**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: Who are you?

?Petra (neutral smirk): Hmm, I wonder…

Pro: Huh…?

?Petra (neutral curious):

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

Oh.

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 try to talk to Lilith again.

Mara (exit):

Petra (neutral neutral):

Lilith (neutral icy): You again, huh.

“About the other day…”

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Petra (neutral curious):

Pro: Um, about the other day…

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: I’m really sorry. I just found it a little weird that you had a baseball bat and ended up staring.

Lilith (neutral curious): …

Petra (neutral surprise): Huh?!? Do you guys know each other?

Lilith (neutral neutral): Um…

Lilith: …

Lilith (neutral disappointed): I’m really sorry about that too. I should’ve realized.

Petra rapidly looks between me and Lilith, trying to piece together what happened.

Petra (neutral confused): Uh…

Petra (neutral smirk): Lover’s quarrel?

Lilith (neutral annoyed): Petra…

Petra (laughing laughing):

Petra bursts out laughing. Her laugh is bubbly and energetic, like a little kid’s.

Petra (laughing recovering): Sorry, sorry.

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Petra (neutral curious):

Lilith sighs, and then turns to look at the ice cream flavours. Petra glances at Lilith, and then back at me.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra (neutral smiling): Mmm… what are you getting?

Pro: Oh, lemon.

Petra (neutral neutral):

Lilith (neutral thinking): Lemon sounds good.

To my surprise, Lilith turns back around to face me.

Petra (neutral curious):

Lilith (neutral curious): Do you like sour things?

Pro: Oh, uh…

Pro: Yeah, a little.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I do too.

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous):

We stare at each for a moment, not quite sure on what to say next. Petra senses the awkwardness and decides to bail.

Petra: Um…

Petra: I’m gonna go over there, so you guys have fun, okay?

Lilith: Oh, alright.

Petra (exit):

We watch as Petra trots away.

Lilith (neutral curious): Aren’t you gonna order?

Pro: Oh, right.

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 neutral): So…

Lilith: …

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

Pro: Oh, 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: Well, we were supposed to.

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 curious): Oh, Prim?

Out of nowhere, Petra reappears 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.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra (neutral laughing): Oh, is that so. Nothing more? That’s too bad!

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 worried\_slightly): I’m really sorry about what happened earlier.

Pro: Oh, it’s fine. I’m sorry too.

We pause yet again.

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

Pro: Oh, alright. Have fun.

Lilith (waving neutral): Thanks. See you around, then.

Lilith (exit):

With a small wave, she joins her teammates as they go to practice, and I head home, thinking about the sudden change I just witnessed. Mara may have been right – inside, Lilith might actually be soft and squishy indeed.

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“Yep, it’s me.”

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Lilith (neutral annoyed):

Pro: Yep, it’s me.

Petra (neutral nervous): Do you guys know each other?

Lilith (exit):

After eyeing me testily, Lilith walks away to talk to her other friends.

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): Huh?

Petra: Ah, sorry about that. She can be like that sometimes.

Pro: Yeah.

Petra (neutral nervous):

We stand there for a moment, but Petra can’t stand the awkwardness and breaks the silence.

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): Well, enjoy your ice cream!

Petra (exit):

She runs off, leaving me with the ice cream guy. I order a scoop of lemon ice cream, and once I get it I quickly leave the shop, ignoring the curious glances from Lilith and Petra’s teammates.

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