cautious, comfortable, a homebody	25	M

Note: the average lifespan of a sloth is 25 – 30 years.

Casting note: Bob and Pat can be played by any actor; gender is a construct and they're sloths.

The forest floor, deep in the Amazon Rainforest.
Tall trees surround and cover the area. Bob and Pat,
two three-toed sloths, enter the space. Pat points out
a tree somewhere on stage. Both sloths go to where
Pat pointed. Pat points somewhere else.

PAT

Okay, now that tree, over there!

BOB

Pat.

PAT

Come on, slowpoke! I'm halfway there already!

BOB

Paaaaaat.

PAT

Whaaaat is it, Bob?

BOB

It's getting late, we should get back to our usual place.

PAT

Come on, stay a little longer. I dare ya.

BOB

That's not going to work on me again. We have to get back home. Don't give me that
face. Come on.

Bob turns around and starts to exit the way they
came. Pat doesn't move.

PAT

I'm not going back to the usual place.

BOB

What?

PAT

This is the furthest we've ever gotten! I can't stop now just because you're scared.

BOB

There's a difference between being scared and having a sensible amount of caution.

PAT

Your whole life revolves around caution! As long as I've known you, I've never seen you take a single risk.

BOB

And that's exactly how I've gotten as far as I have.

PAT

But don't you ever want a change? A little bit of spice? Maybe a, dare I say- adventure?

BOB

Your idea of adventure is walking to a new tree because it looks cool.

PAT

I like looking at the trunks! But this time, THIS TIME, I got a real genuwhine adventure right here!

Pat pulls out a comically oversized map from...
somewhere and proudly displays it.

PAT

Behold. The map to the lost city of Slothlandia. OoOoh.

BOB

I think there's a problem.

PAT

What?

BOB

When you come to the ground to relieve yourself, the crap is supposed to come out of your butt, not your mouth.

PAT

Haha, very funny, but you'll be eating those words when you hear about Slothlandia. It's a secret sloth sanctuary that's been lost for centuries. There, sloths are free to do whatever they please. There are no predators. No danger. No stress. And the best part is...

BOB

That's just a fairytale.

PAT

Maybe it is. Maybe it isn't. Only one way to find out.

BOB

Where did you even get that map?

PAT

From Leo down by the river.

BOB

Crazy Leo? You know he's a few leaves short of a branch, right?

PAT

He definitely is. But he's seen Slothlandia and he gave me these as proof.

Pat pulls a few fresh berries from... somewhere.
Bob reaches for them.

PAT

Uh uh, berries are for adventurers only.

BOB

You can't be serious.

PAT

Serious as deforestation.

BOB

I'm starving! Hand them over.

PAT

Ah ah, not until you agree to go on an adventure with me!

BOB

Slothlandia isn't real, Pat. And even if it's real, you'd die before you ever got there.

PAT

Well, I'd rather die while exploring than cowering in the canopy for my whole life.

BOB

What's gotten into you?

PAT

Nothing! I just want a change of pace, that's all.

BOB

This is not a change of pace, Pat. This is you uprooting our lives. What about your mother?

PAT

You don't need to worry/ about her.

BOB

What will she do without-

PAT

She's dead. My mom is dead.

BOB

When? How?

PAT

This morning. She was taking her Weekly Release, I looked down at her, she gave me a slow wave, and I thought about how much I loved her, how much I loved my life, and before I could wave back, a jaguar grabbed her by the neck, and she disappeared. Just like that. She was gone.

BOB

Pat, I-

PAT

Did you catch how she died, Bob? While pooping. That could happen to me! I'm not ready to go! I- I've never done anything. Bob, can't you understand? I can't- I can't go the way she did. I don't want to die alone.

BOB

But you're not alone.

A beat.

Right? You have me. You have a life

PAT

Eating, sleeping, pooping. That isn't living, that's surviving.

BOB

Life doesn't always have to be some big adventure. Sometimes it's about little moments. Like making someone laugh. Or sharing a bunch of particularly ripe berries with a friend.

PAT

I'm not giving you the berries.

