**Diner**

My stomach starts to growl by the time we leave the store, and after realizing that I skipped out on lunch we decide to go to our local family restaurant.

Mara (neutral thinking): We’re here again, huh?

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): No matter how many times we come, I can’t help but feel a little excited.

Pro: Excited…?

Mara (neutral curious): Yeah. The familiar scenery combined with the mystery of what I’ll end up eating, and the assurance that whatever I choose will taste good anyways…

Mara (neutral hehe): It’s exciting.

Pro: Huh…

Mara (neutral smiling): Anyways, I know what I want to eat, so could you order?

Pro: Oh, right.

Mara (neutral neutral):

I catch a waiter’s attention and place our order, and once he leaves I stoically sip on my water, waiting for Mara to say something. And, as per usual, she delivers.

Mara: By the way…

Mara (neutral curious): When did you get so chummy with Prim? From what you’ve told me before, I didn’t think you guys were more than acquaintances…

Pro: Uh…

Pro: I’m not sure. It kinda just happened.

Mara (neutral skeptical): Kinda just happened, huh. I see.

Mara (neutral pensive): So…

Mara (neutral fufu): Who do you think is cuter? Lilith or Prim?

Pro: …

Mara: …

Mara (neutral skeptical): Boo.

Pro: Did you really think I’d answer that question…?

Mara (neutral sigh): It was worth a shot. Sometimes you let things slip out.

Pro: Do I really?

Mara (neutral thinking): Sometimes. You’ve gotten better recently, but when we were younger…

Mara (neutral hehe): I have so many stories. Wanna hear them?

Pro: Not particularly, no…

Mara (neutral sigh): Aww…

Mara (neutral curious): Well, for the record I think based on appearances only Prim’s cuter…

Mara (neutral pensive): …but if Lilith gets embarrassed easily, then the contrast between that and her “cool beauty” look might give her the edge.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: That’s pretty reasonable actually. Lilith actually does get embarrassed easily, which-

Mara (neutral fufu):

Realizing my mistake, I cut myself off. However, it’s too late – the damage has already been done.

Mara: Oho?

Mara: So Lilith gets embarrassed easily, huh?

Pro: …

Pro: Maybe.

Mara (neutral satisfaction): Ah, that’s so cute. It probably really hits home when she gets all flustered, right?

Pro: No comment.

Mara (neutral happy):

Mara makes a delighted sound, prompting me to sigh exasperatedly, knowing full well what’s to come. For the rest of our time in the restaurant she playfully interrogates me about both Lilith and Prim’s mannerisms, as well as my own thoughts about them.

It isn’t exactly unpleasant, but discussing their quirks behind their backs leaves my stomach feeling a little uneasy. We’re not dissing them, and everything we talk about is positive, but even then…

I guess I’ll buy them each a drink the next time I see them. A black coffee for Lilith, and…

…a milk tea for Prim, maybe. Or a canned oden.