

The States Collection – Idaho
Craters of the Moon
By Claudia Haas
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CAST: 2

Jamie: female; (age-18-22) Outdoorsy and dressed for it

Alex: male; (age 18-22) not outdoorsy and dressed as a fashion shoot for the outdoors

Synopsis: One could commit the perfect murder here. Only, of course, if one is a murderer.

Place: Craters of the Moon National Park, Idaho

Time: Hot, summer day

(Lights up on the entrance to The Craters of the Moon National Park. JAMIE has a backpack with supplies – band aids and lots of water. ALEX has ... a water bottle.)

ALEX

Wow! When you said you were outdoorsy in your profile, you really meant it.

JAMIE

Don't sound so surprised.

ALEX

It's just that sometimes that's just code for "Looks good in flannel."

(And they set off.)

JAMIE

And I do. That's not going to be enough water. But nevermind. I have enough for both of us. I should have warned you about open toe-shoes and the rattlesnakes. But they mainly sleep during the day. This place is amazing, isn't it?

ALEX

It's spooky. All that black rock.

JAMIE

From the long-ago lava.

ALEX

You really like hiking here? It looks so forbidding.

JAMIE

When you walk here, you can imagine you're walking on the moon. And I like how treacherous it looks. Mysterious. A bit scary. You can commit murder in the back country and nobody would

JAMIE (cont'd)

find your body for days. The back country is really desolate. Of course, it would be hard to hide the body. The ground is too hard. You can't bury it.

ALEX

You really think about these things?

JAMIE

I just let my mind wander when I'm here. Stream-of-consciousness. We're going to pass a cave soon. Now, that's a good place to hide a body. I'd take you inside but you're not really dressed for it.

ALEX

That's fine. I'm not much for – caves.

JAMIE

Where do you love to hike?

ALEX

The usual – on city streets. Busy streets. Not so desolate. Lots of people. Nobody could murder you and get away with it.

JAMIE

Too many people. If you ask me, the population of the world is getting out of control. Oh no – we're not taking that road. It's too easy. It just leads back to the Visitor's Center. Come on.

ALEX

Where are we headed?

JAMIE

To the back-country.

(ALEX stops dead in their tracks.)

END OF PLAY