**Cutscene – Lilith’s Takoyaki**

Sure enough, Lilith appears and slips beside me, causing me to scoot over instinctively. Unfortunately she notices, but thankfully she doesn’t mention it and instead starts to unpack her dinner.

Lilith: Where did all your boxes go?

Pro: Huh? Uh, I threw them out.

Lilith: I see.

Lilith: Did you eat all of them by yourself?

Pro: Oh, uh…

Pro: Actually my friend helped me out, so I only ate a couple of them.

Lilith: Your friend?

She looks around with a hint of confusion in her eyes, perhaps wondering if all my friends are imaginary.

Wanting to salvage my honour, I’m quick to explain what happened.

Pro: Oh, she got unlucky and ate a spicy one, so she ran off to grab a drink.

And is now hiding somewhere behind us, listening in to our conversation.

Lilith: I see.

Lilith: The same friend you were waiting for before?

Pro: Yeah.

She nods and stabs a takoyaki ball with her toothpick, placing it in her mouth with little to no reaction. A miss, probably.

Pro: How was your movie? What did you watch?

Lilith: Mmm…

Lilith: I can’t remember the name. It was some drama, though.

Pro: How was it?

Lilith: Honestly, it was pretty boring. Even for a drama.

Pro: Oh, that’s too bad.

Lilith: It’s alright, I guess. I don’t really like the genre, but whenever my friends and I go to see a movie we usually end up watching one.

Lilith: So you could say I’m used to it by now.

She eats another takoyaki ball, but still no reaction. Another miss.

Pro: What genre do you like, then?

She looks at me oddly, blinking a few times before answering.

Lilith: Action, or something. I’m not too particular.

Pro: Oh, I see.

Lilith: How about you?

Pro: Me? Um…

Pro: I haven’t actually gone to see a movie for a while, so I dunno.

While that’s not entirely true, there’s no way I can tell her that I only watch anime movies…

Pro: What else do you do for fun?

Lilith: Um…

Lilith: I usually go out with friends in my spare time. Shopping, and stuff.

She really is a typical popular girl, huh?

Lilith: But I also like reading. Novels, articles, and occasionally light novels.

Or maybe not.

Pro: Oh, I like light novels too.

Lilith: I thought you might.

She eats another takoyaki, oblivious to my crushed feelings. However, she eventually notices my discomfort and clears up the misunderstanding.

Lilith: I didn’t mean it as a bad thing, though. I’ve liked most of the light novels that I’ve read so far.

Pro: That’s what they all say…

Lilith: …

*Direction: Lilith smiles a little*

Lilith: Alright, my bad. I’m sorry.

Startled by Lilith’s sudden smile, I rub my eyes to make sure they’re alright.

Pro: Um, d-don’t worry about it.

Lilith: I don’t think there’s anything wrong with liking anime or manga, though. I can see why some people think it’s childish, but people like what they like.

Pro: You really get it, huh.

I nod appreciatively, and Lilith pops another takoyaki into her mouth. Still no reaction.

Lilith: Oh. It’s actually pretty spicy.

Pro: …

Pro: Was that the spicy one?!?!?

Lilith: Yeah.

Completely unaware of my surprise, she downs another takoyaki ball as if nothing happened. The pain that brought me to tears just a few minutes ago is like nothing to her.

Nothing at all.

Pro: Um, do you need a drink or something…?

Lilith: It’s fine. I have one here.

Pro: Oh. Right.

Lilith: Is something wrong?

Pro: Nope. Nothing at all.

Pro: I take it you like spicy food, then?

Lilith: Not particularly.

Pro: Oh.

Pro: I take it you don’t have tastebuds, then?

Lilith: …

Lilith: What?

Pro: Sorry, forget about that comment.

Lilith: Sure, I guess…

She finishes the rest of her meal and neatly packs all of her garbage into the plastic bag she was given, not leaving a single trace of her presence behind.

Lilith: That was pretty good.

Lilith: I think I should get going, though. You should probably find your friend.

Pro: Oh, right.

Lilith: Thanks for accompanying me.

Pro: Oh, uh, no problem. Likewise.

**Shopping District**

Lilith stands up slowly, stretching her arms above her head as she rises.

Lilith: Well, I’ll see you tomorrow, then.

Right. For tutoring.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

And with that she leaves, disappearing into a passing swarm of adults, blending in almost perfectly despite her school uniform.

Now, where’s Mara…

I spot her a couple feet off to my right, leaning against an uncomfortable-looking lamppost like it were the most natural thing in the world. She notices immediately when I look her way and beckons me over.

Mara: She left?

Pro: You know full well that she did.

Mara: Hehe.

Mara, too, stretches her arms out while letting out a small, satisfied yawn, inducing me to yawn as well.

Mara: Takoyaki’s surprisingly filling, huh?

Pro: Yeah. You want anything else?

Mara: Mmm…

Mara: Not today.

Mara: We should probably go home.

Pro: Oh, right.

I look upwards at they sky, finding the moon directly above us.

Pro: I’ll walk you home.

Mara: Huh? It’s fine, you don’t need to.

Pro: It’s alright, don’t worry. It’s more for my peace of mind, anyways.

Pro: C’mon, let’s go.