**Hallway 2**

All good things must come to an end, though, and eventually Prim and I head back to our respective classrooms. However, a stupid grin sticks onto my face even after we part, and no matter how hard I try I can’t seem to get rid of it. I feel light and giddy inside, as if my insides were made of wool and clouds.

Petra: ...

Petra, on the other hand, doesn’t seem nearly as affable and leers at me, less-than-friendly thoughts probably running through her head.

Petra: So?

Pro: So...?

Pro: What do you mean?

Petra: What was inside the bento box?

Pro: Oh, that?

My smile turns into a bit of a smirk, and I show her the photo I took earlier.

Petra: ...

Petra: I hate you so, so much. For various reasons.

Pro: Heh.

I start laughing but instantly regret it once I see her expression...

...but thankfully someone intervenes before I get attacked.

Lilith: What are you guys doing?

Pro: Huh? Um, nothing.

Lilith’s arrival sobers me up instantly, my fleeting sense of happiness crumbling under her quizzical gaze. It’s not that she seems hostile or anything, but being caught grinning in front of her is pretty embarrassing...

Lilith: Huh...

She looks between the two of us curiously but doesn’t press any further.

Lilith: Anyways, when and where are we meeting tomorrow? And what are we doing?

Petra: ...

Petra: Oh, right. I forgot, heh.

Petra: We’re gonna do karaoke.

Pro: Karaoke?

Petra: Yeah.

The last time I’ve sung was in elementary school, and needless to say I’ve never done karaoke before. The entire concept of singing in front of your friends for entertainment is foreign and a little unnerving, and I can’t exactly say that I wanna give it a try...

Lilith: I feel like...

Lilith: ...you’re the only one who’s gonna sing.

An accurate assessment. I can’t imagine Prim or Lilith singing, either.

Petra: Well, believe it or not, it wasn’t my idea.

Pro: Then who’s was it?

Petra: Prim’s. Kinda.

Petra: We were talking, and it came up. She didn’t really say that she wanted to try going, but it was pretty clear that she wan-

Lilith: Are you sure?

The doubt in Lilith’s voice is obvious, and my first instinct is to agree with her. Karaoke’s the last thing I’d imagine that a shy girl like Prim would want to do...

Petra: Huh?!? Uh, maybe 60% sure...

...but then, when I think about it, I realize that might not actually be the case. She’s trying to grow, to overcome her chronic shyness and become more confident. This might be something she’s want to do, something that scares her but also something that she wants to experience...

Pro: I think it’s fine. At the very least I don’t think she’ll mind it.

Lilith: ...

Lilith: Alright, if you say so.

Lilith: So, when and where are we meeting?

Petra: I was gonna get my gift beforehand, so let’s meet at the station at 3:00?

Pro: Sure.

Lilith nods, but then turns her attention to me.

Lilith: Don’t you have to get a gift for Prim still too? Why don’t you go with her?

Petra: Huh? I already know what I wanna get, though.

Petra: Although I guess I wouldn’t mind doing an extra bit of shopping...

Petra: ...

Petra: We’re meeting at the station at 1:00 then, Pro.

So I don’t get a say in it, huh...

Well, I guess it works out. I *do* need to get a present, and it wouldn’t hurt to get an extra opinion.

Petra: You coming too?

Lilith: Sure.

Petra: Alright, then. I’ma head back to class, so see you guys later!

Pro: See you.

Now cheerful again she trots towards her classroom, and shortly after she enters we hear a small commotion involving someone who sounds suspiciously like Prim...

Lilith: And off she goes.

Lilith: Well, I’m glad she’s made close friends in her class.

Pro: Huh? Why?

Lilith: What do you mean?

Pro: Oh, it’s just that she seems like someone who’d have no trouble making friends.

Lilith: You’d be surprised. When she first transferred in-

Pro: Wait, she’s a transfer? When?

Lilith: Right before summer vacation, I think.

Right after the start of high school? That’s a really odd time to transfer in, maybe she had to move or something...

Lilith: When she first joined the baseball team she was really quiet, almost as quiet as Prim.

Lilith: But then a month later she got comfortable, and became a bit of a hyperactive menace...

I gawk at Lilith, trying to process what she just told me. A shy Petra? There’s no way, right?

Pro: I don’t believe it.

Lilith: ...

Lilith: Well, I guess that’s fair. I’m not lying, though.

Lilith: Anyways, I’m gonna head back to class too.

Lilith: See you later.

Pro: Oh, okay. See you later.