

Melody 251

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 251

Chapter 251: Extra Without being held captive Christmas

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Yuhi who had been staring at his phone intently before he decided to throw it aside slumped on his bed. It will do him no good to call her back. But her tone slightly worried him. It should be fine, he will return to her side soon. Yet in days like this where he is not beside her, he would often think back to the past.

The winter before she dated Nagawa Sano, where he was still beside her.

..

December 24th 2012

Yuhi was not delusional. He gave her his Christmas gift early because he was under the impression that she would not want to see him on Christmas day. Or rather when he tried to subtly ask her out to take a break the other day she turned him down. Then again she turned him down because she was very busy with work.

Still getting rejected this way made him misunderstand. Is she not interested at all? A few months had passed since he joined the underworld organization Holy Knights and met Sumire. He knew it was her immediately and yet she denied knowing him.

Maybe she forgot? Yet one time he caught her singing his songs. That voice, of course, he could recognize it. That girl is only pretending not to know him but unfortunately, he could not understand why she would do something like that.

Although he received word from the others that Sumire asked to see him. On his way over to the meeting spot, he found himself being ambushed by koubou high school students and some fans of his.

Gee, quite some time has passed since he last performed on stage and even longer since he was those girls' president. So why the hell did they feel the need to give him Christmas presents? Or rather he doesn't even want to know why they had it with them.

Yuhi deeply sighed. He is late by two hours. There is no way she will still be there. As he thought that though, he spotted a girl with long brown hair from a distance.

Eh? Yuhi blinked in surprise. Could it be? But why would she even wait for him this long? Arashi doesn't hesitate to rush over as he does so the brunette hair girl turned around. "Late, where is my apology?"

His sweatdropped when he heard her sharp tone and saw her gaze. Here it is, her demanding side.

Not that it's bad, he found this side of her to be quite cute. She has such a stubborn and headstrong personality. Yuhi made his way over until he was standing directly in front of her.

Sumire extended her hands out and he responded by wrapping his arms around her. "Well then, here we go."

"Yuhi, you can be quite simple-minded sometimes you know?"

"Eh?"

Sumire sighs. "Well no matter, it's to be expected with your personality. Anyway here, your Christmas present."

She handed him a small blue and silver ribbon-wrapped box.

Yuhi blinked, confused. This did not go unnoticed by her.

"What do you not want it?"

"It's pretty cheap in comparison to that quartz necklace you got me. But you would accept it regardless won't you?"

She mentioned the necklace so casually. It is almost as though what happened yesterday didn't affect her. Guess it can't be helped. Yuhi positioned himself next to her and opened the box. The grass felt cold and there were traces of ice so it was hard and not wet when he sat on it.

When he opened the box and saw different types of small chocolate, he asked her.

"Is this handmade?"

"I made it to look homemade."

"Meaning?"

"It seems I have underestimated baking but the taste should be okay."

At that comment, he slowly examined the box indeed to confirm that some of the chocolates were shaped oddly. He could see some edges were slightly burnt but it did not matter to him. It warmed his heart knowing that she went through this trouble.

"So why chocolate?" Yuhi asked.

"Well, you were the one who said some nonsense about receiving chocolates when it snows as something special."

Yeah but he does not remember having that conversation with her. Unless she was eavesdropping?

Sumire sighed when she saw his questioning gaze. "It is difficult not to eavesdrop when you were talking in the middle of the corridor. Besides, I figured I would entertain you a little and fulfill your fantasy."

"The real reason?"

"I felt bad for rejecting your invitation to take a break a few days ago," Sumire admitted.

This girl and her indirect words. Then again he supposes this is one of the things he liked about her.

"So you invited me out on Christmas? Aren't you afraid of people misunderstanding?"

"Friends can hang out during Christmas."

Uh-huh, friends huh? He should hurry up and confess to her already. She shouldn't have a boyfriend yet.

"But Yuhi-san if you wanted to invite me out you should have just said so directly."

"Directly huh?"

If he was more direct with her then maybe she would get the hint. To not overwhelm her he drops hints here and there but she remains clueless. Today he has to make sure that something happens.

"Yes directly," Sumire repeated. "Just like the mountain of gifts, I saw on your desk this morning."

At that comment, his sweat fell. "You saw that?" He didn't have time to toss the gifts away before they sent him to his next job so he left it there.

"I thought you said that you would only accept presents from people you like. So are you telling me that you like those other girls?"

This girl is trying to mess with him. Yuhi sighed and reached over for her hand. "Look I think you already understand. But there is only one girl I like and want to exchange gifts with."

"Is that so? Then she must be very lucky."

"She is stubborn too but I find that very cute."

Her cheeks turned red then and she coughed lightly. "If you're going to mess with me just say so already."

So she thinks he is joking? This is harder than he thought it would be. "There are lights in town today, do you want to go there?"

She likes that type of thing right?

To his surprise, Sumire shook her head. "I think we should stay here, so we can be alone."

The thing with Sumire is she says very bold and straight forward things. But even then Yuhi does not see her behave this way in front of other people. Indeed she only ever acts this way in front of him.

....

The last thing he expected was for them to end up building a snowman. It's not like they are children. After she said something bold about wanting to stay with him, Yuhi thought that he could get closer to her. But instead, it's like this. He clapped his hands together trying to get his hands warm.

It was the coldest day of the year, so touching snow in this weather would have such results. But it didn't take long for his hands to get frostbites. 'So cold.' But he has to keep warm.

He could imagine it now, going to the emergency room on Christmas day and having to explain this situation. Yuhi could already see the scolding faces of the medics in his head.

"Are you done with the bottom yet? I'm almost finished with my part."

"Almost." Yuhi bent back down quickly. His hands were not warm yet but he does not want to leave her waiting for long.

'They aren't even dating yet and he is already doing everything she said.' It didn't take long before he finished, and he stepped back. "Okay, I'm done."

Sumire looked over with a troubled expression. "This was a bad idea."

"Not good enough?"

"It's perfect!" Sumire exclaimed. "How can that be? I had this perfect plan to humiliate you..."

His eyes twitched annoyed. 'Damn this girl. Here they are trying to have a date and she keeps fooling around with me.' Yuhi sighed deeply and wrapped his arms around her from the back, hugging her tightly.

'So warm.' The sudden warmth that engulfed him when he hugged her surprised him. The last time he hugged her she was as cold as ice. Then again that was after that dangerous mission.

"You really want to mess with me today?" Yuhi muttered against her neck. The moment he buried his face there, he smelled something sweet.

'Is she wearing perfume?' Yuhi blinked in surprise. Didn't she say that she hated wearing such things? Why would she dress up for him? Not just the perfume..it seems she put on a little bit of makeup too.

"Well..." Sumire trailed off. "I did."

"Past tense?"

"What we are doing right now is quite nice as an alternative."

His eyes widened when he heard those words. She--she is unbelievable. Does Sumire not realize what happens whenever she says things like that to him?

"Why did you agree to go out with me today?"

"Did I not give you a reason already?"

"No." It was a lie, she gave one earlier. But hearing her talk now he can't help but think there is something else.

"Initially I intended to recuse."

Of course, she would.

"But when I thought about you accepting another girl's invitation. Or asking another girl I felt quite sad."

'She must be messing around again and yet why do I not get that feeling?' Yuhi turned her around and bent down to place a gentle kiss on her forehead. But before he could do that the girl kissed his cheeks.

"It seems I'm not bold enough to do anything more." Sumire sighed. "It's a shame." She gently caressed his cheeks. "But, I do like the results."

Damn, ultimate defeat. He intended to kiss her if something happened today but how can he do that now? Did Sumire do that on purpose? Yuhi knew that the girl was at least a little aware of his feelings.

Sumire pulled away from him and walked a few steps forward. She did not say anything but he could not miss the look in her eyes. Such sadness and loneliness, he wonders if he could one day get rid of it. Could he be the one to make her smile?

"This isn't special at all, I think I ruined things. Your hands are cold and you have frostbites."

His sweat fell. 'Now she notices?' "It's fine. You wanted to build a snowman right?"

"So I can mess with you." She seemed to be sulking.

Do all girls her age act like this these days? He already knew the answer to his own question. No, her behavior is the most unusual. From the very start, it was always like this.

But this is already normal for him. In fact, Yuhi found it quite attractive. 'What a strange fetish '

Yet since she is acting this way, there is one thing going on in her mind.