BOB

I had to try. But you see what I mean, right? All of this time that we've gotten to spend together, even the days when we just silently sit in the same place together. To me, that is living. I'm happy where I am, Pat, in our usual place. There are so many memories there. I'm working on building a hammock for myself. I'm not done with that place yet.

PAT

At this rate, I don't think you'll ever be done with that place. I love it too, but it's time to move on. I'm not saying that I want my life to become one big adventure. But maybe a little bit of adventure can be a good thing?

BOB

The thing about adventure is that it can lead to fun things like ancient cities or an endless amount of food, but it can also end in not so fun things like death or suffering. I know.

PAT

What could you possibly know about adventure?

BOB

Before I met you, in my youth, I used to be an adventurer.

PAT

You're kidding.

BOB

I'm not. You know that action movie, "Sloth Safari?"

PAT

Yeah, the one about the kid sloth who defied death and danger to save his kid sister from the raging river?

BOB

That was just a normal Tuesday for mini-me.

PAT

Wait, so you mean to tell me that you've been a secret badass for the entire time I've known you?

BOB

Yeah, I guess so.

PAT

This is wonderful news! You'll be the perfect adventure buddy! Oh, this is gonna be so much fun! With your survival skills and my great personality, we'll be sure to find Slothlandia now.

BOB

How many times do I have to tell you, we're not going on a quest to find some dumb ancient city! It's too dangerous out here, Pat. We're going home. Now.

PAT

What happened to you?

BOB

I grew up. That's it.

PAT

So one day you just stopped being fun and started being boring? Just like that?

BOB

I didn't want to.

PAT

Why did you, then?

BOB

My sister and I were attacked by a convocation.

PAT

You got jumped at a graduation?

BOB

No, that's what a group of eagles is called.

PAT

Oh. Go on then, I'm listening.

BOB

Dot, my sister, absolutely hated exploring. All she wanted to do was stay home and sleep. But I would always force her to go on adventures with me. One day, I led her into a clearing, this little space where there weren't any trees. She kept telling me that she wasn't comfortable and that she didn't want to go, but I pushed her into the clearing. Once Dot was in the clearing, she looked up. She'd never seen the sky before. She was so happy and entranced that she didn't notice when the eagles swooped down and-... I tried to stop them. I tried. I tried.

Bob reveals three eagle claw marks somewhere on his body.

BOB

I made it, but she didn't. I pushed her too far. And I failed her. I failed.

PAT

I'm- I'm so sorry, I had no idea.

BOB

So now I stay in my place in the canopy. Because I know that I'll always be safe there and I'll never have to go through anything like that again. I know that I won't gain anything from living the way that I do, but at least I can rest easy knowing that I won't lose anything either.

PAT

If you stay in the same routine forever, you'll lose me.

BOB

That's a horrible thing to say.

PAT

But it's true. You can't sit in one place and blame yourself for the rest of your life. You need a change. So why not come with me to-

BOB

Slothlandia isn't real, Pat!

PAT

You have no way of knowing that!

BOB

I'm not risking my neck for a fairy-tale. I don't need adventure to make me happy. I have a home.

PAT

The usual place is not my home.

BOB

I wasn't talking about the usual place. My home is wherever you are, Pat. Our place is special because you're there with me.

PAT

But that's the thing. We don't have to be tied town to a specific spot. As long as we're together, anywhere can be our home.

BOB

That's the nicest thing you've ever said to me.

PAT

And you stopped me before I even got to the best part. Slothlandia has every type of hammock you can imagine, all surrounded by grapes. You don't even have to get up to get food.

Beat

BOB

Why didn't you lead with that?

PAT

Wait, are you saying that you're going to go with me?

BOB

Yes, on one condition.

PAT

What is it.

BOB

Can we stick to the canopy? I know it's not as exciting as the floor but, if I'm going to be exploring, I'd like to be as safe as I possibly can.

PAT

Of course.

BOB

So, to the trees?

PAT

To the trees. And onward to Slothlandia!

Bob and Pat slowly exit the space. Pat leads the way.

END PLAY