

Tom Willis

By

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INT. WHITE SCREEN

We see a series of numbers, counting down from 10.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The room is quite small, there are photo frames on the walls behind a man sitting in an armchair, TOM WILLIS - 78 is seen wearing grey trousers, a cream cardigan and striped shirt. There is a walking sit at the side of the armchair. He is squinting into the camera and leaning forward slightly in his chair

TOM

Is this thing on? What's the flashy thing on the top?

CHILD

Yessss it's on Grandpa. Can we start now??

Tom sits back in the chair, he looks as if this is somewhere he is comfortable.

TOM

Oh alright then, lets get it over with.

CHILD

So, you were in the first world war. What did you do?

Tom looks as if he is concentrating on something in the far distance, as if he hasn't thought about this in a long time.

TOM

Well, I joined the war right at the start, back in 1914 along with a few of my best friends. We thought it would be the adventure of a life time

His eyes darken and the smile from his face fades as he says the last sentence. Again, he looks away into the distance as if remembering something

CHILD

Did Uncle George go with you pa?

He is brought back to the present by the sound of the child's voice.

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TOM
(laughing)
No, although he did want to very
much! I was very glad he didn't go!

CHILD
Why?

Tom pauses for a few seconds before answering. We start to hear gunshots, shouts and cries.

TOM
Because war is no place for a young
man, I would not wish it upon my
worst enemy. There are things,
things I haven't even spoken of to
your Nanna. Things I am still not
ready to discuss.

There is a long pause, we can hear the ticking of a clock, which turns into bombs, the shouts and cries get louder and louder until they are deafening.

Tom is staring off at the same spot in the distance. He blinks and looks back at the camera. The sounds die down until we can only hear the ticking of the clock. He smiles slightly at the child just off screen.

TOM
I think that's enough for today
don't you Alice? We'll try again
tomorrow hey?

There is a slight shuffling of feet, a click and the screen goes blank