**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.

Maybe I should do something with her over the weekend as well.

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 smile): 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: Anyways…

Petra (neutral frowning): Why did you turn down Lilith’s offer on Tuesday? She wasn’t too happy about that.

Pro: Ah…

Pro: I actually have something to do today.

Petra (neutral skeptical): Hmm…

Petra stares at me intently, trying to detect a lie. It’s not, though. At least, not really.

Petra (neutral neutral): Well, that’s that I guess.

Petra (neutral smiling): We have a game this Saturday, so you should come to that.

I consider Petra’s proposition. After yesterday’s practice, I can’t deny that I do want to go see Lilith play baseball again, but should I go if that means not being available for Mara?

Go to the game **OR** Do something with Mara

{

I almost turn Petra down, but then I realize something – Mara would probably feel even worse if I were to skip out on an event like this just to cheer her up.

Pro: Sure, I’ll go. What time, and where?

Petra (neutral thinking): Um…

Petra: It’s at 1:00, and I think…

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): I’m actually not sure where it is. I’ll text you later, I guess.

Pro: Oh, okay.

Petra (waving grinning): Yeah. Well, I gotta go, so I’ll see you later!

Petra starts to run off, but all of a sudden stops and turns around.

Petra (neutral curious): Actually, do I have your number?

Pro: Oh, right. I don’t think so.

Petra (neutral neutral):

She holds out her hand, and after a few seconds I realize what she wants and give her my phone unlocked. With fingers that obviously have spent way too much time texting, she quickly enters my number into her phone and hands mine back to me.

Petra (neutral grinning): There we go. See you then!

Petra (exit):

And with that, she runs off for good.

}

{

Petra (neutral neutral):

Pro: Ah, sorry…

Pro: There’s some stuff I need to do that day.

As much as I want to go, I know that my priority right now should be Mara, and nothing else. Even if I make new friends and meet new people, she’s the one person that should never come second.

Petra (neutral frowning): Oh, I see.

Petra (neutral disappointed): …

Petra (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): That’s that, I guess. I’ll see you around, then.

Petra (exit):

Petra runs off, and I feel a little guilty about turning her down, especially because she’s probably not doing this for herself. But this is for the best.

}