

The States Collection
Arkansas
The Diamond Mine
By Claudia Haas
Claudiahaas12@gmail.com

CAST: 2 (1 male, 1 female)

Bradley (male); young adult; earnest

Clara (female) young adult, earnest

TIME: Today

PLACE: Arkansas Diamond Mines, Murfreesboro, AK

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The States Collection – Arkansas
The Diamond Mines

Lights up on Bradley and Clara. They are dressed for a day in the woods – or rather a day in a crater of a volcano or rather a diamond mine.

CLARA

Thank-you for doing this.

BRADLEY

She is going to be mother-in-law. I better get on the right track.

CLARA

She just has thing about –

BRADLEY

- Diamonds. I know. I figured it out when she told me we cannot really be engaged because you didn't have a diamond. That string on your finger didn't fool her.

CLARA

This is going to be so special – something we can tell our kids about. How we went to a mine and found our very own diamond. And we're not really being a giant consumer of goods. Because, the diamonds are here anyway – right here for the taking.

BRADLEY

Well .. we paid to get in. And we're taking from the earth so we are part of the consuming machine.

CLARA

I know you're bending your ethics –

BRADLEY

- No no! It's fine. Taking a bit of compressed coal out of the earth shouldn't tip the scales too badly and cause climate change. Besides, we have a lifetime to atone for this one little misstep.

CLARA

We shouldn't –

BRADLEY

- Your mother.

CLARA

- Your morals.

BRADLEY

- Your mother.

CLARA

Let's start looking. They should be easy to spot.

(And they look. And look.)

They sure don't just hang out announcing themselves, do they?

BRADLEY

I think we have to dig.

CLARA

In the dirt.

BRADLEY

Yeah.

CLARA

Won't that upset the balance of the ecological system?

BRADLEY

Yeah.

(Meanwhile, BRADLEY has dropped "something.")

I can't believe this! Look! Not there! Here! By your left foot. Your other left foot. Wait you kicked it.

CLARA

(Frantically looking)

What? What?

BRADLEY

Something – glistened.

CLARA

A diamond?

BRADLEY

I don't know – yes – maybe – I think – LOOK!

CLARA

It's ... a ring.

BRADLEY

A diamond ring.

CLARA

But diamond mines just make diamonds. Not rings. Somebody must have lost it. We need to find a park ranger.

BRADLEY

It's not lost. You found it.

CLARA

It's not mine.

BRADLEY

You found it!

CLARA

Wait. Did you – buy this?

BRADLEY

Sort of.

CLARA

You went against everything you believe in – for me?

BRADLEY

Look at it. It's coal under pressure and it took like – a gazillion years to form. That's a lot of pressure. And maybe diamonds should not stay hidden in the earth. Maybe they deserve to have their day in the sun. Maybe –

CLARA

You did this for me.

BRADLEY

And your mother. (Beat.) But mostly for you. I think if something takes a gazillion years to get made, it may be one of the only things that could hold all my love for you – a love that should last at least a gazillion years.

CLARA

For better or for worse?

(Putting it on her finger.)

BRADLEY

In sickness and in health and under a lot of pressure –

CLARA

From my mother?

BRADLEY

From the earth. I hope that no matter what pressures we face, we come out as gracefully as the diamond.

CLARA

That's beautiful.

BRADLEY

Plus, if we ever go bankrupt – we can always sell it.

END OF PLAY

