

Melody 331

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 331

Chapter 331: Sacrifices

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Sumire glared harshly at the person beside her.

"D--don't glare at me like that. I warned you, didn't I?"

She wanted to tell him it was a bit late, but that was just an unnecessary outburst of anger. She needs to control her temper more. Besides, it seems Yuhi-san got wet too.

Sumire averted her gaze from Yuhi and tugged on her shirt that was hugging tightly into her skin. The unusual cold seemed to gradually vanish, yet she felt short bursts of pain in her chest.

This is bad, and this hasn't happened in a while. She was more sensitive to the cold than most people. She never knew if her chest pain was related to her asthma or not since most of the time, and she had a hard time breathing. Her anxiety can cause breathing problems, too, and that will lead to pain.

Her thoughts break off when she hears the sound of rushing footsteps. The shop owner exited the shop with a worried look on her face. It was a young girl with dark brown hair tied in a bun, wearing a forest green maid outfit.

"I'm so sorry, miss. I'll dry those clothes for you, so why not stay in my shop while you wait?"

They really shouldn't be staying in one area for long. Because it doesn't change the fact that Yuhi is a number one idol. The paparazzi seem especially desperate after what happened the last time. It wouldn't be surprising if that reporter who returned told them what happened. Even so, it is partly his fault this happened, and she can't walk around like this.

"Then we will take you up on that offer."

.....

Sumire already knew the clothes would be strange based on what the shop owner wore. It seemed like this was one of those old-style cafes, so there were many traditional clothing to choose from.

Unfortunately, there were no plain designs, so she ended up wearing a rather flashy-looking kimono.

She entered the room Yuhi was waiting in. She found him on his phone and some snacks on the small table in front of him. For a moment, Sumire simply looked at him.

Even though he is just sitting like this, he looks perfect.

Pure black hair, and yet it seems to shine when light reflects on it—pale skin glistening in the dusk. Sharp and chocolate brown eyes, Yuhi is perfect.

After their first encounter, Sumire recalled how she ended up drawing so many pictures of him for days. She didn't want to forget it, even for a moment, the many different expressions that he showed her.

So she drew like crazy; she remembered the scolding her mother gave her then. It is a good thing she did not throw those drawings away. It was one of the few things she managed to take out during the incident.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi called out to her. "Instead of staring, come over here already."

"I wasn't staring." Sumire walked over and sat down beside him.

"Huh?"

She did not even have the chance to respond before Yuhi removed the hairpin. He then restyled her hair with his hands.

"You have silkier hair than most people, so I am sure you have a hard time."

Yuhi tied up all her hair with the ease of someone skilled at the process. It bothered her a bit when she realized how skilled he was. Fixing a girl's hair like this, and there was that previous case where he painted her nails.

Since she came here, Sumire heard many rumors about Yuhi. There are some very awful ones about him, and Sano often reminded her of them. But she never paid too much attention to it. At least before they went out, now they are together, she is more mindful.

Believing in them immediately would be wrong, but she cannot dismiss them entirely. Ninety percent of rumors are lies used to deceive and hurt others, but the remaining ten percent are truths shrouded in mysteries.

More importantly, she felt her already red face turn hotter.

Why does her face get all hot when all he does is touch her hair? She must not let Yuhi see her face right now. She teased him earlier, so he will most likely use this chance to get back at her. Still, it was difficult to stay still. Even more, than Yuhi kissing her or doing anything else, she felt more nervous about him doing something like this.

I promised Soujiro to be happy, so I shouldn't push Yuhi away so much. But it still felt strange. Is it okay for me to rely on him so much?

After what felt like forever, but it was only a few minutes, he pulled back." Alright, done."

She checks her hair in the mirror once Yuhi finished.

Naturally, it was flawless. He is good at cooking too, and household chores. It feels like she ought to work on her feminine skills.

"It is very nice to see you this way," Yuhi commented. "Although, Mamoru has probably seen all of these sides of you."

Yuhi said the next half said so quietly, so she wasn't sure if she heard correctly.

"Did you say something?"

"No, it's nothing."

He is denying it? That's unusual from him. Then again, it is something to do with Ru. No matter how accepting and kind Yuhi is, Sumire noticed how odd he acts whenever she mentioned Ru. It is only normal for him to act that way. She has gotten used to him being so accepting that she forgets that his reaction now is normal, unlike his initial behavior.

"Oh yeah, the shop owner brought us some snacks earlier. The regular customers left her these. Let's have some."

Sumire rolled her eyes when she heard that comment. She thought so when the shop owner showed them inside, but the girl kept looking at Yuhi. Why does he keep attracting such pretty people for? It makes it harder for her to hold back. But she ought to control her temper now that she has returned to the entertainment industry.

Unlike before, she does not have somebody covering for her every move.

To think she only just realized how much Ru was protecting her from everything. Ru and that person did so much for her. It is stupid to notice these things now. Her gaze fell towards Yuhi, who talked about the snacks; this person, too, has sacrificed so much already.

How much more will he sacrifice for her?

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Chapter 332: What if the world ends?

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

Sometimes it is painful for her to be around Yuhi. No matter how much she loves him, she recalls why she turned him down in the back of her mind.

I do not deserve to be with him. Somebody as vile and dirty as her should not be around him.

Yet, she cannot let him go, and she wants to possess everything about the man called Yuhi.

"You know I wish kimonos were uniforms."

"Eh?" It was only then when she noticed the look in his eyes. This stupid pervert. "Even if kimonos are easy to take off, we aren't doing that in school."

Yuhi looked at her with an innocent look. "I wasn't implying that."

As if! But unlike Sano, Yuhi does not act like a gentleman. If he wants her, he will tell her. There is no mask. This is one of the many things she liked about him. He not only treats her well, but he respects her. This is the first relationship where she has felt like an equal.

