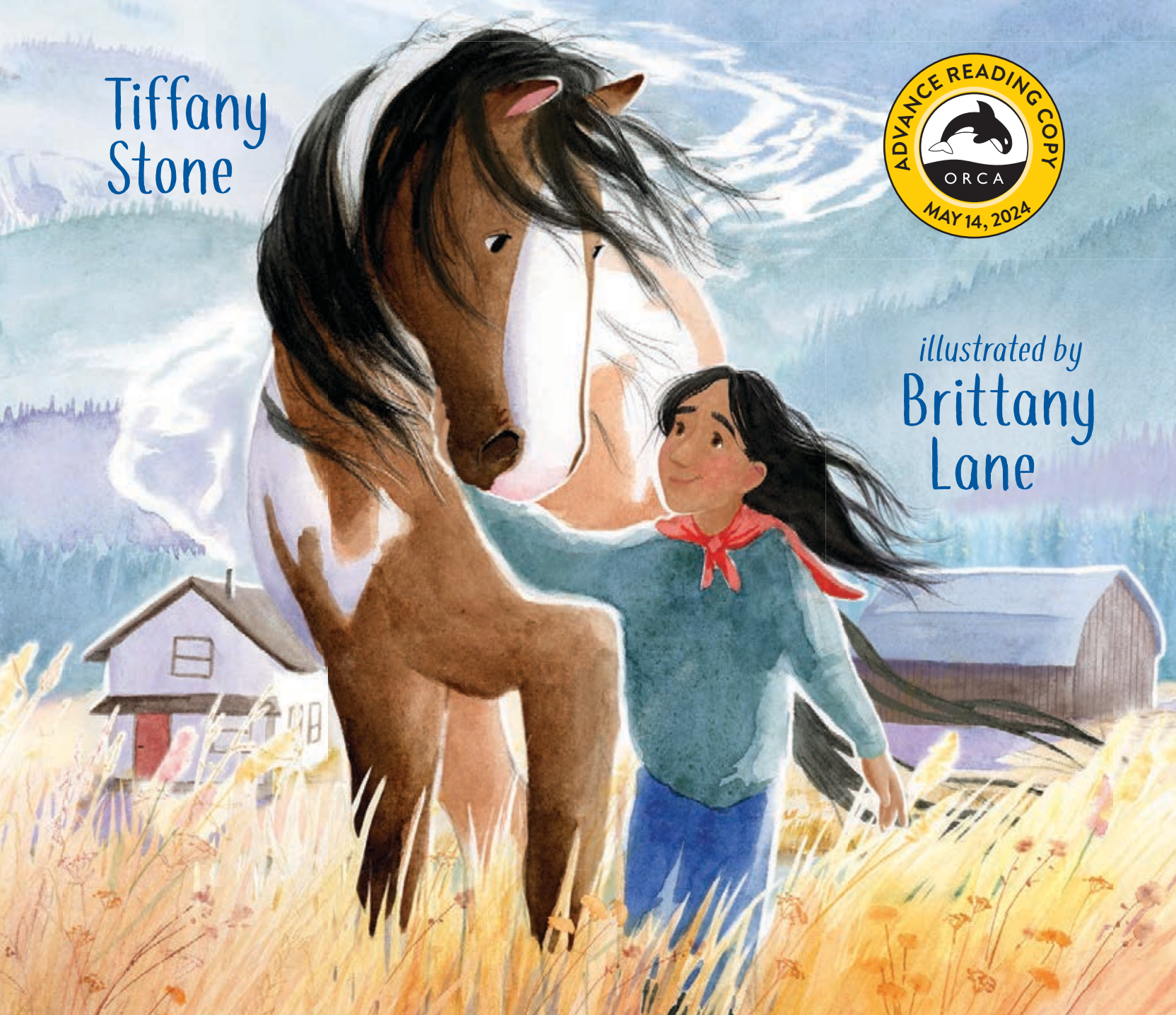


The Day Dancer Flew

Tiffany
Stone



illustrated by
Brittany
Lane



She can't leave her beloved horse behind.

