**Cafe 1**

Lilith guides me to a nearby café, and once we’re given a table I crash into my seat, completely drained.

It takes me a while to notice that this is the same one that Mara and I visited about a week ago, but I don’t mention it because of both the uneasiness in my stomach and the feeling that bringing up someone Lilith doesn’t know might be a bit awkward.

Lilith (neutral worried): Um…

Lilith: Are you alright…?

Pro: Yeah, I think I’ll be fine.

Pro: Uh…

Pro: Sorry, I lied to you earlier. I actually can’t handle horror…

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): …

Lilith (neutral hehe): Pfft.

Huh?

Lilith (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Sorry, it’s just that I didn’t think you were the type of person to try to act tough like that.

Pro: …

Lilith: Sorry, sorry.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): Well, if it makes you feel better, it looks like they’re not doing too well either.

I turn around to see what she’s talking about, and see a shaken Petra wobbling her way into the café, leaning on Kari for support.

Lilith (neutral neutral): To be honest, I partly chose that movie to get back at them. But if I’d known that you weren’t good with horror either I would’ve chosen something else.

Pro: Don’t worry about it. That’s completely on me…

I glance over at Lilith’s teammates, noting with a hint of amusement that all their excitement has been replaced with gloom.

Pro: Are you gonna order something?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): Probably.

She grabs a menu and skims through her options, and I follow suit. After a moment of deliberation, she decides to order a coffee while I opt to get an iced tea.

Lilith (neutral sigh): Yesterday after practice they put me through so much.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: Oh, yeah…

Pro: Sorry about that.

Lilith: Don’t worry about it, it’s not your fault.

Lilith (neutral expressionless): Still, I wish they’d be a little less enthusiastic about it.

Pro: Yeah, that makes sense. Might be nice sometimes, though.

Lilith (neutral curious):

Lilith eyes me curiously.

Lilith: Who do you usually hang out with? Asher?

Pro: Yeah. That’s about it.

Lilith: Really? Nobody else?

Pro: Well, there is someone else, but she doesn’t go to our school so you probably wouldn’t know her.

The words slip out before I can catch them. Ah well.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I see. Which school?

Pro: Yi Secondary?

Lilith: Oh, the one with that program, right?

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith: I don’t really talk to anyone not in our school, so I don’t know anyone from there.

Lilith (neutral curious): Your friend, is she smart?

Pro: I guess. It doesn’t feel like it, though.

Lilith (drinking\_coffee satisfied):

Our drinks come, and after thanking the waiter Lilith takes a sip of her drink.

Lilith (neutral curious): So, how do you know this friend of yours?

Pro: Oh, we’ve known each other forever. We used to live beside each other.

Lilith (neutral wishful): A childhood friend, huh?

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith: Must be nice…

Lilith (neutral neutral): I’ve moved a few times, so I haven’t been friends with anyone for more than a couple years.

Pro: Oh, really? How long have you been here?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): Almost three years.

Pro: Why do you keep moving? For your parents’ work?

Lilith: Yeah, something like that.

Lilith (neutral wishful):

Lilith pauses for a moment, glancing over at her friends. It looks like they’ve recovered somewhat, and are now happily talking away.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Well, they look like they’re having fun.

Pro: Yeah. How’s baseball?

Lilith: It’s fine, I guess. We have a few games before winter, so we’ve been practicing a lot.

Pro: Is that a good thing?

Lilith: I guess. Having to practice a lot kinda sucks sometimes, but it’s still kinda fun.

Lilith: Practice is practice, I guess.

Pro: Oh, I see.

I can’t really say I get it, because I’ve never practiced anything in my life.

Lilith (neutral curious): What about you? Do you play anything?

Pro: Um, no. I don’t really do any physical activity.

Lilith (neutral thinking): Hmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): That doesn’t sound very healthy.

Pro: Yeah…

Lilith: Nothing at all? Not even recreationally?

Pro: Nope.

Lilith (neutral interested): You should try baseball. I think it’d suit you.

Lilith (neutral expressionless): At least, it’d suit you better than most other sports.

Ouch.

Pro: Ah, I can’t really throw though.

Lilith (neutral neutral): That would be a problem, huh.

I feel a touch of embarrassment as Lilith stares at me, and I suddenly wish that I were a bit more athletic.

Lilith (neutral curious): Have you been to a batting cage before?

Pro: Um, a few times.

Lilith (neutral neutral): I see.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed): Um...

Lilith: This Thursday, do you wanna go to one?

Pro: By myself?

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): …

Lilith: I’ll go with you.

“Sure.”

{

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: Sure, that sounds fun.

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): Alright then.

}

“I think I’ll pass.”

{

Pro: Ah, sorry, I think I’ll pass.

Lilith (neutral disappointed): Oh, okay. That’s too bad.

I feel a little bad for turning Lilith’s offer down, but I don’t really feel like showing her how pathetically unathletic I am.

Pro: Maybe another time.

Lilith: Alright.

}

Lilith (neutral neutral):

We continue talking about baseball, and I get Lilith to explain how the game works. It’s actually surprisingly simple, save for all the little rules that apply in certain scenarios.

Lilith (exit):

Eventually, we finish up our drinks and decide to head back, as it’s getting late. After paying the bill we leave for the station with Lilith’s teammates in tow.