

B&B Tidbit (100 words)

by Zara Wilder

After the Sunless Sea

“No.”

“What do you mean, no?”

“I mean: no.”

Catherine stared at him. “Why?”

“Too soon.”

“Isaac, my doctor gave me a clean bill of health.”

Her self-defense trainer folded his arms across his chest.

“Consider this your very own second opinion.”

Catherine frowned. “Isaac—”

His voice got quieter. “Cathy, you want to practice fending off a strangler. I understand. But it’s not going to happen in my academy, a week after somebody tried to choke you to death.”

“I can take it,” Catherine declared.

Isaac looked her dead in the eye. “I can’t.”

They worked on tactical breathing cycles.