

# ANIMORPHS: FREEDOM FIGHTERS

## **The Next Day....**

Noah made nice till his parents went off to work, then, giving it an hour or so, he cut out and headed off to school for a bit of somewhat disallowed behaviour. There was a point on the campus where it was somewhat easy to scramble over the fence and get in without going through the proper entrance. But first. He sent out a text message while he was still in transit.

[To: Yuki, Lisa]

[In or No?]

Miyuki: [In]

*Noah to {Yuki} [Then get down hair already!], [here\* (stupid keyboard)], [PS: School]*

Miyuki: [Coming] Noah snickered when he got that one, but didn't bother to send a response back. Actually, considering what they got into trouble for... He shooed that thought away.

Lisa: How'd you even...? This is for emergencies only! And in for what?

*Noah: Stole it yesterday. Check your call history. And phonebook. Also: \*dope slap\* Horrible Memory. \*He's in her phonebook as Noah (The Great and Powerful)\**

*Lisa: Note to self: change number. And again, i ask, in what? i'm seriously wondering what you did with your brain lately... I'll let you know if i see it.*

*Noah: Lisa's out. See you in 5, Yuki.*

*Lisa: I need saner friends... \*Lisa is now Offline\**

Miyuki did leave the house earlier that day, so she wasn't too far away, but was hesitant to do this.

While that convo was slowly building, he set off another text to Zander.

*[i]Noah to {Zander (Geek Squad)} [Hello, Zander. Talking a walk. Re: Yesterday. Who's class are you in? -Noah][i]*

Cryptic, yes, but he was still sort of paranoid. No telling what the slugs could pull off. And teachers like confiscating phones. The less said the better.

"Hey Noah...so what was this thing you wanted to do?", Miyuki asked walking up to him. Today she wore a tank top and skirt.

Noah was peering over the wall from an impromptu step stool crate to see if anyone was around on the school compound. "I'm going to follow Miss Graceland around. See what she's up to."

"And how do you plan to do that Kitten?", Miyuki asked.

"You just said it," Noah grinned. "Cats have way better eyes than mice."

"Then what did you need me for?", Miyuki asked, "You're the only one who can do that."

Noah hopped down back to street level. "Cats have better eyes, but mice are smaller. Tag team. We find her and you stick closer with your mouse morph." He raised an eyebrow at her. "You did say you were going to acquiring it."

"I did, I think...hmm...so where are you going while I attempt to stay close?", Miyuki asked.

"I'll be close by, don't worry," Noah said. But as sneaky as a cat is, Apollo is too big to squeeze under doors anymore."

"I'm not sure mouse me would appreciate having a cat watch my back...", Miyuki sighed.

"And I don't think cat me will like holding back. But I practiced," Noah said. "I can handle it, don't worry."

"And where would we hide our clothes...sorry...that came out all wrong.", Miyuki blushed as she realized what she implied.

Noah sighed in pain. "We have to sneak in first. Everyone should be in class, and no one has gym right now, so we can sneak in through the side door facing the cafe."

"Plan to morph to sneak in?", Miyuki whispered to him.

"Sneak in first. Not exactly any place to hide here," Noah said. "Or hide clothes."

"What's the plan to get us past the gate, Kitten?", Miyuki asked.

"I just told you. Side door. You can climb a wall, can't you?" Noah asked, tipping his head at the one behind them.

"Lead the way, Noahcat.", Miyuki said to Noah.

"Come on then," Noah said, climbing up the wall again, pausing to make sure it was clear before he scrambled over and dropped to the other side.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4254233/>]1d20+5=14[/url]

Wall DC: 13 (15-2 for the stepping stone the crates and such provide)(Also, I decided the DC before I rolled.

Miyuki struggled as she tried and failed to climb the wall. By the end she was sweating and she was sure her top was a little ripped by loose fence bits.

Miyuki Climb checks

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4254238/>]1d20=11[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4254239/>]1d20=7[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4254240/>]1d20=12[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4254241/>]1d20=1[/url] Yep. Ripped her top here.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4254242/>]1d20=20[/url]

"I thought you said that you could climb?" Noah hissed at her in annoyance. Hey could have gotten caught in the time it took her to scramble about with the fence. They weren't exactly supposed to be on the premises at the moment, after all.

"I know how to climb, when did I say I could climb here...", Miyuki said sheepishly.

"Just come one already," Noah sighed. He motioned her forward as he skulked through the shrubbery before making a casual break for the wall.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4254498/>]Stealth16[/url]

Miyuki followed behind him, crawling so as to minimize her already diminutive stature.

Stealth:

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4254505/>]1d20+3=5[/url]

O.o I hate castle sometimes. \*hands Mew the official T-shirt\*

She neglected to consider how much generic foliage was in the area to rustle as she moved or the spider that was crawling up her leg. Once she noticed the spider, her attempts to be sneaky were over. "Get it off, get it off!", she said, before she caught herself.

Noah knocked the back of his head on the wall a few times. *[i]God, what did I do why these two girls you've tied me up with keep getting me in more and more trouble?[i]* "Just get moving before someone can come out!"

Miyuki rushed to where Noah was under the window, back to the wall. "Sorry, there was a spider crawling over me....", she whispered, still cringing at the thought of it,

Noah muttered something as he opened the door and pulled and pushed Yuki inside. "Bathroom. Go." It was likely that someone was coming to check this door, considering the commotion that Yuki caused.

Miyuki rushed into the girl's restroom expecting Noah to either follow behind her or go to the boys room.

Noah ducked in after her. Thankfully, it was empty. "You okay?"

"Yeah..we really planning on doing this huh...", Miyuki asked, fully ready to attempt morphing again.

"I called you, didn't I?" Noah looked around the bathroom. "It really is nicer in here..."

"Is it? I never noticed...", Miyuki said to Noah. "And I don't think our clothes are safe even in here..."

"What do you take me for?" Noah grinned. "I have a plan!" He led her to one of the stalls. Jeeze, it even smelled better. Girls had it lucky. He pointed to the pipe at the bottom of the tank. "We turn that off, flush and put the clothes in the tank."

"And get my skirt covered in nasty toilet water...no thanks.", Miyuki said to him.

"Flush first. I just said that. With the pipe off, it won't be able to refill," Noah said, rolling his eyes.

"You do it then...One you have it set up I'll morph...", Miyuki said.

"We each take a stall and lock it from the inside, that way we get the privacy. I'm using the males, by the way." Noah did shut off the water supply and empty the tank for her though. Then he pulled out a plastic bag. "To make sure they stay dry."

"I'm going to need your help with that Noah.", Miyuki asked.

"Um... why would you need my help?" Noah said, hesitant to actually know.

"I don't know how to do plumbing like you do...", Miyuki said to him.

"All you have to do now is lift the top," Noah demonstrated as he spoke, "stash your stuff and put it back down. Just make sure you lock the door before your morph."

Miyuki did as she said, stashing her clothes there. She wondered if there was a way around this clothes thing. "Alright then Noah...here goes nothing...", she said locking the door.

"I'll meet you by the bathroom doors," Noah said quietly through the door.

Miyuki began focusing on the mouse she acquired earlier. As she did, her naked self shrank down and she grew fur and a tiny tail.

Miyuki Morph: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4256815/>]1d20=14, 1d20=10[/url]

The new Miyumouse skittered out of the stall and then around the area. Miyumouse slowly wandered the bathroom. The air freshener scent overpowering her senses.