Yuhi sighed.. "I'm sorry, you're mad that I got gifts after all aren't you?"

Sumire reached over and gave his forehead a small flick, as she said with a bright smile."I told you I am not angry."

"That is hard to believe." Considering how her personality is. Even so, it relieved him a little. She is showing signs that she is jealous.

"When we are like this, I feel like time can stop forever with just us two."

Gee this girl. But for her to say this stuff now, words that sound like a farewell. It seems she already knows about him leaving the organization so he can go back to Tokyo.

Sumire rubs her hands together again. "Though it's cold, so I do prefer not to stay out forever."

Yuhi chuckled softly. "That's one comment too many." He suddenly felt a sudden warmth touch his cheek, as he grabbed hold of that hand, his eyes went wide but they softened. "Yeah your right, it's cold." He said, firmly intertwining their hands.

"Just like this, always..." He heard her mutter softly. Yuhi knew better than to respond, knowing that it would ruin the moment.

Ah this girl, she will always be the only one for him. That prediction was right. In the end, his life will revolve around this girl only. Eventually, they will have to let go and go their separate ways. But for now, just like this, they can remain together for just a few more moments.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 252

Chapter 252: To each their own tale Part 1

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Yuhi did not know how long he was running for but by the time his legs finally gave out, he found himself in an abandoned alleyway. When he looked up all he could see was pitch red skies. The moon looked unusually red too. To normal citizens the moon and skies did not look this way. But it was

different for him. The throbbing pain in his eyes and his head. His parched throat and the pain from the wounds he sustained.

It hurts, this is painful.

Yuhi slumped onto the ground and he leaned on the wall clutching his right eye. They were both in pain but the one that hurt the most was his right eye. Despite his weak state he knew there were no signs of civilization in this area. This is a good thing. Those people from before are no more too. With his own hands he once again ended a life no several.

These hands he used to hold her.

In order to measure a person's worth, you must do more than push them. The real way to test their worth is to give them power. When they gain the freedom to act outside the boundaries of law and ethics, you can sometimes see their souls. When the weak become strong. Terashima Yuhi, he was raised without ever knowing who his parents were.

If he did have them he certainly wouldn't know anything about whether or not they were alive or cared about him or not. Throughout most of his life, he's always been enslaved by the system, always reaching out for the things that most people took for granted. He was always treated as this savage beast, all because of a hue that wasn't deemed acceptable by society.

People told that no matter how hard he tried, no matter what treatment they suggested, there would be no way to change his psychology.

A monster, a beast. He had heard it all before, at a very young age he was told by the person who took care of him.

A teacher at a dojo who found him abandoned in the middle of the forest and decided to take him in.

That old man taught him a lot of things.'

'You are a person who is different then that of a regular person. Your actions and words will influence a great number of people in the future. Your words alone are like 'Gods'.

Back then he hadn't understood what those words meant. However once his sensei passed away and he left the dojo and was faced with the rest of the world. He understood it. The second he stepped foot into society, it had become quite obvious.

So when he meets her everything changes.

It did not take him to realize that he was in love with her. Yuhi already had an inkling feeling after their first meeting that snowy night several years ago. But it took him time to adjust to the present.

No matter how much he loved her. Yuhi understood there was a twisted part of him who wanted to see her fall apart, to see her break down. He wanted her to see the dark side of the world, he wanted her to lose whatever hope she had. To see her crumble down on the floor and have everything taken from her.

This twisted part of his mind was something he loathed. It was an unhealthy habit of his - no this part of his mind resembled a criminal. Akatsuki often told him to seek help and he entertained the idea for

awhile. But even when he was talking to the psychologist he could not help but think. He wondered what sort of damage he could do to this person.

How far can he go until he can no longer see anything? How long until he completely loses himself?

He has always been chained to the walls of a secluded spot. Not once has he had the luxury to choose who he really wanted to be.

However if he thought about it carefully now, even if he did have that luxury. He probably wouldn't know what to do. At least that's how it was supposed to be. At the beginning of their partnership all he saw is that innocence.

But even when he realized there was darkness in her heart he was unsure. How can her eyes be filled with hope despite all the pain and suffering? How can she smile like that?

Yuhi closed his eyes. He needs to rest for a few minutes, and then go back.

.....

The following morning Yuhi dragged himself out of bed early to get rid of his clothes and patch up his wounds. But much to his surprise he was already wearing new clothes. Right he took them off somehow...but where did he put it? It would be bad if anybody saw it. The reality of what happened again last night filled his head.

Yuhi sighed as Hino entered the room. "Quit bothering me and let me rest, I'm not a robot."

He has worked non stop the last few days. "Let me go back already."

It's getting quite close to her birthday, he doesn't want to miss it. Moreover when he last called her she looked awful. It should be a matter of time before she gives birth. He wants to be there for her.

Hino looked very troubled before he took out something from a plastic bag. It was the shirt he wore last night, but there were no signs of the red stains from before. ".."

"Yuhi you--"

"It was nothing."

"Let me tell Sumire."

At that comment his gaze darkened. "If you tell her anything then you will never see me again." Yuhi knew this was Hinos weak point. The man treated him as family so he obviously would not want this to happen.

He does not want Sumire to once again find out that he broke down and did something that has no meaning. He does not want to trouble her anymore than he already does. She already has a lot going on, if she got involved in his problems too she would fall apart. Right now her emotions are still as fragile as glass.

Yuhi did not say anymore and Hino saw that as a signal to leave. It was right after Hino left did he hear a beep sound from his phone. It was a message from Sumire.

From: Sumire:

Yuhi, thank you so much for calling me every night since then I feel a lot better.

Your words have saved me once again..

I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

His gaze softened when he saw her message. 'This girl really knows what to say to make me feel better.' It seems she is working very hard there, so he ought to do the same so he can quickly return to her side.

Incoming call: Sumire

Yuhi blinked and immediately picked up. "Hey, weren't you supposed to be at a souire?"

A deep sigh escaped her lips. "I broke my heel when I was walking up the stairs so I am waiting for new shoes."

Yuhi laughed. "Too bad I am not there to Princess carry you."

"I feel awful, I didn't want to attend this stupid event. In the first place we all know what kind of place these gatherings are. The people who attend these places only want to expand their wealth and power. Their empty words and flattery, their intentions of getting close - all of it is superficial. I do not wish to associate with such people."

Yuhi could sense the pain behind her words when she said those things. If only he was beside her, he would tell her that she would not have to go.

A person's outlook on life depends on many factors. The amount of knowledge information you consume from books, the net or a individual. However he was none of those. Although he made good use of the knowledge he learnt from books. Never once has he strained from the path of his own belief or took the words written in books to a degree of anything life changing. Yes his outlook on his life was quite different then all the others. It wasn't from any of the usual factors, it wasn't as though he disagreed with evidence presented. Since during those circumstances if there is concrete evidence then he would have no reason to disagree.

His outlook on life came from his observations of the world, his observations of how society functions as a whole and how the people around him reacted. When he met her though those observations took more of a degree of seriousness then before.

He really was under the impression that she was a sheltered and protected individual. Someone who knew the love he had been lacking. But that's not what it was. He had made a mistake.

'It's not the final judgement of "good" and "evil" that's important. What matters is that you come to that decision yourself. That you agonize over it and eventually accept it '

It wasn't until he went on a job with her, that he realised the meaning of the words she had told him during the first stages of their partnership. After seeing her in action, everything became clearer to him.

This girl wasn't like all the other princesses, no she really couldn't be compared to the frivolous members of royalty who turn a blind eye to the reality around them. She was different and he realised it. Perhaps if he hadn't then it would have saved him from entangling their fates.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 253

Chapter 253: To each their own tale Par

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Ibuki Sumire, the second daughter and the third heir of the Ibuki household was always under the impression that as long as she stayed on the side of the law then everything would work out. After all that's how she had been raised, as a Princess she had been given lessons on all sorts of things. From manners, speech, grace, flower arranging, koto. Yet never once had she been taught how to protect herself. Her father was strictly against her using weapons of any sort and always kept her restricted from going to the training grounds. Or even doing horse riding. Living life peacefully. Without a care in the world.

'It may be the country's wish for you to remain ignorant.

Defer to their will and think of that as for being the sake of your country and I'm sure they will be happy.'

