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## **Maxine Chernoff**

WEARING MOE

## —What's that on your shoulder? —A tattoo. —A tattoo of what? —A Celtic emblem. —When did you get it? —When I was in college. —What does it mean? —I don't know. —Did you used to know? —I never knew what it meant. —But what if it means something terrible? —Like what? —Well, maybe it says, "Kill the Jews!" or "Reagan in 1980" or "If guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns." —Did the Celts have guns? —I'm just saying that it might mean something bad. —Well, even if it were bad, it wouldn't be bad to me because I don't know it. Besides, it was one of his best choices. —What were the others? —Moe or a butterfly. -Moe? —You know, Moe of the Three Stooges. —You mean the tattoo artist only did three tattoos? —He wasn't certified yet. He was just learning. Besides, I thought

this one was pretty.
—Butterflies are pretty too.
—Not the one he had.
—No?
—It looked like labia.
—Maybe it was labia.
—He said it was a butterfly.
—And you never asked what your tattoo meant?
—That's right. Or maybe I don't remember. I was pretty drunk when I did this.
—Did you go alone?
—No, my old boyfriend went with me. He got Moe on his forearm.
—Where is he now?
—Where is Moe?
—Where is the boyfriend?
—He's a grade school principal in Georgia.
—With Moe on his forearm?
—He probably wears long sleeves.