

## Fliss Battle to Rainfall

Felicity Cane opened her eyes to a new day that had begun. She ran downstairs and set the table for breakfast and made pancakes. She quickly ran outside to collect chicken eggs. "Ow!" she screeched as Casey the chicken pecked her. On her next attempt she was successful and collected a basket full of eggs. Next was milk, luckily for her there was a giant bottle of it next to the cows. She took the exact amount of milk needed and poured it in the bowl, cracked the eggs and sprinkled sugar and flour. She poured the mixer into the pan and made a dozen pancakes. She washed the pan and plated the pancakes beautifully. She quickly headed out to the library.

Miss Lore the librarian sat on the floor with a pile of books.

"- Morning Fliss!" said Miss Lore using her nickname.

"- Fliss I know I gave you a key, but you shouldn't keep coming here at 6AM".

Fliss said:

- "I will organize the back like I usually do."

As she walked away, she couldn't help but feel guilty, her best friend Kit would have told her older sister Kim and they had sorted it out.

Fliss missed them clearly and wished she could do something herself. She picked up a book and thought what's the point no one comes to the library and if they do, they are just here for peace and quiet and if they do want to borrow a book, they don't take it from the back.

She put the book back in its place and got another one. This book looks different, It had a golden crack and coffee brown cover, it looked old, very old.

Suddenly Fliss was levitating off the ground with gold and purple flakes around her. "This is so cool!" she exclaimed. As quick as it came, it was gone. The book's golden crack started to turn black. Darkness fell around Fliss and everywhere around was pitch black. "-Hello!" she shouted, "- Is anyone there?"

Nothing!

Fliss saw as the darkness cleared, she was back at her cottage, but it wasn't her cottage. It was black with goo dripping from its roof, Fliss wanted to enter to see her if her family was ok but then again, she was afraid of what she will find inside. She gazed beyond the fields, there was a black cloud behind. It was flashing thunder lightning in her face; Fliss began to run.

Behind the cottage she saw another cloud exactly like the other one. She shook the doorknob rapidly as the clouds came near and near. Her heart was beating out of her chest, her palms began to sweat, and tears stung her eyes. She tried the doorknob again and finally it opened, she quickly hurried inside and gave a sigh of relief. Quickly she shut the door and looked around, no one was there, and everything was black. She looked at the pancakes she set this morning, and they were black and rotten with flies around them. Fliss shuddered and went upstairs, the floorboard creaked. She opened the door to her room and saw her bunk bed, the wood was rotten, and Leana was fast asleep on the bottom bunk. She walked over to shake her awake. When she saw that Leana's eyes it had rolled back and black goo was coming out of her mouth. Fliss put a hand on her mouth and tears threw down her eyes, her heart felt like it had been

stabbed, and there was a huge lump in her throat. She was too scared to see what happened to the rest of her family, what if the same thing happened to them? What if she was the only one? Those thoughts made her even more scared, suddenly she started to cry. Then she thought about the horses, she could use them to find help, so she wouldn't face the horror of seeing her whole family dead.

She looked out of the window to check if the cloud was still there, it was and below it, dead horses like Leana was.

"- Why!?!?" Fliss screamed.

She sobbed even louder by the minute. The windowsill fell and the roof began to fall, but Fliss didn't care she lost everything meaningful in her life, so why bother?

The clouds were coming closer, Fliss saw the dark mist behind her, closed her eyes getting ready for the impact, hoping not to feel the pain.

Nothing happened! She opened her eyes and saw that the dark mist was now white, and Leana's body was gone.

Suddenly everything started to blur, Fliss then realized she had her eyes closed the whole time and she was sitting on the library floor, the book was still in her grasp. She got up and made her way to Miss Lore.

"- Can I borrow this book?" Fliss asked Miss Lore.

Miss Lore looked puzzled then smiled weakly and said, "- I don't recognize this book, but you can more than just borrow it. You can keep it".

"- Why?" Fliss asked looking confused.

Miss Lore frowned and when she did, it felt like the whole town was frowning because she had a face like an angel.

There was an awkward silence and finally Miss Lore said:

"-They are closing the library!"

Who would do such a thing, Fliss thought.

"- They said they didn't have enough money to pay the librarians, Miss Lore continued – I volunteered to do it for free, but they also said that this city bloke was going to keep the village alive."

"- Can't you just buy the library?" Fliss asked.

Miss Lore shook her head.

"- I don't have the money Fliss, sorry!"

"- Well then maybe we can use the secret passage I used to use before you gave me a key to get all the books and open another library once they close this one." Fliss replied.

"- You can but I can't because I'm moving to the city to live with my sister and get another job. Look around you Fliss the library is empty, it always is, and it has been since I was a kid, I'm so sorry! I always wanted people to appreciate books more."

