

"New Normal"

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No chirps of the birds to wake to, no sun shining through the window, no sight of the mountains surrounding the land. It's black, shollow, haunting. One step out and all air inside is stolen, breathless. Unable to see what's ahead, the fears come back from years past. Asking mommy to keep the light on because all monsters live in the dark. The fear once thought of as childish is awakened inside.

The sight of green leaves held high by branches, mountains standing tall hiding behind white fluffy clouds, and the sounds of cars driving past trying to make it to their next destination. It doesnt exist, not anymore. The burning waves moved savegly through the living, leaving nothing that once was. The branches left standing hold not leaves but ash, the mountains became myths, and the white fluffy clouds turned to black dense smoke consuming anything in its path.

Sitting in a dark room everyday, waking up each morning hoping something has improved, that someone is doing something to fix what has been ruined. Remembering the day when school was canceled, everyone excited that summer continues. But days turn to weeks and weeks turn to endless waiting. Looking out the window wondering what's left of the place you call home. No internet, no roads, no electricity. We're running low on food, our clothes covered in dirt and ash. The smell of bodys that havent been washed in days. Locked in the house wishing to go back, back to hating school, back to seeing friends on the street, back to normal. Is this the new normal, is this my future, is this what I have to raise children of my own in?

This isnt normal.