**Classroom**

Needless to say, with Mara’s disheartened face fresh on my mind, I find it even harder to pay attention in class. I’ve seen Mara like this several times before, usually after her parents have a big fight, but for some reason something about her today bothers me…

Teacher (neutral stern): Pro.

Called out of my thoughts, I snap to attention and look at Ms. Tran.

Teacher (neutral concerned): We’re almost at lunch, okay?

Pro: Oh, okay.

Teacher (exit):

For some reason, she doesn’t look angry or annoyed. Instead, she seems concerned, maybe even a little sad. Teacher’s intuition, I guess.

**Hallway 1**

Morning classes eventually end, and I decide to take a walk at lunch to clear my head. I can’t really do anything for Mara right now, and it would probably be best not to dwell on it for too long…

THUD!!

Petra (neutral wince): Ow, ow, ow...

Petra (neutral worried): Ah, sorry, sorry…

Petra (neutral curious): Oh, it’s you. Hey.

Pro: That’s right, it’s me. Sorry about that.

Petra (neutral smiling): Don’t worry about it. It’s mainly my fault for running around, anyways.

Pro: Why are you in such a rush?

Petra (neutral curious): Hm? I’m not in a rush.

Petra (surprise surprise):

I blink a few times before bursting out laughing.

Petra (surprise indignant): Huh?!?! What’s so funny?

Pro: Nothing, nothing.

Petra (neutral sigh):

Petra lets out a sigh.

Petra (neutral smiling): Well, at least you’re looking better now. When I saw you this morning you looked dead inside.

Pro: This morning?

Petra (neutral neutral): Yeah, when you were putting away your shoes.

Pro: Oh.

Petra (neutral nervous): Anyways…

Petra (embarrassed embarrassed):

She scratches the back of her neck aggressively, as if a little nervous.

Petra (neutral nervous): Mmm…

Petra: If you’re gonna hang out with Lilith, then you better be in a good mood.

Petra (neutral embarrassed): You’re taking her away from us, after all. We were all gonna do something today, but she told us that she couldn’t because she’d already planned something with you.

Petra (neutral pout): Thief.

Pro: Sorry about that…

Petra (neutral grinning):

Petra shakes her head and grins.

Petra (neutral smiling): It’s fine. Just make sure she has fun, okay?

Pro: Will do.

Petra (neutral grinning): Good luck!

Petra (exit):

Petra then laughs and runs off, and as I watch her disappear down the hallway I feel my worry about Mara starting to melt away. It’s still there, but Petra’s right – if I’m taking away from Lilith’s time with her friends, I should at least try to make it worthwhile for her.