**Library**

We actually do end up getting really comfortable spots at the library, securing a pair of newly added bean bag chairs in an area with lots of natural lighting, but not directly in the sun.

Mara (neutral satisfaction): Wow, this is really nice…

Mara (neutral thinking): I wonder how much one of these would cost? I kinda want one for my room.

Mara (neutral neutral):

Pro: They seem really nice, so I’d assume that they’d be pretty pricey.

Mara (neutral sigh): Aw…

Mara (neutral hehe): Maybe I’ll move out and live here, then.

Pro: I feel like that definitely wouldn’t be worth it…

Mara (neutral curious): I dunno about that.

Mara (neutral thinking): Free internet usage, a really big manga collection, washrooms that are cleaned hourly…

Mara (neutral smiling): And not to mention these chairs. Doesn’t sound too bad, right?

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: What about having a shower, and a kitchen?

Mara: Erm…

Mara (neutral expressionless): There are always public baths. And I could eat out every day…

Mara: …

Mara (neutral pensive): Realists really take the fun out of everything, huh.

Pro: Yup, yup.

Mara (neutral sigh):

I break out laughing at her blatant disappointment, causing her to sigh.

Mara (neutral neutral): Anyways, we should probably start studying soon. Writing’s gonna be a little difficult though, so…

Pro: Should we switch spots?

Mara (neutral expressionless): I really don’t wanna move, though…

Pro: Right?

Mara (neutral sigh): But I guess we should…

Pro: Huh? Mara?

Mara (stretching satisfaction):

Mara pulls herself to her feet, a feat of almost godlike proportions that leaves me in shock.

Mara (neutral frowning): You, especially, need to study.

Pro: I mean, you’re not wrong, but…

Mara (neutral neutral): So c’mon. Get up.

Mara (neutral hehe):

A quiet, dejected noise escapes my mouth, and I struggle to my feet, suffering immensely.

Mara (neutral smiling): That’s a good boy. Let’s go find a table.

**Library**

Mara makes sure that I stay focused and on track, checking in every so often to make sure that I’ve been making progress. However, she also makes sure to keep the mood light, being lenient with breaktime and occasionally initializing random conversations.

Mara (neutral smiling): Hey, Pro.

Pro: Hm? What’s up?

Mara (neutral curious): What do you think about nicknames?

Pro: Nicknames? Where’s this coming from?

Mara: Just answer the question.

Pro: Mmm…

Pro: I think they can be cute.

Mara: …

Mara (neutral skeptical): That’s it?

Pro: I mean, I don’t really have any strong opinions about them…

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: I guess they can be a sign of strong friendship. In some cases.

Mara (neutral thinking): Hmm…

Mara pauses, unusually thoughtful about a seemingly trivial topic.

Mara (neutral neutral): Your name can’t really be turned into a nickname, though. It already sounds like one, like it’s an abbreviation of your actual name.

Pro: I mean, I guess that’s fair…

Mara (neutral thinking): But then again, mine isn’t the best either.

Mara: Mara, Mara…

Mara: …

Mara (neutral sigh): Nope. Can’t come up with anything. That’s too bad.

Mara (neutral curious): Maybe instead of nicknames, we could say each other’s names in unconventional ways? Like for my name, you could emphasize the “-ra” instead of the “Ma-“ or something.

Mara: And for your name…

Mara (neutral thinking):

She starts saying my name in a variety of different ways, changing her emotional tone, vocal pitch, and even sometimes her accent with each iteration.

Mara: Pro, *Pro*, Pu-ro…

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: Um…

Mara (neutral fufu): Hm? Are you embarrassed?

Pro: Yes.

Mara (neutral hehe): Hehe. C’mon, try saying my name too.

Pro: Mmm…

Mara (neutral smiling):

Knowing that she’ll never rest until I do, I reluctantly say her name.

Mara (neutral curious):

Pro: M-Mara…

It comes out unnaturally, a forced sound that’s gentler and more bashful than usual.

Mara: …

Mara (neutral surprise): HUH?!?!?

Mara (neutral embarrassed): You didn’t have to make it sound that weird!!!

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): A-A-And why are you so r-red?!?!?

Mara (neutral bashful\_blushing):

She turns a beet red herself, doing her best to avoid my gaze.

Pro: S-Sorry…

Pro: It just came out wrong.

Mara (neutral embarrassed\_blushing): …

Mara (neutral sigh\_blushing): Okay…

Mara (neutral embarrassed): I guess that’s the end of that, though.

Pro: Yeah…

Mara (ahem ahem):

Mara sits up straight and clears her throat, regaining her composure.

Mara (neutral bashful): Well, we’ve been fooling around for long enough, I think.

Mara: Let’s get back to work.

Mara (exit):

She turns back to her problem sets, and after a deep breath I follow suit. We gradually go back to normal as the minutes pass by, but despite this we don’t talk much for the rest of our time at the library, both of us still too embarrassed to bring up anything substantial.