**Bedroom**

Resisting the urge to doze off on every park bench I encounter, after what feels like a long journey I finally reach the comfort of my room, fully ready to jump in bed and sleep. However…

Mara (neutral neutral): …

Pro: …

Mara (neutral surprise):

After a split second decision I decide to ignore her, maneuvering around her small figure to curl up on my bed facing the wall.

Mara (neutral ouch): Hey!!

Mara (neutral pout): You’re being awfully cold, considering how I came here to check on you.

Pro: But you always find your way into my room. Couldn’t you just send me a text or something?

Mara (neutral expressionless): I sent you a bunch of texts, but you didn’t respond to any of them.

Oh, right.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: Ah…

Pro: Sorry, I forgot about that. My phone’s broken.

Mara (neutral sigh):

Embarrassed, I roll over to face her directly.

Mara (neutral neutral): I thought it’d be something like that.

Mara (neutral curious): So? What happened?

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Although based on your mood I can more or less tell how things went.

Mara (neutral curious):

I explain everything that happened since I last talked to Mara, how I decided to pay Lilith one last visit and ran into her dad, how he attacked me but stopped when Lilith came to save the day, and how we went back to her place, where she revealed her uncertainty about the future.

It all seems a little surreal, to be honest. This all happened just yesterday, and yet it still feels more like something out of a manga or anime than something that happened in real life. Regardless, Mara takes it all in, not doubting a word I say.

Mara: Wow…

Mara (neutral smiling): Looks like everything will turn out okay though, right?

Pro: Yeah.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Good for you.

Mara (neutral hehe):

She reaches out and pats my head gently, prompting me to hide my face in my sheets to hide my delighted smile.

Mara (neutral worried\_slightly): Still, I’m glad you’re safe. If anything happened to you…

Pro: Nothing’s gonna happen to me. I’m just some side character, remember?

Mara: …

Mara (neutral hehe): I guess so.

Mara (stretching satisfaction):

After a few more moments Mara stands up and stretches, a relieved but exhausted look in her eyes.

Mara (stretching neutral):

Pro: Did you get any sleep last night?

Mara (neutral thinking): Hm? A little, I guess.

Mara (neutral smiling): Don’t worry, don’t worry. I’ll be fine.

Mara (neutral fufu): If I were really that tired, I would’ve just curled up next to you.

Pro: …

Mara (neutral sigh):

Pro: …right.

Mara (neutral disappointed): We used to take naps together all the time when we were kids.

Pro: When we were kids.

Mara (neutral hehe): Boo.

Mara (neutral smiling): Well, I’ll be going now. When do you think you’ll get a new phone?

Pro: Oh, uh, I dunno.

Mara (neutral curious): I see.

Mara: Wanna go look for one tomorrow, then?

Pro: Sure. What time?

Mara (neutral thinking): Maybe around 11:00?

Pro: That works.

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

Mara (neutral neutral):

She moves towards the door and into the hallway, glancing back one more time before leaving for good.

Mara (waving smiling\_eyes\_closed): See you tomorrow.

Pro: Yeah. See you.

Mara (exit):

Once I hear the door being locked I close my eyes, a feeling of bliss starting to settle in.

It’s been a rough week, and there’s so much to be uncertain about. I don’t know what will happen with Lilith, and the deadline for me to decide what I want to do with my future is slowly approaching…

But even then, I can’t help but feel happy.

Like all’s well with the world.