Noah slipped out and snuck into the males side, and more or less did the same thing, emptying the tank before stripping, stuffing them in and focusing on the cat DNA floating about somewhere in his body. It didn't start right away, but he closed his eyes and tried again and it kicked off. He hated shrinking. It was like falling. The tiled floor rushing up to him. He almost hit his head when posture shifted before he was small enough. At least he had the foresight to stand on the seat before starting.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4256818/>]Morph: 23[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4256832/>]instincts: 22[/url]

It didn't take long for him to adjust to cat by shaking his head on the seat. Noah slowly blinked, adjusting to the feline vision, and stretching before he leapt off and slinked under the door, ears twitching. So many little sounds he never noticed before. He ignored them and made for the doorway, sneaking around. Cats snuck. <Yuki? You there?> he called out as he slipped back into the female side.

The timid little Miyumouse rushed away from the door as she saw the shadow of a cat enter the bathroom. The mouse hid behind the sinks.

<Yuki?> Noah asked, seeing a mouse run off. He squashed the cat's urge to chase. He was glad he practiced. He slowly padded over to where she was, ears twitching, sniffing the air slightly. Feline scent and hearing were awesome. The eyesight was a bit murky, but that's nothing contacts couldn't fix. <Yuki! Get a handle on it!>

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4256851/>]instincts (1d20+4+2=20)[/url]

Miyumouse Instinct:

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4256857/>]1d20=3[/url]

Miyumouse rushed away from the cat darting out of the bathroom and into the hall. She feared for her life, darned cats following her around.

<First the rabbit, now a mouse... you've got to be kidding me,> Noah complained, running after her. In all likelihood, it wasn't helping, but he couldn't just let her run off on her own either! At least cats were fast and natural hunters. He couldn't just like a mouse get away. Mice her prey. It would be in insult to his pride if one got away from him. He leaped and pounced on it.

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4256874/>]instincts (1d20+4+2=9)[/url]

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4256882/>]Pounce=20[/url]

Miyumouse squeaked and attempted to squeeze out of the cat's grip. The mouse squeaked in fear, knowing that she was about to be eaten.

Noah snapped his head back head back. Damn... he didn't even realize he'd slipped. He kept his paws pinning her though. <Oi! Yuki!>

[url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4257150/>]Instincts=24[/url]

Miyuki Morph: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4257244/>]1d20+2=8[/url]

Alas, the poor Miyumouse squeaked in terror at the cat that was pinning her down.

<If you don't snap out of this, I will eat you,> Noah said, picking her up in mouth. He figured the mouse wouldn't understand, so many indignation would get through to her. Hopefully.

Miyuki instinct: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4257248/>]1d20+4=13[/url]

<Hey Noah...what'd I miss...ack...snap out of it Noah, don't eat me!>, Miyumouse said finally. She felt as if she was coming out of a haze. She barely recollected running from a cat...must be the one that was lifting her up now. Darned animal instincts...she still wasn't used to it.

<Back in the world of the sapient?> Noah asked padding down the hallway with his mouth filled with mouse.

<Do you have to carry me like this?>, Miyuki asked, dangling in midair.

<For now, yes,> Noah said. <Told you not to run and you still did anyway. And don't squirm. You know, it's weird to talk with your mouth full.>

<And I wasn't myself at the time, so yeah...>, Miyuki said.

<You're squirming right now. That really doesn't help. Cat's eat squirming mice,> Noah pointed out, sticking close to the lockers. <Hmm... I think I'm disoriented... It's still hard to find my way around as a cat...>

<And I can't really see from here...>, Miyuki said.

<Right... sucky mouse eyes...> Noah muttered. They could really have used a third set of eyes. But of course Lisa just said everything but never remembered anything. It took a while, but he did eventually find his way around and got to Ms. Graceland's office. By then, he'd promoted Yuki from captive to cat rider.

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/search/1325545/>

Miyuki danced on Noah's head. AND then looked around for how they would get to Ms. Graceland's office.

Notice: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4257291/>]1d20+3=22[/url]

<See if you can squeeze through the crack under the door,> Noah told her.

Miyuki jumped off of Noahcat's head and attempted to fit under the door.

Escape Artist: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4257370/>]1d20+4=21[/url]

<I'm in>, Miyumouse said once she got all the way through.

Notice: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4257372/>]1d20+3=19[/url]

Miyumouse looked around in the room.

Stealth: [url=<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4257373/>]1d20+3=10[/url]+12 from size (diminutive)

Mouse eyes didn't see much, just areas of light and shadows mostly. But she could hear Ms. Graceland's voice talking on the phone.

<What's she talking about? I can't make it out from here,> Noah asked, doing his best to hide in the corner of the doorway.

<I can't hear what it is exactly.>, Miyumouse said, <Should I try to get closer?> [you hear her voice, but she's talking quiet like, hence you can't make out words.]

<You're a mouse, it's what mice do, squirming underfoot and stuff. Or is that puppies?> Noah teased.

<I don't think I can get onto that table...>, Miyumouse said, moving closer to Graceland's feet and then hid in the corner where she could remain hidden. Miyuki didn't want to think about how she could see upskirts from this angle.

<I said under!> Noah said, pacing, unable to stay still.

"Still no word?" Ms. Graceland was saying. "I don't care what your excuses are, but the visser is suspicious because of the guard and his report, so we need to make every effort." Another pause. "Yes, she reported that her daughter was there. "

<You were right Noah, Graceland has something to do with the Visser, something about her daughter being there...wait...mom....or Lisa's mom...or my aunt..or even grandmother...or...or...oh no! no...>, Miyumouse said, trying to direct the thoughts carefully to just Noah.

<Keep it together, Yuki!> Noah beamed back at her. He... he didn't want to think about what that situation would be like. <She didn't say anything definite.>

<Alright...alright...>, Miyumouse said right back and continued listening to the rest of the conversation.

"In any case, she will be at The Sharing tonight. We can evaluate then. In the mean time, continue to keep track of all potentials"

<Something big's going down at tonight's Sharing...'she' will be there.>, Miyumouse relayed to Noah.

<Tonight? Now's the night she wants us there,> Noah said, a bit concerned.

"If you pardon me, I have to continue my day. My hosts duties as the vice principal can be demanding." She ended whatever call she was on and there was the scraping of her chair shifting back.

Miyumouse took that as a cue to get the hell out of there. She moved to where she could scurry away and said, <Noah...need any more...I think I should get out of here.>

<What happened? Did you get spotted?> Noah asked frantically, pawing at the door on what was definitely a more cat born urge. He could hear movements inside, but nothing that sounded like something trying to catch a mouse.

<I just feel I've got enough information for now.>, Miyumouse said.

<Alright then, time to pull out, I guess,> Noah said. If someone had been a bit more explicit in their summary of the situation, he might have left to find a hiding place. But, since said person didn't... The door opened and caught him off guard when Graceland opened the door.

She looked down in surprise. "Earth vermin..." she kicked him out of the way even as he hissed and murred in surprise and pain before running off.

Miyumouse snuck out as Graceland did. <You okay Noah??>, she asked.

<yea... I think so... but that seriously hurt... man, who kicks a cat?> Noah grumbled.

<We gotta go!>, Miyumouse said.

Noah rolled to his feet, his side throbbing faintly. Mrs. Graceland had already wandered off, <Um... yeah... Crap... what's our time like? I forgot to keep track. Phee... I guess we should call it and compare notes?>

<I don't think it's been more than half an hour, but we should morph back just to be sure.>, Miyumouse said.

<To the bathroom then,> He said, snagging her in his mouth again and running off. <Class is bound to be let out soon.>

<Sure...just drop me off at the lady's room.>, Miyumouse said to him.

