

An extract from 'Falling Buildings' for you to read

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"Is everybody out?" Saskia asked.

"We think so."

"You'll forgive us if we check?" I said. Saskia was already looking, I could tell by the way her eyes change colour to a pretty shade of blue when she uses her x-ray vision.

"Yep. Seems to be all ... Hang on! No it bloody isn't! Look, Kyra. See her? She's in the loo."

I groaned. "And look where the bomb is. Just a couple of walls away."

"Come on," said Saskia, "You're with me."

Together we ran into the building. Using super vision to show us where to go, we made directly for the loo and the girl who'd been left behind in the evacuation.

I got there marginally first, Saskia a step behind me. I flung the loo door open.

"Who ... What ..."

"No time to ..." I began to say - and time ran out, the bomb exploded!

Falling Buildings extract

Six

Saskia and I are super girls. We can move *fast*. Saskia was nearest the girl, I was nearest the wall on the side with the bomb. As fast as I could, I turned to face the wall. With both arms out, I pushed against it. The explosion is expanding gas in a hypersonic blast wave. This tends to smash up anything in its way. I was hoping that the two walls between the wall I was holding and the bomb would absorb most of the force. My wall would still be knocked down but I was hoping it would stay in one piece as it fell - and I *wanted* it to fall.

I had no time to see what Saskia was doing but I was fairly sure she'd be using her invulnerable body to shield the girl as much as possible. Then the blast wave hit the other side of my wall.

I let it push me backwards. I forced the bottom of the wall to stay where it was while letting the top of it topple towards me. I let this continue until the top of the wall touched the wall behind me. Now I had a sort of tent over the three of us. The wall was now at about forty five degrees, which tended to deflect the remainder of the blast and debris upwards and shielded us from stuff dropping directly down on us as the explosion spent itself.

It didn't take long for the whole world to go quiet again. I was still looking up at the wall I was holding but I heard Saskia say, "Hello. I'm Katya SuperTwin. I don't think we've been introduced."

The girl on the floor under Saskia began to laugh, really quite hysterically I thought. But that died away quickly, so quickly, in fact, that I suspected Saskia had used one of our lesser known super powers on her. This lets us influence people's minds directly and enables us to change their mood or outlook. We can instil confidence or, as in this case, remove hysteria or anxiety, *Not* something we undertake lightly, but in this case probably justified.

I let Saskia emerge from under the wall first while I remained poised in case it collapsed further. I was very conscious of the fact that I was still exerting force against it.

Saskia extracted the girl, moving to a clear area. "Ok, Twin. You can let go now."

I stopped pushing - the wall fell on me. Not *again!*

The girl let out a scream, but Saskia simply said, "Are you beginning to *like* walls and buildings falling on you?"

"Not so you'd notice," I said as I pushed myself up from the pile of bricks the wall had turned into when it hit me.

I dusted myself off and went to join Saskia and her new friend. I could have changed to be completely clean with neat, shiny, brushed hair, but I thought that might have resulted in another bout of hysterics - or perhaps not. I didn't want to find out experimentally, we had enough to do.

Looking around revealed far too much rubble and rubbish to have the girl walk over. Saskia thought so too.

"*You carry her or me, Twin,*" she whispered.

"*You can do it. You're the one who's been cuddling her so far. Might as well go on as we started.*"

Saskia stuck her tongue out at me, but turned to the girl. I'm going to carry you, and we're going by air. Don't worry. I've carried lots of people like this. Haven't dropped anybody yet.

To my surprise, the girl allowed herself to be picked up without question. The three of us emerged in the air above the ruins of the building to applause from the waiting crowd.