

BANANA THERAPY

a short play by
Peter M. Floyd

© 2014 Peter M. Floyd

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

ELLEN

ROY

THE THERAPIST

Scene: The office of a couples therapist. The THERAPIST sits behind a desk. ROY and ELLEN, a married couple, sit in chairs before the desk.

The play begins in medias res, in the middle of a therapy session.

ELLEN

He never listens to me.

THERAPIST

Yes, well--

ELLEN

I try to say something to him, and he just talks right over me.

ROY

I have to talk over you, 'cause you never pause to let me speak.

ELLEN

Oh, please.

THERAPIST

If I could just say--

ROY

Oh, there we go. "Oh, please." That's her mantra. It means "I have nothing to say so let me pretend I'm making a point."

ELLEN

No, it means "What you just said was such a crock that there's no point in my saying anything at all."

ROY

But you always do say something, don't you? You can't let a minute go by without hearing yourself yammer on.

THERAPIST

Please, if you would just--

ELLEN

Yammer? Are you saying I yammer? Oh, please. I do not yammer. I am not a yammerer. I'm not the one in this room who feels like he always has to say something about anything, whether he knows what he's talking about or not.

ROY

Oh, sure, and you always keep your opinions to yourself, right?

ELLEN

Well, I don't always--

THERAPIST

(loudly) Hey! *(beat)* Sorry. It does seem to me that communication is the issue between the two of you. Well, a lack of communication, actually.

ELLEN

Are you kidding? He never stops communicating at me. If anything, he needs to communicate a lot less.

THERAPIST

No, what's going on between you two isn't communication at all. I mean, what is communication?

Beat.

ELLEN

Sorry, was that a real question?

THERAPIST

Yes.

ELLEN

Oh! Um. It's talking.

ROY

No, not necessarily. You can communicate a bunch of different ways. Sign language, Morse code, smoke signals...

ELLEN

He's talking about us, how we communicate. We don't send smoke signals to each other. Unless you count the time you set the toaster oven on fire.

ROY

No, he's talking about the basic concept of communication, which involves sending a message of some kind--

THERAPIST

Okay, yes, communication involves sending a message. Whether through words or signs or, uh, smoke. Whatever. But it's not just sending a message, is it? That's only half of communication. What's the other half?

Pause.

ROY

Um...

ELLEN

Well...

THERAPIST

It's somebody else *receiving* the message. If no one is getting the message, then there's no communication. Both of you are sending messages loud and clear, but neither of you is listening to what the other person is saying. You understand?

ROY

Oh, come on, of course I'm listening to her. How can I not?

ELLEN

Oh, please. Honestly, I wish I *could* tune him out sometimes.

ROY

The signal-to-noise ratio is pretty small.

ELLEN

I *try* to listen, but there's nothing there--

FOR FULL SCRIPT, CONTACT PMFLOYD01@GMAIL.COM