**Classroom**

Asher (neutral curious):

Around half an hour later I arrive at class, early this time. Asher is already here, and he notices me immediately as I walk in.

Pro: Hey.

Asher (neutral thinking):

He studies my face for a moment.

Asher (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): You look a lot better today.

Pro: Yeah, I guess.

Asher (neutral neutral):

Pro: Hey, um, Asher…

Asher (neutral curious): What’s up?

Pro: Have you heard anything about Lilith?

Asher (neutral frowning): All I’ve really been hearing is that she hasn’t been answering texts or calls.

Pro: I see.

Pro: Then…

Well, that much is to be expected.

Asher (neutral curious):

Pro: Do you know where Lilith lives?

Asher (neutral thinking): I don’t.

Asher (neutral curious): Are you gonna go? I think Petra and the others were gonna go visit her after school today, so you could go with them.

Pro: Wait, what?

Asher (neutral worried\_slightly):

I start panicking, knowing that things could very well go south. Who knows what *he* would do to them if they suddenly showed up…?

Asher (neutral worried): Is something wrong?

Pro: Ah…

Pro: I don’t think that’s a good idea…

Pro: Maybe could you ask them to hold off for now?

Asher (neutral skeptical): The reason?

Pro: I can’t really say. But I’m sure about this.

Asher (neutral thinking): …

Asher (neutral neutral): Alright.

Asher (neutral smirk): Trying to steal all the glory for yourself?

Pro: Definitely not…

Asher (neutral hehe): I know, I’m just joking.

Asher (neutral curious):

Ms. Tran walks into the classroom, and I remember that despite everything that’s been happening, we still have a test today.

Pro: Ah…

Asher (neutral neutral): Forget about the test?

Pro: Kind of…

Asher (neutral smiling): Well, do your best.

Asher (neutral hehe): Don’t wanna work up all that resolve only to be kept after school for failing.

**Classroom**

After a long and drawn-out battle I head to the front to hand in my test, letting out a sigh of relief as I add my papers to the growing stack. I don’t think I did too badly all things considered, and based on mark counting odds are I’ll probably pass.

Well, I’ll pass, provided I didn’t get too unlucky with the multiple-choice questions I didn’t know.

Asher (neutral curious): Good work. How’d you feel about that?

Pro: Um…

Pro: It was alright, I guess.

Asher (neutral smiling): At least it wasn’t horrible.

We return to our seats and take out our lunches, more than ready to restore the calories our brains just burned up.

Asher (neutral curious): You aren’t doing anything at lunch today, right?

Pro: I never do. Why?

Asher (neutral neutral): After you finish, come with me.

Pro: For what?

Asher (neutral smiling): I’m gonna help you out a bit.

I pause, waiting for further explanation that never comes.

Well, I guess I’ll find out what that help is in a bit.

**Hallway 2**

Kari (arms\_crossed annoyed):

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous):

One meal and a walk later I find myself being stared down by Kari. Asher, for some reason unknown, took me to her classroom, called her over, and deflected her less-than-pleasant mood away from himself and right at me.

Kari: So? Wanna explain yourself?

Kari (arms\_crossed skeptical): Why shouldn’t we go see Lilith?

Pro: Um…

While she’s never seemed exactly cheerful, whenever I’ve seen Kari she’s always been in a relatively good mood.

Today she’s definitely not, though.

Pro: You see, uh…

Pro: I just don’t think it would be a good idea.

Kari: And why is that?

Asher (neutral nervous):

Asher interjects before Kari can press on further.

Asher: What he means to say is that yesterday he went to talk with Lilith…

Asher (neutral serious): And he heard some things that he can’t really share with us, so it might be a good idea to let him go instead.

Asher (neutral curious): With that in mind, could you tell us her address?

Kari: …

Kari (arms\_crossed sigh): Fine.

Kari (give annoyed): Here.

Pro: Hm?

Kari: Your phone.

Kari (arms\_crossed annoyed):

I clumsily unlock my phone and give it to her, and after a few moments she gives it back, having written directions to Lilith’s place on it.

Kari: Make sure you don’t get lost, alright?

Pro: I’ll do my best.

Kari (arms\_crossed skeptical): Don’t just do your best. Just don’t get lost.

Pro: Yes ma’am.

Kari (neutral sigh):

After one last glare her expression softens and she lets out a sigh.

Kari (neutral disappointed): Well, that’s that.

Kari: I have some things to do, so I’m gonna get going now.

Kari (neutral neutral): Pro.

I snap to attention.

Kari (neutral worried): I agree that you should be the one to go…

Kari (neutral skeptical): …but don’t make me regret that decision, okay?

Pro: I won’t.

Kari (neutral smiling\_worried):

To my surprise she smiles.

Kari: That’s more like it.