**Classroom**

I make it to school right before first period ends, exhaustedly fumbling my way into class as Ms. Tran ends off her lecture. She looks at me with a mix of disappointment and death in her eyes, and, knowing that I’m screwed, I timidly shift towards my desk without a word.

Desperately wanting to reduce my sentence, I make it a point to pay attention throughout class to the best of my ability. Of course, my best isn’t exactly great, but hopefully she’ll at least notice that I’m trying.

Hopefully.

**Classroom**

The lunch bell rings, and to my relief Ms. Tran doesn’t directly come for me. Instead, an amused Asher finds his way to my desk, a deceptively innocent smile on his face.

Asher (neutral playful): Sleep through your alarm again?

Pro: Not really. I woke up and then went back to bed.

Asher (neutral smiling): How luxurious. Although you're probably gonna pay for it.

Pro: Yeah…

Pro: She’s not here, though. Maybe I’ll be able to escape for now…

Asher (neutral neutral): If you can, try not to defer your punishment till after school.

Pro: Hm? Why?

Asher (neutral curious): What do you mean? Aren’t you visiting my club today?

Pro: I am? You didn’t reply.

Asher (neutral serious): I did, though.

Initially doubtful, I check my phone, finding that he indeed texted me back yesterday.

Pro: Ah, I must’ve missed it. My bad.

Asher (neutral smiling): It’s okay. I already told them you’d be coming today.

Pro: Your clubmates?

Asher (neutral smiling): Yeah.

Pro: I see.

Pro: By the way, what club are you in? You didn’t tell me?

Asher (neutral thinking): Ah…

Asher (neutral smiling): You’ll find out. Don’t worry.

Asher (neutral smiling): Anyways, shouldn’t you be worrying about yourself?

Pro: Hm? What do you mean?

An inexplicable chill runs down my spine, and, realizing for the second time in less than 24 hours I’ll be facing death in the eye, I turn around, ready to accept my fate.

Pro: I’m prepared.

Teacher: Good. I like your resolve.

Teacher: You’ll need it, after all.