

Don't Fall In

Kae Tempest

We came from the four corners, we are the raw waters
The course the four horsemen would drink from, the water that pours
We carry the river, the reservoir, the residue
Rising waves, she sprayed the inevitable
Churn across many voices in our vape
As we surge and gush, we were steam and a distant heat
We move rapid over landscape, gatherin' speed
Desert, land, city, forest, and beach
Headin' for the people that sleep, ready to bleed
Unleash the torrents, come clean
Carry many lessons that the water teach
But you better learn to swim or you'll get caught beneath

Hard rain falling on all the halfhearted
Half formed, fast walking, half fury, half boredom
Hard talking, half dead from exhaustion
Half pushed but the puddles keep forming, don't fall in

Some saw us in their tea leaves, some felt us in their knees
Most left it to the weathermen to tell them there was nothing to see
You can play dumb and ignore for so long
But we've been in the mountains gettin' strong
We've seen you filling up the sky with your fumes
Sitting in your rooms like you're all that ever lived
Heads down to the lives of the others in your towns
Running from the rains like you've never been kissed, look
Leave your possessions and fun so your friends
That you've gone to make peace with the things you've never done
Come dance in the deluge, spill like the flood
The weathervane swings, things will never change
Single the moneymen who close their eyes and pretend
That this rumble must be low planes, so strange

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And they will run to the highest hill, consult their old books
Ask the dead mystics for wisdom they don't trust
The people will flock to the garages
Stockpile cannisters of gasoline, tinned fish, and bandages
Count the seconds between the thunder and the lightning
Scared of every other body runnin' 'round frightened
"We can't carry on like this," you will mutter
Staring with disgust at the people weepin' in the gutter
"Yeah, we made no trouble, we played by the rules
I worked double shift to get my kids from school!"
But you were so focused on your own little part
You went plowin' on blind in the dark, no heart
Now we're not the dreaded storm that will end things
We're just your playful, gale force friend in these end times
Come to remind you you're not an island
Life is much broader than borders
But who can afford to think over the walls of this fortress?
Of course, it's important to provide roof and floorboards
For you and yours and be secure in your fortunes

But you're more than the three or four you go to war for
You're part of a people that need your support
And, who's world is it if it belongs to these corporates?
The people are left on the doorstep, door shut
Nauseous and tortured by all that they've lost

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