**Cafe 2**

Prim (shy shy):

Petra (arms\_crossed skeptical): So…

Prim (shy eek):

Petra (arms\_crossed annoyed): Why exactly did you come along?

Prim (shy panic):

Pro: Huh…?

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Pro: That’s kinda cold, don’t you think?

Petra (arms\_crossed hmph): I never said I’d pay for you.

Pro: I didn’t say you would, though…

Petra (surprise surprise):

Pro: And besides, why are we here for the third time this week? Don’t you know of any other cafes?

Prim (shy eek):

Petra (neutral indignant): Huh?!?!?

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Petra (embarrassed embarrassed): O-O-Of course I do, n-naturally. I am a high school girl after all.

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): It’s just that this one’s exceptionally good…

Pro: You think so?

Petra (neutral curious):

Prim (shy confused):

Pro: While I’d admit that the service is good and the sweets are pretty appetizing, I think the drinks are a little under par, especially the tea, which isn’t as smooth or fragrant as the tea you’d find in some other cafes.

Petra (neutral expressionless):

Pro: The atmosphere is pretty average, and even though it’s homey it lacks the extra *something* needed to become a real hit. And besides, aren’t cafes all the novelty of-

I stop when I notice the looks that Petra and Prim are giving me, realizing that Mara’s café fanaticism has been rubbing off on me.

Petra: Pro…

Prim (shy eek):

Petra (neutral neutral): You’re kinda creepy.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Pro: Huh? Aren’t you being a bit harsh…?

Prim (fidget smiling\_nervous):

I look to Prim for support, but her expression, although a little gentler, conveys the exact same message.

Petra (neutral sigh): Cafes are meant to be enjoyed, not examined.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Petra (neutral neutral): And besides, why do you have such strong opinions on cafes anyways? Are you some kind of café otaku?

Pro: Erm…

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: I just have a friend that likes cafes. That is all.

Petra (neutral skeptical): Right…

Pro: …

Prim (shy neutral):

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Alright, alright, fine. I’m creepy.

Petra (neutral grinning): There we go. The first step is admitting you have a problem.

Pro: Right…

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral smiling):

Apparently finished with me, she turns to Prim.

Petra (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): What are you gonna get?

Prim (shy thinking): Um…

Prim (shy neutral): I think I’ll get a tea and a parfait…

Petra: Sure.

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous):

Prim (shy thinking): …two slices of cake…

Petra (neutral expressionless):

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): …and a fruit tart.

Prim (shy smiling):

Petra: …

Petra (neutral nervous): Are you sure you’ll be able to eat that much…?

Prim (shy curious): I think so.

Petra (neutral geh):

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): And besides, you’re the one who’s paying, so…

Petra (down tired): Right…

Prim (shy hehe):

Petra (down expressionless): Anything for you…

We place our orders, and I can’t help but smirk seeing Petra’s sudden change in mood.

Petra (down neutral):

Prim (shy shy): Um…

Petra (neutral neutral):

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): What were you guys talking about earlier? Did something happen with Lilith?

Petra (neutral sigh): That’s what I would like to know.

Petra (neutral worried):

They both look at me with a mix of curiosity and worry.

Pro: Oh, um…

Pro: I don’t know exactly how much I should be telling you guys…

Petra (neutral skeptical): Huh…?

Petra stares at me skeptically for a few moments, obviously disappointed that she’s not getting an answer but knowing that she can’t really argue.

Petra (neutral sigh): I guess that’s that, then.

Prim (shy eek\_blushing):

Petra (neutral curious): By the way, what were you guys doing in the music room together?

Prim (shy down\_blushing):

Pro: I was just…

Petra (neutral thinking):

However I stop mid-sentence, realizing that it’s already too late. The wheels are turning in Petra’s head, and there’s nothing I can really do to change that.

Petra (neutral expressionless):

And Prim’s reaction doesn’t really help…

Petra (neutral surprise):

It takes her a few minutes to think things through, and by the time she reaches a conclusion all of our food has already arrived.

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral fufu): It’s only been a few weeks and you’re cheating already, huh?

Petra (neutral skeptical): And not only that, but you’re trying to take Prim away from me…

Petra (neutral annoyed): You’re the worst.

Petra (neutral curious):

Prim (shy confused): Um…

Prim looks at me oddly, causing me to feel strangely uncomfortable.

Petra (neutral fufu):

Prim: You’ve started dating Lilith, then?

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Pro: Um, I haven’t.

Prim (shy neutral):

Petra (neutral smirk): That’s what they’ll tell you, but if you ask me it’s only a matter of time.

Prim: I see.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: It’s not like that, though…

Petra (neutral annoyed): …

Petra (neutral disappointed): Alright, alright.

Prim (shy embarrassed):

Petra (neutral fufu): So what were you guys doing?

Pro: Oh, uh…

Prim (shy sigh):

Petra (neutral curious):

I explain to her how my teacher shanghaied me into supervising Prim, and how after hearing Prim play I went to get a better look.

Prim (shy shy):

Petra: I guess that makes sense. Prim’s really good.

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral smiling): You’re trying to go pro, right?

Prim (fidget down): Um…

Prim fidgets uncomfortably with her hands, avoiding both of our gazes.

