**Hallway 2**

However, Mara quickly disappears from my thoughts shortly after I head inside, with Prim replacing her. Throughout the entire morning I find myself checking my phone for any information from Petra, Asher, or even Prim herself, but each time I sneak a glance I find nothing but disappointment.

A trend that persists throughout lunch as well.

Petra (neutral curious): Prim? She’s not here.

Pro: Did she have something to do again?

Petra (neutral neutral): No, like, she’s not here today. Absent.

Pro: Oh, I see.

Petra (neutral curious): Did something happen? You seem different.

Pro: Do I?

Petra (neutral smiling):

Pro: Yeah, I guess something di-

Petra (neutral geh):

Pro: Why are you smiling?

Petra (neutral nervous): Huh? What do you mean…?

Petra (laughing laughing):

However, unable to hold back any longer, Petra bursts out in laughter, clutching her sides to keep them from shaking.

Petra (laughing recovering): I just so happened to be cleaning our classroom yesterday, and…

Petra (neutral grinning): And I may have overheard a certain conversation.

Petra (neutral smiling):

Pro: …

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: That was a pretty serious conversation, you know.

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): I know, I know, but…

Petra (laughing laughing): But those things just felt so wrong coming out of your mouth, you know?

Petra (laughing recovering):

I let out a sigh, secretly finding Petra’s lack of concern a tiny bit alarming.

Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: Aren’t you a little too carefree, though? If you heard our conversation then you know what’s been going on.

Petra (neutral neutral): Yeah, um…

Petra (neutral thinking):

Suddenly sober, she pauses to think for a second.

Petra (neutral smiling): I think you’ll be fine.

Pro: And how do you know that?

Petra (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Trust me.

Petra (neutral curious):

Lilith (neutral curious): What are you guys talking about?

Lilith appears out of nowhere, and I realize in terror that I totally forgot that I was supposed to meet her in the library today…

Petra (neutral smiling): Just a bit of banter. About Pro’s second favourite junior.

Lilith (neutral confused): Second favourite? Prim? Who’s your favourite, then?

Petra (neutral confused):

Pro: I have no idea. Definitely not Petra, though.

Petra (surprise indignant): Hey!!

Lilith (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral down):

Shocked at my betrayal, Petra turns to Lilith hopefully.

Petra (neutral worried\_slightly): I’m *your* favourite though, right?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Petra (surprise surprise):

Lilith (neutral neutral): You’re probably second or third.

Petra (surprise embarrassed): …

Petra (down disappointed): So that’s how it is, huh? Life can really be cruel sometimes, I guess.

Petra: If you’ll excuse me, I need to go rethink my existence, so I’ll be leaving now.

Pro: Right…

Petra (exit):

A dejected Petra heads back into her classroom, leaving Lilith and I alone.

Lilith: So…

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): Are we still studying?

Pro: Yeah. Sorry, I forgot.

Lilith (neutral neutral): It’s alright.

Lilith (neutral curious): Do you need to get your stuff, though?

Pro: Yeah, I do. Sorry.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): Don’t worry about it. I’ll meet you in the library, then.