

Although his eyes were closed, he knew he had been awake for some time. Not fully awake, just not really asleep. He didn't need to open his eyes, he knew that, at the moment, the room was empty. He would know if anyone came in. He tried to focus his mind, was there anything special that he needed to do today? Anything that would prompt him into action? Nothing came to mind. He wasn't hungry, although.....

No, he couldn't be sure of what his last meal had been, but he was sure he wasn't hungry. Not surprising, it had been a long time since he worried about what he was eating; same as bodily functions. He knew he didn't need to visit the bathroom, so there really was no pressing reason to open his eyes or get out of bed. He was warm, safe and

Had he fallen asleep? He had been thinking of something but now it was gone. It didn't matter, he was awake now, but still he didn't open his eyes. Something was different, since earlier; what was it? He listened carefully, he couldn't hear anything specific, nothing that wasn't part of the usual background hum of the room, but he knew that there was something that had not been there before. Not a sound, no, it wasn't a sound; it was..... it was.....

Flowers, not just any

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He opened his eyes.

The years tumbled away, the room faded and he was back to the training field. He could almost feel again his racing heart, his lungs drawing air in deep, burning breaths, the stinging sweat running into his eyes. His leg muscles were shaking and he allowed himself to sink to his knees as he struggled to take back control of his breathing. Rubbing the sweat from his eyes he noticed the small white flowers that littered the field in patches. The smell of the flowers was overpowering, surely such a tiny flower could not give off such an overwhelming scent. As he reached forward to pluck one from the ground he realised two things. First, that the source of the intriguing scent was not the flowers, and second, that the scent was emanating from the owner of the feet which had appeared at his side. Sitting back on his heels he raised his head to look up at, despite the drab military uniform, the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. She had a half smile of amusement as she spoke. "The Colonel has sent me to inform you that you have broken the field record by three seconds. He would like to see you in his