**MacDonald’s**

Petra arrives at MacDonald’s right after we do, and after ordering Lilith excuses herself, leaving me with our junior.

Petra (neutral curious): This is a new MacDonald’s, huh?

Petra (neutral neutral): Having one so close to our school is nice.

I take a side glance at Petra, a little unsettled by her behaviour today. She seems uncharacteristically mature today, in contrast to her usual hyperactive self.

Pro: Yep, I still can’t really accept it.

Petra (neutral curious): Accept what?

Pro: You.

Petra (neutral surprise): Huh?

Pro: You definitely don’t seem like an older sister.

Petra (neutral expressionless): That’s what you were talking about…?

Petra (neutral pout): Well, I’m sorry for being born first. I’ll try to be second or third next time.

Pro: Oh, it’s not a bad thing…

Pro: It was just a little unexpected.

Petra (neutral neutral): I see.

Petra (neutral smiling): Having younger siblings is pretty weird. They annoy the heck out of me, but at the end of the day I guess I still care for them a lot…

Petra stares off into nothingness, deep in thought.

Petra (neutral grinning): Well, thanks again for taking care of Petrov.

Petra (neutral smirk): You really can be dependable sometimes, huh?

Pro: I guess…

Petra (neutral neutral):

Lilith (neutral curious): What are you guys talking about?

I jump, having been startled by Lilith’s sudden arrival.

Petra (neutral smiling): Siblings again.

Lilith (neutral wishful): I see. Siblings would be nice I guess.

Petra (neutral curious): Do you have any cousins or anything at least?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Not that I know of. I know I have an aunt, though.

Not that she knows of? That’s a little odd…

Well actually, by now I might have some half-siblings that I’m not aware of.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Petra (neutral smiling): That’s too bad.

Lilith (exit):

Petra (exit):

A MacDonald’s employee calls Petra’s number, and after bidding us goodbye she goes to secure a seat. Lilith follows shortly afterwards, and a few minutes later I get my food as well and head over to where everyone is sitting.

**MacDonald’s Seating**

Thankfully, I’m not the only guy here since some third-years came as well, but I still feel a little uncomfortable as I take my seat across from Lilith. Partially because the spot was so obviously left open for me that I briefly considered sitting elsewhere.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): Um…

Lilith: I’m really sorry…

Pro: Ah, don’t worry about it. I’m pretty much used to it.

Lilith: I see.

We start to talk awkwardly, fully aware that the table next to us is listening in.

Pro: So, um…

Pro: How are your classes?

Lilith (neutral neutral): They’re fine I guess. A little boring, though.

Pro: Yeah, I get that. I fall asleep in class all the time.

Lilith (neutral suspicious): So you actually have been sleeping in class, huh?

Lilith (neutral disappointed): I think I’m starting to understand why your grades are so low…

Pro: Hey, they weren’t always this bad. Last year I did better…

Lilith (neutral suspicious): And this year?

Pro: Uh…

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Lilith sighs.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Are you gonna pass at this rate? What if you get held back?

Pro: I don’t think I’ll get held back. Probably.

Lilith (neutral suspicious): Probably…?

She eyes me carefully, as if trying to decide what words to say.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): If you’d like…

Lilith (neutral embarrassed): I could tutor you.

Pro: Actually?

Lilith: Actually.

Pro: Um…

Pro: We’ll see, I guess.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: By the way, what did you put on your career form?

Lilith (neutral confused\_slightly): Career form?

Pro: Oh sorry, if you don’t wanna tell me you don’t have to.

Lilith (neutral neutral): It’s okay. I put down that I’m going to university, but honestly I didn’t put too much thought into it.

Pro: Nothing baseball related?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): I don’t think I’m good enough to play professionally, but I guess I could always study something baseball-related after high school. Something like physio.

Pro: Oh, I see.

Lilith (neutral curious): What did you put down?

Pro: Ah, I don’t have anything yet…

Lilith: Wasn’t it due a while ago?

Pro: Yeah…

Lilith (neutral neutral): I see. You’re putting a lot of thought into it, then?

Pro: I guess…

Lilith: Maybe I should’ve taken it more seriously.

Pro: Maybe.

We continue to talk about school, but eventually the table beside us gets tired of us fumbling through conversation and decides to join.

Petra (neutral smiling):

Kari (neutral amused): Hey, so I’ve been wondering…

Lilith (neutral surprise):

Kari: Between the two of you, who’s stronger?

Lilith (neutral curious):

Pro: Huh…?

Petra (neutral curious): Actually, I’m kinda interested too.

Petra (neutral thinking): You don’t play any sports or anything, and Lilith’s pretty athletic…

Petra (neutral expressionless): But at the end of the day you *are* a guy.

Kari nods thoughtfully.

Lilith (neutral surprise):

Petra (excited excited):

Kari: So, how about you guys arm wrestle?

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly):

Pro: Arm wrestle…?

I glance over at Lilith, hoping that she’ll bail us out. But then again, she does have quite the competitive streak…

Pro: Um...

“Sure, I guess”

{

I let out a sigh.

Pro: Sure, I guess.

