



# Me T<sub>eor</sub> O<sub>log</sub> Y Story : Met

## ALL CHARACTERS:

### ACT 1

Narrator/Little Bo Peep (Ted Shepherd)  
Woody (Sue Grimmond)  
Buzz Lightyear (Clare Watt)  
Andy (Maarten)  
Andy's Mum (Ben Cosh)  
Rex (Bob Plant)  
Slinky (Pete Inness)  
Professor Potatohead (Steve Woolnough)  
Sid (Claire Morris)  
The Attack Dog (John Methven)  
Runner 1 (Tom Webb)  
Runner 2 (Jonathan Gregory)  
Runner 3 (Will Keat)  
Runner 4 (Hannah B)  
Alien Ros  
Alien Nigel  
Alien Claudia  
Dancer 1  
Dancer 2  
COPBOT

### ACT 2

Narrator/Little Bo Peep (Ted Shepherd)  
Woody (Sue Grimmond)  
Buzz Lightyear (Clare Watt)  
Rex (Bob Plant)  
Slinky (Pete Inness)  
Professor Potatohead (Steve Woolnough)  
Anthony Illingworth  
Rob Thompson  
Graeme Marlton  
Ellie Highwood  
Tristan Quaife  
Sid (Claire Morris)  
The Attack Dog (John Methven)  
Maarten  
MC Escher (Brian Hoskins)

# Act 1

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## Scene 1: Maarten's birthday party

*Characters: Narrator (Little Bo Peep), Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Maarten (Andy), Ben Cosh (Andy's mum), Slinky, Professor Potato Head, Rex*

*Starting positions for Act 1:*

*Stage Left: Narrator, Maarten, Ben Cosh*

*Stage Right: Buzz, Woody, Rex, Slinky, Prof. Potatohead, Tom Webb, Jonathan Gregory, Hannah Bloomfield, Will Keat, Aliens (Ros/Nigel/Claudia), COPBOT, Sid Morris, John Methven*

*Setting: Met coffee room - empty*

*(Health and safety speech beforehand)*

**NARRATOR:** Ladies and gentlemen... howdy! I'm Little Bo Peep, Ted Shepherd. *\*wink wink, nudge nudge.\** Welcome to the 2017 Pantomime, Toy Story *\*shows ridiculous title\**. We begin with Maarten Ambaum's very square 64th birthday party. We join Ben Cosh giving Maarten his birthday presents...

*Maarten and Ben enter stage left*

**MAARTEN:** *(to the audience)* Ooh, I'm feeling pretty square today. If my calculations are correct, I'm... 49?

*\*show Maarten's "square birthday" email\**

**BEN COSH:** Don't fool yourself. We all know you're 64. Now, on top of all these beautiful presents Maarten, here comes the last but not least!

**MAARTEN:** What is it, what is it?? A new coffee machine? A new tap for the kitchen sink? A new, widened path to Agriculture?

**BEN COSH:** No...something even better. I gift you with... a new Higher Degree by Research Tutor! Cluzz Wattyyear!

*\*reaches to stage right and drags Buzz onstage by the hand. "Cluzz Wattyyear" shows on screen with picture of Clare Watt\**

**BUZZ:** Buzz Lightyear to the rescue! To the radiation belts, and beyond!

**MAARTEN:** Watt?

**BEN:** Oh I meant Buzz... Buzz Lightyear, aka Clare Watt. The best space scientist to grace not only Meteorology, but the galaxy of Reading.

**MAARTEN:** Whoaaaaaaa! Thank you! Wish I could spare the time right now, but I'll have to leave Buzz to meet the other toys. I have some first years and masters students to scare with their first atmospheric physics lecture. They just HAVE to buy my fresh-from-the-press textbook , (*turns to audience*)- ONLY £49, you know. Special offer to celebrate my 49th birthday!

**BEN:** Alright... Well, it is nearly time for the departmental vegetable relay. Sporting event of the year! Maarten, I trust that you will not be taking part - lettuce not beet around the bush: as someone who is 81 years of age today, you need to take it easy.

**MAARTEN:** Hey! I am not 81! I am... oh never mind, let's go.

*\*Ben and Maarten exit stage right, leaving Bo Peep and Buzz\**

**WOODY:** (*peers around board, stage right*) Bo Peep? Have they gone?

*\*enters stage right and looks around\**

**NARRATOR:** All clear toys! Rex, Slinky, Professor Steve "Potatohead" Woolnough - come on out!

*\*Rex, Slinky and Prof Potatohead follow Woody onstage from stage right and head straight for Buzz\**

*\*Pics of professors with their toy names on slide\**

**REX:** Hi, new toy! I'm Bob "Rex" Plant! (*Enthusiastic*) Thank GOD you're not a convection modeller! Nobody likes being replaced...

**SLINKY:** Hi, I'm Pete Inness, but you can call me Slinky (*Winks*). Woody, come and meet the new toy! Woody is Maarten's favourite, he looks after all the PhD students.

**BUZZ:** But I am the new PhD tutor! I am Buzz Lightyear! Defender of the universe! Associate Professor of Space Physics! Look, I can fly!

*\*Buzz runs around stage\**

**ALL:** (*while Buzz flying*) (*in the tune of 'FLASH!'*) BUZZ! AAAHHHHHHH SAVIOUR OF THE UNIVERSE!

**WOODY:** (*Horried, In shock, to audience*) Wait, Watt? I'm Sue Grimmond, the PhD tutor.... (*heartbroken, whispers*) Am I being replaced?

**SLINKY:** (*approaching Buzz slowly in awe*) Look at those wings!

**REX:** Is that a laser?!

**PROF POTATOHEAD:** Look at that wing span! Longer than Big Dave's viva speech!

**NARRATOR:** (*to Woody*) PhD tutor is a difficult job to do on your own.... Perhaps you two can work together?

**WOODY:** (*angrily*) No! I am the best! I have ALWAYS been Maarten's favourite for this job... (*to Buzz*) You can't fly, that wasn't really flying. You're just another toy, like we all are. Eventually, you'll only end up chairing lunchtime seminars, or setting up student poster competitions. I don't have time for this. I have real research to do. Space science is stupid. Best wishes, Woody.

