

## WHEN THE TORNADO HIT GATESHEAD.

The house warming party was in full swing. Sheila and Lynn sat outside on the balcony. Dunston Staithes was in the middle of the river Tyne in front of the building and Redheugh Bridge was on the right hand side.

"What a great place to live. It's fabulous." Lynn said.

"I've only been here a few weeks but I love the flat, the view of the river and everything around me. It's called the Seasons Estate. Every section of flats, houses and bungalows are named after a month. This is called July Close. Each area has a separate communal garden with a built in B.B.Q. wooden benches and lots of trees and flowers. There's even a plastic covered building to keep cycles and prams outside some of the flats .I sit here most evenings either reading or talking to whichever friend calls."

"Would anyone like to go for a walk along the riverside to look at the various buildings? It's ultra modern architecture ." Sheila said.

It suddenly turned windy and wet. They ran back to the flat soaking wet. They stood on the balcony watching the torrential rain. It was eerie. The sky was black.. Thunder clapped overhead and lighting flashed across the sky. This lasted for a while then it stopped as suddenly as it had started. Suddenly large cardboard boxes flew past in front of them, followed by a garden shed, a few dogs and cats, garden furniture. They stared in horror.

" My God what's happening?. I've never seen anything like it before." someone whispered.

They stared in fear as they saw a rotating column reaching from the clouds to the ground spiralling towards them. They ran down to the ground floor as more garbage flew overhead. A rowing boat fell near them and smashed into fragments.

"It's a tornado. I'm terrified. I've only seen them on films." Lynn shouted.

As they looked around the ravaged area, people were crying. Streets of houses were demolished. Dunston Staithes was a tangled mess. Trees were uprooted. There was destruction and devastation everywhere.

It was silent as if time stood still. It was unbelievable

Stella Rutherford.