After she had expressed her thoughts on the matter. That person had merely told her those words. Whether or not it was out of spite was something she was well aware of. He said it due to experience, those of noble blood will forever live such a life. However she didn't want that lifestyle at all. She didn't want that at all. Although it went against what her father wanted, although it went against her very people's notions of a princess. Although it went against that person's will, she fought. She fought and turned to the violent side of the world. She wanted that power to fight, to be stronger than anyone. If she could do that much then perhaps she would be able to find it. Find something that will truly be able to feel the emptiness in her heart. Even though she had barely lived her life then, back then she had noticed it. Noticed many things that a young girl of her age should not have noticed.

Darkness. The world is swallowed up in darkness, the smiles and people's faces of the elders and clergy members in the cancel were fake. Their words of affection and display of adoration and compliments were merely fake. For show. Upon realising that, she realised that there was something she wanted to do for the people. Even if it means going against their very beliefs.

Long before she met him, there was already someone who she had considered to be important.

However when she first met him, she was under the impression that he was the same as those people. The same as those people who wouldn't show their true faces. Wouldn't show their true smiles and would do anything to be in her father - in her family's good books.

"It is a pleasure to meet you Princess Sumire. I sincerely hope that this marriage serves as a foundation to unite our two groups."

Sumire immediately noticed it. Ah, this person's smile is also....fake. Yet she wondered why she sensed as though that there was something else.

She sighed deeply un-noticed by her engagement partner. Asking an eleven year old year old to do something like this is really uncalled for. Besides that, she spies the prince beside her. This guy is older than her by four years isn't he? Indeed it was something you could instantly tell, especially their height difference. However it was something she agreed to.

Her father had proposed a tournament to win her hand before not too long ago. But it had more or less ended with Nao beating everyone. Senbi Nao was her bodyguard, but he was her age so she treated him as one of her friends. Nao huh? In the end her gaze landed on her black hair guard who was standing by the door at the exit.

They haven't been able to talk to each other much since then. She wondered if he was alright. Perhaps, those words made him realise it?

"Without distinction. Rank or name was this your doing Princess?" Soujiro asked. She could not miss the slight change in his tone. It was not disgust but it was not pleasant either.

"Indeed it was. Thank you for obliging me Prince. Truthfully speaking though I had planned to have our seats placed between the others but as expected I was prevented from doing so."

Soujiro laughs. "Fuh. Is this how things are run in this place? How interesting."

Ah, there it is again that fake smile. A moment ago however it looked like he would show his true feelings but it immediately broke. Once again all she can see is a mask. She wonders if this person is not tired. Is it not tiring showing fake emotions?

The way of the elite huh? It was something she could not understand very well.

"It is in accordance with what my master taught me. I am trying to act as I see fit."

That's right, being tied down that is not what she wants. What she wants is something more. Something more than these fancy dresses, wealth that has no meaning and gatherings with people who are greedy for power. A lifestyle like this is restricting. Most people would say she is privileged and has no right to complain. But despite being this privileged why does she feel so empty?

"My my."

She wonders why this person smiles in such a manner. Is it a front? Is he exactly like all the others? Indeed when she first met him she was repulsed by his behaviour. However even then there was already something about him that drew her attention.

...

Sumire raised her head at that moment dispelling her memory of the past when she saw Asami-san carrying new shoes. It surprised her when she learned that the girl was wealthy too. With her personality, the girl did not behave like a member of the rich circle.

It seems she has no choice but to go. Her gaze fell on the sky. Ah what a beautiful moon. She wonders if her dearest is watching too.

Meeting Soujiro had changed a lot of things in her life for her. However, it was when she met him that things truly did change.

A smart person, quite an unusual guy who uses the knowledge of books in a way to relate with society. Though she had always been fond of reading, perhaps it was back then that she began to take things more seriously..

It was he who taught her that being a delinquent and being in this side of the world isn't a bad thing. Even though she turned to this side to protect her people. She always had doubts on the matter knowing that her people would not approve of it.

'Being a delinquent isn't about bringing someone down, but rather protecting someone'

Even now those words were one she remembers quite clearly. Ones that had always remained in her heart. Perhaps had she not met him, then she would have always remained caged.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 254

Chapter 254: To each their own tale Part 3

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Still, Soujiro understood how much she disliked these places. But it was in a place like this where he met her. Even now he could clearly remember when he first met her. He remembered it clearly like it happened yesterday.

That young eleven year old girl.

.....

Six years ago - Ibuki Family Manor, grand hall-

Soujiro could not believe the words that escaped his young fiance lips. What on earth is she thinking? This is the first time he has heard a member of the elite behave in this manner.

This girl says some funny things. Solitude? Does that only apply to her? Who isn't alone in this society? The time when their connection to others was the core of their selves has vanished.

In this world where everyone is watched over by the system and live within the system's standards, a community isn't necessary. Everyone just lives in their own cell, and the system tames them by giving them each their own personal serenity. It was something he had noticed a long time ago, after noticing it he realised that what he had to do.

What a person in his position had to do. . He realised it at a young age, realised why his older brother treated him with such coldness and told him never to follow him around. He realised it. That ' Us Royals are the very opposite of free'. Makoto Souijro recalled those words quite well, since it was the first time he had said it out loud. Despite having such thoughts for long, he never said it.

No that is not what it was, they never permitted him to say such words since it meant speaking out of line. However after hearing her thoughts and conversing with her, he said it without thinking. If it is her then maybe something would change, such a foolish thought briefly crossed his mind.

He had heard many things about the Princess from his elder brother, during the rare occasions that they had dined together. Elegant, graceful words that described the perfect noble lady. Soujiro had been a tad bit concerned about the age difference, although he was no more older than fifteen years old. He was under the impression that she was still a child and even with his brother's words sought to discover whether or not it was true.

That was why he tried to meet with her before the arrangement. His arrival though was in secret and he informed that the guards did not mention a word of his arrival. He wanted to see how the Princess reacted naturally.

Indeed like his brother informed him his fiance is indeed a 'Perfect lady', there was no doubt about it from her manners and speech. How she conducted herself as a leader at a young age was something quite remarkable.

Soujiro didn't want to leave with a greeting though and so greeted the girl's father in private whilst his guards remained outside by the gate waiting for him.

'Hoho, I am glad your curiosity took over you and you came over to see for yourself. Indeed she's an excellent wife for a noble. However, she may be perfect. I'll believe you'll find that she has her own share of imperfections too.'

He hadn't realised that he would learn the meaning to those words so quickly.

During the night of the formal banquet, he met her and indeed her manersim plus her behaviour was the same. The seating arrangement had puzzled him but he had no intention of questioning the Princess. 'Act as I see so fit' eh? To him it was quite amusing in a sense and wondered if this is what the girls father meant by imperfections.

When he retired to his chambers, he wanted to think about his interaction with her carefully. He wanted to analyze her behaviour and see if he could find a pattern. If he could find a pattern then perhaps the next time they spoke she would not render him speechless. It was a close one earlier, she almost saw right through him. But before he could do that, he heard a knock on the door. The person did not greet him and strolled into the room.

"Tell me what is happening in the battle field now."

Soujiro stood there feeling quite puzzled, at the brown hair girl that stood in his chambers. Her hand pointed to what looked like an old map. There was a serious look in her eyes. Yet despite his confusion at her abrupt visit and behaviour he didn't let it show.

He wore his usual smile on his face. "What is this all of a sudden?"

"It is not sudden. I have been looking up this matter long before the fuss started. I want you to tell me the state of how each group is now." Sumire said her voice sharp.

"Just what do-" Soujiro trails off when he saw the map in the girl's hands. He looks down at it and shifted over until he was beside her. "This map is quite old."

He thought so when she brought it out. But now that he got a better look, Soujiro could saw some areas which no longer exist.

"There are restrictions here..." Sumire paused as though she was thinking whether or not to say the next half. "That is my father's wish. But there are those who wish so otherwise. The soldiers and squires here are excellently trained. But they have not fought since they have to protect me."

So the rumours about the girl's father being all peaceful was true. A leader who dislikes wars huh? Indeed during his conversation with the man before he felt such a presence from him.

He doesn't have any obligation to answer her questions, especially if her father wishes for her to remain ignorant. But such a strong look in her eyes.

There was something about it that peaked his curiosity. This woman is not a typical noble lady, it should disgust him that she was acting out of line and yet it piqued his curiosity.

"Where should I start?"

"What is happening at the Iga border?"

He glanced down at the map and pointed to the area in the center. "That battle was left in stalemate."

