**Classroom**

However, once class starts I soon forget about my awkward encounter with Mick which I would normally be thankful for, but finding out how difficult today’s lessons are I think I’d rather spend another hour with him.

And what doesn’t help is my promise to do better in school, which means that I can’t just zone out and sleep like usual…

Of all the days, huh?

**Classroom**

The day goes by incredibly fast, though, and once our teacher starts to wrap up her final lesson I internally let out a huge sigh of relief.

Ms. Tran (arms\_crossed stern): Don’t forget about your test on Friday, by the way.

Ms. Tran (arms\_crossed smug): It’s brutal.

She smirks a little bit as the class lets out a collective groan before leaving the classroom.

Sounds like another weekend of supplementary classes…

Asher (downcast pout): Another test already, huh?

Pro: Yeah…

Pro: I don’t think I’m anywhere near ready, though…

I slump back into my chair, already feeling defeated.

Pro: But I don’t wanna do supplementary classes again…

Asher (neutral curious): Yeah, that wouldn’t be good. Isn’t Prim’s performance this Saturday?

I start up, realizing that Asher’s right.

Pro: Yeah…

Asher (neutral smiling): Better get studying, then.

Asher laughs as I let out another groan.

Asher (laughing recovering): I’ll be rooting for you, though.

Asher (exit smiling): I got things to do today, so I’ll be heading out. See you.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

With another sigh, I sit up and start to pack up my things, remembering that I have places to be as well.

Today’s been a day full of sighs, huh…?

**Front of School**

After scrambling to get everything together I hurry outside, realizing that she’s probably already waiting for me.

Prim (shy worried):

And sure enough, she’s already at our meeting place.

Pro: Hey, sorry I’m late.

Prim (shy hurt): It’s okay…

I pause to study her face, seeing that the hurt from yesterday is still there.

Pro: Uh…

Pro: Should we get going, then?

Prim (fidget down):

She fidgets uncomfortably, avoiding my gaze.

Prim: Um…

Prim (shy hurt): I’m not going today. I came to tell you that I’d be going home.

Pro: Huh?

I stop, knowing that I should’ve at least somewhat expected something like this but having not expected it all the same.

Pro: You’re gonna skip out on practice?

She nods.

Prim (shy smiling\_worried): Sorry.

Prim: I’ll see you later, I guess.

Prim (shy surprise):

She turns to leave, but something inside of me instinctively forces me to reach out and grab her shoulder.

Pro: Wait a second…

Prim (surprise eek\_blushing): Pro?!?

Prim (surprise embarrassed\_blushing):

Pro: At least let me walk you home or something.

Pro: I’m your chaperone on Tuesdays, right?

Prim (shy down\_blushing):

A little startled, Prim hesitates for a moment before slowly nodding.

Prim: Alright.

I know I’m being a little bit too forward, but something inside me tells me that if I let her walk away now then she might never come back…

Pro: Well, let’s get going then. An afternoon of rest and relaxation awaits.

**Road**

The way to Prim’s house turns out to be a familiar one, and I soon realize that she actually lives really close to me. Did she grow up in the area too, playing on the same playgrounds I played on, walking the same streets I walked?

Prim (shy down):

I glance over at her, wondering if I should say something to try to cheer her up.

Pro: Um…

Pro: It’s a nice day today, huh?

Prim (shy surprise): Huh?

Prim (shy hurt): Oh, yeah. It is.

Perfect. Just perfect. When in doubt, bring up the weather…

I slap myself internally and try again.

Pro: So, you live around here too, huh?

Prim (shy curious): Too?

Pro: Oh yeah, uh…

Pro: My house is around here.

Prim: Really?

Pro: I don’t think I’ve seen you before this year, though. Did you recently move in?

Prim (shy shy):

Prim shakes her head.

Prim: I’ve always lived here.

Pro: Wait, for real?

Pro: You’d think we would’ve ran into each other at least once, no?

Prim (shy down): Well…

Prim (shy shy): I spent most of my time inside as a kid. And I went to a middle school that was pretty far away, so my parents drove me all the time.

Pro: A music school?

Prim (shy smiling\_worried):

She does her best to put on a cheerful smile.

Prim: Yeah. It wasn’t that great, though.

Pro: I see.

Prim (shy curious):

We eventually pass by the street I live on, and I point it out to Prim, who peers down it curiously.

Prim (shy hurt):

Suddenly, I remember that my mom was supposed to come home today at noon…

She’s probably already there, then. We’re already here, and I wanna check in with her, but if Prim lives in the area then it probably won’t take too much time to walk her home…

Ask if you could visit your mom **OR** Continue walking to Prim’s house

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Prim (shy shy):

Pro: Um…

Pro: Would you be alright taking a little detour?

Prim: I don’t mind…

Prim (shy curious): Why?

Pro: Well, actually…

Pro: My mom was supposed to come home earlier, so I kinda wanna check in.

Prim (shy surprise):

Her eyes widen in concern.

Prim: Of course.

Pro: Thanks.

**Front of House**

We turn to the right and head towards my place instead, eventually reaching the front door. I hesitate before opening it, afraid that I’ll open it and my mom won’t be home.

Prim (shy shy):

However, my fears are immediately dismissed when I open the door and find that she’s been waiting for me.

Mom (wave smile): Hey there. Welcome home.

A small lump starts to form in my throat, despite having known that she’d be there.

Pro: I’m home.

Smiling, she ruffles my hair.

Prim (surprise eek\_blushing):

Mom (wave raised\_eyebrow): And who’s this?

Prim (shy embarrassed\_blushing):

Pro: Oh, this is Prim.

Prim (shy down\_blushing): Um…

Prim (shy embarrassed\_blushing): Hello.

Mom (neutral smile): Have you been hanging out with Pro?

Unsure of how to answer, Prim nods nervously.

Mom (neutral smile): I see.

Prim (shy eek\_blushing):

Mom (neutral smile): Thank you for taking care of my son. I’m glad that he’s spending time with such a polite young lady.

Prim (shy embarrassed\_blushing\_profusely):

Pro: Mom…

I glance over at Prim, whose face has turned beet red.

Honestly, mine might be too.

Mom (neutral raised\_eyebrow): Well, I’m sure you guys have things you wanna do, so I’ll let you go.

Mom (neutral smile): Just let me know if you’ll be home for dinner, alright?

Prim (shy eek\_blushing\_profusely):

Mom (neutral smile): And Prim…

Prim straightens up upon hearing her name.

Prim (shy embarrassed\_blushing\_profusely):

Mom (neutral smile): You’re free to join us whenever you want.

Prim: Oh, thank you.

Prim (exit):

She bids us goodbye and locks the door, and after sharing a small laugh we head back towards the road. Prim’s mood turns somber again soon after, but…

...I’m glad I was able to make her smile, even if only for a moment.

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I choose not to bring it up, and instead of turning to the right we head straight instead.

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