

SQUEEZING THE FRIEND OUT OF FRIENDSHIP

By John Bartimole

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SQUEEZING THE 'FRIEND' OUT OF FRIENDSHIP

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CAST: AVA and JILL

AVA: (*student with a drink stirrer in her mouth*) Hey there...this thing tastes great. Why don't you try some?

JILL: (*perturbed*) I'm not going to try that—you had it in your mouth.

AVA: So...I brushed my teeth. If you really were my friend, you'd do it.

JILL: No way...You could have a cold or hepatitis or some nasty disease.

AVA: I wouldn't give it to you if I did. I just want you to taste it. It really is great! And you kiss your boyfriend, don't you? What's so different about this? This cocoa has a lot less germs than your boyfriend's mouth. And it's better-looking, too.

JILL: Hey, that's enough about my boyfriend. Just because you don't think he's cute.

AVA: Cute? Tom Cruise is cute. Little puppies are cute. Heck, compared to your boyfriend, even *Barney* is cute. But let's not talk about your taste in boyfriends. Here, try this.

JILL: Uh...look, I don't want to push our friendship or anything...but I have no interest at all in sucking on a drink stirrer. I mean...that's gross.

AVA: You know, I don't blame you...you can't get nothin' out of that. I was doing that just to get you going...nobody sucks coffee stirrers, right? But I've got some other stuff you can try.

JILL: Yeah? Like what? Straws? Popsicles? Lifesavers? What else do you want me to try? Or are you trying to make me look like a sucker?

AVA: I wouldn't do that to you. Hey, try some of this...it's great stuff.

JILL: What is it?

AVA: **(nonchalantly)** Just some grass...some marijuana, that's all. No big deal. Nothing that will hurt you...just make you feel good. It'll give you a buzz that you'll never forget!

JILL: **(hesitantly)** I'm not sure...Isn't that stuff dangerous?

AVA: **(sarcastically)** Hey...living is dangerous. Getting in a car and driving is dangerous. Walking across the street is dangerous. Live a little. Life isn't a spectator sport!

JILL: Yeah, yeah, I know. I could get hurt just standing around and a tree limb can fall on me. Or I can be minding my own business and get hurt. I know a guy who got hurt sitting on the toilet.

AVA: Get outta here. How can you get hurt sitting on a toilet?

JILL: Well, he was sitting there in a restroom, doing what he needed to do, and he was reading a newspaper—you know how guys are, they always love to read on the toilet.

AVA: So...how did he get hurt?

JILL: Some jerk comes in, roaring drunk and angry because his girlfriend just ditched him. He walks up to the first door he sees and karate kicks it. The door banged the poor guy sitting on the toilet in the head...and he needed stitches to close up the cut!

AVA: Great story. Did it really happen?

JILL: Yup.

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