**Café**

Half an hour later I find myself still at the café, dejectedly sipping on my glass of water, which is now empty. Petra and Asher are here too, but since everyone else left we’ve barely said anything to each other.

After a while Petra finally speaks up, her voice small and quiet.

Petra (neutral groan): This is all my fault, I shouldn’t have pressured her to come…

Asher (neutral disappointed): Well, we all knew that she’d be going, so I think it’s equally all our faults.

Petra (neutral frown): But…

Asher sighs, cutting her off.

Asher (neutral neutral): Everyone makes mistakes. Nobody can predict what will happen in the future, and you certainly aren’t an exception.

Asher (neutral neutraL): Now you know for next time, right?

Petra nods slowly.

Petra (neutral frown): Yeah.

Petra (neutral frown): Pro, I’m…

Petra (neutral nervous): …

Petra (neutral frown): I’m sorry about this. If I had any idea this would happen…

Pro: Then of course you wouldn’t have forced us to go. Asher just said that, right?

Pro: And besides, isn’t it pretty common for friends to fight sometimes?

I say that, but deep down I feel uneasy. Even if friends fight sometimes, should they? What if they fight and never make up?

Petra (neutral frown): I guess…

She looks back at her hands, averting her gaze.

Pro: Petra…

Pro: You know, recently you’ve been adding new character traits one after each other, and it’s starting to get a little confusing.

Pro: So c’mon, cheer up.

Petra (neutral frown): …

Petra (neutral smile): Alright, I’ll try.

Petra’s smile makes the atmosphere feel a little lighter, and despite everything I find myself smiling a little bit as well.

Asher (neutral thinking): But anyways, Pro…

Asher (neutral sincere): Shouldn’t you have gone after her?

Pro: I, uh…

Asher studies my face, implicitly prompting me to continue on.

Pro: Right before she left, she seemed really far away…

Pro: I dunno. Maybe she hates me now.

I let out a strained laugh, trying to downplay my growing anxiety. Even though I’ve only known her for a short time, for some reason my chest aches whenever I think about not being able to talk to her anymore…

Petra (neutral frown): Pro…

Pro: It’s fine, it’s fine.

Petra and Asher look at me concernedly, and after a moment of confusion I realize that a tear has started to form in my right eye…

Petra (neutral sweat\_smile): You really are a softie, huh?

Petra (neutral smile): I’m sure everything will be fine. She was probably just heated and meant nothing by it, you know? Like how sometimes in arguments you say things you don’t mean.

Pro: Yeah…

Feeling a little better, I start to eat a bit more before remembering that I’m going out to eat with Mara afterwards.

Speaking of Mara…

I pull out my phone and check the time.

5:18.

Pro: Oh shoot, I have to go now. I need to get to the station by 5:30.

Petra (neutral neutral): Oh, alright. I guess you should get going then.

Pro: Yeah. Sorry…

Asher (neutral neutral): Don’t worry about it. Go on.

Pro: Thanks. See you guys.

I start to get up, but as I put on my jacket my phone buzzes. I check it, and it turns out to be a message from Lilith.

Lilith (text): Can we talk now?

I stop, unable to fully believe it. Relief floods through my body, causing me to sink back into my chair.

Petra (neutral frown): Pro?

Asher (neutral curious): Lilith?

I nod.

Asher (neutral smiling): Good for you. See? It all worked out in the end.

Asher (neutral smiling): Remember to reply though.

Pro: Oh, right.

I look back at my phone, realizing that Lilith wants to talk now. It’s already 5:20 though, and I’m supposed to meet Mara in 10 minutes…

“Where?” **OR** “Sorry, could it wait till tomorrow?”

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I ask Lilith where she wants to meet, deciding to let Mara know that I’ll be late. Hopefully she won’t be too mad…

Petra (neutral neutral): So? What did she say?

Pro: Oh, uh…

Pro: I’m gonna go talk to her now.

Petra (neutral surprised): Didn’t you have something to do though?

Pro: It can wait.

Petra (neutral frown): I see.

Petra (neutral smile): Well, get going then.

Asher (waving smiling): See you later, Pro.

Pro: Yeah, see you guys.

Petra (exit):

I get back up, and after making sure I have everything I head out, my heart threatening to beat out of my chest.

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Feeling a little guilty, I ask Lilith if we could talk tomorrow instead. While she’s definitely important, Mara is equally if not more so…

Petra (neutral neutral): So? What did she say?

Pro: Um…

I debate whether or not I should tell Petra, but before I can decide she snatches my phone out of my hands.

Petra (neutral neutral): …

Petra (neutral neutral): Pro, are you, like…

Petra (neutral neutral): …stupid?

Asher (neutral sincere): Petra, that’s a little harsh…

She starts typing furiously on my phone, throwing it back to me when she’s done.

Petra (neutral yelling): Go. Meet. Lilith. Now.

Pro: Um…

Pro: Yes ma’am.

Asher (waving neutral): See you then, Pro.

Petra (exit):

I get back up and head towards the door, checking what Petra sent as I move. It turns out she accepted the invitation and said I’d go wherever right away, which pretty much means I’ll have to go.

Sorry, Mara…

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