

BTTB Scriptwriting Competition 2008

Home and Away:  
Her Shadow's Reflection

by  
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**Summary**

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.

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...

**EXT. SUMMER BAY HOUSE STOCK SHOT - EVENING**

Kitchen lights brighten the darkness. We can hear a tap running. Then we hear a voice call out tentatively.

**1. BELLE (O.S.)**

Miss Fletcher?

**INT. SUMMER BAY HOUSE - EVENING**

SALLY, BELLE

Sally is 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.

**2. 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.

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**3. 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.

**4. BELLE (CONT'D)**

Miss.. Miss Fletcher?

**5. 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.

Belle looks like she is about to burst into tears.

**6. BELLE**

Miss Fletcher...  
(changes direction)  
..what are you doing?

**7. 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...

**8. BELLE**

You know before I.. I came here, to the Bay. My parents.. my adoptive parents... they uh..

BELLE trembles. SALLY wakes up a little.

**9. SALLY**

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

**10. BELLE**

It's about F-Flynn... I.. I was, I was there... when he..

Belle wheezes and starts to get upset.

**11. SALLY**

(patiently)

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

**12. BELLE**

It was me!

BELLE throws her face into her hands, stifling cries.

**13. BELLE (CONT'D)**

I...I hurt him. I hurt him.

SALLY sits up straighter and her eyes widen.

**14. SALLY**

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.

**15. BELLE**

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

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

**16. 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.

**17. BELLE**

I hurt Flynn!

BELLE starts sobbing again - she is hysterical.

**18. BELLE (CONT'D)**

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!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

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

Cold realisation dawns on SALLY's face. She finally knows what really happened that day

**19. SALLY**

You hurt Flynn? You-- what??

**20. 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.

**21. SALLY**

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

**22. BELLE**

..Yes

Tears trickle down BELLE's cheeks. She waits fearfully.

**23. BELLE (CONT'D)**

It was an accident. He did fall. But  
because I... I was in the way.

Silence for 7-8 seconds.

**24. 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.

**25. BELLE**

I wanted to! I really wanted to, I  
did!

BELLE desperately clutches at SALLY's hand

**26. BELLE**

I couldn't come back here, for  
months, after it... after...  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

26. BELLE (CONT)  
I couldn't. It was too hard...  
(trails off)

27. SALLY  
You pushed him. D-did he... did he  
get up again?

A stoney silence. BELLE drops SALLY's hand.

28. BELLE  
....I ran. I didn't see.

BELLE covers her mouth with her hand and closes her eyes.

29. BELLE (CONT'D)  
I killed him. I...

BELLE opens her eyes and looks at SALLY again, who seems  
slightly catatonic.

30. BELLE (CONT'D)  
(very fast, her words  
falling over each other)  
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.

31. SALLY  
(calmly)  
You didn't kill him. He was dying  
either way.

32. BELLE  
Bu--

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

**34. BELLE**

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

**35. 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.

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

**36. BELLE**

(despairing)  
Why aren't you angry?? You--

**37. 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. She can't take anymore.

**38. SALLY**

(to herself)  
Flynn...

Silence.

SALLY slowly twists the tap on again. Her hands are noticeably red and cracked. We hear a sharp intake of breath, the soap stinging her raw skin, as Sally starts to wash her hands again.

**EXT. SUMMER BAY HOUSE STOCK SHOT - EVENING**

A glass smashes distantly, a wail of anguish. We hear SALLY start to cry.

**39. SALLY (O.S.)**

(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.

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

END SCENE