

Spring Showers

(or Love under the Umbrella)

Choi Su-Wan was the middle child. Although they were poor, the family lived happily together under one roof. The story started off with the family having a celebration dinner for Su-Wan who will be starting university soon. The whole family was proud of Su-Wan as she was the first to get into university. The celebration went on into the night.

When Su-Wan woke up the next day, she saw that it was raining. As it was the first day of university, Su-Wan took her favourite umbrella for luck. Su-Wan's first day went well and she made some friends. Soon she got into the routine of university life.

One day, while hurrying to her next class, Su-Wan bumped into the tae-kwan-do star of the university, Kim Ji-Hoon. Their notes scattered all over the floor. Su-Wan quickly gathered up her notes while apologizing profusely. Ji-Hoon replied, "If your eyes see as much as your mouth talked, you will not bump into things." Su-Wan was put off by his arrogant attitude but before she could come back with a retort, Ji-Hoon had walked off.

In class, Su-Wan discovered that in her hurry, she had taken Ji-Hoon's notes by mistake. Immediately after class, she went to look for Ji-Hoon. She waited outside Ji-Hoon's classroom but Ji-Hoon was not among the stream of students who exit the classroom. Young-Hoon, Ji-Hoon's friend, told Su-Wan where to find Ji-Hoon.

Su-Wan went to look for Ji-Hoon at his favourite corner of the campus and found him in a fight with some guys. Suddenly someone shouted that the teachers were coming and the crowd and fighters started to scatter. Seeing Ji-Hoon escaping (with her notes), Su-Wan quickly grabbed hold of him. Ji-Hoon tried to pry Su-Wan's hands away from his jacket but she wouldn't let go until he returned her the notes.

As a result, both of them were caught and hauled to the principal's office. Su-Wan was worried about getting a black mark and imagined herself years later being penniless and looking for food in the rubbish bins. Ji-Hoon, on the other hand, was not bothered at all. They quarreled with Su-Wan blaming her predicament on Ji-Hoon. Luckily for the duo, the principal let them off after a lengthy lecture.

Su-Wan was so angry about what happened that she could not fall asleep and ended up oversleeping. She went the bathroom and got a shock when she saw Ji-Hoon bathing inside. She screamed.

After the dust settled, it was explained that Ji-Hoon went jogging in the morning and saw a thief steal Su-Wan's mother's purse. Ji-Hoon chased and caught the thief. However during the chase, he got muddy and tore his shirt. So Su-Wan's mother invited him home to take a bath and mend his shirt.

Over the breakfast table, Su-Wan had to be nice and polite to Ji-Hoon in front of her mother. Once her mother was not around, the duo exchanged sarcastic remarks. Not

knowing the feud between the two, her mother asked Su-Wan to sew the hole in Ji-Hoon's shirt. Su-Wan was exasperated while Ji-Hoon was tickled by the situation.

It was raining when Ji-Hoon left Su-Wan's house so her mother got Su-Wan to shelter Ji-Hoon to the bus stop. Su-Wan took her favourite umbrella. Ji-Hoon asked her to use another umbrella as it was covered with cartoon characters and Ji-Hoon felt embarrassed to be seen using it. Su-Wan refused.

They walked in silence. Suddenly Ji-Hoon was attacked by yesterday's enemies. Seeing that he was outnumbered, Ji-Hoon grabbed Su-Wan's hand and ran. In the process, Su-Wan lost her umbrella. After they had successfully escaped from the pursuers, Su-Wan scolded Ji-Hoon for giving her nothing but trouble. She was very upset about the loss of her umbrella.

Few days later, Ji-Hoon handed Su-Wan her umbrella, claiming that he found it. However Su-Wan knew that it was not her umbrella as her umbrella had a girly charm hanging from the handle. She scolded Ji-Hoon, saying that although she is poor, she has feelings for her belongings; unlike rich people (like Ji-Hoon), who just buy and discard. Then she ran off crying.

After he realized that the umbrella meant a lot to Su-Wan, Ji-Hoon went back to the site to look for it. He finally found it in the ditch, dirty but still in good condition. Not looking forward to another scolding from Su-Wan, Ji-Hoon passed the umbrella to Young-Hoon and asked him to return the umbrella to Su-Wan. Su-Wan was delighted and wanted to treat Young-Hoon to a meal one day as a way of thanks. Young-Hoon kept quiet about Ji-Hoon's part in recovering the umbrella. That night, while looking at her umbrella, Su-Wan was reminded of a little boy from her past.

