**Santa Clara, United States of America, 2008**

- Today it's the day, Jiyoonie... We'll get a contract or we'll get rejected and I'll have to say goodbye to my dream... I'm sure you can figure out why I want to talk to you... - the girl said.

Jihyun fixed her own combing with a nervous gesture, as if she were in a hurry to receive an answer from the other girl. She leaned against the railing of the little cafè's atrium without looking her into the eyes.

- Yes, I can, Jihyun... - Jiyoon said with emphasis. - We agreed to work as singers just because we need to work, and we are really grateful to you... but I won't hide my sexual orientation if the press ask me...

With the left hand she forced the older girl to turn the head towards herself and look her straight into the eyes. - ...you want me to make sure that Gayoon won't create problems... but she won't. She can't even speak english... but I will create problems...

Jihyun assumed a confused face. - What do you mean?

- I'm talking about my own private life... I want to find somebody to love, and I won't hide just because we need to advertize our group... - she coldly stated with a slight blaming look, as if she were scolding Jihyun just to have thought it.

Jiyoon pushed the cafè's glass door and was about to enter, when Jihyun blocked her. - Wait... let me explain - she said, following her into the place. - I don't mean to ruin your whole private life... Here you can do whatever you want to, but... I need you to not talk about this with publicly...

- I'll think over... Meantime, I've something better to do... - she smirked, earning another puzzled look from the other girl.

Jihyun followed her gaze, from their table to the counter, until she saw the girl Jiyoon was talking about. - Have you seen her? That one with the red handbag... Oh my god, she's so cute...

The other one slewed again to the original position, shaking her head. - Pff... - she snorted - ...she's boyish as hell, her hair are dyed and that bag is a fake... If I had been her mother I'd have aborted...

- You're watching her as you watch another competitor in a race... I'm watching her as you watch the prize... Plus, that girl is obviously gay, and I'm tired of being alone... I might try to approach with her.

Jihyun sighed resignedly and stood up - ...I wish you the best luck with that girl, but I've seen enough... I'm going home to wait Nathan and then I will go with him to the Cube to contractualize... I'll let you know the results tonight.

Jiyoon followed her with the gaze until the girl arrived to the door and opened it, waving her red hair. Unnoticed, somebody sat onto the empty chair near the short girl, straightening her blouse.

- Do you mind if I sit here? - the girl smiled shyly, placing her handbag to the table. - There aren't any other empty seats, here...

Jiyoon gasped, surprised, and she swayed on the chair before she could manage to compose. - Oh, yes... I mean... no, I don't mind. - she looked inside of her eyes, as if she were lost, for couple of seconds until she noticed how she were staring at her...

All features in her body were showy, from the shoes to the short dark hair, but she couldn't stop watching her eyes...

- ...Hey, are you alive? - Jiyoon snapped back to reality, hearing her voice. - ...By the way... nice to meet you! My name is Amber, and you?

- I'm Jiyoon... Nice to meet too - Amber slewed the chair towards Jiyoon, and the latter smiled awkwardly, holding out her hand while she was trying to find something to talk about.

Amber noticed her shyness, and tried to start a conversation. - So... I'd like to ask you... what happened earlier? I noticed how that girl almost ran away. Did you two fight?

Jiyoon cozily leaned her elbows on the table, trying to appear self-confident. - Oh, no... she's just my... co-worker. She gave me some troubles, but we didn't fight at all... she's not that bad but she can be a pain in the ass sometimes...

Peering her eyes, she praised herself for having gained such an effect on Amber, who was staring, intrigued and captivated by her. - Oh... I thought... you two were together.

An indirect question about her sexual orientation... this is the signal she was waiting for... - Definitively not... she likes boys... - she said. Amber deepened her smile, approaching a little more.

- And do you? - she asked.

Jiyoon felt the self-confidence rise into her own chest, as if a Lion were roaring from the inside. - Ehm, no... I don't like boys... - she grinned. Since there was no need to ask the same question to her, she wrote on a little piece of paper her number...

- I'm free tomorrow... so call me maybe?