**Cafe 1**

Lilith and I enter the café, and after we take our seats we browse the menu, thinking about what we’re going to get. I decide to order a milk tea, while Lilith opts for an iced coffee.

Her teammates, who were trailing us the entire time, also take their seats a couple tables down. It seems like they’ve recovered from the movie, and they frequently glance at us as they excitedly talk amongst themselves.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Well, they seem to be enjoying themselves quite a bit.

Pro: Yeah, they do.

Lilith (neutral expressionless): They were really excited about this yesterday. A bit too excited.

Lilith (neutral curious):

Pro: You had practice yesterday, right?

Lilith: Yeah we did.

Pro: Saturdays too, huh? You guys work hard.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I think it’s pretty normal for sports teams to practice every day. And besides, some days we don’t.

Pro: Oh, I see.

Lilith (drinking\_coffee satisfied):

Our orders come, and Lilith starts to sip on her drink.

Lilith (neutral curious):

Pro: Is baseball fun?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): The game itself is actually pretty boring, I think.

Lilith: But being able to play with your friends combined with the competition makes it fun.

Lilith (neutral curious): Have you ever tried it?

Pro: No, I haven’t. Honestly, I’ve never really played sports.

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): That’s no good.

Lilith: Sports are the best way for students like us to stay healthy, you know.

Pro: Yeah, I know. But I’m not very athletic, and it’s a little sad when you do something that everyone else is better at.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I see.

Lilith (neutral curious): I guess guys would care more about that kind of thing, huh.

Pro: Yeah, I think so.

Lilith (drinking\_coffee satisfied):

We continue to talk as Lilith’s friends look on, and as I watch how Lilith reacts to different things I think about what Asher told me when we first talked about Lilith. She does seem expressionless a lot of the time, but cold and indifferent? I’m not so sure about that.

**Downtown**

Eventually we decide to head back. By the time we leave the café and get back via train, the area is tinted a soft orange.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: Guess the days are getting shorter, huh?

Lilith: Yeah.

Lilith (neutral wishful):

Lilith stops to appreciate the colours that streak through the sky.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): Um…

Lilith: Thanks for today. I had a lot of fun.

Lilith (neutral interested): If you want…

Lilith (neutral embarrassed): …

Lilith: If you want, we can hang out again. Without everyone watching.

“Sure, I’d like that.”

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Pro: Sure, I’d like that. I had a lot of fun, too.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): That’s good.

While the Lilith that Asher knows may be cold and apathetic, to me she’s someone else. Even though she may rarely smile, that just makes the times that she does smile so much more meaningful.

And right now, her smile conveys a warmth that rivals the setting sun.

Lilith (neutral smiling): Well, I should probably get going now.

Lilith: See you later.

Pro: Yeah. See you.

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“Sorry, no thanks.”

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Pro: Um, I really appreciate the offer, but sorry, no thanks.

Lilith (neutral worried):

Pro: I’ve been doing really badly in school recently, and I think for now I should focus on my studies.

While that was partially true, the main reason why I turned Lilith down is that I’m afraid that if I get too close to her, that I’ll get hurt in the end.

Asher was certain about his perception of Lilith. Was he exaggerating? Or did he misread her? If I’m honest, both scenarios seem unlikely, which would mean that Lilith probably showed him one side, and me the other.

Which side of Lilith is real? What if I become more and more invested in her, only for her to indifferently cast me aside in the end?

For some reason I can’t explain, I desperately don’t want that to happen. And if I have to distance myself to prevent that, then so be it.

Lilith (neutral disappointed): Oh, I see. I understand.

We stand there in silence for a few seconds.

Lilith: Well, I should probably get going now.

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): See you around.

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith (exit):

I watch as Lilith walks away, feeling a little guilty about turning her down.

But this is for the best.

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