READY TO USE PARABLE

# Maggie and the missed meet and greet

“I’m telling you, it DID NOT HAPPEN.”

Fatima sat on the bench and watched her friend pace back and forth in front of her.

“I mean, it can’t have,” Maggie continued. “Why would Larry Smiles have met you and not me?”

“What do you want me to say?” asked Fatima. “That I made up a meet and greet with Larry Smiles to annoy you?”

Maggie sat down on the bench next to Fatima.

“Well, it wouldn’t be the first time.”

“Eh? What are you talking about? When did I ever lie to you?”

“Well, there was that time you claimed to have been on *Justin’s House*. I believed you for weeks until your dad said you’d never even been to a TV studio.”

“What? We were four! Little kids make stuff up all the time. You once told me your uncle was Henry Cavill.”

Maggie sat back on the bench. She wasn’t having any of it.

“Well, unless I see proof, I’m not going to believe it. He announced last year he’d retired. He said he wasn’t doing any more public appearances. He deleted his Insta account. Don’t you have any photos? Didn’t you think to get him to record a voice note for me?”

“I told you,” said Fatima, getting frustrated. “We weren’t allowed our phones. Mr Walsh just came into the classroom and got four of us to go with him to his office. We left our phones outside and went in and there he was!”

“What was he doing there? Why a dump like Manchesterford High?” Maggie asked.

“He wanted to talk about a charity thing he was involved with. He said his manager had been to Manchesterford and she’d said it was a good school.”

“Why not me? Why didn’t Mr Walsh choose me?”

“You’d gone to the loo!”

Maggie stood up and yelled into the sky: “WHY NOT ME? I LOVE LARRY SMILES!”

“Why, thank you,” said a man coming around the corner. “That’s very kind of you.”

Maggie turned around and stared at the man, who was standing there with a woman with a phone glued to her ear.

“Larry!”

“Alright,” the retired singer said. “Fatima, isn’t it?” He pointed to the woman: “You know my manager, Justine, don’t you?” Then he turned to Maggie and offered her his hand. “And you must be…”

Maggie fainted on the spot.

## Discussion questions

* Why do you think Maggie didn’t believe Fatima?
* Can you remember a time when evidence and proof made you think differently about something?
* What do you find difficult to believe? Is there something about faith or life that you struggle with?

This story is based on John 20:19-29. Read this passage to the group and compare the story to this one. You may want to chat about the story using these questions:

* Why do you think Thomas didn’t believe the others, that Jesus had come alive again?
* What would you have thought if you were Thomas?
* Why was proof important to Thomas, do you think?
* What do you make of Jesus’ words in verse 29? Does this verse include you?
* Do you find some things about faith difficult to believe? Why do you think that is?

**ALEX TAYLOR**

is resources editor for *Premier Youth and Children’s Work*.