**Bedroom**

Getting out of bed turns out to be a challenge today, but after a few minutes of indecision I finally manage to throw off my covers and get ready for school. Mornings without Mara always feel a little drearier, as if they’re missing a little something that makes waking up exciting.

Well, I guess they’re missing Mara.

I wonder what my days would be like if we ended up going to the same high school. Taking the same classes and having the same friends again does sound really nice…

…

If only I were a bit smarter, I could’ve gotten into Mara’s school as well. But I guess there’s nothing I can really do about it now.

**Neighbourhood Road 1**

Despite everything I manage to get out of the house relatively early and start my walk in silence, watching as others walk to school as well.

However, I’m interrupted halfway by a small figure, one that I’ve been seeing more and more recently.

Prim (surprise eek): …!

Prim (shy shy): Hi, Pro.

Pro: Oh, hey.

?Mick (neutral confused):

It takes me a while to notice the guy standing beside her, giving me a quizzical glance.

Wait, I know him. That’s…

“Mike.” OR “Mick.” OR “Miku.”

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I turn to him and try to smile.

Prim (surprise panic):

?Mick (neutral annoyed):

Pro: You’re Mike, right?

?Mick: Um, no.

?Mick: My name’s Mick.

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous):

Mick (neutral sigh):

Pro: Ah. Sorry.

Mick (neutral annoyed):

Yikes…

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I turn to him and try to smile.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: You’re Mick, right?

He blinks, as if surprised that I know his name.

Mick (neutral curious): Yeah. How do you know my name?

Pro: I think I’ve heard about you before.

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I turn to him and try to smile.

Prim (surprise panic):

Mick (neutral annoyed):

Pro: You’re Miku, right?

He stares at me, looking even more confused.

?Mick: My name’s Mick.

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous):

Mick (neutral skeptical): Isn’t Miku a girl’s name?

Pro: Ah. Sorry.

Yikes…

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Prim (shy shy):

Pro: Anyways, uh…

Mick (neutral neutral):

Pro: Nice to meet you. I’m Pro.

He nods, and I feel myself stiffen. Why do I sound so formal…?

Pro: Well, don’t wanna be late. Let’s get going then.

Prim (exit):

Prim (exit):

I let them walk ahead of me, resigning myself to trail slightly behind the two of them as they walk side-by-side.

To my surprise neither of them really say anything. Are they normally like this, or is it because I’m here?

Prim (fidget down): Um…

I start, having not realized that Prim slowed down to walk beside me.

Prim (fidget shy): After school today…

Prim (fidget bambi): Could we meet by the gate?

Prim (fidget smiling\_eyes\_closed):

Pro: Yeah, that’s fine.

Prim (shy shy):

Mick (neutral neutral):

Mick glances backwards.

Mick: Oh, are you the guy that agreed to go with her?

Mick (neutral skeptical): Make sure you keep an eye on her, alright?

Pro: Uh…

Pro: Yeah. I will.

Mick (neutral neutral):

He nods, apparently satisfied.

Mick: I’m gonna go ahead now, so I’ll see you later.

Prim: Alright. See you.

Mick (exit):

Mick picks up the pace, leaving us behind to greet some of his other friends. I glance at Prim, wondering just how close the two are.

Prim (shy down): Um…

Prim (shy shy): Sorry about that. He’s a little awkward.

Pro: Oh, no problem.

Pro: How long have you guys known each other?

Prim: For a while. We’re neighbours, and our parents know each other, so we walk to school together most days.

Pro: That makes sense.

Prim (shy surprise):

Pro: I usually walk to school with someone too, but she had to go early today or something.

Prim (shy curious): Your childhood friend?

I nod.

Prim: Is she in your class?

Prim (shy neutral):

Pro: Ah, she doesn’t go to our school.

Prim (shy curious): You still walk to school together every day?

Pro: Yeah.

Prim (shy hehe):

To my surprise, Prim lets out a little laugh.

Prim (shy curious): What school does she go to?

Pro: Yi Collegiate.

Prim (shy surprise):

Her eyes widen

Prim: Isn’t that school for really smart people?

Pro: I mean…

Pro: Yeah, I guess.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Doesn’t really feel like she’s really smart, though. She’s definitely smarter than me, but that’s not really saying much…

Prim (shy shy): I see.

Prim (exit):

We continue making small talk about Mara for the rest of the way to school, and before I know it we find ourselves just outside school. After bidding me goodbye, Prim trots inside and disappears in the sea of students.