**Front of School**

Once I leave the office I dash to the front of the school, summoning whatever energy I have left to get me there as soon as possible. The hallways are busy and packed with students, though, but after wading through the masses I eventually make it outside.

Scanning the area, I notice a flash of purple squeeze its way out of the crowd and through the gate.

Pro: Prim!! Wait!!

She stops and turns around, confusedly looking for the person who called her name. Thankfully she notices me, and after I wave to her I blunder my way over, unintentionally tripping over anything and everything.

Prim: Pro?

Pro: Hey…

Pro: Um…

Prim watches awkwardly as I bend over to recover, my breathing fast and ragged.

Pro: Sorry, um…

Pro: Just wanted to wish you a happy birthday.

Prim: …

Prim: Oh, thank you…

Prim: How did you know?

Pro: Oh, there were various sources.

Prim: Various sources?

Pro: Ah…

Not knowing how much to disclose, I instead decide to change the subject.

Pro: Anyways, I, uh…

Pro: I bought…

I reach into my bag, feeling around for the box…

…but it isn’t there.

I spin around, looking to see if I dropped it on my way here, but all I see are students.

Prim: Um, are you alright?

Pro: Yeah, I’m fine.

She looks at me with obvious concern, but for some reason she seems a little hopeful as well. Her eyes are wide and round, like a puppy’s, making it hard to look at her directly…

Filled with guilt, worry, and embarrassment, I decide to give up ship and run.

Pro: Uh, sorry I have to go somewhere.

Pro: Happy birthday!! Hope you enjoy it.

Pro: See you!

Prim: Huh? Pro…

Drowning out the rest of the world, I sprint back towards the school, partially to get away and partially to look for the missing gift.

**Neighbourhood Road 1**

I eventually found the present sitting on my desk, but by the time I did Prim was long gone. Knowing that my life would be in danger if I left school before reporting in to Ms. Tran, instead of chasing her I instead made my way to the teacher’s office, where I was conscripted to help unload a truck full of computer parts.

Ah, another tragic day…

Mara: Now that’s a sorry expression…

Mara appears around the corner, looking almost as drained as I feel.

Mara: What did they make you do?

Pro: Unload a truck. You?

Mara: I had to clean the washrooms. It wasn’t horrible, but…

Pro: Yeah…

Mara: Ah well. As long as Prim liked the gift I guess it was worth it.

Mara: So? Did she?

Pro: Actually, um..

Pro: I didn’t end up giving it to her.

Mara: …

Mara: Seriously?

Pro: Yeah…

Mara: …

Mara: You owe me a meal. In fact, make that a day’s worth of meals.

Pro: Yeah, that’s fair…

Mara: I can’t believe you…

Pro: I’m sorry…

Mara: I went through so much…

Pro: I’m sorry…

Mara: So, Pro.

Mara: Sunday, library, 10:00 AM sharp. Understood?

Pro: Yes ma’am.

Mara: Good.

Mara: With that out of the way, I’m pretty hungry. Wanna get something to eat one our way back?

Pro: Huh…? I’m tired, and I wanna take a bath.

Mara: That’s no good. It’s a Friday, so we should celebrate!

Pro: Is it Friday already?

Mara: You forgot.

Pro: Kind of, yeah.

Realizing that I won’t have to go to school tomorrow, my mood immediately improves.

Pro: Yeah, I’m actually a little hungry as well. Let’s take a detour, then.

Pro: What do you wanna eat?

Mara: Croquettes!

Pro: Oh, that sounds good. Let’s go, then.