Sano was a jerk, and he only used her. No, they used each other.

Ren was a good guy, but he had his own fair share of problems.

With Ru, it was nice, but it felt like they were locked in their dream bubble and pushed away those around them.

"But wait, if they were, then people would see how pretty you are. Now I can't have any more guys liking you."

"Wh-" Her sentence fell short when Yuhi leaned forward.

"You already have a harem, dear. Do you know what problems they cause me?"

"That is not my fault." Sumire tried to avert her gaze, but it was difficult since he was so close. "Yuhi, about what I said to you the other night I.."

When she woke up in the morning, she regretted telling him. Even though Yuhi already suspected something, actually hearing it from her must be painful. Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi kissed her lips softly.

"I am not mad, Sumire. So don't worry."

"But I must have hurt your feelings." She said it so bluntly there is no way he is not hurt.

"Your right; it did hurt me."

"Then-"

"But how can I possibly get angry at you, Sumire?"

What sort of logic is that? Of course, he can get angry at her.

"Yuhi, not so fast. I can't let you go so easily now that you know my secrets."

Yuhi nodded and sat opposite her.

"Well, then Yuhi-san."

"Yes."

"You didn't even tell me even though you knew. I think that's quite mean of you, Yuhi-san."

"It is?"

Is he that dense? Why on earth does she have to say it? Geez.

"If I looked, I would be troubled is why."

"By what? Are you not going to give me a reason after lecturing me?" Yuhi questioned. By this point, she was already fidgeting uncontrollably. "If you don't tell me, I will talk about your secret hideout-"

"You probably wrote silly things like how much you like me and want to touch me." She paused in mid-sentence, realizing what she just said there. "Don't make me say it, you dummy!"

"That's exactly right. Did you not check the entry? Last time I wrote about your scent and stuff."

"Gee! Don't say anymore!"

She didn't want to see it, didn't want to see how warmly he thinks of her even now. Because she's decided to be with Yuhi because the one she loves is without a doubt only Yuhi, yet this person has always remained connected to her no matter what. No matter how many times she severs the connection, they always end up together.

No matter how many times she tells him that she still loves Ru, he always comes back. A real idiot, but his feelings are genuine.

"I am the worst." Sumire mumbles. "I am very happy that you do so much for me, Yuhi. But I'm not able to properly respond to your feelings right now."

Yuhi reached over and grabbed hold of her arm. "I already know. I am sorry, Sumire. I know your heart hasn't been able to move on from that day. You may hide it from the others, but I- the others can tell that you're still thinking of Mamoru. I have absolutely no intention of rushing you. I just want you to know that my feelings aren't going to change. . Please feel free to leave me if you ever don't need me anymore."

If it were that simple Yuhi, they wouldn't belong through all of this now. If it was that simple, then by now, he would have somebody else.

"By now, they wouldn't be this close."

But the last part is a lie; that would never happen even if she wanted it to, even if she wanted to distance herself from him. Even if she were to leave him, their fates would still connect and be unable to leave each other's side.

"You're so foolish." She mumbled.

"I know."

Sumire moved away from him and walked over to the couch. After a few minutes, she hears Yuhi slide a chair behind the couch.

"Sorry."

"Why are you apologizing for?"

"Lately, it feels like I am too pushy. At the start, when I asked you out, I told you I would not rush you and that we can take our time. But whenever I am around you, I cannot control my feelings."

"But you won't break up with me?"

"Yeah, that is impossible."

"Impossible, huh?"

"You know those mini letters you slipped into the books you sent me?"

"Mmm? What about the--" Yuhi awkwardly ran his hands through his hair. "Forget it, those were..."

"Love letters?"

"..."

Sumire laughed softly at his reaction. Normally Yuhi is so calm and bold. It is rare to see him this way. It seems she likes him more than she thought. Unlike back then, something has changed, though. She still has those moments where she acts like a little girl in front of him. But she can take the initiative to get closer now.

Unconsciously she gradually got closer. Yuhi placed his hand on top of hers. "You okay now?"

"I'm still a bit afraid."

"Mmm."

But she is calm. If it were in the past, then this situation would be different. "Say Yuhi-san?"

"Yeah?"

"What is the last thing you would do if the world ends?"

"Tell you how much I love you and promise to meet you in the next life."

Yuhi has said many cheesy things since they started dating. But this is the first time he rendered her speechless.

"Is he some kind of idiot?" Why did he say that?

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Chapter 333: Bad habits

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

Sumire felt her heartbeat increase.

This is so foolish. What are they both doing? As she thought this, she felt Yuhi's lips on hers. It was a brief kiss, but it made her feel so emotional. She recalled the contents of the letters.

"Call me anytime if you have trouble."

When she saw that she wanted to call him immediately, she isolated herself for so long and didn't speak with anyone after Ru passed away. But receiving those books with his letters, she slowly regained some strength. "I want to see somebody, to see Yuhi."

"I missed you. I wanted to see you."

His gaze is gentle. "I'm sorry. You know I regretted it, leaving you behind. When I came to Tokyo, I was at a loss, and I didn't even know why I returned. It was different without you by my side. We may have ended up as boss and subordinate, and I may have ended up used and treated like a hunting dog. But I longed for those days even though they restricted my freedom."

"You know I never once treated you as--"

Yuhi cuts her off by tracing her lips with his fingers. "I know that. You were the only one who treated me as a human, as a detective. Thanks to you, I could use my strength to protect rather than hurt."

"Yuhi."

"I'm so grateful to you, Sumire. Thank you so much."

Why does he treat her in such high regard? She never understood before. She never understood before because she never tried to understand. This person's genuine feelings for her and everything he does is because she saved him from the darkness in his heart.