DANCER IS A GENTLE AND LOVING HORSE. He got his name because of how he moves his hooves, like he's dancing. Every day when the girl rides on his back, it feels like she is flying. Then the rain starts and won't let up. Everything floods and the girl and her family are forced to leave Dancer behind. While sheltering at the community center, the girl can't stop worrying about Dancer. She knows there must be a way to save him too. With the help of an agriculture officer, a horse expert and a helicopter pilot, a plan is put in place to rescue the stranded horse.

Inspired by real events this gorgeously illustrated book tells the tale of a girl's love for her horse and the power of a community coming together during a natural disaster.

Tiffany Stone is a children's poet and picture book author. She is constantly inspired by animals of all kinds and loves to write about them. Tiffany lives with her family, including many beloved pets, in Maple Ridge, British Columbia.

Brittany Lane is a freelance illustrator and fine artist inspired by nature, animals, travel and folklore. She formally trained as a biologist and spent over a decade working as a wildlife biologist before pursuing her passion for art. Now she uses visual storytelling as a way to share her love for nature and wildlife with others. She currently lives in Stouffville, Ontario.

PICTURE BOOK • AGES 6–8

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The Day Dancer Flew

Author: Tiffany Stone

Illustrator: Brittany Lane

May 14, 2024

In this beautiful picture book based on a true story, flooding forces a child and their family to flee their farm without their beloved horse, Dancer. But the child won't give up on Dancer and finds helpers in the community who get Dancer airlifted to safety.

FORMAT

8.75 x 10.75"

32 pages

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\$21.95

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EPUB

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KEY SELLING POINTS

- When a rainstorm brings flooding, a child has to leave her horse, Dancer, behind on the family farm, but she is determined to save him and rallies help from the community to get him airlifted to safety.
- This story deals with the love and trust between horse and human, and what you'd do to save your animal companion's life. It also shows how frightening natural disasters can be, as well as the hope and strength in a community rallying together and helping each other out in dire times.
- This is a fictionalized version of a true story that happened near Spences Bridge, BC, in November 2021; flooding cut off road access to a farm and the family's horse was airlifted to safety.
- Unfortunately, weather-related emergencies are more and more prevalent in these times of climate change, leading to a demand for children's fiction centered on these types of events.

TANYA KING PHOTOGRAPHY



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tiffany Stone is a children's poet and picture book author. She is constantly inspired by animals of all kinds and loves to write about them. Tiffany lives with her family, including many beloved pets, in Maple Ridge, British Columbia.

SCOTT TURNBULL



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Brittany Lane is a freelance illustrator and fine artist inspired by nature, animals, travel and folklore. She formally trained as a biologist and spent over a decade working as a wildlife biologist before pursuing her passion for art. Now she uses visual storytelling as a way to share her love for nature and wildlife with others. She currently lives in Stouffville, Ontario.

PROMOTIONAL PLANS INCLUDE

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- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley and Edelweiss
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- Outreach in Orca newsletters

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Inspired by a true story

The Day Dancer Flew

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Dancer is my horse.
He's called Dancer because of how he moves his hooves—
happy, like he's dancing.

At first I was scared to ride him. He seemed so big.
But then he nuzzled my ear and nickered,
like he was saying, "Everything will be okay."



