

PM

When a flash flood hits her town, Dani is worried about her friend Zoey, who lives down in the valley. When the floodwaters recede, Zoey is safe but has lost all her things. And Zoey's dog, Pom-pom, is missing! How will the town clean up after the flood? And will Pom-pom be found?



Narrative

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Nelson

Level
25

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Flash Flood!

Sally Cowan

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Story by Sally Cowan

Illustrations by Alisha Monnin



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Chapter 1

Heavy Rain

Dani woke up during the night to the sound of rain. Normally, she liked the sound of rain falling on the roof, but this was different. The rain was much heavier than usual. Dani was worried. Tomorrow was the school fair.

Despite the rain, Dani must have gone back to sleep, as she woke up suddenly to the sound of her alarm. She was looking forward to seeing her friend Zoey at the fair. There was no sound of rain on the roof any more, but when Dani looked out her bedroom window, she got a horrible shock. Water was pouring down the gutters of the street outside her house. Some huge puddles were forming around the drains, which were blocked with leaves and branches.



Dani rushed to wake her parents. “Mum and Dad, look out the window!” she exclaimed.

As Mum looked out, she grabbed her phone to check the news. “There’s a flash flood warning!” she said.



“What’s a flash flood?” asked Dani.

The water didn’t look very flashy or shiny to her.

“It’s when a lot of rain falls very quickly,” replied Mum. “There’s too much water to soak into the ground, so it stays on the surface and causes a flood.”

“There must have been a huge amount of rain,” said Dad, frowning. “And from the look of those grey clouds, there’s still more to come.”

“But we have to go to the school fair!” said Dani, unhappily. “I’m meeting Zoey there.”

Chapter 2

Unloading the Sandbags

Just then, Mum's phone pinged. It was a message from Dani's school:

The school fair is cancelled. Main Street is closed. The emergency services website advises everyone in this area to stay indoors. People living in the low-lying valley should consider leaving their homes if it is safe to do so. We are using the school hall as an emergency centre for anyone affected by the floodwaters.

"I hope Zoey's all right," said Dani.
"She lives in the valley!"

"Yes, it might be a lot worse down there," said Mum. "The water will be flowing into the valley and filling up the river. I'll give Jason a call to check on them."

Jason was Zoey's dad. He and Zoey lived in a house near the river with their dog, Pom-pom. Mum called Jason, but he didn't answer. She tried sending a text message instead.

"The text didn't go through," said Mum.

"There's a rescue hotline number," said Dad, looking at his phone. "I'll call that. They should be able to check on Jason and Zoey."

