

Melody 131

Eternal Melody 131 I want to

Hino shook his head. What is he doing? Such negative thoughts are beyond him. "Then discuss it with Yuhi first and tell me right away. Will you two still attend the remaining days in the festival?"

"Mm, since I am supposed to sing."

"I will send a car around in the morning. The reporters will be laying wait early, but I doubt they will realize you will do the same."

"Okay, thank you."

He said a few more words before ending the call. Hino returned to his computer screen. There were many people discussing how Sumire should indeed come out and say something. His gaze fell on the hate comments and frowned.

Should I delete them?

But if I did that, the netizens would notice and it would reflect badly on Sumire. For now he should leave it but he wont allow such negative things about her on the net for long.

It is difficult for him to take action since Sumire is not a member of his company.

Posting her statement on this website was fine, since she is Yuhis girlfriend. But other formal announcements and events, it would be hard for them to intervene. It is not like she has a bad relationship with her company. So Hino wondered why Sumire was not contacting them.

Is there something he doesnt know?

The second day of the festival, Yuhi remained more vigilant and cautious. While Hino sent the car around and they managed to arrive safely. Yuhi could already see members of the media lurking around. However because he remained by Sumires side the entire time, nobody could get close to her.

It helps that their other classmates are around Sumire too. Everybody must have silently come to an agreement to help out after they saw the painting yesterday.

With normal people around Sumire, it wont be easy for the media to get close to her. So Yuhi supposes that was one problem solved. Still it wont do him any harm to remain cautious.

Yuhi cursed in his head when his heart sped a beat when she extended her hand out.

'I destroyed all the impulses I have for her a thousand times. I made sure to crush it all. But what is this situation now? I can't let you get closer. God, I want —

"Ah!" Sumire eyes widened at her hands. "The honey! It's dripping everywhere!"

Honey dripping? Yuhi finally realized what was going on. The two of them were having a short break and were eating silently in the corner of the stairwell. He was pouring honey onto Sumires waffles for her but it seemed like he accidentally got it on her hands instead.

"Hm? Oh."

He brought her hand to his lips like it was the most natural thing in the world. He managed to catch the trail of honey that was about to vanish into her sleeve.

Her hand trembled but she didn't pull away. "Um...?" Sumire suddenly looked nervous. "What on earth..?"

Honey coated his lips, as Yuhi continued to suck on the tender flesh.

This isn't enough, he wanted more. The voice inside his head was making him lose control. He wanted her fingers in his mouth, wanted to taste each and every --

"Ah.." hearing the small moan that came out of the girl's lips, he lost all control of his senses and pushed the girl down. "Yuhi..."

"Sorry." Yuhi mumbled. "I won't do anything but I just want to.."

He wants to feel her. He wants to do more things to her. Stupid age difference. If Sumire and him were the same age then he could do something and nobody would care. Maybe he would not have these thoughts if he did not touch her that one time.

Then again it seems like even if he didn't touch her, something would have happened eventually.

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Once the brunette left, he heard a clapping sound. Yuhi sighed once he saw a man with blonde hair.

I thought this guy returned to Star Town already. But it seems like he is still lurking around.

"What do you want Masaru?" Yuhi said.

"Such a cold hearted guy as usual. Careful though that type is popular with the ladies, they become extremely cautious."

At that he clicked his tongue recalling the brunette's behaviour earlier, so that was just her being cautious? Somehow its irritating, though its something he knew already.

"As for what I want, I just came here to see the festival."

"Liar, nanairo feather are having problems aren't they?"

Masaru smiles. "As expected your sharp."

"Not really. Hino likes to surf the net a lot and found out. Though it hasn't been made public yet so she hasn't caught wind of it..." Yuhi trails off. "The reason is Ichinose?"

"Indeed that's right. Even if we all do our best, plenty of groups have centers now - a single one. Our group has gained attention for the wrong reasons. Everyone snaps a lot whenever 'center' is mentioned - and not to mention how you all seem to sing Lady's songs so well.

Mikaze was the first to loose it, followed by Masa - Daiki, Ochiibichan. Me and Nao while we were still calm came over here but even I'm beginning to lose my confidence.

I came here to check on Sumire. But it seems like I don't have to worry at all." Masaru pulled out a rose from god knows where. "Over here, there is a chance for her to be free."

At that comment his eyes went wide, what is he...?

"If by some chance something does happen to us. Yuhi take her."

Hold on what? When Yuhi looked up and saw that a serious looked replaced the playful look.

"You want me to take her away?" Yuhi repeated making sure he heard correctly.

How is that possible? Yuhi understood how important Sumire was to the guys in Nanairo Feather. To think Masaru is saying something like this. Is the situation that bad?

Nanairo Feather is the group Sumire composes for. They were also her main inspiration for that painting back in middle school. After seeing that painting, he understood how important those people were to her.

He found this hard to believe. While he kept up to date with that groups activities. Yuhi did not think the situation is worse enough for Masaru to say something like this. Maybe there is more to this situation than meets the eye.

Eternal Melody 132 Worried

Soft laughter escaped Masaru's lips. "Exactly that. Although her staying by our senpai's isn't too bad either. You've always cared so much for her, and I'm sure that behavior reflects on those surrounding you. The lady is important to us, and she is the reason we all came together.

But we found a reason to stay together even when she left, yet it all came crumbling down. I am still quite fond of this team, and I'll try to keep everyone together, but I've never been suited for quite a role anyway." He walked off and halted. "The article will be published during the summer. When that happens, there will be a lot of fuss around the lady, too; you'll accept my proposition then."

With those words said, the golden-haired boy left, leaving him completely stunned.

His gaze lands on the painting behind him and the one opposite --... Ah, in the end, despite Sumires days becoming brighter now. There will always darkness lurking in the corner. The truth is Sumire already knows does-- his thoughts broke off when he spotted a familiar shade of brown.

Sumire? Yuhi knew that the brunette would not leave easily. But he did not think she would wait in such an obvious place.

She leaned on the pillar outside with a dazed expression on her face. She already heard it all; it seems. Yuhi walked over to where she was." What will you do?"

"That caught me off guard. So let me have a time out for a second..."

There was silence for a little while before he heard light and awkward laughter.

"I knew from the beginning. I understand that it's because of me, and at the same time, I can't do anything. Things will only get better if I return,' that's what most people would say. Indeed that may be the case. But its no good, even now I have no desire to leave here even if I do long to be with them. Those days are so very precious, and even now, I still store them from the depths of my heart. Everyone over here has become so very important. That's why I won't go."

Yuhi closed his eyes. "If I let you go?"

If he allows her to leave, then there is a high risk that he will never see her again. Sumire will return to her lifestyle there, and what reason would he have to see her again? What excuse would he need to

"Would you?"

