**Music School Auditorium**

By the time I get back they’ve started to wrap up practice. I spot Roxy in the seating area, who beckons me over.

Roxy (neutral curious): Where’d you go?

Pro: Went for a walk around the area.

Roxy (neutral smiling): Oh, nice.

Pro: So, um…

Roxy (neutral curious):

Pro: How did the audition go?

Roxy: Pro…

Roxy (neutral smiling\_nervous): You see me sitting here by myself instead of playing, and you still have the nerve to ask that, huh?

Geh…

Right. That makes sense.

Roxy (neutral curious):

Pro: Sorry.

Roxy (neutral grinning): I’m just kidding, don’t worry. I don’t think I really had a chance, anyways.

Roxy (neutral smiling\_wishful): It’s still a little frustrating, though.

I bite my lip, unsure if I should be happy for Prim in front of Roxy.

Roxy (stretching smiling): Ah, well.

Roxy (neutral smiling): You should go congratulate Prim. It looks like they’re done now.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

I glance over, and indeed they’ve finished. Prim, who has nothing to really pack up, slips off the stage and heads towards us, looking a little concerned.

Roxy (waving smiling\_eyes\_closed): Hey, Prim. Congrats.

Prim: Thank you. Um…

Roxy (neutral smiling\_nervous): You don’t need to apologize. They decided to do an audition, and you won fair and square.

Prim (shy down):

Prim shifts uncomfortably before nodding.

Prim (shy shy):

Roxy (neutral curious): Well, I should probably get going, then. I’ll see you two around.

Roxy (waving smiling):

Pro: Oh, okay. See you.

Prim: Bye.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly):

Roxy (exit):

Roxy heads out of the auditorium, leaving me and Prim alone. Things are still awkward, but after a few seconds to steel my will I decide to break the silence.

Pro: Uh…

Pro: Congrats on passing the audition.

Prim (shy shy): Thank you.

Prim (shy down): Um…

Prim (shy bambi): Did you watch?

Pro: Uh…

I briefly consider saying that I did, but decide not to.

Prim (shy surprise):

Pro: Sorry, I didn’t.

Prim (shy disappointed):

Pro: A friend turned out to be in the area, so I hung out with her…

Pro: Sorry.

Prim (shy smiling\_worried): It’s okay, don’t worry.

Prim (shy down):

We pause for a moment, and after a quick glance around it becomes apparent that we’ve become the subject of many curious onlookers.

Prim: Um…

Prim (shy shy): You ready to go?

Pro: Yeah, let’s go.

**Music School Station**

The walk to the station is as quiet as the walk from it, and I start wondering if I should’ve stayed and watched after all.

Prim (shy worried):

However, as we arrive at the station Prim pulls me aside.

Prim: Can we...

Prim (shy breath):

She takes a deep breath, building up her courage.

Prim (shy worried): Can we talk?

Pro: Oh, uh…

Pro: Sure.

Prim (shy worried\_really):

She starts walking away from the station, and, a little confused, I follow her. Once we’re reasonably far away from anyone else, she stops and turns to me.

Prim: I...

Prim (shy down): ...

Prim (shy worried\_really): I’m sorry.

Pro: For what?

Prim: For all of this. For making you go along with my selfish request, for taking up so much of your time…

Prim: I’m sorry.

Prim (shy worried): So I want you to know that you can stop doing this for my sake.

Prim: And…

Prim (shy down): …

Prim (shy disappointed): ...I think you probably should.

Pro: But…

I freeze, knowing that I should’ve expected something like this but having not expected it regardless.

Pro: ...why?

Prim (shy worried): Because it’s unfair.

Pro: Wouldn’t your orchestra suffer, though? Don’t you have a performance soon?

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): If I leave, Roxy will be able to play instead of me. I think she really does care, although she tries to hide it.

Pro: But…

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): It’s okay. I don’t mind.

Prim (shy smiling\_worried): I’d rather rather not play over being a burden to everyone.

Prim’s grip tightens, and all of a sudden my mind becomes clear.

Be honest.

Pro: Look, um...

Pro: I really don’t mind. And besides…

“I want you to be able to play.”

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Prim (shy surprise):

Pro: I want you to be able to play. After seeing how hard you work, how much effort you put in…

Pro: It makes me wanna help you out.

Prim (shy worried): But-

Pro: And I actually don’t have anything better to do anyways. You have no idea how much I sleep.

Pro: It’s probably unhealthy, you know. So you’re actually doing me a favour.

Prim: …

Prim (shy smiling\_crying\_eyes): I guess staying healthy is important.

Pro: It is.

Pro: Or at least, I know theoretically it is, but in practice…

Prim (shy hehe\_crying):

To my relief, Prim lets out a little laugh, and all of the tension in the air diffuses.

Prim (shy smiling\_crying): Thank you.

Pro: Don’t worry about it.

Pro: Anyways, we should get going. Don’t wanna be stuck out here for the entire night.

Prim (shy smiling\_crying\_eyes): Yeah.

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“I want to be a person who keeps his promises.”

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Prim (shy surprise):

Pro: I want to be a person who keeps his promises. I don’t wanna become someone who can’t keep his word and ends up hurting others because of it.

Pro: So help me out, okay?

Prim (shy down): …

Prim (shy worried\_really): But that’s exactly why you should stop.

Prim (shy smiling\_worried): I can’t take advantage of your kindness any longer.

She turns around, and a sense of defeat fills my body. I try to say something, anything to change her mind, but nothing comes out.

Prim (shy smiling\_crying\_eyes): Thanks, Pro. For everything.

Prim: You don’t need to worry about me anymore. I’ll figure something out.

Prim (exit):

I stand there frozen as she walks into the station, leaving me behind.

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