**Hallway 2**

I manage to wake up a bit during the walk to school, and by the time I arrive I feel a little more ready to face Ms. Tran’s wrath. It’ll still be a tough and arduous battle, but I guess going in with the right mindset is half the fight…

Petra (neutral curious): Oh, it’s Pro.

I start, having not noticed her despite there being no other students here.

Well, actually, there’s one more.

Lilith (neutral neutral): It’s Pro.

Petra (waving grinning): Heya.

Pro: Oh, hi.

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: What are you guys doing here?

Petra (embarrassed nervous): I, uh, needed to talk to my teacher.

Pro: Why?

Petra (surprise surprise): Huh?!? Um…

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous):

Lilith (neutral sigh):

She laughs nervously, obviously hesitant to answer.

Petra (neutral confused):

Lilith (neutral disappointed): We needed permission for Petra to continue club activities. Since she failed her last test.

Petra (surprise indignant): Lilith?!?!?

Lilith (neutral annoyed): What? It’s the truth.

Petra (neutral expressionless): Yeah, but you didn’t have to tell him…

Petra (neutral worried\_slightly):

Trying to salvage her reputation, Petra turns to me pleadingly, looking for my sympathy.

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Petra (neutral sigh): It wasn’t my fault. The day before the test my younger siblings got into a fight when my parents weren’t home, so I had to spend the whole evening dealing with them…

Petra (neutral geh):

Lilith (neutral neutral): That, and you watched an entire season of-

Petra (neutral expressionless): That’s really enough…

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): Anyways, what are you doing here?

My satisfied smirk turns into a nervous smile real quick. Lilith’s eyes seem expressionless enough, but for some reason I can already feel them judging me…

Petra (neutral smiling):

Pro: I, uh…

Pro: Failed a test as well. Probably, at least.

Petra (neutral curious):

Lilith: …

I look away, purposely avoiding Lilith’s cool, silent gaze.

Petra: See?!? It’s pretty common for people to fail!!

Lilith (neutral disappointed): It really isn’t, though…

Petra (neutral expressionless): Well excuse us for not being geniuses like you…

Petra (neutral sigh): Some people just aren’t gifted that way. Right, Pro?

Petra (neutral hehe):

I laugh nervously, trying to come up with a way to change the subject.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: Anyways, if it’s Petra that’s failing, then why are you here, Lilith?

Lilith (neutral curious): Me?

Petra (neutral fufu): It’s because she cares about me so much that-

Petra (neutral drained):

Lilith (neutral neutral): That’s not it.

Lilith: I’m here to be Petra’s…

Lilith (neutral thinking):

She trails off, probably thinking for a word that fits her situation.

Lilith (neutral neutral): …guarantor. That’s probably about right.

Pro: Guarantor?

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): She’s gonna tutor me for a week or so, and we thought it’d be a good idea to let my teacher know.

Pro: Oh, so she’ll let you continue club activities.

Petra: Yeah.

Lilith (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral curious):

A tutor, huh? Might be nice to have one.

Petra: Hm? Then why don’t you get Lilith to tutor you as well?

Pro: …

Pro: Did you just read my mind?

Petra: You said it out loud.

Did I…?

Pro: I see.

I glance at Lilith, trying to figure out if she’s against the idea, but unfortunately her expression is as stoic as ever. She probably would be, right? We barely know each other, and I don’t know many people who would spend hours helping someone who’s basically a stranger…

Lilith: Well, I don’t mind, I guess…

Huh…?

Lilith (neutral neutral): But what about your girlfriend? Wouldn’t she be against it?

Petra (neutral thinking): Oh, that’s right. She might be.

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: My girlfriend…?

Lilith (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral indignant):

Pro: Who are you talking about?

They both stare at me incredulously, although Petra’s disbelief is a little more obvious.

Petra (neutral skeptical): That’s kinda cold, Pro. Even if you’re hiding it from everyone, you shouldn’t deny it so outrightly.

Pro: No, seriously, I don’t have a girlfriend…?

Pro: And besides, didn’t we already talk about this?

Lilith: You’re not going out with Prim?

Realizing that Lilith’s still here, I turn over to her to try to clear up the misunderstanding.

Pro: Ah…

Pro: I can see why you’d think that, but we’re not like that.

Lilith: I see.

I sigh internally, glad that at least Lilith believes me. Petra, on the other hand, still stares at me skeptically.

Petra (neutral stern): If you’re just fooling around with Prim, I’ll make you pay.

Pro: I just told you that it’s not like that…

Petra: …

Petra (neutral sigh): Alright, alright.

Petra (neutral frowning): Would it kill you to be a bit more aggressive with her, though?

Petra (neutral disappointed): I wanna tease her about her love life, but it’s a little hard when all the boys around her are jellyfish.

Petra (neutral drooling): I bet she’d be really cute. She’d probably turn beet red and get all embarrassed…

Lilith (neutral icy): Wow, that’s a horrible face.

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Lilith sighs and then turns back to me.

Petra (neutral hehe):

Lilith (neutral neutral): Sorry about her. She has a strange obsession with Prim.

Petra (neutral smiling):

Pro: Oh, don’t worry.

Lilith: Alright.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): Um…

Petra (neutral curious):

Lilith (neutral curious): Do you actually want me to tutor you?

Pro: Huh? Oh, um…

I pause, wondering if I should accept her offer. On one hand, it’d be a great help, but on the other hand I feel like I’d be inconveniencing her quite a bit…

“Sure, if you’re okay with it.” **OR** “It’s alright, I think I’ll be fine.”

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Pro: Sure, if you’re okay with it.

Pro: Are you sure, though? Wouldn’t it be more work for you?

Lilith (neutral neutral): Not really. It’d actually be a good way for me to study as well.

Pro: Oh, I see.

I guess it’s actually a win-win for everyone, then.

Pro: When do you wanna start?

Petra: We’re doing a study session tomorrow. You wanna join?

I look to Lilith for confirmation, and she nods.

Pro: Alright, that’d work. What time?

Petra (neutral thinking): Um…

Lilith (neutral disappointed):

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): What time was it…?

Lilith: …

Lilith (neutral sigh): We’ll meet there at noon.

Petra: At the coffee shop, right?

Lilith (neutral neutral): Yeah.

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: Coffee shop?

Petra: Yeah. By the station.

Petra (neutral smiling): Why don’t we wait outside the station, then? So Pro doesn’t get lost.

Lilith: Alright.

Pro: Sounds like a plan.

Lilith (neutral curious):

Pro: Thanks so much, Lilith.

Lilith: No problem.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

She quickly grabs her phone from her bag, checking the time briefly before slipping it back inside.

Lilith: We should probably get going, so we’ll see you tomorrow, I guess.

Pro: Oh, alright. See you guys.

Lilith (waving neutral):

Petra (waving grinning): Ciao!

Lilith (exit):

Petra (exit):

The duo continue their way down the hallway, and I resume my journey to the teacher’s office. Once their footsteps fade away into the distance, I suddenly remember what I came here for, sending a shiver down my spine.

Hopefully I’ll make it out okay.

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FAIL LOL

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