

Inside the Storm - Amelie Kerr

The warm sunlight shone through a small gap between my curtains, as I sat up from my warm bed and yawned, taking in the crisp, cool air around me. I hobbled out of bed and out my door, rubbing my eyes furiously as I turned out into the kitchen.

“Hey Mum,” I croaked. She turned back to look at me and smiled.

“Hey sweetie. Would you like some bacon and eggs?” I grinned, waltzing over to grab some hot and crispy bacon, and a warm crusty slice of toast. Mum scooped up a sizzling egg and lay on my toast, passing me a small glass of orange juice to complete the meal.

“Oh, Amelie, don’t forget that Annie’s coming over today. She’s coming ‘round in 5 minutes.”

Oh! Annie! I had completely forgotten! Annie was one of our neighbours at Rosnay Organic Farms, and she was an innocent, enthusiastic little girl, at the fabulous age of 8.

“Well, hurry up and go get dressed then!” Mum motioned me back to my room, making me shovel down my breakfast, as she peered out a window, admiring the dark and louring clouds that were rolling overhead.

After a few minutes, I emerged from my room in some casual, warm clothes. When I came out, I heard a little knock at the door.

“That’d be Annie,” Mum observed. “Now go and check if your sister’s up,” she instructed. I rushed into my sister Laura’s room, and was surprised to see her dressed, organized and on her phone.

“Woah, well this is new. It’s 8am and you are dressed and ready,” I teased. Laura gave me a suitable glare as we walked out to greet Annie.

“Hey Annie!” I smiled.

“Hey Amelie and Laura!” she beamed, giving us both a big hug.

“I was thinking that today we could go for a journey around the whole farm!” she pointed out the window and out across the vineyard behind our house, and then to the big house up on the hill. I felt a little uneasy at that thought, considering the dark clouds that seemed to promise rain, and the distant rumbling sound of thunder. Annie grabbed our hands and pulled us out the door.

“Bye girls! Be safe,” Mum called as we were dragged away.

“Ok, so where are we going first?” I asked, a little bewildered.

“Let’s start heading up the vineyard,” Laura suggested.

By the time we had reached the top of the vineyard, we were panting and hot, despite the chilling winds lashing at our faces.

“Alright then, should we keep moving up-“

“GUYS! WATCH OUT!” Laura cut me off as we bolted away from a tall, thick, nearby tree only about 60 metres away exploded into little dangerous missiles, from a powerful strike of lightning. We hurried away, covering our faces from the flying chunks. We all looked over in shock, gasping for air.

“Umm... That was scary,” Annie frowned, with fearful, watery eyes. We had never been that close to a strike. We all looked up as there was an almighty ‘CRACK’ above us, and sheets of rain began to cover the land, drenching us until we were cold and clueless.

“I think we should go home, it’s too dangerous for us to be out here alone,” I observed.

The raging storm shrieked on, now accompanied by speeding winds as well. I looked around, trying to find some sort of way of getting back, as I noticed that...

Annie was gone!

“ANNIE! ANNIE?” we called, staying together for warmth while looking analysing everything with all of our senses. We can’t have lost her! This is horrible! We headed down the slippery, wet, grassy hill, looking around everywhere.

‘BEEP BEEP!’

Laura’s and my heads’ shot up as we were startled by the familiar shape of an incoming red ute...Our ute! It must be Mum! I felt so relieved, standing up and wiping as much of the rain off my soggy clothes. The car eased down the hill and came to a halt beside us.

“Mum!” Laura and I both grinned and said in unison.

“Hey girls. Looks like it was a bad idea after all, I’m so glad you all are OK. Alright, get in,” she said, gesturing towards the car.

“But...Annie-”

“Annie is in the back, I found her on our lawn, looking for a you two. Seems like she is the one you have to thank for being found so quick,” Mum, turned around the smile at Annie, and she looked over at us, filled with pride. Laura and I quickly stepped into the car, finally safe from the rain and weather. We sighed of relief and gave Annie a big hug. This farm adventure would definitely be one to remember!