"If that place disappears then it is all over."

She really has been looking this up huh? Indeed normally one wouldn't hear any random princess talking about war, let alone know the areas and what's been going on.

So this is what that man meant by flaw. Indeed if other nobles knew of this side of her they would look at her with disgust and condemn her. She must hide this.

"Oh yes what of the civil war in Uto? I heard that the pro Iga forces are in a dominated position but it can change tides anytime."

Yes, she is certainly different from all the other princesses. She isn't just a pretty face to be paraded around. It seems like his brother chose wisely for him. When they first spoke about his marriage, Soujiro said it did not matter who he married. But he also said that he did not want to marry one of those shrieking women who only care about wealth.

Soujiro did not reply. He thought he wanted a doll like wife, somebody meek, quiet, pretty and would listen to whatever he wanted. Somebody who would stay put. But now he is starting to change his mind.

"Prince?"

Soujiro removed his coat and waltz over to the velvet red couch. "Honestly talk of war so early in our meeting?" He sat down. "Can you not behave in a more subdued manner?"

It was a joke of course. He was very interested in this side of her. For a mere eleven year old child she speaks clearly, and with elegance. But there is a strong look in her eyes. Such strength and determination for knowledge where does it come from?

"I am starving for knowledge."

"I did not come here to provide you with that."

Sumire's determination didn't disappear. "But I want to learn. I do not agree with the methods my brother has been using to deal with the matter. And my elder sister is ignorant when it comes to such matters."

"As a Princess should be."

The brunette's gaze darkened slightly. "That is true. But never once have I believed that following the rules blindly like that would help. The law doesn't protect people. The people protect the law. But no you are right, forgive me I am well aware that's not your purpose."

Just now the look in her eyes changed. There seems to be a different feel around her now. "War isn't exactly a matter you should be dealing with." Soujiro commented.

Forget her age, her status in the elite world as a Princess makes it impossible for her to get involved with political affairs

It is true that if anyone heard what she said. they would report it to that person immediately . Although that person is fond of her, even she won't be able to get away with this. But he did not intend to tell on her.

There are those who may merely laugh at her. A girl of no more than eleven years of age speaking of war. But it was quite amusing to him, seeing such difference.

"What a cheeky woman you are. Sit down Sumire, I am not fond of people looking down on me."

The brunette doesn't say anything and stared at him for a few moments.

He merely stared back. "Must I repeat myself once more?"

Sumire shook her head and sat down."No I heard you. I was just a bit surprised."

He didn't say anything but he wore a puzzled look on his face.

The strength in her eyes has vanished and there was something different about her tone too.

"By what?" Soujiro decided just to ask her. He is no good at dealing with people he has yet to figure out

She smiles at him. "There is no one in the castle who calls me as Sumire. I find it refreshing."

Huh...such a matter makes her happy? Indeed even though he wasn't an expert on people's emotions, one could tell that there was something about her expression aside from the smile that made her happy.

So her change in tone moments ago was because she was happy? This woman is very unusual.

Soujiro ended up laughing. "Haha what confidence."

"That's because there isn't, is there?" Sumire countered.

"Haha you speak the truth." He was very amused.

"What then?"

He didn't respond and looked away for a few moments. The girl was looking at him intently like she wanted answers that he could not give.

"You do not smile like you did during the day." Sumire suddenly commented.

It was only a brief look in the girl's eyes, but he already saw everything he needed to. It wasn't the girl's curiosity over war that was the unusual aspect that man mentioned. No, the difference was certainly this.

Soujiro reached over and grabbed a strand of the girl's locks in his fingers. "It would be nice if you were a mere simpleton."

He couldn't believe the words that left his lips. The words that left were the opposite of what he was thinking. If she were merely the same as those people then he would have kicked her out by now.

Right now is he ought to reprimand the girl, as her fiance that is his role now.

He is supposed to turn a blind eye to her bizarre behaviour and not think much of it to maintain the marriage. But by saying such words he just confirmed that she isn't like the others.

"Hmm I see..." She trails off. She smiles at him. "I am happy you showed me your true feelings Soujiro."

"Is that so? Then will you do the same?"

At that comment Sumire laughed and she stood up. "If that's what you want from me, you will have to earn it."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 255

Chapter 255: Illogical to begin with

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

For example, the imprint that was still clearly in the palm of her hand. She heard many tales regarding the strange mark, tales of individuals who had this mark.

Each imprint had different colours.

She heard from others the meaning of each colour, but out of all those colours she noticed she had quite an unusual one. The nurses made a big deal out of it when they discovered that she and Mamoru had the same one.

But when she and Mamoru noticed it their reaction was quite casual. 'Oh it's the same.' The conversation ended like that.

He was not the type to focus on such things, neither was she. But perhaps there was a silent agreement between them, that even if they didn't have the same that it wouldn't have mattered.

People always tend to believe in matters that connect them to another individual. In the end isn't that because 'Humans crave for love and attention?'

It was one of the few things she learned from Mamoru in the past. How right that statement was.

"Sumire-chan! Please hurry, we're already late enough as it is. Ah Aikchan will get mad.

Her thoughts broke off when she heard Asami's voice.

"Right, right. " Sumire said.

She rushed up the grey stone steps. Gee why on earth does the banquet have to be in a high location for. Truthfully speaking she wasn't exactly comfortable with heights. But she did not feel comfortable to disclose such information to Asami yet.

Alright, it should be okay if she doesn't look to the side at all. Just keep looking straight ahead and eventually they should arrive. Yet running in a dress isn't exactly ideal. Ah she wishes her dearest were here. Just like he suggested in the phone she would love it if he Princess carried her.

Either way right now Asami has it way easier than her, if she was only permitted to wear casual wear too then she would have chosen that over what she was wearing now.

She did ask about it but as expected the request was brushed off rather quickly. The elders aside, Soujiro would have probably said something along the lines of wanting to see her in a dress.

No not due to the formalities of a lady, it would most likely be the other reason.

Well even though it was quite bothersome at times. Sumire didn't mind it, after all it made the atmosphere in the main base much lighter.

All those people's gazes are dark and their smiles and laughter all gave her a bad feeling. She would rather get constantly sent on jobs rather than be stuck at paperwork duty in the main base. It's suffocating.

"Sumire-chan watch your step there is ---"

"Ran!"

"Gee you clumsy girl. Why wear shoes you cant walk in?"

Actually she wore slightly flatter shoes originally but they were old and broke. She should have known better than to ask Asami-san for a replacement she ended up bringing her very high heels.

He let's her go and turned to Asami who just ran back down.

"Iwsan thank goodness you caught her."

"There is a safer route then this passage."

"Eh there is?"

"At the brand new park. It's indeed quite a detour but it's the path that's being used a lot since it's safe. Did you not see the sign?"

As she watched the two interact, she couldn't help but smile. In a sense it seems like they're getting along better then they were before. Sumire thought Asami-san who fan girled about male idol groups would react that way towards Ran but it was the opposite reaction. For some reason she seemed hostile.

Ran was no good at interacting with members of the opposite sex. It was the same with her at the start too, so she did not think much about it.

It has been two and a half years, of course a lot has changed. Either way a sign....? She shuts her eyes, on the way here she saw something that resembled a sign.

But the fact that it was torn down and battered on the ground made her think that it was a mere scrap of paper. It was deliberately destroyed huh? Is something going to-- her thoughts broke off when Ran wrapped his cloak around her.

"Stupid girl, you will catch a cold.. Although it is June, the nights are still chilly."

Her eyes went wide at the action. It resembled something.

'Even if it's you. You'll still catch a cold in this weather. Please think about yourself more. When you get home. Hurry up and rest up okay? Though I don't dislike that recklessness of yours'

'Your reckless as always eh?'

Ah, really what was she doing? Only a short time has passed yet she already longs to see him. Life really isn't fair at all. Even though they've both gone through this already. Sumire wonders if he had the same thoughts. When they spoke on the phone earlier she could not tell what he was thinking.

Indeed it is difficult for her to understand another person's thoughts unless they are directly in front of her.

Sumire knew if she told these two then they won't tell a soul.

She knew they would both understand. However, saying it would definitely trouble them. Besides, Sumire still could not tell what Ran thought about Yuhi. On some days he is openly hostile and in some he isn't.

"Yeah, thank you." Sumire said with a weak smile. "I guess we should get going. Were going to be late otherwise."