<I plan to,> Noah said as he got his bearings. <Man I wish there were clocks in the halls... I can't tell how soon until classes let out without them... you think we could find little wrist watches to wear?>

<That would be very helpful, now we should morph back just in case the time thing is getting close...>, Miyumouse said to him.

<So, you got over the 'don't eat' me thing?> Noah asked as he scampered down the halls.

<Somewhat, kitty, only somewhat.>, Miyumouse said to him.

<Hey, I practiced, I told you that,> Noah laughed mentally.

<And foolishly I believed you...now lets get out of here before people show up.>, Miyuki said to him.

<Hey! One mouse survived!> Noah said, indignant.



<Just one, and you bought what...four?>, Miyumouse said.

<Shuddah...> Noah muttered. <I had to figure out how not to hunt and how not to bite them...  
[size=1]Had to get more...[/size]>

<Isn't that kind of cruel...those mice did nothing wrong...>, Miyumouse said.

<You preferred I test it on you?> Noah snorted, dropping her by the bathroom

<Touche Mister Cat....>, Miyumouse said.

Noah slipped off to the boy room before she thought to ask what happened to the mice that he didn't pass the test with.

### **Then the class bells rang.**

Miyuki de-morphed and rushed to get her clothes on which still took about a minute even as she rushed.

And crap. Noah scrambled into the stall and started morphing back as quickly as he could. As feline senses faded back to human ones, he could still pick out the sounds as others quickly took the chance between classes to make a rest stop before their next class. Then again, he could hear the chatter and footsteps of other people. At least guys didn't have a tendency to investigate occupied rooms.

He slipped into the press of people, keeping his hood up and moving fast so that no one could actually get a look at him. Confident and steady pace, focused outlook and over all non-descript appearance, all contributing to being easily overlooked. Nothing to see here. This is not the trespasser you are looking for. You can go about your business. Move along. Move along.  
Bluff: 17 [Skill Mastery]

Miyuki quickly fixed up her hair and clothes to look as nondescript as possible before leaving the bathroom and merging into the crowd of people, trying her best to stay hidden anonymously in the crowd.

Disguise: 18 [Skill Mastery] to look as nondescript as possible.

In due time, Noah slipped back into the shurbbery and bushes from whence he came and snuck back to the wall. Making a ton of noise as he did. He muttered under his breath as he hit into the noisiest branches and tripped over things.

**Greykit** rolled a die for stealth. The die showed: 3+3

Miyuki followed close behind Noah trying her best not to make a sound as she slipped back towards the bushes. She made noise as her feet crunched on sticks, slightly less noise than Noah but she figured they were going to get caught now.

Stealth: **mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 5 +3

"Hey, what are they doing over there?" Someone asked behind them.

"And now we leave," Noah said hastily to Yuki, picking up the pace and climbing over the wall with an ease that totally wasn't born from practice. At all. He would be appalled that you thought that.

**Greykit** rolled a die for climb. The die showed: 18+1

Yuki agreed and did her best to climb the fence properly, she was definitely slower than Noah in that matter unfortunately. Regardless, breaking and entering was something she figured she could practice. It's not illegal if it's method acting she remembered Stanislavsky saying. He never said that. (Noah did :p)

Climb: **mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 10

"What is with you and this fence?" Noah hissed at Yuki. First getting in, not getting out. He spawled over the top of and extended a hand to Yuki. "Hurry up!"

[Aid: +2]

"The fence disagrees Noah. I'm doing the best I can", she hissed back as she climbed up finally. She'd need to get a better climbing morph, maybe a squirrel, or she could just go to gym.

**Climb: mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 16 +2

Noah pulled her over and they both dropped to the other side. He sat there for a moment, just catching his breath, recovering. "Yuki... we have to go to the sharing... we gotta let Lisa know."

"We really do...Lisa needs to know...who could have thought...", Yuki said softly trying to control herself to not scream.

Noah pulled out his phone to check the time. "We have to get moving. It's getting late, and we need to catch her and tell her. And... we still don't know which mother she was talking about." He was pretty sure his mother didn't have anything to do with the Sharing, but he had no way to be sure. "If... If we make things look too suspicious, we could get into even more trouble."

"We attempting to find her tonight?", Miyuki asked, "How's it going to look when we tell her what we know...she already thinks we're crazy"

"The Sharing. It's the condition for the suspension, remember," Noah interjected.

"Oh...but how do we get through to her, as I said, she thinks you're crazy."

"We have to be there anyway.", said the giant turtle standing in for Noah today

"Of course we gotta go, but you really think she'd believe us if we tried to tell her before the event?", Miyuki said to Noah seriously walking away from the school as not suspiciously as possible.

"You really think we aren't supposed to try? You know her. She can't keep secrets well. It would be even worse if she doesn't know she's supposed to watch her tongue," Noah said.

"We plan to head to her house now to tell her?", Miyuki asked Noah as they walked, "Knowing her, if what I fear is correct, she'll tell her mom immediately."

"No, I'll catch her this evening. At the meeting. I'm not even supposed to be out," Noah said. "I'd think she has some sense."

"I'll be there I guess, the school insisted we go as is...regardless I have to go home to change...my top's ripping trying to climb today.", Miyuki said to Noah.

Noah hid his grin, since he'd been trying not to look at the rip, that showed just a bit of her bra, since it happened. Sorta like an accidental tamer version of what you saw older girls (or sluttier ones) wearing to parties and clubs. Okay, so many he hadn't exactly been not looking, but he had been not-not-looking covertly.

"I guess I'll see ya at the Sharing then...what time was the event again?", Miyuki asked. She was unaware of the extent of the rip, but figured it wasn't that bad...just needed to patch it up later. For now she would change, something looser...probably.

"Six. Both you and Lisa... don't keep on top of things..." Noah said. "I'll see you there. Got to go catch the bus."

And he more or less did just that. He managed to get home before a check up call from the parents, and was at home being 'dutiful' when they got back, even already ready to do to the sharing. Hopefully, neither of the two girls did anything stupid.

Miyuki went home and changed out of the ripped tank-top and skirt. She considered what morphing did to clothes...namely ignored them. She considered what clothes might work for morphing. But first she put on a clean red dress, loose fitting and it only covered down to her knees. She was concerned how much bra and panties interfered with morphing. She told her parents she was up in her room practicing for a new dance and began testing out rabbit morph while lying under the covers. She simply morphed into rabbit form got used to instincts and then morphed back, still naked. She tried a few more outfits before she considered it would be cute to try morphing bunnies in the bunnysuit. She got it on quickly, it was a snug fit and a moment later she tried morphing a bunny again. (figured it would end like this) Like she expected she shrunk out of the suit and was still covered in blankets. A moment later she shifted back to human and got her red dress garb on and hung up all her clothes. Afterwards she gathered her stuff and left for the Sharing event, morphing there would be a bad idea.

//Poor rabbit stuck in a tangle of clothes under sheets...

//seems like you don't want the glitch to pass either XD

//I've already got the many reasons worked out, as well.

//Reasons for why skintight stuff won't work at all or in this particular case?

//nah I figured grey wouldn't allow it for the many reasons grey already stated....

//what time is it now in game?

