**Classroom**

After waiting around in the parking lot for a good amount of time to make sure I don’t run into Petra and Kari again, I head back to our classroom to eat my lunch.

Asher (neutral curious): Oh, you’re back. How was it?

Pro: Not too bad, actually. Where are they?

Asher (neutral smiling): They left a while ago. Got bored of waiting for you.

Pro: I see.

As I pull out my lunch, I notice a pair of our classmates glancing in our direction, whispering excitedly.

Asher (neutral neutral):

Pro: Everyone knows now, huh.

Asher (neutral smiling\_nervous): Well, it’d be pretty hard to ignore someone as hyperactive as Petra is…

Pro: Yeah…

Asher (neutral smiling): Don’t worry, it’ll blow over eventually.

Pro: I guess. I don’t really mind, though.

Asher (neutral curious): Really?

Pro: Yeah.

Throughout middle school, I’d get the same looks and worse when I was seen with Mara. You could say that I’ve built up a tolerance to it.

Asher (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Heart of steel, dude.

Pro: Yup, yup. That’s right.

Asher (exit):

Asher and I talk as I eat, but I don’t really pay attention to what either of us says. Instead, I start wondering where I’ll go with Lilith after school again, and by the time lunch ends I’m almost completely stuck in a daydream.

**Front of School**

I manage to maintain consciousness for the rest of the day, and after we’re dismissed I pack up my bags and head straight to the front of the school, where after a few minutes Lilith shows up.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed\_slightly):

Pro: Hey.

Lilith: Did you wait long?

Pro: No, just a few minutes.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Oh, I see.

Lilith: …

Lilith: Shall we get going, then?

Pro: Oh yeah, sure.

As Lilith and I walk together, I have to make a conscious effort to ignore all of the stares of everyone around us. Lilith seems unfazed, but as we continue on I find that a small part of me wishes that I were invisible.

Maybe I do mind. Just a little bit.

**Neighbourhood Road 2**

Thankfully, the farther away we get from school the less curious students there are, and eventually we’re the only ones around, save for the certain group that not-so-sneakily follows us.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: I guess they would follow us, huh?

Lilith (neutral sigh):

Lilith glances at her prying teammates and sighs.

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): Sorry about them…

Pro: No, it’s fine. Can’t really do anything about them.

Lilith (neutral expressionless): They wouldn’t stop asking me about today. After practice yesterday, and today as well.

Pro: Ah yeah, they paid me a visit at lunch too.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Really?

Lilith (neutral expressionless): Sorry…

Pro: It’s fine, it’s fine don’t worry. My teacher saved me, so it’s all good.

Lilith (neutral curious): Your teacher?

Pro: Yeah, um…

Pro: She chewed me out. For sleeping in class.

Lilith (neutral disappointed): So you did end up sleeping in class…

Pro: Oh…

I suddenly remember the conversation we had this morning.

Pro: Yeah, I guess…

Lilith (neutral suspicious): Weren’t you in remedial classes on Saturday?

Pro: Um…

Pro: Yes.

Lilith: …

Wanting to get away from this uncomfortable topic, I try to change the subject.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: Oh yeah, where are we going? You can tell me now, right?

Lilith: Oh, right.

Lilith: I wanted to see a movie. Is that okay?

Pro: Yeah, for sure.

Pro: So we’re going to the station?

Lilith: Yeah.

Pro: Okay.

Pro: Wow, it’s been a while since I’ve gone to the movies.

Lilith (neutral curious): How long?

Pro: Uh…

Pro: Middle school?

Lilith (neutral neutral): That’s a pretty long time.

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith (neutral thinking): I go sometimes with Kari and a few others. Maybe once every couple months?

Pro: Is that a lot?

Lilith (neutral neutral): No idea.

Lilith and I reminisce about different times we’ve gone to the theatres, which ones we liked, and which ones we thought could’ve been done better.

It seems like she’s watched a lot of romance and drama movies, which I didn’t expect since I can’t even imagine her sitting through one. Someone like Mara would definitely love that genre, but the unreadable and aloof Lilith? That’s a surprise.

I wonder which one she’ll end up choosing today.