

Scene 3

(**MOM** exits. **KYLA** keeps looking at the book. From behind the couch comes a MUFFLED NOISE.)

KYLA

What's that?

(**KYLA** hears another MUFFLED NOISE.)

KYLA

Is that you, Dragon?

(**DRAGON** crawls out from behind the couch, breathing small flames.)

KYLA

You're breathing fire!

DRAGON

More like a gentle flame. If I took a deep breath and blew out as hard as I could, I might burn up a few things in here, like you.

KYLA

Why do you breathe fire?

DRAGON

Right now I'm breathing a little flame for you, because you keep wondering about it. Mostly, I breathe fire when I get angry.

KYLA

Why do you get angry?

DRAGON

Because people keep saying bad things about me. They say I'm mean and dangerous. They say I steal treasures. They say I eat fair maidens and fight with knights in shining armor.

KYLA

But you do eat fair maidens and fight with knights in shining armor. And you do steal treasures and hide them.

DRAGON

Oh no, all of the treasures are mine. People say I steal them because they don't believe I have any treasures of my own. I hide because I don't like to be around people who say bad things about me.

(**KYLA** pages through her book, then holds up a page for **DRAGON** to see. **DRAGON** peers at the book.)

KYLA

But what about the maidens and the knights?

DRAGON

Well, I do eat fair maidens and I do fight with knights in shining armor. But it's only because people make me feel so bad about myself. When they say bad things about me, I feel like I have to act bad. Besides, I eat fair maidens because I'm jealous of them.

KYLA

Why?

DRAGON

Because people only say good things about fair maidens. They're pretty, and kind, and oh so sweet!

KYLA

Oh.

DRAGON

And I fight with knights in shining armor because they try to hurt me and my family and my friends. I know it's wrong to hurt people, but I wish people would stop hurting me.