**School Library**

Asher (neutral worried\_slightly): And…

Asher (neutral satisfied): We’re done.

I let out a sigh and sit back into my chair. It’s probably not the best we could’ve done, but at this point we’re both too fed up with it to really care.

Asher (neutral smiling):

Pro: Finally…

Pro: You gonna go home?

Asher (neutral curious): Yeah, probably. How about you?

Pro: Ah, I gotta wait.

Asher (neutral smiling): Oh, right.

Asher (waving smiling): Well, I’ll get going then. See you later.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

Asher (exit):

Prim (reading engrossed):

As Asher leaves I glance over at Prim, who’s engrossed in a book.

What kind of book is it? She seems like she’d be pretty studious, so maybe it’s something academically challenging…

Pro: What are you reading?

Prim (surprise eek\_blushing): …!

Prim (fidget down\_blushing): …

Prim: Your Lie in April.

Pro: No way.

I take a closer look, and find that she is indeed reading manga.

Prim (fidget shy\_blushing):

Pro: You read manga?

She nods shyly, and I let out a small laugh.

Prim (shy surprise):

Pro: I really like manga too.

Prim: …

Prim (shy curious): What’s your favourite?

I think back to all the manga I’ve read. For some reason recalling things about them comes a lot easier to me than remembering interactions with others…

Pro: I dunno, actually.

Pro: Typically I like romance comedy ones, though. Especially the ones with happy endings.

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): Me too.

Pro: How about you?

Prim (hiding book):

She holds up the book in her hands, hiding her little smile behind its cover.

Pro: Oh, I really liked that series too. Is this the first time you’re reading it?

She shakes her head.

Prim (fidget down\_blushing) : I’ve read it many times.

Pro: For real? I could never…

Prim (fidget shy\_blushing):

Pro: I’d probably end up crying every time.

Prim (shy hehe):

I’m rewarded for my honesty with a small laugh.

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): Me too. A little bit.

Prim (shy shy):

We start talking about manga we’ve enjoyed, but our conversation is cut short by a sharp ring. Suddenly nervous, Prim takes her phone out of her bag, answers it, and, after a brief exchange, hangs up and blinks at me.

Pro: Are they here?

Prim: Yeah.

Pro: Alright. Let’s go meet them, then.

**Parking Lot**

The walk to the parking lot is a long one, and as we reach our destination I start to wish that I was anywhere else. Why, exactly, did I agree to meet her parents? I technically know the answer to that question, but…

...

Man, this is gonna be so awkward…

Prim (shy confused):

I manage to resist the urge to run away though, and eventually we come face to face with her parents-

Actually there’s only one of them. And she looks really young, too young to be Prim’s mom…

Prim: Sis?

Ah. Her sister.

?Iris (neutral neutral): Hey, Prim.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): I thought mom and dad would be coming…

?Iris (neutral thinking): Ah, something came up apparently so they sent me instead.

Prim’s sister speaks pointedly and plainly, giving me a rather odd first impression of her. She’s young and gives off a professional aura, but at the same time she seems a little…

…blunt, maybe?

?Iris (neutral neutral):

Prim (shy shy): I see.

?Iris: Is that him?

Prim (shy down):

Prim nods slowly, glancing at me tentatively before looking away. It doesn’t help my nerves at all, and every muscle in my body stiffens as her sister inspects me.

?Iris: …

?Iris (neutral smiling):

Prim (shy shy):

But then, unexpectedly, she smiles and gives me a small polite nod.

?Iris: On behalf of my parents and myself, we’d like to thank you for accompanying Prim to her practices from now on. We really appreciate it.

Iris (neutral curious): Oh, I’m Iris by the way. Prim’s sister.

Iris (neutral sigh): Our parents were worried about her going downtown all alone.

Iris (neutral worried\_slightly): Apart from Mick, they didn’t know that she had any other trusted friends, and they recently forbade her from going down alone.

Iris (neutral neutral): So when they heard about you and that you agreed, they were really relieved.

A bit unsettled by Iris’ sudden formality, I stiffen up and start stammering, trying to find the right words to force out.

Pro: O-Oh no p-problem.

Pro: Glad to help out.

Iris (neutral curious): Still, it’s a pretty large time commitment. Would you like some sort of compensation?

Compensation? Like pay? That doesn’t sound so bad…

Wait, hold on. Let’s not get ahead of ourselves.

Pro: I think I’ll be fine. I don’t do much after school anyways, so this’ll be a good way for me to get some exercise.

Iris (neutral neutral): …

Iris (neutral skeptical): Well, whatever floats your boat, I guess.

Iris (neutral neutral):

Prim (shy embarrassed):

Her tone suddenly changes back to what it was before, all traces of her earlier politeness gone. She turns back to Prim, who starts ever-so-slightly.

Prim (shy shy):

Iris (neutral neutral): I’m going home now, come with me if you want a ride. Otherwise you can walk home.

Prim (shy down): Um, I’ll go with you but…

Prim (shy shy): Could I have a moment?

Iris (neutral curious): Sure, I guess.

She redirects her attention back to me one last time.

Iris: See you around then, I guess.

Pro: Oh, yeah. See you.

Iris (exit):

Prim (shy embarrassed):

Prim and I stand in silence as Iris walks back to her car, and once she’s out of sight Prim looks at me shyly.

Prim (fidget shy\_blushing): Um...

Prim (fidget smiling\_blushing): Thank you.

Pro: No problem, no problem.

Pro: I’ll see you tomorrow after school then.

Prim (arms\_behind smiling\_blushing\_eyes): Yeah. See you.

Prim (exit):

After one last smile she turns around and follows her sister, and I watch as the two of them drive off. For some reason, seeing them leave makes me feel a little uneasy, as if I just got myself into something that might turn out to be troublesome later.

Hopefully it won’t, though. And if it does, well…

…

That’s a problem for later. Right now it’s time to get home as soon as possible.