

The Post and Courier presents | A Rising Waters series

FLOOD WOMAN

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CLIMATE DOOM



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MORNING BREAKS IN THE OLD CITY OF CHARLESTON

HER OFFICE AT THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

SHE GOES OVER THE BROADER PICTURE -- IN CASE SHE HAS TO BRIEF NATIONAL SECURITY AGAIN. THEY'D DISREGARDED HER HYPOTHESIS BEFORE. MAYBE NOW THEY'LL LISTEN.

"WE BURN SO MUCH COAL AND OIL THAT THE ATMOSPHERE HAS AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF CARBON DIOXIDE -

MORE CO₂ THAN WE'VE HAD IN 3 MILLION YEARS... AND THIS HAS UNLEASHED CLIMATE DOOM."

IS HE COMING HERE NOW?

ASHLEY FLOOD, A GEOSCIENCES RESEARCHER BY PROFESSION -- DISASTER EXPERT OTHER TIMES -- SIPS A CUP OF COFFEE ON HER PORCH, ADMIRING THE SUNRISE. BUT SHE FEELS SOMETHING STIR, SOMETHING INSIDE OF HER. SHE'S FELT THAT FEELING BEFORE.

WE'RE IN DEEP

REAL DEEP.

WHAT'S WRONG?

CLIMATE DOOM IS BACK.

LATER, A COLLEAGUE, MERCER BALDWIN, ARGUES WITH HER ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THE CLIMATE HAS ALWAYS CHANGED.

DON'T WORRY, THE CLIMATE HAS ALWAYS CHANGED

BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON NOW. SOMETHING IS MAKING THE CLIMATE SPEED UP. IT'S AS IF EVERYTHING WAS PUT ON FAST FORWARD. THE OCEAN TEMPERATURE IS RISING. THE ICE IN GREENLAND IS MELTING FASTER. OUR SUMMERS BEGIN EARLIER. IT WAS 100 DEGREES IN SIBERIA THE OTHER DAY, 127 DEGREES IN LOS ANGELES. IT'S NOT ABOUT CHANGE. CLIMATE DOOM IS CHANGING THE PACE OF EVERYTHING.

I LET IT SLIP OUT. HE'S NOT READY. HE'S LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE, JUST TRYING TO LIVE THEIR LIVES. BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR EARTH IS SO... VAST. SEAS ARE RISING IN CHARLESTON 3 INCHES EVERY DECADE, AND THAT PACE IS ACCELERATING. THE CITY IS SPENDING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON PUMP PROJECTS AND UNDER-GROUND TUNNELS AND SEA WALLS - ALL TO BEAT BACK RISING WATERS. BUT CLIMATE DOOM IS THE REAL ENEMY.

OVER THE GULF STREAM, CLIMATE DOOM GATHERS STRENGTH, SPINNING TORNADOS, SLOWING THE POWERFUL GULF STREAM. THE GULF STREAM FLOWS WITH SUCH FORCE, THAT IT WHISK'S WATER AWAY FROM THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES, EFFECTIVELY LOWERING THE SEA LEVEL.

AS THE GULF STREAM SLOWS, WATER LEVELS RISE IN CHARLESTON AND OTHER LOW PARTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

NYEH HA HA.
YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR CLIMATE DOOM.

CLIMATE DOOM'S GREAT ARMS MELT MORE ICE IN GREENLAND. THEY MOVE DRY AIR INTO THE WEST, IGNITING HUGE WILDFIRES.

SEAS RISE HIGHER, THE FIRES BURN BRIGHTER. UNDERNEATH THE WAVES, TEMPERATURES RISE QUICKLY, THREATENING PLANKTON, THE MICROSCOPIC CREATURES THAT PRODUCE HALF OF THE WORLD'S OXYGEN.

I CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN!

DOES THE GOVERNMENT KNOW ABOUT CLIMATE DOOM?

WHO IS CLIMATE DOOM?

HE'S CHANGING EVERYTHING!

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?

WE'RE ALREADY TOO LATE TO CHANGE SOME THINGS, BUT IF WE DO SOMETHING NOW, WE CAN WEAKEN HIM. WE NEED TO MOBILIZE. NOW!

OK, SOMEONE WILL GET BACK TO YOU.

WE NEED TO STOP HIM NOW!