**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 smiling):

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

Petra: Hello!

Petra (neutral grinning): Imagine finding you here!

Petra? Which means…

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 talk with Lilith again.

Mara (exit):

Lilith (neutral neutral):

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

Lilith (neutral curious): Oh…

Petra (neutral fufu):

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): You again, huh.

Pro: It’s me again. Is this the baseball team?

Lilith (neutral neutral): Yeah.

Petra (neutral grinning): C’mon guys, you can act closer than that. We all know that you spent lunch together today.

Lilith (neutral annoyed): Petra…

Petra (laughing laughing):

Petra bursts out laughing. Energetic as always, I guess.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly):

Petra (laughing recovering): Sorry, sorry.

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Petra (neutral smirk):

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

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra: Made a lot of progress, didn’t you?

Petra (exit):

After another fit of giggles, Petra runs 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 neutral): 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): Do you like sour things?

Pro: Yeah, I–

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra (neutral grinning):

?Kari (neutral curious):

Before I can finish my sentence, Petra bursts in and interrupts us, bringing one of her friends.

Petra (neutral smiling): See? Here he is.

?Kari (neutral amused): You’re right, he’s actually here.

?Kari: This is the boy Lilith spent lunch with?

She inspects my face, much to my embarrassment.

Pro: Um…

?Kari (neutral neutral): Hm? Oh, sorry.

Kari (neutral smiling): You’re Pro, right? I’m Kari.

Kari (arms\_crossed thinking): …

Lilith (neutral surprise):

Kari: I guess he is kinda cute, but only if you look at him from a certain angle.

Lilith (neutral annoyed):

Petra (neutral thinking): Yeah, I totally get that.

Kari: Is Lilith taller than him, though?

Petra: They’re around the same height…

The trio stares at me for a bit longer before Lilith intervenes.

Petra (neutral neutral):

Kari (arms\_crossed neutral):

Lilith (neutral embarrassed): That’s enough, right?

Lilith (neutral annoyed): And besides, I’ve told you guys it’s not like that.

Kari: Oh, yeah. It’s just that…

Kari (arms\_crossed amused): This is the first guy you’ve ever seemed remotely interested in.

Petra (neutral smirk): And besides, you guys seem *really* close…

They look at Lilith expectantly, with excitement clearly written on their faces. Girls are scary…

Lilith (neutral annoyed): You know what…

Kari (neutral wow):

Petra (neutral fufu):

Lilith grabs my arm and pulls me away, much to her teammates’ delight.

Lilith: We’ll be outside.

**Shopping District**

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Trying to ignore the knowing looks that everyone else gives us, we make it outside, where we’re safe from their prying ears. Lilith lets out a sigh.

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): Sorry about them…

Pro: Oh, don’t worry about it.

Pro: You’re all pretty close, huh?

Lilith (neutral thinking):

Lilith pauses for a moment, thinking about my words.

Lilith (neutral expressionless): Yeah, I guess.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra (neutral neutral):

We talk until Lilith’s teammates start leaving the store, and we’re approached by Petra, whose ice cream is an oddly bright colour.

Petra: I think we’re gonna try to practice now.

Lilith: Oh, alright.

Lilith (neutral curious): Well, we’re going. What are you gonna do now?

Pro: Oh, okay. I’ll probably go home.

Lilith: I see.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): Well then, I’ll see you later.

Petra (waving grinning): Bye Pro!

Lilith (exit):

Petra (exit):

They go to join their teammates, and I watch them as they leave. I start to head home a bit later, a small part of me wishing that I had joined a sports team as well.