



The
Flickering
Fires

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Out of all the fireless creatures of the world,
one had lit a torch and sparked its imagination.





Incredibly the planet had already prepared.
During the Carboniferous Period, 350 million years ago,
vast tropical forests were buzzing with giant insects.

The air was thick and heavy with oxygen.
Wildfires were frequent and fierce.
Now those forests and the life they harboured are long gone.
Buried deep in the earth, changed by time,
heat and pressure . . .



Deep in interstellar space
a massive star burns for millions of years.

Its hydrogen is gone.
It begins fusing with the elements
in an attempt to keep shining.
Oxygen, magnesium, calcium . . . until it gets to iron.

It cannot create energy from iron.

Its life as a star is over.

Its collapse, spectacular.