

“SLOWPOKES”

a half-hour dramedy series

by **Laura Gladwell**

Synopsis:

Lane (33) was a comedian on the brink of Toronto stardom—until her mom got sick, forcing her to move home to the idyllic but isolated community of Ward’s Island. While her dreams are indefinitely on hold, Lane is resigned to her role as a live-in caregiver, stagnating in an endless time loop of soiled Depends and viral cat videos. For the time being (and the foreseeable future), her social life is at the mercy of a limited ferry schedule and **Dawn** (64), her irreverent godmother and occasional helper.

Across the harbour, **Doug** (38) is spinning his wheels at a remote legal job he isn’t cut out for, when all he truly wants to do is build miniatures of his favourite 90s sitcom sets. That, and join the ranks of his fellow 30-somethings in fatherhood. Unfortunately, his wife **Victoria** (36) is too absorbed in her doctoral dissertation to have dinner with him, let alone have sex with him. The kicker: now that she’s gone off the pill, she no longer finds him physically attractive and wants a trial separation.

When Lane and Doug collide one night by literal, drunken accident, Doug’s chivalry gets him stuck on the island overnight, where he’s thrown into the aftermath of Lane’s mom’s unexpected death. Now, on top of his own personal crisis, Doug must figure out how much—or little—to get involved in a perfect stranger’s. As Lane wrestles with big questions about her life, her career, and her late mother’s estate, a thankless but promising TV gig comes along and whisks her away to...Etobicoke. Not wanting to lose her claim to her coveted family home on the Toronto Islands, she rents it out to Doug, knowing only that he’s “between places”. But what at first seems like a win-win arrangement soon becomes a serious legal dilemma, jeopardizing Lane’s residential future in ways she did not see coming.

“**Slowpokes**” is about the bizarre bond that develops between two stunted strangers as they adapt to unfamiliar and unusual circumstances. Their budding connection feels genuine—but is it healthy? Are they just trauma bonding? And, with Doug (technically) still married, is it *ethical*? As Lane and Doug mourn their very different, but equally formative relationships, they’ll also have to navigate the confusion and ambiguity of this new one. Along the way, Lane will be revisited by different people from her past, including a frenemy from her former comedy days, and the transient stepdad she’d rather stay estranged from. Meanwhile, Doug struggles to accept his looming divorce and keeps everyone in the dark about it—including Lane, who doesn’t even know he’s married.

This series straddles the fuzzy lines between endings and beginnings, tragedy and comedy, and friendship and romance. It’s about dumb luck and weird timing. It’s about loss and grief. And it’s about love—but, like all classic romcom couples, it’ll take Lane and Doug a while to realize that.