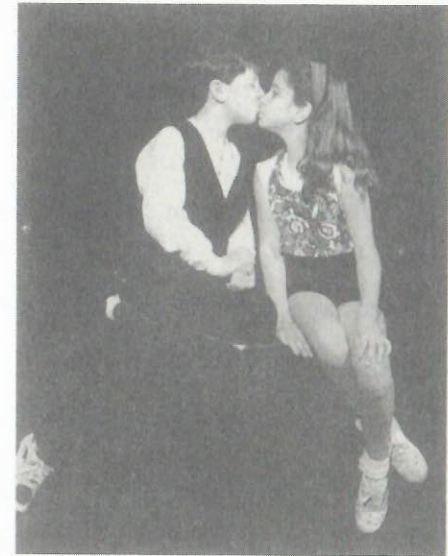


MY GIRL

SCREENPLAY BY LAURICE ELEHWANY



The film *My Girl* portrays the story of Vada (*pronounced Vay-da*), an eleven year old girl, and her friendship with her neighbor, Thomas Jay. Vada lives in Pennsylvania with her father and grandmother. Her mother died when she was born. Vada's father works as an undertaker, and so the house in which they live is part home, part funeral-home.

Vada's father needs to hire a make-up artist for the corpses at the funeral home. When an attractive young woman arrives at the house one day in response to his "Help Wanted" ad, sparks fly! It looks as though Vada's father is in love for the first time since the death of Vada's mother. This brings up many questions for Vada, not only in terms of what it means to have her mother replaced, but also about the strange nature of love.

In the following excerpt, Vada and Thomas Jay are sitting by the shores of a beautiful lake.

1 Girl and 1 Boy
Vada and Thomas Jay (both age 11)

Vada Why do you think people want to get married?

Thomas Jay Well, when you get older you just have to.

Vada I'm going to marry Mr. Bixler.

Thomas Jay You can't marry a teacher. It's against the law.

Vada It is not.

Thomas Jay Yes it is, cause then he'll give you all A's and it won't be fair.

Vada That's not true. *(Pause)* Did you ever kiss anyone?

Thomas Jay Like they do on TV?

Vada Mm hm.

Thomas Jay No.

Vada Maybe we should. Just to see what's the big deal.

Thomas Jay But I don't know how.

Vada Here practice on your arm, like this *(She kisses up and down her arm.)*

Thomas Jay Like this? *(He kisses his arm like Vada.)*

Vada Mm hmm. *(They kiss their own arms for a little while.)* OK, enough practice. Close your eyes.

Thomas Jay Then I won't be able to see anything.

Vada Do it.

Thomas Jay Okay, okay!



Vada Okay, on the count of three: one...two...two and a half...*three*.

(They kiss.)

Vada Say something. It's too quiet.

Thomas Jay Um...um...

Vada Just hurry!

Thomas Jay I pledge allegiance to the flag of The United States Of America...

Both ...And to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Vada Better not tell anyone.

Thomas Jay You better not either.

Vada Let's spit on it.

Thomas Jay OK.

(They spit.)

Vada See you tomorrow.

Thomas Jay OK. See you. *(He walks a little ways and then stops and calls back to her.)* Vada.

Vada What?

Thomas Jay Would you think of me?

Vada For what?

Thomas Jay Well...If you don't get to marry Mr. Bixler.

Vada I guess.