*\*Woody storms offstage, stage left\**

**SLINKY:** Buzz, you've gotta be careful. There's a few things you have to know about this department under Maarten's rule... One: freeze when you see more senior members of staff.

**NARRATOR:** (*yells*) Ah! Head of Department approaching!!

*\*They all freeze\**

**NARRATOR:** .... Nah, just kidding. (*joker meme*)

*\*all sigh / groan\**

**SLINKY:** (*rolling eyes*) Classic Bo Peep! Such a joker

**REX:** You need to freeze, otherwise they'll think you have too much time on your hands, and you face the risk of them assigning you lots of admin jobs to do around the department.

**PROFESSOR POTATOHEAD:** Rule Two: avoid Sid Morris (*name, face on screen*) and her ferocious canine sidekick, John Methven the Attack Dog. You don't want to get involved with that cohort in Lyle, all the way across the wilderness.

**ALL:** (*shudders*)

**BUZZ:** They let a dog onto the research staff at the department?! They must do business differently on this planet.

**REX:** Well... he's really smart... But if Sid isn't around to look after him, he causes absolute havoc! She has to look after all his research students, grant proposals, and travel reservations and other travel related purchases.

**SLINKY:** Yeah, it's terrible when Sid isn't around. He even makes the students go paddleboarding in torrential rain and pelting hailstones...

**REX:** And makes them break their limbs in death defying trampolining tricks...

**SLINKY:** Yeah... Just, stay clear. Be careful. Those toys in Lyle have been broken...

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** You don't want to end up involved in one of his toy-breaking SCENARIOS...

**BUZZ:** Don't worry, I'll protect you. I don't need to worry about protecting you from Maarten though, do I?

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** No, you have nothing to worry about, we're so well looked after over here in Met.

**REX:** And on Maarten's birthday last year he even joined a load of the PhD students in the After Dark!

**SLINKY:** Yeah, there's an endless supply of cake and bake offs!

**BUZZ:** Well, I seem to have been lucky to crash-land on a habitable planet with such hospitable life forms.

**REX:** (*giggles*) Aww Buzz! You seem so nice and friendly!

**SLINKY:** Yeah! You'll always have a friend here in Met!

**\*\*SONG: YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN MET\*\***

*\*all disappear off stage right.\**

*\*Enter Woody from stage left\**

**WOODY:** I thought I was Maarten's favourite.... I just cannot let Buzz take over my role as PhD tutor! This job is my life! I need to find a way to get rid of her... Hmm... OH! I know! The veg relay! Perfect opportunity! I shall make her dress up as a vegetable and be swept away as a baton. It would be swede if she got lost. No one would carrot all...

*\*Exit Woody, stage right.\**

**NARRATOR:** I smell a hint of rivalry between the incoming PhD tutor Buzz Lightyear and Woody. How could Maarten decide who is better for the job? Well, we'll find out soon enough!

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## Scene 2: Veg Relay

**Characters:** Narrator, Woody, Buzz, Slinky, Professor Potatohead, Runner 1 (Tom Webb), Runner 2 (Jonathan Gregory), Runner 3 (Will Keat), Runner 4 (Hannah Bloomfield) Mooli team is runners 3 and 4, Turnip team 1 and 2

**NARRATOR:** The athletically inclined among the staff are meeting outside the front of the Met building, ready to start their ultra-competitive annual event. I believe the prize this year is an amusingly human shaped carrot, painted gold to emphasise the physical prowess of the winning team. Meanwhile Woody is putting into place her plan to remove her new rival Buzz from the department, and win back the attention of Maarten Ambaum. Because everyone needs love.

*\*Enter Woody and Buzz from stage right. Background is coffee room.\**

**WOODY:** One of the most important roles you have is to be a face for our department, to attract new students.

**BUZZ:** Yes, I have been planning an interactive exhibit about the space environment to emphasise the role our department plays in the fight against Emperor Zurg's minion, the Vice-Chancellor David Bell, and his evil conquest of the campus. I was going to train all the toys in the ancient martial space art of Galactic Ping-ping (*some martial arts miming from Buzz*)

**WOODY:** Ah... Yes. But you do have other roles to play - like encouraging healthy eating among the existing PhD students. Have you seen what they put in that fridge? It's always the fruit and vegetables that go mouldy too.

**BUZZ:** I have only seen them consume viva cake so far.

**WOODY:** Which is why it is traditional for the PhD tutor to dress up as a vegetable.

**BUZZ:** I'm not sure that is in keeping with my role as defender of the galaxy.

**WOODY:** Oh yes it is!

**BUZZ:***(encouraging crowd to join in)* Oh no it isn't.

*\*continue until enthusiasm is dead\**

**BUZZ:** OK, ok. But what vegetable should I be?

**WOODY:** We do have some old suits still in the cupboard. How would you like to be a purple sweet potato?

*\*Giant purple sweet potato cardboard handed from stage right\**

**BUZZ:** Hmm, I don't know. Do you think it clashes with my hair?

**WOODY:** What about a super vegetable, to enhance your brainpower? Kale, or asparagus maybe?

**BUZZ:** No. I don't like the way it makes my wee smell. Besides, I don't need extra brainpower. I'll let you have it instead *(Pat condescendingly)*

**WOODY:** How about a tomato?

*\*Giant cardboard tomato handed onstage from stage right\**

**BUZZ:** Does my bum look big in this? Nah.

*\*Shakes head and hands it back off stage right\**

**WOODY:** Fine. How about something more interesting. Maybe an oca? *Gestures to powerpoint slide which has a picture*

**BUZZ:** No. I know exactly what I want to be. I'm going to be the vegetable that speaks to my soul. *steps forward dramatically* I want to be.... A MOOLI. *Powerpoint slide of mooli.*

*\*\*SONG: "MOOLI MOOLI MOOLI" (Ruby Ruby Ruby, by the Kaiser Chiefs)\*\**

*\*During song, Buzz goes offstage left to dress as a Mooli. She comes back on by the end of the song.\**

**WOODY:** Well, it's good you're so enthusiastic. Let's go to the front of the building where everyone can see us. Remember, if the senior staff arrive, then we need to hide or freeze so we don't get even MORE admin duties.