//I need to determine what Miyuki does before the event

//morning/midday

//ah plenty of time to change and practice

~~~~~  
[Elsewhere.] Lisa shook her head as she looked at her phone as she turned it off, and wondered how to change her number. The phone was only for emergencies. Her parents made that perfectly clear. Sighing, she put it into her pocket, steadying her heart some as she relaxed. Setting it aside, she went to simply study as she was SUPPOSED to do when everything went to hell with Alex. She started with her history lessons.

And that was about the rest of her day, switching topics as she lounged around in her PJs at home. Studying in comfort. "Should do this more often... this is really comfy." She said to no one in particular.

[Comfy and boring]

"Lisa!" Her mother called a few hours in.

"Comming mom!" Lisa called and put her books aside. Quickly going down the stairs, she smiled. "Heya mom. How was work? I'll get to work on supper. Was reading my history text and got wrapped up in it. Great Depression and the dawn of the Second World War." She was hoping to make nice what with the suspension and all the trouble she was in for losing her telescope.

"Remember that you have to go to The Sharing tonight!"

"Oh right, yeah. Almost forgot." Lisa said, and hugged her. "Thanks." She went to make something that she could eat. "Mind if I make supper?" She offered.

"No, you can go ahead, I have some paperwork to finish up."

"All right, love you." Lisa said and went to make herself some supper. Nothing fancy, just a few sandwiches and canned soup. Hunger pains done, she went upstairs to get dressed. Taking her cell phone, she debated on removing Noah's phone number, but decided she could just hang up on him if he called again. knowing that the meeting would be pretty soon, she knew she had time for another quick study session, this time focusing on astronomy even though it wouldn't be on very many tests as it was the last part of the science class.

With the study session comming to a close, Lisa hugged her mom and kissed her goodbye and went to The Sharing, planning to get there a half hour early. Her phone was on, though she

would remedy that if Noah decided to call or text with another nonsensical message about being in or out for something. She shook her head as she walked. On the plus side, that was hopefully going to be a non issue due to them all being roped into this.

Fast forward to arriving at The Sharing i guess...

When Lisa arrived, she looked around wondering if any of her friends had gone to this meeting like they were supposed to. If not, well... she'd have to think on what she could do. She suppressed the evil thoughts in her head and settled for just saying that they hadn't bothered to show up because they thought it was lame and didn't tell the wet blanket of the group, IE her, where they were going or what they were doing. Which was the truth. They didn't tell her anything and more then likely thought it was lame if they didn't show up.

### **Enter the Daniil**

*Time: Near 6 (if I remember correctly)*

His host family was nice. They were used to kids who were thought they were more clever than they were, even if they were a bit more clever than their peers. The Samuels. Paul and Janet, their 18 year old daughter May and their 15 year old daughter Anna. There son Adam, around Daniil's age, was in the same program he was in. They were a black family, and actually knew some russian, Paul having been a translator and his family picking up some from him.

"Daniil!" Janet called up. "We are ready. You need to be down here."

Daniil usually sat at his laptop at the time of the day when he wasn't doing important stuff. Or had to go to school. This wasn't the case, since the people actually were going to go somewhere today so he settled down on a book; the said book quickly went to a bag that he got on himself along with his other stuff as he went down to his host parents. "Going!" he called down on his way.

As promised, everyone really was ready. Paul (Mr. Samuels) was zipping up his work bag with one hand and adjusting his coat with his other. His wife was fussing with Anna's hair, tut tuting with disapproval about her short skirt. May wasn't around, having already made 'plans' for the night. "Do you have everything you need?" Mr. Samuels asked. "Well, not that you need much for the Sharing meeting."

"I don't really need anything I don't have with myself at the moment," Daniil replied

"Then we can get going then." Mr. Samuels heaved his bag and headed to the garage, remote starting their altima as he did.

//thenthen

//DenDen

Daniil looked around and followed, hoping for it not to be too awkward, holding the belt of his bag as he went.

And while they did a time warp, they got in the car and were driven across town to the center the Sharing owned and operated from. "So, how was school today?" Paul asked, posing the general question.

[http://media.tumblr.com/tumblr\\_lrvzpx3WZW1qlw72z.gif](http://media.tumblr.com/tumblr_lrvzpx3WZW1qlw72z.gif)

Daniil shrugged, "Kinda fine. Met some more new people, figured out that they really don't care whenever their assistants would be robotic or not, they are just kind of just... Bah, I forgot what I've wanted to say here. Whatever. Also, did some learning stuff. I think I am getting used to local education system... I hope. Lockers are cool. Had them in one school, then switched to other school and there were no lockers and it sucked hard," Daniil replied quite mouthfully.

"Average," Anna said, giving her report. "Miss Hardy is going on maternity leave, so Mr. Jons and Mrs Grudy are subbing for her. Haven't heard anything new about the three that got suspended. Oh, they served braised salmon for lunch. Tasted sorta like the box the breaded cod we buy comes in."

Her mother laughed. "Any friends yet, Daniil?"

"No... Maybe... Actually, no. Not yet. You know, friendship's are serious things, so better get to know people carefully. Call me paranoid, but whatever," Daniil replied, "No enemies yet still. Maybe some people who don't exactly like me though, but my rambling might cause adverse reactions."

Seeing how rambling is something he is falling into right now, Daniil coughed and smiled, "Yeah."

"Don't worry. I'm sure you'll find some good friends soon enough," Janet said. "You might just end up getting tossed in with them."

"I would not be surprised," Daniil replied, getting some memories where it was a situation of "make a friend or become the butt monkey of the whole group."

"The Sharing is a good place to meet people. Lots of young folk. You might even see some classmates there," Paul said.

"And their camp outs on the beach are fun," Anna added.

"Camp outs on the beach?" he repeated, questioning.

"Bonfires. We have them every now and again. Swimming, music, food and games," Anna chattered happily. Of course, she was leaving out some other things that interested her there. "The last one was the week before you came. They are having another next week. Katie and I plan to go with... some friends," she hastily switched what she was going to say.

"I see," Daniil replied. That hesitation made him think that the friends she mentioned weren't really friends for her. Or maybe parents shouldn't know about someone specific she has fun there.

He decided against prying her for answer and went along with other branch of topic, "Bonfires sound like fun. You cook food out there on them?"

She shot him a glare and mouthed *Don't you dare say anything*. "Of course we cook good food."

Daniil blinked several times as he saw the message. Yep, definitely a boyfriend, "Speaking of food, what do you prefer?"

"Chocolate. We make awesome smores when the sun sets," Anna said.

"I really like grilled potatoes myself," Daniil replied, "Remember when my grandparents at dacha made some fires out of old furniture, doors and construction garbage and we stuffed potatoes there, under the first ashes, and then took em out. Their skin was all burned and ashed, but the taste..." Daniil closed his eyes and smiled, "Chocolate is cool but some are kind of too sweet to me."

"You should try the bitter sweet ones then. Or dark. Less sugar in it," Anna suggested.

"Maybe white?" Janet added.

"I overdosed on white chocolate once. I can't eat any without a gag reflex anymore," Daniil replied

"You just said you like chocolate but it's too sweet for you," Anna countered.

"I just said why I never would eat white chocolate," Daniil counter-counter.

"White chocolate is not chocolate, in any case," Mr. Samuels added, though not really getting into the conversation.

"How do you overdose on chocolate anyway?" Anna sniffed.

"That's a figure of speech," Daniil replied, "Ate a bit too much of it. Can't stand it's taste ever since"

