

The Storm Beneath the Frame

By Lucy Wimmer

The horizon vanishes first, swallowed by the fast-growing wall of charcoal clouds. Green streaks flood the sky, casting an eerie, dark shade over the land below. From the small window of the caravan, the oncoming front looks massive- a heavy mountain of shadow rolling forward, faster than the waves crashing on the beach. The air outside goes perfectly still; dead calm.

Suddenly, a ghost-white streak slashes through the darkness, revealing the coastal town below the monstrous castle. Panic elevates as everyone realises its coming straight for us. Thunder soon follows, with an enormous *boom!*, shaking the ground as though an earthquake is underway. Soon after, another line paints the dark canvas. The hum of the fridge suddenly disappearing, leaving the room in a suffocating silence, as darkness continues to surround. For a moment, it is dead silent once again, leaving it to the imagination of what could come next.

Then, the calm breaks. A violent fist of wind slams the side of the caravan, making the entire structure groan and sway. The temperature drops in an instant and suddenly the air has a cold and dangerous feel. The roar approaches like a freight train as the first couple drops of rain hit the roof, sounding like handfuls of rocks. The scattered drops instantly intensify, suddenly large chunks of hail that sounds like a machine gun wounding the thin, aluminium roof. The outside world vanishes completely, erased by a blinding sheet of horizontal rain. The caravan groans violently when another gust rips beneath the frame, forcing the structure onto two wheels, letting it hang for one agonizing second before slamming back into the ground with a massive thud.

The deafening roar of wind shifts into a sharp, metallic whistle that slices through the air as the wind claws at the outside walls. The room is overflowing with panic as everyone screams and runs for cover under the table. The van rocks as if it's a small rowboat out in rough seas. Suddenly, a blinding flash of light and horrendous sound, bathes the room with an electric violet glow, revealing a massive, uprooted tree flying directly towards the glass at a horrifying pace... and then, the glass explodes like fireworks.