**BUZZ:** Oh yes, it's a good job that us toys are so small that we don't often get spotted, or I'd never do any research.

*\*Both exit stage left.\**

*\*Lights down and back up, background is of the entrance to Met.\**

*\*Buzz then Woody enter from stage left.\**

**WOODY:** So this very vital role as a vegetable really makes a difference when you consider... OH NO! Is that met-runners Jonathan Gregory and Tom Webb? Staff members - hide, freeze, quick!

*\*Background has many large feet in it. Woody runs offstage left but Buzz is in the middle of the stage, frozen. Tom Webb and Jonathan Gregory enter stage right.\**

**TOM WEBB:** Are we nearly ready to start?

**JONATHAN GREGORY:** No, we're a vegetable short. Damn those talking self-service machines at the new campus co-op!

**TOM:** They do have a volume button you know.

*\*Self-service checkout email\**

**JONATHAN:** Wait, there's a vegetable here. Is it supposed to look like that?

*\*Buzz, frozen, makes offended faces\**

**TOM:** It's a mooli. They're supposed to be weird. Pick it up, then we've got enough vegetables to get started.

*\*Buzz looks terrified as giant hand reaches down on powerpoint.\**

*\*Screen goes black - all exit stage right\**

*\*Screen to coffee room\**

**NARRATOR:** It looks like Woody's plan has worked, and Buzz will soon be carried off by the met runners to a distant part of campus. Will the other toys notice that she's gone?

*\*Enter Woody stage left\**

**WOODY:** Yes! I have succeeded! Buzz is gone and I will be Maarten's favourite again.

*\*Enter Slinky stage right\**

**SLINKY:** Woody, where's Buzz? He was going to help me do my astrology chart.

**WOODY:** Well, I don't know. Why would I know?

*\*Enter Prof. Potatohead, stage right.\**

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** I know where he is! I saw everything, Woody.

**WOODY:** I don't know what you're talking about.

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** I was admiring the weather vane - now that it's up - and I saw you get rid of Buzz!

**SLINKY:** *(to Prof. P)* Come on Professor Potatohead, Woody wouldn't do that!

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** This was no accident - Woody pushed Buzz at the met-runners!

**WOODY:** No, it was an accident! I only wanted to make Buzz dress as a vegetable.

**SLINKY:** Woody?! You did take Buzz outside to the met runners?

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** *Steps toward Woody with each accusation, Woody backs up.* I think that you were jealous. You couldn't cut it, could you? You couldn't deal with the fact that Maarten has a new favourite and didn't spend time with you any more.

**WOODY:** No, it's not what you think! Do you think I would do that, Potatohead?

**SLINKY:** How could you, Woody?

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** That's PROFESSOR Potatohead to you, you backstabbing murderer! We don't want you here.

**WOODY:** Oh, come on, guys.

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** If you don't bring Buzz back, we won't let you back in.

*\*Prof. Potatohead pushes Woody offstage left. Slinky and Prof. P exit stage right. \**

**NARRATOR:** It looks like Woody has to dress up as a vegetable herself to chase after Buzz and hope that she won't get too lost. I wonder what vegetable she will be?

*\*Woody walks on stage left in her turnip suit, gives a wave to the audience and continues offstage right.\**

**NARRATOR:** Luckily for Woody, another team has turned up last minute and needs another vegetable. So let's see how the relay race goes...

*\*Images of vegetable relay on slides\**

**NARRATOR:** The met-runners have finished their race. Of course, with all their antics, they need sustenance at the award ceremony. So off to the SCR! Good job I've got my nice dress on for giving out prizes.

*\*SCR background with carrot and courgette teams photoshopped in.\**

*\*Met-runners jog on from stage right, carrying their vegetables. Recap: Mooli team is Will Keat and Hannah Bloomfield, Turnip team is Tom Webb and Jonathan Gregory\**

**NARRATOR:** Welcome, one and all, to this year's prestigious Vegetable Relay Award Ceremony. This annual event is known campus-wide to showcase our fantastic skill at running away from our problems. In the running this year are the carrot team, always a winner when it comes to night-time runs, the courgette team, not to be confused with a cucumber, the turnip team, and a ... What? Mooli. MOOoli, MooLI? team? Whatever.

**WILL KEAT:** I think it's in the bag this year for the Mooli team.

**JONATHAN:** Oh I don't know, I think the turnip team may have PIPPED you to the post.

*\*Exasperated looks\**

**JONATHAN:** Oh come on, pipped? Pipped, get it? Pips? No?

**HANNAH BLOOMFIELD:** You're thinking about fruit. WE run with vegetables.

**NARRATOR:** *\*hem,hem\** And in this here envelope, I have the winning team of the relay and therefore the recipient of this prestigious award. (*\*Opens envelope\**) And the winner is....Drumroll please? (*\*From band\**). The winner is the MOOLI team! (*\*Hannah/Will cheer, applause from backstage too \**)

*\*Someone from band runs on, whispers in narrator's ear and gives another envelope while Mooli team celebrates, taking the trophy\**

**NARRATOR:** Hey, wait, you can't do that! No, wait... Ugh. *turns back to front.* Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know how to say this... I can only apologise from the depths of my heart... I appear to have been given the wrong envelope.

*\*Meryl Streep's shocked face on screen\**

The REAL winner is the turnip team! A round of applause, ladies and gentlemen, and we of course hope that the MOOLI team don't mind too much...

