**Front of School**

The rest of the day is rough both because of the course material and Asher, who smiles incessantly throughout all of our classes.

Needless to say, when we’re finally dismissed I head straight outside, happy to finally be free.

Pro: Now, where’s Mara…

I look around, but there’s no sign of her anywhere. Come to think about it, we decided that we’d eat out but we didn’t decide where to meet. Logic dictates that she’d come here, but she’d usually be here by now, so…

…

Wishing I were a little better prepared, I shoot her a text and decide to wait by the gate. I guess it doesn’t really matter if our meeting’s delayed by a few minutes, anyways.

**Black Screen**

I lean against the wall and take a deep breath, closing my eyes and listening to the sounds around me…

?Lilith: Um…

**Front of School**

I open my eyes and find that a wild Lilith has suddenly appeared, startling me.

Lilith: It’s you, huh?

Pro: Um, hey.

Lilith: Are you waiting for someone?

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith: Me too.

Lilith: Who are you waiting for?

Pro: Oh, um, a friend from another school. How about you?

Lilith: A classmate of mine. Do you remember Kari?

Pro: Uh…

Kari…

The name sounds familiar, but I can’t seem to recall the face associated with it…

Lilith: The silver-haired girl. From the ice cream shop?

Pro: Sorry, I can’t remember.

Pro: Is she on the baseball team as well?

Lilith: Yeah.

Pro: Oh, I see.

For some reason I think back to the first time Lilith and I met, a few weeks ago by the vending machines. She seemed pretty cold back then, and kinda scary, but now that I know her a little better she doesn’t feel intimidating at all.

Actually, that might be because…

Pro: By the way, do you not carry your baseball bat around anymore?

Lilith: Hm? Not really.

Lilith: Our season’s over, so there’s no need.

Pro: Huh? Oh, um…

Pro: I thought you brought it around because you liked holding onto it, or something.

Lilith: I do, but it can be a bit of a pain sometimes.

Lilith: And it’d be weird if I had it on me at all times, don’t you think? Imagine if you passed by someone in the hallway with a baseball bat…

Um…

I won’t comment on that one.

?Kari: Don’t worry, Lilith and her baseball bat aren’t an item. You still have a chance with her.

A silver-haired girl slips beside Lilith, and I instantly recognize her from before.

Pro: You’re Kari, right?

Kari: Bingo. And you’re Pro, right?

Pro: Yeah.

Kari: So? What are you doing with my precious Lilith? Trying to steal her away?

Lilith: …

Kari: I’m just kidding, no need to look so grumpy.

Lilith: I’m not grumpy.

Kari: Right, right.

Kari: Sorry about making you wait. A third-year asked me out…

Lilith: Did you accept?

Kari: Of course not.

Lilith: Figured.

Kari lets out a little laugh and then returns her attention back to me, causing me to shift around uncomfortably. It’s easy to forget when I’m talking with them normally like this, but both of them seem like they’d be popular with guys. And it wouldn’t really be a surprise if they’ve had boyfriends in the past.

On the other hand, for people like me, finding a significant other seems like something that’d happen in the very distant future. If I’m lucky. Like super lucky.

Even though we’re the same age, it feels like we’re in different worlds…

Kari: Where’s your other half?

Pro: My other half?

Kari: You know, the girl Petra likes to fuss over…

Kari: Her name’s Prim, right?

Lilith: Yeah.

Kari: Even her name’s cute, huh? You’re a lucky guy.

I sigh internally, tired of this misunderstanding.

Kari: I’m just kidding, don’t worry. I know you’re not dating.

Kari: Just felt like fooling around a bit. Sorry.

Pro: It’s alright…

My internal sigh manifests externally, prompting another amused laugh from Kari.

Kari: Well, we should probably get going now.

Kari: We’re gonna see a movie, wanna come with?

Pro: Sorry, I have something else to do.

Kari: Too bad.

Kari: See you around, then.

Pro: Oh, right. See you.

Lilith looks at me curiously as Kari turns to leave, opening her mouth to say something but apparently deciding against it.

Lilith: See you tomorrow. Here after school.

Pro: Oh, right. Thanks.

Pro: See you tomorrow.

After a small wave, Lilith follows after her friend, the pair of them drawing stares from the remaining students in the vicinity.

Mara: Wow.

Pro: Mara?

Mara: It’s me.

Mara: Sorry, I forgot I had to clean the classroom…

Pro: It’s fine, don’t worry.

Mara: That was Lilith, right? And one of her friends?

Pro: Correct.

Mara: I see, I see.

Mara: What were you talking to them about?

Pro: Nothing in particular.

Mara: Is that so…?

Mara: …

Mara: Ah well.

Mara: I’m kinda hungry, so do you wanna go eat now?

Pro: Isn’t it a bit early?

Mara: Mmm…

Mara: I guess, but what would be do in the meantime?

Pro: Dunno. What do you feel like?

She stops to think, seriously considering all of her options.

Mara: We could walk around the shopping district. Or go to the arcade. Or to the park.

Pro: Anything’s fine, I think.

Pro: My mom gave me money for dinner today, so I don’t mind splurging a little…

I trail off, realizing that even though my mom did indeed leave money for me on the table, I don’t remember taking it…

Mara: Hm? Is something wrong?

Pro: Um…

Pro: Actually, can we go to my place first? I forgot something.

Mara: Hm? Sure.

Pro: We can go anywhere you want afterwards.

Mara: Hehe. It’s fine, it’s fine.

Mara: Let’s just hang out at your house until we feel like eating.

Mara: It’s the most comfortable, after all.