

Zelda Claw and the Rain Cat

Thunder growled overhead. Zelda **crouched** in the darkness - staring. Wind **lashed** the glistening tarmac and the street lights **flickered**, casting shadows across the darkened road. Rusted dustbins rattled in the wind, fences creaked and the rain **drummed** on car roofs. Zelda shivered. Where could she escape from the **downpour**?

At that moment, Zelda sensed something crawling. It was creeping along the pavement, hugging close to the shadows and moving eerily. Silently, a **vague** shape slipped into a doorway and Zelda was sure that she had **glimpsed** the flicker of a green eye. She could just hear a low growl, even though the rain danced a thousand deaths on the pavement. Her fur prickled as she **tensed** herself. What was it?

Without thinking, Zelda ducked under a lorry and tucked herself into a space near the engine. It was still warm. She could just make out what looked like an enormous cat **pacing** through the rain, like a shadow moving silently along the rain washed pavements. Its white, needle-teeth **jutted** out of a **scarlet** mouth. Power surged through every step. Zelda flinched, crouching as still as stone.

Beneath the lorry, Zelda waited but the great rain-cat drew closer and closer. Emerald eyes **glittered** and Zelda could hear its claws scratching on the tarmac. Nearer it came until the great cat paused by the lorry's engine and sniffed. Could it smell Zelda's fear?

She could bear it no longer. Leaping out from under the lorry, Zelda shot back across the rain-swept road and leapt onto and over the wall. Landing on the other side, she paused. Alone! The rain cat had not followed but Zelda could hear it. It was a sound that seemed to tear the night in half. Zelda shuddered with relief. She was safe - for now.