**Classroom**

Mara and I eventually disengage from combat and go to our respective schools, our bodies aching a little more than they should’ve been.

By the time lunch rolls around, my body still hasn’t fully recovered. Instead of moving when Ms. Tran dismisses us, I melt into my chair in a somewhat gelatinous manner, prompting a small chuckle from Asher.

Teacher (neutral neutral): Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Two things.

Teacher: First of all, you have a test on Friday.

I groan internally, knowing that I’ll probably do poorly.

Teacher (neutral curious): Second of all, our school’s cultural festival is coming up in a few weeks, so starting next week we’ll be having less classes so you guys can prepare.

The class collectively cheers, thrilled about both skipping classes and the festival itself.

Teacher (neutral thinking): Each class needs to submit their plan to the committee as soon as possible, though, so we’re deciding what we’re doing tomorrow during homeroom.

Teacher (neutral neutral):

Asher (neutral curious): Isn’t that a little too soon?

Teacher (neutral curious): Yeah, I should’ve told you guys earlier. But it’s too late now, so you’ll just have to make do. Talk in between yourselves today.

Teacher (neutral menacing): But no matter what, we’re not doing a play. Anyone who suggests doing one may mysteriously disappear…

Teacher (neutral smirk):

Everyone suddenly becomes really quiet, chilled by Ms. Tran’s ominous warning. She seems to enjoy it immensely, and heads towards the door with a slightly smug smirk on her face.

Teacher (waving smiling): Well, I’ll leave the rest to you guys to figure out. Have fun.

Teacher (exit):

Once she leaves the room slowly becomes chattier again, filled with my classmates excitedly discussing what they wanna do.

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous): That was something else, huh?

Pro: Yeah…

Asher (neutral curious): But anyways, is there anything in particular you wanna do?

Pro: Me? Not really.

Asher (neutral smirk): Really? Not even a maid or a cosplay café?

Asher (neutral curious): Actually I guess the people you’d wanna see wearing those outfits aren’t in our class, huh?

Pro: Hm? What do you mean?

Asher (neutral thinking): Well, for example…

Asher (neutral playful): Wouldn’t you wanna see Lilith in a maid costume?

Now that he mentions it, I do. I totally do.

Pro: Not really. I have no interest in such things…

Asher (neutral smirk): Is that so? Then, what about-

Asher (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral smiling):

I’m saved by the arrival of Petra, who pops up beside Asher unexpectedly.

Petra: What are you guys talking about?

Pro: Asher wants to do a maid café.

Petra (neutral thinking): I don’t think you guys would be able to. They already gave the okay to our class for that, and I doubt that they’d allow duplicate attractions.

Tch. So close, but so far.

Petra (neutral smiling): If you really like maids so much, then you could visit our class.

Petra (neutral curious):

Asher (neutral smiling): Maybe. If I have time I’ll go.

Petra (arms\_crossed skeptical): Only if you have time, huh…

Asher (neutral surprise):

Petra (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Well, of course Mr. Asher, the world-renowned love story writer, wouldn’t have time for such trivial things. Or should I call you Mr. “the moon is beautiful” instead?

Asher (neutral nervous):

Petra (neutral smiling\_dark):

She smiles venomously at a speechless Asher, her voice sickeningly sweet.

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous):

Petra: With that being said, I’ll see you there.

Asher (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral neutral): Now anyways…

Petra (neutral curious): Pro.

Pro: Present…

Petra: Come with me for a second.

Pro: Hm? Okay.

**Hallway 1**

We step outside, leaving poor Asher by himself. I kinda feel bad for him, but at the same time I was the one who gave Petra his manuscript.

Petra (neutral neutral):

Pro: I have a feeling that he might be traumatized now…

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): Sorry, I got a little annoyed. It’s his fault though, saying that he *might* drop by, if he so chooses to…

Pro: Right, right.

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: So? What did you wanna talk about?

Petra: Oh, right. Um…

Petra (neutral worried\_slightly): Prim didn’t show up to school today. The teacher said she called in sick, but…

She trails off, but I can understand what she’s trying to say. Is Prim actually sick, or…?

Petra (neutral smiling\_worried): Maybe we should’ve let it be?

Pro: Maybe. But what’s done is done.

Petra (neutral sigh): I guess…

Petra (neutral worried): …

Petra (neutral worried\_slightly): I’ll visit her house after school, just to make sure she’s alright.

Petra (neutral smiling\_worried): Don’t worry, I won’t pry any further. I’ll bring her some drinks and snacks, that’s it.

Pro: Alright then. Let me know what happens.

Petra (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Will do.

Petra (neutral thinking): Actually, we have baseball practice today…

Petra (neutral smiling): Well, it’s the end of the season anyways, so it’ll be okay if I skip a practice or two.

Petra (neutral smirk): You can go in my place. I’m sure they’d have fun with that. You could even wear my jersey.

Pro: Right…

Petra (neutral laughing):

Laughing at the thought of me squeezing into her baseball uniform, Petra starts to leave.

Petra (waving smiling): Well, I’ll see you later. Give the team my regards for me.

Petra (exit):

I probably won’t, but she doesn’t need to know that.

Well, at least she’s in a better mood. I’ve thought this for a while, but worry really doesn’t suit her.