**Train**

We manage to secure seats on the train, which is a relief because as we waited for it to arrive I noticed that my legs were starting to shake. Walking is surprisingly taxing, especially for someone who doesn’t get much exercise.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: My legs are killing me.

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous): Yeah, me too.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): You looked like you were in pain when you sat down.

Pro: I was in pain. So much pain.

Prim (shy hehe):

I’m treated to one of Prim’s rare laughs.

Pro: I’m probably gonna be sore tomorrow.

Prim (shy smiling): Yeah...

Pro: But actually, that was pretty enjoyable. You’re right, walks aren’t bad.

Pro: Although, I definitely didn’t think I’d be wandering around today.

Come to think of it, I definitely didn’t think I’d be spending the entire day with Prim…

Pro: Actually…

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Could I ask you a question?

She looks at me curiously, prompting me to go on.

Pro: Why did you ask me to come with you today?

Prim (shy down): Oh, um…

She looks away, but for some reason she doesn’t seem simply bashful this time.

Prim: Mick used to come with me.

Pro: Wait, for real?

Prim (shy shy): Yeah.

Pro: What did he play?

Prim: Trumpet.

Pro: I see.

Prim: But he quit near the beginning of the school year because of his club.

Pro: Yeah, clubs are pretty time-consuming. I think. I wouldn’t actually know.

She nods.

I guess that makes sense. Although, I don’t think she really answered my question…

Prim (exit):

Before I can press further, I’m interrupted by the train’s automated voice, declaring that we’ve arrived at our home station.

**Home Station**

?Iris (neutral neutral):

When we get outside, we encounter a young woman, probably a college student, leaning against a wall. To my surprise, instead of letting us pass by she blocks our path.

Prim (shy shy):

?Iris: Hi, Prim.

Prim: Hi, Sis.

Oh.

I think I can kind of see the resemblance. Actually, no, I can’t.

Prim’s sister turns to face me, sending a shiver down my spine.

?Iris (neutral curious): So you’re the one who went with Prim to practice today?

Pro: Oh, uh, yeah. That’s me.

?Iris: I see. You exist, huh?

She regards me for a few silent seconds, and I push down the butterflies rising in my chest, not quite sure what’s on her mind.

?Iris (neutral smiling):

Then, unexpectedly, she smiles and gives me a small polite nod.

Prim (shy down):

?Iris: Thanks for agreeing to go with Prim to practice from now on. We really appreciate it.

Iris: Oh yeah, I’m Iris by the way. Prim’s older sister.

…

Huh?

Iris (neutral sigh): Our parents were worried about her going downtown all alone.

Iris (neutral worried): Apart from Mick, they didn’t know that she had any other trusted friends, and they recently forbade her from going down alone.

Iris (neutral neutral): So when they heard about you, they were really relieved.

Prim (shy bambi):

Pro: Oh, um...

I try not to let the surprise show on my face as I glance at Prim. She doesn’t say anything and only stares at me with pleading eyes.

So in the end, was everything a ploy to fool her parents?

Taking in a deep breath, I turn back to face her.

“Of course.”

{

Prim (shy sigh):

Pro: Of course.

Prim (shy bambi):

I’m not 100% sure on what I’m getting myself into, but after seeing how hard Prim works towards her goal, it would be hard to not be rooting for her to succeed. As someone who’s never worked towards anything, I find that really compelling.

Going to these practices seem really important to her, and after seeing how much she’s opened up this past week, how can I deny her?

And besides, who could resist those eyes…?

Pro: I’m, uh, glad to help Prim out with this.

Iris (neutral smiling): Thank you so much. We all appreciate it.

Pro: Yes. Thank you. I mean, you’re welcome.

Iris nods curtly again before turning to Prim.

Iris (neutral neutral): Well, we’d better get going. Dad’s waiting.

Iris (exit):

As she turns around and heads towards what I assume to be their car, Prim stays behind, looking at me with evident relief written across her face.

Prim (shy shy): Bye, then.

Prim (shy down): ...

Prim (shy shy): And, um…

Prim: Thank you.

Pro: Don’t worry about it.

Pro: Although I think I’d like an explanation soon, if possible. That was pretty confusing.

Prim: I’ll tell you soon.

Prim: ...

Prim: I promise.

Prim (exit):

And with that, she turns around and catches up to her parents.

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“I think there’s been a misunderstanding.”

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Prim (shy disbelief):

Pro: I think there’s been a misunderstanding.

Iris (arms\_crossed confused):

Iris stares at me with a confused frown.

Iris: What do you mean?

Out of the corner of my eye, I see Prim stiffen.

Is this really the right thing to do? I don’t know.

I don’t think I’d mind going with Prim to her practices, and it’s not like I have anything to do anyways. But something else bothers me.

Did Prim try to get closer to me so that I’d become her chaperone? And if so, will I be discarded when she no longer needs me?

For some reason I can’t explain, I desperately don’t want that to happen.

Pro: I...

I swallow the lump that’s building in my throat.

Pro: I was just accompanying Prim this one time, since she asked me to.

Pro: We didn’t make any other plans.

Iris (arms\_crossed neutral): ...

Iris: Prim, is that true?

Prim: ...

Prim (shy down): Yes.

Prim: I... I’m sorry.

The tremble in her voice makes something inside me twist. I try to glance at her, but she turns her face away, hiding her expression.

Iris (arms\_crossed thinking): …

Iris (arms\_crossed neutral): I see.

Iris (arms\_crossed smiling\_nervous): We’re really sorry about the confusion.

A pang of guilt pierces my chest.

Iris: We’d better get going, then. Sorry about that, again.

Iris (exit):

As her sister turns around and head towards their car, Prim faces me, her lips pressed tightly together.

Pro: Prim...

Prim (shy disappointed): ...

Prim (shy down): I’m sorry...

Prim: I should’ve asked you properly.

Pro: I... I’m sorry, too.

Prim (shy disappointed):

She shakes her head.

Prim: It’s okay.

Prim (shy down): I’ll... figure it out.

Pro: Alright.

Pro: I hope everything works out.

Prim: Thank you.

Prim: Bye, then.

Prim (exit):

And with that, she turns around and catches up to her sister..

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