Flashback begins

Su-Wan's father died when she was just a little girl. At the cemetery, she ran away and got lost. It started to rain and feeling scared and lonely, she cried. A boy appeared carrying an umbrella covering with cartoon characters. He saw Su-Wan and stood beside her, sheltering her with his umbrella until the rain stopped. Then because she was still crying, he gave her his umbrella as a present.

Flashback ends

Back at the university, Su-Wan was confronted by Jung-Suh, a rich girl and also Ji-Hoon's fiancée, about seeing Ji-Hoon exiting from Su-Wan's house. Su-Wan tried to explain the situation but Jung-Suh didn't believe her. To help Su-Wan, Young-Hoon lied that Su-Wan was his girlfriend.

That night, Young-Hoon and Su-Wan went for dinner together (Su-Wan's treat to Young-Hoon for recovering her umbrella). They bumped into Ji-Hoon at the same restaurant and Young-Hoon invited Ji-Hoon to join them. However Ji-Hoon and Su-Wan

kept bickering and challenged each other to a drinking match. Su-Wan got drunk and Ji-Hoon had to send her home.

Su-Wan woke up the next day and found Ji-Hoon sleeping beside her. She screamed and started throwing things at him. Ji-Hoon tried to calm Su-Wan down but was hit on the head by a hairdryer thrown by Su-Wan. Su-Wan managed to chase him out of the house. Later her mother told her that Ji-Hoon took care of her the whole night after she kept vomiting.

Feeling remorseful, Su-Wan baked some cakes and gave them to Ji-Hoon. Jung-Suh spotted them and flew into a jealous rage. While trying to protect Su-Wan, Ji-Hoon slapped Jung-Suh, causing her to run away in tears. Su-Wan wanted to run after Jung-Suh but Ji-Hoon held her back. Instead, he dragged Su-Wan off to a park when they had a picnic with the cakes Su-Wan baked. Su-Wan was puzzled as Ji-Hoon did not seem concerned about his fiancée. Ji-Hoon revealed that the marriage was arranged by his parents and he did not love Jung-Suh at all.

When Ji-Hoon got home, he found his father waiting for him. His father was very angry for the way Ji-Hoon treated Jung-Suh and scolded him. Father and son quarreled. Ji-Hoon's father gave him an ultimatum: he will disown Ji-Hoon if he did not marry Jung-Suh as agreed. Ji-Hoon angrily packed his bags and left to stay with his grandmother.

The next day, Jung-Suh made things difficult for Su-Wan. Together with her friends, she ambushed Su-Wan in a crowded corridor and accused her loudly of seducing Ji-Hoon and eyeing his money. Su-Wan felt very embarrassed and did not know how to react. Luckily Young-Hoon came by and rescued Su-Wan.

Later, Ji-Hoon angrily barged into the classroom where Jung-Suh was having lessons. He had heard about what happened from Young-Hoon. Ji-Hoon dragged Jung-Suh out from her seat and scolded her in front of the whole class. Jung-Suh countered by asking that if Su-Wan was just a friend, why was he so anxious about her? Ji-Hoon was stumped.

After the incident, everyone on the campus started gossiping about the relationship between Ji-Hoon and Su-Wan. Su-Wan was uncomfortable being in the limelight. She felt awkward when she bumped into Ji-Hoon on the campus and tried to avoid him. Ji-Hoon saw through it and took delight in purposely crossing paths with Su-Wan.

While helping his grandmother to clean up the attic, Ji-Hoon came across an old photo album. One of the photos inside was of him when he was a little boy visiting his grandfather's grave. Ji-Hoon noticed that he was holding an umbrella which looked the same as Su-Wan's favourite umbrella. He thought it was interesting and decided to show the photo to Su-Wan.

Ji-Hoon, together with Young-Hoon, tried to look for Su-Wan on the campus. Then Ji-Hoon spotted the principal who was looking for him to punish him for skipping classes so he ran off. He did not notice that he dropped the photo. Young-Hoon picked it up just as

Su-Wan passed by. She recognized the boy in the photo and thought Young-Hoon was her childhood puppy love. Young-Hoon felt guilty but did not correct her.

Meanwhile, Ji-Hoon was finally caught by the principal who lectured him on his poor grades. The principal warned that if Ji-Hoon did not pass the next exam, he will not be able to participate in the national tae-kwan-do competition. The principal decided to get the student with the best grades to tutor Ji-Hoon. Ji-Hoon resisted until he discovered that Su-Wan will be his tutor.

