**Kitchen**

It turns out that there actually wasn’t much left to do, and after finishing up Asher decided to pass by the school and drop off our masterpiece. Well, in reality we probably could’ve done a lot better, but neither of us were really in the mood to put in any additional effort.

Once he leaves, I let out a sigh and fall backwards onto the couch. Today’s classes were rougher than normal, and that combined with the extra work we had to put in proved to be really draining.

Hmm…

About a year ago I probably wouldn’t have minded something like this. Actually, I think I worked pretty hard and did decently well...

When did school become so difficult?

My thoughts are interrupted by a faint tapping noise behind me. I sit up and turn around, finding a familiar face beaming at me through the window.

Mara (waving smiling):

When we make eye contact, she makes a small pleading motion and points to the door. A little reluctantly, I stretch and get up to let her in.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Hey hey!

Mara (neutral smiling):

Pro: Hey Mara.

Pro: You didn’t sneak in this time.

Mara (neutral hehe): Hehe.

Mara (neutral curious): You finish your project?

Pro: Oh, uh…

How long was she watching…?

Pro: Yeah.

Mara (neutral smiling): Good for you.

Mara (patting\_head smiling\_eyes\_closed)

She reaches out and pats my head.

Mara (neutral expressionless): Kinda feel sorry for your friend though, since he probably did all the work.

Pro: Ouch.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: But yeah, probably…

Mara (surprise geh):

Pro: Anyways, what are you doing here?

Mara (neutral bashful): I…

Mara (neutral embarrassed): ...just wanted to see you. Is that bad?

Pro: Seriously…?

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Just kidding.

Mara (neutral curious): I was just wondering when your next outing with Prim is.

Pro: Oh yeah, about that…

Pro: I talked to her earlier today. Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays after school.

Mara (neutral sigh): So tomorrow’s taken, huh?

Mara (neutral expressionless): That’s too bad.

Pro: Sorry…

Mara (neutral neutral): Oh, it’s okay. Don’t worry.

Mara (neutral fufu): I’d rather you enjoy your date.

Pro: I mean, it’s not a date, but…

Mara: That’s what you think. But before you know it, one thing leads to another, and then…

Pro: You’ve been reading too much manga.

Mara (neutral neutral): …

Mara (neutral smiling\_nervous): Probably.

Mara (neutral neutral): Well, anyways I’m gonna go home now.

Mara (neutral fufu):

She gives me a playful grin.

Mara: Don’t want your mom learning about our little secret, right?

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: I’m pretty sure you can come over any time and it’d be fine...

Mara: Ah…

Mara (neutral smiling\_nervous): I haven’t seen her in a while, so I feel like it’d be pretty awkward.

Pro: I guess.

Mara (neutral neutral):

She walks back to the door and puts on the shoes she just recently took off.

Mara: Oh yeah, I almost forgot.

Mara: I won’t be able to walk to school with you tomorrow.

Pro: Ah, alright. Thanks for letting me know.

Mara (neutral curious): …

Mara: You know, sometimes I wonder what would happen if I just didn’t show up one morning without telling you.

Pro: …

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: That’d be evil. I’d probably end up waiting instead of going to school.

Mara (neutral hehe): That wouldn’t be good…

Mara (neutral smiling): Don’t want you to be late for school.

Pro: That’s right.

Mara (neutral neutral):

She takes a few steps out of the door before turning back to face me.

Mara: Well, I’ll try to accompany you when I can, then.

Mara (waving smiling\_eyes\_closed): See you later!

Pro: Yeah, see you.