**Classroom**

The first half of the school day goes by without anything out of the ordinary happening, and at lunch Petra drops by our class to return the thermos she took home yesterday.

Petra: The tea was really good. Thank you mom again for me, okay?

Pro: Oh, sure.

Petra: Thanks.

Petra: Man, I wish my parents were like yours. If I brought a pair of boys home, I’d probably wake up in a cage or something…

Pro: Is it that bad…?

Petra: Well I wouldn’t *actually* be locked in a cage, but you get the idea.

Pro: Sounds rough.

Petra: Right?

Prim: Um, what are you guys talking about?

Prim suddenly materializes between us, causing Petra and I to start backwards.

Prim: Oh, um…

Prim: Sorry. Hi Pro.

Pro: Oh, hi Prim.

A little worried, I glance over to see if she’s holding anything, but thankfully she isn’t.

Prim: Um…

Prim: What were you talking about?

Petra: Huh?!? Uh…

Petra pauses, trying to think of a story that won’t incriminate her, but despite her efforts she comes up with nothing. After she gives up she looks at me for help, but my mind keeps drawing blanks too…

Petra: Nothing in particular.

Petra: Oh, you’ve met Pro’s mom, right? Isn’t she…

She trails off, realizing her mistake.

Prim: You know Pro’s mom?

Petra: Um, maybe…

Petra: …

Petra: I guess there’s no getting around it, huh…

Petra: Yesterday Pro, Lilith and I were looking for a place to study, and we eventually ended up at Pro’s place.

Prim: Oh, I see. Lilith too…?

Pro: Ah, she was tutoring us. We haven’t been doing too well…

Prim: I see.

Prim stops, seemingly trying to process everything just said.

Prim: Um…

Prim: I think I have to go do something now, sorry.

Prim: I’ll talk to you guys later.

And before either of us can stop her, she dashes down the hallway.

Petra: Ah…

Petra: This is a problem.

Pro: Yeah, uh…

I pause, wondering if Petra should be the one to go after her. But Petra would probably chew me out if I asked her, so…

Pro: I’ll be right back.

**Hallway 2**

I manage to catch up to Prim before she can get too far, but as I reach out to grab her shoulder I trip and fall instead.

Prim: …!!!

Prim: Are you alright…?

Pro: Yeah, I’m fine…

Avoiding her gaze, I awkwardly climb back to my feet, my cheeks beet red.

Pro: Um…

Pro: Sorry, I wanted to ask you something.

Prim: Ask me something?

She looks at me curiously, patiently waiting for a question that my brain’s furiously trying to come up with.

“Would you like to join our tutoring session tomorrow?” **OR** “Are you free after school today?”

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Pro: Tomorrow, um…

Pro: Lilith’s gonna be tutoring us again, but uh…

Pro: Would you like to join us?

Prim: Huh?!? Um...

Prim: …

Prim: I would.

She looks away bashfully, her face now a little red as well.

Pro: Oh, uh, I still need to ask Lilith though. It should be alright, since Petra’s in your class and you’ll be doing the same material, but at the same time I don’t wanna assume that she’ll be okay with it so-

Prim: Pfft.

To my surprise, Prim breaks out laughing.

Prim: It’s alright, even if it doesn’t work out.

Prim: Thank you, though.

Pro: Oh, um, you’re welcome.

Prim: If it doesn’t though, um…

Prim: …

Prim: It’d be nice to do something else.

Pro: Oh, right.

Suddenly shy again, Prim backs away slowly.

Prim: See you later, then.

And she nimbly slips into an adjacent corridor, a glimpse of her cutely messy hair the last part of her I see before she disappears.

Petra: That was a pretty nice save.

Petra appears from behind me, a little impressed.

Petra: I was sure you’d mess it up and make her cry, or something…

Pro: …

Petra: I’m just kidding, don’t worry.

Petra: Still, you’re a pretty lucky guy, having a cute girl like Prim pining for your attention…

Petra: Must be nice.

Unsure of what to say, I chuckle nervously.

Petra: Oh, by the way…

Petra: Clear your schedule for Saturday.

Pro: Huh? Why?

Petra: …

Petra: It’s Prim’s birthday. You didn’t know?

Petra: Heh.

She takes a second to savour the moment, obviously happy that she knew but I didn’t.

Petra: Well, actually it’s her birthday on Friday, but she’ll be busy so we’re gonna celebrate it with her on Saturday instead.

Pro: Oh, okay. What are we gonna do?

Petra: Um, that’s the thing…

Petra: I have no idea.

Petra: Normally we’d get all her friends together and do something fun, but Prim’s a little different than the rest of my friends so…

Pro: That sounds fine, though.

Petra: But apart from you and me, I don’t think she has that many close friends. She doesn’t really talk to anyone else…

Oh.

Petra: So I dunno. We should try to plan things in a way that makes her the happiest, but I’m not exactly sure what to do.

Petra: Mmm…

Petra: Ah well, we’ll figure it out. For now she thinks that we’re gonna go to the library together Saturday afternoon, so don’t ruin the surprise, okay?

Pro: Yeah, will do.

I stare at Petra, a little surprised that she’s being so thoughtful. Since she’s usually the opposite.

Petra: Hey. You just thought something unsavoury about me, didn’t you?

Pro: Did not.

Petra: Hmm…

Petra: Ah, whatever.

Petra: I’m going back to class now, so I’ll talk to you later.

Petra: Oh, and don’t forget to buy her a gift, okay?

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