

SABERTOOTH TENDENCIES

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CHARACTERS

EATS WITH A LISP	A deer without carnivore tendencies
TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY	A deer with carnivore tendencies

SETTING

A field where deer might hang out.

SCENE

(Two deer stand in a field.)

EATS WITH A LISP

You gonna eat that?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

What? Nah. You can go ahead.

EATS WITH A LISP

You okay?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Sure. I'm fine.

EATS WITH A LISP

Are you sure? You haven't been eating much lately.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

What do you mean? This is the first time we've gone out for lunch in over a week.

EATS WITH A LISP

Poops In The Woods mentioned it to me a couple of days ago, and then when I told Scratches Irritably he said he noticed the same thing.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Holy scampering, is the whole herd talking about me?

EATS WITH A LISP

No. *(Pause.)* Maybe. *(Pause.)* Yeah.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Doesn't anyone have anything better to do with their time?

EATS WITH A LISP

Not really. We're deer. What else is there to do but gossip when we're not running for our lives?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Stupid herd mentality.

EATS WITH A LISP

Hey, it's not meant that way. We're worried about you, that's all. Four Left Hooves stopped grazing and look what happened to him.

What do you mean?
TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Haven't you heard?
EATS WITH A LISP

No. What happened to him?
TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

He got eaten by a jackal.
EATS WITH A LISP

Oh no! Not Four Left Hooves. He was always so quiet.
TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

That's not always enough. He was with the folks down by South Stream, and they were all surprised by a pack.
EATS WITH A LISP

Oh no! Was Chews Like a Howling Banshee with them.
TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Yup.
EATS WITH A LISP

Honestly, I've never understood how a deer could eat so loudly. You'd think her jaws were made of autumn leaves.
TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Anyway, when they got surprised, Four Left Hooves couldn't keep up when they ran. Not enough energy.
EATS WITH A LISP

Maybe he was just clumsy, I mean—
TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

No. I talked to Blinks In The Headlights the next day, and he said Four Left Hooves was just really slow.
EATS WITH A LISP

That's so sad.
TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

EATS WITH A LISP

And that it was because he wasn't getting enough food.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

That's really terrible.

EATS WITH A LISP

So?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

So?

EATS WITH A LISP

Sooo... how come you aren't eating?

(There's an uncomfortable pause, and finally...)

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Eats With a Lisp?

EATS WITH A LISP

Yeah?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Can you keep a secret?

EATS WITH A LISP

Not really. I'm an undomesticated deer. We gossip like there's no tomorrow. I thought we just went over that.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Forget it.

EATS WITH A LISP

(With a big sigh of resignation...)

Okay, fine. I'll keep a secret.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

You promise?

EATS WITH A LISP

Cross my dew claws and hope to jump in front of Mini Cooper. Just don't make it too complicated. I can't remember to not remember complicated stuff.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Okay. Here's the thing. I... I think... I think... I don't really like vegetation anymore.

EATS WITH A LISP

What? I'm not following. I said not to make it complicated.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Vegetation. It just doesn't satisfy me anymore.

EATS WITH A LISP

But what else is there?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

I think... I think...

EATS WITH A LISP

Go on. Spit it out.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

I think I want to be a carnivore.

EATS WITH A LISP

You want to be... a...

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

A carnivore. Yes.

EATS WITH A LISP

How would you even know if...

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

A few weeks ago, I accidentally ate a grub. It was on a leaf, and before I even knew it, well, it was already down the old hatch, as they say.

EATS WITH A LISP

That's so gross.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

But that's the thing! It really wasn't! And ever since I've been keeping my eye out for other opportunities, and...

EATS WITH A LISP

You didn't!

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

I did! So far I've eaten like a hundred grubs, a whole slew of other insects, and now...

EATS WITH A LISP

Now? Now what?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

I think I'm ready to move up to the big time.

EATS WITH A LISP

You don't mean...

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

I do. Right over there. You see that?

EATS WITH A LISP

Where? What?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

On the log. It's a...

EATS WITH A LISP
A chipmunk?!?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY
A chipmunk!!

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

I think I can take him.

EATS WITH A LISP

Twitches Lopsidedly, you... You're... You're an animal!

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

I know!

EATS WITH A LISP

I don't know. This is so... so unnatural.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Look, I'm not saying that we should all become meat eaters, but why shouldn't I do what feels right to me? Why shouldn't I go have a good chomp on that juicy little rodent?

EATS WITH A LISP

That's not what we do! We're deer. We eat leaves and shrubs and stuff.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

But maybe some of us are meant for something different. Maybe some of us—

EATS WITH A LISP

What's all this "some of us"? It's just you, Twitches Lopsidedly. No one else has ever said anything about wanting to become the top predator in the forest.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Look, first of all, I'm not saying I want to become King of the Forest, but I don't think I need to stay at the bottom of the food chain just because everyone says that what I'm supposed to do.

EATS WITH A LISP

I don't know...

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

And just because no one else ever said anything doesn't mean I'm the only one who feels this way. Maybe Four Left Hooves was feeling exactly the same way. And maybe if the herd wasn't so set in the old traditions he would still be with us today. Did you ever think of that?

(There's a long pause.)

EATS WITH A LISP

No. I'm a deer. We're not disposed towards introspection.

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Well?

EATS WITH A LISP

Well what?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Are you going to keep my secret?

EATS WITH A LISP

That you secretly want to be a sabertooth tiger?

TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Hey, that's not what I—

EATS WITH A LISP

Ehh, I suppose it's simple enough to not say anything.

Thank you. TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Although... EATS WITH A LISP

What? Although what? TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

Never mind. EATS WITH A LISP

Not never mind. What? TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

It does kinda make you wonder. EATS WITH A LISP

Wonder what? TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

If you never say anything... and there are other deer who want to eat critters too... EATS WITH A LISP

Yeah? TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

You may never find out if others feel the same way. And you know what that means? EATS WITH A LISP

What? TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

What? EATS WITH A LISP

What does that mean? TWITCHES LOPSIDEDLY

I have no idea. I'm just a deer. We don't do introspection. EATS WITH A LISP

(Lights out.)