**Prim’s House**

Eventually we arrive at Prim’s house, which is probably a good ten minutes walk away from mine. It’s a little larger than expected, but something about it feels warm and inviting.

Prim (shy shy): Thanks for walking me home.

Pro: Oh, no problem.

Prim (shy down): Um…

Prim (shy hurt): There’s something I need to tell you.

Pro: What’s up?

Tension starts to rise in my chest.

Prim: I’ll…

Prim (shy down):

She pauses, seemingly conflicted. Eventually though, she works up the courage to continue on.

Prim (shy hurt): I’ll be quitting piano.

I take a step back, shocked. She’s quitting…?

After all her hard work, after all her dedication, she’s just giving up? Even with what her sister said, isn’t that a bit…?

Pro: Why?

Prim: Well…

Prim (shy smiling\_worried): I’m not that good, and I’m not sure if I can make it as a pianist.

Prim: I feel like I should start worrying a bit more about my future, you know?

Prim (shy hurt): And besides, me playing piano…

Prim: It’s just an inconvenience to everyone.

Prim (shy worried\_really): To my parents, to Roxy, and especially to you…

Pro: I already told you that it’s not, though.

Prim (shy hurt): You say it’s not, but it is. Objectively, it is.

Prim: Your mom’s in the hospital right now, right? And instead of visiting her you walked me home instead…

Prim: I can tell, you know? That despite everything you’re worried.

Pro: But-

She stops me before I can continue on.

Prim (shy smiling\_eyes\_closed): You don’t need to worry about me anymore. I’ve already made my decision, and I’m content with it.

Prim (shy smiling\_crying):

She tries her best to smile, but tears start forming in the corners of her eyes…

Prim: I’ll be fine. There are other things I wanted to try anyways…

Prim: I’ll be fine.

Pro: Prim…

Prim (arms\_behind smiling\_crying): So this is it. You’re not my chaperone anymore.

Prim: Sorry about dragging you into all this.

Pro: It’s not like that at all, though.

I take a deep breath, already finding it difficult to breathe before I say any more.

But if I can’t say anything now, then I don’t think I ever will.

Prim (shy crying):

Pro: Watching you work hard to achieve your goal, even though you experienced so many setbacks…

Pro: That makes me happy. Seeing you practice and practice and practice, and then succeed makes me happy.

Pro: So even if your sister-

Prim (shy surprise\_crying):

I stop when I see Prim’s eyes widen, realizing that I let something slip that I shouldn’t have.

Prim: How…?

Pro: Um…

If there’s any time to come clean, now would be it…

Pro: I’m really sorry, but I overheard your conversation with her at the hospital. I was visiting my mom, and then I happened to see you…

Prim: …

Prim (shy crying\_really):

The tears that were already forming start to flow down Prim’s face.

Prim: I’m sorry…

Prim (exit):

And, trying to wipe them away, Prim runs off.

Pro: Wait, Prim-

Shocked, for a few seconds I can only watch as she dashes around the corner, but after returning to my senses I chase after, not wanting to let her disappear.