**Classroom**

I sink dejectedly into my desk when the lunch bell rings, wanting to go see Lilith but not wanting to subject myself to the swarm of piranhas that’ll probably be swarming around her.

Asher (neutral curious): Hey, Pro, did you hear? Lilith’s back.

Pro: I know. I saw her on Saturday.

Asher (neutral smiling): Yeah, figured. How did Petra react to you getting a head start?

Unsettled by his intuition, I try to play it cool and distant.

Asher (neutral hehe):

Pro: Petra? What if I haven’t seen her today? How would you know if I did?

Asher (neutral cheerful): Just a hunch.

Pro: A hunch.

Asher: That’s right.

Pro: Well…

Pro: She didn’t take it well at all.

Asher (laughing laughing):

Asher laughs at this, finding it funny that Petra acted so predictably…

Asher (neutral surprise):

Petra (neutral death): May I ask what you’re laughing about?

Asher (neutral nervous):

…but once the object of his amusement shows up in the flesh, he abruptly stops.

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous): Nothing in particular.

Petra: Is that so?

Asher (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral curious):

Prim: Petra…

Prim (shy disappointed):

A rather worn-out Prim trots into the classroom, placing a stack of papers on Ms. Tran’s desk before joining us.

Prim (shy pout): You made me carry everything…

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous):

Petra (neutral hehe): Oh, sorry. I heard something interesting.

Petra (neutral geh): …

Asher (neutral confused):

Petra (neutral nervous): Ah, I’m sorry…

Prim (shy curious):

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): Café after school? Or…

Asher (neutral neutral):

Prim (shy sigh): Maybe.

Petra (neutral sigh):

Prim (shy shy): Um, Pro…

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: Hm? What’s up?

Prim (shy down): Um…

Asher (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral wow):

Prim (shy shy): Do you have time after school?

Petra (neutral smirk):

Pro: Probably.

Prim: Then…

Asher (neutral wow):

Prim (shy bambi): Do you wanna look at clubs again today?

Asher (neutral playful):

Prim (shy worried\_slightly): We don’t have to if you can’t…

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: Oh, no. Sure, let’s do it then.

Pro: Which club do you wanna go to?

Prim (shy smiling\_nervous): Um, I’m not sure. Just felt like doing something today.

Prim (shy curious):

Pro: In that case, wanna visit the-

Prim (shy eek):

Asher (neutral nervous):

Petra (neutral surprise):

However, before I can finish my suggestion an unexpected interruption in the form of Ms. Tran appears.

Asher (neutral sigh):

Prim (arms\_behind embarrassed):

Petra (neutral nervous):

Teacher (arms\_crossed sigh): Petra…

Asher (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): Huh? Oh, hey. I brought the printouts, like you asked.

Prim (shy eek):

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous):

Petra (neutral geh):

Teacher (arms\_crossed stern): Firstly, those are the wrong printouts. Secondly, I told you to bring them to your own classroom, not this one.

Prim (shy embarrassed):

Petra (neutral nervous): Huh? That’s strange…

Teacher (arms\_crossed stern): So, go back and get the proper ones.

Petra (neutral surprise):

Teacher (arms\_crossed menacing): Unless…

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): No, no, no need to exert yourself. C’mon Prim, help me out…

Prim (shy eek): Huh? Petra…?

Prim (exit):

Petra (exit):

Positively terrified, Petra quickly leaves, dragging a completely bewildered Prim with her.

Teacher (neutral neutral): Well, that’s that.

Asher (neutral smiling):

Pro: Making the first years do your work too, huh…?

Teacher (neutral smiling): Hm? Not at all. This much is normal.

Teacher (neutral annoyed): And besides, she was fooling around in class the other day, *and* she forgot to grab the printouts yesterday.

Pro: I mean, I guess that’s reasonable…

Pro: But what did you threaten her with? She seemed really pacified.

Teacher (neutral smirk): That’s a secret.

Pro: I see…

Asher (neutral curious):

Done with my line of questioning, she turns to Asher instead.

Teacher (neutral curious): You’ve been unusually quiet.

Asher (neutral confused): Huh? Me? I’m usually pretty quiet, though.

Teacher (neutral curious): Are you? I guess I may have lumped you in with all of your friends…

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous): That’s fair…

Asher (neutral curious):

Teacher (neutral disappointed): But anyways, couldn’t you guys be a better influence on those two? Petra seems like she’s perpetually overcaffeinated, and Prim, well…

Teacher (neutral concerned): She’s a kind and quiet girl, so I don’t like saying this, but in terms of academics she’s been taking on some Pro-like tendencies.

Pro: What’s that supposed to mean…?

Teacher (neutral concerned): Before it was more or less excusable, but now…

She stops, lost in thought.

Teacher (neutral smiling): Well, at the end of the day I guess this is a problem us teachers will have to deal with, not you guys.

Teacher (neutral smiling): Sorry, I guess I went on and said a bit too much. Forget everything I said, okay?

Pro: Huh? That’d be pretty difficult, considering-

Teacher (neutral serious): Forget everything I said.

Pro: …

Pro: Yes ma’am.

She promptly leaves after ensuring our silence, allowing us to finally start eating in peace. Nothing really happens for the rest of lunch, except for one instance where Prim briefly runs by, being chased by a ravenous, “over-caffeinated” wolf.

What a lively day.