**Grocery Store**

We head to the grocery store which, fortunately, isn’t too far from the music store.

Prim (shy shy):

Pro: What do you need to get?

Prim: Just fruit.

Pro: I see.

Pro: I just need to buy eggs, so this trip should be quick.

The fresh produce and fruits section is located right near the entrance, and I point towards it when we enter the store.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Let’s get your stuff first.

Prim (shy shy): Okay.

Prim grabs a couple plastic bags and starts to pick out some apples, carefully deciding which ones to take.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: They’re all lined up so neatly...

Pro: I could never have the patience to do that.

Pro: It’s so...

Prim (shy confused): Tedious?

Pro: Yeah, that’s right.

Prim (shy hehe):

I’m rewarded with one of Prim’s rare laughs.

Prim (shy smiling): Maybe. But I think…

Prim (shy thinking): ...

Prim (shy neutral): I think it can be really satisfying when you finish. Even though it’s slow.

Pro: Oh, true. I never thought of that.

She inspects her bag of apples and, apparently satisfied, ties it up. Then we make our way over to the peaches. Like before, she carefully picks out the best ones.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: How do you decide which ones to take? I can never get the hang of it.

Prim (shy down): Um…

Prim (shy thinking): There’s a lot of things, like size, shape, colour…

Prim (shy shy): It just takes practice, I guess.

Pro: Practice, huh?

Prim (shy confused):

She looks at me, looking a little confused.

Pro: How much do you practice every day? Piano.

Prim (shy down): Um…

Prim: I’m not too sure.

Prim (shy shy): It varies, I guess.

Prim: Some weeks, I don’t feel like it, so I only practice a couple hours a day.

Only a couple…?

Prim (shy earnest): But if I get into it, I zone out and practice for a really long time.

Pro: Really?

Prim (shy shy):

Prim nods.

Prim (shy down): Um...

Prim (shy shy): This one time I was learning a new piece.

Prim (shy hehe): And I practiced for five hours straight...

Pro: Five…?

Prim: ...and forgot to do my homework.

Prim (shy shy):

I stare at her, my surprise most certainly etched onto my face.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

She glances at me worriedly, possibly wondering if she should stare back.

Prim: Um—

Prim (shy eek):

But before she can say anything, I start laughing.

Pro: That’s incredible.

Prim (shy sigh):

Pro: You’re really something else, huh?

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed):

I can feel my voice shaking with laughter, and Prim’s smile returns.

Prim: I guess.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Did you plan on practicing for five hours?

Prim: Oh, um...

Prim (shy embarrassed): I just didn’t look at the time.

Prim (shy shy): I had too much fun learning the piece...

Pro: That’s honestly impressive. In a good way.

Prim (shy smiling): Thanks.

I think I can see the amusement in her eyes.

Prim (shy thinking): Maybe you should try playing something.

I shrug with an equally amused smile.

Pro: I don’t think I could practice nearly as much. Maybe, though.

Prim (shy disappointed): Oh, I see.

Prim (shy thinking): ...

Prim (shy neutral): I think I have enough peaches.

Pro: I guess we’ll go get eggs, then.

Prim: Yeah.

We walk over to the back of the store, passing by a yellow “CAUTION: Wet floor” sign propped up on the floor.

Prim (shy bambi):

I catch Prim eyeing the snacks aisle as we pass by.

Prim (shy eek):

Pro: Yeah, going to this section of the store is always difficult.

Prim (shy embarrassed\_blushing): ...

Pro: I have a friend who loves snacks too. Especially ice cream.

Pro: Wanna get something?

Prim (shy down\_blushing): Um, no, it’s okay…

Pro: Oh alright.

Prim (shy embarrassed\_blushing):

Pro: Good for you. Showing self-restraint like—

Prim (surprise surprise):

One of my feet slips across the floor tile, sliding and carrying my body with me. My heart jumps into my throat as I lurch sideways, about to crash into the ground.

Prim: Pro—

At the last second, I swing back upright, regaining my balance and swaying to a stop.

Pro: …

Pro: Safe…

Prim (shy sigh):

I start to laugh while Prim sighs in relief.

Prim: That was close…

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Pro: And way too scary.

Pro: That may have cost me five years of my life.

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): Um… me too. Just from watching.

Prim (shy hehe):

We continue laughing the incident off as I get a carton of eggs before we both make our way over to the checkout counter.

Prim (shy neutral):

I’ve noticed how even though Prim still seems hesitant to make jokes or bring up topics by herself, our conversations have become warmer and more comfortable. Not as comfortable as my conversations with Mara, but still better than before.

At the very least, it seems like she doesn’t mind spending time with me.

And I don’t mind spending time with her, either.

**Shopping District**

Once we pay and exit the store, Prim turns towards me.

Prim (shy shy): Thanks for coming with me.

Prim: I, um…

Prim (shy down): …

Prim (shy embarrassed): ...had fun.

Pro: Yeah, same.

Pro: Thanks for letting me tag along.

Prim (shy bambi): You’re welcome.

Prim (shy down):

She turns around to leave, murmuring something so softly that I’m just barely able to make out a few words.

Prim: ...right person...

Pro: What?

Prim (shy eek): …!

Prim (shy embarrassed): Um, it’s nothing.

Pro: Oh, okay.

Prim (waving smiling\_eyes\_closed): Anyways, see you later.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

Prim (exit):

She smiles and gives me a small wave goodbye before heading down the road. After watching her leave, I walk home too, going the opposite direction.

I wonder what that was all about.