**Cutscene - Pro and Mom**

Sometimes, on very rare occasions, I can tell when I’m dreaming. But when I can, it feels as if I’m only watching my dream from the outside, unable to do anything but see how things unfold.

Pro: Mom…

Pro: Is Dad gonna go away?

Mom (neutral worried): No, everything will be fine…

Mom (neutral smiling\_nervous): We’ll all be happy together. I promise…

But today, only today, I can move and speak. I drift over to my younger self, but when I finally reach him I find that I don’t know the words to say.

How can I tell him that the person who he cares most about just told a lie?

**Bedroom**

It’s no surprise to me when I find myself in my bedroom, tears having started to form in the corners of my eyes. Wiping them aside, I sit up and look around, noting that it seems a lot brighter than it usually does in the morning.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): You’re finally awake, huh.

Confused, I blink twice, having just noticed Mara sitting at my desk reading a manga.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: Um…

Pro: You broke in again, huh?

Mara: I did.

Mara (neutral skeptical): Do you have any idea what time it is?

Pro: Uh…

I grab my phone to check the time.

10:27. Oops…

Mara (neutral sigh): Well, we’re definitely gonna be late for class, so we might as well take our time I guess.

Mara (neutral embarrassed):

All of a sudden her voice drops to a murmur, and she says something I can barely make out.

Mara: Now, I’ll excuse myself while you get changed…

Mara (exit):

She leaves the room, and after a moment to fully wake up I scramble out of bed to get ready for school.

**Road**

After eating breakfast and brushing my teeth at Mara’s behest, we head to school rather leisurely considering we’re both already almost two hours late.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: The streets are pretty empty, huh? Weird.

Mara: Um, Pro…

Mara (neutral smiling\_nervous): In case you’ve forgotten, we’re really late. Which is why there aren’t any students around.

Pro: Oh, right.

Mara (neutral worried\_slightly):

I feel like especially after yesterday I should make an attempt to seem more cheerful, but for some reason I just can’t. Even though I slept a crazy amount, I can’t work up the will to maintain an actual conversation.

Mara (neutral curious): Are you gonna visit your mom again today?

Pro: Um, probably. Once school ends.

Mara (neutral worried\_slightly): That’s good. You think she’ll be able to go back home today?

Pro: Dunno. Hopefully.

Mara (neutral smiling\_gentle): If not, I’ll make sure to feed you again.

**Intersection**

We arrive at our usual parting place, but instead of trotting off to the right like she usually does Mara instead crosses the street with me and goes straight.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: Um…

Pro: Don’t you need to go to school?

Mara: I do.

Pro: Then…

Mara (neutral sigh):

Mara lets out a sigh and flicks my forehead.

Mara (neutral neutral): I’m already two hours late thanks to a certain someone, so I might as well skip the rest of the morning and show up after lunch.

Mara (neutral smiling): And in the meantime, I’ll do you the honour of walking you to school.

Pro: Thanks, I guess…

Pro: You sure, though?

Mara: Of course I’m sure.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Don’t worry about it, okay?

Mara (exit):

She grabs my wrist and starts pulling me along, and we head to my school in silence, both of us able to understand each other without the need for words.