When she saw Yuhi again at the bar a few months ago, she noticed something had changed. The aura around him differed from before.

He seems kinder and less restless? Back when he was a member of Holy Knights with her, he gave off a distant aura. He wasn't cold-hearted. But he did not interact with others very well. Back then, he only cared about revenge.

The current Terashima Yuhi is different.

It seems the one that changed him was her.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi extended his hand out, manju in his hands. "Alright, then open wide."

"I--I can't eat anymore." Rather how can she eat in this strange mood?

"You sure?"

Sumire slowly nodded. "Yuhi-san, can I ask-" Her sentence fell short when he kissed her after eating the manju. The sweet taste of the bun filled her mouth.

"Too sweet for me."

"..."

Sumire stared at him, speechless. "Th-this guy? What is with him?" Sumire sighed deeply. It feels like she always gets caught up in his pace. Nothing has changed since she was his boss. It felt weird being Yuhi's boss when he had more experience than her. She knew nothing about being a detective. Sure she was strong, but that was all. She only had strength, but she couldn't solve cases.

If Yuhi didn't join back, then she would have struggled. Perhaps she would have lost her place in Holy Knights. What use is their having brute strength and nothing else?

It didn't take her long to realize that he was also looking at her.

"Why are you watching me, Yuhi-san?"

"Well, I could say the same back at you."

"That is unfair, I asked first."

His lips curve to a half-smile, half-smirk. "Is it a problem? Watching you?"

"No problem, I like it a lot." Why would she be against him paying even more attention to her than he already does?

Yuhi dropped a gentle kiss on her forehead. A content sigh passed her lips. "I think you figured it out already, but I like looking at you. If possible, I want to look at only you."

"Then maybe you should do that, Yuhi-san."

He laughed. "Are you going to damage my eyes so I can only look at you?"

That doesn't sound like a bad idea. Before she could say that, however, he suddenly said. "Thank you for making me so happy."

Ah, he is a fool. There is no need for him to say such things. She felt her cheeks burn at his words, and he laughed again. "Reminds you of old times, boss?"

"Quit it." Sumire hits him lightly, but he grabbed her hands.

Yuhi brought her fingers to his mouth and slowly kissed each finger. "..."

"You know, after I returned to Tokyo, I wandered around a lot. Occasionally I would find things that reminded me of you and ended up buying it."

"Things that reminded you of me?" Sumire repeated as she played with the buttons on his shirt.

"Yeah, I bought a lot of stuff. Why do you think I have multiple houses in Tokyo? I needed the storage space."

Exactly what did he buy to fill several houses? Then again, she isn't one to talk when it comes to bad habits.

Since she missed him a lot, she ended up buying cigarettes and would light them to keep his scent around her. She never smoked but always carried the same brand of cigarettes and lighter.

"Lately, Shin is avoiding me."

"Didn't he speak to you recently?"

"But that was one time," Sumire recalled that scene of him badly hurt. "Was he embarrassed about that time?"

"Men don't like to show their weak side in front of the girl they like."

Sumire rolled her eyes. "Aren't you too calm about that?"

"No, it bothers me." Yuhi sighed. "But you know those guys all mean well. They care a lot about you regardless of their feelings."

So Yuhi-san can see that much?

"I think he is hiding something about the case from me," Sumire confirmed her suspicions the last time she saw him. He was fidgeting and kept averting his gaze.

"Maybe because he realized your seeking help from Makoto?"

"What's wrong with me using whatever resource I have?" Sumire countered.

Yuhi chuckled. "I didn't say it was wrong, but Shin might take it the wrong way. He probably thinks you don't need him anymore since he failed."

Her eyes widened, realizing. "Wait, do you think-?"

"Yeah."

"I didn't intend for that to happen."

"Relax, I will talk to him."

"Yuhi, did you find anything out too?" Sumire questioned. Shin isn't the only one behaving strangely.

"It's not something large. But when you were working on the solo songs with Quatro Light. I noticed there was someone following you."

Sumire blinked when she heard those words before she loudly exclaimed. "Wait, what?!!!"

"Mmm, why do you think I came with you most of the time?"

Was somebody following her? How come she didn't notice that? Sure her skills may have gotten a bit rusty due to her peaceful life now, but even then, it is impossible for her not to notice.

"It's alright."

"How can you say that?"

"Because Sumire, you have me."

"Ah, I give up; this person is the one person I can't go against." The one person who can destroy her strong front.

Before she could reply to those words, the sound of Yuhi's phone ringing interrupted them. Yuhi only briefly looked at the screen before he got up. Ah, he is leaving; she wanted to talk a bit more and also recalled her fingers that lingered on his shirt. Perhaps she could have done something.

Her thoughts broke off when she felt a pair of lips on hers. "Just taking a call, don't leave here, and we can continue."

"Continue?" She feigned ignorance, and Yuhi laughed.

"Yeah, continue." He replied vaguely.

"Then be quick."

With a final goodbye kiss, Yuhi left the room in a hurry. Sumire slumped on the ground and extended her hand towards the ceiling. She almost said something crazy again.

Yuhi makes her go crazy. This feeling is so strange, but it isn't unpleasant.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 334

Chapter 334: Marionette Part 1

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

Sumire laid down for a few minutes before she hears a familiar voice. She felt slightly disturbed by the voice, so she immediately got up and slowly slid the door open.

Isn't that Sano? Sure enough, she saw a familiar figure heading in the direction of her room. Sumire quickly hid behind the wall.

Why is Yuhi taking so long to get back?

She felt her heart speed up as his footsteps got closer.

"Young master, apologies, but guests are occupying that room right now."

"I see."

"Should I ask them to leave?"

"No, customers are valuable. I'll use another room."

A relieved sigh escaped her lips once she heard the two leave. It would be bad if he caught her; she hasn't met with him in a while. It's not like she deliberately avoided him, but Sumire decided it would be bad if they met each other now.

