**Front of School**

The rest of the day goes by without anything particularly interesting happening, and once class ends I absent-mindedly meander my way outside, vaguely going through a mental list of possible birthday gifts for Prim.

I wonder what she’d like. She doesn’t seem like someone who’s too big into material goods, but then what else would I get her? Clothes? Accessories? Or maybe something piano-related? They all initially sound decent, but when I think more about them I realize that I have no clue if they’d *actually* be good or not.

Apart from Mara I haven’t really gotten gifts for anyone, and she makes it really easy for me to decide. About a month before her birthday she’ll start dropping “subtle” hints about what she’d like and where I could find it.

Unfortunately, though, I don’t think I’ll get that sort of help with Prim…

*Direction: Thud noise.*

THUD!!!

Too preoccupied to pay attention to where I’m going, I run into a wall and fall over.

Or at least, it feels like a wall…

Lilith: …

Lilith: It’s you, huh.

Pro: Oh, um…

Pro: Hey.

Completely unaffected by the impact, she watches expressionlessly as I sprawl back to my feet for the second time today, doing my best to look as dignified as possible.

Pro: Sorry, I wasn’t looking where I was going…

Pro: Had something on my mind.

Lilith: It’s fine. Something on your mind?

She looks at me curiously, prompting me to go on.

Pro: Yeah. I need to get a gift for a friend.

Lilith: Prim?

Pro: Um, yeah…

Pro: How’d you know?

Lilith: Um…

Lilith: Petra’s been pretty excited, so…

That’d do it.

Lilith: I guess the two of you are setting something up for her?

Pro: Yeah, kinda. Although I feel like she’s gonna end up doing most of the planning.

Lilith: That’s fine, I think. She seems really motivated, so it’d probably be best to take a back seat and let her do her thing.

Pro: I guess so.

A few seconds of awkward silence ensues, and I take the moment to notice Lilith’s unusual attire.

Pro: Are you, um, going to play baseball, or something…?

Lilith: …

Lilith: Baseball practice. I told you yesterday, no?

Pro: Oh, right…

Pro: Sorry.

Lilith: Don’t worry about it, it’s not that big of a deal.

Lilith: You didn’t forget about tomorrow though, right…?

Pro: Uh, no, I didn’t.

Lilith looks at me with doubt in her eyes, causing me to shrink a little bit despite having told the truth.

Lilith: Oh, okay.

Lilith: I should get going now, so um…

Lilith: Meet here after school?

Pro: Sure.

Lilith: Alright.

Lilith: See you tomorrow, then.

Pro: See you.

She turns to leave, but before she can get too far I suddenly remember my offer to Prim earlier.

Pro: Wait, um…!

I call out tentatively, my voice somewhat uncharacteristically timid. What if Lilith doesn’t agree? She probably will, but on the off chance she doesn’t…?

Lilith: Hm? What’s up?

Pro: Oh, uh, about tomorrow…

Pro: Would it be okay if, um, someone else were to, like, join us…?

Lilith: Prim?

She looks at me plainly, completely unsurprised by my request.

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith: Sure, that’s fine. The more the merrier…

Lilith: …or so they say, but that’s not exactly right I guess. But one more person shouldn’t make too much of a difference from a tutoring standpoint, so don’t worry about it.

Pro: Oh, alright.

She pauses and stares, an intriguing expression on her face. Internally I’m relieved that she agreed as if it were the natural thing to do, but a part of me suspects that she’s just too considerate to refuse.

Lilith: Well, I really need to go now, or else I’ll be late.

Lilith: So see you later.

Pro: Oh, right. Sorry for holding you up.

Pro: See you.

She turns around to leave for the second time, glancing back to briefly wave right before disappearing around the corner of the school.