



Summer Pockets Short Story [Tsumugi Wenders]

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Summer Pockets

ロサマー - ポケットツ

Amidst the Summer Briliance

Chapter Tsumugi Wenders

The People I Treasure and the People Who Treasure Me

It's the latter half of August... the time summer comes closer to its end.

I was alone at the lighthouse.

"Good day... Cotton Candy-san"

"Shiroha-san! Hello!"

"Thank you... what are the other two up to?"

"They are running some errand right now. They're making 70 years' worth of fun for me, so there's lots of preparations to make!"

"I see, I'm also helping..."

"Mugyu! Thank you so much!"

"Sure."

Shiroha-san lowered her head and then handed me a bag she was carrying.

"What might this be?"

"These are empty Parangles cans"

"Ooh... Thank you very much."

"You don't look very happy."

"On the contrary. It's just that... recently there have been some interruptions in the construction of the veranda."

"I see..."

"However, having received these from Shiroha-san, there's no way I can't resume my verand'ing... I'll make it happen for sure!"

"Do your best"

Then she took something else out from her bag.

"What this...?"

"A cat stuffie... I picked it up at the seashore."

"So, you can also find them in the sea?"

"Yes, you can also find them in the sea."

She handed it to me.

"Cotton Candy-san, since you collect stuffies, this is a present for you..."

"Thank you so much! Then let's give him a name right away! His name will be..."

"... his name will be..."

"Souiseki-san!"

"Right?"

"But I think it'd be cooler if you added something to his name, something more 'Ultra'-like, or 'Dual-Fang'-like, or 'Drowning-Mark Eight'-like!"

"Ooh, that's indeed really cool. Specially the 'Drowning' part, it tells of his way of life..."

"You get it?"

"I do! I'll do my best to think of a cooler name for him"

"Well then, Cotton Candy-san,
Ultra-Souiseki-Number-Eight-Drowning... see you two later."

"Yes! I'll take proper care of Ultra
Souiseki-Number-Eight-Drowning!"

After Shiroha-san left, I washed Souiseki-san and put him in a place where he could dry properly.

"What kind of person were you with up until now, Souiseki-san?"

There were traces of him being mended, surely his past owner treasured him.

"I'm happy you came to my place. However, the truth is, in 10 days from now I'll have to leave and we'll depart from each other"

Once this summer ends, I have to go back home. Until that time comes, Hairi-san and Shizuku are doing lots of things for me to have fun.

"Souseki-san, you were already separated from your owner once. However, I'm sure even after this you'll meet a nice person again"

I was just like him.

"Please let me tell you a story, just for a bit"

I started talking to Souseki-san.

There are three people I deeply love.
They are dear to me as I'm dear to them.

The first person, is the one I have been with the most. The first time I met that person, she was a baby. We were around the same height. She would hold me tightly while saying 'Mugyu~ Mugyu~'. The name of that girl, was Tsumugi-chan.

When Tsumugi-chan grew bigger than me, she and her family moved houses. I thought I was going to be left behind. However,

she brought me with her. We arrived to this island after several days boarding a ship. She took me to her new home and to many different places. But she couldn't make any friends so she would always end up talking to me alone.

"If you want to make friends, please leave it to me!"

I wanted to tell her that, but I couldn't talk nor move. It truly was a pity...

After a while, a pretty interesting person appeared who made friends with Tsumugi-chan in an instant. That person, Katou-san, was also affectionate towards me.

And even after that, Tsumugi-chan also became really close friends with the lighthouse keeper. Whenever she visited him at the lighthouse, she would hum the same song. She used to hum that song pretty often in our former house, whenever she was smiling. Every time she made it to the lighthouse, the keeper would say to her while laughing: 'It's because I hear that humming that I know you are coming'. Eventually, even the lighthouse keeper would hum that tune. Tsumugi-chan then would tell him 'Thanks to that humming I can tell where you are' and then blush. They... fell in love with each other.

Ultimately... Tsumugi-chan, behind her family's back, made plans to elope.

"Tsumugi-chan, where are you going now? I really hope you can make new friends this time."

Of course, my voice couldn't reach her. But...

"... I'm sorry. This time I can't take you with me."

She told me while holding me tightly. I thought my words actually reached her. However, I soon realized that wasn't the case...

Tsumugi-chan wanted to leave the island with the lighthouse keeper without her family finding out. Since she couldn't bring a lot of luggage with her, she left me behind.

"Tsumugi-chan, please leave it to me! I'll take care of things in your absence!"

I told her through my mute, unmovable mouth.

However, Tsumugi-chan would apologize over and over again, saying "I'm sorry... I'm sorry..."

