**Bedroom**

Mmph…

I scowl as my alarm continues to blare, which is ten times more annoying than usual because of the small amount of sleep I managed to get in.

I ended up not really understanding much at first, so I spent a good amount of time studying to make sure that I don’t make a fool of myself later. Although, I might be a bit too tired to actually be of any help…

Well, regardless I won’t be able to help at all if I don’t get up.

Still a little vexed, I roll out of my covers and onto the floor, and after a few seconds there I pull myself up and start getting ready for school.

**Front of House**

After picking up the lunch my mom left for me before heading off to work, I trudge outside to find a waiting Mara. Completely opposite to me, she seems to be in an exceptionally good mood.

Mara (waving smiling\_eyes\_closed): Hey, hey!

Pro: Hey, Mara.

Mara (neutral neutral): …

Pro: …

Pro: Is something wrong?

Mara (neutral pensive): You look…

Mara (neutral smiling\_nervous): ...worse than usual.

Pro: Ah…

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: I kind of stayed up studying last night.

She blinks twice, trying to process what I just said.

Mara (neutral confused): Who?

Pro: Me.

Mara (neutral expressionless): I don’t know anyone named “me.”

Mara (neutral hehe):

I sigh tiredly.

Mara (neutral smiling):

Pro: Is it really that unbelievable…?

Mara: It is.

Pro: Ah…

Seeing my disappointment, Mara reaches out and gently pinches my cheek.

Mara (neutral hehe): Hehe.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Good for you.

Mara (neutral curious): So? What brought this about? You hit your head or something?

Pro: I’m, uh, gonna be tutoring Prim today.

Mara (neutral sigh): So it was a girl that changed you, huh?

Pro: Um, yeah.

Mara (neutral curious): Did she ask?

Pro: Nope, I offered.

Mara: Hmm…

She looks at me pensively, causing me to feel a little uneasy.

Pro: Um…

Mara (neutral neutral): Oh, sorry.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Let’s go to school.

**Neighbourhood Road 1**

We talk about Prim’s practice on the way to school, and, as predicted, Mara manages to somehow figure out that I didn’t tell her everything. After a few minutes of interrogation she weasels the entire story out of me.

Mara (neutral disappointed): I can’t believe you…

Pro: I’m sorry.

Mara (neutral expressionless): You went and hid the truth from me…

Pro: I’m sorry.

Mara (neutral skeptical): And not only that, but you spent most of your time with some other girl on your date with Prim.

Pro: I’m sorry…

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: And it wasn’t a date. But I’m sorry.

Mara (neutral smiling):

Apparently satisfied with my apologies, Mara smiles.

Mara: Just kidding.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Kind of.

Pro: It would’ve been nice if you left out the “kind of...”

Mara (neutral neutral): But it’s true.

Pro: Yup, yup…

Mara (neutral smiling): Anyways, it seems like you had a good time. I’m glad.

Mara (neutral neutral): Honestly, I was a little worried about this entire thing. Couples with one person dependent on the other usually don’t turn out well…

Pro: I mean, we’re not a couple…

Mara: ...but I guess it’s fine.

Mara (excited excited): And besides, she’s really cute.

Pro: Yeah, I guess.

Mara (neutral fufu): No objections this time?

She leans in, a smug smile plastered onto her face.

Pro: Bite me…

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing):

Instead of backing off, she leans even further in to lightly nip my ear.

Pro: M-M-Mara?!?!?!?

Mara (neutral bashful\_blushing): H-Hehe.

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): You told me to.

Pro: T-that’s not what I meant…

I take a deep breath, trying to steady my racing heart. Thankfully, Mara seems as embarrassed as I am.

Mara (ahem embarrassed\_blushing): A-ahem.

Mara (neutral bashful): I know you’re gonna be busy with Prim, but don’t forget about me. I still wanna do things, you know.

Pro: Ah, yeah…

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: Actually, are you free today? After school.

Mara: Hm? Aren’t you tutoring Prim?

Pro: At lunch. After school I’m free.

Mara: …

Mara (neutral hehe): I suppose I have no choice, huh? You have something in mind already?

Pro: Uh…

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: I don’t.

Mara: Then…

Mara (neutral smiling): There’s this place I’ve really wanted to go to.

Pro: What is it?

Mara (neutral neutral): That’s a secret.

Pro: Really…?

Mara: Really.

Well, it’ll probably be some cafe or something.

Pro: Alright, let’s do that then. Looking forward to it.

Mara (neutral smiling\_eyes\_closed): Me too.