**Practice Diamond**

I end up stopping by the baseball diamond on my way home anyways, remembering that today should be Lilith’s first day back after her short disappearance.

Sure enough, she’s there when I arrive, sitting in the stands tying her shoes. However, there doesn’t seem to be many others around – only around ten or so players populate the field, not even half of the team’s roster.

Lilith (neutral neutral): It’s you.

Pro: Hey there.

Lilith (neutral curious): Come to watch?

Pro: Um, for a bit.

Pro: Where is everyone? The team seems a little, uh, meager.

Lilith (neutral thinking): Well, all of the third-years recently retired since the season’s officially over. And some of our players decided not to show up today.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: I see.

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): Speaking of which, do you know where Petra is?

Pro: Oh, uh…

Pro: Prim caught a cold, so Petra went over to her place to make sure she’s alright.

Lilith (neutral sigh): Oh, that makes sense. I was worried that she hurt herself, or something.

Lilith (neutral neutral):

I suppress a chuckle. Despite how distant she can be, she really does care about her junior, huh?

Pro: Wait, you were worried that she’d get injured?

Lilith (neutral smiling\_slightly): Yeah. Even though she’s reckless and irresponsible, she’s never missed a practice before, so I thought something might’ve happened.

An idea starts formulating in my head, temporarily overriding all other thoughts…

Lilith (neutral neutral):

Pro: Um, Lilith…

Lilith (neutral curious):

Lilith looks at me expectantly.

Pro: In sports, are there ever times when someone gets injured and they can’t play anymore? Like, for good.

Lilith (neutral thinking): Um…

Lilith (neutral neutral): I think most injuries aren’t like that, but occasionally it can happen. Especially in professional sports, where they need to be able to play at an extremely high level.

At a high level…

Lilith (neutral curious): Why do you ask?

Pro: Hm? Oh, just curious.

Lilith: I see.

Lilith (neutral neutral): It looks like we’re starting. I’ll talk to you later.

Pro: Oh, okay. Have fun.

Lilith (neutral bashful): Alright. Um…

Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): Don’t feel pressured to watch the entire thing. There aren’t too many of us today, so it won’t be very interesting.

Lilith (neutral embarrassed): But you’re welcome to stay…

Pro: Oh, alright.

Lilith (neutral sigh): …

Lilith (waving smiling): I’ll see you later, then.

Pro: Yeah, see you.