

Tomorrow



Louise

About the Author

Louise Ward loved writing this book. She hopes you enjoy reading the book. Louise is a 12 year old girl. She loves football, basketball, singing, playing the piano, acting, writing and playing guitar!

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Chapter 1

Family Life

Hi, my name is Haley. I live in Australia. My life can be kind of difficult. I am the eldest out of three children. My Dad is a firefighter but luckily he doesn't have to fight the bushfires yet. We own an animal shelter for all the animals that need help or to be saved from the fires. I am often put to work as well because we don't have a lot of money. Our house is extremely small and my brother is only 2. One day we were told that our dad might end up having to go out and help put out the fires.

My mother was so upset because she knew she couldn't handle all of the kids. Her best friend had already moved out of Australia due to the fires. After finding out she said we must live life as every day is a gift! I was minding my brother and sister that day because mom and dad were working, helping any animals they could find.

As the day went on we had the radio on to see if there were any chances of it raining. All I could hear were sirens all around me. That night I kept having dreams of dad leaving but what I kept thinking of was the phrase

'Every day is a gift.' as the sun started to rise I woke up. I got dressed and went to the animal shelter. I looked out the window but all I could see was smoke. I went into where we keep the koala's and gave them all a drink. I turned on the radio and five people have died already. I started to getting worried about dad having to go out and fight the fires. As mom said, every day is a gift. Just then mom came in and started helping me. It was silent for a few minutes and then I asked her if dad had gotten a call. She turned around and started yelling at me. I just went back to the house and woke everyone up. I told them dad had to make the breakfast and stormed off.

After a few minutes I started crying because I had regretted everything I had said. I went out to the kitchen and apologized to dad. I also went to the animal shelter to apologize to mom. She still had tears in her eyes. She gave me a huge hug. I knew by the tone of her voice that Dad would end up having to fight the fires. In my head I knew mom would end up crying for hours on end. I was so worried about when the phone would ring. I put my youngest brother John to bed and I turned on the radio again. When I turned it on it was 6 firefighters now dead. I went out to check on the Koala's and then went to bed. I had several things on my mind too. I turned off my light and slept. I was absolutely exhausted.

Chapter 2

The Call

As I was about to fall asleep I could hear mom saying that she will have to go with dad to help him. She whispered to dad that I would have to look after everyone by myself. My heart started pounding and then I found myself asleep.

I slept until 10:00am and when I went downstairs everyone was nearly crying. I didn't even talk to anyone. I went straight to the animal shelter. I slammed every door on my way out. I knew dad had gotten the call and he would be going to fight the fires. The only thing that was going around my head by now was every day really is a gift. I got so worried mom would start doing bad things to herself. And so that was the case. Later that day, when I went in to get my lunch I was told I would have to mind everybody. It took me hours to click. I then I knew mom was going to help. I started crying so so much. I was so annoyed that mom would just leave because dad was going. I went to bed and didn't even talk to anyone.

Chapter 3

Leaving

As mom and da went to leave all of us were crying. Suddenly mom said 'there is no way I can leave, these children have a full life ahead of them.'

Mom put down her bag, gave Dad a kiss and stood with us. We all waved to Dad, our eyes filling with tears. When Dad disappeared into the smoke, Mom went out to feed the animals, closely followed by my sister Kate. I stayed with John. I felt so sorry for him. I said to him that Dad will be back before we know it and the fires will be gone. I put John into his cot for a nap and went out to see if we could help any other animals.

I went very near the smoke and there were planes dropping water. I heard a monkey screaming and running. It ran ober to me so I brought it directly to the animal shelter. It had been about an hour since Mom went out and when I got there, Mom had the radio on. It said that another firefighter had died. It didn't say any names but they said that they would start. I got a fright when another person had died because I keep thinking it will be Dad. I knew in my head that it wouldn't be but it still got to me. Mom told me to go to check on John. Mom was still upset and Kate gave me the

Nod to leave. I went into the house and put on some food for all of us. I woke John up and read some stories to him.

After a while, John was in bed again. I went out to tell Mom to say goodnight to him. I didn't realise until I turned the corner that a baby koala was dead in Moms' arms. A tear came to my eye. It was so amazing to think that if animals suffered at all, they would die. I knew Mom had done her best to keep all the animals alive.

Chapter 4

Abruptly Fires Spread

When mom went into the house to say goodnight to John, Kate started talking to me. She said that they had had the radio on and that the fires are spreading extremely fast. They were edging their way towards our house. I had butterflies in the stomach. Kate went on, 'mom was telling me that they wouldn't hit our house but I'm still worried.' we gave each other a long warming hug. When mom came back she said that we were as white as a ghost. Mom said that we would be absolutely fine. She changed the subject after that and then said that dad had called her. Mom said that he was doing and he was in the planes dropping the water onto the fires. I had a huge sigh of relief when I knew dad wasn't walking where the trees are falling every second.