She sniffed hautilly again and didn't say anything more. The silence stretched on, filled only by the radio, playing the musics from the eighties and ninties that Mr Samuels liked to listen to.

### **[The Sharing]**

Starting PCs: Daniil and Lisa

The center the Sharing used was pretty much filled with activity at the moment. People were gathering for the evening's meet and greet, those that were already there for sports or some other activity were getting themselves prepared for it as well, so there was a decent flow and movement to the people going and out, emphasis on the in.

Since there wasn't any parking in the immediate area, Mr. Samuel dropped them off near to the entrance. "I know you plan to make it home on your own Anna, but what about you Daniil? Will you be leaving when we do, or do you plan to linger?"

"I guess I'll leave with you," Daniil replied, "Not sure if I won't get lost on my way."

"It's just two bus's home. The B line then the 12," Anna said. "Two buses and a ten minute walk."

Daniil shrugged, "I don't even know what kind of activities would there be today, so I'll keep my options open."

"Well, we will look around for you when we are ready," Mrs. Samuels said. "Do you have your phone?"

"Ye, took it with me," Daniil replied, pointing at his bag.

"Alright then," Mr Samuels said. "Have a good time," he added before driving off to hunt for parking, leaving Daniil with his host mother and sister.

Lisa meanwhile talked with everyone that was there, going through the usual meet and greet. She spotted someone else, a classmate and uninvolved with the mess that happened that got her into this mess. "Hey!" She called.

Daniil quickly glanced at the new source of sound and waved, "Aye!" he replied, "Got to go here too? First time you are here?"

"Yeah. Had to come here due to... circumstances." Lisa said, hoping he didn't know what happened.

Them people thinking of the generalised words before finally saying something. Does she make out with her boyfriend in public? Should he stop considering every weirdness as a boyfriend clause? Whatever. "Circumstances?" Daniil replied, raising his eyebrow.

"It's a bit embarrassing, I'd rather not tell you, if that's all right." Lisa said.

Daniil shrugged, "Sure, whatever." Prying people for "circumstances" usually doesn't work, so he doesn't bother. Unless he has a blazing hot soldering iron in his hand, but that's another case that he had even never took part in.

"Anyways, is it your first time here?"

"Yep," Daniil replied, nodding, "And I have no idea what's going to be happening next, and I guess you don't either?"



"Not a clue. I guess we just chat with people." Lisa said. "Have you seen Noah or Yuki around, by any chance? Just out of curiosity."

Daniil smiled, "What, 'circumstances' too?" he asked.

"They were involved, yeah. I'm guessing they just couldn't be asked to come here. Or thought it was lame." Lisa shrugged.

"Whatever, maybe they have better stuff to do," Daniil replied.

"I'm pretty sure it was mandatory for all three of us. Unless some sort of emergency came up... Oh well. Only thing I got from them was that they asked me 'in or out' on my phone, which Noah stole by the way, and when I asked for clarification, he stopped talking." Lisa sighed. "I think he's starting to get a few screws loose."

"That just sounds like a silly prank," Daniil said

"Possible, but he's been weird all week. Just seeming a little more crazy. He can't answer some simple questions, and he's a little hyper and unfocused lately."

"Insomnia, stress," Daniil replied, "Really, he could just have some important stuff happen and that'd screw him up temporarily, I guess that'd pass"

"Fair enough. I suppose I could lay off on him. Though I'm not going anywhere with my phone again. I don't trust him with it anymore." Lisa admitted.

"What is the point of phone if you don't go around with it? I just keep it close and don't let it to fall into anyone's hands," Daniil said.

"The only reason I have a phone at all is just in case of emergencies. That's ALL it's for. My mom would kill me if I used it for anything else other than to receive calls in case something were to happen. Meanwhile Noah decided that since I have a phone, he MUST know the number so he can contact me at anytime he wants with his random, nonsensical messages." Lisa sighed and took a breath. "Sorry for that little rant."

Daniil shrugged, "So because of one guy using the phone for assumed purpose you are going to strip yourself of the only way for actual emergency contact? It's like removing fire alarms from school when some random kid decided to use it without any actual fire," he said.

"Probably the best for it until I can change the phone number so he can't get in touch with me anymore." Lisa said then added. "I told him that I would before he stopped talking to me today."

"Huh," Daniil replied, "Well, just keep it hidden somewhere close next time then."

"Yeah. And make sure he can't practice pickpocketing on me." Lisa added. "But enough about my days lately, what about you?"

"Decent," Daniil replied, "I won't be bothering you with details because I have the time from presentations to do that, but work on AI stuff is going along well. Neural programming is amasing thing! Just imagine that, self educating programs that can be spread around any amount of computers! I'd need to get some skills to get it done smoothly but I already done some prototypes... And here I am rambling again."

//Oi...

//Well, he can be expositonal sometimes :P

"Oh, I can imagine, yeah." Lisa said. "Though wouldn't brain uploading be easier to work with? At least in theory, I mean."

"Eh... I see you were among the ones that slept through my presentation?" Daniil replied semi-jokingly, "I don't program exact "neurons". Just a lot of little programs that have their own memory and that are connected with each other, sending each other data and requests, working as one perfect mechanism. Interchangeable... Ever heard of Geth from Mass Effect and how they work? Something like that, except less advanced at this point,"

"Never played that one. Sorry." Lisa said, blshing a little at his earlier words. She had started to nod off during the presentation. "Though I THINK I know what they are. or at least something similar. It's a pretty common thing in fiction."

"Fiction rarely explains such mechanisms," Daniil said, "Ah well, it's not like everyone needs to know what the hell these systems are, just like I can't give a duck about trigonometry. Except I need to learn it to keep up with good grades so I won't get kicked out of country"

"I don't know much math either." Lisa said. "I prefer history, biology, english, things like that."

"I prefer computer science and stuff like that," Daniil replied, "That's a giant field that I am sometimes lazy to explore. Buuuut, I am doing stuff, so yay!"

"Well you know what they say, if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life." Lisa said.

It was a tense drive down to the center. He'd been there before, a couple of times, but considering the course of events that led to this visit... It was understandable why that tension would exist between himself and his parents. He was pretty relieved when he finally got to leave their prescence.

And ran right into Lisa and that other kid from school. Daniil. "Huh... I really thought it would be harder than this to find you..."

**Greykit** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 20

"Well well, look who decided to show up." Lisa said. "By the way, you're not going to text me again. Until i can change my phone number, i'm leaving it at home with the battery out."

"Hello there, Noah," Daniil said, extending his arm for a handshake, wondering why "emergency phone" number is such a big deal, "I assume asking you what'll happen here won't work because you are first time here too?"

"He's one of the people here for the 'circumstances' that got me to be here as well." Lisa said.  
"Daniil, Noah. Noah, Daniil."

"She's the only circumstance here," Noah said. Stupid ideas getting people in trouble. "Really need to talk to you though."

//No handshake? Awkwardness is skyrocketing!

Lisa rolled her eyes. "Fine. After this. But if you're not making sense or can't get it out in five words or less, i'll be going."

Noah belatedly grabbed Daniil's hand. "Sorry."

"Now that's the Canada I know from internet!" Daniil replied to Noah's joke, shaking hand and turning to Lisa, "Seriously though, what has happened with you two?"

"Mostly like i said before. Something's happening with Noah and he's not making a lot of sense lately. Being pushy, stuff like that." Lisa shrugged. "I let him know that if I saw his brain, i'd let him know where it was."

