

Short Story: Overall Feedback

Dear Brett,

Strengths

- Really loved the mood you evoked throughout the piece, doing so by means of physical events, e.g. the growing storm. You did a wonderful job of varying your descriptions of weather and using them to create emotion (rather than telling us what the protagonist M. was feeling). It was simultaneously gloomy and beautiful, which is really what rain and storms are! I felt, too, as if you had first-hand experience with bad storms. The flashback scenes in the hospital were convincing.
- I liked the tension you created, even in brief but significant events like the cellphone miscommunications and ominous weather forecasts.
- The transitions between present time and flashbacks were done skillfully and well-placed.
- I did like the ending, which presented the possibility of change for M.

Possible areas for revision

- The only major area that needs improvement is to sufficiently prepare readers for the revelation in X.'s journal. (See comments on page 9)
- For further polishing, you might speed up events on page 1 so that readers are given a sense of conflict, tension, or danger right off the bat.
- The last few sentences were slightly confusing, but one might argue that it's a natural consequence of the abrupt jolt from a very vivid dream. These sentences may or may not need revision to ease the transition. Will have to think on them further.

Closing comments

Overall, it was an engaging story. I thought there was a subtle parallel between the physical storm and the relational conflict between M. and X.

Feel free to ask further questions. Thanks for a chance to read your story!