While We Were Sleeping

A 3-page brief comic by Michael Lagacé September 19, 2013 — November 12, 2013

The world doesn't stop just because you close your eyes.

Page 1

Panel 1

INT - BEDROOM - MORNING

TALI (39) is in bed, the sheets messy. She is alone; her husband was up hours ago. Light slowly creeps through the window as the sun rises, and as it reaches her eyes, she opens them.

There should be room in this panel for the title logo in the top left and credits elsewhere.

Panel 2

She sits up groggily, noticing her husband is not there next to her.

Panel 3

INT - STAIRS DOWN TO KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM - SAME

Tali walks down the stairs, calling out to her husband.

TALI Matthew?

Panel 4

INT - KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM - SAME

She sees a note on the otherwise empty island countertop and walks toward it. The room is bright with morning sun. Panel 5

She picks the letter up.

CAPTION Dearest,

Page 2

Panel 1

Tali reads the note, but the reader cannot see it, just her reaction to it; confused, unsure.

CAPTION I'm so sorry for leaving you like this, without saying goodbye. I hope you sleep through it all.

CAPTION But if you're reading this, then you're awake.

Panel 2

Tali's reaction suddenly changes to terror.

CAPTION You should know what happened while we were sleeping.

There is a hum around her that is growing.

Panel 3

Tali drops the note. Her eyes wide.

CAPTION They say it started at midnight, in Australia, then moved North. It kept getting bigger and bigger.

CAPTION It reached Japan in a few hours. Crossed Asia in just a few more. Panel 4

EXT. PRAIRIE ACREAGE - BACK YARD - SAME

Tali runs out the front door towards the detached garage nearby. Its doors are all closed, both large and small.

CAPTION Europe took far less time. Africa was a blip.

CAPTION It won't be long until it crosses the ocean and reaches us here.

Panel 5

Opening up the garage door, she looks inside. The reader does not see what she sees, just her reaction, tragedy.

The humming grows.

CAPTION Some cameras were left on and recorded it. Now it's all over the news, every station.

HUM (SFX)

Page 3

Panel 1

Tali turns and sees that the sun is becoming blotted out by a blackening cloud. Her face shows genuine terror. Her hair is being blown around a little as the wind picks up.

CAPTION

You hear it coming for miles, an enormous cloud blocking out the sun.

CAPTION The wind picks up.

The hum is prominent now.

Panel 2

Tali runs back into the house. It's windy out, her hair is being blown about, dust is rising and it's getting darker.

CAPTION And then long blurred faces come down like hail, right through everyone.

CAPTION But nobody screams.

CAPTION It just gets quiet.

Panel 3

She leans up against the closed door behind her.

CAPTION I couldn't wait, my love. I'm sorry.

CAPTION I knew you'd never let me do it, and I had to.

Panel 4

She closes her eyes, tears streaming. The hum is nearing a peak.

CAPTION Forgive me.

CAPTION There's a place for you next to me, if you're too scared. Like I was.

CAPTION I'm sorry. Panel 5

Darkness. The hum is at its peak.

CAPTION Love always, M.

The End.

====///====

Note to the artist!

Throughout this story, there are references to a hum that builds and builds. I visualize this as being conveyed in the panel borders. At the beginning, the panel borders would be flat, regular widths. As the story progresses, the borders would get more and more irregular, until by the end, when the hum is at its peak, the borders would be chaotic and loud. The "vvv" and "VVV" sounds that I've depicted in the SFX boxes don't necessarily have to be incorporated into the borders.

I'm open to your artistic interpretation of how to convey this growing frenzy!