**Front of School**

Once classes end, I head straight to the front of the school to wait for Lilith. After five minutes or so she shows up, surprisingly without her baseball bat.

Lilith (neutral neutral): There you are.

Pro: Hey, Lilith. Where’s your bat?

Lilith: I’m not gonna use it today.

Pro: Oh, okay.

Lilith: …

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): Um…

Lilith: Let’s get going, then?

Pro: Oh, right.

**Riverside**

We leave school and make our way to the batting cage, making small talk about school while we walk. I have a sneaking suspicion that Lilith is not only more athletic than I am, but also smarter, and as we talk about math I start to believe more and more that my suspicions are true.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Mara and I walked this way last week on our way to the library, and like Mara, Lilith doesn’t seem to mind the worn-down area we walk through. Well, it doesn’t surprise me given how independent she is, but I still find it odd that I seem to be the only one who gets a bad feeling from this place.

As we approach the bridge, I stop, remembering what happened the last time I was here.

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): Is something wrong?

Pro: Oh, no. Um…

Tentatively, I start to walk again, afraid that something will happen. However, we pass the bridge without any incident, and I start to forget about my fears.

**Batting Cage**

20 minutes after we left, we arrive at the batting cage. After buying tokens for the pitching machine, we go to pick out bats and helmets. I pick a heavier one for more power, hoping that I’ll look a bit more able than I actually am.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Pro.

Pro: Hm? What’s up?

Lilith: Do you…

Lilith (neutral thinking):

Lilith pauses, seemingly deciding whether to say something or not.

Lilith: …

Lilith (neutral neutral): Do you wanna make a bet?

Pro: A bet?

For some reason, I feel like I’ll definitely lose any baseball-related bet against Lilith…

Pro: Um…

“Sure.”

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Pro: Sure, I guess. Do I get a handicap though?

Lilith (neutral confused\_slightly): A handicap?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Yeah, that’d be alright. Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): How about we’ll see who can hit the most balls in three rounds? And each one you hit counts as two.

Wait, that totally sounds doable.

Lilith: And the loser…

Lilith (neutral thinking): …

Lilith (neutral interested): The loser buys a drink for the winner.

Pro: That sounds good. You sure about the conditions, though?

Lilith nods.

Lilith: Of course.

Pro: Alright then. Do you wanna go first?

Lilith (neutral neutral): You can go ahead. I wanna get used to this bat before I go.

Pro: Oh, okay.

Lilith (holding\_bat neutral):

I put on my helmet and step into the cage, feeling somewhat motivated as Lilith goes to put tokens into the machine. It’s probably unchivalrous to take money from a girl, but hey, I wasn’t the one who proposed the bet.

I glance over at Lilith one more time, and a feeling of embarrassment rushes to my cheeks.

Actually, if I win, I guess I could let her off the hook.

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”Wouldn’t that be kinda unfair?”

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Pro: Um, wouldn’t that kind of be…

Pro: You know, unfair?

Lilith (neutral confused\_slightly):

Lilith blinks at me, considering my words.

Lilith: …

Lilith (neutral disappointed): I guess so.

A little disappointed, Lilith turns around and practices swinging her bat. I feel pretty embarrassed for shying away from her challenge, but if I’m already gonna lose my pride I might as well save my money.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Could you go first? I wanna get a feel for this bat.

Pro: Oh, sure.

I put on my helmet and step into the cage while Lilith goes to put tokens into the machine. Hopefully I won’t do too badly.

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