**Stairwell**

Prim heads to one of the stairwells and starts going upstairs, so, not wanting to lose sight of her, I jog after her only to run into her on the landing.

Prim (arms\_behind surprise): …!

Pro: Ah, I’m really sorry…

Prim (arms\_behind worried\_slightly): It’s okay.

Prim (arms\_behind worried): Um…

She shifts around uneasily.

Prim (arms\_behind worried): How’s your mom?

Pro: Oh, uh…

Pro: I think she’s doing okay. Dunno when she’ll get out of the hospital though.

Prim (arms\_behind worried\_slightly): I see.

Prim (arms\_behind down): Um…

Prim (arms\_behind worried): I’m really sorry.

Pro: About what?

Prim: Well…

Prim (arms\_behind down): If you weren’t with me, then maybe you could’ve gotten to the hospital faster, or maybe you could’ve helped your mom out more…

I freeze, unsure of how to respond. I can’t deny that the thought’s passed through my mind, but…

Prim (arms\_behind worried):

Pro: It’s fine, don’t worry about it. You’re not at fault.

Pro: Nobody could’ve predicted that she’d collapse, and she’ll make a full recovery. No harm no foul, right?

Prim: I guess…

Prim (arms\_behind down): But still…

Prim (arms\_behind worried\_slightly):

Pro: It’s alright, seriously.

Pro: Anyways, how was practice? Did you get home alright?

She nods.

Prim (arms\_behind worried\_slightly): I think everything went fine. My parents were a little upset that I went back up by myself, but once I explained what happened they understood.

Pro: Oh, that’s good. No problems with them then, right?

Prim: Yeah.

Prim (arms\_behind surprise):

We stand in uncomfortable silence for a few seconds, but thankfully we’re interrupted by Petra, who runs into the stairwell slightly out of breath.

Petra (neutral surprised): There you are…

Prim (arms\_behind shy): Petra?

Petra (neutral groan): I looked everywhere for you, you know. I checked in Pro’s classroom, and they told me that you two left together…

Petra (neutral pout): Couldn’t you guys have chosen a more well-known place for your rendezvous?

Prim (arms\_behind embarrassed): Sorry…

Petra (neutral laugh): It’s okay, it’s okay.

Prim (arms\_behind curious):

Petra (neutral smile): Anyways, our teacher was looking for you. He had a real worried look on his face, and he told me to find you right away.

Prim: Really? That’s odd…

Petra (neutral raised\_eyebrow): Right?

Petra (neutral smile): But we should get going.

Prim (arms\_behind worried):

Prim turns to me, and I do my best to smile.

Pro: It’s alright. You should go.

Pro: I’ll see you later.

Prim (arms\_behind down\_blushing): Um…

Prim (hiding bag\_blushing):

She holds out something, and after a few seconds I realize that it’s another steamed bun.

Prim: I thought maybe you wouldn’t have a lunch today…

Prim: So I bought this for you.

Prim: See you later.

Prim (exit):

She shoves it in my hands and darts out of the stairwell before I can thank her, leaving a smirking Petra behind.

Petra (neutral smirk): Good for you, I guess.

Petra (neutral smirk): See you.

Petra (exit):

Pro: Oh, yeah. Bye.

I look down at the steamed bun in my hand, still slightly warm, and despite the gnawing feeling that’s been in my chest since yesterday I manage a genuine smile.