"If the need arises then I will. Having nanairo feather disband isn't good for us after all, let alone you---"
Yuhi stopped when she reappeared right beside him and grabbed hold of his hand.

For a moment, he froze. What is she doing?

"Right now, no matter what anyone says. I belong to you. I won't return to them. I wish to stay beside you, is that so difficult to believe?" Sumire said.

I belong to you.

Those five words repeated over and over like a spell in his head.

She says such bold things so easily. Ahh, really, this person truly is foolish. But at least she is smiling now. Sumire suites a smiling face better.

"Ah, your blushing."

Yuhi pulled the brunette into a deep embrace once more and brushed their foreheads together. "Take responsibility."

"So silly."

...

After that, he decided to have a quick smoke break. However, when he recalled the warmth from Sumires lips earlier, he chose not to smoke for long. He wanted to savor the sensation more. Yuhi found her in the middle of the corridor on the second floor of the main building.

His gaze fell towards the girl who was cheerfully speaking to Aika.

Sumire leaned forward. "That was fast."

"Mmm." He kissed her lips. "Anything happened?"

"I was thinking of lending the fashion department a hand. They need extra models."

"Then, I will join you."

While the fashion department mainly has female students, there are still male students there. If he isn't careful, one of them could try to make a move on her again.

Her gaze softened. "Then, okay." She trailed off. "Yuhi-san, did you notice? You're strangely clingy to me recently."

"Does that bother you?"

"No, I like it." Sumire laughed. "A bit too much actually. So if it is only temporary, then please stop now before I get addicted."

Yuhi blinked when he heard those words.

I did notice that something differed now. But even then, this change is something.

Sumire was always a cheerful girl. But due to what happened when she was a child, slowly, she could no longer act childish. She had to shoulder the weight and responsibility behind the Ibuki family name after her parent's accident. Discovering that she has abnormal strength and becoming a prominent figure in the delinquent world. With all that crazy stuff going on in her life, it is no wonder that she seldom smiles.

Crap...this is bad. She was cute before, but now she has transcended a whole new level of cuteness.

Sumire tilted her head. "Yuhi-san?"

"Well, could I kiss you for five minutes?"

At that comment, Sumire covered her mouth with her hands. "Uh, right. I wondered what you wanted from me." She looked around and made eye contact with Aika.

Aika rolled her eyes. "The stairwell over there is empty. But don't blame me if you get caught fooling around."

"We aren't fooling around."

"Yes, yes."

Yuhi tugged on her hand, and Sumire laughed. "Okay, let's go."

It did not take them long before they reached the stairwell at the end of the hall. As Aika said, it was empty. It seemed like no students went by here to get to any of the locations. It was the perfect spot for him to harass-- no kiss his girlfriend.

He did not kiss her right away, despite his eagerness to do so. "The reporters didn't harass you?" This was why he was reluctant to take a smoke break earlier.

"They didn't." She played with the buttons on his collar. "Yuhi-san, what are we doing?"

He chuckled at her words. "Sorry, is this a bit too much for you?"

"Well, it is a bit new to me. But as Shakespeare said, everything in this world happens for a reason."

Yuhi sighed. "Don't quote things from a book of tragedies now of all times. You will destroy the mood."

"Then should I quote Dazais no longer human?"

"Sumire."

Sumire laughed. "I am joking with you."

Geez, this girl, and her teasing.

"Today, please don't leave my side. I am very worried."

Since earlier, Yuhi could not erase this feeling that something terrible would happen. He could be wrong, and that will be the end of this. But until somebody proves him wrong, he won't let Sumire out of his sight today.

"Is that not a problem? What about going to the bathroom.."

"Sumire," Yuhi said sharply. "Be serious."

The girl sighed as she wrapped her arms around his neck and leaned forward. "I am trying to lighten the mood. I understand you are concerned for me, but please calm down."

Calm down, huh? That is easier said than done. What if something happens to her? What if those reporters corner her? What if they ask her about Mamoru, and she breaks down? It is too risky.

Eternal Melody 133 Is this a date?

Sumire glanced over at Yuhi who was surrounded by a huge group of people. Of course some people praised her for getting Yuhi to come here.

But many were jealous girls, so the majority were sending death death glares in her direction. So it turns out they only used her to get Yuhi here. She deeply sighed, well it cant be helped.

Not everybody has accepted her yet. She managed to win over the hearts of her classmates with that painting yesterday, and most of the art students. But there are still many who disliked her.

During the commotion online last night Sumire noticed one thing. Several usernames stood out to her. These people were members of her school. They tried to be clever but it failed.

Logging on using a school computer... It seems like they had no idea that there is a small star next to their names that symbolizes which organization they came from.

It was amusing to see which individuals thought they could trash her.

Clearing my name huh?

Such a thought never crossed my mind before.

After what happened with Ru, Sumire thought it was fine for people to continue trash talking. She did not see the need to correct them, since there are more important things to deal with. Who caused Rus accident? Why did they do it?

Her thoughts broke off when somebody placed a small box on her lap.

She looked up and found Yuhi.

"I thought you were too busy flirting."

"Hey now it isn't my fault."

Sumire sighed. "Whatever, is this a bribe?" She pointed to the box on her lap.

"Mm, open it."

She opened the box and a familiar aroma caught her attention.

"Your forgiven."

Yuhi chuckled, he bent down and kissed her lips. "Mm."

Her eyes widened. It was only a brief kiss and yet.. What is with this guy? Why does he randomly kiss her out of no where?

"Say Yuhi-san, why are you so popular?"

His sweat fell at her question but Sumire continued. "I am serious about this. It does not make sense for somebody like you who has a bad personality to be popular and yet here you are enjoying your harem everyday."

"You need to do something about that foul mouth and wild imagination of yours. Maybe if I keep kissing you, you will say sweeter things."

Sumire sighed. "If that is what you want from me then I am afraid you will have to break up with me. You should know by now that I have a difficult personality." Her sentence fell short when Yuhi leaned forward and took a bite out of the manju in her hands.

She immediately froze at this action of his.

"Too sweet."

Aagghhh, she underestimated him. Yuhi-san is more shameless than she thought, or maybe this is normal behaviour for people like him? It is difficult to say.

"Yuhi-san, shouldn't you be helping?" She pointed to the group of girls who were looking over and glaring at them.

"Na, I was thinking we should go elsewhere."

Her eyes widened when she heard these words. "You turned them down?"

"Since they tricked you." Yuhi stood up and extended his hand out. "You can eat and walk can't you?"

Sumire nodded and they quickly left the classroom. Out on the corridor it was still bustling with life. Though the main attractions are outside due to the good weather, there is still plenty of activities inside. Sumire looked around curiously. For an arts school the decorations are more extravagant, bright and colorful. Each piece is decorated with care.

