

Joel drove up to the coffee shop despite the horrid conditions outside. He listened to the torrential downpour while he sent Elli a text message. It simply read "I'm here."

Her reply was even more simple: "here."

He exited his car and ran as fast as he could to limit how drenched he would become. Any other evening would have been much preferred for this rendezvous, but duty calls.

Joel could not even observe the building through the rain. The drops fell in thick white sheets and he tried to limit his exposure to them by pulling his sweater over his head. The lights of other buildings and the street lamps made it clear just how hard it was raining.

Elli met him outside the building under an overhang. She was damp, but she had obviously been covered long enough to mostly dry off.

"It's a mess out there: I almost crashed a million times." Elli said. She said this absent minded while she drained more water from her ponytail. She smiled at Joel. Joel thought her smile to be one of the most beautiful things ever. "How did you find driving over?" she asked earnestly...