

Life as We Knew It
by Susan Beth Pfeffer

May 20

No school today.

The electricity came back on around 4 this morning. It's still dark and cloudy outside, so it felt good to be able to turn the lights back on.

Horton has been acting like a maniac the past couple of days. He seems to wake up with a start from his naps and he's been running around all night long, hopping from bedroom to bedroom. He raced onto my bed around midnight and yowled at me- which woke me up, naturally. Then he sniffed my face to make sure it was me.

There was an email from Matt waiting for us. He's fine, everything there is fine, although they're having blackouts also, and school remains on schedule. He says it's tricky taking finals with limited light, but the professors all say that'll be taken into account when they're marked.

Mom let Jonny and me each have half an hour on the Internet. I used part of my time to go to Brandon's fan site. There was a thread where we were all supposed to say where we live and how conditions are. A lot of names were missing, some of them I know from people who live in New York or on the West Coast. There were 14 PMs waiting for me. Twelve people asked how I was and if I'd heard anything about Brandon. The other two just asked if I'd heard anything about Brandon.

With all that had been going on, I'd forgotten that Brandon's training in LA now. I guess no one has heard from him or seen any reports about him.

I posted about how things are in northeastern Pennsylvania, but added I hadn't seen or heard about Brandon. It's not like I run into his parents or Mrs. Daley every day, but I guess I've made it sound like I'm closer to them than I really am. Or maybe everyone's just desperate to hear how Brandon is, to make sure he's still alive.

I've got to believe he is.

Uh-oh. The lights are flickering. I hope we're not about to lose.