
Begin

MAX. If it *moves*, they kiss it.

MAGGIE. *Max!*

MAX. So what else happened?

MAGGIE. Nothing. (*pause*) Of any importance.

MAX. Something else happened?

MAGGIE. Not really.

MAX. Something sort of happened.

MAGGIE. It wasn't important.

MAX. What happened!

MAGGIE. It was nothing! Oh – ! (*reluctantly, embarrassed*) ...I fainted.

MAX. You fainted?

MAGGIE. It must have been the heat and all the excitement. I remember thinking suddenly, my God, it's like an oven back here. And we were talking and he sort of... stared right at me, and then I...blacked out.

MAX. Oh great. I mean this is terrific. My fiancée meets this – this sweaty Italian guy and she keels over.

MAGGIE. From the heat! And I'm not your fiancée, Max.

MAX. Wait a minute. Did I ask you to marry me or not? Huh? Remember that? What did you – you black out during the proposal?

MAGGIE. I heard it, Max, and I said no.

MAX. You said you'd think about it.

MAGGIE. (*taking his hand*) Max. I'm just not ready yet. I want something special first. Something wonderful and romantic.

MAX. I'm not romantic? I don't believe this. What do you call a rowboat at three a.m., huh? Moonlight shimmering on the water. Nobody for miles.

MAGGIE. You lost the oars.

MAX. But it was fun! It turned out fun!

MAGGIE. We spent thirty hours in a rowboat, Max.

MAX. That's not the point!

MAGGIE. I haven't had any flings, Max.

MAX. Flings?

MAGGIE. Flings.

MAX. I've been asking you to fling with me for three years!
I begged you!

MAGGIE. I don't mean that! I just feel that I need some...
wider experience.

MAX. Oh. Sure. I get it. You mean like Diana.

MAGGIE. Diana?

MAX. Nedda. Soprano.

MAGGIE. Oh, her.

MAX. She's flinging her way through the whole cast. All the
men are getting flung out. You should see the guy who
plays Tonio. He's supposed to be evil. He can hardly
walk.

MAGGIE. Max –

MAX. He's limping now –

MAGGIE. Max, listen. Let's be honest. When you kiss me,
do you hear anything? Special?

MAX. Like what?

MAGGIE. Like...bells.

MAX. You wanna hear bells?

MAGGIE. I guess it sounds stupid, doesn't it?

MAX. Yeah. It does.

MAGGIE. Just forget it.

(a knock at the door)

SAUNDERS. *(offstage)* Max!

MAX. *(torn)* Maggie –

MAGGIE. I said forget it!

End

(more knocking)

SAUNDERS. *(offstage)* Max!

MAX. Coming!

(MAX opens the door and SAUNDERS rushes in. Mid-fifties, authoritarian and very upset.)