**Front of School**

Thankfully I survived. But that’s just about all I can be thankful for.

For the rest of the day I suffered from chronic stomach pain, and that combined with an ominous prophecy foretelling another tragedy in the near future made the rest of my day pretty miserable.

Of course, after eating Prim’s bento as quickly as I could to avoid tasting it, I did my best to smile and compliment her, which of course led her to cheerfully promise to make me another one soon.

Excellent…

…

Ah well. As long as she’s happy.

Once school ends for the day I trudge towards the front to meet up with Lilith and Petra, my stomach still a little uneasy. It seems like most of the storm has passed, though.

I arrive at the gate and find Lilith already there, waiting for me and Petra.

Pro: Hey. Sorry for making you wait.

Lilith: It’s fine, I just got here.

Lilith: And we have to wait a while for Petra anyways, so…

Pro: I guess that’s true…

Lilith sighs, putting a wry smile on my face. If I didn’t know better, I might’ve thought that the two weren’t on good terms, but from what I’ve seen so far Lilith’s perpetual disappointment in her junior is mostly a sign of familiarity.

Probably…

Pro: Do you normally have to wait for her?

Lilith: Petra? Yeah.

Lilith: On average I’d say she’s around 15 minutes late to every meetup we have.

Pro: Really? Yikes…

Lilith: To be honest, it’s not as bad as you’d think. Most of the people in our friend group have a lot of free time, so 15 minutes or there is usually inconsequential.

Lilith: Although on days like today where we’re actually gonna do something important…

Lilith: …

Lilith: Ah well. I guess she’ll get here when she gets here.

Lilith: How were your classes today?

Pro: Huh? Uh…

Pro: They were okay. I didn’t get a lot of the stuff they were teaching in math, though.

Lilith: We’ll go over that today, then.

Lilith: By the way…

Lilith: I’ve heard that you have a tendency to sleep in class. Is that true?

Pro: And who told you that…?

Lilith: It was an anonymous tip.

It must’ve been Asher. There’s nobody else who’d go out of their way to spread malicious rumours about me, no matter how true they might be…

Pro: Well, recently I think I’ve been doing better. Dozing off in class might become a past memory in the near future.

Lilith: A happy memory?

Pro: Um…

Pro: No comment.

Lilith: I feel a little sorry for your teacher…

Pro: Yeah, I do too…

She smiles slightly, which I know is nothing really to be happy about but it makes me happy nonetheless.

Petra: And what are you grinning about?

Petra appears out of nowhere, startling me. Lilith, on the other hand, seems unfazed.

Pro: Huh? I wasn’t grinning.

Petra: You totally were, though.

Petra: Still basking in the afterglow of Prim’s bento?

Pro: Um…

Petra: You don’t have to answer that. I’m joking.

Petra: You know, she actually made a lunch for you yesterday as well. But when she saw you already eating, she decided not to give it to you, and guess who ended up eating it…?

Pro: Um, who…?

Petra: Me, Pro. I ate it. And it’s your fault.

Pro: Oh…

Pro: My condolences.

She sighs, obviously troubled by the memory.

Petra: I made a mistake. In the morning she was so nervous, and it was so cute…

Petra: So to make her feel at ease, I told her that if you didn’t eat it then I would, but then she showed me what was inside and…

Petra: …

Petra: I should’ve asked to see it before offering to take it. I was so naïve, so foolish…

Pro: Wait, if you ate one yesterday then why didn’t you warn me?

Petra: I suffered so much because of you, so it’d only be fair for you to suffer with me. And more.

Petra: It makes me happy to see you get your deserved comeuppance.

Pro: …

Petra: Have fun eating her cooking from now on.

Laughing horribly, she starts walking off on her own, leaving me and a confused Lilith behind.

Lilith: What was that about…?

Pro: I don’t really wanna talk about it.

Lilith: Huh…

She looks one more time at Petra, who’s made her way pretty far down the street already.

Lilith: Well, she’s going the right way so I guess let’s follow her for now.

Pro: Are we going to that coffee shop again?

Lilith: Yeah. Is that okay?

Pro: Of course.

Lilith: Good.

Lilith: Oh, it looks like she’s getting away.

Lilith: Let’s get going.