

Stepping out of her house, Vex reached out and caught the droplets from the sky. Perfect weather for a walk, she thought to herself. Better than anything else they got in this climate. She stepped out into the pathway and began her usual circuit around town, pondering the ripples in the puddles as she walked by. The rain always calmed her nerves. The gentle pitter-patter could quell the most debilitating anxiety, they'd say. She read that in a book once, on a rainy day just like this.

She'd take these walks after a long bout of endeavoring in her study. Her friend would tell her to get air more often, get out more, and take in some sun. Vex hated the sun. She'd sooner walk in a blizzard than let the sun's rays disgrace her skin. A walk on a rainy, cloudy day was more than a happy medium; she had even come to enjoy them. Not that she'd admit it, of course.

Taking a quick glance around to make sure she was alone, Vex took a bit of a running jump and splashed in a puddle. There. Now, no one could say she didn't have any joy left in her heart. Not that any of these simpletons knew what joy really came from. Joy was knowledge, things waiting to be discovered, those tantalizing unsolved equations... Taking breaks was fine, warranted even. But she was always eager to jump right back into her studies.

She gave the puddle another kick for good measure.

"If the only way to get you off my back is to pretend to be helped by you, so be it," she said, not that the true recipient was there to receive her words.

She mentally checked it off the list. Dancing had also been suggested, and definitely would not be happening. With the circuit complete, she stepped back inside her house.