**Udon Shop**

The udon shop was a little farther than I hoped it would be, but as soon as we walk in I know that the fifteen-minute walk was worth it. The restaurant itself is on the smaller side, but the smell of udon permeates the air, making my stomach growl.

We take our seats, and a waiter brings us menus and water.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Smells good, doesn’t it?

Pro: Yeah, it does…

Lilith puts down her menu and takes a sip of water, apparently already knowing what she wants.

Pro: How often do you come here?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): Maybe once a month? For half a year or so. Petra really likes it here.

Pro: Oh, I see.

I browse through the menu, thankful that the prices here don’t seem too steep. I’ve already blown through a good part of my allowance this month.

Lilith (neutral curious): Who do you usually hang out with? Asher, right? Anyone else?

Pro: Oh, um…

Pro: Just Asher, really. And someone from another school.

Lilith: Another school?

Pro: Yeah. Yi Secondary.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Oh, the one with that special program, right?

Pro: That’s the one.

Lilith (neutral interested): How do you know this person?

Pro: We’ve known each other for a long time. She used to live next door.

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

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith pauses for a moment, looking a little… sad? Wistful?

Lilith: Must be nice…

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

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

Lilith: Three years. Almost.

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

Lilith: Yeah, something like that.

We’re interrupted by the waiter, who asks for our orders. Unsure of what to choose, I end up getting what Lilith gets.

Lilith (neutral sigh): Well, this area’s not too bad. Lots of things to do. And they actually have girls baseball here.

Pro: Do they not have it elsewhere?

Lilith (neutral thinking): Mmm…

Lilith (neutral neutral): Usually it’s softball. But it’s not quite the same.

Pro: Oh, I see. How long have you been playing?

Lilith: For a while, now. I picked it up when I was pretty young.

Lilith: I’ve tried other sports, but I don’t really enjoy them nearly as much.

Pro: Ah, yeah, I know that feeling…

I pause for a moment, realizing what I just said.

Pro: Actually, I don’t. I’ve never really played sports.

Lilith (neutral curious):

Lilith eyes me curiously.

Lilith: Not even for fun?

Pro: No, not really.

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

Pro: It’s probably not…

Lilith (neutral thinking): Hmm…

Our noodles arrive, and to my relief we take a break from discussing my lack of physical ability to enjoy our meal. They’re every bit as good as I expected them to be, and I make a mental note to take Mara here one day.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

While we eat I get Lilith to explain how baseball works to me. It’s actually a lot simpler than I expected, although apparently there are a bunch of little rules that make certain scenarios really complicated.

Lilith (neutral interested): You know, I think baseball would suit you. More than most other sports, anyways.

Pro: I don’t know about that…

Pro: I can’t really throw properly.

Lilith (neutral neutral): Oh, that would be a problem…

Lilith (neutral thinking): …

Lilith (neutral neutral): Last week you were at the batting cage, right?

Pro: Oh, yeah. You guys were there too, right?

Lilith nods.

Lilith: We go there to get some practice in sometimes.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed): Um…

Lilith: This Thursday, would you like to go?

Pro: Go where?

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): The batting cage.

Oh. Right.

Pro: Uh…

“Sure”

{

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: Sure, I’d like that.

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

}