



Still life with Monkey

by Katharine Weber

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1:30p | Isabel Hall

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Duncan agree to have Ottoline the helper monkey come into his life?
2. Do you think it is morally acceptable to train capuchin monkeys as helper monkeys? Is it any different from seeing-eye dogs?
3. Why does Duncan keep secret the details he recalls of the events leading up to the car accident? Why does he feel so responsible for Todd's death? Did Todd have awareness of Duncan's feelings?
4. What might have happened if Laura was pregnant and able to carry the baby to term? Would Duncan have made a different choice?
5. Do you think Duncan and Laura had a good marriage before the accident?
6. Duncan and Gordon were both profoundly affected by the house they grew up in. How do you think this affects their stories? Is this equally true for most people?
7. Would Duncan and Gordon's sibling relationship be different if they were not twins?
8. Why did Laura conceal the breakage of the pre-Columbian figurine? Did she do the right thing when she agreed to create a false report about the pair of bowls for the Cavendishes as part of a deal to get Duncan's Four-Square house built?
9. What do you think actually happened that day in Laura's childhood at the Ohio State Fair?
10. What do you think will happen to Gordon in the next few years? What do you think Laura's life will be like from now on? Will Gordon and Laura be at peace with Duncan's choice?