She cannot tell them even if she knows they would understand. It is still frightening for her to open up to other people. She does not want to risk anything.

....

They barely got there on time, they just scraped it. Since the doors in the other side of the room opened. An elder looking gentleman wearing odd clothes that resembled a mage from ancient times appeared.

The elder merely sighed. "You're getting away with it for now. But please make sure this doesn't happen again.

The brown hair girl wasn't listening though, as she made her way over to the other side of the room to the crowd of people that just emerged through the double doors.

In the center she found the person she was looking for. A guy with hair up in a braid that started above his ears and met behind. Those ocean blue pool of eyes, wearing a black long sleeved collar shirt with white linings down the middle. A pale cream coat with pale brown linings that were held together with two royal emblem circles.

He really has changed a lot, indeed the teenage features that once dawned the guys face were no longer there. It has now been replaced by more grown up and adult features. Sumire managed to resist the urge to call him out informally. Sumire cleared her voice and called out to him.

"Prince Soujiro."

He stops talking with his guard when he heard her call his name. His ocean blue eyes met her her violet orbs. "Princess Sumire..."

She laughs lightly. "It has been awhile."

A while? After that time she did not meet with him. Sumire felt ashamed that she used him as a shield against Sano while Yuhi was in hospital. Even though he was the one who forcibly dragged her away after rescuing her. Why on earth did she stay with him afterwards?

It made no sense.

Using old fashioned sounding titles in this modern setting, surrounded by people with hidden motives.

'This whole thing is illogical to begin with.'

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 256

Chapter 256: Her heart calls for him

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Soujiro's gaze lands on his fiancé, who was speaking with the elders. Indeed she certainly changed a lot. Soujiro could no longer see any distinction of that eleven year old girl who he once knew. Though when he had last seen her before this year she was only thirteen years old whereas he was at the peak of his teens at seventeen years old.

Sumire had now transformed into a beautiful young woman with waist-length brown hair and purple eyes. Her eyes interested him, it reminded him of jewels.

At first, it appeared as if she had a lofty, distant character. It became clear after he got to know her that she had headstrong personality and would do or say things without knowing how the people around her may react. She also had no consciousness of class and treated everyone she met in a similar manner. Soujiro discovered this during the night of the banquet during their first formal meeting. From the looks of it, it does still seem to be the case. However there was something about her that seemed different in comparison to before, though he can't exactly put his mind to it.

His thoughts broke off when he watched his bodyguard wander around aimlessly.

"Naoki. What have you been looking around aimlessly for the past two hours?" Soujiro finally asked his bodyguard.

"That is ...don't you think it's strange? Princess Ibuki's number of guards."

Soujiro glanced over at the guards that hovered not too close to Sumire but not too far. Indeed from where he stood , he only saw three in contrast to the five that is supposed to be there. "...Izumi-san isn't here."

Izumi Kyouya. The guy reeked of suspicion to him. The unusual hair colour aside there was something about those eyes that reeked of evil. Yet when he questioned his fiance about the grey hair guard during the earlier stages of their meeting. She merely laughed it off and told him not to worry. She is certainly a reckless woman. But, even Soujiro knew that she wouldn't keep someone dangerous by her side.

Iwa Ran came along too clearly intending to protect her but there was also another man. He came in secretly when the party was midway.

"Naoki. Do you know how the royal guards are chosen for the Ibuki Family?" His guard shook his head. "It differs from the usual procedure. Sure there is still the test of bravery, strength and nobility rank. However the Ibuki family also requires one other requirement. A certain jewel must be engraved in a visible area of their bodies."

"But Izumi-san doesn't have..."

Soujiro nodded. "Which is why I was suspicious of him in the beginning.."

Naoki raises his eyebrows. "Not anymore?"

Sumire walked over to him. " Sorry about that. I didn't think that they'd take that long to speak with me.

"It cannot be helped. Elders Chuken and Hans haven't seen you since the first banquet and a good deal of time has passed since then." Soujiro knew that she seldom attended banquets or gatherings like this unless it was necessary.

"That is true." Sumire agreed but she sighed. "But unlike back then I do not have the same reckless stamina. I am exhausted."

At that comment Soujiro turned to her properly and saw the sweat that clung to her face.

He took out a handkerchief from his pocket and handed it to her. "If you are tired tell me. I can bring you to my chambers." Soujiro offered.

He knew of her pregnancy that was why he initially tried to reject this invitation for her. But for some reason she agreed even though she clearly did not want to attend. Soujiro had yet to figure out what she was thinking. He heard from others that she was actively investigating her former lover's death. Perhaps there is a clue here somewhere? Otherwise he cannot imagine why she would come here.

"Thank you. But I will be fine."

Soujiro frowned at her refusal. She has become more stubborn. Even before that other woman pointed out her fatigue. He could see it himself. It's a real wonder why no one else has noticed it, she clearly doesn't have a healthy completion.

Rather it surprised him. In her state, her movement should be limited.

Unless she has learned to use her ability. Soujiro shook his head. Sumire has no knowledge of this stuff and it should remain that way.

"Soujiro?"

"Nothing."

Sumire seemed unconvinced, yet luckily for him she didn't ask any further questions. Instead turned to his guard.

"Himae-san you're a fan of Quatro light right?"

Naoki nods. "Yes but...why does Princess Ibuki know about that?"he asked politely.

Sumire smiles. "Well I saw you during one of the venues of the first few days of the tour..."

So he went there during his day off? . Soujiro found it strange that his guard would request time off, to see an idol group huh?

"Naoki.."

The blonde hair boy's face colour pales. "Yes?" He responded.

"If you wished to take a leave for a month instead of a mere three days. You should have at least said so."He wasn't exactly a fan of idols. But it wasn't as if he disliked them. It's difficult not to know of ' Quatro light' too, especiallytoo especially since it'sthere everywhere.

Moreover Sojiro only paid attention to them because of their connection with his fiancée. It is only because of Sumire that he paid attention to something so trivial.

"I'll keep that in mind next time sir..."

Sumire chuckles. "Don't scare him of Soujiro. Ah but you saw me too right? Next time just call out to me."

"I simply can't ---" Soujiro cuts his guard off by sending him a knowing look. "Very well...since the Prince permitted me to do so."

"Please do so. I am sure Kou and the others would like to meet you."

His guard seemed to be holding back his expression with the mention of Maon Kou, Soujiro sighs not being able to bear to watch the sight anymore. Soujiro pretended to look elsewhere. The second he does so, his guard burst into an enthusiastic conversation with his fiancée. Usually he wouldn't tolerate such behaviour, since it was among the rules he learned as an adult.

This rule was about guards separating from obility. But his own guard held a position that is similar to his own. So Soujiro never treated him in the same manner as a commoner

His thoughts retreated back on to the subject matter of the top idol group.Quatro light huh? Indeed it was quite difficult for him to feign ignorance on the group's existence.

Although he managed to ignore all traces of all the other idol groups residing in Japan. It's difficult to turn his attention away from groups that have connections to her. On that matter, there is the other one.

Nanairo Feather. It surprised him when he saw his fiancée during the broadcast of the group's first concert. However, even then he didn't become interested in them. It wasn't until that other one showed up that he truly turned his attention to the group. Soujiro too had seen it, the international concurrent broadcasts.

His family is fond of classical music and so during a meeting with their clients they always without fail watched the selection. He hadn't known about the girls' participation until the end of the first selection when they announced the girls' disqualification for the round. His clients didn't recognise the name. But his brother had done so.

'So your fiancée 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. I have heard rumors of a blonde hair demon princess all throughout the Yankee groups in Japan. Want a bet brother, that the demon princess they speak of is actually your fiancée?'

That conversation remained fresh in his mind. Which is why he anticipated the girl's return. Soujiro wanted to prove his elder brother wrong. Although he was fully aware of the girl's nature of not being a typical Princess. After all during their first meeting she expressed clear desires of knowing the state of affairs concerning wars.

When he went home that night and thought it through. He realised that it wasn't as unusual as he thought. After all she is still a ruler in the end, wanting to know the situation is normal. . His brother really is convinced on the matter that the demon Princess everyone is talking about is her. Indeed the girl's blonde hair and hairstyle certainly fit the description at the time.

His fiancée's hair style was no longer the same and the aspects of blonde she once had has been replaced by her natural hair colour. However, it wouldn't do any harm for him to make sure.

