

The Post and Courier presents | A Rising Waters series

FLOOD WOMAN VS CLIMATE DOOM



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MORNING BREAKS IN THE
OLD CITY OF CHARLESTON

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.

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."

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.

CLIMATE
DOOM?

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 WHISKS 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.

NOW,
LET'S LET LOOSE SOME
RAIN BOMBS!

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!