**HANNAH:** You're not taking my Golden Carrot back!

**TOM:** It's ours, we won!

**WILL:** No, we are the faster team. We can prove it... Leg it, team!

*\*Mooli team runs off stage right, pursued by turnip team, yelling at them. Vegetables left behind.\**

**NARRATOR:** Wait! Where are you going? *Pause.* Well, that was the most eventful veg relay we've had in a while. That was a turnip for the books. They seem to have left Woody and Buzz behind (*points at discarded vegetables*) who I suppose will be glad to get out of their vegetable costumes, which are clearly quite dangerous. I wonder how they'll get back from the SCR, which seems to be very busy...?

*\*End of scene\**

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### Scene 3: Walker 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Characters:** Buzz, Woody, Sid, John, COPBOT, Head Alien (Ros), Alien Nigel, Alien Claudia, Two dancers.

*\*Aliens (Ros/Nigel/Claudia), COPBOT, Sid Morris, John Methven to stage left\**

*\*While lights down, two interpretive dancers dressed in black enter.\**

*\*Lights up. Music playing in background (slow beat).\**

*\*Ocean waves on PowerPoint. Big Walker Institute Sign.\**

*\*Dancers exit stage right.\**

*\*Aliens enter stage left. Woody and Buzz follow them on stage right.\**

**NARRATOR:** So Woody and Buzz have arrived at the SCR where the Walker Institute's Big Event is taking place. There is a whole spectrum of celebrations, including some rather interesting dancing...

**WOODY:** Look where we are! The Walker Institute's Big Event! I forgot it was their 10th birthday this week. Can't believe those hungry runners brought us here, how are we going to get back?

**BUZZ:** Do we look too a-peel-ing next to this buffet? We had better take off these outfits before we get eaten.

*\*Woody and Buzz take off vegetable suits and throw them off stage right.\**

*\*Aliens approach Woody and Buzz.\**

**BUZZ:** Are these life forms also indigenous to your planet? What are these green creatures? Peas taken along on the veg relay?

**WOODY:** Oh no, they're only the Walker Institute staff, aliens to us in Met.

**ALL ALIENS:** Strangers from the outside, oooooooooooooooooo.

**BUZZ:** Greetings, new life forms. We come in... peas. (*peas on slide*)

**ROS (ALIEN):** It is an honour to have you here at this extraordinary event. Did you witness the dancing? The poetry? The fairtrade coffee?

**WOODY:** Yes we saw it all, but we didn't quite understand the message.

*\*Slides about the celebrations appear as the aliens explain\**

**ROS (ALIEN):** It's showing that science is all about bringing impact.

**CLAUDIA AND NIGEL (ALIENS):** (*alien, zombie like*) Decision making in an uncertain and changing world. oooooo.

**BUZZ:** We need transport to return to Met. Who is your leader?

**ROS (ALIEN):** Our leader is a true feat of engineering. Designed by the third most intelligent life forms, humans. Our leader is ... (*drumroll*), the COPBOT!

*\*COPBOT slowly enters stage left (robotically), stops mid-stage, turns to audience.\**

**COPBOT:** Beep

**WOODY:** Hang on, I thought the COPBOT was broken. Vision impaired, volume low, lost bolts?

**ROS (ALIEN):** Ahhh yes, but we worked tirelessly to get it working. Here is our master.

*\*All three aliens dance around COPBOT making alien noises, disco lights. Woody and Buzz look confused, terrified, and frightened.\**

*\*\*SONG – ROBOT (Human, by The Killers)\*\**

**WOODY:** So... you serve a strange robot?

**NIGEL:** Sooooooooo hypnotic! When it speaks to you, you cannot help but be drawn in.

**CLAUDIA:** It has poooooooooower over whomever it speaks to.

**NARRATOR:** Who's this? (*Enter John from stage left*) Oh no! John Methven the Attack Dog! I hope his handler Sid Morris is looking after him - otherwise there could be carnage at the buffet! (*Enter Sid from stage left*) Oh excellent, there she is.

*\*Woody, Buzz, and Aliens freeze near stage right.\**

**SID:** (*to narrator*) Some great wine at this event. Little Bo Peep, we're currently searching for some new scientists for John's project, NAWDEX-2. So far NAWDEX-1 has kept the University of Reading in the top 1% of Universities worldwide! That's why it's NAWDEX 1: The top 1%.

**NARRATOR:** Wait, you can't claim that anymore!

*\*powerpoint slide showing news story\**

**SID:** Oh ok, well anyway I'd better get on with recruiting for NAWDEX-2 then. Do you have any ideas of who could join our team?

**NARRATOR:** Let me have a think? *Pause.* Can't Ben Harvey work on it?

**SID:** He's too busy having babies right now.

*\*Pause for thought, looks around stage.\**

**JOHN:** *(sniffs in the direction of Woody and Buzz)* Woof!

*\*John extends a paw towards the toys/aliens.\**

**SID:** Ahhh, what about those research staff over there.

*\*Sid pointing to Woody and Buzz.\**

**NARRATOR:** Woody and Buzz! No, you'd be mad. They would never work together as a team.

**SID:** But look at what else is on offer. Aliens from the Walker Institute! How can I get the attention of Buzz and Woody?!

*\*Pause for thought.\**

**NARRATOR:** Hmm. You could try using the COPBOT.

**SID:** The COPBOT, who would fund such a project?

**NARRATOR:** I heard it was SCENARIO. I wonder who's in charge of them? Must be the same people who designed that talking vending machine. Anyway, you can control the robot using this rather attractive headset.

*\*Narrator hands headset to Sid.\**

**SID:** Right okay, I just put it on?

**NARRATOR:** Yes of course.

*\*Sid puts on headset and photoshopped image of Claire with headset on screen.\**

**SID:** Wow this is amazing I can see through the robot's eyes. Wait, how does this help?

**NARRATOR:** Try talking louder.

**SID:** *louder* Wow this is amazing I can see through the robot's eyes. Wait, how does this help?

**NARRATOR:** *(Looking confused)* This is peculiar. Ah wait, maybe COPBOT is coin operated. Hang on, *\*locates pound in pocket, COPBOT rejects coin.\** It won't accept my coin.

