**Classroom**

Morning class is alright today, and I manage to pay attention through at least half of it. Regardless, I still feel a sense of relief when she dismisses us for lunch.

Asher (neutral cheerful): That wasn’t too bad, huh?

Pro: Yeah.

Teacher (arms\_crossed thinking):

Asher (neutral curious):

Suddenly Ms. Tran appears in front of us.

Teacher: …

A bit of anxiety shoots through me, causing my heart to nervously flutter. I don’t remember doing anything wrong today, but maybe I forgot something…?

Pro: Um, can we help you?

Teacher: Hmm…

Teacher: I’m trying to decide which one of you I should force to do my responsibilities for me.

Teacher (neutral curious):

Pro: It was me last time.

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous):

Teacher (neutral neutral): Oh, that’s right. Alright Asher, could you go talk to the teacher in 1A? They’re putting up posters, or something.

Asher (neutral sigh): Huh…

Asher (neutral neutral): Alright, sure.

Asher (waving neutral): I guess I’ll see you later then, Pro.

Asher (exit):

He gets up and leaves, and I turn to Ms. Tran.

Teacher (neutral curious):

Pro: Your responsibilities?

Teacher (neutral neutral): I work harder than you guys, you know. If I had to put up posters, I’d have to give up either eating or smoking. I wouldn’t have time for both.

Teacher (neutral winking): So keep helping me out, okay?

Teacher (exit):

I sigh as she leaves, presumably to eat and smoke. I guess adults are pretty faithful to their desires too.

Realizing that I now have nothing to do, I get up and stretch, deciding to leave the classroom as well. Eating lunch alone is a little uncomfortable, especially when everyone else has company.

**Stairwell**

When I’m by myself, I usually go to this one stairwell. It’s at one of the ends of the school, so people rarely go there, and it has a window that provides natural light and lets one look over the school grounds.

However, today it seems to be occupied.

Lilith (neutral neutral): …

Lilith: It’s you again.

Lilith sits on one of the stairs, midway through unpacking her lunch. She looks at me curiously, no doubt wondering why I’m in this secluded area.

Pro: Oh, hi.

Lilith (neutral curious): Are you here to eat lunch, too?

Pro: Yeah, um…

Pro: Should I leave?

Lilith (neutral neutral): It’s fine. Stay.

Pro: Oh, okay.

I sit down a few steps above Lilith, and we quietly start to eat.

Lilith (neutral curious): Do you eat here often?

Lilith’s question startles me, and I almost choke on my food.

Pro: Only when I have nothing to do. Or more like whenever Asher’s busy.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I see.

Lilith: I come here whenever I don’t really feel like talking to other people.

Pro: Oh, I see.

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly):

I fidget uncomfortably, debating on whether or not I should leave after all. However, Lilith realizes the implications of her statement and corrects herself.

Lilith: It’s alright, don’t worry. Talking to my classmates.

Pro: Oh.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

As we continue to eat, I occasionally glance at Lilith, thinking about Asher’s take on her. She certainly does seem like she isn’t very talkative, but I have a hard time believing that she’d downright cold-shoulder someone as friendly as he is.

Lilith (neutral curious):

All of a sudden, the door into the stairwell above us opens, and when I check who it is it turns out to be Asher, holding a stack of paper. Speak of the devil.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Asher (neutral neutral) : Oh, Pro. And…

He looks at Lilith, who stares back.

Asher (neutral nervous): Hi, Lilith.

Lilith: …

Lilith (neutral expressionless):

Asher (downcast downcast):

Lilith turns back around and continues her meal.

Lilith: Hi.

Prim (shy shy):

A small figure trails after Asher, presumably to help him put up posters.

Prim (waving shy): Hi.

She looks back and forth between me and Lilith curiously, probably wondering why the two of us are together.

Prim (shy embarrassed):

Pro: Oh, hey Prim.

Asher (downcast embarrassed): Didn’t expect to run into you guys, especially here.

Prim (shy shy):

Pro: Yeah.

Asher (downcast neutral): …

Asher: Well, we still have a lot to do, so we should probably get going. See you in class, then.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

Asher (exit):

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Asher and Prim shuffle down the stairs, and before they leave Prim looks at me one last time.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Prim (waving shy): Bye, Pro.

Prim (exit):

Lilith (neutral curious):

After they’re gone, Lilith turns around and looks at me inquiringly.

Lilith: That was Prim, right? Do you know her?

Pro: Oh, yeah. We’ve seen each other around a few times.

Lilith (neutral interested): I see. You surprisingly know a lot of people.

Pro: Ah, not really.

Not wanting to talk any more about my social life, I try to change the topic.

Lilith (neutral curious):

Pro: By the way, how’s baseball?

Lilith: It’s good. I think we’ll do well this year.

Pro: Oh, that’s good.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Remembering that I know almost nothing about baseball, I rack my brain, searching for something to say. However, Lilith spares me the trouble and stands up, apparently finished with her lunch.

Lilith (stretching stretching): Well, I think I’ll head back to class now.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): See you.

Lilith (exit):

I watch as she goes down the stairs and exits the stairwell, eventually disappearing from sight. Even though it was a little awkward, I enjoyed eating lunch with Lilith quite a bit, and I can’t help but feel a little disappointed that it’s over.

She said that she comes here sometimes to eat, although I’ve never seen her. Maybe I’ll ditch Asher to check if she’s here sometimes.

As if. I smile in embarrassment as I pack up my lunch and stretch.

Well, I guess I should probably head back to class as well.