

Golden Cobra Title Page: I'm gonna' be...

Title: I'm gonna be...a trail game about queer pining

Author: Monya Relles



Image description: A big tree stretches across the foreground of a black and white drawing of a forest. Across the top the game title, "I'm gonna' be" is written. Down and to the left, framed by curly brackets reads a caption, "A trail game about queer pining".

About the author:

Monya hiked for two months on the Appalachian trail from July 2024 to September 2024. They walked six hundred and fifty miles, rode about seventy miles in a car, traveled for fifty-five days minus five rest days and one extremely long weekend. They carried around forty-five pounds of stuff, ate about a pound of ibuprofen, and seriously considered quitting around seven times, and used up well over a foot of blister tape. The walk was challenging, ordinary, and devastatingly beautiful at turns and they enjoyed it very much.

This is a game about that journey.



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Players: Just you.

Materials: This game and the Appalachian trail or equivalent (see accessibility notes).

A note on walking, nature, and accessibility:

This game is about walking. That's because when I wrote it, that's what I was doing. Just that for days and miles on end. Walking works really well for me as a meditative space. But maybe it doesn't for you. Maybe your quiet, meditative space is biking, or rolling in your wheelchair, or sitting under a tree, or lying in bed. These games are about slow intention so driving is not allowed but buses and trains qualify fine. Also, my rules are made up. Break them if and whenever you like.

Secondly, because this is a game I wrote while hiking on the Appalachian trail, it's about walking outside or in nature. I do believe humans and the earth are deeply connected. And you can connect with the earth in so many ways. You can walk on a city street and look out for trees, roots, and bushes, racoons, and squirrels, and rats. You could sit out in your backyard or on a porch. You could look out the window, or just breathe in and feel the air, connected to all the air on all the planet. Connect to your skin, your bones, your lungs and beating heart. All of these are nature and can be used instead of standing outside along the trail.

Play this game in a way that makes sense for your brain and your body. Play it with love.

How to play:

1. Stand on the Appalachian trail.
2. Think of your great love. Maybe they are a person. Maybe they are a place or a river or a community.
3. Face the direction of your great love.
4. Take a step towards them.
5. Repeat steps 1-4.

The game ends when you reach your great love.

Optional modifications

- You do not actually have to walk. Imagine your great love instead. Or bike or take a bus while staring out the window at the rain. (See accessibility note)
- Sing *I'm gonna be (500 miles)* by the Proclaimers as you walk. Understand what it actually means to walk five hundred miles.
- Walk until you fall out of love. Stop walking when you fall out of love. Remain still and think about heartbreak.

--This is a game about being queer. You don't have to be queer to play
but please play with curiosity and kindness--