**Classroom**

Classes pick up during the second half of the day, and by the time we’re dismissed I find myself half-seriously wondering if I really need a high school diploma to land a good job.

However, I perk up once I remember that, for the first time in a while, I’ll be able to go home and relax right after school. At the end of the day I still am an introvert, and being out and about all the time does take its toll…

But then, do I really have any time to take it easy? There’s the test on Friday, and tomorrow I promised to do something with Mara…

…

Ugh. Guess I’ll be studying today, then.

**Convenience Store**

On the way home I notice a convenience store and, thinking that it’d be nice to have something sugary to drink to give my brain a little boost, I decide to drop by to buy something.

However, inside I encounter a familiar face, one that I probably won’t be able to forget despite only seeing it a few times. Instead of bright and cheerful like it normally is, though, Petra seems rather downcast.

Petra (neutral frown): Oh…

Petra (neutral neutral): Hey.

Pro: Hey, there.

I stare at her, wondering if Petra has a more sober twin or something.

Petra (neutral neutral): Huh? What are you looking at?

Pro: Oh, it’s just that, um…

Pro: You’re usually more, uh…

Pro: ...hyperactive.

Poor word choice.

Petra (neutral frown): Hyperactive? Like I’m always on energy drinks?

Pro: I didn’t mean it exactly like that…

Petra looks at me a little antagonistically for a few seconds before sighing deflatedly.

Petra (neutral groan): I guess I can’t really blame you.

Pro: So, did something happen?

Realizing that she probably wouldn’t tell me even if something did happen, I open my mouth to apologize but she cuts me off before I can.

Petra (neutral groan): I guess. I organized this mixer…

Pro: Oh, the one Asher was at?

Petra (neutral frown): …

Petra (neutral frown): Yeah. He told you about it?

Pro: Yeah. One of the guys offended one of the girls or something, right?

Petra nods.

Pro: Is it really something to be that down about?

Petra (neutral groan): Well, it’s partially my fault…

Petra (neutral groan): I organized the entire thing and knew that she didn’t really wanna come, but I pressured her into it anyways.

Petra (neutral groan): And then this happened. And now I can’t really face her.

Pro: That’s rough…

Petra (neutral frown): Yup.

She stretches her arms above her head.

Petra (neutral pout): You know, you’re so, so lucky, having a girlfriend like Prim. Some of us have trouble attracting people no matter how hard we try…

Pro: Um, it’s not like that at all.

Petra (neutral raised\_eyebrow): …

Petra (neutral raised\_eyebrow): She’s not here, so you can be honest. And it’s pretty obvious, anyways.

Petra (neutral smile): It’s hard to notice, but she’s definitely changed recently. It’s subtle, but she seems to be trying harder, and it’s probably because of you.

Petra (neutral smile): They say a girl changes when she falls in love.

Pro: Sure, but it’s not like that…

Petra (neutral raised\_eyebrow): …

Petra (neutral raised\_eyebrow): Really?

Pro: Positively.

Petra eyes me carefully, trying to detect a lie.

Petra (neutral raised\_eyebrow): …

Petra (neutral pout): Alright then.

She looks at one of the shelves for a second before picking out a candy bar.

Petra (neutral groan): Well, I need to get going. Got stuff to do at home.

Petra (neutral smile): Even if you aren’t dating Prim, though, make sure to take care of her, alright? Since you’re spending so much time together.

Pro: I’ll do my best, I guess.

Petra seems unsatisfied with my answer, but decides to leave it be.

Petra (neutral smile): I guess I’ll see you around, then.

Pro: Yeah. See you.

Petra (exit):