"Tsumugi-chan, you don't understand how much you've done for me!"

She hugged me so many times, we would sleep together and she would even let me sit next to her during meals... Whenever I fell into the sea, she would jump in to pick me up even while wearing her kimono, and then we would drown together. She would make

lots of western-style clothes for me and mend my scratches immediately.

"You've brought me so much of happiness. So please, Tsumugi-chan, please live happily too!"

Without so much as a smile, Tsumugi-chan left her house with a sad expression. I wanted to see it... Tsumugi-chan's smile. As expected, my voice didn't reach her at all.

After that, a lot of people went looking for Tsumugi-chan. Including the lighthouse keeper, who was supposed to be with her.

"She was supposed to leave with you, why are you here looking for her?"

Even if I asked him, he wouldn't answer.

At a later time, something called "war" happened, the lighthouse keeper left and never came back. Then... people stopped talking about Tsumugi-chan. Eventually the people of this house... started passing away.

Many nights and days came... me and my friends, Tsumugi-chan's belongings, started piling up dust. People who would pass by the front of the house would ask 'whose house was this?'. They completely forgot about Tsumugi-chan. Even though she did her best to make friends... Poor Tsumugi-chan. I made a wish. I made it with all my heart.

'I want to take Tsumugi-chan's place so that her friends will never forget about her...!'

Then, a certain day, I became able to move. How it happened... it's a mystery.

In this state I was able to look for Tsumugi-chan, so I tried to go outside.

"Mugyu!?"

After just three steps... she was there. Wanting to embrace her, I ran towards her.

Bam!

"Mugyu~..."

It was a mirror. It seems like I turned into Tsumugi-chan. How it happened... it really is a mystery. But if I appeared like this in front of everyone, I could take the place of Tsumugi-chan. However, before that...

"...Tsumugi-chaaan! It's meee! Tsumugi-chaaan" Mugyu~~~~!!"



I went to the lighthouse since there was a chance that she was there.
"Hmm hmm hmm~ hmm hmm ~ ♪"

I hummed her song. Surely Tsumugi-chan or the lighthouse keeper would show up if they heard it. But they didn't show up.

I also tried going to the fishing harbor and the school. I wished people still remembered her. But... I was called an apparition and people got scared of me. Seems like that's how Tsumugi-chan was really treated.

After that I would spend my time at the lighthouse humming and sometimes going out in front of everyone.

"It's Tsumugi-chaaan! Please don't forget about Tsumugi-chaaan!
Please take care of Tsumugi-chaaan!"

When I yelled like that, sometimes Katou-san would chase after me. Whenever that happened, I jumped into a thicket or the toy corner in the Candy Store, turn back into my original form and wait for her to go past me.

Many summers and winters came by... Tsumugi-chan's friends passed away. Then, the last remaining friend of Tsumugi-chan, Katou-san, also left. That day... I had a dream.

In a flower garden covered in flying butterflies, there was the lighthouse... and from its window, I could see Tsumugi-chan's figure going up. She kept going up and down the stairs repeatedly.

It seems like she couldn't reach the top nor the bottom of the lighthouse. I reverted back to my original form so I couldn't even wave my hand at her. Then I began to understand something. My duty had ended, and I would come to live in this place... probably. By the end of the next summer, I would revert back to my original form and stay in this place forever... How it happened was a mystery... but I had a feeling that's what was going to occur.

That's why I decided to have fun during this summer. Like Katou-san said, I tried to do the things that I wanted to. Then... I made a dear friend called Shizuku. And my lover, Hairi-san.

"This is the story of my first precious friend."

Souseki-san got a bit drier, but he was still fairly wet, so I stayed with him for a while longer. It was then that I heard the rattling sound of a suitcase.

"Helloo Mutsumutsuu."

"Hello, Kamome-san."

"Ooh! What a cute friend is sitting next to you. What's his name?"

"Ultra Souseki Number Eight Drowning-san."

"It's a pleasure, Drown-chan."

"Kamome-san, do you need something at the lighthouse?"

"Yeah, I came to make some measurements."

"Mugyu? What for?"

"Weeeell, if we line up the Parangles from here, up until where do you think it'll look nice?"

"Well... up until over there maybe?"

"Yeah yeah. I think so too."

What kind of question was that?

"As I thought, If we had around 5000, it should be more than enough."

"Mugyu!? You have *5000* Parangles!?"

"Nope, I don't."

"Oh..."

"But I have something way better than that, so look forward to it!"

"Got it!"