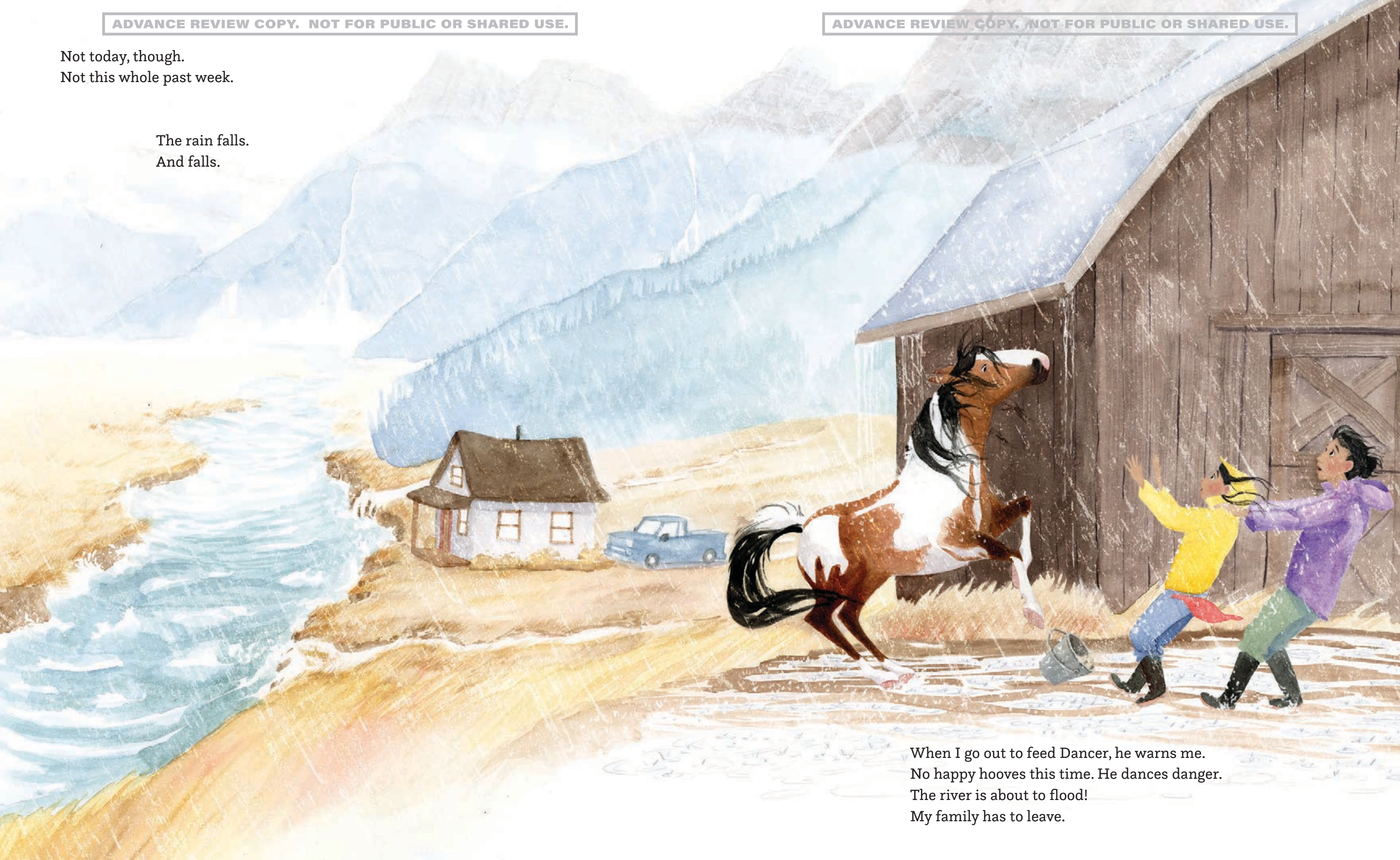
Slowly, slowly, Dancer showed me
the joy of the rush of the wind.

Every day now, up on his back,
my imagination soars,
and I fly...



