**Udon Shop**

Prim’s dad gives the three of a short ride to the station, where we get off and head to the same udon restaurant Lilith took me to when we first started to hang out.

Prim (shy neutral):

Petra (neutral smiling): Oh, you knew about this restaurant too, Prim?

Prim (shy curious): Yeah, we come here sometimes.

Petra (neutral smirk):

Petra glances at me briefly, a self-satisfied smile starting to manifest on her face.

Petra: Here’s a fun fact, Pro-

Pro: Yes, this is one of Lilith’s favourite restaurants. She took me here too.

Prim (shy confused):

Petra: …

Petra (neutral confused): Huh?

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral frowning): Just the two of you?

Pro: Yup.

Petra: …

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous):

Petra (down disappointed): I’ve only been here once before, and that was in a large group…

Prim: Are you okay?

Prim (shy shy):

Petra (down expressionless):

A rather befuddled waiter comes to find us a table, placing the three of us in a small booth near the front of the shop. Prim’s dad takes a spot at the bar, probably wanting to give us some space.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Is your dad gonna be okay by himself?

Prim (shy thinking): I think he’s friends with one of the chefs, so he’ll probably talk to him…

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): Probably.

Pro: I see.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: What are you gonna get?

Prim (shy shy): Um, I usually get a bowl of seafood udon. They cook the seafood with sake, which makes everything taste really good.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: That does sound good. Maybe I’ll get that as well.

Petra: I’ll also take one.

Pro: So three bowls of seafood udon.

Prim (shy confused):

Petra (down disappointed):

I get a waiter’s attention and place the order before turning back to a defeated Petra. With a sigh, I grab Asher’s writing from my bag and dangle it in front of her face, hoping that it’ll help her regain some energy.

Petra (down neutral):

Pro: Cheer up. Here, while we’re here I’ll even let you read this.

Prim (shy curious): Is that…?

Prim (surprise eek):

Petra (neutral excited):

Pro: Yeah, it’s from the literature club. Asher wrote it.

Prim (fidget down): Um…

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): Were you allowed to take it?

Prim (shy sigh):

Pro: I asked one of the upper-years, so I’m sure it’ll be fine. As long as we return it.

Prim (shy eek):

Petra (neutral confused):

Pro: You wanna take a read?

Prim (shy embarrassed): Me? I guess…

Prim (shy shy):

Petra (neutral curious):

I hand it over to Prim, who reads it carefully and intently. Her expressions change ever so slightly as she goes through the manuscript, and when she finishes she quietly realigns the papers together and returns it.

Pro: So? What do you think?

Prim (shy down): Well…

Petra (surprise surprise):

Prim (shy shy\_blushing): It’s a short story. About love.

Petra (surprise panic): About love?!?!?

Prim: Yeah.

Petra (neutral curious):

Prim (shy thinking): At the end though, I don’t understand why he says that “the moon is beautiful.”

Prim (shy neutral):

Petra (neutral skeptical): You weren’t paying attention in class again, huh.

Prim (shy confused): Huh?

Pro: Again?

Petra (neutral sigh): We went over it a couple weeks ago. It’s basically another way of saying “I love you.”

Petra (neutral curious):

Prim (shy embarrassed): In which class?

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): In Japanese class, of course.

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral smiling): It’s a rather refined way to confess. It sounds like something that a person like Asher would use.

Prim (shy confused):

Petra (neutral smirk): Although it’d be wasted on another certain boy I know.

Pro: Right…

Petra (neutral excited): Anyways, I wanna read it, so give it here.

Prim (shy curious):

She takes the story from my hands and starts reading excitedly, no doubt curious about Asher’s romantic fantasies. While she goes through it, I turn to Prim, curious about Petra’s earlier comment.

Petra (exit):

Prim (shy eek):

Pro: You find it hard to pay attention in class as well, huh?

Prim (shy panic): Huh? Well…

Prim (shy down\_blushing): Yeah. I’m not the best student.

Prim (shy shy):

Pro: That’s pretty surprising. I thought you’d be really disciplined and studious.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): I find it hard to stay motivated when it comes to school. Although I know that I should probably try to do better, especially now…

Pro: Especially now?

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral sigh):

Before I get a response, however, Petra sighs emphatically.

Petra (neutral worried\_slightly):

Pro: You seem troubled.

Petra (neutral worried): Well…

Prim (shy confused):

Petra (neutral expressionless): The heroine in the story is an older girl.

Pro: So?

Petra (neutral skeptical): So…

Petra: …

Petra (neutral sigh): Ah, forget it. You can really be dumb sometimes, you know.

Petra (neutral frowning):

She returns her attention back to Asher’s story with a newfound determination. What exactly she’s determined about, though, is anybody’s guess.

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): Um…

Petra (exit):

Prim glances at Petra before leaning in. Her voice drops down to a whisper, and her breath tickles my ears as she speaks.

Prim (shy shy): Does Petra like Asher?

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: I think so. Although I’m not exactly sure.

Pro: It might be more similar to admiration than to love, actually.

Prim (shy neutral): I see. He does seem very kind.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Yeah, and he’s also smart, athletic, and popular…

Prim (shy thinking): So she might have competition.

Prim (shy curious): Do you know who he likes?

Pro: I don’t. He refuses to tell me.

Prim: I see.

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous): I guess Petra and I don’t talk about things like that much either.

Yeah, I can’t really see them discussing love. I could see Petra teasing Prim about it, but that’s about it.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Well, it’s not something most people talk about on a regular basis, I guess. A lot of people find the topic uncomfortable.

Prim: …

Prim (shy eek\_blushing): …

Prim (shy embarrassed\_blushing): Yeah, I guess so…

Prim (shy down\_blushing):

Realizing that our side conversation has indeed become very uncomfortable, I back away, noting that the room’s temperature seems to have risen by several degrees.

Prim (exit):

Thankfully, our food arrives, and instead of continuing to talk Prim and I silently agree to start eating, watching as an anguished Petra continues to read.