"I have to go back already, send my regards to Hairi and Zukuzuku"

Kamome-san left while pulling her suitcase. The person Kamome-san called Zukuzuku... that was my second precious friend.

My best friend... Shizuku. This happened a few days ago.

Having made a promise with Hairi-san and Shizuku, the three of us planned a trip outside the island. But the appointed day... I went back to my original form. A few days before, I had a hunch this would happen. Even so... for it to happen on that special day... I felt like crying. However, at the time... in my original form it was impossible for me to cry.

This kept happening many times... I even returned to my original form in front of them.

Falling from a place with a steep height, I ended up inside some bushes. Without realizing, they went looking for me. I thought I would revert back soon, yet the night came and nothing happened. Ao-san, Inari-san, Nomura-san, Mitani-san and Kanou-san, everyone kept looking for me... but I couldn't be found.

"Don't worry about me! I'm sorry for causing you trouble!"
I tried saying this many times, but my words reached no one.

After that, everyone went past me many times. I couldn't do anything but watch. It kept going for a long time.

"Tsumugi... Hairi-kun..." It was in the middle of the night...
Shizuku was walking with an empty expression and eyes full of tears.

"Shizuku... What are you doing out at this hour? I'm fine so please...
It's dangerous at night, you know?"

Shizuku kept walking towards me.

"Careful! There's a steep hill ahead of you, you'll fall!"

"Where are... you two..."

My voice couldn't reach her, and then Shizuku——

"Kya!?"

She fell down the hill.

But...

"It didn't... hurt?"

I acted as a cushion, preventing Shizuku from getting hurt.

"Shizuku... I'm glad."

"I was saved, thanks to this toy..."

Shizuku stared directly at me.

"Huh? You were with Tsumugi the first time I met her at the lighthouse... hmm"

...

"You are the toy that kid from the photo that looks like Tsumugi was holding... right?"

... Shizuku seemed troubled but, with an imploring face she looked at me and said:

"Say, can I ask you something silly?"

"Are you Tsumugi?"

"That's... right."

Without notice, my voice came out.

"You were... always here?"

"... Yes, I was."

"Is this your true appearance?"

"... Yes."

Usually people don't believe these kind of things.

Then Shizuku said to me, "Tsumugi... I'm sorry for not noticing"

"Eh?"

She hugged me tightly.

"Shizuku?"

"I bet it felt lonely being in this place all by yourself. I'm sorry... for not being able to find you, for not realizing about your true appearance..."

"Why are you apologizing, Shizuku...?"

"Because... I couldn't pay attention to the worries of my closest friend with who I wanted to spend the summer..."

"It's normal you couldn't realize. Shizuku... you are too kind... you even accepted my true self without a second question."

"If I don't act like the big sister and don't show a bit of tolerance... I'll start to c-cry..."

Tears piled up in Shizuku's eyes.

"The truth is, I'm a bit surprised. There are hard to believe parts to all of this, and there's lots of things I want to ask but... sob..."

"It's fine... You can ask me whatever you want..."

"But I may hurt Tsumugi if I do so... sob... I have to fight it and accept everything that's going on..."

"P-please don't fight it."

"*Sob... sob...* B-but... I'm the type that won't stop crying... If I don't say something to lighten the mood... I'll cry so much I won't be able to stand up."

Tears were dropping from her eyes.

"I'm sorry for keeping my true appearance a secret from you two..."

"That doesn't matter. The fact you came back is way more important... sob"

"Shizuku..."

"I'm glad you came back... I'm so happy to see you again..."

"Me too... I'm happy too... Shizuku"

We hugged each other.



... I have been embraced by Tsumugi-chan before, this was the first time I embraced someone else. And it was Shizuku, my dearest friend.

"Shizuku... I want you to ask me everything, about my true form, about Tsumugi-chan...."

"Ah... I'm sorry Tsumugi. The truth is, there's no time for that right now."

"Mugyu!?"

It was an important talk to me but...

"Hairi-kun... he disappeared just like you"

"Hairi-san!?"

"Yeah. No one saw him aboard the ferry, so he must be in the island."

"L-let's look for him quick!"

"Everyone is looking for him right now, so let's wait at the lighthouse."

"A-Alright."

After that, we waited for Hairi-san at the lighthouse. Shizuku asked me a bit about my past.

It seems she read Tsumugi-chan's diary so she already knew about the lighthouse and its keeper.

"Then, in order to be found by Tsumugi-chan and the keeper, you kept humming that song..."

"Yes... They both said they were able to find this place by listening to this song."

"I see..."

Saying that, Shizuku kept on holding me without rest.

"I'm sure Hairi-kun will appear soon."

"... I'm worried."