Soujiro was about to do so and proceeded to move a step forward when the lights flickered. In that split second the brightness of the room was replaced with a pitch black darkness. Although it was dark he could still navigate himself through to where his guard and Sumire was.

"Prince!" Naoki exclaimed.

"Do not fret. It is a mere black out. It happens quite often since the building is old. It should come back in a matter of seconds." Soujiro stated calmly, raising his voice slightly so the panicked nobles could hear him.

He often came to this building before for other business so he is used to this.

"...Asami, Ran isn't back yet is he?"

"No. But wait hold on Sumire-chan..."

Suddenly they hear a high pitched screams, followed by several. Soujiro turned his attention to the sound.

"Come Naoki. Follow me."

He didn't waste any time navigating around the dark. When he reached the corner of the room, he fiddled around his pockets and found a lighter as he extended it over and lit the candle stuck to the wall. A section of the room turns bright. " Naoki, can you see it? There is supposed to be a small hidden switch."

Naoki shifts down."Is it this silver one?"

"Yes."

Once Naoki clicked the switch, the room was covered in light once again. But that clearly triggered even more panic amongst the others. Since clearly in the center of the room, the great elder Ono had been stabbed in the middle, where his vital organs were. It was a terrible wound.

He watched as all the others merely glanced over, not knowing what to do. " Naoki, call the---" Soujiro didn't get a chance to finish his sentence, when the brown hair girl stepped forward.

To think a case like this happened at such a grand event. It is no exaggeration to say that nearly all the nobles have gathered here. He supposes this was the perfect time to stage an attack but it is still surprising. Soujiro watched as the girl bent down. It surprised him how quickly she reacted. All the other nobles merely stood there.

"Princess...." Ono said weakly.

"It'll be fine. Elder Ono."

"I see....so...you're like...him. No wonder...he was so drawn to you."

With those words said the elder shut his eyes. Soujiro who watched the girl carefully saw a flash of something in her eyes. It was an anger that he saw once before. When she was a mere child, he saw this very same look in her eyes. No it is slightly different now, there is a flash of pain mixed in with that hate.

.....

Soujiro finally managed to escape the banquet. It took him quite a deal of time to calm the guests and in the process of doing so he had to give orders to the guards on duty. Splitting them up so that there are plenty guarding the room and the other half searching for the culprit.

He even sent his own guard Naoki to the half searching for the culprit. His guard seemed reluctant to do so, wishing to accompany him but he refused.

It's not as though having guards was necessary. Had it not been part of the royal decree then he would never have had any. Royalty aren't as completely puppets as people think, it's true that they are not free.

But they aren't helpless when it comes to battle. Especially the training that had been given to him and his brothers, protecting himself he could do just fine. Upon arriving at his destination, he noticed that the door was slightly open already.

Soujiro could only stand there and watch his fiance amazed. The girl tied her hair into a bun and was in the middle of doing a medical procedure. From where he stood it seemed to be going well. It's not unusual for royals to have medical knowledge because even he had it. However, he never thought to apply it before.

It was because he was watching her that he noticed. She looked pale earlier but this time around something was different.

"Sumire?" Soujiro entered the room concerned.

"Are you feeling alright?"

"Ah." Sumire turned to him and laughed weakly. "I'm sorry but I think it's coming."

Soujiro's eyes widened alarmed as he watched her stagger, he extended his arms out to break her fall. The moment he caught her he saw how pale her face was, and the stream of sweat that fell from her face.

"Naoki!" Soujiro bellowed. His guard emerged from the doors. "Call an ambulance-- no," Soujiro trailed off. "Get my car, I will drive her to the hospital."

They can't afford to wait.

"...ru..." Sumire mumbled quietly but Soujiro heard her.

'It seems she is still suffering even now.' One would think now that she is dating Terashima, everything is okay. But that is not the case here. Even now her heart calls for him, calls for Tsueno Mamoru.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 257

Chapter 257: Everything happens for a reason Part 1

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

'I can't believe this.' Yuhi was standing in front of the waiting room door pacing back and forth. He ended up arriving a bit late so he could not go with her inside. By the time he arrived, it was already starting. Atushi, Jae - and the other guys in the group. Quatro Light, Atsuro and Shin were in the waiting room. Surprisingly though there was somebody missing.

Nagawa isn't here? Now that he thought about it. For a while now Sumire hasn't mentioned the man during their calls. She stopped going to the hospital too. But this hospital is under the Nagawa family right? He looked around for a bit and spotted violet coloured hair at the corner. Yuhi walked over and indeed found Hino and Nagawa.

The two seemed to be discussing something intently. It turned out that Nagawa was supposed to be in the operating room but he chickened out. Yuhi silently watched the two. For the past few minutes he had been frantic but watching Nagawa now, Yuhi could tell the man was in a worse state than him.

Yuhi scratched his head. "Nagawa, quit freaking out. We already knew. Sure this came unexpectedly but it was bound to happen eventually.

"No, Nagawa knew and that is why he is freaking out. He knows plenty of women who have given birth at a young age. But lost their lives."

So even 'royalty' of his degree can make such an expression. Even so, it doesn't seem right that the fiance isn't here. Surely they didn't just contact him right? . "Don't just stay out here, let's go to her side." Yuhi offered.

He dislikes Nagawa but even he could tell that the man was worried about Sumire.

Nagawa brushed past him "Huh? Where are you going?"

"I will return to work."

At that comment Yuhi frowned and yanked Nagawa's shoulder. Why would he go back to work when he is clearly worried about her?

The moment his hand made contact, Yuhi began to hear voices.

'She'll die. It's too late'

'Delayed labour. Dangerous'

'Sumire will die. The baby will die too.'

'Death death'

'Everyone will die.'

'This is my punishment for hurting her.'

'No no..'

The words death kept repeating over and over.

Yuhi paused and took a step back. 'This guy actually regrets it?' Sumire is this important to Nagawa. Actually Yuhi was testing Nagawa Sano too. Otherwise the man would not have this many moments with Sumire. So even a person like this ends up with regrets? Yuhi thought that Nagawa Sano was lower than scum but perhaps he still has a bit of humanity left in him.

Sano must have sensed his presence since he turned around. "Terashima."

"...are you not going back in?" Yuhi asked awkwardly.

"You must think this is hilarious. Even though I am a doctor I fear death."

Yuhi looked at him puzzled. "Why would I laugh? Your human it is normal to fear death."

"It's not that I'm not. But if I think that way I could jinx it. Besides what Sumire needs right now is for somebody who believes in her."

At that comment Sano burst into laughter. A dark and yet crazed look appeared in his eyes. "You can say that for sure with no evidence. Then let me tell you something interesting. Women with frail bodies have a higher chance of dying through childbirth. There is a high risk they will exchange their life for the child."

"...that won't happen." Yuhi knew that much. When he realized Sumire was pregnant he did his own research.

"That thing inside her isn't normal either."

Yuhi frowned when he heard those words. "That is a life you're talking about."

"Are you really happy with her having another man's child? Terashima, you can't trick me."

Indeed, it doesn't make him happy. But at the same time the other guy is Mamoru. Mamoru who helped him and even brought them together. When Mamoru started dating Sumire he contacted him and said just two words. That man told him to trust him. From the beginning that person sacrificed his own feelings. So how could he dislike the child?

Hino who was silent this entire time spoke up. "Sano, I know how you feel but she wouldn't want this."

Before Sano could say a word one of the nurses burst out of the operating room frantic. "Where is Doctor Sano?"

"Did something happen?" Sano stepped forward.

"The patient is losing a lot of blood, we--we don't know how to.."

"Calm down."

"Also she said..to call you."

It seems at the very least Sumire trusts Sano's skills as a doctor.

"Terashima, do you trust me?"

Yuhi blinked at the sudden question.

"Why does it--"

"Do you?"

"For this yes." Yuhi suddenly understood. Nagawa was asking his consent as Sumire's partner, as the one who would help her look after the child.

"That's enough."

...

The hours after Nagawa went in the operating room seemed to drag on for hours. The missing fiancée who had been with Sumire at the party arrived two hours ago. It seemed like the man was dealing with

the people at the party. Well they did call for an ambulance rather abruptly. It seemed there was an incident at the gathering too.

She should never have attended that stupid gathering. His thoughts broke off when he saw the red light flash green indicating it was over. One of the nurses came out and asked for the patient's spouse.

"Terashima, go in there."

"...Shouldn't you go Mr fiance?"