It seems like they went all out. She didn't get a chance to look around properly yesterday, so this was the first time she could look around. Her gaze fell towards Yuhi.

He looks bored, does he not like these events? Or maybe he does not want to walk around with her?

As she thought this Yuhi suddenly pulled her into his arms. Sumire looked at him puzzled when she saw a couple walking past. Ah, did she almost bump into them?

"I know you are excited. But is this stuff that exciting?"

Sumire nodded happily. "Yes, I never went to school events before. So this is the first time for me."

"Not even last year?"

"All that stuff with Sano happened in June, so it was difficult for me to concentrate."

"I see. Well you will like it here then, we have two grand festivals and the regular one in June."

Her eyes brightened at that. It seems like she chose a good school to come to after all.

"I see. Then I'll have to go to all the places you want today."

Sumire smiled at him. "Really? Yay."

"But sometimes weird ones slip in to these cultural festivals. So you better be careful." He explained.

Her eyes went wide, at his sudden serious tone. He looks really concerned. It's almost like that time.

That moment in the infirmary. If Shin never came back with the guys, what would have happened? The brunette tried to forget about it, but it clearly wasn't possible. They were so close to each other then, and he even kissed her.

Ah her completely messed up heart. These feelings are weird. Now that she thought about it, she had that trial date with senpai. It was then she realised she didn't love him in the same way he loved her.

When senpai said he loved her, why didn't it make her happy? When senpai was about to kiss her, why did she push him away?

In the end she concluded it with she no longer has any feelings for him. It is different with Yuhi though.

Yuhi hits her head. "You okay?"

"Ah yeah. Sorry I just spaced out for a second" she said with a nervous chuckle. Before Yuhi could respond, somebody tapped her shoulder. The two turn around to see someone head to toe in a black cloak.

"Pardon me you guys. What did you have to eat this morning?"

"Eh this morning? What was it again?" Sumire pondered. Atushi prepared such a feast this morning. So she couldn't really remember. He always does make a big deal out of her breakfast for some reason.

She turned to Yuhi. "What did you eat?"

"I don't eat." He said casually. He doesn't eat breakfast? She was sure to lecture him about it later on. Now that she thought about it, normally he is too busy fooling around and flirting with her.

"Ehhh! Oh no a great disaster will fall. For today beware off your surroundings."

Their surroundings? The person puts her hand out. "That will be 1000 yen."

The two of them gave their money, and the cloaked person rused over to a group. "I spoke with Yuhi-sama."

"Kanao your so lucky."

Kanao? Ueda Kanao from Class C. So that's who it was.

"What on earth was that though?"

"I told you to watch out for the weirdos."

Yeah but she had no idea that they would show up so soon. "But anyway shall we get something to eat?"

"I'd like something to drink first before having something to eat."

"Hmm. I'll get some stuff so wait here."

Sumire nodded and watched as Yuhi disappeared into the crowd. What a strange feeling. Is this a date?

Eternal Melody 134 Is there anything you want?

A date huh? Since they became a couple, it was difficult for them to go out. Yuhi has a very busy schedule. She does not want to disturb him too much. For her it is enough that he is staying by her side. But occasionally she would like to do things as a normal couple. Sumire shuddered when she felt a gaze on her, she looked at the direction and saw somebody suspiciously dressed.

A pair of huge sunglasses, a large bag and the camera in their hands. The media huh? Since they cant get close to her, they are resorting to doing this.

Her thoughts went back to the fortune, it was a strange fortune. But the way that girl said it made her curious. Be aware of her surroundings? Is that referring to the media? So far they did not do anything, but for how much longer will this continue?

"Um excuse me. Do you have a minute?"

She glanced over to see two nervous looking guys. "We are doing sign ups with this cultural festival. But because off the atmosphere in this place we don't have any clients."

The atmosphere? Ah-- maybe it isnt anything art or music related? Indeed she could understand why students here would not bother with other things. All the clubs in this school are tailored towards art or music.

"Sign ups?" Sumire repeated.

"Yes. This is it." One of them handed her the clipboard with the empty list on it.

"If it's okay with you would you like to cooperate with us?"

"Please show your support for give unblessed children the hand of love."

At that commented her eyes widened.

"What --What wonderful people." Sumire said her eyes sparkling.

Normally she would neve sign up for anything that looked so suspicious. But these people seemed so friendly and nice.

"Of course I'll do it. I'll do it. I'll do it. Everyone's really mean ignoring your hard work."

"Ah thank you very much." The dark haired one thanked her. Before adding. "Um if you came with someone could you also get him to sign?"

Huh? That's strange how did they know it's a guy she came with? She shakes the disturbing thought out off her mind. "Yes I'll put his name down while I'm at it."

Ibuki Sumire

Once she finished writing her own name. She wrote down Terashima Yuhi.

The two looked at the name with widened eyes.

"Terashima Yuhi?"

"Is it the same Terashima.."

"Could it be the super popular guy from the art class .. Terashima Yuhi?"

Sumire thought their reaction was strange but nodded. "Ah yeah that's right."

"Is something wrong?" Sumire however only just asked this question when she felt somebody knock her head lightly. She glanced up and saw Yuhi holding up an ice cream cone.

"What? Are weirdos harassing you?" Yuhi asked as he glanced over at the two guys.

"No I just signed your name to a sig--"

Yuhi cut her off again, a pissed off looking expression on his face. "My signature ?"

"It's the real thing." The dark hair guy said grabbed hold off Yuhis wrist. "Yes we got a big one. Now with this we don't have any problems with our quota."

Wait there what?

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People often told her before, no matter how smart she is - there are many things she does not know. Atushi and senpai often commented that she is the type who is deceived easily. She always rejected that idea because of how cautious she is towards other people. But it seems like she ought to rethink this situation.

Her sweat dropped when she heard people murmuring. She was glad in a way they weren't making any comments about her. But she felt bad for Yuhi. Since they exited the main building earlier, he was sulking.

"So Sumire, why didn't you confirm it properly?" That sign up was class 3-D basketball register."

Yeah she got tricked. Currently the two were sitting on one of the benches, in the basketball club grounds. She didn't know that the school had a sports court like this. So it seems like cultural clubs are not the only things one would find here?

"Sorry." Sumire apologized.

"Even so your influence is amazing. Since you are participating in this plan. The bets have increased. Even though we have a lot of members, nobody is special so we had a difficult time..."

"I understand your problem. Look at us we were only here because you used that cheap and cowardly trick." Yuhi said bluntly.

If looks could kill, these people would be dead by now. This is the first time she saw such a look on his face.

"I mean if you didn't use us, this place would be a ghost town."

Her sweat dropped, hey hey now that is way too harsh. But he seems really angry, he probably wanted to go to other places too.

