

**Characters**

MAGGIE

ANDY

**Scene**

Maggie and Andy have known each other since kindergarten, and always tell each other everything. Now, at age 13, Maggie's become something of a loner, and has been keeping more of her thoughts to herself. Here, Andy takes a decidedly new and unexpected approach to their friendship.

*(MAGGIE sits down. After a minute, ANDY sits down right next to her.)*

ANDY. Kiss me.

MAGGIE. What?

ANDY. Kiss me.

MAGGIE. Um. No.

ANDY. Um. Why not?

MAGGIE. I'm supposed to have a reason?

ANDY. We're friends.

MAGGIE. That's a reason?

ANDY. Sure.

MAGGIE. Your reason.

ANDY. Sure.

MAGGIE. What about Dilys Braeburn?

ANDY. What about her?

MAGGIE. I thought she was, you know—

ANDY. She hates me.

MAGGIE. How do you know she hates you?

ANDY. Well, she sure doesn't *like* me.

MAGGIE. You gave her a dead mouse.

ANDY. That was four years ago! And it wasn't dead when I gave it to her!

*(A moment passes.)*

So do you?

MAGGIE. Do I what?

ANDY. Have a reason?

MAGGIE. I'm working on it.

ANDY. How long?

MAGGIE. How long what?

ANDY. Until you have one.

MAGGIE. What, a reason not to kiss you?

ANDY. Yeah.

MAGGIE. *(Thinks about it.)* Thirty-seven years.

ANDY. Funny.

MAGGIE. You think?

ANDY. You a lez?

MAGGIE. *(Doesn't miss a beat.)* No.

ANDY. So then.

MAGGIE. So then what?

ANDY. So then you can kiss me.

MAGGIE. Let's see if I've got this right. You say: Kiss me. I say: No. You say: Are you a lesbian? I say: No. You say: Then kiss me. Is that pretty much the way this goes?

ANDY. Pretty much.

MAGGIE. Sad.

ANDY. What's so sad about it?

MAGGIE. That you wouldn't kiss a lesbian.

ANDY. Wait—I didn't say I wouldn't kiss a lesbian!

MAGGIE. So would you?

ANDY. What—kiss a lesbian?

MAGGIE. Yes.

ANDY. I never thought about it.

MAGGIE. Well maybe you should.

ANDY. Wait—what if she won't kiss me?

MAGGIE. Then I guess you'd be out of luck.

ANDY. But you're not.

MAGGIE. *(Pause.)* No.

ANDY. *(Suddenly unsure:)* Wait—I mean—you're not, are you?

MAGGIE. What do you think?

ANDY. I asked *you*.

MAGGIE. And I'm asking *you*.

ANDY. *(Exasperated:)* How would I know?

MAGGIE. That's just the point—you wouldn't know.

ANDY. Right.

MAGGIE. So it wouldn't make any difference if you kissed me or not. You still wouldn't know.

ANDY. But that's not—wait, this is getting way too complicated.

MAGGIE. You asked.

ANDY. Yeah. So. About that.

MAGGIE. No.

ANDY. So, then. Okay.

MAGGIE. Okay.

ANDY. I just thought I'd try it.

MAGGIE. Better luck next time.

ANDY. Yeah.

*(They sit for a minute.)*

ANDY. Jeezer came home from the hospital today.

MAGGIE. Libby Marshall says the emergency squad has a special truck just for him.

ANDY. He's been talking about squeezing up the inside of that old smoke-stack for years, but I never thought he'd really try it.

MAGGIE. So you just stood there and watched him do it.

ANDY. Who was gonna stop him?

MAGGIE. Oh, I don't know. Um. Maybe a friend.

ANDY. Yeah, well, when he gets a plan in his head—

MAGGIE. You call that a plan?

ANDY. Nobody else knew all those bats lived in there.

MAGGIE. Nobody else tried to climb up the inside of an abandoned smoke-stack either.

ANDY. Man, there must have been about a million of those bats. I was laughing so hard the Coke shot out of my nose.

MAGGIE. Nice.

ANDY. Broke his leg in eight places when he let go.

MAGGIE. Well good for him.

ANDY. Jeezer. Effing awesome.

MAGGIE. If you say so.

ANDY. So, wait—you think a lesbian would kiss me?

MAGGIE. You'd have to find one and ask her.

ANDY. How would I do that?

MAGGIE. They say one out of every ten people is gay, so I guess there must be one around here someplace.

ANDY. Where'd you hear that?

MAGGIE. I don't know. It's just one of those things I know.

ANDY. So wait—you mean if I counted up ten of my friends, one of them would have to be a lesbian?

MAGGIE. Probably.

ANDY. You always think you have the answers, don't you?

MAGGIE. There are no right answers.

ANDY. *(Smug:)* Yeah—but that just means there's no wrong ones either.

MAGGIE. Or that *you* can't tell the difference.

*(MAGGIE gets up and walks away.)*