

A Serendipitous Encounter

It was a rainy evening when Maya dashed into the nearest bookstore to escape the sudden downpour. She shook the raindrops from her jacket and wandered through the aisles, running her fingers along the spines of well-loved novels.

As she reached for a copy of *Pride and Prejudice*, her hand brushed against someone else's. She looked up, startled, into the warm brown eyes of a stranger. He chuckled. "Guess we both have good taste in books," he said.

Maya smiled. "Looks like it."

They started talking—first about Austen, then about favorite authors, childhood dreams, and places they'd love to visit. The rain continued to pour outside, but inside, time seemed to stand still.

An hour later, the storm had passed, and they stepped out together. "I'm Daniel, by the way," he said. "Would you maybe want to grab coffee sometime?"

Maya hesitated for just a second before nodding. "I'd love that."

And just like that, in a tiny bookstore on a rainy evening, a love story began.