



The Kiss

The air raid shelter feels like a damp tomb; it is almost a relief when the explosions finally come. The earth heaves in welcome and Pieter flies into the air, his head ricocheting on the ground.

When he wakes, it is to darkness and nostrils choked in dust. He screams and somewhere above him voices respond. Light pierces his eyes as hands reach down to lift him free.

He is a ghost, covered in grime. A nurse holds Pieter to her breast, but he pushes away. It is only when his lips meet hers that he realises he is still alive.

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