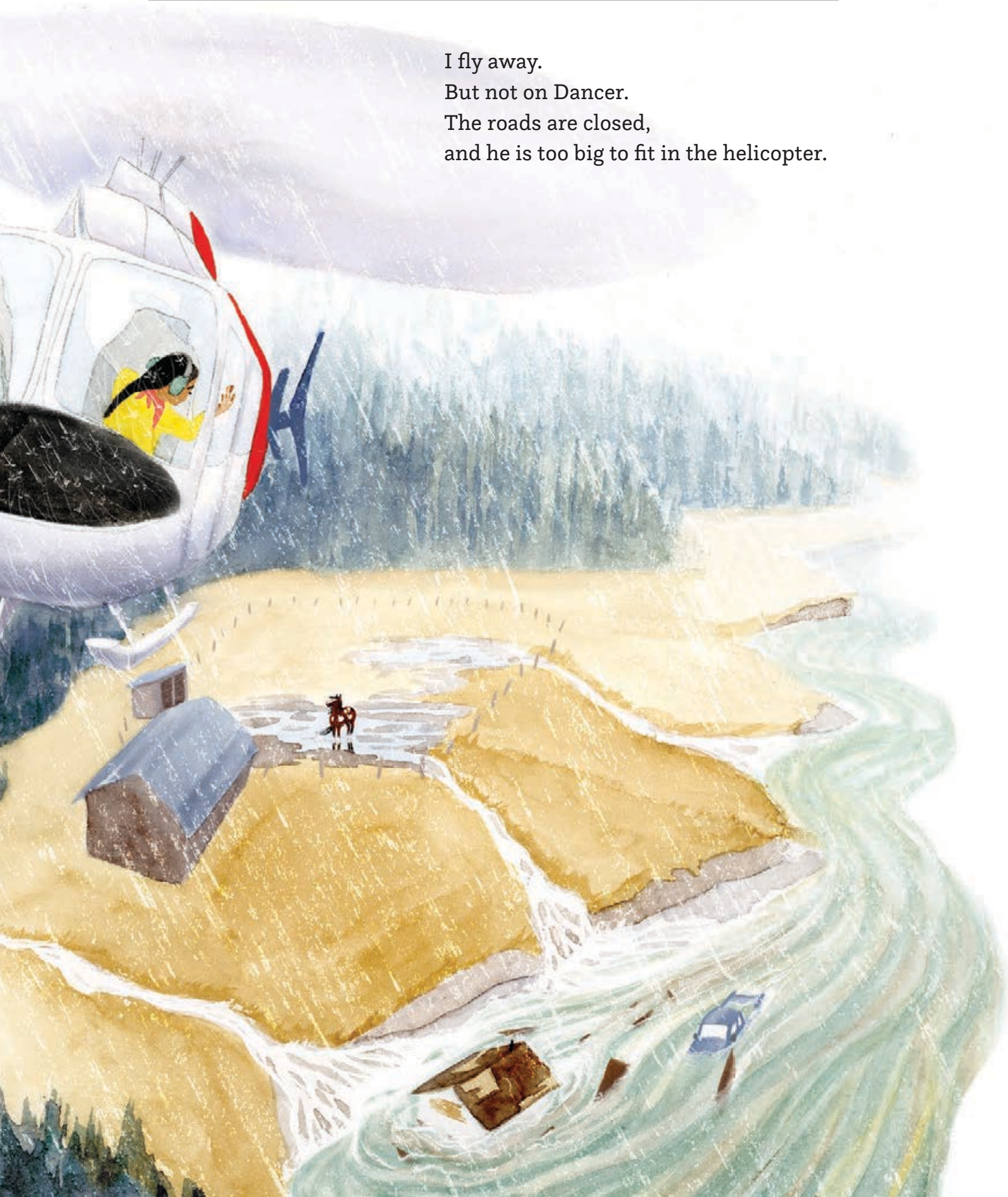
Not today, though.
Not this whole past week.

The rain falls.
And falls.



When I go out to feed Dancer, he warns me.
No happy hooves this time. He dances danger.
The river is about to flood!
My family has to leave.

I fly away.
But not on Dancer.
The roads are closed,
and he is too big to fit in the helicopter.



Everything happens so fast.
There's no time to say goodbye.

