

In a recent issue of *One Story* magazine, Etgar Keret said of writer's block: "...you not only have a strong yearning to write, but you also have the bursting emotions, the skill, the vocabulary, everything. The only thing that is missing is the story itself." On hiatus from novel revising and longing to write a new short story, I found myself in a similar predicament. Then, one morning in February, I came across a news story about a fire at the Antarctic Comandante Ferraz Station, which caused the death of two Brazilian sailors. It was a terrible event, but also carried an air of mystery, and immediately I knew that I wanted to imagine myself into that world, into the stories and secrets the people in that station might have been carrying with them and who they might have left behind. Though the events in "Antarctica" only bear a passing resemblance to the fire at Comandante Ferraz, the central characters—Lee, her brother, and Eve—all grew out of that real life story.

—*Laura van den Berg*