**SID:** Maybe we need a new £1 coin. I have one here, I was going to give it to the tooth fairy, but...

*\*Sid puts coin in COPBOT's ear. Put up met-social email about tooth fairy.\**

**NARRATOR:** What about now Sid?

**SID:** Hello?

**NARRATOR:** Still not working! Maybe it's an issue with central IT, they're always breaking the met-cluster. I'll try the last possible solution, some good old-fashioned percussive maintenance.

*\*Drum sound.\**

**NARRATOR:** No, not that.

*\*Kicks the robot. Robots jerks etc...\**

**NARRATOR (to Sid):** Try now.

**JOHN:** *\*jumps up on Sid. Loudly into headset\** WOOF!

**COPBOT:** WOOF!

**SID:** Well done John - you've got it to work!

**COPBOT:** Well done John - you've got it to work!

*\*Everyone unfreezes.\**

**ALL ALIENS:** The master, the master. He is ready to chooooooose.

**BUZZ:** Choose what? What do you mean?

**ROS:** Our master, he chooses who must stay and who must gooooooo.

**SID:** Hello, hello, Buzz do you hear me?

**COPBOT:** Hello, hello, Buzz do you hear me?

**BUZZ (suddenly transfixed):** COPBOT, my master. How may I be of service?

**WOODY:** Buzz?!

**SID:** Buzz, you have been chosen to work on NAWDEX-2 .

**COPBOT:** Buzz, you have been chosen to work on NAWDEX-2 .

**BUZZ:** Of course I will serve you master.

**SID:** Come to me. *\*Raises arms.\**

**COPBOT:** Come to me. *\*Raises arms.\**

*\*Buzz hugs robot. COPBOT slowly begins toward stage right.\**

**WOODY (panicking):** No, no, no, don't go with them!

*\*Woody grabs hold of Buzz. Pulls back, struggles\**

**ROS:** She has been chooooooosen.

**ALIENS:** You must gooooooo...

*\*Aliens try to help COPBOT take Buzz off stage. Woody struggles to pull Buzz back onstage, fails.\**

*\*COPBOT, Buzz, Aliens, and Woody exit stage right.\**

**SID:** *(Moves to centre stage)* Brilliant, I love it when a plan comes together. Let's go home and... play...

*\*Sid exits stage right with John following.\**

**NARRATOR:** Sid has taken Woody and Buzz off to the SCENARIO research lair! I wonder what strange things we'll find there. Join us after the interval to find out.

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## **Act 2**

*Starting positions for Act 2:*

*Stage Left: Narrator, Anthony, Tristan, Ellie, Rob, Brian, Graeme*

*Stage Right: Woody, Buzz, Sid, John, Maarten, Rex, Slinky, Prof P*

### **Scene 4: Sid's Lair (Lyle)**

**Characters:** Sid (Claire Morris), Attack Dog (John Methven), Woody (Sue G), Buzz (Clare Watt), Ellie Highwood, Rob Thompson, Anthony Illingworth, Tristan Q, Graeme

**NARRATOR:** Welcome back! *\*hem, hem\** We join Woody & Buzz in the terrible SCENARIO evil lair...*\*hem\** Lyle. Sid has gone for her *Tassimo (voice failing)* break after dumping *\*hem\** Woody & Buzz in the broken toys room – Lyle 2. Woody & Buzz spot some odd-looking *\*hem\** characters walking up to them.

*\*Theresa May coughing during speech on background\**

*\*Woody and Buzz enter stage right\**

*\*Anthony, Tristan, Ellie and Rob enter stage left, all tending to Rob's new shoulder near Bo Peep.\**

*\*Woody and Buzz cower at side as toys approach, near poster boards at stage right\**

**WOODY:** *(to narrator)* Are you all right, Ted-resa May? *(to Buzz)* What are they doing to that poor toy? It's horrible, I can't watch!

**BUZZ:** Looks like some sort of toy modification experiment.

*\*lights up, Ellie moves toward mid-stage\**

**ELLIE HIGHWOOD:** Don't worry, we're repairing him.

**ROB THOMPSON:** Yes, my shoulder was broken when I was hit by the Purple 17 bus outside of Purple Turtle. Purple is my favourite colour you know.

*\*'Real Fact' on slide showing purple 17 bus hitting purple turtle.\**

**ELLIE:** Well Rob Thompson, It's great to see some more diversity in the department with a cyborg on the staff!

**ROB:** Yes, Ellie Highwood, Dean of Diversity. All this added metal is going to help my athletic feats. I reckon I could knock  $7.29 \times 10^{-5}$  seconds off my Park Run personal best. Even if I'm talking the entire way round.

*\*Slide explaining “~random” number\**

**TRISTAN QUAIFE:** *(A tree)* Anthony Illingworth, I don't know how you've avoided Sid Morris's horrible modifications for so long. She's been branching out to everyone! She's the root of all evil!

**ANTHONY ILLINGWORTH:** Leaf me alone Tristan Quaife! I've been busy at Chilbolton: did you know it's the world's largest fully steerable meteorological radar?

*\*"Real Fact" on slide\**

**NARRATOR:** Here comes Sid! She's looking for another toy to modify to improve their research skills.

*\*Toys cower and freeze stage left. Sid and John enter stage right.\**

**SID:** *(To Rob)* I can't give you another metal shoulder... *(To Tristan)* Are you a stick or a toy? John, Fetch!

*\*John chases Tristan - exit stage left. Re-enters and brings a stick from Tristan's costume back to Sid\**

**SID:** Ah-ha! Who are you? I haven't seen you around here before. No wait, you're Anthony Illingworth aren't you? The NAWDEX-2 project could use some advanced mobile radar observations!

