**Home Station**

Mara doesn’t feel like walking all the way back, so we decide to take the bus to the station instead. She doesn’t say much during the ride, and I realize that she hasn’t mentioned Lilith once today.

As we get off the bus, she pulls on my sleeve to get my attention.

Mara (neutral smiling): Hey, hey.

Pro: What’s up?

Mara: Wanna take a little detour?

Pro: Hm? Where?

Mara (neutral hehe): You’ll see, you’ll see!

Guess it couldn’t hurt.

Pro: Alright, let’s do that then.

**Playground**

We walk back towards our homes, but as we get closer Mara changes direction and guides me through a series of side roads.

Mara (neutral smiling):

Pro: Hey, Mara, are you sure we know where we’re going?

Mara: Of course. Just wait a bit.

After a bit more walking, we find ourselves at a small playground where we used to play. It’s been repainted since the last time I’ve seen it, but apart from that nothing has changed.

Pro: Wow, this brings back memories, huh?

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Right?

Mara (excited excited): Hey, Pro, I wanna go on the swings…

Mara (excited neutral):

However, Mara stops suddenly.

Mara (neutral neutral): Isn’t that…

I look over and notice the small, solitary figure sitting on a swing

Mara (exit):

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

It’s Prim.

Prim (exit):

Mara (neutral fufu): Well, well…

Mara: What are you waiting for?

Pro: Mara…

I start to protest, but Mara stops me.

Mara (arms\_crossed lecturing): No excuses. Go on, go!

Mara (exit):

With a sigh, I walk over as Mara disappears, probably to find a safe place to watch.

However, as I get closer I realize that something’s wrong…

Prim (shy surprise): …!

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): Pro?

Pro: Hey, Prim. What are you doing here?

Prim (shy worried): Oh…

Prim: …

Prim: Nothing, I guess.

Prim looks away, obviously upset about something. Her voice, which is as timid as always, trembles a bit as well.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): How about you?

Pro: Oh, I live around here. When I was little I used to play here all the time.

Prim (shy down): Oh, I see.

Pro: …

Pro: Um, is something wrong?

Prim purses her lips, as if deciding whether to tell her what’s on her mind or not.

Prim: …

Prim (shy disappointed): My parents…

Prim (shy down): My parents told me that I couldn’t go to music school anymore. Not by myself, anyway.

Prim (shy worried): I know that they’re worried about me, but…

Prim (shy hurt): But I still want to play…

Prim (shy disappointed): So we got into a big fight.

Prim (shy down): And now I’m here.

Pro: I see.

“You can’t go by yourself?”

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Pro: So, you can’t go by yourself?

Prim (shy disappointed): Yeah.

For some reason, I feel something stirring in my chest. Despite seeming so shy and feeble, when it comes to music Prim is surprisingly determined. It’s obvious how much she cherishes it, and having it taken away from her must be tearing her apart…

Prim (shy disbelief):

Pro: If you want, I can go with you to practices.

Pro: There should be no problem if I go with you, right?

Prim: But…

Prim: …

Prim (shy bambi): Are you sure?

Pro: Yeah.

Prim (shy disbelief):

Prim stares at me for a few seconds.

Prim: …

Prim (holding back tears): Thank you.

Pro: Don’t worry about it. It’s not like I have anything better to do, anyways.

Prim (shy hehe): I guess that’s true.

Prim (shy smiling\_crying): Well, I’ll go tell my parents.

Prim (shy smiling\_crying\_eyes): And I’ll tell you more tomorrow.

Prim (exit):

And after giving me one last smile, Prim leaves. I get up as well, finding that I can’t help but smile a little as well.

**Kitchen**

Mara is nowhere to be found, so I text her about what happened on the way back home. I arrive a few minutes later, where I find my mom in the kitchen.

Mom (neutral frown): You didn’t call me.

Ah.

Pro: I forgot, sorry.

Mom (neutral sigh):

My mom sighs and moves to the fridge, pulling out a plate.

Mom (neutral neutral): Here, your breakfast from this morning.

Pro: Oh, thanks.

Mom (neutral smiling):

I sit down and start eating, and after a few moments I realize that my mom is seated across from me, watching with a small smile on her face.

Pro: Um, can I help you?

Mom: Don’t mind me.

A few minutes later I finish up, and my mom takes my dishes.

Pro: Thanks, Mom.

Mom (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): You’re welcome.

Mom (neutral smiling): Don’t stay up too late, okay?

**Bedroom**

A few minutes later I finish up and head upstairs, realizing on the way how tired I am. I lay down on my bed, checking for a reply from Mara. Nothing yet, though.

My eyelids start to droop as a full day’s worth of activities starts to take its toll. I put down my phone and close my eyes, giving in to my exhaustion.

Ah well. I guess I’ll answer all of Mara’s questions tomorrow.

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“That sucks.”

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Pro: That sucks.

Unsure of what else to say, we sit there awkwardly for a few minutes before I decide to go.

Pro: Sorry, I should probably go home now.

Pro: Good luck with your parents. I hope everything will work out.

Prim nods and I get up and walk away, forcing myself to not look back.

**Intersection 2**

I walk back the way we came, finding Mara waiting for me back on the main road.

Mara (neutral fufu): So, how did it go?

Pro: Um…

Mara (neutral sigh)

Mara eyes me carefully, and then sighs.

Mara (neutral nervous): I see. Guess you kinda messed up with those two, huh?

Pro: Sorry. After all your efforts…

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): It’s fine, don’t worry about it.

Mara (neutral neutral): Seems like we’ll be hanging out a lot more, huh?

Pro: Yeah, seems so.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): If that’s the case, then I don’t mind so much.

Mara takes a few steps forward before turning to face me.

Mara (waving smiling): Well, I’ll see you tomorrow then!

Mara (exit):

And she dashes off.

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