Besides, after she said those words to Yuhi, it felt awkward going back to Sano.

"He looks pale. Is he sick?" Sumire felt a strange pain in her chest. It's not because of her, right? Sure she decided to use him, but surely she didn't brainwash him too much? Her tactic was rather simple. She didn't exactly play hard to get. She kept him interested in her by not getting too attached to him but not pushing him away either.

"I messed with him, but a tactic like that shouldn't work on him, right?" Surely Sano was just playing along.

Now that Yuhi knows the truth, there is no need for her to continue.

Sumire proceeded to re-enter the room when she suddenly heard footsteps. Her eyes widened when she saw Sano, and she tried to close the door, but he grabbed hold of her wrist and entered the room.

"San--" She doesn't get a chance to finish that sentence since he suddenly picked her up.

He tossed her onto the futon.

"Sano! Wait--"

"You, how dare you avoid me for so long?"

"As I thought, he is angry after all." Yet Sumire noticed how pale and skinny he looked. She hesitantly extended her hand out to touch his face. "Are you sick?"

His skin felt hot, and sweat clung to his face.

"I--"

"You're sick?" She repeated.

Sano sighed deeply. "Yes." He trailed off. "I couldn't take it any longer, so I came here to rest."

Hino mentioned it briefly before, but who would have thought it was this bad.

"Take a break?" She suggests.

"Isn't Terashima with you?"

"Ah." Sumire nodded. "But it seemed like he was in a rush. I don't think he will come back."

He looked distressed when he answered that phone call. Her thoughts broke off when Sano slumped his face onto her shoulders, his entire body pressed against hers.

"San?"

"Just a moment. Sorry."

Oh, he must feel terrible. She wants to say something to him. But what can she say? To think her plan to control him actually worked.

"Sano--wait."

"What a nice smell. Do you wear perfume?"

"Well, a little. I got given some after a photo shoot. I don't like wasting things, so I decided to use it." They gave her so much, and she didn't know what to do with it.

"Then my present won't go to waste."

"You got me perfume?"

His lips curve to a rare smile. "I did."

So he got her perfume, how strange. He often commented in the past how those elegant things did not suit her. Her thoughts broke off when she felt an odd sensation in her lower body. Sumire immediately understood that it was Sano's--

"Can I?" Sano brushed his lips against her ear. "Please, I want you so badly."

"This is getting out of hand." She supposes it's natural considering well, considering it was her plan. Not to toot her own horn, but it is easy for her to trick and deceive people. It was part of her job in the underworld. She got sent on many undercover missions and, at some point, mastered the art of deception.

Her thoughts broke off when his lips fell on hers. He immediately got to work since her mouth was open.

"A kiss from a beast." Or maybe it was because of the fever? Either way, it seems like her plan has worked a bit too well. She can use Sano. She can sense his desire for her, and there is something else there too. Did she succeed in making him fall in love with her?

Before Sano could do anything else, somebody yanked him off her.

The other person looked like he just ran a marathon judging from how sweaty he looked. "Hino."

"Damn it. Hey Sano, I told you before-"

"Shut it, my head hurts."

Hino sighed deeply and turned to her. "Were you just about to let him---" He paused and shook his head. "I know things are weird with you and Yuhi lately, but don't do anything stupid."

"Things are weird between us?" Sumire repeatedly puzzled. What is he talking about?

"Then again, maybe it's all good. Yuhi isn't the type of guy to make you feel awkward and uncomfortable for long."

Sumire just nodded along, not understanding what he was trying to say.

Her gaze fell on Sano, slumped against the wall. He looks awful, and he should go back home.

Hino frowned as he looked at her and Sano back and forth. "Sumire, a word."

She nodded and followed him out of the room.

"Look, I know it's just an act, but-"

"This is surprising, you knew?" Sumire cut him off.

"Your behaviour is very hard to understand. You're a complicated person, but even I could see what you were doing. Sumire you, what do you plan to do with Sano? Why do you need him?"

"It's not that I need him, but more like I thought he could be a good pawn. I thought I could turn him into a doll, a doll that is obedient to me and only me."

From the very start, she planned to meet him again. It just so happened that they met much earlier than her original plan.

Hino looked at her with a complicated look on his face. But Sumire was beyond the point of pretending to be nice.

"Sano already knows. He isn't stupid, so you don't have to worry about him."

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Chapter 335: Marionette Part 2

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"The one I am worried about is you, not him."

Her eyes widened when she heard those words.

Did he just-- well, she did suspect something, but Sumire thought Hino knew better than to reveal his feelings.

Hino must have realized, too, since he looked away. "It's not like..."

Sumire sighed deeply as she walked over to him. She extended her hand out and briefly touched his cheek. It was an unfamiliar feeling, but she did not flinch. It seems she is not afraid of Hino. Then again, ever since she came here, he has treated her like a good friend. She is very grateful to him.

"To a certain extent, I understand."

That was all she managed to say since she heard the door slid open. A weak-looking Sano stood there, but he reached over and pulled her towards him. Her face buried in his chest.

A different scent, and yet it was familiar somehow.

"Hino." Sano said sharply. "Didn't I warn you already not to do something like this?"

So they spoke about it? Now that she thought about it, Hino was always strangely cautious about her and Sano's situation. Hino could have told on her to Yuhi anytime, and yet he did not do that. It must be hard on him, choosing between his best friend and his family.

"You know I'm only worried. Sano, you must be crazy. Sumire doesn't like you anymore. Sumire, too, your actions; you need to stop. Give this a rest, you two, and it isn't healthy."

She understands that very well. There is no point in her further getting involved with Nagawa Sano. He is not crucial in finding out the truth she desires. She doesn't need him at all.

