CAST:
Lesley (f) 20-ish; loves monkeys; maybe
Lou (m) 20-ish; loves Lesley; definitely

AT RISE we hear a car door slam. LESLEY and
LOU enter – dressed for the Alabama heat.

LESLEY
I think I am going to melt. And the flies and mosquitoes will devour my body. (Beat.)
I smell bananas. Rotting. Why are we in Huntsville and not on the Gulf?

LOU
You’re going to love this. Come. Look.

(And LESLEY does.)

LESLEY
A monkey statue.

LOU
But not any monkey statue. It's Miss Baker!

LESLEY
I hate the smell of rotting bananas. I hate bananas.

LOU
Forget the bananas. Look at the monkey. She’s the first monkey to survive a trip into space.

LESLEY
I guess that’s good information on the things one never-needed-to-know-meter.

LOU
I thought you – be impressed. Miss Baker blasted off into space on May 28, 1959 –

LESLEY
The olden days.

LOU
Way old. But even back then they could do stuff. And she was in space for sixteen whole minutes before crashing down into the Atlantic. She even got married – to Big
LOU (cont’d)
George in 1962. And I thought if one was going to propose marriage, where would be a better place than in front of the one of the most revered monkeys in the USA? A monkey who was accomplished – like you are. A monkey who actually got married – like I hope you will! I thought this would appeal to your feminist instincts, you love of animals, your/

LESLEY
Wait! You’re telling me that the grave of a dead monkey/

LOU
Astronaut monkey!

LESLEY
Surrounded by rotting bananas/

LOU
Tributes!

LESLEY
Would be romantic?

LOU
Yes.

(Beat.)

LESLEY
Yes.

LOU
Really?

LESLEY
But I pick out where we go on our honeymoon.

LOU
The Smithsonian has Miss Baker’s body on display – she’s in her astronaut uniform and everything.

LESLEY
I’ll pick out the place. Now, I want a proper proposal. In front of the dead monkey.

(LOU kneels as lights fade to black.)

END OF PLAY