**Classroom**

Morning classes go by slowly at usual, and an eternity later they finally end. Already exhausted, I stretch and let out a yawn, debating on whether or not I should take a nap during lunch. However, my choice is made for me by Asher, who turns towards me.

Asher (neutral smiling): Hey.

I look at him sluggishly.

Asher (neutral playful) : A little sleepy, are we?

Pro: Just a little.

He reaches for his bag and pulls out his lunch.

Asher (neutral curious): You should eat something, and you’ll wake right up. What do you have?

Pro: Dunno.

Back in middle school, Mara would always make sure that I’d eat my lunch as well. She’d usually do it under the pretext of wanting to trade food or something like that, but I always knew that she was actually looking out for me. Speaking of Mara…

I wonder how she’ll react when I tell her about my failed attempt at talking to someone this morning. I hope she doesn’t burst out laughing…

Asher (neutral worried\_slightly): Something on your mind?

Pro: …

Pro: I ran into this girl on the way to school. The blonde one. You know her?

Asher (eating thinking): Mmm…

Asher (eating curious): Anything else about her?

Pro: She had a baseball bat.

Asher (eating smiling): Oh, that’s Lilith. She’s in our year, and she’s on the baseball team.

Asher (eating curious): So you ran into her?

Pro: Yeah…

Pro: I said hi, but she brushed me off.

Asher (laughing laughing):

Asher breaks out laughing.

Asher (laughing recovering): Well, yeah.

Asher (neutral smiling): Don’t worry about it though. She always acts like that towards guys.

Pro: Really?

Asher (neutral thinking): Yeah. Sometimes her group hangs out with ours…

Asher (downcast downcast): …and she hasn’t said hi to me once.

Yikes.

Asher (downcast embarrassed): This one time, I asked her a question and she just glanced at me without saying a word…

Pro: Oh…

I feel kinda bad for making Asher relive some of his worse moments.

Asher (neutral curious): Still though, I’m surprised. You randomly said hi to a girl you’ve never met?

Pro: She acknowledged me first. And besides, I’ve met her before…

Asher (neutral smirk):

I tell him what happened when he was moving books to the library yesterday, much to his amusement.

Asher (neutral thoughtful): Yeah, that sounds about right. Don’t worry about it, it happens to everyone.

A student from another class appears at the doorway to our classroom, calling for Asher.

Asher (neutral neutral): Oh, sorry, I should probably go now. I’ll be right back.

Pro: Don’t worry about it. Take your time.

Asher (waving smiling): Okay. Enjoy your nap.

Asher (exit):

Read like a book. Well, it is Asher.

As he leaves, I put my head down on my desk and close my eyes, and the sounds of my classmates talking slowly fade away…