**Outside Bakery**

The sun has already started to dip towards the horizon when we get outside, reminding us that the days are indeed getting shorter.

Prim (stretching stretching):

Prim stretches as she takes in a deep breath of fresh air.

Prim (shy embarrassed): Um…

Prim (shy smiling\_blushing): Thanks. For today.

Prim: It was fun.

Pro: Oh, no problem. I enjoyed myself too.

Prim (shy smiling): That’s good to hear.

Prim (shy down): Um…

Prim (shy bambi): Is 4:00 at the station good?

Pro: Huh? What do you mean?

Prim (shy shy): For tomorrow’s practice.

Oh, right. Almost forgot about that.

Pro: Yeah, that works.

Pro: You gonna head home now?

She nods.

Prim (shy down): I still need to practice for the day.

Prim (shy shy):

Pro: Oh yeah…

Pro: Must be rough, huh?

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous): A little.

We stand there awkwardly for a while, each of us unsure if we should actually leave.

Prim (shy shy):

Pro: Well, uh…

Pro: I’ll let you at it, then. Good luck.

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): Thanks.

Prim: See you tomorrow.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

Prim (exit):

After a little wave she trots off, and once she disappears around a corner I turn to go home myself.

Mara (waving smiling\_eyes\_closed): Hey there.

Mara (waving smiling):

I jump, not having noticed Mara.

Pro: Where did you come from…?

Mara (neutral hehe): Hehe. I’ve been hiding in your shadow all this time.

Pro: Right…

Mara (neutral curious):

I take a deep breath to steady myself, and Mara glances over my shoulder.

Mara (neutral wishful): Prim’s really cute though, huh. Even the way she runs is cute.

Mara (neutral curious): How was today? You didn’t make her feel uncomfortable, did you?

Pro: It was good. And no, I didn’t.

Pro: At least, I don’t think I did…

Mara (neutral pensive): Well, it’s the thought that counts, I guess. Good for you.

Mara (patting\_head smiling\_eyes\_closed):

She reaches up to pat my head.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: What were you doing all this time? Were you actually following us?

Mara: Well…

Mara: I was actually studying in the cafe across the street when I saw you guys through the window.

Mara (arms\_crossed put\_out): I was a little hurt, you know. First you ditch me, and then you get donuts without me…

Pro: Sorry about that…

Mara: You should be.

Mara (laughing laughing):

I reach out guiltily, only for Mara to break out laughing again.

Mara (laughing recovering): Just kidding, just kidding. You should make more friends, anyways.

Mara (neutral smiling): And besides, I never get any studying done with you.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: You never get any studying done regardless.

Mara (neutral embarrassed): You don’t know that.

Pro: …

Mara: …

Mara (neutral sigh): Busted…

Mara (neutral hehe): It’s okay, though. I’m passing, and that’s all that matters.

Mara (neutral neutral):

She pauses, all of a sudden unexpectedly sober.

Mara: Hey, Pro. There’s somewhere I wanna go today before going home. Come with me?

Considering how I flaked earlier, this is the least I can do.

Pro: Of course. Where?

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): You’ll see.

Mara (exit):

Without another word Mara turns around and starts walking, and I follow after her, a little worried about her change in mood.

Where does she want to go?