

Cambridge English Readers

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Starter Level

Series editor: Philip Prowse

# *Why?*

Philip Prowse



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No character in this work is based on any person living or dead.

Any resemblance to an actual person or situation is purely accidental.

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# People in the story



Alex is a soldier  
in the army.

Sara is Alex's  
girlfriend.



Sergeant Ken is in  
the army with Alex.

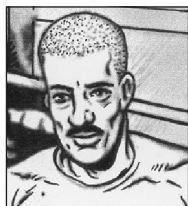
Ada lives in Glossia.



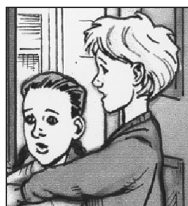
Stefan is a soldier.



Marina and Happy are  
Ada's children.



Hawk is a soldier.



There is no town called Tonek, and no country called Glossia. But there are countries like Glossia all over the world.

## Chapter 1 *Goodbye*



‘Please don’t go to Glossia,’ says Sara. ‘You’re only nineteen.’  
Alex is saying goodbye to Sara, his girlfriend.

‘I must,’ answers Alex. ‘I’m a soldier – it’s my job. I must go where the army says.’

‘But why are you going there?’ asks Sara.

‘We’re going to stop the fighting,’ says Alex. ‘Lots of people are dying.’

‘But why are they fighting?’ asks Sara.

‘I don’t know,’ answers Alex.

‘Why don’t you ask?’ says Sara. ‘You never ask questions.’

‘I know,’ answers Alex. ‘I’m sorry. I hate asking questions.’

‘Please change, Alex,’ says Sara. ‘For me.’

‘I’m going to think about you every day,’ says Sara.

‘Me too,’ Alex answers. ‘I can send you a text from my phone tomorrow. And I think there’s email.’

‘That’s good,’ Sara says with a little smile. ‘I love you, Alex.’

‘And I love you too,’ answers Alex. ‘Now, don’t be sad.’