But a part of her still hasn't moved forward. Was it revenge? She no longer knew. But a part of her didn't want to let him escape so easily. Now that she has him right where she wants, why would she let him go?

Ah, what a twisted mindset.

Aki-san often told her before that she ought to be careful around people who hurt her. "Even if you say you forgive them, the monster inside you hasn't." Indeed, it was exactly like what he said. The moment she saw Sano again, the moment he apologized, an idea came to mind.

"I can use him."

"I want to exploit him."

It's not like anything will change whether or not she did it. She knew the mental scar he gave her would not vanish easily.

Before they could exchange any more words, a flash of black appeared before her.

"Yuh-" Her sentence fell short when she felt him pinch her cheeks.

"Ouch, ouch!"

"That's your punishment for flirting."

"I wasn't--" Her sentence fell short when he wiped her lips with a cloth.

"This is for letting Sano kiss you."

So he must have seen... She felt odd at the thought. This is so strange. Back then, she could do this stuff so easily but now? Now she felt genuine guilt. Is it because Yuhi is different? Unlike the other guys she dated, Yuhi is her first love, and he is the one she genuinely held feelings for her. But that is no longer the case, and he isn't the only one. The feelings she had no still have for Ru are the real deal.

Yuhi turned to the other two and sighed. "Hino, take Nagawa to the hospital."

"Yeah."

"Nagawa, Sumire will visit you later, so go with Hino now."

Wait what? She blinked, surprised at his words, but she couldn't say anything. It seemed that answer satisfied Sano since he was the one who told Hino to go.

"Yuhi, you--don't hate me?"

Yuhi turned around and sighed. "It's really hard for me to hate you, Sumire. Besides, who are you fooling? The entire time you were shaking, weren't you?"

Her eyes widened at his words.

"I saw everything, and that's why I understood. Even when you spoke about him, your tone was different. You may not hate him anymore, but--"

"... That's exactly right. It seems I can't hide anything from you."

She doesn't hate Sano, but she can't forgive him. Sumire buried her face in his chest. "I don't like revenge."

"Yeah, I know."

"But if I were to let him go easily, I will never rest in peace."

"Will this really give you a peace of mind?"

Sumire didn't reply. How can she reply to something she has no answer to?

"I will respect all your decisions."

"But, won't you get jealous?"

A troubled look appeared on Yuhi's face, and Sumire sighed. "As I thought, not even you would be okay with it."

"Sumire, as long as you don't cross the line, then you can meet with Sano."

"What line?" At this point, she got dangerously close to him.

Yuhi chuckled softly. "Mmm, something like this?"

"Yuhi-san you're a boring person after all."

"H-hey-"

"You already knew from the start that I am somebody with a difficult personality."

"You warned me too."

"That is why, even though my actions seem meaningless, everything happens for a reason."

"Sumire-" She extended her hand out and caressed his cheek. "You're so troublesome."

"But Yuhi-san, you accept me this way, don't you?"

This person accepts her for who she is. He is the only one who has accepted everything, even the ugliest things.

"I do, of course, I do." He trailed off. "Will you see him tonight?"

"I will. But I'll see you tomorrow."

.....

After that talk, a few hours went by; she finished up her remaining work before she left.

Yuhi was very reluctant to let her go, and she was reluctant to leave him too. But when she recalled the look on Sano's eyes then, Sumire understood they could not continue this way.

Sano lived in a rich apartment complex in the center of town, and it was quite close to the building she just worked at.

She uses the key he gave her before for the first time.

It opened easily, and she stepped inside.

What a mess." But she more or less understood it would end up this way. To think her plan to control Sano actually worked. When she first saw him again, it surprised her, and they met sooner than expected. She had to change her plans.

Sumire arrived in front of the master bedroom door. She took a deep breath before she stepped inside.

This room was even messier than downstairs. She calmly walked towards the source.

The moment she arrived in front of him, Sano pulled her down, so she sat on his lap. Heavy and hungry lips pressed against hers for a brief kiss before his lips made their way towards her neck.

Even now, he does not change. Sano has never asked her what she wanted. Back then, she was a child, so it made sense but even now. Then again, they are not dating now, so he most likely thinks he can get what he wants this way.

"San." She mumbled. "Stop for a moment."

"I can't betray Yuhi's trust." Now that Yuhi admits to knowing everything, she has to proceed cautiously.

Sano moved his lips from her neck. "What?"

"You have a fever, and you should sleep."

"Will you stay?"

Sumire slowly nodded her head, and Sano reluctantly moved away from her. A deep sigh escaped her lips when she saw how much of a mess he looked. So this is the extent of her control? It felt strange, controlling another person this way. It is a first for her to try something like this.

To what extent can she break him?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 336

Chapter 336: Marionette Part 3

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

He knows she is using him.

He knew from the very beginning.

After all, she said that during the first day.

Then, what would you do for me?

The answer to that question was the trigger for her to keep seeing him.

Sano's gaze fell on Sumire's back. She woke up earlier than him and was cooking. It was the absence of her warmth and the pleasant smell that woke him up.

"I'm still cooking."

She won't push him away.

This woman doesn't like him. She might even be scared of him, and sometimes he sees her shoulders tremble.

Yet she always looks at him with those sharp eyes of hers.

"Hey...how can I finish cooking if you do this?"

"Sumire, will you stay tonight?"

The girl sighed deeply. "I already stayed last night. I don't want to make Yuhi worry too much."

What a cruel woman mentioning her boyfriend now; then again, this is the current her. But this way, she will stay by his side, right?

Their breakup took a huge toll on him. Sano didn't realize how attached he was to her.

"What's wrong?"

"I don't want you to leave."

"I'm not going anywhere." She switched the stove off. "San, are you worried about something?"

"...again, don't leave me alone."

