The Bookmark

Mateo found a bus ticket between the pages of a borrowed novel. Someone had written “keep reading tomorrow” on the back. It was Eugenia's handwriting. She had lent him the book before she moved.

He reached that page on a Sunday. Nothing much happened in the scene: two characters were peeling oranges by a window. He wondered why she had stopped there. Then he looked at the ticket and realized it was dated the day she had given him the book.

He texted to ask if she wanted it back. Eugenia said she still had the last chapter left. Mateo thought about telling her what happened once he got to the end. Then he suggested they read it together over the phone.

That night, when he closed the book, he left the ticket between the same two pages. Across town, someone was still reading at her own pace.