To her surprise the third Prince merely shakes his head. "The one she called for is you. Go to her side or I'll cut your throat the next time you interfere with my side's plans."

"Hm."

They took him away, to run some tests. But they say he's healthy. And a strong one, what a relief huh."

"Yeah....so when were you going to tell me about this hmmm?" Yuhi pinched her cheeks. They spoke when she was on her way to the party venue too so why did she not say anything?

"Ite. Yuhi, don't be a bully when I just went through a painful experience."

She scared him so much. He acted all calm in front of Nagawa and said all those brave sounding things but he knew better. The one who was most frightened was him. Actually he thought the same as Nagawa, the risk is higher because this is a child with supernatural abilities.

"It hurts but it was fun."

Yuhi looked at her dumbfounded. Is this woman crazy? He almost had a heart attack when he heard the news. If he used normal transport he would not have arrived until the next morning, but he used his ability.

His thoughts broke off when he felt her soft hands on his cheek. "Were you scared? It's okay, I'm alive."

After she said those words he could no longer hold his emotions back, and pulled her into his arms. Sumire who had been laying down on the operating table for so long seemed startled but she suddenly laughed.

"Uhh, what are you doing? There are people.."

Indeed there were still people in the room but none of that mattered to him. What matters the most is the girl in his arms. "What if you died?" He mumbled.

"I see, indeed that could have happened." Sumire trailed off. "But like I told you before everything happens for a reason, even the daily misfortune events. If I died today it would have had a meaning."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 258

Chapter 258: Everything happens for a reason Part 2

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

"You went through a lot, do you want to sleep?"

"Mmm. I think they still have to run some tests though, but afterward we can cuddle."

She already planned ahead too. No doubt that she asked for permission already. Yuhi gently combed her hair with his hands and patted her back.

He was showering her with so much affection that nobody wanted to disturb.

But one of the nurses stepped forward. "Excuse me but we have to bring her to her room."

...I

Yuhi checked on the child when Sumire fell asleep. It seemed the doctors were having a hard time because some of the tests seemed strange. So he called Atsuro over to have a look. A hospital like this does not specialize in individuals with evolved genetics, so it is normal. Yuhi figured there would be something wrong with the child but he did not think they would find out right away.

His gaze fell on the girl fast asleep on the bed. He extended his hand out and interlocked a strand of her hair with one of his fingers before he brought it to his lips. This girl scared him so much today. He rushed back so quickly too without finishing everything.

Hino came along like a fool too. That guy should have stayed behind. Since earlier he switched his phone off and did not switch it on even once. He does not want anybody to disturb them.

It is a good thing he made it, even though he could not come inside with her. Yuhi knew it was enough for her that he came. He lets go of the strand of hair and stood up. He picked up a guitar case from the side and took out his guitar. He was in the middle of promotion so he had this with him when he received word.

Yuhi played a few notes and for the next few minutes, there was no other sound. This recent song was just like the others, a powerful and explosive start before it turned quiet. The feelings he has for Sumire are like a raging storm.

"Yuhi-san are you writing a song for me?" He heard a faint voice and looked over. Sumire was peering over at him from her blanket.

The moment he thinks she looks adorable is when he loses. Yuhi tried to avoid eye contact but it did him no good.

"Silly girl, all my songs are for you."

"They are?"

'At least since we met back then.'

Sumire must have figured this out since she suddenly sat up. She wrapped her arms around his neck and sat on his lap causing him to let go of the guitar. Geez, even when he was refraining.

"Say Yuhi-san?"

"Yeah?"

"You smell good today."

Yuhi paused but gently caressed her hair. "Hey, do you want to go on a trip with me?"

Yuhi told the person to come in and Atsuro waltz in with the child in his arms. "Hey Yuhi, did you tell Sumire..."

Why is he here? What is he doing with her child too? Sumire stared at him suspiciously.

Atsuro walked over to her and placed the child in her arms. "Spend some time with him before you go."

He did not say anymore and exited the room. Sumire was very puzzled but she did not get a chance to say anything since she felt a small pair of hands on her own. "...Ma..M.."

Eh?

Yuhi laughed and sat down on the bed too. "Already trying to speak? This one is fast."

"What did Atsuro mean just now?"

"Mm, like I said let's go on a trip for a while. I mean we should go." Yuhi pointed to the child in her arms. Sumire felt pain in her arms and realized why. Could it be because she touched-- Yuhi took the child from her.

"We still don't understand what's wrong. But it won't be long, so let's go for a bit yeah?"

She knew Yuhi was trying to be as nice as possible about it but Sumire felt uneasy. Will she be unable to hold that child again?

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi grabbed the child's hand and let go before grabbing her hands. "It's okay, this child will recognize you no matter what happens. You also won't forget this warmth."

...

A few hours later on a remote island.

Sumire woke up to an unfamiliar room, and yet familiar warmth. Yuhi lay on top of her naked with the covers barely covering them. She still had her clothes on and yet she wore a very thin-looking nightgown.

'Did--did he change her into this?' Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi stirred awake.

Yuhi looked at her half-dazed before nibbling on her lips. "Morning love, why do you love so mad?"

She points to her clothes.

"Well you got drenched in the rain, I had to do something.." Yuhi trailed off. "Sorry, you must be upset.."

"..."

Now she is even more irritated. Why is he such a gentleman? This is cheating.

"I'm not upset." She kissed him back. "How long are we staying here?"

"Mm, I was thinking a week? We have to go back next week to do the term evaluation but we can prepare for that here."

A week with Yuhi in this place. Actually, since she woke up she immediately noticed the fresh air and a different atmosphere. From the window, she spotted palm trees and bright blue skies. Sumire looked at Yuhi puzzled, Yuhi who noticed her gaze chuckled.

"Private island."

A knowing ah escaped her lips. Right, Yuhi-san has something like this. She almost forgets that he is a famous superstar. Whenever they are together he feels like a normal person. She snuggled into his arms and Yuhi gently caressed her hair.

Yuhi mumbled her name affectionately against her hair. "You want to relax for a bit more?"

"I do."

"What about food?"

"Later." For some reason, she just wants to stay with him like this.

Now that she thought about it, the two of them have come a long way. In the past, she would not have imagined that they would end up this way. That time she turned him down she only did so because she was unsure. She was unsure of herself, not his feelings. His feelings were quite transparent to her. Despite how she was back then she could tell he was sincere. But it was because she saw his sincerity that she understood. With the way she is, she will only bring him unhappiness and more pain.

But from the very start, Yuhi never saw her as a ticking time bomb waiting to explode. She was so cold to him and other people and yet he still said such words to her. He still confessed to her. It made no sense to her at all. Even though this person can see all her flaws, he still accepted her.

"What about that song you were writing for me?"

"Mm? You want to hear it?"

"No, I don't."

Yuhi laughed and stood up. "Alright. I will make your food after all. Try to sleep more if you can." Before she could say anything he was already exiting the room.

The moment he left she buried her face in the pillows and deeply sighed. So much has happened and yet she recalled the warmth of the child she briefly held in her arms. So small, those hands that had clung to her were so very small, and yet it was familiar. It was the same as his hand.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 259

Chapter 259: No meaningless misfortune

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

That's right long before she even met Yuhi, she already found herself to be attracted by books that contained knowledge of this world. Originally it was only a means of escape, escape from all the shouting.

Her parents often fought. Indeed, her family life wasn't exactly as peaceful as what the general public thought it was.

Everybody saw the Ibuki family as a perfect rich family. Every family member is privileged, and they all got along well.

Nobody would have thought that the perfect family is an illusion. That family long fell apart, so perhaps what happened then was atonement.

It was atonement for what happened before. In that sense, there really is no meaningless misfortune.

When she first stumbled upon Shakespeare's works she learned the meaning in more depth. What a true tragedy is. Her form of escape were those books. In order to block out the sound, she listened to music and escaped into the world of stories. But that is a delusion. She cannot remain that way forever.

A person cannot escape from a reality that is there. She discovered many things. So then how is she an outsider of society supposed to fit in? The answer is simple.

She just has to live the same as everyone else. Another is that most humans won't accept something as a fact. If it is outside what they consider common sense.

When she realized these things she realized though, that even if she did that it wouldn't change anything. It won't make her world any less dark than it already was.

Individuals with a purpose?

Those with strong goals and motivation, she didn't understand them either.

