

The States Collection - Alabama
Monkeyshines
By Claudia I. Haas

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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