**Library**

After we finish eating and pay the bill, we head to the library as originally planned. It’s pretty empty today, and we have no trouble finding a place to study.

As soon as we sit down, Mara takes out her books and starts reading over her notes, and I follow suit. However I find it difficult to concentrate, and whenever I start to build momentum I see Lilith somewhere, walking through the door or looking at books…

But when I take a second look, she disappears.

That’s right. She told me to forget about her, which probably means that she’s gonna leave. Or maybe she already left. But why would she hide it from everyone else? Was it too painful? Or maybe it was something more?

Looking back, I think I should’ve stopped her from leaving yesterday. I could’ve encouraged her to go to the police, could’ve found her a place to stay away from her father, could’ve done anything to help…

But would’ve it been right to separate her from her father? At the end of the day family is still family, and no matter how much you hate them it’d still be difficult to leave them behind.

For several years after my dad left I kept telling myself that he was better off gone, but for some reason kept wishing that he’d come back, despite everything he did…

Well, it doesn’t matter now. I didn’t do anything. I could only watch her as she left.

I had so many things I wanted to ask her, to talk to her about, but it’s too late now. She’s gone, and the only one to keep her company is her abusive father…

Damn.

I put my head down on the table, wishing that I could forget everything that’s happened over the past month. But life isn’t so kind.

A shuffling noise comes from across the table, and after a quick glance I notice Mara studying intensely, poring over her math notes as if her life depended on it.

Mara (surprise surprise):

Pro: You don’t have to try so hard to fool me, you know.

Mara (surprise geh): Geh…

Mara (neutral smiling\_nervous): What do you mean?

Pro: You never study that hard.

Mara (neutral embarrassed): H-Huh…?

Mara (neutral expressionless): No idea what you’re talking about.

I sigh, smiling for what feels like the first time ever. She’s probably been monitoring me this whole time.

Mara (neutral neutral): Hey, Pro.

Pro: Hm?

Mara: Give me another ten minutes, and then…

Mara (neutral curious): How about we go on a walk?

Pro: Oh, alright.

Mara: I’ll be done soon.