"It's fine. He promised to spend the summer with you right? Since you are here, he is sure to return too."

"I really hope so..."

"Hairi-kun keeps his promises, you know? Unlike Tsumugi!~ ♪ "

"Mugyu! I'm s-sorry... about that."

"It's true. But, since you already broke a promise, couldn't you also break the promise of going back home?"

Shizuku laughed gently... but I was still able to see a bit of her true feelings in her face.

"... Right."

That alone was impossible, still I agreed.

"I'm so happy!~ ♪ Then why don't we hum your song now?"

"Yes, let's do that."

"Besides, if you sing it, surely Hairi-kun will know you are here. Just like Tsumugi-chan and the keeper."

"Ooh, you're right!"

"But if you want to tell Hairi-kun you are here..."

Shizuku mumbled the first part of the song...

"Muu Mugyugyugyu~ ♪ Muu Mugyugyugyu~ ♪ Muu Mugyugyugyu~ ♪ ... How about that?"

"W-what's with those lyrics? That's really embarrassing..."

"Because the usual song belongs to Tsumugi-chan and the keeper, right? If you wanted to tell everyone you are here, this suits you more."

"Mugyu~... Y-you may be right."

"Then sing 'Mugyu Mugyu' and put all your effort in telling Hairi 'I am here!'"

Closing my eyes while being held by Shizuku, I started singing...
Shizuku also sung along with me.

——I am here——

——Shizuku is here——

——Hairi-san is here——

I sung with all my hopes.

Then I opened my eyes...

"Eh?"

"... Hairi... san?"

Suddenly, in front of us, Hairi-san was laying down.

"What a really strange thing, don't you think, Souseki-san?"

Souseki-san was finally getting properly dried, it was already time to take him inside. Then I heard a moaning of lament

"Tsu-Tsumugii... Please help me a bit!"

"Mugyu!? Ao-san!? I'm going right away!"

I helped Ao-san carry big package inside the lighthouse.

"Huuuh... that was heavy..."

"Good job... What's inside?"

"From now on Hairi will stay here, right? He ordered some means for that at the candy store and I'm here to deliver them"

"I see, thanks for that."

"It's nothing. I wonder what he ordered though, given the weight."

"Let's open it."

We opened the package and then.

"It's a futon."

"Hmm? But... J-just one!?"

"Yes, so it seems."

I already had one prepared here, so ordering just one was not a problem.

"Only one means... only one means... T-There weren't two, right? Then... umm..."

"If it's just one, then it's no problem at all!"

"At all!? Ah, th-that's right... You two are lovers after all, surely there's no problem. Rather it would be weird the other way around."

"Ao-san."

"B-but... Tsumugi has already.... I'm a bit shocked..."

She seemed a bit let down.

"By th-the way... how many times has it happened already?"

If she means the amount of times I've made sleepovers...

"Two times."

"I-I see..."

"The first time, Shizuku was also present, the second time we did it at Katou-san's house."

"Wait a minute... That first time sounds weird!"

"After that there was a time I did it with only Shizuku!"

"Unspeakable!"

"Wouldn't you want to do it this time too, Ao-san?"

"Whaaaaaat! I'm being invited to do something unspeakable!!"

Ao-san's face was blood red.

"I w-want to make memories with Tsumugi... so if you say so..."

"Mugyu! By all means!"

"So fast!"

"Then, s-see you later..."

"Suuure!~"

Ao-san went back home with a red colored face.

Then, approaching in her stead was——

"Right now Ao left with a terrified look on her face..."

——My third most dearest person, Hairi-san... My lover.

Hairi-san is, right now, preparing a lifetime worth of fun for me before the summer ends and I have to go back home. For that purpose, he's staying here with me.

"Ah, Hairi-san. This is my new friend, Ultra Souseki Number Eight Drowning-san."

"Did Nomiki give her that name?"

"No, it was Shiroha-san."

"Eh!? Really?"

He made a really surprised expression.

"Umm, a pleasure to meet you."

He shook Souseki-san's hand.

Doesn't he look like a person who really treasures me?

I'm sure you'll find someone who will take proper care of you as well.

I shared my memories of this summer with Hairi-san and Shizuku, as well with everyone in this island. Even though I believed to have plenty of time, when I listed the many things I wanted to do, the

time reduced. However, even in this short time, I made lots of memories.

There's not much time left, but since Hairi-san is staying here with me, I think there are still many things to do.

"Well, Tsumugi... I'll live here from now on so, please treat me kindly."

"Please treat me kindly as well."

And thus, we spent our little time left living together.

A certain day at noon.