"Besides if you think about it. Isn't it too damn hot to play sports?" By this point the two shrunk away and rushed off. They made some excuses up about preparing.

"Hey are you mad?" Sumire asked. It was a stupid question, of course he is mad.

"Huh?"

"You warned me and this is what happened. It's my fault you got involved." Sumire glance down at her feet. Even now she is dragging people down with her, even though it wasn't intentionally she was still doing it.

"Well I think you're a big idiot."

She knew it. "But you know." He interlocked his hand with her own, causing her eyes to widen. His arms were around her once again.

"I got used to it." Yuhi said licking the ice cream he just bought her. She turns a bright shade of red, as he licked his lips. There was something seductive about the way he moved his lips.

Thump, thump - she hears the repeated sound of her thumping heart.

"More importantly I will be sad if the person I bought this for didn't eat it now. Are you going to eat it?"

Her is still beating rapidly, her palms sweaty but there is nothing she can do about it now. "Okay.."

This guy beside her is Terashima Yuhi. He was her most important person right now. The only person who could understand her, and watched over her the past few years. So this is what Atushi meant by something special, happening in the cultural festival huh?

Is it okay for her to be happy? Is it okay for her to make memories with this person? Even now Sumire doubted it, but just for a little while longer it should be okay.

"You don't have to join on." Yuhi suddenly said.

"Eh?"

"I am worried that you would faint since it is too hot."

Sumire chuckled softly. "I am surprised you remember that."

"Mmm. I stalk you remember?"

"Yuhi-san." Sumire said as she leaned forward. "I would like it if we remain like this for awhile. I was thinking too that I do not mind getting closer to you."

"Close?"

"As your girlfriend, is there anything you want from me?"

"Anything huh?" Yuhi trailed off. "There is something I want but I will wait."

Is he talking about that? It seems like all guys think about that stuff huh?

Eternal Melody 135 Game

On a day as hot as this, she wanted nothing more than to remain indoors. But when she saw the huge crowd, she decided to help out.

In the end, they ended up going against the disciplinary president and vice president. Really what is with this situation? She knew that the disciplinary club president Katsuragi had this sort of weird relationship with Yuhi. Still, the two always seemed to get so worked up when they see each other.

"We look forward to playing you."

"I haven't played in so long," Sumire admitted. "There are a lot of people too." Though she said this casually, she felt nervous seeing the huge crowd. There are too many people here.

I don't want to stand out any more than this.

But isn't it too late already?

"Hmm, I hope you don't make a mistake and slow me down."

"Wait; what? You want me to start? I don't even know if I can hit the ball or not. It's been so long; you would do a better job than me." Sumire insisted.

"Yeah. But I never played basketball before so.."

For a moment, she did not register the words he just said. How is it possible?

Wait, what the? What on earth was going on here? "Eh wait just now, weren't you talking all big about how we would win? You made it sound like our victory was guaranteed."

She couldn't believe that he didn't even play basketball that much, what on earth were they supposed to do now?

"Ah, is that so? Then you can count on me. I will win for sure." Yuhi said with a huge grin on his face. Her sweatdropped, where on earth did all that confidence come from.

"What what? The match hasn't even started yet, and you guys are arguing already? If that's the case, then I don't think you guys have what it takes to play against us junior level nationalists. Right, Miss?" Katsuragi said, wrapping his arm around the vice president, who seemed shocked.

Sumire rolled her eyes at that. It is so obvious she likes that man. But forget about shooting. These two are on a completely different level. She thought this was all messed up from the beginning and all.

Now the conditions for this scenario are getting even worse. It does not matter for her if she were to lose.

But her gaze fell towards the crowd of people. Despite the large crowd, it was easy to spot the reporters. She does not want Yuhi-sans reputation to get ruined because of her.

Since they cant catch her out, they will surely direct their frustration towards Yuhi instead.

"It will be fine, don't worry about it."

"If you guys are in, you better make it worth our while," Katsuragi said.

It seems as though they will just have to finish them off.

It is strange, though; she has never fought alongside Yuhi like this before. No, whenever they worked together in the past, it was something to do with the delinquent world. Working as a pair like this for something other than fighting and painting makes her feel strange.

What is this odd feeling?

The crowd grew more excited.

"Yamsenpai good luck."

"Got it," Katsuragi said, smiling.

So fake, he acts like a completely different person when he is around Yuhi.

"Miss Nako looks gorgeous."

"Yuhi is so hot."

"Go, Yuhi."

"Which team did you bet on?"

"Yamsenpais, of course."

"Eh but Yuhi-sama wont lose."

"True, but he paired with some unknown person, so I think he will lose this time."

"Your right, I have never seen her before."

"Can she even play? She looks so fragile."

"It's irritating enough that Yuhi-sama paired up with her."

The brunette heard boos from the crowd, and she knew they increased more. However, her focus wasn't on that; she had to focus on the game right now. That's all she had to think about right now, nothing else.

Take a deep breath. She closed her eyes; it is okay. Quite some time has passed since she last played, but how could she forget the skills engraved into her growing up? As a child, she often played basketball with her cousins.

So this is not hard for her.

Feel the movement of the ball, blank my mind, and clear my thoughts. I could do this.

Her eyes went wide when she managed to shoot it inside the goal. Wow, she..

"I managed it. Quite some time has passed, but I guess my body still remembers it." Sumire said happily. The thought that she could still play one of her favourite sports excited her.

When she debuted as an idol, the company instructed her not to play anymore. So it has been quite a while. When she grew older, playing basketball was one way for her to release some stress.

"She is good."

"What's with that girl? She's actually like super good."

Her lips curved to a smile when she heard those comments. The reporters from earlier who looked eager suddenly wore distressed expressions on their faces. It seems like she can turn this situation around.

...

Quite sometime later

Neither side had yet to yield.

Just when one thought the game was over, it extended. Both teams were in the same situation, panting heavily and entirely out of breath.

Sumire deeply sighed; she knew that participating in this would exhaust her. But she was way too naive about things as usual. Yuhi said it was okay, and that he didn't mind getting dragged into it. However, she really was worried.

She found it hard to believe that he was okay with this. It seemed like when they started playing, Yuhi did better than she thought. But it was because of this she noticed. Ever since the game began, he did not play seriously.

Something special, huh? Something like that happened. In a way, was this a stroke of luck? Or really just bad luck. The brunette was no longer sure.

"What done already?" Katsuragi mocked. "Entertain us some more before you lose."

"As you wish."

The brunette glanced over at Yuhi, who seemed rather irritated. Her sweat fell. It seems like she ought to end this match quickly before Yuhi-san blows. "Actually. I don't get why your talking so big when we're tied right now."

