

Choices Made

Jim O'Loughlin

Part 1

Later, he would be able to consider all that he had left behind and never saw again: the wedding album, the birth certificates, the kids' favorite toys, even the laptop. In the moment though, with the storm surging and blow back peeling off the roof like masking tape, he only had time to grab what he could on the way out.

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Part 2

Still, even as he ran to the car, dripping sweat and bleeding from the gash in his forehead, with the river already up to the wheel wells, he realized that the choices he had just made said something about who he was. In his arms, he held a phone book, the cantaloupe that had just turned ripe, and a gallon of milk. And he had made sure to lock the front door.