**Shopping District**

It takes almost a full minute for me to locate Mara, but eventually I find her peering into the takoyaki shop we were just in, spying on Lilith.

Pro: Would it kill you to be a little more subtle…

Mara: Huh?!?

Mara: Oh, it’s just you.

Mara: That’s Lilith, right? And that was the second time you ran into her today?

Mara: Maybe it’s fate.

Pro: Haha.

She takes one last look before turning to face me.

Mara: Are you sure you didn’t wanna talk to her for a bit? I could’ve waited.

Pro: It’s fine, it’s fine.

Pro: It’s getting late, so we should probably get you home.

Mara: Huh…?

Mara: It’s not that late. I’m not some middle-school brat anymore, so I don’t need to go to bed early anymore.

Pro: Well, I do, so if you wanna stay out here by yourself you can but I’m-

Mara: I’m joking, I’m joking!!

Mara: Let’s go home.

A tiny bit of guilt stabs my chest for my words, causing me to try to apologize in a roundabout way.

Pro: Well…

Pro: If you really want, we can get something else before we go.

Mara: …

Mara: Really???

Pro: Yeah.

I turn away to hide my embarrassment, something that Mara definitely notices but thankfully doesn’t point out.

Mara: Mmm…

Mara: It’s fine, it’s fine. There’ll always be next time, right?

Mara: Let’s go home.

Pro: If you’re sure…

Pro: Um…

Pro: I’ll walk you home, then.

Mara: Huh? You don’t have to.

Pro: It’s fine. It’s kinda on the way, and it’s mainly for my peace of mind anyways…

Mara: …

Mara: Alright then. Thanks.