"That's because it's obvious were the superior team. Beauty and intelligence wise." Katsuragi responded.

Yumi's sweatdropped. She should have known it was for a reason like that. "Playing sports like this reminds me of anime and manga."

"Ah, I know what you mean. I just want to try those killer moves even once. Just once is good enough for me."

Sumire blinked. It seems like she may have a few things in common with this person. She did not bother with him before since Yuhi-san seemed to— her thoughts broke off when somebody snatched her ball. It was Yuhi.

"Err Yuhi-san? What is wrong?"

He did not say a word, but she noticed how cold his gaze was. Did she do something wrong? Before she could even react, Yuhi scored a three-pointer from this distance. With the remaining time being a few seconds, that three-pointer ended the game.

Eternal Melody 136 Would you

"Game Terashim Ibuki pair. 4-3."

Her sweat fell when she heard the signal for the end of the game. It seems like she has underestimated Yuhi-san. Despite his words at the start, it seemed like he has more skill than any of them here. But huh, wait a moment..

Could it be, he could have ended this game anytime?

"They had a handicap." Katsuragi declared.

She rolled her eyes at this declaration and sighed.

"It seems like I underestimated how stupid you are sir."

"Ibuki is so cold." Katsuragi cried.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi harshly tugged on her hand. "Uh Yuhi-san---" She stopped talking when she saw the serious look in his eyes.

Is he jealous again?

Sumire leaned forward and kissed his cheeks. "Thank you."

At that action the crowd turned quiet before everybody burst into chatter.

"I thought that girl was familiar but isn't that Ibuki Sumire?"

Yuhi grabbed hold of her hand. "Let's go."

...

The sports court is larger than she thought, they ran for what felt like forever before they finally stopped at another space. Yuhi slumped down on the ground and let go of her hand. "Hah, running when I am already this tired..."

"Are you okay Yuhi-san?"

His lips curve to a smile. "I will be."

She felt her heart beat when she saw that smile. What is he implying? She took a deep breathe before she sat down beside him. "Do you think those reporters will write about today?"

"Does it bother you?"

"Well, I don't care what they write about me." Sumire admitted. Why would she care after all this time?

Yuhi flicked her forehead. "I can guess what you are thinking, and the same goes for me."

Indeed Yuhi-san has been a member of the entertainment industry since he was a child. So this should be normal. It seems stupid for her to worry about such things if the person himself is not worried. She immediately relaxed when she felt him intertwine their hands.

She feels so content and at ease. She wonders how this person does it? How does he reassure her every single time?

Her thoughts broke off when he suddenly kissed her passionately. For the next few minutes her mind turned blank.

"Yu—uh—"

He pulled away and brushed their forehead against one another. Sumire noted how flushed his face was. It seems like they are the same. How stupid.

"Sorry, I keep using my..."

"O—h that's fine."

"I see, you like it better that way?"

This is so embarrassing. What kind of conversation is this? Or rather she wonders about what he just asked there. Did she prefer it that way?

Yuhi likes kissing a lot, and he showed her many different types of kissing before but the ones that she liked.. The ones that leave her breathless and wanting more...

"Sumire."

"Y—yes?"

"You seem nervous but uh I guess I am not one to talk there. I wonder what I am doing with you, this seems so stupid."

She has to agree with them there. Why does she keep getting so flustered? Not just her but him too. Are they idiots? This isn't a shoujo manga or drama.

"I've never seriously gone out with someone before, so I don't know what to do."

Sumire blinked when she heard those words. "But what about your exes.."

"With Touko it was all about art and with Makino uhh.." Yuhi looked away and shifted his gaze from her.

Sumire frowned at this. She did a background check so she already knew. But she wanted to hear it from him.

"Yuhi-san, why aren't you telling me?"

"Because you already know."

"I want you to explain it to me."

A deep sigh crossed his lips. "So stubborn, it is for your own good if you don't hear it from me. Well it is like your research. Makino and I had a more sexual relationship. The two of us seldom went anywhere and when we did, we did that stuff outdoors."

While he explained it to her, Sumire noticed how he was doing so vaguely. When she asked this Yuhi insisted it was too explicit. Well she supposes she can't get anything more out of him there.

Besides it would be cruel of her to ask for those details. What he did with his ex-girlfriend should stay between them. Yuhi-san telling her all of this is enough.

Sumire rested her head on his shoulder. "Okay stop now." She trailed off and sighed. "Maybe I'm the one who is being unreasonable here."

"Mmm, nothing wrong with jealousy."

She rolled her eyes at that acceptance of his. "Why did you get jealous back there?"

"You know I dislike Katsuragi and yet you two were getting all chummy."

They were? They barely exchanged any words. Sure they spoke a bit during the match but that was all. She does not understand Yuhi-san's way of thinking. But it did lead to them winning.

"Yuhi-san, could you teach me how to play basketball?"

"I will but I believe we could do more important things for now."

"Like?"

"Like flirting and getting more intimate."

She looked away when she heard those words and bit her bottom lip. Yuhi cupped her cheeks. "No?"

"I do want it." She admitted. "But somehow I don't think this is the time and pl--" Sumire paused. The reason Yuhi-san can do this stuff so easily is because of his ex girlfriends right?

If only she summoned the courage to confess before, then those two girls would not have stood a chance at all. She regrets it and yet there is nothing wrong with the present. If they dated back then, they would have surely broken up. But things differ now, they are more mature and can understand each other better.

"Yuhi-san would you marry me?"

"H--hey now..."

"I want us to date with marriage in mind."

At that comment Yuhi deeply sighed. "Damn, I can't win against you at all. I thought I could but it seems like I can't."

"Yuhi-san?"

"Well, mmm okay. But Sumire if you change your mind anytime between now and graduation, tell me right away."

Eternal Melody 137 I like him more than I thought

How surprising, she did not think he would agree with her. But then again she has learned by now that Yuhi likes her a lot.

'Why does he like me this much? I don't remember doing anything in particular to catch his attention like this. Should I ask people?'

Before she could say anything else, Sumire felt Yuhi slump his head on her shoulder. She glanced over and noticed that he was fast asleep. Sumire blinked and sighed.

It appears as though she has underestimated this person quite a bit. Not only did she underestimate his feelings, she has underestimated her feelings for him.

'I like him more than I thought I did.'

That was the last thought she had before she drifted off.

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Day 3 - Iro Road High School Festival -

"They say the flower arrangement club, is doing a haunted house."

"Whoa scary"

"But those 5 will be serving as hosts."

"Really?"

"We should check it out."

"Yuhi-sama."

"Kita."

"Taikeru is so cute."

"Kojiro.."

"They say Ibuki Sumire is amongst those guys."

"The Ibuki Sumire?"

"She is a rumoured beauty."

