**Bedroom**

Mmph…

I glance morosely at my alarm as it blares, wishing that I could sleep more despite already having gotten in a solid ten hours or so.

Why can’t people get paid for being asleep? Maybe I could make a living being some sort of research subject or something...

Actually, that sounds a little depressing.

Still a little demotivated, I roll out of my covers and onto the floor, and after a few seconds there I pull myself up and start getting ready for school.

**Front of House**

After picking up the lunch my mom left for me before heading off to work, I trudge outside to find a waiting Mara. Completely opposite to me, she seems to be happy and energetic, as per usual.

Mara (waving smiling\_eyes\_closed): Hey, hey!

Pro: Hey, Mara.

Mara (neutral neutral): …

Pro: …

Pro: Is something wrong?

Mara (neutral pensive): You look…

Mara (neutral worried\_slightly): ...really tired.

Pro: Ah…

Pro: Yeah, don’t really have an excuse today.

Mara (neutral smiling): Just one of those days, huh?

Pro: Yeah…

Mara (neutral hehe):

She reaches out and gently pinches my cheek, her mischievous smile sending shudders down my spine.

Mara: Hehe.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Don’t worry, you’ll be more than awake enough before we get to school.

**Neighbourhood Road 1**

We talk about Prim’s practice on the way to school, and, as predicted, Mara manages to somehow figure out that I didn’t tell her everything. After a few minutes of interrogation she weasels the entire story out of me.

Mara (neutral disappointed): I can’t believe you…

Pro: I’m sorry.

Mara (neutral expressionless): You went and hid the truth from me…

Pro: I’m sorry.

Mara (neutral skeptical): And not only that, but you spent most of your time with some other girl on your date with Prim.

Pro: I’m sorry…

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: And it wasn’t a date. But I’m sorry.

Mara (neutral smiling):

Apparently satisfied with my apologies, Mara smiles.

Mara: Just kidding.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Kind of.

Pro: It would’ve been nice if you left out the “kind of...”

Mara (neutral neutral): But it’s true.

Pro: Yup, yup…

Mara (neutral smiling): Anyways, it seems like you had a good time. I’m glad.

Mara (neutral neutral): Honestly, I was a little worried about this entire thing. Couples with one person dependent on the other usually don’t turn out well…

Pro: I mean, we’re not a couple…

Mara: ...but I guess it’s fine.

Mara (excited excited): And besides, she’s really cute.

Pro: Yeah, I guess.

Mara (neutral fufu): No objections this time?

She leans in, a smug smile plastered onto her face.

Pro: Bite me…

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing):

Instead of backing off, she leans even further in to lightly nip my ear.

Pro: M-M-Mara?!?!?!?

Mara (neutral bashful\_blushing): Um...

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): You awake now?

I take a deep breath, trying to steady my racing heart. Yeah I’m awake. I’m definitely awake.

Pro: A little...

Mara (neutral bashful\_blushing):

Thankfully, Mara seems as embarrassed as I am.

Mara (ahem embarrassed\_blushing): A-ahem.

Mara (neutral bashful): I know you’re gonna be busy with Prim, but don’t forget about me. I still wanna do things, you know.

Mara (neutral neutral): And with that being said, you have nothing after school today, right?

Pro: Yeah.

Mara (neutral earnest): Then let’s do something.

Mara (excited earnest):

Mara leans in again, this time strangely determined.

Pro: Um…

Mara (excited excited):

Pro: Guess I don’t really have a choice, do I?

Mara (neutral happy): Nope.

Mara (neutral smiling): There’s this place I’ve really wanted to go to, but I’ve never gotten the chance to.

Pro: What is it?

Mara: That’s a secret.

Pro: Really…?

Mara: Really.

Well, it’ll probably be some cafe or something.

Pro: Alright, sounds like a plan.

Mara (yay yay): Yay!

Mara (neutral smiling): It’s gonna be a lotta fun. Just you wait.