

The Syrian

Patty Lafferty

he blinked awake
wondered where he was
smelt the blood
saw a leg
was it his
remembered the explosion
heard the voices
were they Turks
the enemy the bondage slavers
had Feisal lost
this final battle of Damascus
october 1918
the voices neared
a stretcher a cockney voice
grinning his thumbs up
'we'll have you out of here mate
in a jiffy'
the British Empire helping Feisal
recalled it now
that legendary leader
Lawrence
beloved of all the Arabs
so grateful
didn't know about the oil
the calculating splitting up of
the dream of Lawrence
a united Arabia
appalled refused a knighthood
and in 2018
the Syrian's great great grandson
blinked awake