Sumire didn't reply immediately, but she suddenly mumbled. "But you are the one who left me."

That is right, and he was the one who let her go. But only because he had no option. At that time, he had no choice but to let her go because of his family. One day he wants to talk to her about that, but that day is not today.

Sano pulled away from her. "What are you making? I haven't had your cooking in awhile."

At that comment, her eyes brightened like a child. "I'm making omelets; you like those, right?"

Her bright child-like eyes aside, her flushed cheeks made his heartbeat.

"Ye--yeah." Sano stammered. What is with that expression of hers? Since when could Sumire look like that?

...

A few hours later - Nagawa Corporation -

It was difficult for him to concentrate after he saw that expression on her face. Sano knew he messed up the work today, so he quickly excused himself when he got the chance. What on earth is wrong with him? No, what on earth is with that girl?

Why did she smile so brightly like that? It seems like he is slowly starting to understand her less. So much for getting to know her more, he does not know what is on her mind.

She is using him like a puppet, and he is allowing her to do that. It would be fine if he did not know, but he knew everything. It didn't take him long to realize why she kept meeting with him and going to his house. At first, he thought it was due to her loneliness, but he was not the one she went to when she was lonely; it was Hino.

Hino huh? Sano sighed when he thought of his friend. He thought something was off from the very beginning, but does that guy like Sumire? If Hino also liked Sumire, this would be a huge problem. But no, with that guy's personality, he won't do anything.

Sano's thoughts broke off when he spotted somebody familiar.

Isn't that? Sano quickly rushed enough to identify the person; sure enough, it was Sumire.

She was leaning against the door to his office.

"I thought we could eat lunch together."

"Lunch, huh?" Sano didn't even realize it was time for that. He slowly nodded and pulled the girl into his office. The moment he closed the door behind them, he was all over her.

He has her backed against the wall as he leaned forward and kissed her. It was a brief kiss since she kept fidgeting, but he liked it regardless. Her lips are so soft and beautiful. He wants to explore a bit more.

"San, can you do a favor for me?"

"A favor?"

"Mmmm, just a little someth--" Sumire stopped him from lifting her shirt. "I think we should set some rules."

"You don't want to?"

"I won't cheat on Yuhi."

Hah, of course. Even if she is an evil and cruel woman, she won't go too far. She lets him kiss her, though. So why are kisses okay? Then again, even with kissing, she trembles, doesn't she? It rubbed him the wrong way. If she is going to mess with him like this, then why is she still afraid of him?

He does not understand her at all.

"Will you?"

"If you let me keep kissing you."

After he said those words, he watched as her expression darkened. There it is, a brief look of disgust. Sano pulled away from her.

"Oh, done already?"

Sano took out his lighter and cigarettes from his drawer. "Why did you chose me?"

"Maybe because I wanted revenge." Sumire trailed off. "Or maybe because you just happened to show up. Either way, isn't this a convenient arrangement for both of us?"

Indeed it is convenient. After all, the current him cannot live without her. Initially, when he heard of Tsueno Mamorus passing, he only wanted to see her reaction. But there was not a single report of her after the accident, almost like she stopped appearing in public.

He asked his men to investigate, and yet it was hard to get any information. So he had no choice but to ask those people, they quickly found out that she was going. She was the reason why he even bothered coming to Tokyo. Initially, he intend to take her back by force, but when he saw how badly affected she was, he changed his mind.

His thoughts broke off when he heard her approach. Sumire sits down on his desk and plays with the photo frame. "I didn't know you kept this picture."

"Why would I throw it away?"

"Did your other girlfriends after me see this?"

"They did."

"Hmmm..."

"Annoying, it's annoying. I can't tell what she is thinking." But none of that should matter since she is here.

Sano walked back over to her and traced her lips with his fingers. "Your beautiful."

"Beautiful, huh?"

"You don't like it?" Sano sensed her odd tone.

"Well, it's more like I can't see myself that way."

"How come? I used to say this to you every day."

He often told her how pretty she was whenever they did intimate things.

"Well, even back then, it was weird. Besides San, you said that to every girl."

"Shoot, right he did, didn't he?" "I won't do that now."

Sumire laughed softly. "I already know you won't."

She already knows, huh?

"Did you come here just for lunch?"

"No, I have work in this building, so I thought I would drop by here since it was along the way."

"And the lunchbox?"

"It was for Yuhi, but he couldn't make it."

She is so blunt about this whole situation. It irritates him, but he doesn't want to not see her again. It was painful not seeing her for so long. After she gave birth, he seldom saw her around. He does not want that to happen again.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 337

Chapter 337: Marionette Part 4

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

His thoughts broke off when he felt her sharp gaze on him. "What's wrong?"

"I was just thinking, San, why do you like me?"

Sano blinked at her question. Why is she even asking him something like that? Now that he thought about it, he can't answer her question. He likes her a lot but the exact reason why he does not understand it very well.

Sumire must have understood since she stopped asking him.

"Why did you end up with work here?" Sano swiftly changed the topic. While the company does accommodate artists now, the progress is quite slow.

"Mmm, I received an invitation, and the venue happened to be here."

Now that is suspicious. Sumire was about to pull something out, but because she got so close, Sano kissed her again before the kiss could get too heated up; however, the doors slammed open.

"Oi!"

"Tsk. She is about to leave, can't you let me finish?"

"Like hell." Hino cursed. "Sumire, you're going to be late."

"Then I guess I have to go."

"Wait." Sano grabbed her wrist. "I'll walk down with you."

Sumire laughed softly. "You don't have to. Besides, I think Hino wants to speak to you about work."

"Can I message you?"

"Sure."

He kept watching her until he could no longer see her back. The moment he was sure she was gone, Sano looked at Hino angrily. "What now?"