"Sorry," Noah said again to Daniil, then grinned sheepishly when he realized he said it again. "I mean sorry... um... Okay... We are here between of this dolt here and her friend who get people in trouble. And now, it can't wait. I'll have to borrow Lisa for a moment. I'll bring her right back," Noah said, grabbing her shoulders and steering her away.

//true kanadian spirt, komrad!

//The first draft of his response had about four sorries in it...

//Way to enfornc national stereotype XD

//you're canadian. it's natural.

//Also, these drafts I me responding to the situation (mouthing out a respons etype deal.) I'm apparetly sarcastic and polite. Woot.

//Sarlite? Polistic?

//Snalitec?

//i prefer sarlite.

//Sarlite sounds like Lite Sarcasm

//Sarcore? Policasm?

//Sarcasm^2

//policasm sounds sexual... Getting off on politeness... "Oh God! I'm having a policasm!"

//And getting a release from sarcasm is Sargasm?

//I'm not venturing any further down this road. \*pulls a U-turn\*

//When in doubt pull out, eh? ;3

"Hey!" Lisa yelled and struggled to get away. "Lemmie go!"

"Uh, okay," Daniil replied slightly confused.

"Hush child and calm down," Noah hissed at her. Jeeze. It was like she forgot they saw aliens and aliens murdering aliens a couple days before.

Lisa sighed and turned to the direction Noah was going and pushed forward, practically dragging him behind her. "What do you want this time? In five words or less."

Miyuki's mom drove her over to the event, though she didn't feel like going. She spotted Noah in the crowd, and wait...was that Daniil and Lisa. And they went off on their own...Aww I didn't know Noah and Lisa had a thing. "Hey umm...Daniil right? I'm Miyuki", she offered a handshake.

Notice: **mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $20 + 3 = 0.o$

Yuki surprised Daniil with her sudden arrival and handshake offering (women don't do handshakes in Russia), but since he was a bit alien to this country, he assumed that was normal over here and returned the handshake, "Yeah, I'm Daniil," he replied, "I hope at least you are not for the first time here."

"Eh, I didn't really get into the Sharing thing...", Miyuki said, "How are you adjusting to Canada."

//Canada :p

//oopsies

"Vital Life Death News You," Noah aside after a moment of thought. "Happy?"

"Yes actually, you managed to get it all out more clearly than you've been doing this week. Spill it then." Lisa said.

"Met a true Canadian guy," Daniil replied, "He managed to say sorry more times than usual Russian kid cramps swearing in a sentence," Of course that was an overestimation but rule #1 of humor is that overestimations are funny, "Maybe we should play hockey some time. That's a national stuff after all,"

//I read that as hookey..

//Hook up as much people as you can!

"I'll consider it...I'm more of an actress myself...hey, didn't you help out there once.", Miyuki said to him. So far so good, new friends her mom had suggested to her. Sharing in that way was okay...but she worried about the other kind of sharing involving parasitic aliens.

"Help out there where?" Daniil asked.

"Eh, just saying I've seen you around...that's all.", Miyuki said to him, "So what do you like to do for fun?"

"Computer stuff, either creation or using. Coding, videogames, robotics, stuff like that," Daniil replied.

"Wow, you gotta show me sometime. I've been interested in technology but never really learned to program myself. So what games do you play?", she asked.

"Programming isn't a must have for technology, you know," Daniil replied, "And well, if you'd seen my presentations and pay attention to them, then you'd know what exactly I am talking about. I wonder if Sharing thing here actually has presentations allowed... Maybe I could ask someone, I am new to the whole thing myself... Anyway, I prefer shooters, competitive games, roguelikes, stuff like that."

"More and more things are being run by computers nowadays, and robotics depends on AI research, ah, real time strategy for me, and um other games...", Miyuki said.

Daniil nodded, "Stuff of future, huh," he said and then glanced in Lisa and Noah's general direction, "What's up with these two by the way?"

"It's nothing major.", Miyuki said to him, "Don't worry about it."

//Is it? :P//it's very major...not like she'd risk explaining the truth//Roll bluff anyway

**Daniil** rolled a die for Sense Motive with 20 sides. The die showed:  $17 + 2 = 19$

Bluff: **mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $10 + 3 = 13$

Daniil's eyebrow rose up, "Oh really," he asked. He wanted to believe he knows how people act when they lie, and this was the exact case. "Nothing major," yeah, right. Whatever, I won't pry you for that. What has brought you here by the way?"

"Mom insisted I go this time.", Miyuki said simply.

"Curious," Daniil replied, "My host parents suggested that to me too. I should probably have a look, find a schelude or something... Since neither of us know what's going to happen here. I don't like lack of knowledge"

"Me neither, hmm but I think maybe we should wait for those two.", Miyuki suggested to Daniil.

"Eh, sure, strength in numbers after all," Daniil replied and looked around once again.

"So whatcha wanna talk about?", Miyuki asked.

Daniil shrugged, "Whatever. I'm flexible in that regard."

"Hypothetically speaking what would you do if aliens invaded our planet?", Miyuki asked.

"Depends on aliens," Daniil replied, obviously not knowing where is that heading to, "If they were like Combines from Half Life two, capable of rushing Earth in eleven hours, it's defenietly

a war of survival and stealth. Eh... Really, that's about it in interesting aliens. Others would just end up with conventional warfare. You know, tanks, soldiers, stuff like that. I'd probably have to fight too..."

"What if the aliens were already among us...you know like body snatchers.", Miyuki asked him.

"Well, then we are boned," Daniil replied with a chuckle, "Unless I'd become super paranoid and stuff like that, but then again, only I would survive in that case. Really, the only kind of aliens that Earth has no chance against, actually, nearly no-one, is body snatchers. At least, realistically. And the moral dilemmas..."

"Yeah, that would truly be a nightmare scenario.", Miyuki said to him, "But let's move on, hmm, we'd have to root out the alien spies in such a situation, but how would we tell the good from the bad."

"I dunno," Daniil confessed. Is she writing a book or something? "People in Carpenter's "The Thing" just burned the place of infestation down. Twice. In the game they had blood testing. But they had techno-magic thing there... So yeah, realistically, unless you are a good actor or good at reading people, no chance at all"

"Well you're good at reading people and I'm a good actor...so that makes it interesting.", Miyuki said, "I just thought of the skrulls in marvel comics and I wondered if humanity could survive such an invasion."

"Skrulls? I don't read Marvel comics..." Daniil confessed and looked around. Yeah, that girl's even more paranoid than him. Coming up with a hypothetical scenario of brainraping aliens and figuring out the traits just in case for future... Or is it just in case? Yeah, probably is. *"Damn it, thanks for paranoia fuel!"* Daniil thought to himself.

"Hey the skrulls were shapeshifting aliens who disguised as humans to pull off an invasion.", Miyuki said to him, "Hmm do you think we should check on those two...they ran off to who knows where."

"But they have a private talk on something "not important", " Daniil replied, obviously sarcastic about "not important" part.

"Yeah true, best we leave them alone...and I'm happy you entertained my random book ideas", Miyuki said, "Hmm, so you do anything with robotics?"

"Yeah. Mostly theories, but I can wire up something simple myself too," Daniil replied.

"Cool, And what sort of games do you make?", Miyuki asked.

"Mostly crappy "helloworld"escue games," Daniil replied.

"Choose your own adventure books were popular back in the day...and text adventures still have their place...Everyone loves a good story...or a good character...it's part of why I got into theater.", Miyuki said doing a small twirl for no apparent reason. "Hey, maybe we should go check on them.", Miyuki said.

"They are in private," Daniil replied again, making a slight facepalm.

"Yeah, precisely the problem.", Miyuki said to him, "But okay we can wait...btw do you play starcraft?"

"No, I don't," Daniil replied.

//let's move down there :D

### **'Vital-Life-Death-News-You'**

"Did anything happen when you got home?" Noah asked Lisa carefully. "Anything out of place?"

"No." Lisa said. "I was studying at home all day until I came here."

