**Classroom**

Mara walked me all the way to school, mostly to make sure I was okay but also to ensure that I didn’t ditch. Before leaving me by the front she made me promise to study with her after school, which is something I probably need to do.

But it’s not something I particularly feel like doing. Well, I don’t particularly feel like doing anything.

I find it difficult to pay attention in class, constantly zoning out even though all of my classmates are studying intensely, trying to glean every last bit of information before tomorrow’s test. And even if I were able to focus, my hands are stiff and cold.

Mara’s warmth still lingers, but the gaping hole that Lilith left is still there…

Teacher (neutral concerned): Pro?

Pulled away from my thoughts, I start.

Teacher: …

Teacher (neutral gentle): At least try to look like you’re trying, alright…?

Pro: Yes ma’am.

Teacher (exit):

She looks worried, and it’s not only her. Asher glances at me as well, obviously concerned.

That’s right. Being miserable will do nothing, and it’ll only make me a burden on everyone else.

I sit up straight and grab my pencil, determined to forget about everything for the next few hours and prepare for our test.

However, I only manage to get a few scribbles down by the end of class .