Jung-Suh was unhappy with the arrangement but she could not do anything about it. Ji-Hoon looked forward to his tuition sessions. The more Su-Wan tried to maintain a professional distance from him, the more he delighted in teasing her. Ji-Hoon's grandmother could see that the two liked each other even though they both denied it.

Ji-Hoon passed the next exam and happily went to look for Su-Wan to celebrate. He spotted Su-Wan talking Young-Hoon and overheard Young-Hoon asking her to be his girlfriend. Ji-Hoon was very upset and quietly slipped away. He went drinking, got into a fight and was thrown out of the pub.

Su-Wan saw him on lying on the street and tried to bring him home. As Ji-Hoon had difficulty standing up, Su-Wan tried to carry him on her back. Ji-Hoon hugged her from behind and confessed that he liked her. Su-Wan was stunned and felt confused about her own emotions.

The next day, Ji-Hoon acted as if nothing happened the previous night. It upset Su-Wan, even though she did not know why. Su-Wan was highly distracted the whole day in class.

When she got home, she found Ji-Hoon's father waiting for her. He learnt about her from Jung-Suh and came to ask her to leave Ji-Hoon alone and not spoil his future. He handed Su-Wan a blank cheque. Su-Wan's elder sister was very angry and threw the cheque back into the father's face. The elder sister said that even though they were poor, they had backbone and Su-Wan was not eyeing his money. Then she asked the father to get out of the house.

After the father was gone, the rest of the family asked Su-Wan if she liked Ji-Hoon. Su-Wan replied that she did not know. She felt confused about the whole thing.

Meanwhile, Ji-Hoon's father went to the grandmother's house to try and persuade Ji-Hoon to break up with Su-Wan. Ji-Hoon was at training and the father had a long talk with the grandmother instead. The grandmother made the father realized his mistake in trying to force the marriage.

With the national tae-kwan-do competition drawing near, Ji-Hoon remained listless and unenthusiastic during training. Young-Hoon had an idea what was troubling his friend. He went to look for Su-Wan, who was sitting listlessly in the park, trying to sort out her feelings. Before Young-Hoon opened his mouth, Su-Wan blurted out that she was sorry

that she could not be his girlfriend as she liked someone else. Young-Hoon smiled in understanding.

At Young-Hoon's urging, Su-Wan left to look for Ji-Hoon. She spotted him across the road and ran towards him, not noticing that a vehicle was speeding towards her. Ji-Hoon managed to push her to safety but he was knocked down.

At the hospital, Jung-Suh tried to prevent Su-Wan from seeing Ji-Hoon. Failing to stop her, Jung-Suh slipped a ring on the unconscious Ji-Hoon's finger and claimed that they were going to get married in a few months time. Then she blamed Su-Wan for being the reason Ji-Hoon was injured. Feeling guilty and heartbroken, Su-Wan slipped away before Ji-Hoon woke up.

Ji-Hoon managed to recover in time for the competition. He had not seen Su-Wan since the accident and kept looking out for her during the competition. Finally he spotted her in the audience. Ji-Hoon went on to beat his opponent and became the national champion. Su-Wan quietly slipped away after the competition.

Due to his outstanding performance, Ji-Hoon was selected for special training overseas. Young-Hoon informed Su-Wan that Ji-Hoon will be gone for a few years and urged her to send him off. Ji-Hoon waited at the airport for Su-Wan but she did not appear. A light drizzle began to fall as his plane took off. Beyond the airport fence, a lone woman carrying an umbrella covered in cartoon characters watched the plane disappeared into the sky.

3 years passed...

Ji-Hoon trained hard and became a whole-class tae-kwan-do player.

Su-Wan had also graduated and worked as a writer for a magazine.

One day at work, she saw a picture of Ji-Hoon in an article announcing his recent win at an international competition. She looked at his photo and thought back to their university days. A female colleague walked past and teased Su-Wan about staring at the handsome hunk. Su-Wan immediately protested and started listing out all his faults and reasons why he is not handsome. But when nobody was around to see, Su-Wan cut out the article and kept it in a drawer with other articles about Ji-Hoon.

It was raining when Su-Wan ended work, She discovered that she forgot to bring her umbrella when she reached the ground floor. As she was wondering how to get home, she noticed a familiar-looking umbrella opposite. Underneath the umbrella stood Ji-Hoon, grinning at her like he used to do.

Filled with joy, Su-Wan ran towards Ji-Hoon. They hugged and lived happily ever after.

The End