'It's alive with glamour and culture. Take a stroll around the city and you will get caught up in the city's allure. A feeling of lightness. But light cannot exist without darkness and there is a delicate balance worth protecting. It's the darkness I carry inside me. It's the reason for my strength and the point of my existence.'

Mamoru's words echoed in her head. One of his many teachings and beliefs. He said those words when they fought too. Even when they fought, Ru could say such wise sounding things.

She instantly thought. 'Ah, this person can say that easily because he doesn't understand.'

'I thought that way for so long until I saw his pain.' After she saw it up close and in front of her. Sumire realized that the world is even more complex than she imagined.

Sumire looked at her surroundings and took a deep breath. It should be okay out here. While she is gradually returning to the entertainment industry, it is still difficult to sing.

"My cheeks are wet, are wet with my loneliness

and they invite me to the sky

Hope is waiting beyond here, that's right— So let's go

Even while I'm lost, I go on a journey to find you

My hands felt how our senses differ

I'll catch you and hold you tight

The way our hearts seek one another is the proof of my dream.."

A song of sadness, loneliness, and hope, and longing.

Currently, she was on top of a hill that overlooked the island. This place really is completely different. Unlike Tokyo, there are not many people here, and yet the people are busy.

It's always busy with people no matter the time of day. It's completely different from that place where she first met Yuhi.

Her thought broke off when she felt a pair of arms wrap around her.

"You will catch a cold Princess.."

Sumire closed her eyes and allowed a cool wind blow against her cheek."It's summer anyway so it's alright. But really Princess? That's quite cold of you Yuhi-san."

Yuhi sighed, She watched as a troubled look appeared on his face. "At times like this, it is best to remind you of your title".

Her title huh? It's not like they are living in the old days so why do people use such old-fashioned terms for rich people? Is it because she comes from a traditional family?

She chuckles. "I see." Sumire trailed off. "In other words you're concerned aren't you?"

"Do not put it so bluntly Sumire."

Sumire reached her hands back until she felt the familiar warmth of his hands. "Yuhi, you remember now don't you?"

"Yeah. I will apologize for forgetting. But you won't accept that will you?"

"I won't."

That's right. She won't accept his apology. But she will selfishly keep him by her side like this. This was one of the reasons why she accepted his confession.

Sumire spoke up her voice gently."It's okay for me to be selfish isn't it?"

"It is."

What a liar.

At times like this, he should just say what he is thinking.

'In front of me, you don't have to pretend Yuhi.' Sumire wanted to tell him these words but nothing escaped her lips. Even though they are so close, why does she still feel so distant from him?

Maybe it's because she understands something. No matter how close they are there is still darkness in Yuhi's heart that he does not share with her.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi suddenly halted. He turned around and pulled her into his arms.

"Yuhi-san? What's wrong?" Sumire asked.

"Nothing, just cold."

'But...!' Sumire's gaze fell on his hands wrapped tightly around her waist. There must be something. One day will he be able to share those things with her? Does she have to wait? She wants to ask him now.

"Sorry," Yuhi mumbled. "You want to ask right?"

"You won't tell me?"

"Not that. I just need some time, you trust me don't you Sumire?"

Of course, she does. He is the only one she trusts right now.

"I do, but don't leave me waiting for too long."

Yuhi laughed. "I can sense your impatience."

Oops, that came out naturally. She shouldn't say things like that. Sumire tried to raise her face but he wouldn't let her.

"You know since you came here I have been very restless."

"Because I cause you trouble?"

"Not quite. More like, I can't stop writing songs about you."

"Why is that a pro—" Sumire paused when she realized something. "Wait, how many songs are we talking about exactly?"

"I wrote a few every day since you came here."

A few every day? This guy is too shameless! But he is so forward at expressing his feelings for her.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 260

Chapter 260: A sense of hope and purpose

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Yuhi kissed her forehead. "Last week of July, I'm going to have a short tour but only in town. Hino booked out all the major venues."

"So I get to watch you sing?"

"You get an exclusive seat." Yuhi grinned. "You will come won't you?"

"Well, maybe I'm busy that day."

Yuhi deeply sighed and she laughed. "By now can you not tell when I am joking?"

"I can but." Yuhi rubbed his hair with his hands. "That does not stop me from worrying."

He looks genuinely troubled by this. Maybe she ought to stop messing with him. It is rare to see him this way though.

Sumire extended her hand out and caressed his cheeks. "You worry too much."

"It seems so. But that's because of you, you're in a bad mood so you're tricking me a lot."

"You left me with Sano for so long, naturally I am quite upset."

Yuhi sighed. "Well I knew asking Atsuro wasn't an option."

"Leaving me to other men, isn't that weird?"

"Indeed..." Yuhi trailed off and sighed. "It won't happen again. It was only because you were pregnant."

Sumire chuckled when she saw his serious expression. "I am not angry."

"You could have fooled me."

Yuhi still seemed bothered so she turned to face him, and took his hands into hers.

"It's quite manly of you, you know. To work so hard with your bare hands. Makes a girl feel impressed."

At that comment she watched as his face turned redder and she laughed. "Did you think I wouldn't notice? You went on tour - no you went there to clean up the mess I caused."

When she heard which city Yuhi was in she immediately understood. This person would do everything to protect her honour and reputation, even if it means sacrificing his own. He would do anything just so she would smile.

"Alright so I did but don't make fun-" Sumire cuts him off by edging closer. Yuhi responded by wrapping his arms around her waist. "I thought you would be angrier at me, for breaking our promise."

"I'm not that unreasonable, even I understand what your intentions are. Besides a promise is something that can break. It is mere words. There is no guarantee that the other person will keep it. It is easy to sway human hearts after all."

Yuhi sighed and bent down to kiss her lips. "You know when you're mad you end up rambling a lot."

"I'm only in a bad mood, not angry at you." To prove her point she kissed Yuhi back but unlike his kiss, she kissed him passionately.

It did not take long for both of them to get caught up in it. She felt his hands on her shirt and shuddered. "Yuhi-san?"

Her birthday is in two days...so does that mean she will spend it here with Yuhi-san in this place? That is not a bad idea. There does not seem to be many people on this island, they are more or less alone here. Right she should wait till then.

Sumire reluctantly pulled away from him and sighed.

"Something wrong?"

"I was just thinking that it would be nicer if you were a despicable guy like the rumors say."

Yuhi awkwardly scratched his hair. "Well it's actually harder than you think."

Sumire looked at him puzzled but Yuhi kept muttering how she did not understand at all.

"You can ask me anything, you know," he tells her. "Whatever will make you happy."

Her eyes widened at his sudden words. "Why did you say something weird just now?"

"It's weird?"

Sumire nodded. "I find it unpleasant when you behave this way." When he behaves this way she can't turn him away. "I feel nervous."

"The nervous part will come later so shouldn't you relax for now?"

This shameless man, so he intended to continue after all! Sometimes it is hard to tell what he is thinking. There are times where he acts like a gentleman and then there are times where he acts like a beast.

"Can we have a look around the island?"

"Mm, let's have a date."

....

They managed to return to the house before sunset, had a nice meal, composed some songs together before heading to bed. But Sumire felt restless and ended up standing up and leaving the room. At first she only intended to walk around the manor but she ended up going outside. Sumire did not go to the beach area but remained behind the fence, she took a seat on the bench and looked up at the sky.

There was a full moon in the sky tonight. A lot has happened since she moved away from Star town huh? The reason she originally moved away was because she wanted to escape, escape from a place that still had traces of Mamoru. But there was also another reason. She wanted to meet Yuhi again. Yuhi sent her all those books during the time she isolated herself in Mamoru's house. Once in a while she would hear the sound of something slip inside the letter hole. At first she ignored it, or rather the sound frightened her.

She didn't want to hear anything, to know any news - all she wanted was to be alone. She wanted to stay in the one place where she knew he would come back to, he would return to her.

But eventually she became curious. She did not know why but she stood up and left the spot in Mamoru's room which she isolated herself in. Sumire remembers seeing the stack of books scattered on the ground and immediately rushed over. She knew who sent them without searching for a name or before she found the notes with his handwriting.

Those books Yuhi sent her varied and some made no sense at all. But somehow it was comforting for her. She found a sense of hope and purpose despite being in despair. The one who gave her that ray of light, that way out was Yuhi.

It belonged to the person she loved since she was younger. Ru told her he would help her forget Yuhi. But in the end even when they dated it felt like he was pushing her towards him.