**Bedroom**

I end up falling asleep after an evening of playing newly downloaded games on my phone, which really shouldn’t have happened taking my academic standing into account. Realizing that I need no more distractions in my life, I remedy my mistake by deleting them all as soon as I get up.

It’s actually rather refreshing, and after a few more moments in bed I disentangle myself from my sheets and start to get ready for school.

**Front of House**

The first thing I notice when I step outside are the clouds that blanket the sky. An almost sure sign of rain later today, prompting me to quickly step back inside the secure an umbrella.

The second thing I notice is the absence of a certain bubbly, pink-haired teenager. She didn’t text me either, which means…

Is she actually late?

Mara (neutral confused): What are you doing?

She suddenly appears behind me, causing me to start and almost trip down the stairs leading to our front door.

Pro: Huh?!?!?

Mara (neutral curious): I mean, you were kinda just standing there-

Pro: What are *you* doing?!?!? Why were you inside?!?!?

Mara (neutral confused): Hm? Using the washroom. What else would I be doing?

She looks at me like it were the most obvious thing in the world.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: Right…

Mara (neutral expressionless): I mean you were taking so long…

Pro: Sorry…

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Don’t worry, don’t worry.

Mara (neutral smiling):

She steps outside, locks the door, and slips our spare key back under the doormat in one fluid motion, like it’s something she’s done many, many times before.

Which she probably has.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Well, let’s go. No point in standing around.

**Neighbourhood Road 1**

Mara seems to be in a rather strange mood today. It’s not like she’s particularly down or anything, but she’s not exactly cheerful either. Instead she sort of just looks around curiously, taking everything in with uncharacteristic interest.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: Um, Mara…

Mara (neutral smiling): Hm?

Pro: Everything alright…?

Mara (neutral confused): Of course. Why?

Pro: Then…

Pro: …what exactly are you doing?

Mara (neutral curious):

She looks at me thoughtfully, making me wonder for a second if I’m reading too much into things.

Mara: Well, you see…

Mara (neutral thinking): Last night I started a manga where this one character has a photographic memory…

Mara (excited excited): …and he’s pretty cool, so I was trying to see if I could look at something, blink, look away, and then see the image clearly in my head.

Mara (neutral sigh): It’s a lot harder than it seems, though…

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: I’m pretty sure that’s impossible for us regular people…

Mara (excited earnest): But how do we know we’re truly regular? What if we have some sort of secret talent hidden away, waiting to be found and cultivated?

Mara (arms\_crossed thinking): And besides, wouldn’t having a photographic memory make things really easy? You wouldn’t have to study, and you could spend all your time touring cafes and reading manga…

Mara (arms\_crossed neutral):

Pro: I still think you’d have to study a bit, especially for application questions. It’s not like they give you all the answers ahead of time.

Mara (arms\_crossed pensive): I mean…

Pro: I feel like being really smart would be more useful.

Mara: …

Mara (neutral sigh): You can be kinda boring sometimes, you know.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: Well, excuse me.

Mara (neutral skeptical): Excuse yourself.

Mara: …

Mara (laughing laughing):

We both break out laughing, both of us unable to keep a straight face for very long.

Mara (laughing recovering): Well, seeing how neither of us are geniuses, I guess we’ll have to study a bit more to avoid failing, huh?

Mara (neutral smiling):

Pro: Yeah…

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: I guess we’ll have to do another study session soon, huh?

Mara: …

Mara (neutral happy): Yeah.