"Did Sumire stay over?"

"The media got a picture?"

"Yes."

"If you can't handle it, I will."

"No need." Hino looked troubled. "Somebody else interfered. It wasn't Yuhi or Makoto Soujiro either."

Is it that man again?

"As long as the news is covered up."

Hino sighed. "I thought the same too, but their methods are a bit extreme. The reporters have lost their jobs."

"Fired?"

"More like they disappeared without a trace. Their company called me and asked if I knew anything. This is a bit troublesome."

"They think it was Terashima?"

Hino nodded. "Naturally, the first person, anybody, would consider as the culprit is the one in a relationship with her."

"I shall handle this, so relax."

Why does Hino care so much for Terashima Yuhi? Sano never understood why. Why is it Terashima Yuhi again? "I'll mail you the details later."

"Where are you going?"

"I want to see her."

Sano did not waste any time before he rushed down the hallway. He knew that she had work on the second floor since she whispered it earlier. His office was on the fourth floor, so it did not take him long before he reached his destination. But upon arrival, he noticed somebody else beside Sumire.

Terashima...

"Hey love, sorry I'm late."

"You're too slow, idiot."

"Mmmm, sorry. But I got you something." Yuhi extended his hand out.

Sumire peered at the bag, and her violet-colored eyes sparkled like a child.

"First edition copies of the series you mentioned?"

"Yeah, a new antique bookshop opened downtown. I saw these on the shelves and had to get them for you."

"Thank you, Yuhi!"

"She...can still make faces like that?" Now that he thought about it, Sumire liked books didn't she? She often read whenever they were alone together. He still has some books of hers. He should find the time to return it, her books and other stuff. For the last few years, Sano, however, couldn't do that. He kept everything the same in his apartment in Star town.

"San?"

Oh, she noticed him.

She laughed softly as she lightly tugged on his arm. "You didn't have to come down. You're busy, right?"

"I have time."

He felt uncomfortable since Terashima was watching them. But his gaze fell on her hand, still on his arm. What is with that hand? What is she trying to do to him?

"Then you'll listen to me sing?"

"I shall."

After he said those words, he watched as a bright smile appeared on her face.

Why does she look so happy?

"I'll sing one of my songs for you then."

Wait-huh? A song about him? At that comment, Terashima strolled over and pinched her cheeks.

"Brat, you can't change the song that easily."

"It's rare for San to listen up close. Can't you do something?"

Yuhi sighed deeply. "Alright then."

Sano watched as Yuhi walked up to the person in charge. Terashima looked back and gave an okay sign. A single word is all it took for the change. Sano had to admit it was impressive. He knew the person in charge as a stubborn man. So Terashima has that charisma thing that attracts people's attention, huh?

Sumire pulled away from him. "Then I will quickly go over there and sing San, watch me carefully, okay?"

"Yeah." He didn't say anything else as he watched her rush off.

That girl has no more feelings for him. She treats him the same as she would anybody. But he wants to take advantage of that. Unlike Hino, he could not be friends with her, and it would be too hard after the relationship they had. To a certain extent, Sumire must understand this too, which is why- his eyes widened when she started to sing.

"Hey, even if I disappear, will you search for me

I'm sure the reason why you can't send me texts is because you're so busy.

When I'm lonely, I look to the night sky.

I want you to look my way some more, just like you did back then.

I honestly want to say that.

STAB STAB STAB, it hurts.

BEAT BEAT BEAT, my heartbeat conveys to my body.

If I step out, it seems like I'll lose it all, and I can't do it." Sumire sang.

An upbeat song matched with a powerful voice, and yet there was something else there. The lyrics to this song, so is this how she felt when they dated? No her feelings after their breakup.

"Hey, if I pretend to forget, will you meet me?"

I continue to hold on to this thought. I am a marionette.

When I am separated from you, I can't dance anymore.

See? The threads are coming loose.

My heart seems as if it will break...

Maybe having a break-up talk with you will make me feel relieved altogether."

Just like she is using him now and treating him like a puppet, did he not do the same to her before? So it seems she did experience side effects after the breakup; he made sure that she became obsessed and relied on him. He mentally scarred her.

What was he so afraid of? Why did he do something like that to hurt the woman he loves the most?

...

Sano leaned against the wall in the second-floor reception area. He arrived here a few minutes ago, as he went through another packet of cigarettes. Her performance from earlier remained firm in his mind. To think he drove her to a corner like that, and what for? In the end, those threats his family made were only empty?

His thoughts broke off when he spotted brunette hair sat down by the large double-glazed windows. She wore a spaced-out look on her face. Sano was about to call out to her when somebody appeared behind the girl with a cold drink in his hands. It was Terashima Yuhi again.

Terashima lightly tapped the drink against her head, earning her attention.

"Good work."

"But I held back. I still can't sing properly."

"Your singing, I like it a lot."

It was only a few words, but he could tell her mood had drastically improved.

Why can't I do anything like that? Why can't I give her the words she wants to hear?

Even if she keeps coming back to him, it is out of obligation and not love. His thoughts broke off when he heard the sound of his phone.

From: Sumire

"I'll come there in a second, so don't move

From: Sano

It's fine, go back with him.

From: Sumire

If I said no?

From: Sano

... what's for dinner?

Sano felt like a huge idiot when he typed that reply. "What am I doing?" He slumped his back against the wall.

After a few minutes, he hears her footsteps.

"You still have a fever San."

"Sumire-"

"I'll go back with you." Her hands lingered on his cheeks, and he wanted nothing more than for her to keep doing this.

But at the back of his mind, he understood already. This girl no longer cares for him. She is only acting out the role he wants her to. That is fine with him, as long as she stays with him.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 338

Chapter 338: Each day, each moment

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

If a bystander looked at his life, they would certainly criticize him. Abandoned in the forest, taken in by an old man who isolated himself from the world. After the death of that old man, taken to an orphanage.

