**Ice Cream Shop**

We arrive at the ice cream shop, which is completely empty. Mara happily browses over the various flavours, carefully considering her choices while a pair of bored-looking employees wait for us to order.

Mara (neutral smiling): What are you getting?

Pro: I’m not sure. How about you?

Mara (neutral thinking): Mmm, either pineapple or raspberry. Or…

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Maybe both?

Pro: Yeah, that sounds good.

Mara (exit):

Mara goes to pay for her ice cream, while I continue to decide. To be honest, I don’t really feel like eating anything, but if I don’t get something Mara will worry.

Pro: Guess I’ll get lemon.

?Petra: Lemon, huh? Interesting.

Pro: What do you mean? I always get it.

Wait a second.

?Petra (neutral curious):

I turn around and come face to face with a girl that isn’t Mara.

Pro: …

Pro: Do I know you?

?Petra (neutral smirk): Probably not. But I know you.

Pro: Huh…?

?Petra (neutral neutral):

Lilith (neutral neutral): Petra, hurry up and order.

Oh, that makes sense.

Members of what I assume is our girls baseball team file into the ice cream store, carrying all of their equipment with them.

?Petra (exit):

Lilith (exit):

Mara (neutral wink):

I look around for Mara and find her outside with her ice cream. She winks teasingly before walking away, presumably to encourage me to talk with Lilith again.

Mara (exit):

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra (neutral curious): Lilith, look who I found.

Lilith (neutral curious): Oh…

Lilith: You again, huh.

Pro: Oh, hi. Is this the baseball team?

Lilith (neutral neutral): Yeah.

Petra (neutral smiling): I’m Petra. You’re Pro, right? In 2B?

Pro: Yeah, that’s right.

Petra (neutral grinning): Nice to meet you!

Petra (neutral smirk): So…

She leans in.

Petra: What’s your relationship with our Lilith? She denies everything, but we all know about you guys walking to school together yesterday.

Lilith (neutral annoyed): Petra…

Petra (laughing laughing):

Petra bursts out laughing. Her voice is fast and energetic, as if she drank a couple of energy drinks on their way here.

Petra (laughing recovering): Sorry, sorry.

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Petra (neutral smiling):

Lilith sighs, and then turns to look at the ice cream flavours. Petra glances at Lilith and leans in again.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra (excited excited): Let me know if anything happens, alright?

Petra (exit):

After another fit of giggles, Petra goes off to talk to some of her other teammates, leaving me and Lilith behind.

Lilith (neutral curious): What are you getting?

Pro: Oh, lemon. How about you?

Lilith (neutral thinking): I’m not sure, although lemon does sound good. Aren’t you gonna order?

Pro: Oh, right.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

I go up to one of the store employees and order a single scoop of lemon ice cream, and he gets it for me. Lilith waits behind me and orders the same thing.

Lilith (neutral curious): So, why are you here?

Pro: Just felt like ice cream, I guess.

I could tell her that I was here with a friend, but since Mara left, it might lead to awkward questions being asked.

Pro: What about you guys? Don’t have practice?

Lilith (neutral sigh): Well, we were supposed to.

Lilith (neutral annoyed): But when we got to the diamond that we were gonna practice at, there were already people there.

Pro: You guys don’t practice at school?

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Lilith shakes her head.

Lilith: There’s not enough space. The boys baseball team is bigger, so they get priority most of the time.

We have a boys baseball team…?

Pro: Oh, that sucks.

Lilith (neutral expressionless): Yeah.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Well, it’s not actually that bad. It’s alright, I guess.

The employee brings Lilith her ice cream, and after she pays for it, she thanks him and steps aside so that a pair of her teammates can order.

Lilith (neutral curious): Earlier today you were with Prim, right?

Pro: Oh, you know Prim?

Pro: Yeah, our teachers enlisted us to put up posters at lunch.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I see.

Petra (neutral raised\_eyebrow): Oh, Prim?

Out of nowhere, Petra appears with her ice cream, which is an oddly bright colour.

Petra (excited excited): She’s really cute, don’t you think?

Petra (neutral thinking): Although she’s really shy. I try talking to her all the time, but now I think she tries to avoid me.

Lilith (neutral curious):

Petra (neutral fufu): But I’ve heard she’s okay around you. What are you to her, Pro? It’s okay, you can tell us.

Lilith (neutral interested):

I look at Lilith to bail me out, but she looks at me interestedly as well.

Pro: We’ve run into each other a couple times. By coincidence.

Petra (neutral raised\_eyebrow): Oh, is that so.

Lilith (neutral surprise):

Petra (neutral excited): Well, then Lilith still has a chance!

Lilith (neutral annoyed): …!

Petra (neutral laughing):

Lilith: Are you picking a fight…?

Petra (exit):

Laughing, Petra dashes off, weaving in and out between their teammates. What a hyper girl.

Lilith (neutral sigh): I’m really sorry about her. She’s something else.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: Yeah…

Pro: You’re all pretty close, huh?

Lilith (neutral thinking):

Lilith pauses for a moment, thinking about my words.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): Yeah, I guess.

**Shopping District**

I talk with Lilith until everyone gets their ice cream, and then we all leave the shop, much to the relief of the harassed-looking employees.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I think we’re gonna practice now. If we can.

Pro: Oh, okay. I’m probably just gonna go home.

Lilith: I see.

Lilith (waving neutral): Well then, I’ll see you later.

Lilith (exit):

With a small wave, she joins her teammates as they go to practice, and I head home, a small part of me wishing that I had joined a sports team as well.