

50 KISSES:

First/Last

by

Stephen O'Brien

Stephen O'Brien
stephenobrien1973@hotmail.com

EXT. HIGH STREET. NIGHT.

Valentine's Night, the near future.

It's busy. People walk along the pavement, all wearing surgical face masks (redesigned to allow clear speech).

Emerging from a restaurant are MAZ and SCOTT - both early 20s and wearing masks. They walk along the pavement, entwined.

MAZ

Well, since you ask... nine out of ten.

Scott pretends to be offended.

SCOTT

I've got romance coming out of my pores and after five years, I'm still on a nine??

They pass a couple of derelict shops, covered in worn, tattered warning posters; one shows a man wearing a face mask with the heading KEEP IT COVERED, while another is called VIRUS X-B: SALIVA CAN KILL, showing the face of a dead woman, her face ravaged by a horrendous infection.

Maz grins as she sees they are approaching a side alley.

MAZ

It's still Valentine's Night, Scott, you could still make this year's a ten.

Maz pulls Scott into the side alley.

EXT. SIDE ALLEY. NIGHT.

Maz and Scott tumble into the side alley. Maz leans against the wall, pulls Scott into her.

MAZ

Kiss me.

Scott backs away, not amused.

SCOTT

Not this again, Maz.

MAZ

We've never kissed.

SCOTT

No-one kisses. Not any more.

MAZ

Some do. And live to tell the tale.

SCOTT

What if one of us is a carrier?

MAZ

And what if we're both clear?

Maz stares intently at Scott, reaches up and pulls down her mask.

Scott panics, then notices her full, painted lips. He stares at them, glistening.

MAZ

Kiss me.

Scott pauses... then lowers his mask. Maz smiles. Scott moves in - and they kiss.

It's one hell of a kiss. They've waited years for this, and it doesn't disappoint.

They break off. Stare at each other, beaming smiles. But Scott's smile fades as he sees it. The first marks of infection emerging on Maz's face.

Maz sees it in his eyes. She touches her face, realises.

MAZ

They say it only takes minutes.

Scott's devastated, choking up.

SCOTT

I'm so sorry, I didn't know -

Maz smiles at Scott through her tears.

MAZ

Kiss me. It doesn't make a difference now.

Scott pauses, looks at her as if she's mad. Maz grabs him.

MAZ

Kiss me.

Maz pulls Scott into her, kisses him. He responds. They give into each other, making the most of the time they have left.

Tears stream down their faces as the infection spreads, swiftly and mercilessly, across Maz's beautiful face...

FADE OUT