

THE LAST FLOOD

written by

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The panel descriptions and the number of panels on each page present a basic structure for the story. If you wish to tweak them a bit, go for it. You are the visual artist, after all. I would, however, like to preserve the flow of the individual pages, the story beats on them, and what happens before and after a page turn.

PANEL 1

EXTERIOR, DAY. We are looking at a small town with a narrow river running through it. The town looks nice enough and it's a sunny day. Though there are some clouds forming in the distance.

NARRATION There is an event commonly referred to as **a 100-year flood**.

PANEL 2

SIMILAR PANEL. Only now the clouds spread through the entire sky. It started to rain and will continue to rain for the duration of this comic.

NARRATION It is a flood so powerful...
 ...so destructive...

PANEL 3

SIMILAR PANEL. The rain is now very heavy. And the water level of the river is a bit higher.

NARRATION ...that any given year there is only **one in a hundred chance** of it to occur.

PANEL 4

SIMILAR PANEL. The river is about to overflow. There is a firetruck near it, with the firefighters and some other townsfolk setting up flood barriers. Closest to us, though still with his back turned to us, is our protagonist: the FIREFIGHTER. Watching what's unfolding right before his (and our) eyes.

NARRATION This is **the third 100-year flood** plaguing our town **in the past 10 years**.

 Something like that is usually contributed to the increasingly aggressive effects of Climate Change.

 But this flood...

 ...this flood is **different**.

PAGE 2 - PANELS: 4

PANEL 1

The barriers are set and barely holding the high and wild river.

NARRATION

The water came as it usually does.

High and strong.

We put the barriers at all the most risky places.

PANEL 2

Closer look at the water, maybe now just about to spill over a barrier. The water also looks "wrong". I'll leave it up to you how wrong exactly.

NARRATION

But then we noticed **the color** of the water.

Dark and oily.

Like it came from deep beneath the earth.

PANEL 3

Focus on people in town, firefighters and civilians. There is also the FIREFIGHTER among them. They all look exhausted. Some of them are maybe covering their noses/faces with masks or hands.

NARRATION

And then there was **the smell**.

Like a sewage water that has been preserved for thousands of years.

Rotting. Putrefying. Simmering.

PANEL 4

The PROTAGONIST is watching a family loading their car with all the things they can cram in. They are leaving the town.

NARRATION

The smell was **everywhere**. Like it was raining down on us, crawling into our clothes and our pores.

Some people left the town just because of the smell alone.

Others because of the **strange things** they reportedly saw in the strong river currents.

PANEL 1

NIGHT. A firetruck is standing between the river and a house, with all its lights blazing.

NARRATION A week ago we got a call that somebody is in the river.

 We haven't find anybody. Didn't even expect to in this current.

PANEL 2

INTERIOR. A MAN is inside the house, looking outside through the window. He is (and so we are) looking at the river, but can't see much through the darkness and the rain.

NARRATION But later the witness said that the person seemingly drowning actually got out. Walked out of the water.

PANEL 3

SIMILAR PANEL. Only now there is a lightning outside, illuminating the river. And from it something rising up. Something resembling a human being. But only vaguely.

NARRATION Only according to them it wasn't a person.

 Not really.

PANEL 4

EXTERIOR, DAY. We again see the FIREFIGHTER's back (we probably never see his face in this story - let's call it a third person view). He's watching what's happening in the town. Firefighters and some other people manning the barriers, some people carrying buckets of water out of their basements, some people just running from the rain.

NARRATION Strange things have been happening over the past few days.

 People living closest to the river that would've never abandoned their homes, that wouldn't even have anywhere else to go to...

PANEL 5

SIMILAR PANEL. Only now there are almost no people here - maybe just a couple in the distance. Nobody is manning the barriers and so the river now spills over them.

NARRATION ...just **disappeared**.

 But the now flooded streets aren't empty.

 Not really.

PAGE 4 - PANELS: 4

PANEL 1

The FIREFIGHTER walks through a street. It's seemingly not near the river but the street is still about one or two inches underwater. There are some people here, but we can't really see them. They are far away and hidden under heavy raincoats.

NARRATION I see **elusive shadows**. Shapes of men and women that could be barely called that.

PANEL 2

The FIREFIGHTER now sees a group of three people talking to each other. One of them has also a firefighter uniform on, the rest are in heavy raincoats. All with their back to us.

NARRATION The flood always took from us. Always left our lives a little **emptier**.
A little more **difficult**.

PANEL 3

The FIREFIGHTER approaches the group. They still have their backs to him and us, but it looks like they're about to turn any moment.

NARRATION But now it looks as if the flood not only takes from us...

PANEL 4

The three characters are now turned to the FIREFIGHTER. It's the first (and last) time in this story we properly see someone's face. Under their raincoats hide three ghoulish fishmen. Humanoid abominations that crawled up from the river and are now residing in this town.

NARRATION ...but that it also brings **something** with it.
Something else.

THE END