*\*Sid grabs Anthony and takes him off stage right, John follows. Toys unfreeze and spread back across stage\**

**WOODY:** What is he going to do to that poor toy? Where is he taking him?

**ELLIE:** It's part of our diversity improvement program.

**ROB:** It's not a joke Ellie! He's disfiguring us!

*\*Tristan enters stage left\**

**TRISTAN:** He thought it would help my tree-search but I'm pretty sure I got the short end of the stick! *(To Woody)* Who are you?

**WOODY:** I'm Woody!

**TRISTAN:** Not as woody as me!

**WOODY:** We don't have time for your jokes - Buzz and I have to get out of here and back to Maarten in Met!

**ROB:** There's no way to escape John Methven The Attack Dog. He guards Lyle every day.

**BUZZ:** *(to Woody)* Perhaps we could collaborate with the natives to escape! *(clears throat, to broken toys)* Anyone got any ideas?

**ELLIE:** We could trap him in the Lyle lift which will inevitably break.

**ROB:** We could smuggle him out with the IEA when they leave the fourth floor.

**ELLIE:** We could give him a diverse range of project proposals - that's more than enough to chew on.

**TRISTAN:** You're barking up the wrong tree.

*\*Drill sound from offstage, Toys shift toward stage left, Buzz closest to stage right\**

**ROB:** Oh no! What is she doing to Anthony!?

**ELLIE:** I hope she's fulfilling the university's diversity criteria. We could do with a Godzilla. The met department really needs more reptilian representation.

*\*Sid enters stage right with Anthony who has new radar arm behind back, Toys freeze\**

**SID:** That's much better Anthony. All fixed!

**WOODY** (*whispering to toys*): What's Anthony got behind his back?

**SID** (*to audience*): Look at Anthony's new arm everybody! Isn't it great! It's got dual polarization doppler radar! Now he won't have to go to Chilbolton anymore! So he can spend more time working on NAWDEX-2.

*\*Sid looks to toys\**

**SID** (*to Buzz*): A space scientist! I forgot I had you! I've got a special project for you!

*\*Sid exits stage right with Buzz, Toys unfreeze\**

**WOODY:** Oh no! How am I going to get us both back to Met now?!

**ROB:** Look at what Sid did to you Anthony! I'm so sorry.

**ANTHONY** (*looking at arm*): What do you mean? It's amazing! It's incredible! Now I have the world's largest fully steerable radar arm.

*\*Anthony turns around twice making radar noises\**

**ELLIE:** Boring! It's just another cyborg modification! We already have one of those!

*\*Ellie looks knowingly at Rob.\**

*\*Toys exit stage left.\**

*\*Sid and John return from stage right with Buzz and a massive rocket. John runs around stage with masking tape.\**

**SID:** John stop running around! Help me get this rocket attached. We're going to use this toy to see if there's a jet stream on the moon for the NAWDEX-2 project.

**JOHN:** Woof?

*\*Slide shows old NAWDEX acronym.\**

**SID:** No John, thats NAWDEX-1 - NAWDEX-2 stands for luNar jet stream WAVE and Downstream impacts EXperiment (2 EXCITING)! It has nothing to do with the North Atlantic!

*\*show NAWDEX-2 fake acronym, arrow swapping 'A' & 'W'\**

*\*Sid & John strap rocket to Buzz\**

*\*\* Toys re-enter from stage left for moon-themed SONG: Dancing in the Moonlight (by Toploader)\*\**

*\*Toys exit stage right, Sid, John, and Buzz remain onstage.\**

**SID:** There's so much we don't know about the meteorology of the moon - how does the cheese affect the jet stream dynamics?

**JOHN:** Woof!

**SID:** Just because it's called meteorology doesn't mean it has anything to do with the moon John!

**JOHN:** Woof!

**SID:** Oh that's a great point John! We'll never be able to launch the rocket if it's raining! I'll go and check the forecast!

*\*background shows ridiculous forecast from Daily Express, Exactaweather etc.\**

**JOHN:** Woof!

**SID:** Yes John, you've told me that story from when you got a lift home in a kebab van. Whoa looks like it will be a bit warm, and apparently it's going to be orange. John, did I ever tell you about that time I worked in Saudi Arabia?

**JOHN:** Woof, Woof!

**SID:** Alright John, no need to be so rude!

*\*email alert\**

**SID:** Oh, a new email on met-seminars. Benoit Vanniere? Who's he John?

**JOHN:** Woof!

*\*Benoit's BBQ email appears on slide\**

**SID:** He's invited me to a BBQ! It sounds fun, lots of free food. Not sure why he's invited me but there's no way this could be a mistake. He's even prepared skewers!

**JOHN:** Woof?

**SID:** I can't take you John. We all know what you're like around BBQ foods. Guard the toys. I'd better add this to my calendar so that everyone knows I'm going!

*\*calendar invites appear, show Duick's email on slide\**

**NARRATOR:** Sid Morris goes to the brand new Co-op on campus to get some supplies for Benoit's BBQ. I sure hope that invitation wasn't an error - Sid is really excited about it.

*\*Sid exits stage right. Buzz remains on stage. John curls up in corner of stage right (in front of poster boards).\**

*\*Broken Toys and Woody enter from stage right.\**

**BUZZ:** Sid let me go without too much damage, we need to get out of here before Sid sets his eyes on you!

**WOODY:** It looks like Sid will be at Benoit's BBQ for hours. Now is our chance to escape!

**BUZZ:** We can't do anything with that dog lurking over us. (*Gestures toward stage right*).

**JOHN:** (*remaining offstage right*) \*Growls\*

**BUZZ:** We'd better hatch a plan.

*\*Woody, Buzz and the broken toys huddle to plan\**

**NARRATOR:** The toys hide away from John Methven while they figure out a way to escape from Sid's broken toys room. Sid is safely occupied at Benoit's BBQ wait, hold on, what's this? Another email?