Sumire sweat fell when she heard these comments. She finished changing a few minutes ago, and was putting up the sign at the door. The flower arrangement club huh? She recalled what happened when Yuhi and her returned yesterday and deeply sighed. It seems like there are many things she still does not understand about Yuh-san and his school life.

To think he has friends like this from other classes and what's with this flower arrangement club thing? A bunch of guys and flower arrangement?

[GHOST HUNT

Entrance Fee: 300 yen

Welcome to the flower arrangement clubs ghost hunt house. However this is no simple haunted house, among the way you will encounter ghosts or hosts. Yes you heard correctly hosts. The five members of the flower arrangement club will be at your service today. But you must clear all your obstacles before you reach us. You can only enter one room once so be very careful.

-Flower arrangement club.]

At your service...huh? 'I don't want Yuhi to get close to any girls. But it seems like they planned this activity before she came to this school, so I have no right to complain about it.'

Sumire understood that but it worried her. Those girls will most likely make unreasonable demands towards Yuhi.

Should she disguise herself as a customer and then occupy Yuhi's time instead? There is nothing in the instructions about a time limit. Besides who would know how much time she spends in there?

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi hugged her from the back. "Hey, done?"

"Mmm, yes."

Yuhi turned her around and wrapped his arms around her waist. "Today we might be a bit busy, but we can spend some time together during lunch."

Sumire nodded. She wanted to ask him about what services he will provide the customers. This is still a school event so it shouldn't be anything unreasonable right? But for some reason Sumire got a bad feeling from this.

Her thoughts broke off when she heard the sound of a shutter. She immediately shuddered hearing that sound.

It was the sound of a camera from a reporter. It seems like the media intends to bother them today too. She thought this before, but what is with these people? Don't they have anything better to do? Sure this is their job and they won't get paid if they do not have a story. But there are certain boundaries they should not cross. This is a normal school event.

Artists have their private lives too. The reporters did not ask the school for permission. But unfortunately there are far too many to drive off. The school tried to yesterday, drive away the reporters. But they only managed half, and even then there are more people here today than the other day.

Yuhi kissed her forehead gently and squeezed her hands. "You okay?"

"I am--" Just before she could finish her sentence, she felt the bile rise to her throat.

She quickly rushed into the classroom and threw up on the sink on the side. A rush of bile appeared on the sink, due to the dim lights in the room she could not make out the colour. But it felt unusual to her.

Sumire felt Yuhi's large hands pat her back. "You okay Sumire?" Yuhi repeated.

She slumped her head on his chest. "Sorry."

She dislikes this weak part of her. Weakness is a sin, it only gets in the way. The moment one shows their weak side to another person is the moment they admit defeat. The moment they need to accept that their relationship with the other person will end. Sumire understood this better than anybody, and that was why she always held her feelings back.

She would not cry in front of anybody, she would bottle up all her emotions.

Yuhi shook his head. "You can rely on me, its okay."

It took her a few minutes before she calmed down. Somebody placed a cup of water in front of her, it was one of the flower club arrangement members Kojiro.

"Thank you."

Kojiro nodded. She noticed yesterday that he was a man of little words.

"Are the others ready?" Yuhi asked as he continued to pat her back.

"Yeah just waiting for you two."

Yuhi turned to her. "Why don't you rest for a few minutes?"

Sumire shook her head. "No, I am fine now."

Besides she wants to make a good impression in front of Yuhi's friends. She noticed it yesterday but Yuhi acts differently around these people. Yuhi brushed his hands across her forehead. "You look sick Sumire."

"But I am--" Her sentence fell short when Yuhi picked her up and carried her. He took her out of the classroom and walked across the hallway.

This is the direction of the infirmary.

Sumire however could not concentrate on that since she noticed people looking. Despite how crowded it was, Sumire knew they gathered a lot of attention. Yuhi however did not notice and continued walking down the halls. She glanced over and noticed a distressed expression on his face. It seems like she can't say anything if he is like this.

It did not take long before they arrived at the infirmary.

Yuhi gently laid her on the bed at the furthest end. "Alright, go get some sleep. Rest for as long as you want."

"Only two hours." Sumire mumbled as she brought the blanket to her face.

His lips curve to a smile. "So you will admit that you're sleepy now?"

"No."

Yuhi bent down and kissed her lips lightly. "Sleep well Sumire."

She must have drifted off right after he said those words, since she does not recall him leaving the room.

Eternal Melody 138 Camera

When Sumire next opened her eyes, four hours had passed. Her gaze fell towards the clock that read twelve and she sighed deeply. Why did she sleep so much again? This happened yesterday too. Yuhi fell asleep so she decided to do the same. The next time she woke up, the day was over and everybody was packing up.

She still felt sleepy even now and wanted nothing more than to dive back into the covers and rest. But Sumire knew if she did not get up now, she would not make it for the concert tonight.

The concert huh? Despite all those preparations, Sumire felt that it was useless now. The reporters on the grounds will keep a close eye on her. At this stage she might as well perform normally. But could she?

Since the festival started, Sumire avoided walking alone. But she knew it would be bad for her to call Yuhi out just to get her. It should be okay right? The classroom isn't too far away from here.

She took a deep breath.

It should be fine.

Sumire quickly got up, she fixed her hair with her hands and fixed the creases on her clothes. She made up the bed and exited the room quickly. For some reason the halls were not as crowded as earlier. Did the guests go to lunch outside?

No sooner did Sumire exit the infirmary though, she heard the sound of a shutter.

"Ah, so you finally came out. I got tired of waiting for you Miss Ibuki Sumire."

At that comment she flinched when she heard the voice. It was a reporter she recognized very well. He was one of the rather persistent types. During her debut banquet he asked so many questions that it ended up sounding like an interrogation. Her agency had to politely escort hi out of the premises then.

She did not think much of it then, especially when she realized how young he was.

Sumire turned around and saw a man with ginger coloured hair and chocolate brown coloured eyes. He wore a grey coloured suit with the collar unbuttoned and a loose midnight blue coloured tie. A auburn red coloured best shirt with orange crosses on the side and auburn red pants.

"Mr Zen."

"Mr sounds so informal, we are the same age just call me Zello."

Sumire did not say anything as she cautiously looked at the camera in his hands. It was a separate incident from the car accident, but during the time she dated Sano she got into an accident. The last thing she saw was that camera. But Sumire knew that this person was not the cause of what happened then.

"Then Zello, is your father well?" The one who caused her unease and distress is this mans father.

At that comment she noticed him flinch and Sumire said. "I apologize. Quite some time has passed since I last saw you and after what happened I am wary towards reporters."

Besides after this mans father was hospitalized, he started acting differently.

Zello sighed and rubbed the back of his neck. "Sorry about that." He quickly put the camera away in his bag. Her eyes widened.

