**Bedroom**

Mom: Pro? It’s time to wake up.

Pro: Mmph…

I sit up groggily, confused as to why it’s still dark out.

Pro: What time is it…

Mom (neutral smiling): Time to go to school. It’ll be rainy today, so remember to take an umbrella.

Oh, that makes sense.

Mom (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): I’m going to work now, so I’ll see you later. Your breakfast is on the table.

Pro: Oh, thanks. See you.

Mom (exit):

My mom gets up and leaves my room, and after a brief moment of hesitation I get up and follow.

**Front of House**

After eating and getting ready, I head outside where, as always, Mara is waiting. Despite the somber weather she seems to be in high spirits, and I find myself smiling because of her cheerfulness.

Mara (waving happy): Hiya!

Pro: Hey there.

Mara (neutral smiling): Kinda gloomy today, huh?

Pro: Yeah.

I notice with relief that Mara brought an umbrella. It would’ve been especially inconsiderate of me if it started raining while I made her wait outside without one…

Mara (neutral curious): Your hair isn’t too bad today. Did you wake up early?

Pro: Yeah, kinda. My mom woke me up before leaving for work.

Mara (neutral smiling): That makes sense.

Mara (patting\_head smiling):

She reaches out to fiddle with a few loose strands while I open my umbrella.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Well then, shall we go?

Pro: Sure.

Mara (neutral neutral): Oh yeah, um…

Mara (neutral bashful): …

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): Wanna share an umbrella?

Pro: Huh? Why?

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): Well, it’d be a little awkward if we both had an umbrella, right? They’d bump into each other.

Pro: Oh, um…

Pro: Alright, I guess.

Mara (neutral smiling\_blushing\_eyes): Yay!

She puts her umbrella back in her bag and then steps under mine.

Mara: Let’s go!

**Neighbourhood Road 1**

My umbrella isn’t very large, so our arms touch as we walk to school. Both of us are neither brave nor embarrassed enough to point it out, and so we continue on. It’s actually kinda nice since it’s a little chilly outside, but Mara’s warm.

Mara (neutral neutral): Rain isn’t too bad, huh?

Pro: I guess not.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): I kinda like it, actually.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: More than the sun?

Mara (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Mara (neutral neutral): Nope. Rain is like…

Mara (neutral pensive):

She stops to think, causing me to abruptly stop as well.

Mara (neutral curious): Rain is like ramen.

Pro: Like ramen…?

Mara: Yeah. It’s nice and all, but have too much of it and it’s kinda bleh.

Pro: Kinda bleh.

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

Pro: I guess…

Mara (neutral neutral):

Mara continues to walk again, and I quickly match my pace with hers. Holding an umbrella for someone else turns out to actually be a pretty difficult task…

Mara: By the way…

Mara (neutral curious): What did you end up doing yesterday?

Pro: Oh uh…

Pro: Actually, now that I think about it a lot happened yesterday.

Mara: A lot?

Pro: Yeah.

I tell her about how my shopping trip turned into a discussion with Asher and Kari, and how my uneasiness regarding the topic pushed me to seek out advice from Petra. Mara listens to my concerns attentively, taking in everything.

Mara: I see.

Mara (neutral hehe):

Suddenly she smiles.

Pro: Huh? Why are you smiling?

Mara (neutral smiling): Oh, it’s just that…

Mara: When we were in middle school you had trouble making friends, and eventually it seemed like you gave up on it. Most of that was probably my fault, actually.

Mara (neutral pensive): So hearing about you talking with friends, worrying about relationships…

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): It makes me happy. It feels like you’ve grown up a bit.

Pro: Mara…

Mara (neutral wishful): It’s a little sad too. But that’s life I guess. Kids grow up, possibly eventually have kids of their own, and the cycle continues…

Mara stops and stares off into the distance for a moment.

Pro: Mara?

Mara (neutral neutral): Oh, sorry. Just thinking about some things.

Pro: Oh.

Mara: As for your worries about Lilith…

Mara (neutral thinking): …

Mara (neutral neutral): Yup, I have no idea. I haven’t met her, so I have no idea what she’s like. Wouldn’t you have a better chance of coming up with something?

Pro: Yeah, I guess.

We continue to walk in comfortable silence, until a question drifts through my mind.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: I might’ve asked you this before, but do you want kids?

Mara (neutral thinking): Hm?

Mara: …

Mara (surprise surprise\_blushing): HUH?!?!?

Mara: Wh…Where did this come from?

Pro: I mean, you were just talking about it…

Mara: I-I-I…

Mara (neutral sigh\_blushing):

Mara stops for a moment to calm down.

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): I think…

Mara (neutral bashful\_blushing): I think it’s too early to be thinking about these things.

Pro: I see.

It takes a while for me to realize why Mara was so embarrassed, and I spend the rest of our walk apologizing and clearing up the misunderstanding.