We stay at the community center
in a nearby town, with other people
who had to leave their homes.
I'm safe, but I can't sleep.
I miss my bed,
my room,
my house.

But most of all, I miss Dancer.
I think of how he saved Mom and me.
Now someone needs to save him.
But how?



Dancer helps me fly.
Maybe Dancer could fly too,
up out of the field and far from the flood.

Mom isn't sleeping either.
She squeezes my hand, and I tell her my idea.
"What if we gave Dancer wings?"





In the morning we talk to a police officer
 whose job is to protect farm animals.
 He knows how to stop cows from being stolen...
 but he doesn't know how to make a horse fly.
 My stomach feels like a popped balloon.

Then he scratches his chin and adds,
 "Though I know someone who might."

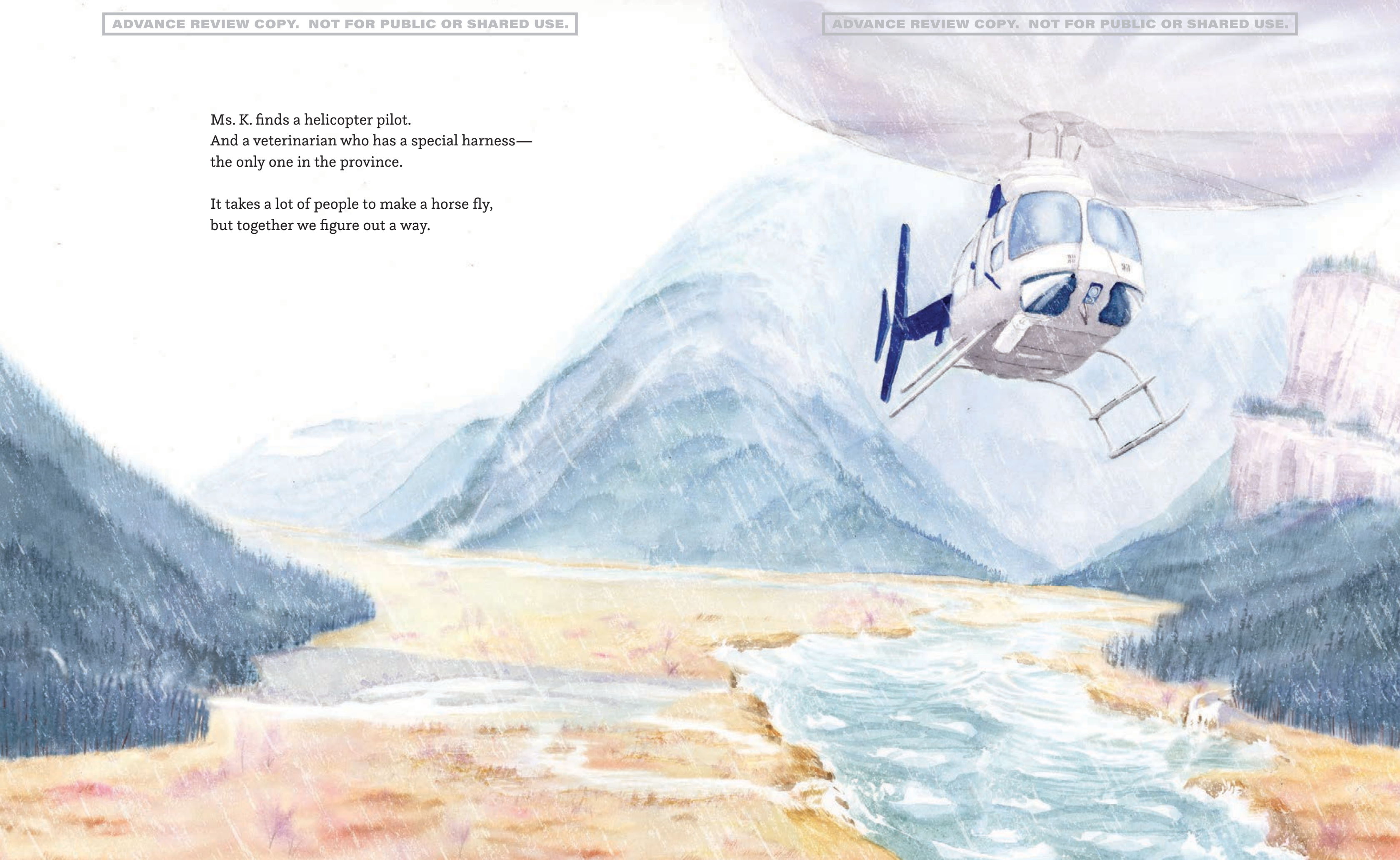
We call a woman named Ms. K.
 She helps horses when they are in trouble.
 I ask if she can help Dancer.
 My fingers are crossed so tight they hurt.


