**Intersection 1**

My head filled with thoughts of Prim, I almost forget about my arrangement with Mara. Thankfully, by the time I reach the intersection she’s already there.

Mara (neutral smiling): Hey.

Mara (neutral neutral): …

Mara: You look… really out of it. Did something happen?

Mara (neutral skeptical):

I slowly nod, and Mara eyes me with suspicion.

Mara: Hmm…

Mara (neutral fufu): Which one was it? The blonde? Or the quiet one?

Pro: The quiet one.

Mara (neutral pensive): Oh, I see.

Mara: …

Mara (surprise surprise): HUH!?!?

Mara: Actually!?!? What happened!?!?

Mara (excited earnest):

I tell her about how Prim asked me to meet her behind the school, and how, after a really awkward exchange, she asked me to go with her to practice.

Mara (neutral surprise): Wow…

Mara (neutral thinking): That’s a surprise. Why’d she ask you to go with her to her practice though? Wouldn’t that be a little boring for you?

Pro: I dunno.

Mara: Hmm…

Mara (neutral happy): Well anyways, congratulations! I’m so proud of you!

Mara (neutral pensive): It’s been so long, and never once have I heard of a girl who was remotely interested in you…

Pro: That’s partly your fault, you know…

Mara (neutral thinking): Is it?

Mara: …

Mara (neutral neutral): Oh, I guess it is.

Mara (neutral hehe): Hehe.

I sigh. Since we were always together, people always assumed we were an item. To be fair, probably no one was interested in me anyway, but there were many times I had to endure the harsh glares and insults of Mara’s admirers.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: So? What are we doing?

Mara: I was thinking we could go to a café, but because of this new development…

Mara (excited earnest): Let’s go to your place and pick what you’re gonna wear tomorrow.

Pro: Pick what I’m gonna wear…?

Mara: Yup.

Pro: Are you sure you don’t wanna do anything else?

Mara: Yup.

Pro: You sure…?

Mara: Yup.

As always, it looks like I won’t be able to escape…

Pro: Mmm, that’s fine I guess.

Mara (excited excited): Can we have instant noodles for lunch?

Pro: Yeah, sure.

Mara (yay yay): Yay!

Mara (neutral smiling):

We start to walk to my house, and the entire way Mara asks me questions about Prim. The more she asks, the more I realize how little I actually know. Apart from music, what are the things Prim likes? Dislikes? What’s her family like? Does she have any siblings?

I guess it’s pretty normal to not know much about someone at first, but as Mara and I continue on I start to get more curious, and I find that I’m starting to get excited for tomorrow. Maybe even a little impatient.

Mara (neutral wishful):

However, all of a sudden Mara stops, examining my face with an expression I can’t describe.

Pro: What’s up?

Mara: …

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Nothing. Let’s go, okay?

**Bedroom**

Pro: What do you mean no?

Mara (arms\_crossed lecturing): If you wear that tomorrow, you’ll look like a slob.

Pro: That’s my favourite hoodie…

Mara: Well it won’t do.

Mara (excited earnest): Prim’s really cute, so what will you do if she wears something cute and stylish and you show up in…

Mara (excited geh):

Mara gives my beloved hoodie a distasteful look.

Mara: …that.

Pro: Alright, alright I get it.

Mara (neutral thinking):

Mara rummages through my closet, desperately looking for anything that could be considered anything near trendy.

Mara (neutral frowning): Don’t you have anything? I have to go home soon…

Mara (excited ouch): Ah, there’s no time!

Pro: I wonder whose fault that is. Certainly not the person who refused to stop playing video games until she won, right?

Mara (excited geh): Geh…

Mara (neutral nervous): Well, that’s beside the point, right? C’mon, let’s find you something to wear. Quickly, okay?

After eating a quick lunch, Mara decided that she wanted to play video games, since we haven’t played them together since middle school. We picked a fighting game that she used to really enjoy and after a few warm-up rounds our competitive sides started to come out.

However, Mara doesn’t play video games at home, and even though she was surprisingly good for someone who hadn’t played in over a year I still won every round.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: You know, if you want you can take the console and game home. I don’t really play anymore.

Mara (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Mara (neutral neutral): Thanks, but I think I’ll pass. I’d feel kinda guilty.

Mara: And also…

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): I don’t think I’d enjoy it nearly as much if I played at home, you know?

Pro: Ah.

Oh, that’s right. Unlike mine, Mara’s parents are still together, but barely so.

Pro: Sorry.

Mara: It’s fine, don’t worry, don’t worry.

Mara (neutral earnest): Besides, if I don’t take it home, I can come over again to play, right?

Pro: I dunno…

Mara (neutral skeptical): Huh?

Pro: Just kidding. Of course.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Yay.

Mara (neutral surprise): Oh!

Mara (holding\_something fufu):

Mara pulls out a long-sleeved button-up that I’ve never worn, despite buying a while ago.

Mara (holding\_something earnest): You can wear this open with a t-shirt underneath. Go on, put it on.

Mara (neutral earnest):

She tosses it to me along with a pair of jeans.

Pro: Um, could you step out for a sec?

Mara (neutral neutral): Hm?

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): Oh, right.

Mara (exit):

Mara leaves the room and closes the door, allowing me to change. Childhood friend or not, I really don’t wanna undress in front of her. I hastily pull on the clothes she chose for me.

Pro: Alright, I’m done.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Mara comes back inside.

Mara: Let’s see…

Mara: …

Mara (neutral hehe): Heh.

Pro: What do you mean “heh”? You chose these clothes.

Mara: No, no it’s fine. You look great.

Mara (neutral fufu): It’s just that it’s pretty obvious that you don’t wear stuff like this often.

Pro: Well, excuse me. Guess I’ll just wear my school uniform then.

Mara (neutral hehe): No, it’s okay. Wear this.

I let out a sigh.

Pro: Fine, fine.

I look out the window and realize that the sun is already starting to go down.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: Didn’t you say you had to leave soon?

Mara looks at her phone.

Mara (neutral panic): Oh, shoot. That’s right.

She looks around at the messy floor, where the rejected outfits lie scattered.

Pro: I’ll clean it up later.

Mara (neutral nervous): Sorry…

Pro: Don’t worry about it. You need to get going, right? I’ll lock the door for you.

**Kitchen**

Mara and I quickly head downstairs and she puts on her shoes. Before she leaves, she inspects me one last time.

Mara (neutral thinking): Yeah, it looks good on you. A fine job, if I do say so myself.

Pro: Yup, yup, your sense of style is impeccable.

Mara (neutral smiling): That’s right.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Well, have fun tomorrow. I’ll see you on Monday, okay?

Pro: Yep, see you.

Mara (exit):

Mara trots through the door, and I watch as she jogs through my front yard and onto the sidewalk before closing the door.

I look down at the clothes that she picked out. As much as I hate to admit it, she was right – they do seem unusual on me. They feel odd and unnatural, but then again, the idea of hanging out with Prim is even more so.

Well, I guess I should go clean up the mess we made. And also, I should probably sleep early tonight. Mara would probably be really disappointed in me if I were to be late tomorrow.