Fliss' lips began to quiver.

"- By Miss Lore!" She mumbled and hurried out.

When Kit and Kim went to this posh school called Rainfall Academy, Kim got a teaching job there and took Kit with her. Fliss wanted to go there and to do so she has to convince her foster mum Mary Cho and unlike her foster sisters Darcy Cho (who was the eldest), Tracy Cho, who is only a year younger than Darcy, and Leana Teafren, who like Fliss is a foster child and she is only a few months older. Fliss was not settling for Penny High, not only did the name suggest it, but it was also.

The fact you could see the children repairing the building and that someone had painted Penny High in red painting, making look like blood.

People said that was built in Victorian times and hasn't been updated since. Fliss visited there once she there with her family and Mr. Jame take them for a school tour.

Jame then began, "- Ladies are you ready?"

He had a deep voice that sounded like a butler. Mary quickly replied:

"- Yes, we are." You may begin.

"- This is the year twelve classroom." Jame said.

All the children have black hair, and so did the teacher, their classroom was a living room.

Fliss heard muffled scream from Leana, she looked down and saw millions of rats and cockroaches. Fliss began to feel sick.

"- Enjoy your freedom." The year twelve teacher said.

"- This is the year ten classroom." Jame said.

The children have black hair just like year twelves and their classroom was staircase. Darcy gave them a friendly wave, Fliss waved back, Leana however stood there shaking, holding Mary's hand.

"- Enjoy your smile." The year ten teacher said.

"- This is the year nine classroom." Jame said.

Like the others they all have black hair, this classroom was a kitchen, and the children were making lunch while learning, and when you look at the lunch you could see bugs crawling inside.

Tracy looked at them, then turned away.

"- What are you staring at?" the year nine teacher snapped.

"- I saw a spider, a big one on the tourists' head." Tracy mumbled not looking her teacher in the eye.

Fliss was looking at Leana, who was crying, to check if the spider was on her head, it wasn't Tracy was lying.

The year nine teacher turned around and pressed her eyes against Leana's glasses.

“- Enjoy that temporarily look of fear in your face.” She smirked. “- Because soon it will be permanent.”

“- I like your hair.” The teacher continued holding Leana’s dark blonde ponytail. “- Hope you enjoy porridge.”

“- Actually, it’s beans.” A girl muttered. “- Since it’s a special day.”

“- I don’t care, you are all bad cooks, just pass me a bowl.” The teacher growled and the girl quickly gave her one. “- Enjoy.” The teacher dumped the bowl on Leana’s ponytail.

“- Eat it!”

“- Miss Aim, you’re not allowed to give our tourist detention!” Jame snapped.

The teacher sneered at them then turned away and went back to her class. They went to the staircase full of year tens.

They all looked at Leana and smiled cheerfully.

“- This is the year eight classroom.” Jame said.

A boy smiled at them and said:

“- I can’t believe having chicken for lunch.”

“- Chicken?” Leana gulped. “- I am vegetarian!”

“- Well, you won’t like the food here, and I also can’t believe that Miss Aim only gave you that much of lunch in your hair. She gave me a shower full just to stare at her classroom.

“- Hey why are you all wearing hard hats?” Leana asked.

“- In case the ceiling falls on us.”

Suddenly they heard a rumble, and chunks of concrete began to fall on the children.

“- See what I mean.”

Jame cleared his throat and said, “- Moving on.”

They paid a visit to a small, cramped room.

“- This is the year eleven classroom and down the hall is the year seven one.” James said.

Leana and Fliss both looked at the year seven classroom, it was a toilet!

No way was Fliss studying there.

Fliss went back to her house, hoping it wasn’t the way she daydreamed, she opened the door and saw Mary coming down the stairs “Morning Fliss,” she said.

“Morning Mary,” Fliss replied.

Mary sat down cut out a piece of her pancake but before she could even put it in her mouth Fliss said, “Can I go to Rainfall.”

“For the last time NO!”

That is when Fliss had a great idea, she swapped her Penny High application to a Rainfall one.”

A few months later Fliss was waiting by the door for a reply from Rainfall.

“Is someone excited about going to PH,” Fliss jumped then realized it was Mary who said that.

“You scared me! And what’s PH?” Fliss asked.

“Penny High, shouldn’t you have known that by now since you were so busy studying it for months?”

“Right, must’ve forgotten in such excitement.”

“OK but you do know the replies don’t come till after school.”

Fliss went back to the table where the sisters were eating breakfast.

Suddenly Fliss heard a noise in the letter box, it was the postman, she rushed to the house entrance and found a letter from Rainfall Academy. She hid it in her pocket and went to her room.

“- What is it?” asked Mary.

“- Just adds,” said Fliss.

When she opened the letter and all she could read in large words, “Accepted” and Fliss was over the moon!