**Intersection 1**

My head filled with thoughts of Lilith, I almost forget about my arrangement with Mara. Thankfully, by the time I reach the intersection she’s already there.

Mara (neutral smiling): Hey.

Mara (neutral neutral): …

Mara: You look… really out of it. Did something happen?

Mara (neutral skeptical):

Mara eyes me with suspicion.

Mara: Hmm…

Mara (neutral fufu): Which one was it? The blonde? Or the quiet one?

Pro: The blonde.

Mara (neutral pensive): Oh, I see.

Mara: …

Mara (surprise surprise): HUH!?!?

Mara: Actually!?!? What happened!?!?

Mara (excited earnest):

I tell her about how Petra told me to go to the roof after class, and how Lilith invited me to hang out with her with all of her friends watching.

Pro: It was really embarrassing, with everyone watching…

Mara (neutral surprise): Yeah, it would be…

Mara: I’m surprised. From what you’ve told me, she doesn’t seem like she’d do something like that.

Pro: Yeah.

Mara (neutral thinking): Hmm…

Mara (neutral happy): Well anyways, congratulations! I’m so proud of you!

Mara (neutral pensive): It’s been so long, and never once have I heard of a girl who was remotely interested in you…

Pro: That’s partly your fault, you know…

Mara (neutral thinking): Is it?

Mara: …

Mara (neutral neutral): Oh, I guess it is.

Mara (neutral hehe): Hehe.

I sigh. Since we were always together, people always assumed we were an item. To be fair, probably nobody was interested in me anyway, but there were many times I had to endure the harsh glares and insults of Mara’s admirers.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: So? What are we doing?

Mara: I was thinking we could go to a café, but because of this new development…

Mara (excited earnest): Let’s go to your place and pick what you’re gonna wear tomorrow.

Pro: Pick what I’m gonna wear…?

Mara: Yup.

Pro: Are you sure you don’t wanna do anything else?

Mara: Yup.

Pro: You sure…?

Mara: Yup.

As always, it looks like I won’t be able to escape...

Pro: Mmm, that’s fine I guess.

Mara (excited excited): Can we have instant noodles for lunch?

Pro: Yeah, sure.

Mara (yay yay): Yay!

We start to walk to my house, and the entire way Mara asks me questions about Lilith. The more she asks, the more I realize how little I actually know. What kind of things does she like? Dislike? Does she have siblings? Heck, I don’t even know her last name.

I guess it’s pretty normal to not know much about someone at first, but as Mara and I continue on I start to get more curious, and I find that I’m starting to get excited for tomorrow. Maybe even a little impatient.

Mara (neutral wishful):

However, all of a sudden Mara stops, examining my face with an expression I can’t describe.

Pro: What’s up?

Mara: …

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Nothing. Let’s go, okay?

**Bedroom**

Pro: What do you mean no?

Mara (arms\_crossed lecturing): If you wear that tomorrow, you’ll look like a slob.

Pro: That’s my favourite hoodie…

Mara: Well it won’t do.

Mara (excited earnest): Lilith’s popular, right? So she’s probably gonna wear something fashionable, and on top of that, she’s really good looking. If you were to wear that…

Mara (excited ouch):

Mara shudders.

Mara: I don’t wanna think about it.

Pro: Alright, fine, I’ll put it away..

Mara (neutral thinking):

Mara rummages through my closet, desperately looking for anything that could be considered anything near trendy.

Mara (neutral frowning): Don’t you have anything? I have to go home soon…

Mara (excited ouch): Ah, there’s no time!

Pro: I wonder whose fault that is. Certainly not the person who refused to stop playing video games until she won, right?

Mara (excited geh): Geh…

Mara (neutral nervous): Well, that’s beside the point, right? C’mon, let’s find you something to wear. Quickly, okay?

After eating a quick lunch, Mara decided that she wanted to play video games, since we haven’t played them together since middle school. We picked a fighting game that she used to really enjoy, and after a few warm-up rounds our competitive sides started to come out.

However, Mara doesn’t play video games at home, and even though she was surprisingly good for someone who hadn’t played in over a year I still won every round.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: You know, if you want you can take the console and game home. I don’t really play anymore.

Mara (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Mara (neutral neutral): Thanks, but I think I’ll pass. I’d feel kinda guilty.

Mara: And also…

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): I don’t think I’d enjoy it nearly as much if I played at home, you know?

Pro: Ah.

Oh, that’s right. Unlike mine, Mara’s parents are still together, but barely so.

Pro: Sorry.

Mara: It’s fine, don’t worry, don’t worry.

Mara (neutral earnest): Besides, if I don’t take it home, I can come over again to play, right?

Pro: I dunno…

Mara (neutral skeptical): Huh?

Pro: Just kidding. Of course.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Yay.

Mara (neutral surprise): Oh!

Mara (holding\_something fufu):

Mara pulls out a long-sleeved button-up that I’ve never worn, despite buying a while ago.

Mara (holding\_something earnest): You can wear this open with a t-shirt underneath. Go on, put it on.

Mara (neutral earnest):

She tosses it to me along with a pair of jeans.

Pro: Um, could you step out for a sec?

Mara (neutral neutral): Hm?

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): Oh, right.

Mara (exit):

Mara leaves the room and closes the door, allowing me to change. Childhood friend or not, I really don’t wanna undress in front of her. I hastily pull on the clothes she chose for me.

Pro: Alright, I’m done.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Mara comes back inside.

Mara: Let’s see…

Mara: …

Mara (neutral hehe): Heh.

Pro: What do you mean “heh”? You chose these clothes.

Mara : No, no it’s fine. You look great.

Mara (neutral fufu): It’s just that it’s pretty obvious that you don’t wear stuff like this often.

Pro: Well, excuse me. Guess I’ll just wear my school uniform then.

Mara (neutral hehe): No, it’s okay. Wear this.

I let out a sigh.

Pro: Fine, fine.

I look out the window and realize that the sun is already starting to go down.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: Didn’t you say you had to leave soon?

Mara looks at her phone.

Mara (neutral panic): Oh, shoot. That’s right.

She looks around at the messy floor, where the rejected outfits lie scattered.

Pro: I’ll clean it up later.

Mara (neutral nervous): Sorry…

Pro: Don’t worry about it. You need to get going, right? I’ll lock the door for you.

**Kitchen**

Mara and I quickly head downstairs and she puts on her shoes. Before she leaves, she inspects me one last time.

Mara (neutral thinking): Yeah, it looks good on you. A fine job, if I do say so myself.

Pro: Yup, yup, you’re sense of style is impeccable.

Mara (neutral smiling): That’s right.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Well, have fun tomorrow. I’ll see you on Monday, okay?

Pro: Yep, see you.

Mara (exit):

Mara trots through the door, and I watch as she jogs through my front yard and onto the sidewalk before closing the door.

I look down at the clothes that Mara picked out. As much as I hate to admit it, she was right – they do seem unusual on me. They feel odd and unnatural, but then again, the idea of hanging out with Lilith is even more so.

Well, I guess I should go clean up the mess we made. And also, I should probably sleep early tonight. Mara would probably be really disappointed in me if I were to be late tomorrow.