"I came here to apologize to you."

"Apologize?" Sumire repeated.

"Yes. It was my agency that published the news regarding your incident a few months ago.. I told them that we shouldnt say anything, that this time around we should leave it to professionals. But they would not listen."

"Of course not. Its your job as a reporter to capture everything and report all the details." Sumire trailed off when she saw him shifting his gaze. "So you were the one taking pictures of me yesterday?"

"No, my senior borrowed my camera yesterday. He gave it back today saying his camera arrived."

So if Zello was not the one who followed her then who was it? Sumire felt a sudden unease wash over her.

Her thoughts broke off when Zello clasped her wrist. "I am sorry for everything. Please let us be friends again."

Sumire blinked when she heard his words. No even more surprising was, her gaze fell on his hand on her wrist. Normally when guys touch her, she flinches immediately. Due to what happened with Sano, she developed a slight trauma.

Her gaze softened. It seems like she cant push away such earnest people.

.....

When Sumire entered the room the flower arrangement club used for the event. She noted how one by one each member was getting caught. According to one of the helpers, at first nobody could get the right room. But in the past few minutes, everybody was getting caught. Sumire felt her heart speed up when she heard that announcement.

Could it be that somebody caught Yuhi out already? Four have passed, so it would not be a surprise.

Forget it, she ought to head to her location already. Just as Sumire proceeded to go there, she felt a hand clasp against her mouth and dragged her into one of the tents.

For a moment all sorts of crazy ideas played through her head. But the person suddenly let go of her.

"Hey what do you think your d --" She froze in mid sentence, realizing the person who had kidnapped her. It wasn't an assassin or that creepy man.

"Ssh." Yuhi whispered.

"What are you planning?"

"Eh." Yuhi trailed off. "Well my room is close to the exit. Guests rarely come my way. So I guess I'm really bored. Stay with me?"

A relieved sigh passed her lips. Yuhi answered the question she worried about this entire time just like that.

"If you know, don't kidnap me." Sumire said, trying to tug her hands free from his grasp.

"But it's dark here," Yuhi said. Her eyes went wide realizing. That's right.

That's right Yuhi is afraid of the dark. "You still won't stay?"

"Fine..just for a bit." Sumire reluctantly agreed.

From where they were despite the fact it was dark, they could still the majority of what was going on. Some people who get ozaki-kun wanted to try again. Her sweat dropped, well it is fifteen rooms. It would be difficult for them to get anyone. Even though the 5 were relatively spread out. It doesn't seem like he was going to let her go anytime soon.

Eternal Melody 139 You chose him but loved me?

After a round of intense kissing and touching, Yuhi finally looked at her properly.

"Sorry." Yuhi apologized as he moved away from her. "The last request was a few drinks. I guess they wanted to get me drunk so I could do something to them."

"You didn't?"

"Heh, don't underestimate me. I held back for so long with you, do you think these girls could easily get to me?"

"Oh, you--" Sumire trailed off when she felt her vision blur. Huh?

Yuhi extended his hand out and wrapped his arms around her waist. "Lean on me."

"Yuhi, I feel a bit strange these days. Im sick in the morning, I'm sleepy and ---"

"Ssh, just listen to my heartbeat."

"Say, do you know what's wrong with me?"

She watched as he averted his gaze and sighed. So he knows, huh? "Well, if you won't tell me, that's fine. But you have to support me."

"Heh, alright." Yuhi tucked a strand of loose hair from her. "You hungry? I snuck some food in here."

"I haven't had lunch."

Yuhi nodded and stood up. "Wait here a second."

She watched as he walked over and picked up his bag. "Say Yuhi, what else were you doing in here?"

"Only a few people came, relax, yeah?"

"Well, I was against this event. But since you planned this before I came here, it was hard for me to say anything."

"Yeah, sorry." Yuhi walked back over with a few paper bags and extended one towards her. "It should still be warm."

"Did those girls give this to you?"

His sweat fell. "You sound scary when you're mad."

"That's because---" Her sentence fell short when she felt his lips on hers. "Yuhi...."

"Mmm, you taste nice."

"Stupid."

He brushed his fingers across her lips. "Indeed, it seems like I can't control myself around you any longer. June, huh?" Yuhi mumbled.

"July."

Yuhis eyes twitched; he didn't like this suggestion of hers.

"July?" He repeated.

Sumire nodded. "That's right, maybe mid-July."

"Sumire dear, do you plan on driving me crazy?"

She laughed when she saw how frustrated he looked. "Teasing aside, is it okay for me to stay here? I slacked off all morning and slept, so now I am in this lazy mood."

"Mmm, perfect, then let me offer you some service, miss customer."

Service? Is he going to do something weird to h-- her sentence fell short when Yuhi reached over and switched on a projector. Stars suddenly covered the entire tent. Her eyes widened. "Ah?"

His lips curved to a smile as he sat down beside her and wrapped a blanket around her shoulders. "Sitting down and watching the stars with you, another thing on my list of things to make you happy."

Her gaze softened when she heard those words. Yuhi is truly foolish, isn't he? She rested her head on his shoulders. "This is better."

"I see. Hey Sumire, do you remember what I told you last year?"

"You told me many things last year, Yuhi-san, please elaborate. I am no mind reader."

"Indeed." Yuhi trailed off. "It was during the hijack incident."

"Ah, I remember."

The hijacking incident Yuhi refers to is the assault of the main headquarters for the underworld society. People refer to it as Kyofu. A man named Narumi coordinated an attack using a famous hacker, and some assassins from abroad. The enemy team was not large, and yet they managed to infiltrate the building. During that time, she was in the building with Yuhi-san fixing her report's mistakes from work earlier in the day.

She was together with him when the attack happened, so it was natural they stuck together. The enemy got into the control room, hacked the system, and locked them inside the building.

"That was quite a messy situation."

Yuhi nodded. "Yeah, and yet Mamoru was so casual about breaking the doors to get inside."

Sumire sighed. "You probably don't know. But he was asked to pay for the damage of the broken doors."

"He did it to save you, so I am sure it was nothing to him. I wonder why I couldn't do anything even though I was with you then."

"Yuhi-san, you were hurt."

"Heh. Don't underestimate me too much. I could have saved you even in that condition. But Mamoru, who was outside, got to you first." Yuhi sighed. "That was the first time I felt threatened by his presence."

"Threatened?"

"Yeah. I was confident that you liked me, and even if you didn't, you would not say no to my confession. So when I saw him that way and then your reaction, I realized there was somebody other than me who could save you."

Sumire blinked when she heard those words. It seems like he already knew about her grievances and pain. So that was why he said something like that to her. "There was nothing wrong with being confident. I did like you then, Yuhi-san, but I chose Ru."

