

The Storm

by Ben Menaged



This year's hurricane season was like no other in Florida's history. First there was Hurricane Charley, which hit just south of Tampa. Then came Hurricane Frances, which hit in the vicinity of Melbourne. Then Ivan, which hit Pensacola. Last, Hurricane Jeanne came to Florida. As everybody watched the weather channel, annoyed and frightened from all the other storms, sighs of relief came when everybody saw that Jeanne was going back out into the Atlantic. Andrew had been the most relieved of them all. He was scared of even the smallest storm.

Andrew had lived in Jacksonville all of his life and never experienced a real hurricane. He was frightened, though, that hurricanes would still come. His mother, Dora, had come to tuck him in, when she notice the horror in his eyes. She said, "There's nothing to worry about—Jeanne has turned away. Good night." He had already known this, but still he felt like something was just not right. His eyes closed and he began to snore.

That night Jeanne made a turn for the worse. It had gone back east and would make a loop around the Turks and Calicoes. The next hurricane, Karl, would now go strait into Jeanne, forming a type of super tropical system. When Andrew awoke to this news, he was devastated; he knew they must leave. And they did. But right as they got on the highway, they knew they weren't going anywhere since everybody in Jacksonville was leaving. The traffic was just awful, so they turned back around and knew they were just going to have to wait it out. By this time they knew that it was coming directly to Jacksonville; it would be only 36 more hours.

Andrew's little brother, Hugo, and his little sister, Isabel, were both too young to know the dangers that were coming, but Andrew did. As the storms joined as the category 1 and 3 storms, together they formed a category 5 hurricane. Jacksonville, now beginning to feel the effects of Hurricane Jeanne-Karl, seemed unprepared.

That night Andrew was awakened by a terribly loud crash. It was pouring and trees were swaying. He ran downstairs, trying to keep his balance because he was terrified. When he got there he went to see what it was and he saw a giant tree lying in his backyard, then he saw a flash of light. The electricity had gone out. He screamed and screamed, then he felt his mother's hand on his back. She told him to come to the basement. When he got there, he saw his family gathered in a corner with a single flashlight.

The storm had just started to hit them and there would be much worse to come. They gathered in the basement for 3 days waiting out the storm. The entire time Andrew was shaking and wasn't being himself. When the storm had passes and they all came out, they saw that what had happened was a catastrophe. There were no more house, no more trees. There was nothing.