"How was your mother?" Noah pressed. "She didn't say anything? Insisted that you come here?"

"She just reminded me of the meeting and considering she's probbaly more then a little pissed off at me, I didn't want to stay there any longer then I had to." Lisa said. "But since you asked, how's your mom?"

"She's fine," Noah said. He maneuvered Lisa till there were in a relatively isolated corner of the parking lot. "We need to talk about something serious."

Lisa sighed and looked to the sky exasperated. "Just spit it out already. Enough with the cloak and dagger BS. Getting a stright anwser from you lately is like pulling teeth!"

"Your mother might be one of them," Noah said softly.

"Excuse me?" Lisa asked. "And how, pray tell, do you know this?"

"Yuki and I spied on the vice principal today," Noah said just as quietly.

//aww don't blame yuki in this :D

"And how does that relate to saying my mother is one of them?" Lisa asked, skeptically, her right hand making a fist.

"Why do you think they insisted we come here tonight? They want to check who was at the park when it happened," Noah said, his own fear building some. "They suspect. They know at least

one of use was there." He grabbed her arm. "You can't tell them anything. You can't tell them ANYTHING!" Even hissed his emphasis was clear.

//meanwhile Yuki...

//Golden Age comic style scene change to the incident he's trying to avoid happening. Ironic Scene Cut, I think TVtropes calls it.

//lol

//Poor poor Noah

"You didn't answer my question. Tell me EXACTLY how you found out." Lisa said firmly.

"I did, and there are enough rumours that I don't need to start anymore," Noah said, thinking how it looked for them to have slunk off alone. But she needed to know.

//wait noah just revealed he spied on the vp...just tell her you love her you dope.

"You just said you were spying. That is not how. Tell me EXACTLY what was said. RIGHT NOW." Lisa demanded. "Otherwise you can forget about me helping you with any future projects you've got in that head of yours. Seriously, do you understand what you're accusing my mother of being?"

"Get your head out of your ass and pay attention!" Noah hissed at Lisa. He was this close to just leaving to her own chances, except for the fact that she had a chronic issue with keeping her mouth shut, speaking of... "And keep your voice down. You remember the crash? And the aliens? Because it's pretty clear you don't if this is how you react to people trying to save your sorry ass! They know people were there, and someone's mother arranged to get us here tonight with Graceland because their daughter was there. That's either yours or Yuki's. You would have known if you'd bother showing up instead of going on like an idiot about emergency phones and numbers!"

Lisa clenched her teeth but didn't say anything. Instead, she tried to process everything. *Why didn't he just say that BEFORE and be direct with anything? Oh wait, that would be too easy and would make sense...* Lisa thought and sighed. "I wasn't going to tell anyone about that. Why would I?"

//because they are on enemy territory

"**Geek Squad**," Noah growled with emphasis. "Took you all of what? Two minutes?"

"To be fair, you did *that thing* right in front of him." Lisa countered. "But if it makes you feel any better, I won't say anything when anything weird happens."

"Just like how you didn't say anything when Jim showed up. Or in the principals office. Or at Geek Squad's house." Noah had no confidence in Lisa's capabilities. That girl literally couldn't lie to save herself.

"By saying nothing, I mean I would say nothing or play dumb." Lisa said meekly. She hated confrontations like this. "So what do you propose we do now? Go back in there and play dumb?"



"I'm going to go there, I'm going to play nice and smile, and I'm hopefully gonna go back home smiling," Noah said, getting up and brushing off his pants. "You do what you want. I'll just get a head start."

Lisa nodded and watched him head in, waiting five seconds before she followed suit while she tried to think of everything that Noah yelled at her for. She'd have to remember to corner Noah in private areas if she was every going to get some information about... anything out of him.

Otherwise it would be like pulling teeth.

//or just turn up when people are talking about stuff.

## **The Sharing**

"Aww, so mostly shooters then...and of course the text adventures you program eh?", Miyuki said to him. Where were those two, they were going to miss the controlled doom that was surely to happen.

Noah managed to wrap up the conversation with Lisa pretty much just in time, since the 'party' was just getting started. Everyone was funneling into their appropriate rooms, three events taking place, one for teens [where the PCs are], another for young kids and one for young adults.

Lisa headed to where she was supposed to be and spotted Yuki and Daniil again. She gave a half-hearted wave to them both.

"Ye-- Oh look, there's the movement," Daniil said, noticing the... Movement. "And Lisa too. Now we can go to them, Yuki, because I doubt she's going to wave us over when she needs privacy..." With that, Daniil decided to go over to Lisa.

"You found those two huh.", Miyuki said to him as she followed him to talk with Lisa, "Hey Lisa."

"Hey..." Lisa said sighing.

"Something's wrong?" Daniil asked, concerned.

"Something like that. Noah told me what was going on. His grandparents aren't well and he's been scatterbrained lately because of that. He explained and now I feel really crappy for thinking he was going nuts."

Daniil looked down for a moment, "Oh," he muttered, "That sucks..."

"Yeah... I know what he's going through myself..." Lisa sighed. "I hope things can get better for him soon."

"Indeed..." Daniil replied, "...Look, loadsa people moving around, you think we've got to go that way?" Daniil pointed out one of the groups of people that were heading towards a room.

Noah had bypassed the group and gone right for the room, and snagged a table that was already mostly filled with other people. At the front of the room, the vice principal was one of the Sharing heads who were watching the teens file in and take their seats, waiting for them to get settled before they got the thing started.

[insert dramatic music here]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbZx6SEViEM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tzfXGLkFy0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unWiVi7lCvI>

[Good job]

As per usual, the places were set up with the stand cards for them to write up their names, and a table number [4]. Taylor, Rebecca, Andrew and Lynn were already done with their's, so Noah added his and tried to look unobtrusive.

Daniil, Lisa and Yuki, being among the last to get in, ended up together with Mitch and Ki and table 9.

Lisa added hers to one of the tables, hoping to be away from Noah. If what he said was true, then it would look suspicious if they were all sitting together. She looked around for him to boot.

Daniil added his name too, curiously awaiting whatever was in their repertoire.

Miyuki added her name to the table and waited with the others. "Well this should be fun.", Miyuki said to them.

[Okay, here's the deal. It's Total Cop Out Time again. There is no way I'm gonna waste time, effort and wellspring devising actually programming from this. Just pretend it was a pretty engaging series of activities and games and stuff that had a common theme of building youth leaderships skills and so on. The vice principal would have greeted the three suspendees at one point or another (probably the transfer kid too [dun dun duuuun]). As the evening wrapped up, they official events ended and people were free to game and play as they wanted.

Except for the Pioneers. If the sharing was like the scouts crossed with the YMCA, the Pioneers were their actually scouts and counselors. You didn't have to join, and you still needed recommendations to get certain qualifications within the group, but still.

What attracted Noah's attention was that Mrs Graceland took picked them out for a special meeting. Paranoia kicked in. Were the pioneer's yerks? That thought caused him to loose the game of Uno he was playing, driving to distraction as he was. Damn... he'd never get anything done. For the moment, they were still in the room, huddled and talking, looking mostly normal. He pulled out his phone and texted Yuki.

@Yuki: *The Pioneers. Graceland's heading them.*

Yuki was playing a game of Life with Lisa, Daniil, and a few of the other kids. Currently she was past college and had a job with two kids...this was all in the game of course. She wasn't

ready for kids let alone a job. It was enough to let her forget about the imminent alien doom that awaited them all. Well, until she got a text message:

