**Downtown**

Before we head over to the karaoke parlor, however, we make a stop to pick something up. Or rather, we make a stop to pick *someone* up, and the suspiciously expensive-looking package he holds in his hand.

Asher: Hey.

Pro: Asher? What are you doing here?

Asher: I was invited.

Petra: Huh? You were?

Petra looks as every bit confused as I am, apparently having no recollection of inviting him.

Asher: Well, not by you actually…

Asher: Prim asked me to come.

Petra: Prim did?!?!?

We all stare at Prim, who shrinks away from our gazes despite obviously trying her best not too.

Prim: Um…

Prim: I-I thought Pro might be uncomfortable if he were with me, Petra, and Lilith, so I asked Asher to, um…

Asher: Even out the playing ground.

Prim: Yeah.

I blink twice, not really getting it.

Pro: Huh?

Asher: You’ll understand eventually. Maybe when you get older.

Asher: Anyways, what are we doing now?

Lilith: We’re going to karaoke.

Asher: Karaoke, huh? That’s something I haven’t done for a while.

Petra: Really? I guess you skip out every time your group decides to go…

Petra: It’s been a few months for me though. Last time was during summer vacation.

Lilith: Same.

Petra: I’ve never heard you sing, though.

Prim: Um…

Prim’s small voice cuts through the chatter, reminding us why we’re here.

Prim: I’ve never been before.

Pro: Same.

Asher: That’s okay, hopefully this’ll be a fun first time.

Prim: Yeah…

Prim: I’m a little nervous though…

Petra: Well, it *is* nerve-wracking to sing in front of other people. To be honest I’m a little nervous too.

Petra: Let’s just have some fun with it.

Prim: Yeah.

Petra: With that being said, we won’t be doing any singing if we don’t get a move on, so let’s get going.

Petra starts off in one direction, but then she apparently realizes that she made a mistake and double back. Not really knowing any better, the rest of us follow her lead despite the tiny voice in our heads that warn us not to.

The karaoke parlor is just under fifteen minutes away from the station, although it takes us just over twenty to get there due to the sheer number of people walking around today. We weave through crowds, cross the street haphazardly, and almost get lost many, many times…

…but for some reason I can’t quite put into words, every mishap brings a smile to my face. There’s a strange, unfamiliar but pleasant bubbling sensation that’s rising in my chest, and I can’t fight it down.

But then again, why would I want to?

**Karaoke Place**

We eventually reach our destination and, a bit exhausted, we crash onto the couch that lines the walls of our cubicle. I look around, noticing that it isn’t by any means dingy, it isn’t quite as nice as all those slice of life anime shows make them seem.

Petra: This place is pretty well known for their food, so I thought we could eat dinner here.

Pro: Dinner? It’s barely past four, though.

Petra: You see young Pro…

Petra: Karaoke is one of those things that makes time pass extraordinarily quickly.

Petra: But I guess we’ll see how it goes. So, um…

Petra: Does anyone wanna go first?

Petra holds out the microphone and looks around, hoping that one of us will take it from her. Nobody seems to be too keen on being the opening act, though, and the room stays motionless for a solid thirty seconds…

Prim: Um…

…but then Prim speaks up.

Prim: I-I’ll go…

Petra: Huh?!?!? No it’s okay, I can go fir-

Prim: I want to go.

Prim: Unless you want to.

Petra: Oh. Go ahead then.

Prim takes a deep breath as she clutches onto the mic, shaking so, so slightly from nervousness. Or maybe excitement? Probably a bit of both.

Lilith: What do you wanna sing?

Prim: Huh?!? Um…

Prim: I’m not sure. I don’t know too many songs, sorry…

Lilith: That’s alright. Are there any genres you like?

Prim: Genres? Um…

Prim: I like anime songs.

Lilith: Anime songs? Which ones?

Prim: I don’t remember…

Petra: Why don’t you do a classical piece?

Asher: I don’t think the machine has any of those…

Petra: Oh, right…

Prim: Actually, I really liked the ending from *Yi’s Lie in April*.

Pro: Oh, that one? I think I know what it’s called.

Lilith passes me the board, and after fiddling with it for a few seconds I manage to pull the song up on the screen.

Prim starts as the intro starts playing, and for a moment I start to worry. This song has a lot of high notes, so will she be okay…?

But once she starts singing, I instantly realize that my worry was for nothing. Her voice, although soft, is warm, gentle, and astonishingly beautiful, and a quick look around the room shows that it’s not only me who thinks that.

Nobody speaks for the entire duration of the song, none of us wanting to take away from Prim’s moment, and even after it ends we’re all left speechless.

Prim: Um…

Prim: Was that alright…?

Petra: …

Petra: Forget about piano, you should be an idol or something!!! That was so good!!!

Prim: Huh?!? But I’m set on playing piano…

Petra: It’d be such a waste though.

With a face that screams “remember me when you’re famous,” Petra grabs the second mic and stands up to join Prim, even more hyperactive than usual.

Petra: C’mon, let’s do a duet!!

**Cutscene - Karaoke**

Prim and Petra sing the opening of some other popular anime together, with Petra’s energetic, peppy voice actually contrasting quite nicely with Prim’s. Their performance isn’t exactly the awe-inducing heart-warmer that Prim gave us earlier, but it’s lively and fun, a perfect way to start off the festivities.

Having too much fun to keep track of the time, we end up staying for over two hours, taking a break from singing only to eat dinner midway through. All of us (except for Lilith) sing, sing, and sing some more, and by the time we leave our voices are completely gone.