

THE STRANGER I MET

At a young age, my parents died which forced me to work for a living. Luckily, a café manager gave me a place to stay and a job as a waiter. Though I was eternally grateful, nothing special happened after that. Everyday was the same. I woke, went to work at the café, returned home and fell asleep. It felt like my life was a record on loop. Nothing changed, until the day I met **her**.

That day, it was raining heavily. The streets were empty with barely a car to be seen. The rain drowned out the sound of baking in the kitchen. At the counter, Gwen, a mother five years older than me and my co-worker, was reading one of her novels. All the table were empty, apart from one occupied by two gamers who only came for the free wi-fi. They were more of daily nuisances than customers. As I half-heartedly swept the floor, I glanced at the clock that hung above the front door. It was two o'clock, four hours before we closed. That's when **she** walked in.

The door opened, making me instinctively look up. A little girl, around eight years old, skipped inside and took a seat at the far corner. She had long brown hair and emerald, green eyes. She wore a large green jersey, and black shorts paired with a yellow rain hat and white tennis shoes. The girl seemed rather cheerful as she hummed to herself while staring out the window. She was just an average kid. I knew that. However, something made me want to talk to her. Thankfully, I had the perfect excuse.

I hurriedly placed the broom in the closet. Pacing to her table, I pulled out my pen and notebook, ready to get her order. I was my perfect excuse. She asked for a chocolate bun. After giving Gwen the order, I sat down with the kid and made conversation. All I asked for was her name. Instead, she told me everything about herself. She loved singing; she hated dogs; she was seven years old; she lived far away. The girl basically recited an entire autobiography. She even sang a bunch of random ridiculous songs before leaving with her bun. After the chatterbox finally left, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. Though she was rather loud, she definitely livened up the place.

She never answered my question.