"The rain may be unstoppable," Ms. K. says.
 "But so am I!"
 I hear a smile in her voice.



Ms. K. finds a helicopter pilot.
And a veterinarian who has a special harness—
the only one in the province.

It takes a lot of people to make a horse fly,
but together we figure out a way.

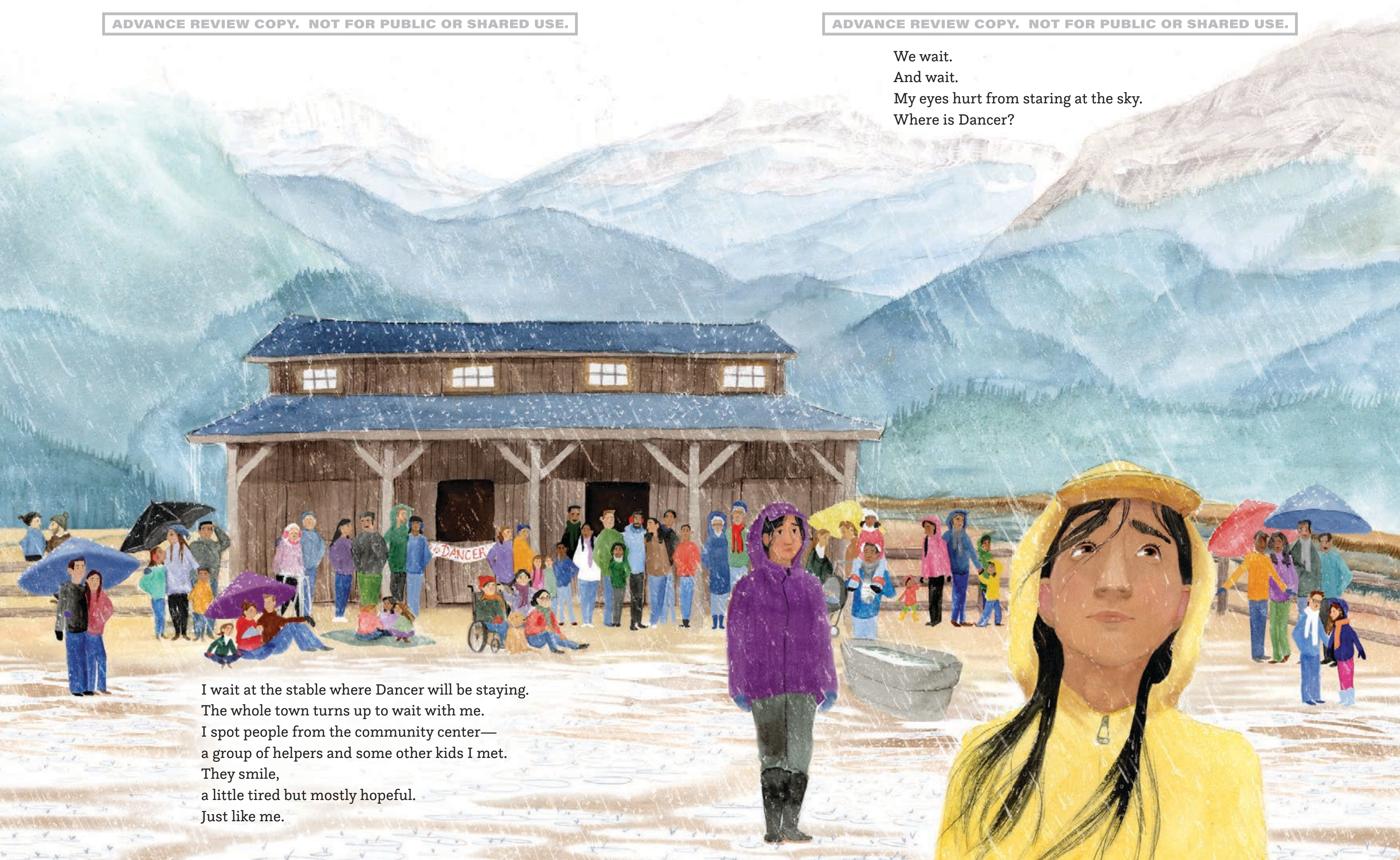


An illustration of a helicopter cockpit. A pilot with brown hair and a blue jacket is seated in the left seat, wearing a headset and looking out the window. A woman with white hair and glasses is seated in the right seat, looking towards the pilot. A young girl with black hair, wearing a yellow raincoat and red gloves, is standing in the cabin, looking at the pilot. The cockpit has two large green seats, a central console with dials, and windows showing a snowy mountain landscape. A yellow and black striped life preserver is on the floor in the foreground.

Finally there is a
break in the rain.
I am excited
and scared.
I wish I could go,
but I'm not allowed
in the helicopter.

I give Ms. K. special instructions.
And my bandanna.

We wait.
And wait.
My eyes hurt from staring at the sky.
Where is Dancer?



I wait at the stable where Dancer will be staying.
The whole town turns up to wait with me.
I spot people from the community center—
a group of helpers and some other kids I met.
They smile,
a little tired but mostly hopeful.
Just like me.

I close my eyes and let my imagination soar.
I picture the helicopter taking off,
rising into the air.
Then—slowly, slowly—Dancer follows.

To start, he isn't sure,
like me the first time I rode him.
The ground called my name.

But soon, safe on his sturdy back, I flew.
Now it's Dancer's turn.
"Everything will be okay," I whisper.



I'm sure that I hear wingbeats.
