



CHAPTER SEVEN

Storm Signals

In *The First Flame*, Kezbah senses the storm before it arrives. The air changes. The wind begins to swirl. The horses become restless while the Angus cattle keep grazing.

People have been watching the sky, animals, wind, and clouds for thousands of years. Long before weather apps and radar, noticing changes around you could give you clues about what weather was coming.



1. What Do You Notice Before a Storm?

Think about the last storm you experienced.

Did you notice any of these before it arrived?

- Darkening clouds
- Strong or changing wind
- A sudden change in temperature
- Thunder in the distance
- Animals behaving differently
- A different smell in the air
- Something else

What did you notice first?

2. Watch the Animals

In Chapter Seven, the horses react to the approaching storm, while the Angus cattle continue grazing.

Animals often notice changes in their surroundings before we do.

Have you ever seen an animal behave differently before or during a storm?

What did it do?

3. How Would You Know?

Imagine there are no phones, television, internet, or weather reports.

You look outside and think a storm may be coming.

What clues would you look for?

4. Your Storm Ritual

Stormy weather changes Kezbah's routine. When she was little, she drank hot cocoa during storms. Now she makes matcha, a tradition that reminds her of her grandmother.

Does your family do anything special when it rains, snows, or storms?

If you could invent your own storm-day tradition, what would it be?
