

A person in a dark, hooded costume is holding a large, dark, four-spoked wheel in front of a bright, glowing background. The person's face is obscured by the wheel and the hood. The background is a mix of warm, orange and yellow light, suggesting a sunset or a fire. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.

OUT OF PARADISE
E. J. McCADAMS

After a summer of unprecedented high temperatures and a fall 'rainy season' with less than half the usual precipitation, the northern firestorm turned a city called Paradise into an inferno within an hour, razing more than ten thousand buildings and killing at least sixty-three people; more than six hundred others are missing.

"LIFE ON A SHRINKING PLANET," BILL MCKIBBEN

OUT OF PARADISE

E. J. McAdams

CAL FIRE DEPUTY CHIEF JAMES ENGEL

As fire flows
hits objects
it consumes, or

may not consume,

leaves
indicators. That's

where we start reading.

JAMES GAEBE

Clara Lane - nothing left.

Basically just a bunch of rubble
metal everywhere.
Cars wasted.

I mean, personal belongings completely gone.

I basically got out
with the clothes on my back and my pickup.
That's all I have.

We knew it was coming.
I mean,
everybody's been saying, you know, for years,
when this town goes up,
it's going up.

And it went up.

This is
not the new normal

This is
the new ab-
normal

And this
new abnormal
will continue

UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

There's the Best Western

Basically the whole town's on fire
right now

UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

Oh shit

that's a tree
that's on fire
there
right in front of us

UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

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This is bad
All those homes gone
I can feel the heat now -
my god

UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

[woman crying]

I'm on Skyway

on my way out
right now

Everything is on fire

I'm in shock.
Those poor souls.
I tried
to get them out, but
we were trapped like rats.

I don't know how
I made it.
I got in
a 3-foot deep V-cut in the stream.

This thing came over me
roared like a furnace from hell.

I said,
oh Lord,
no, no.

Nobody made it.
These people all
got burned out.
I was right down
below them here.

My friend,
you can see he's dead,
and his mother.

I saw a fox
was running for his life,
so I said,
no Lord,
we're coming, too.

It's just really hard —
I'm traumatized.
But I have to believe
what I went through
was for a reason.

UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

Go, go, go
Hurry up, people
go!
It's getting hot
Come on, people,
go!

UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

And the fucking wind
bringing it over

I wonder
what the fuck

they're going to do

Hey, guess what?

We're not going to catch on fire
ok?

We're going to stay away from it
Then we'll be just fine
ok?

We're doin'
allright

BRIAN ANDREWS

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UNIDENTIFIED EVACUEE

That place is gone
Jesus!
Holy Shit,
half of our town's gone

Should I pray to God?

I don't know how to

CAL FIRE SPOKESMAN BRYCE BENNETT

Right now, Mother Nature is in charge.

It was hell on
earth getting out of there.
If we'd stayed 10 minutes longer
we would have been burned.

SUSAN MILLER

And you were praying
the car in front of you wouldn't stop

It was –
I'll have nightmares for the rest of my life

This was
a bucket list I never wanted

MARY ETTER

I'm happy to be here,
happy to be here
and alive

The material things,
we can replace those

They'll be replaced

You can't replace
your life or your friends

JEANNE NEELEY

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DOUG CHANDLER

We think we're going to be okay,
but we don't really know.

The first day
shock and awe.

The next days
fear and sadness.

Now it's
just frustration

not knowing anything
not being allowed

to return.

ERIN FINAFROCK

I'm closer than I have ever been
to these people

When you go through
a traumatizing event like this
as a group
you come together

REX STEWART

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Paradise is gone.
There's nothing
to go back to.

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/15/us/camp-fire-paradise-cause.html>

Page 4
<https://www.npr.org/2018/11/15/66813581-4/everything-is-ash-grim-ritual-as-search-teams-comb-through-paradise-calif>

Page 5 transcribed from video press conference
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Page 5 transcribed from video
https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2018/11/08/camp-fire-town-paradise-evacuated-california-bartles-blaze-butte-county/?utm_term=.b24d31a1dc26

Page 5 transcribed from podcast audio
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/12/podcasts/the-daily/california-fires-paradise-los-angeles.html>

Page 6 transcribed from video
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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/10/us/california-wildfires-paradise-malibu.html>

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