I open my eyes to check.
Not wingbeats but the helicopter...
with Dancer underneath.

Peaceful.
Graceful.
All around him, sky.





Slowly, slowly, he is lowered.
His hooves tip-tap the ground,
and he lands...finally safe.
Everyone cheers, me the loudest.
Even though this isn't our home,
my family is together again.

My heart feels full.
I hug everyone who helped.
Especially Ms. K.



But I save my biggest hug
for when Dancer's free from the harness,
safe in the stable.

I wrap my arms around him
and tell him how strangers cared about him
and came together to give him wings.
And I tell him not to worry.



We will have a home again.
So many people want to help.
If we can make a horse fly, we can do anything.

Dancer nickers.
Then he nuzzles my ear...
and tells me all about the day he flew.



In November 2021, heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in the Pacific Northwest. Among news reports of roads washing out and houses and farmland being underwater, there were also stories of hope. One in particular caught my eye. It told of how strangers worked together to do something that seemed impossible—help a horse fly. That true story inspired this book.



For all those involved in the real-life rescue that inspired this book.
—T.S.

*For Mom and Dad, who introduced me to the beauty and
fragility of our natural world.*
—B.L.

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Summary: In this beautiful picture book, a storm brings flooding to a child's farm, and their family has to flee without their beloved horse, Dancer. But the child won't give up on Dancer and finds helpers in the community who get Dancer airlifted to safety.

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