**Intersection 1**

My fatigue returns during my walk home, so I pick up the pace, wanting to jump in bed as soon as possible.

Go home, nap for a few hours, and then wake up for dinner…

Yup. That sounds pretty good.

Mara (neutral smiling): Heya.

An insurmountable obstacle suddenly appears to block my path, making my plans and aspirations a fleeting dream.

Mara (surprise surprise):

And so, wanting to hold onto that dream, I ignore Mara and sprint past her as fast as I can, hoping that the element of surprise will let me get away…

Mara (arms\_crossed smiling\_annoyed):

…but unfortunately reality takes hold of me after half a block, grabbing me by the collar and hoisting me off my feet and onto the ground.

Mara: Wanna explain why you tried to run?

Pro: Um, no, not really.

Mara (arms\_crossed put\_out): Hmm…?

Mara (neutral sigh): I went to your house to surprise you when you came back, but then you left so I came here and spent over half an hour waiting here for you after following you all the way to school, but despite all that you try to run.

Mara (neutral skeptical):

Pro: Um, Mara…

Pro: I’ve thought this for a while, but…

Mara (neutral surprise):

Pro: You’re kinda like a stalker.

Mara (neutral confused): …

Mara: Huh?

Pro: I mean, you always seem to be around, and sometimes you even overhear my conversations…

Mara (neutral nervous): U-Um…

Mara (neutral smiling\_nervous): It may seem that way, but in reality…

Mara (neutral expressionless): In reality, um…

Mara (neutral pensive): …

Mara (excited excited): I’m actually your guardian angel. Yup, that’s it.

Mara (arms\_crossed pensive): Since you’re you, I naturally worry about you a lot.

Mara (arms\_crossed neutral):

Pro: You seriously have nothing better to do?

Mara (neutral satisfaction): Nope. No clubs, no cram school, and I’m failing already so I don’t need to study.

Mara (neutral smiling):

Pro: Don’t say that so proudly…

Pro: And besides, if you’re failing shouldn’t you study more?

Mara (neutral thinking): I’m not actually failing. I’m passing, barely but still passing.

Mara (neutral hehe):

She laughs lightly, helping me back to my feet.

Mara (neutral worried\_slightly): By the way, how’s your throat? Is it still sore?

Pro: Hm? Uh…

I touch my throat gingerly, trying to detect any pain.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: Actually, it’s a lot better. It was pretty bad this morning, but it only hurts a little now.

Mara (neutral smiling): Oh, that’s good to hear.

Mara (neutral neutral): But we should still do something to make sure you make a full recovery.

Mara (neutral thinking): It’d be good for you to eat something smooth and cold, something like…

A wry smile makes its way onto my face.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: Ice cream…?

Mara (neutral smiling): Wow, you read my mind.

Pro: It really wasn’t difficult…

Mara (neutral hehe): A prodigious psychic, huh?

Pro: Yup, yup.

I let out a sigh and then smile a bit more gently, still a little tired but not really wanting to sleep anymore.

Mara (neutral smiling):

Pro: Do you feel like any shop in particular?

Mara: Nope, not really.

Mara (neutral happy): We’re going for the sake of your throat, after all. Being picky would be inconsiderate of me.

Pro: Right, right.

Mara (neutral smiling):

Pro: Well, let’s head to the shopping district then. It’s the closest.

Pro: Since we’re going for medical reasons, we should probably get there as soon as possible, no?