**Classroom**

Still a little shocked by Mara’s antics, I manage to stay awake for most of our morning classes, only dozing off a few times here and there when things get slow. It’s surprising how much you can learn when you’re conscious.

Despite this, though, I still feel nothing but relief when lunch comes around.

Asher (neutral curious): Doing anything today?

Pro: You know me well enough to know the answer to that…

Asher (neutral thinking): I guess…

Asher (neutral smiling): I’ll join you then.

He puts his lunch box on my desk and takes a seat.

Asher (eating curious): So how was yesterday? Did you end up curling up in a corner to read manga?

Pro: I did not.

Asher (neutral happy): Wow.

Pro: Don’t sound impressed…

Asher (eating sincere): Sorry, sorry…

I let out a sigh.

Pro: I spent most of the time watching their practice.

Asher (eating curious): Were they any good?

Pro: Yeah. Really good.

Asher (neutral curious): Inspiring?

Pro: A bit, yeah.

Asher (eating curious): Gonna become a musician now?

Pro: I mean, I think that’s going a bit far…

Asher (eating playful): I’ll be your number one fan.

Pro: If you were actually my number one fan, that’d be a really, really sad music career.

Asher (eating playful): Ouch…

Asher finishes eating and starts packing up his lunch.

Asher (neutral curious): I’m a little curious, though. What’s she like? Is she always shy?

Pro: Prim? Well, mostly...

I lean back, trying to think of a good answer.

Pro: Yeah, she’s really shy, but she can also be surprisingly forward. And she works really hard, at least when it comes to piano.

Asher (neutral curious): Oh, really?

Asher (downcast disappointed): I kinda got the feeling she didn’t really like me…

Pro: Ah…

Pro: Maybe. I think it’s more likely that she was scared of you though.

Asher (downcast curious): Isn’t that worse…?

Pro: I dunno.

I open my mouth to say something else, but I’m interrupted by a pair of students outside the door calling for Asher, gesturing for him to come.

Asher (neutral sincere): Oh, uh…

Asher (waving sincere): Sorry, looks like I’ll have to go…

Pro: No problem. See you later.

Asher (exit smiling): See you.

Asher goes off to his friends, leaving me to finish up my lunch alone.