**Staircase**

I half-run half-walk down the hallway, regretting my habit of being late. It’s not like it’s really my fault this time, but in the few times we’ve met up with Prim I feel like I’ve made her wait more often than naught.

Prim (shy worried):

To my surprise, I spot her at the bottom of the staircase. I almost call out to her, but I stop myself once I see that she’s talking with someone.

Mick (arms\_crossed skeptical):

Prim: But…

Mick: Come on, Prim.

Neither of them seem to have noticed me at the top of the steps.

Mick: It’s been like, what, two weeks since you’ve met him?

Mick (arms\_crossed frustrated): So do you really know him that well?

Prim (shy down): ...

Prim: It’s been fine so far though...

From what’s been said so far, I think I can pretty much guess who they’re talking about…

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Mick (embarrassed sigh\_frustrated): Sure, but don’t you think that you’re trusting him a bit too much?

Mick (neutral skeptical): Isn't it a little weird that he accepted your request? Without anything in it for him?

Well, it is pretty weird...

Mick (neutral cold): He’s gotta have some sort of ulterior motive.

Mick (neutral neutral):

Prim (shy worried): I...I don’t think he’s like that. He wouldn’t do anything.

Mick (neutral sigh): I know, I know. I’m not trying to accuse him of anything.

Mick (arms\_crossed frustrated): But something about this all just feels off, and it makes me uncomfortable.

Prim: I know how you feel, but…

Prim (shy breath):

Prim takes a deep breath, trying to steady her breathing.

Mick (embarrassed frustrated):

Prim (shy down): You haven’t spent time with him.

Mick (embarrassed away):

Prim (shy shy): But I have. And I trust him.

Mick: …

Mick (neutral sigh): Alright. But have you thought about him?

Mick (neutral neutral):

Prim (shy worried): Him…?

Mick (neutral indifferent): It’s not like he’s going with you to practice, right? He’s just walking you back and forth so your parents won’t worry.

Prim (shy worried\_really):

Mick (neutral neutral): Even if he says it’s fine, it’s still a big commitment.

Prim (shy disappointed):

Mick (arms\_crossed neutral): It might actually be a bother for him, but maybe he’s just too nice to bring it up.

Prim (shy surprise):

Mick (neutral cold):

Feeling that I shouldn’t be listening in on this, I try to back out of the stairwell as quietly as I can. However, my foot hits something, and both Mick and Prim freeze when they hear the sound.

Mick (neutral skeptical):

Pro: Oh, uh…

Pro: Hey.

Prim (shy worried): Pro…

Pro: Um…

Pro: Sorry for eavesdropping…

Mick: How much did you hear?

Pro: Pretty much everything.

I take a deep breath, steeling my will.

Prim (shy surprise):

Pro: I know this whole thing seems weird and all, but it’s really not a bother. It’s not like I have anything better to do, anyways.

Mick: Is that so…

Prim (shy worried\_really):

I pause, studying both of their faces. Mick eyes me somewhat suspiciously, which is understandable. What’s strange is Prim, who looks even more worried instead of happy.

Mick (neutral neutral): Alright. If you say so.

Mick (neutral sigh):

He sighs and starts to leave, not even saying goodbye before disappearing.

Mick (exit):

Pro: Well, uh…

Pro: Should we get going? You ready to leave?

I pause for a moment, waiting for her to respond, but she doesn’t.

Pro: Um…

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): Oh, sorry.

Prim (shy smiling\_worried): Yeah, let’s go.