

## TREATMENT

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Living homeless in Central Park since childhood, *Morris and Oswald* have struggled endlessly with life's typical obstacles: cold weather, empty bellies, and a variety of ongoing existential trepidations. Morris, for example, witnessed his mother's deadly taxi crash at the vulnerable age of five, and has never since journeyed outside of the park.



Waking one morning to an empty stomach, Morris provokes an argument with his companion Oswald: he insists they use Oswald's savings to purchase a vendor cart pretzel. Oswald counters: he will only part with his savings for a hot dog. In the pandemonium, they discover a runaway boy strapped into a child leash. Sympathetic, they allow him into their troupe, and set off for a snack vendor.

To Morris's horror, their savings are insufficient for a two dollar pretzel. They regroup: exploiting the boy's cuteness, they decide to peddle change off a young couple. But Morris and Oswald, slipping back into their pretzel versus hot dog debate, fail to mind the boy when he returns with a new dollar. Disappointed and unsupervised, the boy wanders off.

Morris and Oswald emerge from their quarrel too late; the boy has wandered dangerously close to the edge of the park. They charge toward him, but the boy, terrified, accidentally drops the dollar in the street. As taxis rush down the busy avenue, the boy, hoping to regain their trust, wanders out after the money.

The boy captures the dollar as taxis surround him. Frozen at the park gate, Morris faces his two horrors: the land beyond Central Park and the angry fleet of yellow taxis. Reflecting on a chillingly similar scene, Morris gathers his will. He charges out into the street, scoops up the imperiled boy, and darts on to the other side.

Nearby, they are rewarded by a snack vendor, and, feeling altruistic after overcoming his fears, Morris orders a hot dog. They are sold out, and Oswald is forced to settle for a pretzel anyway.

Back at camp, the newly formed trio delight in their afternoon snack – their quest successfully completed.