

A Futile Kiss

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*INT. A GREY WAITING ROOM - EVENING. MAX wears military uniform, he sits and SARA stands in a corner. Max looks down at his hands, Sara gazes at him with despair.*

*Loudspeaker Voice*  
*Two minutes remaining until departure.*

SARA  
I want you to come home today.

MAX  
You know that is impossible.

SARA  
In the Old World, before the Unending Wars, they said this was a day of love, a day of companionship.

MAX  
Valentine's Day. I've heard of it. There was no point to it. What does it all mean? It means nothing, Sara - flowers, chocolates!

SARA  
I just want you to come home.

MAX  
That's not going to happen. If I tried I would be shot.

SARA  
It's been two years.

MAX  
What do you want me to do about it?  
*She extends her arms towards. He doesn't move. She drops them by her side. He grips the table and looks away from her.*

I just don't understand... I don't understand how you can think I can change this!

SARA  
We can all change this if we want to.

MAX  
Hah!

SARA  
Max, why don't I recognise you anymore? I want you to be how I remember you, you used to be so kind and gentle, and I loved you for that.

*He angrily approaches her. She backs off, till pressed against the wall.*

MAX  
Do you think I can be kind and gentle now?

*He turns away from her. Walks back to the chair and sits down, sighs and looks at her, then turns away again. She looks down to her feet, crying. He watches her. She gazes back at him. He gets up and opens his arms, Sara nervously approaches.*

MAX

*(Softly)*

Come here. Don't cry, please don't do that.

*He holds her tightly. She wipes away her tears.*

You know we can do nothing. So my love, there is no point.

SARA

No. There is always a point.

MAX

I will not have you wait for me if I should die.

SARA

I won't ever be able to truly let go.

*He kisses her forehead. She kisses him.*

I know what you say can be considered true, but there are many truths and I want this one. I love you. That is important. Even now.

MAX

And I love you. No matter what happens, I love you, it is the simple truth.

*Loudspeaker voice*

*"Preparation for Regiment NETO to move out and begin Phase 451. Thank you for joining us today on this wonderful occasion, remember 'Those that find their way to the Lords, find their way to the light.' The Lords are doing this for the protection of the Empire. May the Lords be with you."*

MAX

Amen.

SARA

You don't believe that, do you?

MAX

There's nothing left to believe in. Only you.

*They kiss. He leaves.*