Petra (neutral curious):

Prim: Actually…

Prim (arms\_behind smiling\_worried): I quit piano. About a week ago.

Petra: …

Prim (surprise eek):

Petra (surprise indignant): HUH?!?!?

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Petra (neutral confused): But why? You practice so much, and you’re so good at it…

Prim (shy down): Some things happened, I guess.

Petra (neutral skeptical): Huh…

Prim (shy smiling\_worried):

Petra (neutral expressionless): That seems like such a waste, though.

I stare at Prim, both shocked and confused. It does seems like such a waste, for someone like her to just quit outright.

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral worried):

Pro: But then why did you wanna use the music room today?

Prim (shy shy): Just wanted to play for a bit.

Pro: I see…

Petra (neutral curious): What are you gonna do now, then? Didn’t practicing take up most of your free time?

Prim (shy down): It did. Um…

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous): I don’t really know. Recently I’ve been reading a lot of manga, but…

So even prim and proper girls like Prim read manga, huh.

Heh. “Prim” and “prim.”

Prim (shy neutral):

Petra (neutral thinking): You didn’t join a club or anything either, right?

Prim: Yeah.

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral smiling): Huh. That actually doesn’t sound so bad.

Pro: It’s actually really nice.

Petra (neutral curious): Oh, that’s right. You’re not in any clubs or anything either.

Petra: Why don’t you do what Pro does and just relax after school? When things get busier you’ll have more time to study.

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous): But then it’d kinda feel like I’m wasting my life away…

Even though I know they weren’t directed at me, my heart still takes serious damage from Prim’s words.

Petra (neutral thinking): That’s true…

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral grinning): I guess high school’s all about making memories, huh.

Petra (neutral smirk):

Petra cheekily sneaks a glance at me and smirks, having realized my discomfort. However, remembering that Prim’s here as well I hold back my retort, biting my tongue and making a mental note to get her back later.

Petra (neutral grinning): We’re still first years, so I think it’d still be okay to join a club. At least it wouldn’t be as awkward as if an older student joined this late into the year.

Pro: You’re really going at it, huh…

Petra: Hehe.

Prim (shy eek):

Petra (excited excited): Oh wow, that looks good. Let me have a bit.

Prim (shy earnest):

Petra and Prim start pseudo-fighting, with the latter trying to defend her food from the former. It’s comical and yet warm at the same time, and I can’t help but smile a little as I sip on my drink.

Prim (surprise panic):

Still, I guess Petra’s right. Everyone around me seems to be living their lives to the fullest, and in contrast to them I’m pretty much wasting away. I don’t have any sort of goal to work towards, no club activities or future plans…

Prim (surprise confused):

Petra (excited neutral):

I accidentally let out a sigh, causing Petra and Prim to stop bickering and stare at me confusedly.

Pro: Oh, uh…

Prim (shy confused):

Petra (excited neutral): Something on your mind?

Pro: Not really.

Petra (neutral neutral): I see.

Petra (neutral curious): Oh yeah, Prim.

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral smiling): If you’re looking for a club to join, why don’t you join the baseball team?

Prim (shy eek): Huh?!?!?

Petra (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): The upper years are really kind, and once you get the hang of it it’s really fun!

Prim (shy nervous): I dunno…

Petra (neutral pout): Aw, c’mon. At least come to one practice, just to try it out.

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral grinning): We can even get Pro to come as well. You’d both be provisional members for a day, or something like that.

Pro: What?

Pro: That wouldn’t work, though. I’m a guy.

Petra (neutral curious): Well, *you* wouldn’t be able to actually join. But you’ll probably be able to try it out for a practice or two.

Petra: And who knows? If you like it, you could even join the boy’s baseball team.

Pro: Huh…?

Pro: Shouldn’t I just go to one of their practices then?

Petra (neutral thinking): Well, I mean…

Petra (neutral smirk): You could, but I have a feeling you’d be eaten alive.

I have a feeling I’d also get eaten alive if I were to go along with Petra’s idea.

Prim (shy shy):

Petra (neutral smiling): And besides, it’d be nice for Prim to have more people that she knows around, you know? So think of it more as a favour.

Pro: A favour.

Petra: Yeah.

Prim (shy curious):

I glance at Prim, a little worried that Petra and I might be getting ahead of ourselves. But instead of put off she actually looks interested, and for a brief moment I think to myself that it might not be that bad.

Pro: Alright, alright, I’ll give it some thought. But only if Prim’s okay with it.

Prim (shy shy): Oh, um…

Prim (shy embarrassed): I think it might be fun.

Petra (neutral hehe): Great! Then it’s settled.

Petra (neutral smiling): I’ll talk to the team, and once I get permission I’ll let you know what day we’ll do it on.

Pro: Alright. Thanks.

Petra (neutral grinning): No problem. Now, then…

Prim (shy neutral):

Petra (neutral geh):

Petra grabs her fork and turns voraciously towards Prim only to find that she’s finished everything already.

Petra: …

Prim (shy eek):

Petra (neutral expressionless): You really eat a lot, huh.

Prim (shy pout):

Petra (surprise panic): Ah! I’m sorry, I’m sorry…

And after another episode of panicked apologies, Petra ends up buying Prim yet another slice of cake before we leave.