*@Yuki: The Pioneers. Graceland's heading them.*

*@Noah: dont panic*

It was all Yuki could think to say. She calmly rolled the die for her turn. Oh great, now she was a single mother with two kids and on the verge of losing her job...In the game of course.

Noah excused himself from the game, he lost anyway and would only be waiting for the next round. His phone buzzed as Yuki responded. He rolled his eyes when he read it.

*@Yuki: Who said anything about panic? I'm gonna see what she is up to.*

Yuki texted quickly before it came to her turn again. Her youngest child was now in grade school and the other one was in college while she remarried and now had enough money to keep them all okay. Maybe things would turn out okay...in the game of life, of course.

*@Yuki: The Pioneers. Graceland's heading them.*

*@Noah: dont panic*

*@Yuki: Who said anything about panic? I'm gonna see what she is up to.*

*@Noah: ok, be safe dont change*

*@Yuki: No Promises*

*@Noah: stay safe*

Lisa meanwhile wasn't doing so well with her side of the game. She noticed that Yuki was doing something with her phone but disregarded it. Instead, she made a face and tried to think of how she could actually win this one.

The other people playing the game were doing fairly well, though the lucky rockstar somehow managed to get four kids. Across the room, the Pioneers were leaving, going to whatever they had planned for the rest of the evening. Anna was with the group that was playing charades.

"Personally, i'd rather play monopoly. Or chess." Lisa said.

"I had bad experiences with monopoly.", Yuki said. The lucky rockstar won and became a philosopher while Yuki was struggling through a midlife crisis.

"Oh?" Lisa asked.

"Some people tried to rob the bank to pay a loan while I was the banker.", Yuki said to Lisa.

Noah unobtrusively followed after the Pioneers as they went about their business, shifting to stealth mode after a while. They took some of the back halls through the building. He slipped down the halls after them, sliding from corner to corner. He was partway between super psyched at playing spy, and super terrified at following someone he knew was part of the super secret alien invasion.

Φαιόςγαλή rolled a die with 20 sides for bluff. The die showed:  $6+7=13$

Oh God, what the hell was he doing following someone who he knew was part of the super secret alien invasion? Yep. There was the panic. His heart suddenly decided it didn't like it's current abode and wanted to move out. Now, now, daddy needs you inside, Heart. He slowed his breathing and taught about happy thing. Happy things. Take the fear and use it to sharpen the other senses, not deaden them.

Φαιόςγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides for will. The die showed: 18+2

Φαιόςγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides for stealth. The die showed: 13+3

He looked around the corner in time to see them entering a room. Okay, fun stuff. He pulled a pen out of his pocket and waited. When the last person stepped through, he rushed in and slipped the pen into the door jam, preventing it from closing fully.

Φαιόςγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides for stealth. The die showed: 15

Φαιόςγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides for bluff. The die showed: 16

He leaned against the wall and got a breather. He tried to listen to what was going on inside, but his heavy breathing and pounding heart were very distracting.

Φαιόςγαλῆ rolled a die with 20 sides for notice. The die showed: 1

"Sounds like you got a little too free with the house rules." Lisa chuckled.

"Those weren't house rules...they were just being mean.", Miyuki said, "You said chess?"

"Yep. I honestly prefer it." Lisa said.

"Wanna play a game?", Miyuki asked.

"Hello? We are in the middle of a game here?" Taylor said, waving at the board.

"You have 4 kids and already reached the retirement home to become a philosopher...isn't the game over by that point?", Miyuki asked.

"That's Lynn," Taylor said, pointing to her own token which was still some way back from retirement.

"Sorry, okay then.", Miyuki spun for her turn and progressed a little bit, but still had not reached retirement. Her kids...in the game, all had jobs of their own leaving her alone. Retirement couldn't come soon enough.

"Oh sorry." Lisa said and made her spin after miyuki, moving the squares and checking to see where she was and what happened with a quick look at the rules.

Miyuki waited while Taylor took her turn. She was catching up with her and Lisa.

The game was nearing its end when Noah finally got the guts to push the door open to see what was going on in there. Only to find nothing but an empty room. The hell. It took him less than a minute to get back to the meeting hall they had been in, and he texted Yuki from just outside the exit the Pioneers had taken.

@Yuki: They Vanished!

@Noah: What what what? How!

Miyuki tried to hide her annoyance as her turn approached again. She texted a response just after she spun the wheel. She was getting close to retirement.

@Yuki: *They Vanished!*

@Noah: What what what? How!

Lisa spun again, her confidence getting up now that she knew what she was actually doing. "Hmmm... One kid, wife, house." She said, listing off what she had in comparison to the others. "Could be worse, I suppose."

Noah muttered and tapped away again.

@Noah: What what what? How!

@Yuki: *How should I know. Just get over here.*

@Noah: But I'm in a game still.

Miyuki was so close now, she could get there next turn no matter what she spun next turn. She responded to Noah's text in the meantime.

Noah stared at the screen in disbelief, stunned to inactivity for a few moments.

@Yuki: *Oh! If it's a game you're in, nevermind then. I'll go check out*

@Yuki: *the mystery room on my own then. Keep playing your own so important game.*

Miyuki finished her next turn quickly and left saying she needed to check on something. She walked out and looked for Noah, hopefully he didn't run off already.

@Noah: Sorry, now that that's done

@Noah: where r u, I'm coming.

@Yuki: *Outside the door.*

"Good game, Yuki." Lisa said as she took off.

"Hey Lisa, I may need to keep Noah out of trouble care to join me?", Yuki asked Lisa softly as they left the table.

[i]This is going to go wrong in SO MANY WAYS.[/i] Lisa thought. She rubbed her temple and got up to follow Yuki.

@Noah: Hope you didn't run in without backup.

Yuki texted quickly while she accompanied Lisa around looking for where Noah went.

"This is going to end in tears, I just know it..." Lisa muttered.

"Someday we'll teach Noah about restraint for now we gotta pull him out of the fire.", Miyuki said to Lisa softly. She really hoped she was wrong about this time.

"And also teach him better communication skills." Lisa said.

Miyuki contemplated calling Noah but decided against it. "That too.", she commented before texting Noah again as they walked around.

@Noah: hello, where are you!?

@Yuki: *Three times; by the door!*

"Glad we're in agreement. I swear, I'd have better luck literally beating information out of him with a pipe wrench." Lisa said, recalling the arduous process of extracting the information out of him with the latest bombshell he dropped.

"Oops we forgot Daniil back at the game room, he must be worried.", Miyuki said.

"I think he'll be fine. Besides, he's not connected to us. Leave him." Lisa replied.

"I guess so...think I should call Noah?", Miyuki asked her. Just then she got two texts from Noah. She immediately texted Noah and led Lisa to the door Noah referred to.

Current Texts:

@Noah: Sorry, now that that's done

@Noah: where r u, I'm coming.

@Noah: Hope you didn't run in without backup.

@Noah: hello, where are you!?

@Yuki: *Outside the door.*

@Yuki: *Three times; by the door!*

Most recent -> @Noah: Sorry, okay...great, do we involve Daniil?

Noah pinched at his temple. Lord, what did I do to deserve these two?

@Yuki: *What?*

Meanwhile, Daniil managed to catch up with the group. Since they were the only ones he knew at least somewhat, he decided to stick around them, being alone isn't too fun. "Aye," he said, alerting the couple of his presence, "Helped people to wrap up the gaming session, duh."

Lisa's blood ran cold when she heard that voice and turned, putting on a smile. "Hey there, Daniil! Didn't hear you coming up there."

Miyuki had opened the door by the time she noticed Daniil was behind them. She turned to greet him. "Hey Daniil, didn't see you coming...what's up.", she said.

"Aww, sorry, I sometimes do end up scaring the people like that," Daniil replied.

"How long does it... it... WHY THE HELL IS HE HERE?" Noah yelled at Yuki, pointing an accusatory finger at Daniil.