**Intersection 2**

We head home after we finish eating and pay the bill, the sun setting as we walk. It’s strange, how no matter how many times we see the sun go down, we still find the warmly painted sky beautiful.

Maybe it’s because they end so quickly. I guess we tend to enjoy things that are fleeting more strongly when they’re there and miss them more dearly when they’re not. I came face to face with this reality recently, when Lilith almost left for good.

Mara (neutral curious):

I glance at Mara, who seems to have picked up on my thoughts somewhat. It’s been at the back of my mind for a while, but maybe one day…

Mara: What are you thinking about?

Pro: Hm? Nothing in particular.

Mara (neutral skeptical): Huh…

I do my best to look innocent, which probably makes her more suspicious.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: Oh yeah, I forgot to mention…

Mara (neutral confused):

Pro: I’m gonna start looking into clubs at my school. With Prim.

Mara (surprise surprise): Huh?!?!? When did this happen?!?!?

Mara (arms\_crossed pensive): Didn’t you say something like “I won’t join a club so we can hang out more” or something embarrassing like that.

For some reason Mara’s impression of my voice doesn’t really make me happy…

Pro: I might’ve, but…

Mara (neutral skeptical): But what?

Pro: …

Mara (neutral hehe): I’m just kidding, don’t worry. Sorry.

Mara (neutral smiling): I’ve always wanted you to join a club, actually. I think it’d be good for you.

Mara (neutral thinking): And if you a join a club, then I’ll join a club too, and then after club activities we can meet up and study and stuff.

Mara (neutral smiling): Then we could both live normal, fulfilling high school lives. And we’d probably see each other more this way anyways, right?

Pro: I guess…

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): So go find a club you wanna join, alright?

Pro: Alright. Will do.

Seeing her smile so genuinely makes me smile as well, wondering what I did in a past life to merit a childhood friend like her.

Mara (neutral curious): Oh right, I almost forgot.

Mara: Here you go.

She hands over something, and I take it. It’s a phone case, decorated with a traditional painted cherry blossom tree.

Pro: So that’s why you were so adamant, huh…

Mara (neutral hehe): Hehe. I had a spare case lying around.

Mara (neutral hmph): I spent all night making this, you know. So you better use it.

Pro: I dunno, it isn’t really my style…

Mara (neutral surprise):

Pro: And besides, doesn’t it match yours? Isn’t that kinda embarrassing?

I can’t help but laugh at Mara’s shock.

Mara (neutral embarrassed):

Pro: I’m joking, I’m joking. Of course I’ll use it.

Mara: …

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): You promise?

Pro: Yup, yup. I promise.

Mara (neutral sigh):

Mara lets out a sigh that’s half relieved and half exasperated.

Mara (neutral smiling): Alright then.

Mara (neutral neutral): Oh. We’re already here.

Pro: So we are…

Mara: Didn’t even notice.

Mara (neutral curious): You gonna look around for clubs tomorrow?

Pro: Dunno. Maybe.

Mara: I see.

Mara (neutral smiling): Well, I’ll see you tomorrow morning then.

Pro: Yeah, I’ll see you.

Mara (waving happy): Bye!

Mara (exit):

Mara smiles one last time before turning and jogging away, and I continue the trip home alone.

Still though, matching phone cases? It’s definitely super, super embarrassing, but for some reason I can’t say that I really mind…

Ah well. It’s not like we go to the same school or anything. Nobody will notice…

…right?