I went to bed that night and felt a bit better knowing that dad was safe at the moment. I was looking under my bed because I couldn't sleep and found an empty notebook. I decided that every night I would write what happened that day. I began to write about the day I had. After a while I drifted off to sleep and slept soundly that night until John started crying. I didn't know where mom was so I went in. he had gotten sick all over his cot. I ran into mom and she

jumped out of bed. John was continually getting sick. He began to choke in my arms. Mom ran to the phone and called the hospital for an ambulance.

Chapter 5

Saved by the Bell

As the ambulance pulled up to our house John was still getting sick. The nurse brought him straight to the ambulance along with mom. As fast as lightning the ambulance was gone. I had to mind everyone including the animals. I went up to write in my notebook about everything that had happened.

During the night

John was up getting sick.

We had to call an ambulance.

*Mom is now gone and it is my job to keep
everything going.*

*Kate is such a good helper and she
is so responsible.*

Signed: Haley

After writing that I went out to help Kate feed the animals. The radio was on and somebody called James McNalley had died. The fires were practically outside the door. As I swept

up all the dirt the phone rang. It was mom. She said John was saved by the bell. They had to stay in hospital for the next three days and then they would be home. Kate and I went inside and got into bed. I didn't write that night because I had already written earlier and drifted off to sleep.

Chapter 6

Burning Down

As I woke up from my deep sleep the fires had burned everything around me. I got dressed and went downstairs and I couldn't believe my eyes. Dad was home! He said that the fires were dying down so he was sent home. I was over the moon to see him again. We all hugged together but then he had some bad news. He said he thinks that our animal shelter or our house would eventually burn down. Kate and I burst into tears. They both meant so much to us. I asked why we couldn't fly out and he said we can't afford a plane ticket. I went to the animal shelter where I could have some time to myself. I started telling the animals that by now every day really is a gift. I had a roam around thinking that this could all be gone in an hour. Mom still has two days left in the hospital with John and Dad couldn't go and visit them because we couldn't leave our property. Dad said that there has to be an adult just in case anything happens.

It came to me and I was talking to myself that that was the reason Dad was home. I don't know if he was being serious or not but we never doubt him. Dad called me in to talk to him and I told him what happened John. I asked him how he had gotten on and was he scared but I knew he wasn't

right. His eyes were red and puffy and his voice was shaky. Kate came in and looked at him and came to me and asked what had happened. I told her I had no idea what was going on and she didn't either. I whispered into her ear and told her that everyday really is a gift by now, kissed her on the head and ran to my room.

Chapter 7

The Horrific News

I awoke suddenly hearing crying and talking. I looked out my window and saw something I never wanted to see. There was no animal shelter. I started crying and ran downstairs. Dad was on the phone and Kate was sitting beside him. I gave Kate a hug. The animal shelter played such a huge roll in our lives.

A couple of hours later we were told mom and John were coming home. It was so boring not being able to go out to see all the animals. My eyes filled with tears as mom walked in. John looked so much better than he did but he still has to take a lot of medication. Mom came in and unpacked all of her clothes. She got changed and then called Kate to help clear up the wood. It was so upsetting that so many animals died just like that. Mom didn't know what to do. We were now not able to make money and John is still not fully better. I left mom to have some time to herself and I went and wrote in my notebook. I hadn't written in it for a few days because we were so busy.

Mom came into me after a while and I asked if she was ok. She said she was but it was just so sad. She didn't stay for long so when she left I kept writing. I went into the kitchen

to see mom and dad talking. I backed away because I didn't want to interfere with their conversation.

Chapter 8

Evacuate

After some time I was told to pack up. I didn't ask any questions. I packed up all my clothes and put some of my valuables into another bag. Soon enough Dad came in and said we had to move because anything could happen. He didn't even know where we were going but we weren't safe here. We were all at the door making sure we had everything that we needed. I screamed! I had nearly forgotten my notebook. I ran to my room to get it but it was nowhere to be seen. I knew I hadn't put it into my bag. Mom was calling me to hurry up or we would be trapped in the house because of the fires. We all had protective clothes on to be safe. I couldn't find my notebook so I just left my room.

When I got to the door we left. We all had tears in our eyes as we closed and locked the door. We had our last glance at the house and then walked off into the smoke. This time every day really is a gift but what will tomorrow bring?

This book will take you through the life of Haley. When fires hit Australia life can be difficult when you have a two year old brother. Haley's life can be fun and exciting but always fearful.

Will something bad happen?