**Bedroom**

After a somewhat restless night, I wake up feeling anything but awake. While I managed to push Lilith to the back of my mind while occupied with other things, when lying awake in bed with nothing but my thoughts to entertain me, I couldn’t stop wondering what she wanted to do.

After a few minutes, I work up the will to push myself out of bed and pull on my uniform before grabbing my bag and stumbling my way downstairs.

**Kitchen**

As I enter the kitchen, I find my mom cooking, which is odd because she usually makes breakfast and eats by the time I get up.

Mom (neutral surprised): Oh, you’re awake really early today.

I glance at the clock to see how much sleep I missed out on.

7:18.

Mom (neutral neutral): I have to go to work early today, so since you’re up could you wash the dishes when you’re done eating?

Pro: Oh, sure.

Mom (neutral smiling): Thanks. Have a seat, I’ll be done with breakfast in a few minutes.

Mom (exit):

I sit down as instructed and put my head down on the table, watching as my mom puts the finishing touches on our meal. It’s amazing how easy she makes cooking look, especially at this time. If I tried to cook this early in the morning, I’d probably fall asleep and set the house on fire.

Mom (neutral smiling):

A couple minutes later she finishes up and brings two plates of food to the table, one for me and one for herself. It’s quite elaborate again today, consisting of eggs, toast, and salad.

Pro: We’ve been eating eggs pretty often recently, huh?

Mom (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): A couple weeks ago they were on sale, so I bought a lot. But they’re gonna expire soon, so I wanted us to eat them all so we don’t have to throw any away.

Mom (neutral curious): Are you tired of them?

Pro: Nope. Eggs are always good.

Mom (neutral smiling): That’s good to hear.

As we start to eat, I realize that I’m actually pretty hungry. I wolf down my eggs, which are good as usual.

Mom (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): It’s good to see that you’re starting to eat a little more.

Mom (neutral worried\_slightly): How have you been? You been doing okay recently?

Pro: Yeah, I guess.

Mom (neutral curious): Everything going alright in school?

Pro: Kind of. It’s a little boring.

Mom (neutral smiling): I know. Do your best though, okay?

Pro: Okay.

After I finish eating, I take my dishes to the sink and start washing them. My mom finishes shortly after and brings me hers to do as well.

Mom: Thanks again, Pro.

Mom (waving smiling): I’m going to work now, so I’ll see you later, okay?

Pro: See you.

She ruffles my hair before heading upstairs to get ready for work. A few minutes later, she goes to the front door and, after bidding me goodbye again, heads out.

**Neighbourhood Road 1**

After I finished doing the dishes, I sluggishly trudged upstairs to brush my teeth and comb my hair before leaving for school. I almost gave in to my tiredness and went back to bed, but after a brief inner struggle I managed to force myself out the door.

It’s a beautiful day today, which is a shame because I’m too tired to appreciate it. While others around me might be enjoying the sunshine and warmth, all I can think about is how much I’d like to go back home.

As I continue walking, I notice the flowerbed that Mara pointed out last week and stop to take another look at it. Some of the flowers have started to wilt, but it’s still quite aesthetically pleasing regardless.

?Lilith: It’s you.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

I turn around, and all of a sudden my exhaustion melts away.

Pro: Hey.

Lilith (neutral curious): What are you looking at?

Pro: Oh, um…

Pro: Flowers.

I gesture towards the flowerbed, and Lilith pauses for a moment to appreciate it.

Lilith (neutral interested): They’re really nice.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Although you don’t seem like someone who’d be too interested in flowers.

Pro: Really?

Lilith (neutral curious):

Lilith nods, looking at me curiously.

Lilith: Are you?

Pro: No, I’m not. I have a friend who really likes them, though.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I see.

We look at the flowers for a few more seconds before continuing on to school.

Pro: Today you don’t have your baseball bat, huh.

Lilith (neutral confused\_slightly): Hm?

Lilith (neutral neutral): Oh, that’s right.

Lilith: Not planning to beat up anyone today.

Pro: Oh, that makes sense.

Pro: Wait, what?

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): I’m just kidding. We don’t have practice, so there’s no point bringing my stuff.

Lilith (neutral expressionless): And besides, I don’t need a baseball bat to beat people up.

Pro: That’s kinda terrifying…

I glance at her face, trying to figure out whether that last part was a joke or not. I have a feeling it’s not.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: By the way, what are we doing today?

Pro: You didn’t really tell me anything.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): You’ll find out later.

Pro: Not now?

Lilith: Nope.

Pro: Seriously…?

Lilith (neutral expressionless): Good things come to those who wait.

Pro: I guess that’s true…

Lilith (neutral surprise):

Pro: You know, I stayed up wondering what you wanted to do, though. I was really surprised when you suddenly asked me to hang out yesterday.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): Really?

Lilith (leaning\_in embarrassed\_slightly):

Lilith leans in slightly, inspecting my face.

Lilith: Now that you mention it, you have bags under your eyes.

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): Did you sleep alright?

Pro: Um…

Pro: Not really, no.

Pro: I’ll be fine, though, don’t worry.

Pro: I’ll probably sleep in class or something.

Lilith (neutral suspicious): …

Pro: Ah, I’m just kidding. I’ll try not to sleep in class.

Lilith: You’ll try.

Pro: Yeah…

Lilith stares at me, causing me to start to wish I hadn’t mentioned my in-class habit.

Lilith: …

Lilith (neutral sigh): Well, do your best then.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: I will. Not promising anything, though.

**Front of School**

We continue to chat as we walk, and I find that the more I talk to Lilith, the more I realize that I’m enjoying her company. However, all good things must come to an end, and eventually we reach the school.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Well, we’re here.

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly): About after school…

Lilith: Let’s meet here once we’re dismissed.

Pro: Oh, okay. Sounds good.

Lilith (waving embarrassed\_slightly): Alright. I’ll see you later, then.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

Lilith (exit):

Lilith leaves to change her shoes, and after a moment I do the same. All my fatigue from earlier has disappeared, and I head to class, motivated and confident that today is the day that I’ll turn my academic life around.