

= Show Me the Monkey =

" Show Me the Monkey " is the tenth episode of the third season of the American mystery television series Veronica Mars , and the fifty @-@ fourth episode overall . Written by John Enbom and Robert Hull and directed by Nick Marck , the episode premiered on The CW on January 23 , 2007 . The series depicts the adventures of Veronica Mars (Kristen Bell) as she deals with life as a college student while moonlighting as a private detective .

In this episode , Veronica is hired by researchers in the disappearance of a Capuchin monkey being used for animal testing on non @-@ human primates . However , she has a change of heart after infiltrating an animal rights group as part of the case . Meanwhile , Piz (Chris Lowell) becomes increasingly friendly and gives her advice , but after a heartfelt talk about love , Veronica decides to start dating Logan again . In addition , Keith (Enrico Colantoni) starts investigating Dean O 'Dell 's (Ed Begley , Jr .) mysterious death .

" Show Me the Monkey " was initially scheduled to have a cameo appearance by Ted Nugent , but when they writers could not schedule him , they changed the name of the character to Ed Argent . The eponymous monkey is played by live animal actor Katie , known for her role on Friends . In its original airing , the episode received 3 @.@ 23 million viewers and positive reviews from television critics . Rowan Kaiser of The A.V. Club called " Show Me the Monkey " one of the best of the season , while Eric Goldman of IGN lauded Mac 's new love interest . However , Keith McDuffee of AOL TV did not like the development of the love triangle between Logan , Piz , and Veronica .

= = Plot synopsis = =

Keith (Enrico Colantoni) is visited by Mindy O ? Dell (Jamie Ray Newman) , who tells him to investigate Dean O ? Dell ? s (Ed Begley , Jr .) death . Mac (Tina Majorino) is called in for tech support when an animal research lab is raided and a valuable monkey is stolen , and Mac asks Veronica for help . The researchers believe that a PETA @-@ like organization , named PHAT , is responsible . At the PHAT meeting , Mac flirts with the group leader , Bronson , but there is no reason to think that they ? re guilty . Weevil invites Keith to investigate Dean O ? Dell ? s office , and he finds a 40 @-@ year @-@ old bottle of scotch unopened . At the next PHAT meeting , Veronica is asked to take action for animal rights in any way she sees fit . Keith presents the bottle of scotch as evidence of a murder of Dean O ? Dell . Back at the lab , Veronica notices a coworker being mean to the monkey researchers . After a slight hazing ritual , Veronica and Mac are accepted into the group . In order to impress the leader of the group , Veronica , Mac , and Parker (Julie Gonzalo) participate in a party .

Mac leaves the party early , but the leader of the group appears at her room . When he tries to kiss her , she pulls away . Logan (Jason Dohring) and Dick (Ryan Hansen) go surfing . When Mac , Parker , and Veronica go to the leader ? s house , they find a woman , but he invites them in anyway . Veronica finds cages of rats in Bronson ? s house , but he says that they showed up on his doorstep one day . Logan has sex with a surfer woman , and when the police show up at Bronson ? s house to inquire after the stolen rats , they were gone . While investigating the hard drive of the lab ? s computer , Mac finds leaves , which Veronica discovers are green tea . She shows them to the coworker , Emi , and discovers that Emi stole one of the monkey ? s toys .

After doing some more searching , Veronica discovers that one of the lab members actually stole the monkey after developing a special bond with it . The lab member knew he could blame it on PHAT . Veronica decides to tell the other lab members that she was unable to find the monkey , although she is surprised to learn that they will quickly get another monkey . Veronica has a heartfelt conversation with Piz , although soon afterward , she goes back to Logan . Keith decides to take the case of Dean O ? Dell ? s death . The next morning , Piz walks up to Veronica excitedly , but Logan appears , making things awkward and causing Piz to leave sadly .

= = Production = =

" Show Me the Monkey " was co @-@ written by John Enbom and Robert Hull and directed by Nick Marck , marking Enbom 's thirteenth writing credit and Hull 's first writing credit for the show . As a joke in the episode 's script , Enbom and Hull added the name of the lab worker who stole the monkey as " Gil Thomas Pardy " , although his name is not mentioned directly in the episode . A condensed version of this name , Gil T. Pardy , is an intentional pun on " guilty party " . The character of rock star Ed Argent was initially supposed to be a cameo appearance from musician Ted Nugent , but when he did not appear on the show due to scheduling conflicts , the writers changed the character 's name in order to make it a reference to the band Argent , best known for their song " Hold Your Head Up " .

The stolen capuchin monkey named Oscar is played by live animal actor Katie , best known for playing Marcel , Ross Geller 's pet monkey , on the sitcom Friends . Near the time of the episode 's airing , she had also appeared in Bruce Almighty and an episode of 30 Rock . When the episode 's editor first received one take of the scene in which Veronica and Mac sarcastically dance in response to accusations of doing a poor job on a school project , the editor called the writing staff into the editing room ; they proceeded to view the scene fifteen times because of its humorous nature . They immediately included the take in the final cut of the episode .

= = Reception = =

In its original United States broadcast , " Show Me the Monkey " received 3 @.@ 23 million viewers , marking a decrease in viewers from " Spit & Eggs " and ranking 92nd of 103 in the weekly rankings .

The episode received positive reviews from television critics . Eric Goldman of IGN gave the episode an 8 @.@ 2 out of 10 , indicating that it was " great " . Writing that it was entertaining and developed the plot well , he also lauded Mac 's reappearance and her new love interest , opining that it created some interesting character moments for Mac . He was also pleased that the episode " ultimately ended on an optimistic note for Mac and her potential new guy . " However , he thought that the episode , as well as the show in general , could not handle controversial issues such as animal testing delicately . Keith McDuffee of AOL TV gave mixed opinions on the development of the show 's romantic relationships in the episode ; he commented , " And as for Piz trying to woo Veronica a bit , I actually found myself saying " thank God " when [Veronica] was at Logan 's door later in the episode . " He compared Piz negatively to Logan at the beginning of the first season , and stated that " alas , Piz will have his chance again soon . " Television Without Pity graded the episode an " A " .

Rowan Kaiser , writing for The A.V. Club , praised the episode , arguing that " this is one of the few episodes so far that is both satisfying on its own and uses the higher education setting as a strength , instead of fighting it as a weakness . " He praised the episode 's treatment of the animal rights group as well as Mac 's prominent role . He also lauded Keith 's investigation into the dean 's death , particularly the scene in which he encounters Veronica 's criminology professor in a bar , which Kaiser described as " Keith discovering someone who may well be a match for him intellectually . " Reviewer Alan Sepinwall , on his blog What 's Alan Watching ? , enjoyed the episode , calling the main plot the " Best Mystery of the Week in quite some time . " In addition , he enjoyed the contrast between Veronica and Keith 's methods of undercover work , writing that Veronica is less subtle in this area . In addition , he praised the more humorous aspects of the episode , particularly the performances in this regard by Bell and Majorino .