**Cutscene - Vs. Petra**

Petra clears off the table while I try to psych myself up. Sure, Lilith may have crushed me at the batting cage, but while hitting is more about skill, arm-wrestling is completely about strength, right?

In that case, don’t I have a chance?

I slowly and somewhat reluctantly put my elbow on the table, but to my surprise my opponent is Petra and not Lilith.

Petra: In order to get to the final boss, you’ll have to get through me first.

We grasp each other’s hands firmly, and the first thing I notice is how small her hand is...

No, no. I have to stay focused.

Kari starts counting down from three, and I give myself one last mental pep talk…

…but ultimately it doesn’t matter, as Petra slams down my hand against the table after a brief struggle.

Pro: Ow…

Petra: I’m the victor!!

Much to my chagrin, Kari and Petra burst out laughing. Well, I guess that was pretty pathetic.

Lilith: Um, are you alright…?

Lilith looks so genuinely worried that I burst out laughing as well.

Lilith: Pro…?

Pro: Oh, it’s nothing.

Petra: I changed my mind, you’re not dependable after all. You’d have no chance against Lilith.

Pro: I think you’re just abnormally strong.

Petra: Or maybe you’re just abnormally weak.

Pro: Maybe.

We keep joking around for a while, and eventually people start to leave. We end up being the last ones left, and by the time we leave I’m all worn out, having laughed too much.

It’s not a bad feeling, though.

**Home Station**

After waving us goodbye, Petra and Kari leave Lilith and I alone, gleefully chatting on their way to the station.

Lilith (neutral neutral): So...

Pro: Hm?

Lilith: What were you laughing about earlier?

Pro: Oh, it’s nothing.

Lilith (neutral suspicious): So, you were laughing about nothing.

Pro: Ah…

Pro: If I told you, I think you’d get mad.

Pro: It’s nothing bad, though.

Lilith (neutral expressionless): I see.

Lilith (stretching stretching): Well, I’m pretty tired now.

Lilith (neutral neutral): What are you doing after this?

Pro: Oh, I’m probably gonna go home and finish my career form.

Lilith: Yeah, you should probably do that.

Pro: How about you?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): I’ll probably go to a café for a bit.

Pro: That sounds nice.

Lilith: Yeah.

Lilith: Well, I guess you should probably get going, right?

Pro: Yeah…

Pro: Sorry.

Lilith: Don’t apologize.

Lilith (neutral smiling): Thanks for coming. I had fun.

Pro: I had fun too.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): I’m glad.

Lilith: I’ll see you later, then.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

}

“Lilith’s stronger”

{

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Kari (neutral disappointed):

Petra (excited geh):

Pro: I mean, I’m pretty sure Lilith’s stronger though. I can’t really see myself beating her in an arm-wrestle.

Lilith (neutral amused):

Kari (neutral amused):

Petra (neutral pout): Booooring.

Pro: Yup, yup…

Petra (neutral frowning): I can’t believe I said you were dependable.

Pro: Yup, yup…

Petra turns to Lilith, who looks on with muted amusement.

Petra (neutral pout): Why him? What made you interested in him?

Kari: Petra…

Lilith (neutral thinking): Well…

Lilith pauses thoughtfully.

Petra (neutral surprise):

Kari (neutral surprise):

Lilith (neutral neutral): His smile.

Lilith (drinking\_soda neutral):

Everyone freezes except for Lilith, who doesn’t seem to fully appreciate what she just said. Blushing profusely, I try to hide my face, but it’s pointless.

Petra (neutral fufu): Ah, he’s blushing.

Lilith (neutral confused\_slightly): Hm?

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): …

Lilith: I’ll be back.

Lilith (exit):

To my horror, Lilith runs away, leaving me in the clutches of her friends.

Kari (neutral wow): That was…unexpected.

Petra (neutral smiling\_nervous): Yeah…

Petra (neutral smirk):

Petra looks at me with a wry smile.

Petra: So?

Pro: It’s not like that…

Kari (neutral amused): Wow, seriously…?

Petra (neutral fufu): Huh? You can’t fool us that easily, you know.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed):

For the rest of our time at MacDonald’s I’m interrogated by the trio, and when Lilith returns she gets her share of teasing as well. It continues on even as other members of the baseball team start to leave, and we end up being the last ones to head out.

Petra (exit):

Kari (exit):

Lilith (exit):

I guess this wasn’t the worst way to spend an afternoon.

**Home Station**

After waving us goodbye, Petra and Kari leave Lilith and I alone, gleefully chatting on their way to the station.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): Um…

My cheeks start to heat up again, so I try to avoid Lilith’s gaze.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed): Sorry about earlier.

Pro: Oh, don’t worry about it. I was just a little surprised.

Lilith: I see.

We pause for a few seconds, unsure of how to continue.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): What are you gonna do now?

Pro: I’m probably gonna go home and finish my career form.

Pro: How about you?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): I’ll probably go to that café for a bit.

Pro: That sounds nice.

Lilith: Yeah.

Lilith: Well, I guess you should probably get going, right?

Pro: Yeah…

Lilith: Alright.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Thanks for coming. I had fun.

Pro: Me too.

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

Pro: Yeah, see you.

}