

After Miles Copeland drowns, and feeling she cannot take anymore heartbreak, Sally is starting to consider a new place to live. She is unsure how she feels about it, but when Belle finally confesses that it was her who caused Flynn to fall to an early death, back in 2006, it's the final straw for Sally.

STORY SO FAR

[Over the past few months, Sally's Obsessive Compulsive Disorder has flared up to such a degree that she has been locked up in her house for 2 days now, unable to stop her compulsive hand-washing routines. She can't stop thinking about her life, about Brad - and about Flynn. She is trapped by her fear and anxiety, and she has no one to turn to anymore. She is terrified of losing the one good thing left in her life, her daughter Pippa. With Miles Copeland having just drowned, and her foster kids Cassie and Ric having left town, she is preparing to leave Summer Bay, unable to take anymore heartbreak - but Belle, who has been feeling the guilt and pressure mounting for some time now, has something to get off her chest before Sally leaves for good...]

*[INT. SUMMER BAY HOUSE, EVENING, KITCHEN LIGHTS BRIGHTEN THE DARK]
[Long-shot of SUMMER BAY HOUSE - we can hear a tap running. Then we hear a voice call out tentatively - "Miss Fletcher?"]*

Cut to medium-long-shot of SALLY, standing at the kitchen sink; She doesn't look good, hair messily pulled back, wearing a baggy grey fleece. She looks as if she has been up all night. Her hands and arms are covered in soap and bubbles, the sink full and close to overflowing. She turns round when hearing the voice.]

SALLY

[startled] Oh, Belle. Hi there... can I.. can I help you? [she throws a guilty glance towards the drips of water on the floor, as she turns back and continues to scrub away at her hands]

BELLE

No, um.. well yes, I... I, uh... Miss Fletcher, I just have something I really have to tell you.

[There is a silence for 3-4 seconds, SALLY splashes the water around. She turns the tap off, pauses for a second, and turns it back on again.]

BELLE [cont 'd]

Miss.. Miss Fletcher?

SALLY

What is it, Belle? Something troubling you?

[She turns to give a stiff smile to Belle, her expression still very tense. Carries on rinsing her hands, not really listening.]

[cut to BELLE's face, who looks like she is about to burst into tears]

BELLE

Miss Fletcher... *[changes direction]* what are you doing?

SALLY

[vaguely] I'm not doing anything, Belle. Now what was it?

[BELLE hesitantly throws a glance to the sink and all the bubbles; she know what's going on, but she has more important matter to think about...]

BELLE

You know before I.. I came here, to the Bay. My parents.. my adoptive parents... they uh.. *[BELLE trembles]*

SALLY

[seems to wake up a little] Belle, you're worrying me, please tell me what's the matter?

[SALLY's expression hardens. She stares down at the sink, reluctantly, and finally turns the tap off. Without drying her hands, she directs BELLE to the sofa, where they both sit down. BELLE wipes her eyes with her sleeve]

BELLE

It's about F-Flynn... I.. I was, I was there... when he-- *[she wheezes, starting to get upset]*

SALLY

[patiently] Just calm down, Belle. Now why don't you just tell me what the problem is?

BELLE

It was me! *[throws her face into her hands, stifling cries]* I...I hurt him. I hurt him.

SALLY

[she sits up straighter, eyes widen] What do you mean, you hurt him? Who did you hurt, Belle? You mean Dom?

[BELLE shakes her head, her breathing shallow. She straightens up, tears are running down her face. Panning shot semi-circles the sofa showing both characters from various front angles.]

BELLE

N-no..I - Flynn.. I have to, no, I can't, I have to go--

[she stands up and hurries towards the door but SALLY grabs her wrist tightly, and pulls her back down - she is calm but firm]

SALLY

Belle. Tell me what happened.

[There is a silence. BELLE looks straight into SALLY's eyes, terrified. She is about to reveal all, but she is very very scared]

BELLE

I hurt Flynn! *[she starts sobbing again - she is hysterical]*
He wasn't meant to die, and I pushed him - down -- and I didn't mean to,
he was just there, and I had to get away, I had to get away!

[She tries to get up again, but SALLY drags her back to the sofa, a little roughly this time.]

SALLY

[Cold realisation dawns on her face. She finally knows what really happened that day]

You hurt Flynn? You-- what??

BELLE

I, I was leaving Ric's room, and, and, he wasn't supposed to die, not yet, oh God Sal, Miss Fletcher, I-I'm so sorry, I'm so, so so sorry!

[SALLY just stares into space, she is going through events in her head, calculating what and how it all went wrong. She gazes at BELLE, as if unsure what she is seeing.]

SALLY

He didn't fall.. he was pushed? You.. you... pushed him?

BELLE

..Yes *[tears trickle down her cheeks. She waits fearfully]*.
It was an accident. He did fall. But because I... I was in the way.

[silence 7-8 seconds]

SALLY

[almost casually] I let you into my house... you.. you kept coming back, Belle. It's been... two years. You didn't say anything. You.. you could have said something.

BELLE

I wanted to! I really wanted to, I did *[she desperately clutches at SALLY's hand]*!
I couldn't come back here, for months, after it... after... I couldn't.
It was too hard...*[trails off]*

SALLY

You pushed him. D-did he... did he get up again? *[A stoney silence. BELLE drops SALLY's hand]*

BELLE

....I ran. I didn't see. *[BELLE covers her hand with her mouth, closes her eyes]*
I killed him. I...

[She opens her eyes and looks at SALLY again, who seems slightly catatonic]

BELLE

[cont'd very fast, her words falling over eachother]
I didn't mean to, Sally! I really didn't mean to, you have to believe me, it was a total accident, please! I'm so sorry.. I... *[she trails off, and buries her face in her hands]*. I had to tell you, I couldn't leave for Adelaide without telling you, it's been sort of.. it's been so bad, *[she speeds up]* I couldn't stand it, but you have to realise, I didn't mean to, I know it was my fault, but I--

[SALLY holds up her hand, Belle comes to a halt]

SALLY

[calmly] You didn't kill him. He was dying either way.

BELLE

Bu--

SALLY

You didn't. I don't blame you for what happened with Flynn.

BELLE

You... you can't understand.. he fell because of me! He died early because of me!

SALLY

Thank you.. Belle. For telling me, thank you. I'm not blaming you. But I have to finish something right now, so.. I'll talk to you a little later.
Go, please.

[She smiles forcibly - she looks on the verge of breakdown. She pulls BELLE into a hug, but quickly lets go and steadies herself. Medium shot, them both sitting on the sofa. BELLE looks incredulous... and then very distressed. SALLY nods towards the door, her hands shaking a little.]

BELLE

[despairing] Why aren't you angry?? You--

SALLY

[distantly] Belle. Please.

[BELLE scrambles up without hesitation, and runs out the open door without looking back. SALLY stands up after her. She wanders back to the sink, in a daze. Extreme-close-up on SALLY's face. She can't take anymore.]

SALLY

[to herself]

Flynn...

[Silence. C.U. shot of the tap as SALLY slowly twists it on again. Her hands are noticeably red and cracked. We hear a sharp intake of breath (soap stinging her raw skin) as Sally starts to wash her hands again.]

[Long-shot of Summer Bay House, a glass smashes distantly, a wail of anguish. We hear SALLY start to cry]

SALLY

[off camera, tearfully]

Pippa, sweetheart? Come with me, darling. Come on. Do you want to just grab your teddy, sweetheart? Come on now. It's time to go.

[Fade to black, the water still gurgling in the plughole.]

END SCENE