

# Monkey Flower

by Karen Lauritsen

1. The Spring monkey flower is friendly enough, with its narrow face and easy bloom.

In the summer, once the land is dry and the poppies are scattered seeds, the monkey flower browns from the ground up

the sticky leaves shrivel, one by one, moving up the stem, leaving a dry, shaggy fringe.

By fall, it may still manage a bloom, one that is no less friendly yet certainly more wise.

11. Monkey me

Monkey do

Monkey flower here for you

It smiles dumbly

the joke too easy

a white petticoat looks right

breezy

I reach towards it

my blade is ready

a scent seduces, it's not heady

I stop up short

and look within

for there's a bee that works

the pin

if it's mine

it is not yours

and there's the story of our

shores.

111. In the summer

if you water it,

it will stay green and

people will admire it.

If you don't, it will brown

and people will wonder why

you planted it.

Either way, it lives.

