**Front of School**

By the time I finish sweeping the classroom and getting chewed out by my teacher, the sun is already starting to dip towards the horizon. Winter is almost here, and with it will come shorter days and bitter cold. Mara probably won’t appreciate the latter.

Despite the worsening weather, many of the sports teams at our school still practice outdoors. I’ve occasionally entertained the idea of joining one, but every time I came close, my desire to be athletic and popular was replaced by my desire to go home.

**Practice Diamond**

As I walk home, I notice that the baseball diamond I pass by every day is, for once, occupied. People rarely use it because of how run down it is, and even when someone does it’s usually not even for baseball.

It seems like a girls team is practicing. They seem to be in high school as well, but I’m not too sure what school they’re from. I don’t recognize any of them, so maybe they’re from Mara’s.

Well, wherever they’re from, good on them for trekking out here and practicing despite the grassy, uneven ground. My stomach growls as I pass by.

?Lilith: Watch out!

I hear the shout, but my brain doesn’t register it in time. I whirl around and see a baseball flying directly towards my head…

**Cutscene - Meeting Lilith**

Pro: …!

**Practice Diamond**

?Lilith (neutral sigh):

Pro: Thanks…

?Lilith (neutral neutral):

Safe. I try to steady my breathing.

?Lilith (neutral worried\_slightly): Are you okay?

Pro: Yeah.

?Lilith (neutral neutral): That’s good.

?Lilith (neutral thinking): …

?Lilith (neutral curious): You go to Yi Centennial College, right? Class 2B?

My saviour’s question pulls my thoughts away from my near-death experience.

Pro: Yeah. How did you know?

?Lilith (neutral neutral): We go there too. This is the girls baseball team.

Pro: Oh…

Pro: Wait, what?

?Lilith (neutral curious): You’re in Asher’s class, right?

Pro: Yeah…

Pro: Sorry, I don’t know who you are.

?Lilith (neutral confused\_slightly): …

Lilith (neutral neutral): I’m Lilith in class 2A.

Lilith. Now that I think about it, that name does sound familiar.

Pro: I’m Pro. Thanks for saving me earlier, I thought I was gonna die…

Lilith (neutral curious): …

Lilith (neutral neutral): You’re welcome, I guess. Sorry we almost hit you.

Pro: Ah, don’t worry about it.

We stand there in awkward silence until one of Lilith’s teammates calls for her to go back.

Lilith (waving neutral): Well, I gotta go now. I’ll see you around, then.

Lilith (exit):

Lilith trots back towards the rest of her team, leaving me with a mixed feeling of relief and confusion. Have I never seen her around? She seems like she’d be pretty popular too.

I briefly pause for a moment out of respect for my deceased social life, and then I continue to head home. My stomach growls again, so I pick up the pace so I can eat, sleep, and laze around as soon as possible.