

# The kiss



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Sexual Empowerment: Detachment and Desire In the passage that describes the first experience that a young girl has with a kiss, it becomes clear that her experience teaches her that the female allure is strong enough to manipulate the male into giving into her desires. She learns that disconnecting from the experience gives her the control, her power drawn from his continuing need. The first indication that she has learned about her own sense of control in the situation is when she states “ her mind, clear and detached and ironic anyway, was regarding him from a distance, with amusement, but with pity” (Perkins and Perkins 2539). She sees his continuation of desire as a weakness, her ability to pull away a sign of strength. Therefore, she views him with pity, her own strength giving her a feeling of superiority. She has discovered that the experience was not overwhelming, that she could maintain her own control during the event and that within this she has conquered her own thoughts about the possibility of having the imposition of desire. She says “ she was pleased to discover that it was an unexceptional experience”, thus she finds that the experience did not affect her in such a way that she would become a victim of it (Perkins and Perkins 2539). As she turns away, her reminiscent comments suggest that she has had a profound moment, but not through the sensuality of the kiss, but through the realization that she is immune to the intent of the kiss. Her power is in not giving into her desire, her control through her detachment. Thus, she now knows how to remain in power and in control.

Works Cited Perkins, George, and Barbara Perkins, editors. *The American Tradition in Literature*, Volume II, 12th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007