

Looking at Paris in this light made the city that much more beautiful to Samantha. The promise of twilight set everything to twinkle softly in the evening mist. Cool moist air kissed her skin while she watched café patrons sip wine and coffee. Hermes and Gucci winked up at her from the shopping bags at their feet. Samantha sighed. She watched the lights come up in the shops and restaurants, the streetlights exhaling golden light. All of it reflected on the streets, wet from a recent rainfall. Samantha breathed deeply.

Her gaze wandered to a couple walking hand in hand, the woman's head coming to rest on her lover's shoulder when they stopped. Samantha peered at them as they turned towards each other, meeting in an embrace. "Ah, romance!" Sam thought.

"What did you say?" came a voice from nearby.

"Sorry?" Samantha asked, looking around the room, as if for the first time. She saw the man seated across from her and wondered again why she'd agreed to yet another blind date.

"You said something about romance." He reminded.

"Oh, sorry, I didn't realize..." but he cut her off.

"No problem, I was telling you about my company softball team..." he started talking once more, but Samantha was gone again. Her eyes traveling back to the painting behind his head. *Paris looks so lovely in this light.*