**School Roof**

We make our way to, predictably, the school roof, which is thankfully empty and devoid of flirty couples today. Given what happened earlier today, I’m not sure if my heart would be able to take it.

Petra (neutral smiling): So, how was tennis yesterday? I heard all about it.

Pro: You did, huh…?

Petra (neutral grinning): I was told that you were “a dead fish in the middle of the desert.”

Pro: By who, exactly?

Petra (neutral wink): That’s classified information.

Petra (laughing laughing):

She bursts out laughing, much to my chagrin. It was Mick, wasn’t it.

Petra (laughing recovering):

Pro: Well, your informant wasn’t exactly wrong…

Petra (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Man, I wish I could’ve seen it. Maybe I’ll join you guys next time.

Petra (neutral curious): So, when’s next time?

Pro: Dunno.

Petra (neutral thinking): Hmm…

Petra (neutral smiling): Well, let me know. If I don’t have practice I’ll join you guys.

Definitely gonna try to schedule our next visit during one of Petra’s practices.

Petra (neutral curious): How did Prim do?

Pro: A lot better than I did.

Petra (neutral smiling): She’s surprisingly good at these kinds of things, huh?

Pro: Yeah. Um…

Petra (neutral curious):

I hesitate, unsure of whether I should ask Petra how Prim’s doing. Despite her personality, Petra can actually be pretty reliable so it should be safe to tell her what happened, right?

Pro: How’s Prim doing? Is she alright?

Petra (neutral confused): Huh? She seemed normal.

Petra (neutral worried\_slightly): Did something happen?

Pro: Huh? Uh…

I hesitate again, reconsidering my decision.

Pro: No reason, really. I was really sore when I woke up though, so I was wondering if she was too.

Petra (neutral curious): Oh, okay.

I apologize internally to Petra, knowing that I’m leaving her out of the loop again. I’ll tell her later, though. Probably.

Petra (neutral neutral):

Pro: Anyways, is that all you brought me up here for?

Petra: Nope. There’s something else.

Petra (neutral curious): Do you know when Prim’s birthday is?

Pro: No idea. Why?

Petra: It was yesterday.

Pro: …

Petra (laughing laughing):

Pro: Wait, actually?!?!?

Petra (laughing recovering): Just kidding, just kidding. It’s on Friday.

Petra (neutral curious): And with that in mind, what are you getting her as a present?

Petra (neutral confused):

Pro: Huh? A present?

She looks at me confusedly, as if I just said something odd.

Petra (neutral skeptical): When it’s your friend’s birthday, you give them a present. Don’t you know that?

Pro: I mean, of course I know that, but-

Petra (neutral annoyed): Are you not her friend?

Pro: Yeah, but-

Petra (neutral expressionless): Is it not her birthday on Friday?

Pro: Apparently it is, but-

Petra (neutral curious): So get her a present. Easy as that.

Pro: But wouldn’t it be a little weird? I haven’t known her for very long.

Petra (neutral thinking): I mean, maybe a little…

Petra (neutral neutral): But it’ll really only be awkward if you make it awkward. If you hand it over regularly, like a *normal* person would, then I’m sure it’ll be fine.

Yikes.

Pro: Alright, alright, you’ve made your point.

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: What are you getting her?

Petra (neutral pout): I dunno yet. Finding the perfect gift is hard, you know.

Petra (neutral expressionless): I want it to be something she can enjoy, but also something that’s thoughtful and memorable, you know?

Pro: That’s a pretty tall order…

Petra (down disappointed): Yeah…

Petra (neutral sigh): It’s like this every time there’s a birthday.

Petra (down tired):

Pro: Every time?

Petra: Every time. Maybe once every month, or so.

Pro: Once every month…?

Being popular sounds pretty difficult.

Petra (down neutral):

Pro: How do you have the money for all that?

Petra (neutral neutral): I mean, gifts don’t always have to be expensive. And if I’m buying for someone my family knows, then I can usually get some funding from my parents.

Pro: I guess that makes sense…

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: Maybe I’ll get her a gift card, or something.

Petra: …

Petra (neutral fufu): I guess that’s good enough for you.

Pro: For me…?

Petra: Yup. For you.

Petra (stretching stretching): Anyways, I’m hungry, so I’m gonna head back to class.

Petra (neutral smiling): Let me know when you pick something out, okay?

Petra (waving grinning):

After a cheeky grin and a wave, she skips towards the roof exit, knowing full well that I’ll now struggle to choose something.

What’s wrong with a gift card…?