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Queen, Ice Rink, and Heavy Rain

by Maura Gage Cavell

Queen played over the loudspeakers
in the hallways of her high school
on the days of football games.

The same music followed her
to the ice rink where she took
her boyfriend's hand as they

went around the rink; at "time's up,"
the workers blew a whistle
and cleared the ice for the next

group of kids who'd paid to skate.
They'd go to the lockers to get their
shoes and return their rented shoes.

Hot chocolate warmed them up again
before they walked around the mall
and called a parent or older sibling

to come get them. They'd stand
around whichever entrance
they were directed to by their ride,

listening to Queen playing
over distant loudspeakers
and watching the heavy sheets of rain.