*\*Benoit's follow-up email apologising for inviting everyone\**

**NARRATOR:** Oh dear, it seems as though Sid might not be gone as long as the toys first thought! They need to get past the Attack Dog John Methven and out of Lyle before Sid has time to return her Co-op burgers and get back to her evil scheming.

**WOODY:** We're going to have to split up to distract the dog. Can we frighten him away? Is he scared of anything?

**ANTHONY:** Umm... he looked absolutely terrified when all the new first years turned up. So many inductions to lead!

**WOODY:** It's nearly Christmas, Anthony, we don't have any new starters to burden him with.

**ELLIE:** Wait, it's Christmas already? We really lose track of time cooped up in here! Tristan, we need to sort you out.

*\*Bo Peep hands over a box of decorations from under podium (tinsel/baubles/star) and they all decorate Tristan\**

**BUZZ:** We don't have time for this nonsense! We have to get back to Maarten, or he'll think we've abandoned him and replace us. What else is he scared of?

**ROB:** Funding Extensions? Cohort meetings? Heights?

*\*"Real Facts"\**

**WOODY:** And where are we going to get a SCENARIO cohort meeting to chase him off at such short notice?

**ELLIE:** I just don't think he's scared of very much. And we know he's not scared of extreme water sports, we saw him paddleboarding at Dinton Pastures.

*\*slides photoshop of John wind surfing\**

**BUZZ:** Well we have to trick him somehow instead then. What can we do?

**ANTHONY:** Sometimes Sid promises him a nice dog treat, or she'll let him out for a run around the Harris Gardens...

**BUZZ:** Of course! He must love chasing things! Like cats, and sticks *\*Tristan shudders\**.

**ANTHONY:** And if we get him to chase something, I can use my new *\*rolls r\* rrrradar* arm to judge when he is far enough away for you to make your escape!

**WOODY:** What do you keep around here that he could chase?

**ROB:** Oh, I think I know just the thing for this job... Come on!

*\*Toys exit stage right\**

*\*change to Graeme's office where walls are plastered with his T-shirt. Bo Peep provides a chair from backstage left? Graeme enters from stage left and leans back in chair.\**

*\*Rob leads Buzz and Woody on from stage right.\**

**BUZZ (to Rob):** Who's that? He doesn't look very broken.

**ROB:** Oh, he's not physically broken. That's Graeme Marlton. He's just heartbroken because he is no longer PhD Researcher of the Year.

**GRAEME:** Hey, you don't have to keep bringing it up Rob.

**ROB:** Are you busy, Graeme? We have a vital escape mission that we need your help for.

**GRAEME:** Of course I'm busy Rob. I wasn't PhD Researcher of the Year for nothing! What do you need?

**WOODY:** We have to escape, but John Methven is watching us. If we don't get back soon, Maarten will have to find a new PhD Tutor.

**ROB:** I thought we could use your special talents.

**GRAEME:** You're going to have to narrow it down a bit Rob. I have a lot of talents. Did you know I was PhD Rese-

*\*Rob interrupts\**

**ROB:** Yes, I think you mentioned it. I meant your balloons. That dog loves chasing things - if we launch a weather balloon right in front of him, he won't be able to resist!

**BUZZ:** And Anthony mentioned those dog biscuits that Sid gives him. We can strap those to the balloon as well.

**WOODY:** Great plan, Buzz! Do you think we can do it, Graeme?

**GRAEME:** Of course I can do it! After all, I was PhD Researcher of the Year... *(Trailing off)*

*\*All exit stage right\**

*\*John walks around and settles near the podium. Graeme stands stage right with balloon.\**

**ANTHONY** (*sneaking onstage, from right*): Pass me the dog treats!

*\*Woody and Buzz sneak to stage left where they wait to escape.\**

**ELLIE** (*from stage right*): We found some spare funding extension forms - we can use these too!

*\*Anthony gets John's attention by throwing a treat at his head. Lays "dog treats" down in a convoluted path around the stage to lure John over to where Graeme is waiting with a balloon at stage right.\**

*\*Graeme is attacked by a leaping John and runs off with balloon down aisle, dog in pursuit.\**

*\*Anthony stays on stage with Woody and Buzz, scanning John constantly.\**

*\*After a loop around the audience, Graeme runs back onstage and exits stage right, John hot on his heels.\**

**ANTHONY:** (*After chaos subsides*) Beep! Beep! Beep! Ok, I think he's far enough away - now's your chance. Go go go!

*\*Woody and Buzz run off stage left - Anthony stage right\**

**NARRATOR:** They've done it! Woody and Buzz are safely away from Sid Morris. Now all they have to do is get back to their jobs in Met before Maarten notices that all the PhD students are running AMOC. (*AMOC schematic appears on PPT*). Let's hope they make it in time.

*\*End of scene\**

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## Scene 5: Reunion

**Characters:** Narrator, Rex, Woody, Buzz, Slinky, Prof. Potatohead, Maarten, Brian Hoskins, (eventually all for finale)

*\*Rex, Slinky, Prof P. enter from stage right, general murmuring about how long Woody and Buzz have been gone.\**

**NARRATOR:** Woody and Buzz have made their escape from Lyle, and run through the dangers of the wilderness to get back to Maarten and the unattended PhD students. They've only been gone for about seven hours - what's the worst that could have happened?

*\*Woody and Buzz enter stage left into Met, out of breath. The other Met toys are all waiting in the coffee area.\**

**REX:** Thank goodness! You're ok! Where have you been all day?

**BUZZ:** It's a long story... that Sid Morris is really messed up. But never mind all that. I need to start my new job, or Maarten won't be impressed. I have demonstrators to assign, and-

**SLINKY:** Maarten's gone!

**WOODY & BUZZ:** WHAT!!?!?

**SLINKY:** Well, you were gone so long that he thought he'd lost you. It's been, like, twelve hours! So he went off to Campus Jobs to try and source a new PhD Tutor.

