**Park 2**

Leaning back into the park bench we’ve taken residence on, I take a bite into the unusually large taiyaki in my hand. It tastes so good that I might melt - the outside is soft but crispy, while the inside is smooth and sweet...

Mara: You look like you enjoyed that, huh?

Pro: Well yeah, it’s good.

Mara: It is, isn’t it?

She follows suit and takes a large bite out of hers, letting out a squee of satisfaction.

Mara: This is it, this is it!!

Mara: Ah, I’m so glad we found something in a reasonable amount of time.

Pro: Yeah, same.

Mara: Are you happy with it, though? You weren’t just trying to get it over with, right?

Pro: I wasn’t, don’t worry.

Mara: Good.

Mara: For the record I think you should be pretty happy, though. You made a pretty poetic choice after all.

Pro: I guess...

It took us just over an hour to find something, a lot shorter than I originally anticipated it would. After revisiting a bunch of the stores I took a look at yesterday, Mara spotted a small shop tucked away behind the grocery store that I happened to miss.

Inside was an assortment of various odds and ends, and after browsing through their selection I noticed something that at first glance seemed too good to be true, but...

Pro: Are you sure she’ll like it, though? I don’t think something like this would be popular...

Mara: I’m sure it’ll be fine.

Mara: Prim’s a quiet and shy girl, right? And she plays piano, so she probably has an air of refinement around her...

Mara: So it’ll suit her perfectly.

Mara: And besides, you’re kinda out of time...

That’s true.

Mara: Mmm...

Mara: Don’t worry about it, you’ll be okay. I’m sure she’ll be happy with it.

Mara: Honestly, I’m sure she’ll be happy with anything you give her.

Pro: Huh? What’s that supposed to mean?

Mara: Not telling.

She giggles amusedly before taking another bite of her taiyaki.

Mara: You should probably eat yours before it gets cold.

Pro: Oh, right.

**Intersection 2**

We decide to go home after we finish eating, both of us tired from an early morning.

Mara: Mmm...

Mara: Whatchu gonna do when you get home?

Pro: Sleep, probably. You?

Mara: Same.

Mara: Or maybe I’ll take a bath first, or maybe I’ll read manga...

Mara: Or maybe all of the above.

Mara’s small chuckle quickly turns into a large yawn.

Mara: I think I’ll probably nap until dinner, though.

Mara: By the way...

Mara: Did you fall asleep in class today?

Pro: Huh? What makes you think that?

Mara: Just a feeling. You left school later than usual today, so I thought maybe you got in trouble?

Pro: Yeah, that’s pretty much what happened...

Mara: I knew it.

Mara: You *did* wake up unusually early today, so I guess it’s permissible.

Mara: And besides, you’re a growing boy so you need to get as much sleep in as you can.

Pro: Huh? I think I stopped growing a long time ago.

Mara: Really?

She takes a step closer and compares our heights with her hand, her face brushing against mine. To my surprise, from this angle it’s apparent that I’m a few inches taller, something that I’ve never really noticed.

Mara: Yup, you’ve definitely gotten bigger.

Mara: You used to be this cute, little kid, but now you’re all grown up, huh...?

Mara: ...

Mara: Makes me a little nostalgic.

Pro: Yeah...

**Nostalgia Scene - Mara and Pro Comparing Heights**

I can’t help but agree with her, but the other way around.

When we were little, there was a wall at Mara’s house where we’d record how much we’ve grown each year. I never really looked forward to it though since she was always taller, even throughout middle school.

Of course we stopped comparing our heights once Mara moved out, and we haven’t really talked about it since. But now that I think about it, even though I’m taller now she’s also been growing, maturing, changing.

The energetic, almost tomboyish girl I once knew is now...

**Intersection 2**

Mara: Huh?!? What’s wrong?!?

Pro: Huh? What do you mean?

But after a moment I notice the single tear crawling down my cheek...

Mara: Are you okay?!?

Pro: Oh, I’m fine...

Pro: Just remembered something.

Mara: ...

Mara: Alright.

Mara: I can stay with you for the rest of the day if you want.

Pro: Um, I kinda want to sleep though...

Mara: I know.

Pro: ...

I stare at her, wondering whether she’s serious or not.

Mara: We used to take naps together all the time, after all. Remember that one time your mom took us to a hot spring inn and we slept in the same futon?

Pro: We were three then...

Mara: Hehe.

Mara: All jokes aside, we’ll be seeing each other soon anyways. Tanabata on Sunday, right?

Pro: Yeah.

Mara: Yay.

Mara: Well, I guess we should both get some sleep in now.

Mara: See you later, Pro.

Pro: Yeah, see you.

Mara waves goodbye before slipping away, and I head home as well. To be honest, I *did* want to spend the rest of the day with her, but I wasn’t brave enough to say it...

...

Ah well. I’ll see her again soon, so there’s no point dwelling on it.

Time for a snooze.