"Hey, Tsumugi, let's make a doorplate"

"Ooh, good idea. Let's make it at the entrance"

"Don't you have any kind of plank of wood we could use to make it?"

"I don't. The only thing I have that we could use, are the Parangles cans."

"I don't think it would fit. Besides, the Parangles' logo is too flashy"

"Then, let's write it directly onto the entrance."

I wrote both my name and Hairi-san's on the lighthouse's entrance.

"It feels like we are a couple getting carried away and occupying a tourist attraction, don't you think?"

"Indeed, you are right..."

"It's not something the serious Tsumugi would do, right?"

"I'll erase it later. Ah, then how about we write it there?"

"The lid of the Parangles? Sounds great!"

I hand Hairi-san the lid and a pen, he writes "Takahara Hairi" on it.

I receive the lid and write my own name below his.

"Very well, Tsumugi... Wen——"

... It didn't fit. In that case.

"Hm? You finished?"

"Y-yes..."

I show the lid to Hairi-san.

"Tsu-tsumugi-san, how bold"

"I-I didn't have enough space!"

And so, without any other option, I wrote "Takahara Tsumugi" on the lid.

On a certain day, in the morning.

"By the way, Hairi-san, won't you shave while you stay here?"

"My facial hair is pretty sparse; it doesn't grow much."

"... I'd like to see Hairi-san with a grown mustache."

"I can't grow it that fast, you know?"

"Can I draw you one with a magic marker?"

"Fine by me, but let me draw one on you too"

"Sure, fine by me as well"

"Eh? Really?"

And thus, I drew a mustache on Hairi-san,

"... It looks like the mustache of Mister Parangles"

"Hairi-san, you look so cool..."

"Eh? R-really?"

"That mustache makes you look really good."

"I see... Ah, like you promised, let me draw you one too."

"Please go ahead"

Hairi-san ran the pen through my face. Like I thought, it was the mustache of Mister Parangles...

"It unexpectedly fits you..."

"Really? I want to look at it in the mirror."

I look at myself in the nearest mirror.

"... It gives the impression to taste like Honey Mustard."

"You're right. Mine's probably... Buffalo Wing?"

"Indeed. It suits you."

——*Knock knock*

"Tsumugii, Hairi-kuun, good morning."

Shizuku's voice could be heard from the outside.

"The Beef flavoring arrived."

"Let's make her one of us by all means!"

A certain night, this happened.

"Hairi-saan, are you awake?"

"... zzz... zzzz... hmm?"

Seems like he's sleeping

"... please don't wake up, okay?"

Trying to not make a sound at all, I get close to Hairi-san in all fours.
Then...

"Nnn... *chu*"

I kissed him.

Doing this while he's awake would be too embarrassing, I can't tell him I want a kiss.

Hairi-san also hasn't said he wants to do this.

That's why, just for a bit... while he's asleep.

"*chu... chu*"



Mugyu~... It's still pretty embarrassing.

"Umm... Tsumugi?"

"Mugyu~~~~~!?"

"U... umm... that was..."

"That was——— a kiss!"

"You're not trying to hide it!?"

"I'm not!"

"And why so sudden!?"

"Because I wanted to do it!"

"If that was the case..."

Hairi-san's face turned red. Surely, I was the same.

"You could have just said so."

"It was super embarrassing... I got all flustered..."

Having said that, Hairi-san gets up and looks towards me.

"We are doing everything you want to do... So, I want you to tell me everything you want to do, even if it's embarrassing."

"Mugyu... You are r-right. We promised that after all."

I said while looking at Hairi-san in the eyes.

"I want you to kiss me... while you hold me."

"...Alright."

He gets near me slowly.

We embrace each other strongly... and then we overlapped our lips.

The next day's morning was so embarrassing we couldn't look at each other in the eye.

But surely tomorrow, and the day after that, we would keep doing things like this.

The time left is not much, but what it is left... passionately... I don't mean the kiss. I'm talking about spending our time to the fullest.

——Boooooooooohh!

From far away, a steam whistle announcing the arrival of the ferry could be heard.

"Ah, Tsumugi, for today's event, Shizuki brought a lot of stuff so I'm going to help her."

"Sure, take care!"

Hairi-san left the lighthouse heading towards the harbor.

I wanted to look at both of them approaching, so I went to the top of the lighthouse.

I wonder what will happen today.

I was so excited I started to hum naturally...

"Muu Mugyugyugyu~ ♪ Muu Mugyugyugyu~ ♪ Muu Mugyugyugyu~.... ♪"

——I am here——

——Shizuku is here——

——Hairi-san is here——

——Forever.

I sung with all my hopes.