**Home Station**

We talk about this and that for the rest of the meal, about every little nothing that comes to mind. It’s actually really enjoyable, but the entire time I can’t shake the feeling that I’m missing something. Something important.

I follow Lilith outside after we pay the bill, where she stretches her arms out above her head. Her back crackles a bit as she lets out a contented sigh, inducing me to do the same.

Which is weird, apparently. Based on the look Lilith’s giving me.

Lilith: …

Pro: Um, sorry…

Lilith: …

Lilith: Pfft.

Lilith: It’s alright, don’t worry about it.

Lilith: What are you gonna do now? Go home?

Pro: Yeah. How about you?

Lilith: Might go to Kari’s place.

Pro: Oh, I ran into her yesterday. While I was going grocery shopping.

Lilith: That’s where she was, huh? She skipped out on practice.

Lilith: Did she stop to say hi?

Pro: Yeah, we talked for a bit.

Lilith: About what?

I stop to think, trying to remember. What *did* we talk about? We definitely talked about Prim and Lilith, but that’s not something I really wanna share…

Pro: About hair. And how hers is dyed.

Lilith: You talked about her hair.

Pro: Yeah.

Lilith: …

She stares at me pointedly, clearly unimpressed but, strangely, at the same time maybe a little curious.

Pro: I, um, asked her why her hair is silver. It’s unusual, no?

Lilith: It’s obviously dyed though.

Pro: You never know. Prim’s hair is purple. And isn’t your hair natural too?

Lilith: Yeah, mine is. But blonde’s pretty common in other countries.

Kari said the exact same thing, I think.

Pro: Is one of your parents foreign?

Lilith: Um...

Lilith: My mom’s hair is the same colour as mine. I think.

Pro: Ah, that would explain it.

I open my mouth to continue, but then I realize that Lilith said something strange.

She “*thinks”* that her mom’s hair colour is the same as hers? Not “*knows”*?

Before I can think it through any further, however, Lilith speaks up.

Lilith: I should probably get going. Kari’s waiting for me.

Pro: Oh, okay. Sorry for holding you up.

Lilith: You weren’t, so don’t apologize.

Lilith: Thanks for hanging out with me today. It was fun.

Lilith: I’ll see you later, okay?

Pro: Yeah, see you.

After a small wave she turns and slips into the station, apparently meeting Kari somewhere relatively far away. Does that mean she’ll get home late? And are her parents okay with that?

Well, it seems like they would be, given everything that Lilith said today. But at the same time, whenever they came up it felt like she’d try to dodge the topic, as if it were an uncomfortable subject, or maybe even…

…painful?

…

But she seemed like she was in a good mood, so it should be fine…

…right?