

# Saved

*Sheri Lindner*

This is how it happens:  
 one man, a stranger,  
 has just completed surgery  
 on another man's wife,  
 notices the numbers  
 branded into the pale  
 underside of the husband's arm,  
 does not pretend he  
 has not seen what he has seen,  
 says how very sorry he is for what  
 his countrymen did  
 decades before he ever existed,  
 and the husband,  
 who, from the age of 16,  
 and despite all he would  
 hope of himself,  
 has had one particular  
 hate branded into him  
 as inextricably as those numbers,  
 feels the Universe shift  
 with a force not unlike that  
 of the first day, and  
 darkness is separated from  
 light.

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