

500 KISSES

by Scott Mullen

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A Comedic Duet

by **Scott Mullen**

SYNOPSIS: Molly has been carrying on an experiment, a kissing experiment. Her data quest is almost over when she approaches Wendell to be her final, 500th, kiss. Surprisingly, Wendell is far from excited and pushes back.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 1 male)

MOLLY (f)Aggressive and forward. *(63 lines)*

WENDELL (m)Wary and more practical. *(61 lines)*

TIME: Present day.

SETTING: A bench in an unspecified area.

PROPS

- a book
- a notebook

AT START: *WENDELL sits on a bench, reading a book. MOLLY walks up, notebook under her arm.*

MOLLY: Hey. Hey! Are you Wendell Murray?

WENDELL: Yes.

MOLLY: My name's Molly Tucker. Have you heard of me?

WENDELL: No.

MOLLY: I'm a senior.

WENDELL: Okay.

MOLLY: And I'm here to tell you, congratulations—you are the lucky recipient of my 500th kiss!

WENDELL looks around.

MOLLY: What are you looking for?

WENDELL: Is someone filming this?

MOLLY: No!

WENDELL: Some livestream thing?

MOLLY: I'm not livestreaming this.

WENDELL: This feels like a prank.

MOLLY: It's not a prank.

WENDELL: You want to kiss me.

MOLLY: I do.

WENDELL: Why?

MOLLY: You have a choice. I can kiss you, and then I leave, or you can make me tell you the whole story first.

WENDELL: I want the story.

MOLLY: Really?

WENDELL: Yes.

MOLLY: It's long.

WENDELL: Tell me.

MOLLY: Fine. A couple of years ago, I got to thinking about kissing. What makes it special? I mean, it's just two body parts touching. What if we bump elbows? There's nothing special about that, but it's the same thing.

WENDELL: That could hurt, though.

MOLLY: But we put such a focus on the kiss thing, that most people never actually kiss a lot of people. So how do they know what a kiss means? So I decided to try an experiment. I decided to kiss 500 different people, and see how I felt at the end of it.

WENDELL: That's a lot of kisses.

MOLLY: It's taken a few years. I didn't want to rush through it. I have rules—no more than one kiss in a day. That gives me time to think about each kiss.

WENDELL: Wow.

MOLLY: So... ready?

WENDELL: What's with the notebook?

MOLLY: Oh. I log all the kisses. Just to have a record of them. So I'm sure there are no repeats. I also have a spreadsheet at home.

WENDELL: Of kisses.

MOLLY: Duration... softness... saliva...

WENDELL: Ew.

MOLLY: Yeah. I tell guys to try not to have too much saliva. Doesn't always work.

WENDELL: And then what... some big overall grade?

MOLLY: No. That's not what this is about. And it's all anonymous. All the names in the notebook are in code. My special code.

WENDELL: No big winner? No stars next to the ones you want to kiss again?

MOLLY: I'm not going to answer that.

WENDELL: But I'm number 500.

MOLLY: You are! I've kissed everyone else in my class, and your class, and the sophomore class—and most of the guys who graduated last year. I'm keeping it age appropriate. One of the rules.

WENDELL: And how many guys say no?

MOLLY: No one says no. It's a kiss. From a girl.

WENDELL: What if they have girlfriends?

MOLLY: I'm not going to say I've never kissed a boy with a girlfriend. Because I have. But it didn't mean anything.

WENDELL: So you've kissed 499 guys.

MOLLY: No.

WENDELL: No?

MOLLY: 493 guys. 6 girls.

WENDELL: Really.

MOLLY: They heard about my study. They approached me. I thought it was an interesting part of the experiment.

WENDELL: And...

MOLLY: It was sweet. But I like kissing guys more.

WENDELL: So how many total kisses is that? I mean, 499 people—I can't even begin to guess.

MOLLY: 499 kisses.

WENDELL: ...What?

MOLLY: Yeah. 1 kiss each. That's the rule.

WENDELL: You've never kissed anyone more than once?

MOLLY: Never.

WENDELL: Not your boyfriend?

MOLLY: I've never had a boyfriend. I wanted to finish this first.

WENDELL: Wow.

MOLLY: I guess now that I've hit 500 kisses, I can think about getting a boyfriend. That's pretty scary. Wow. I really didn't think until now what it meant to get kiss number 500. It's like a new chapter of my life opening up. I'm going to have to make choices.

WENDELL: But you feel more prepared.

MOLLY: I do. I am. Yeah. No regrets. So. Wow—this feels like graduation day for me. Let's do this. 500.

WENDELL: No.

MOLLY: No?

WENDELL: I'm not going to kiss you.

MOLLY: Come on. You have to.

WENDELL: I really don't.

MOLLY: Why wouldn't you want to kiss me? Honestly, I've kissed so many people that I think I've perfected the technique. Head tilt so you don't bump noses. Soft lips, firm but not too firm. Tongue not really necessary, but sometimes it's nice.

WENDELL: Go kiss Brian Feldman.

MOLLY: I already did.

WENDELL: Mickey Williams.

MOLLY: Already did.

WENDELL: Johnny Maxwell.

MOLLY: I kissed him too.

WENDELL: You kissed Johnny Maxwell!?!?

MOLLY: I've kissed everyone. You're the last one. You're literally it.

WENDELL: How did you kiss Johnny Maxwell before me?

MOLLY: He was on the list, and there he was. And he wasn't the worst. Not even close.

WENDELL: So there was a worst.

MOLLY: Oh, there are some terrible kissers out there.

WENDELL: Yeah. I don't want to be judged.

MOLLY: I've already forgotten their names.

WENDELL: First off, I don't believe you, and secondly, that doesn't help. I don't want my first kiss to be forgotten by anyone.

MOLLY: Wait... you've never been kissed?

WENDELL: I have not.

MOLLY: That's awesome! Your first kiss, my 500th kiss—what's more special than that?

WENDELL: That's not how I want my first kiss to be special! I want it to mean something! I want to be in a moment with a girl where it just feels right, where both of us realize that now's the time, that we want to be doing nothing more than just kissing, in each other's arms. Sharing that. I want it to be love. I want it to be wonderful. And if she has kissed someone before, that's fine, I can deal with that—even 499 people, I can deal with that. But I want the kiss to be because there's a connection. Because there are feelings. Because it's the perfect moment. I don't want the kiss to be happening just because I'm a number to a girl who will never want to kiss me again.

MOLLY: You don't know that I'll never want to kiss you again.

WENDELL: Chances are you won't. Because I'm sure you've kissed a lot of experienced kissers. People who know what to do with their lips and their tongues and their noses and their hands. I have no idea. It all terrifies me.

MOLLY: That's why you should kiss me! Because there's no pressure! It's good practice—and if you're terrible the first time, it doesn't matter!

WENDELL: It should matter. It should totally matter. It's not just bumping elbows.

MOLLY: Come on. Please?

WENDELL: It really bothers me that you aren't taking no for an answer.

MOLLY: Crap. You're right. I'm sorry.

WENDELL: Apology accepted.

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