

# Through the Rain

*by Stefdarin*

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*Chapter 1 of 1*

Even in the rain, love can come at first sight.

Water fell, leaving a fine mist upon her downturned head as she shuffled down the street. Her shoulders were hunched in an effort to fend off the clinging drizzle while attempting to shield her face from passersby. She never noticed the young man who stepped in her path until she was upon him.

Struggling to breathe when she hit the ground, her gaze met eyes the color of the sea. Instantly, warm hands were beneath her, lifting her and setting her back on her feet, and for the first time in a long time, she found she no longer wanted to look at the ground.

"Are you all right?" he asked with a heavy Manchester accent.

Unable to speak, she just nodded.

His smile felt like a gift, and it lit his entire face. Her hand was surrounded by warmth when she found it in his, and suddenly, the misting rain seemed to disappear. She found herself allowing her mouth to turn up slightly.

"I'm Tobias."

"E-Eileen..."

"That's a very beautiful name," he told her, causing her cheeks to color as she looked back down shyly. "I have to admit, I've been watching you."

Peering back up at him, her mouth fell open slightly. "You have? When—"

"I saw you coming down the way just there." Raising his arm, he pointed toward the corner where she had turned the bend.

Sighing in relief, Eileen replied, "Oh, I thought you meant you had been observing me for a long time."

"It was a long time. Felt like it took you forever to get here from the corner. I knew the moment you stepped onto the street I wanted to meet you. And the closer you came, the more I wanted to know."

"Go on!" she exclaimed, disbelieving.

"Eileen..."

"P-Prince. Eileen Prince."

"Eileen Prince, I knew the moment I laid my eyes on you we were meant to be together." She looked at him skeptically, and he added, "Let me prove it to you. Would you be so kind as to accompany a love-struck man to dinner?" He held his hand out to her, palm up.

Looking up at him, the beginning of a smile reached her eyes when her hand slipped neatly into his. And as they walked back down the street in the rain, fingers intertwined, she knew her life would never be the same.

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On May 22nd, ApollinaV wrote: Write about the sweet romance/courtship of Eileen Prince and Tobias Snape.

My hugs and chocolate go to Luvsev for her quick beta work. =o)