

### **Analysis of the Storm**

1. The Storm is one of the few stories written by the American writer Kate Chopin which overtly covered the theme of sexuality and adultery.
2. The Storm is actually a prequel to another one of her stories "At the 'Cadian Ball", a story which Kate Chopin had written and published in 1892.
3. Interestingly, she liked "The Storm" more as it dived into the concept of adultery right from the start and was subtle in its expression as well as overtly sexual during the build up.
4. She however deemed that the story was too graphic and descriptive in its exploration of adultery and so she chose it not to be published. So she shelved the book.
5. The story was found again much later and was first published in 1969.
6. The story can be split into three parts which is the build up of the storm, during the storm and after the storm

### **Analysis of the events before the storm**

1. The short story starts off with the husband and the son being caught in the supermarket, far away from home unable to come back. It is interesting that the story begins this way since it does not waste time into history or unnecessary details but dives into the setup of the story.
2. The husband is shown to buy a box of shrimp as a gift for the wife which shows the simple nature that he represents. It presents the reader a view of the love life of Calixta.
3. Calixta is shown clearly as dutiful and hard working even when the husband and the son are not at home and she does not take breaks even enough to see the storm coming.
4. Chopin thus carefully depicts Calixta as a good wife and a loving mother aside from her act of adultery.
5. The introduction of Calixta's hard working nature and ignorance of the approaching storm tells the reader that she actually did not expect, desire for or seek out the approaching storm. Thus meaning that Calixta was not actually seeking or searching for a stormy encounter with Alce.
6. Similarly Alce is also shown to the reader as someone who is reluctant to come inside Calixta's home thus showing that he also was not seeking for a stormy encounter with Calixta but it was just circumstance.

### **Analysis of the stormy adultery**

1. Initially it is seen that both Calixta and Alce are trying to resist their urges and are keeping a respectable distance from one another. This indicates that they are genuinely not intending to commit adultery and what happens next is an unplanned event.

2. The author uses the setting of the storm to bring Calixta and Alce together. Calixta peers out of her window to investigate just as a bolt of lightning strikes a nearby tree. Calixta gets frightened by the bolt and almost falls down and immediately Alce encircled her with his hands to support her. This immediately sets forth the chain of events.
3. The affair reaches its climax shortly after their first embrace. The lovers finally give way to their passion for one another and have an affair.
4. As the storm reaches its climax, so did the lovers. This is seen beautifully described in the lines, "They did not heed the crashing torrents and the roar of the elements made her laugh as she lay in his arms". Thus the author implies that the climax of their passion is as powerful as the intensity of the storm.
5. The words "The rain was over" indicates that the sexual affair between Calixta and Alce was also over. The storm is used to symbolize the torrid and stormy affair between the main characters.

#### **Analysis of the events after the storm**

1. After the storm and the affair, the lovers simply go their separate ways. This is shown by the author to be a one off event and that it was not intended and it is also not their intention to do it again.
2. Also after the affair, Calixta's mood improves dramatically. Alce and the storm provide her with a glorious respite from her wifely responsibilities and her marriage which she is very committed to.
3. In the end, the family shown to have a lot of love laughter and happiness. When her husband presents her with the shrimps, the family of three sit down, laughing and eating together indicating a happy and content family.
4. The message in the end of the story is also that while there has been an affair, the families remain happy since no one is aware and that no harm has been done.
5. Alce's affair has improved the life of Clarisse, who at this point in the story has become overwhelmed by her Alce's interest having sex in her regularly. Alce understands in the end that his wife needs a break and asks her to vacation as long as she wants which makes his wife very happy. The affair is shown to have quenched Alce's lust and makes him understanding.