

*Thunderstorms*

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Survivor Oral Testimony by Rose Toren**

**First Place, High School Poetry**

Dear Friend,

I imagine you in lush green meadows  
Strolling under floating clouds  
Peaceful and serene.

Then, you turn to hear the thunder  
Fierce and frightening  
The storm rolls in  
Shooting lightening  
Flashes left and right  
With no particular care  
At random it chooses  
What lives and what dies  
Rains pour and winds blow  
Howling through the black night.

Chances grow slim  
That anything will survive  
Red flames of hatred rage  
And ravage the land  
For days, months, years  
And tomorrow seems  
No different than yesterday.

Friend, because of you,  
A ray of light  
Creeps from behind the clouds  
Hope for the better  
Faith must never cease  
Or there is no use  
I witness by you  
Only determination conquers storms.