**BUZZ:** I thought Campus Jobs was only for temporary workers?

**REX:** Well you were PhD Tutor for about five minutes, so I think that counts.

**WOODY:** Why has he gone himself? Don't they have an online portal?

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** Woody, you know they never respond to emails. You'd better do something though, Maarten's been gone for twenty seven hours. The only way he won't have found a replacement by now is if Campus Jobs is some kind of inefficient dystopian nightmare.

**WOODY:** But Campus Jobs is so far away! We'll never get all the way to the Carrington Building in time. If only we had some high-speed ballistic method of transportation.

**PROF. POTATOHEAD:** Oh, I think Professor Jong-Un in the Chemistry Department has one of those...

*\*Slide shows "Real Facts"\**

**SLINKY:** Wait, what about that rocket on your back, Buzz?

**BUZZ:** That's only designed for going to the moon. I don't know if it will stretch all the way to central campus. It's a pretty long way.

**WOODY:** We have to try it! Buzz, hold on to-

**REX:** Wait! What are you going to do when you find him? You can't just talk to him! We're toys - we blend into the background. Do you want to end up with more administrative roles?

**BUZZ:** It doesn't matter any more, Rex. I'd rather have a hundred boring new roles than no job at all. We have to do this. Light the rocket! To Campus Jobs and bureaucratic inefficiency!

*\*Toys light the rocket and Woody and Buzz run around in circles. Woody and Buzz eventually exit stage left, other toys exit stage right.\**

*\*Change background to Carrington building with giant Campus Jobs logo on it. Woody and Buzz "land/jump" enter from stage left.\**

**BUZZ:** Is this the right place?

**WOODY:** I don't know... I thought this was it but that can't possibly be the Campus Jobs logo. It looks like they wanted an Escher painting, but forget to add any actual features and just made a lame version of the impossible trident instead.

*\*show Escher painting and impossible trident in PPT\**

*\*Enter M C Escher from stage left, aka Brian Hoskins, glances at slide while stroking beard.\**

**BRIAN HOSKINS:** You call that an impossible trident?!?

*\*Exit M C Escher\**

**BUZZ:** I think that was M C Escher... I guess that it's a "C", and a "J" in the logo rather than an object impossible in Euclidean space.

**NARRATOR:** That wasn't M C Escher! That was Brian Hoskins!

*\*Change ppt to show comparison of M C Escher and Brian Hoskins labelled incorrectly\**

**WOODY:** Well, anyway, I hope Campus Jobs is a bit better inside...

*\*Background changes to photo of hundreds of people queueing (photoshop Maarten in - in Where's Wally outfit?) Maarten enters stage right, facing backwards. Woody and Buzz face the wrong way and can't find him.\**

**AUDIENCE:** He's behind you!

**WOODY:** Maarten! Wait! You don't need a new PhD Tutor. We're here!

**MAARTEN** (surprised): Woody? You're normally so quiet. I always see you running around, but I didn't know you could talk.

**BUZZ** (saluting): Buzz Lightyear, reporting for duty, sir!

**MAARTEN:** Ah, there you are. Where did you get to? I haven't seen you for... forty-six hours! I thought I must have left you on a visit to Harry Pitt or something. I figured I'd never see you again. Those psychologists are dangerous.

**BUZZ:** Not as dangerous as your own department, sir! We were abducted by Sid Morris. Do you have any idea what he does to some of the staff over there? One of the professors is a tree!

**MAARTEN** (shocked): I won't let that kind of thing happen in my neck of the woods. We'd better get back and sort this out. I must say, you guys turning up is a huge relief. I've been stuck in this queue for over sixty-three hours!

*\*Woody, Buzz, and Maarten exit stage right.\**

**NARRATOR:** Happily reunited with Woody and Buzz, Maarten can get the Met Department back on track. Woody leaves behind her old days as PhD tutor - Maarten is so impressed with her adventures that he promotes her to the most prestigious post in the department.

*\*enter Maarten, Woody and Tristan from stage right. All characters move to left once Maarten finishes talking to them.\**

**MAARTEN:** (To Woody) I'm promoting you to Director of Arboreal Welfare!

**WOODY:** (Waters Tristan) Oh Boy!

**NARRATOR:** Without Woody's jealousy to contend with, Buzz can get around to his new duties, saving the galaxy one student at a time.

*\*Buzz, enters from stage right with clipboard\**

**BUZZ:** *(Checking items off on clipboard)* I've assigned the PhD Demonstrators and scheduled Quo Vadis. Now, onto the poster competition...

*\*Stands with Woody and Tristan\**

**MAARTEN:** Make sure it isn't won by the organiser this time. Unless it's the best poster, of course...

*\*Sid and John enter stage right\**

**MAARTEN:** I've caught onto your schemes, Sid! It's not safe to have someone as dastardly as you in Lyle. You're moving to an office in Met, where I can keep an eye on you! And you can bring your Attack Dog too!

*\*Maarten pushes them to stage side left\**

**NARRATOR:** Now that Sid's dastardly nature has been revealed the broken toys are freed from her dominion, and can enjoy what's left of Maarten's birthday party.

*\*enter all other toys for final song, spreading across stage\**

**MAARTEN:** Time to celebrate! Paaaaaarrrrrttyyyyyy! I am ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY ONE today, so everyone should have some more cake! *(Dispenses more Chocolate)*

**PROFESSOR POTATOHEAD:** Wow! Thanks Maarten! I think to celebrate this very special occasion, I might even finally buy a copy of your book!

*\*Narrator hands Prof. Potatohead a copy of Atmospheric Physics\**

**PROFESSOR POTATOHEAD:** Very nice... Maarten H.P. Ambaum? What does the H.P. stand for?

**TRISTAN:** Hocus Pocus?

**ELLIE:** Maybe he was named after the sauce?

**ANTHONY:** Harry Potter?

**BEN COSH:** No, Harry Pitt!

**BUZZ:** I think this one's going to remain a mystery...

***FINAL SONG: MHPA (Maarten's initials) aka YMCA, by The Village People.***