She chose Mamoru because she understood something. Yuhi and her, no matter how close they get, could never be together. They could sit around and talk about books all day, work together, and learn each other's secrets. But there will always be a wall that separates them.

That was why she put a lid on her feelings and took Mamoru's hand instead. It was a selfish decision. If she did not do that, then Mamoru would be alive even now. There would be no complications between Yuhi and her either. It was because she made the wrong decision- she felt Yuhi brush his lips against her ear.

She could hear the sound of her heartbeat and feel the warmth of his lips against her earlobe. "Yuhi?"

"You chose him, but you loved me?"

Sumire quickly realized what she said and covered her mouth with her free hand. How could she say something like that so carelessly? Indeed she lightly mentioned something like that before, but not seriously. It seems like she lets her guard down too much when she is around Yuhi.

She wondered when was the last time she got so comfortable with another person like this. Even when she was dating Mamoru, there were many things she could not say to him.

I wasn't this honest...

"Yes."

"Thank you, and I wanted to hear that. There were times where I thought you liked me, but I couldn't be sure."

So he noticed it? She thought she behaved normally around him, but there was something off about her behavior for him to notice.

"Is this what you wanted to discuss?" Sumire questioned.

"Well, you know back then I told you a lot of stupid stuff about my past, right?"

"Do you think I would judge you?"

Yuhi shook his head. "The thing is so far nobody else knows about it. But you know how the media are. This is the first time I have seen such a persistent group of people. They will do anything to bring you down Sumire, and I mean anything."

Sumire assumed that he wanted to discuss something related to him, but it turns out it is about her again? It seems like, for Yuhi-san, everything is about her. She feels flattered but at the same time. "I keep taking advantage of you."

Eternal Melody 140 Far too late

She keeps taking advantage of his goodwill, his kindness. It isn't fair on him. Yuhi, however, shook his head. "I don't mind you taking advantage of me, Sumire."

"How could that be your--" She stopped in mid-sentence when she saw his face's expression.

This is unfair. If he looks at her like that, how is she supposed to argue back?

"I want to sleep."

Yuhi kissed her cheeks. "You want to ditch me?"

"I am staying here." Her gaze fell on the stars. It was indeed romantic of him to do something like this. She did not know much about relationships, but she felt that her relationship with Yuhi was going well.

The only unusual aspect is living together. In society's eyes, it would be rare. They are only high school students; she still hasn't come of age either. Realistically this is the age where they should still depend on their parents due to lack of finances. But due to Yuhi-san's situation, he was forced to grow up a little faster than others. The same went for her too.

An average high school student should not be able to afford living expenses and school. But the reason Yuhi and her could do this was due to the help of those around her.

They hear a small knock on the tent door. "Yuhi, is Ibuki-san there with you? She has a guest."

"A guest?" Yuhi repeated.

"Makoto Soujiro."

At that comment, her eyes widened. Ah, she forgot to tell Soujiro. He must have been worried sick about her.

Soujiro did not want to cause her problems by appearing at her school like this. But he wanted to speak to her for a bit. Since she returned to his side, they have not discussed their engagement or anything.

"I wanted to speak to you."

Soujiro reached over and brushed his hands on a strand of her hair as he gently kissed it. "As have I, Princess."

"Mm, I see. I'm glad. I thought you were angry with me."

Soujiro raises his eyebrows at this, "Angry?"

"Yes. Back when I stayed with you, I acted strangely. I even went through desperate measures and avoided Yuhi. I wanted to be in a place that was away from Yuhi for a while, so it was perfect timing."

So that's it. Soujiro did figure that to be the case and did think of proposing they go on a trip with just the two of them alone. "You could not help it; it's not unusual at all. Being emotionally unstable isn't a problem. You're just a little bit more sensitive than others, but that doesn't mean you're odd."

"Indeed, whenever I talk to you, I feel a lot calmer. When I was thinking about it myself, I thought that there was something wrong with me. So perhaps I came here to be consoled a bit." Sumire trails off, "Soujiro, do you remember my performance in the final selection last year?"

"Ave Maria' a sorrowful and yet beautiful melody. 'Crescendo' feelings that increase like a crescendo. Both songs spoke out to each other."

Her violet gaze softened. "That's right that performance was for Yuhi. Even though it should have been for Ru, it probably then that I realized that I was seriously in love with Yuhi. Ru knew that, but I never told anybody else. Everybody thought that I chose to part from him because of senpai. In the end because I was indecisive, things become like this now. I realized that I have yet to solve and end things with my past relationships."

"If you're going wholehearted on that quest of yours. I would suggest you start with Ichinose."

"With senpai? Why?"

Soujiro shuts his eyes. "The reason I reinstated the engagement with you was because of jealousy. I saw not only your wholehearted performance for him. It was because I saw how much you loved him that I proposed the engagement despite having made a promise with somebody."

Nanairo Feather. When he saw his fiance during the broadcast of the group's first concert, it surprised him. However, even then, those people did not interest him. It wasn't until that other one showed up that he indeed turned his attention to the group. Soujiro, too saw it, the international concur broadcasts.

His family is fond of classical music, and so during a meeting with their clients, they always without fail watched the selection. He did not know about the girl participating until the end of the first selection when they announced the girl's disqualification for the round.

His clients didn't recognize the name. But his brother did, 'So your fiance is still as mysterious as ever, huh? It's true that I once praised her for her gracefulness and manners. However, back then, I had already noticed that the aura around her is quite unusual for your everyday princess. There have been rumors about a blonde hair demon princess throughout the Yankee groups in Japan. Want a bet brother, that the demon princess there speaking of is your fiance?'

That conversation was one that remained fresh in his mind, which is why he had been indeed eagerly anticipating the girl's return. Soujiro wanted to prove his elder brother wrong. However, he was fully aware of the girl's nature of not being a typical Princess. Sumire never behaved in a manner that showed she was of noble blood. If it were not for her graceful aura, he would not see her as nobility.

After all, during there first meeting, she expressed precise desires of knowing state of affairs concerning wars. That time though, he found it to be unusual.

When he went home that night and thought it through, he realized that it wasn't as uncommon as he thought. After all, she is still a ruler; in the end, wanting to know the state of what's happening around you is normal. His brother convinced on the matter that the demon Princess everyone is talking about is her.

Soujiro continues. "I wanted to prove that you were innocent from my brother, and yet, I also wanted to monopolize you. I did not want you to belong to anyone else even when people spread the news of your family.

I wanted to believe you were alive, so when I met with Haki, she told me everything. I made up my mind that I would wait for you to come to your decision. I was surprised how much you changed when I saw you again, but I was surprised how beautiful the love you were trying to convey was."

That performance, for a person who was not him. Soujiro understood that it was already far too late.