Knowing those circumstances looked sympathetic. But that's off the mark. Yuhi didn't feel anything about being abandoned.

He didn't resent the parents who threw him away, nor did he particularly want to meet them.

It's not like he was bitter, but instead, it was the opposite. He casually accepted the situation. He liked his current life too, it was not the best but at least he was alive. At least he managed to escape that forest. If the old man did not find him and stayed there any longer, the worst-case scenario could have happened.

"You're a cold-hearted guy."

The first time he heard those words, he was in middle school.

"The parents who abandoned you must be in pain since they had to leave you like that, yet you don't care about that at all and just live on as nothing has happened."

"That is not true. I have had my fair share of problems too." But even then, it's true he is casual about it.

"Since you're like this, though, I can't get better at all."

"Hey, don't make it sound like it's my fault."

"Sorry. But you're cold-hearted."

"Is that so?"

"You get interested in anything, but you don't cling to anything."

Yuhi didn't know if that would make someone heartless, but it was true that he wasn't attached to anything.

In Yuhi's eyes, the world was overflowing with truly interesting things, but he had never feared losing any of it, and he had hardly ever felt loath to part with something he lost.

"I hope you'll be able to find something so important you'll want to cling to it, too."

His adoptive parents were useless. They were a fairly wealthy family, but after his adoptive father got into gambling debt. The mother killed herself, and the father drowned in alcohol until his death.

Afterward, he decided there was no use continuing this farce. "It is better for me to live alone."

Then he met her.

When he met Ibuki Sumire, he immediately thought, "Ah, I'll probably get too attached to his person, huh?"

.....

August 21st

It is nearing the end of the month already, huh? It is strange how quickly time passes by ever since he met Sumire. Each day, each moment he spends with her seems to fly by quickly. There is never enough time in the day.

Yuhi made his way back to the bar. When he arrived, noise and chattering greeted him. He found Yoru and Chitose were engaged in front of the TV, whereas Kawa and Eric were fast asleep on the kotatsu.

With everything happening, he hasn't had much time for these guys.

"Ah your back Yuhi-san."

Yuhi nodded as he scanned the bar for a few seconds. "Is Atushi not here?"

Sen pulls a "beats me" expression when the ginger hair boy calls over from his game.

"If it's Atushi-san, your looking for her went out. I saw him with those guys."

That's all that needed to hear, as Yuhi mutters, thanks.

If Atushi is talking to the guys in nanairo feather about this, then it means not even he knows where Ichinose went this time.

How troublesome. However, most people would find it odd that he is searching for Ichinose Arashi. He searched for the guy who will most likely break the current relationship between him and his girlfriend. Most people would find it odd; even so, he had to find that guy.

The reason being he wants to be challenged fair and square?

Hah?

Since when did he get such stupid ideas like that? His thoughts broke when he saw the light from the room next door. It was the room they used as a mini studio when they were here. Come to think of it, and she is feeling better now, isn't she?

It should be fine, right? "I don't touch her as often these days. My self-control keeps breaking." Lately, her career is hitting off, so he sees a lot more of her posters and merch around town.

She is getting prettier and prettier. He wants to touch her again.

"Before you assault her, King, why don't you eat something first?" A familiar beaming voice said.

Yuhi sighed when he saw the blonde-haired man point to a plate of food on the counter. "You and Atushi don't have to worry so much about me."

"It is important to eat."

"What makes you think I have not eaten-" Right as he said that, he hears a rumbling sound from his stomach.

Jae beamed happily. "You were saying?"

"Fine." Yuhi sat down by the counter. He kept his gaze on the room where Sumire was. "Is she okay?"

"She seems healthy. I don't think she met with Nagawa Sano today."

Yuhi sighed deeply. "That's not what I meant."

"Hmmm, she headed into that room and said she would work on new songs, but I think I saw her doing homework."

Right with all the recent events, it is easy to forget that they are students. "Are you going to help her, King?"

Yuhi rolled his eyes at that comment. "That girl is smarter than me." This was why he never brought up the topics of studies with her. After all, he knew she would be fine even if she skipped out on a few lessons.

Jae sighed. "You are truly clueless when it comes to romance. I think Sumire-chan would like it if you two studied together."

Why is he even suggesting something like this? Besides, Sumire would probably prefer it more if they discussed the recent books they both read.

"King." Jae suddenly appeared in front of him.

"What?"

"I know you two both like staying indoors. But that is exactly why you have to have more sweet moments with her!" Jae exclaimed.

Sweet moments? Yuhi saw the serious look in Jae's eyes and awkwardly ran his hands through his hair and combed it back. "It is not like I haven't been thinking about it."

Indeed they do spend more time indoors than go on any dates. They are half the time working on Mamoru's case or any other strange cases that have popped up around town. Occasionally they would have literature debates, cuddle and go on a walk. But he has not taken her anywhere since summer started.

"King, I have the perfect plan!"

Yuhi paused. "Plan?"

"Take her to the beach!! Under the scorching heat, you will play the watermelon game, play beach volleyball, get randomly hit on, and fend away the pursuers. Ah, youth."

What is with this guy? Does he have a screw loose in his head? Besides, he knew that Sumire disliked the heat. He also didn't want people to see her in a swimsuit. Still, he does want to see her in one. They talked about going to the beach before too.

"Alri-"

"But taking her alone is too suspicious. So why don't you bring the guys in Quatro light too?"

What?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 339

Chapter 339: Cold Rain Part 1

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

One of the key signs that she is now living a normal high school life is summer homework. A deep sigh escaped her lips as she looked at the large stack in front. Quite some time has passed since she last studied like this. She did not want Atushi or Jae to worry about her, so she lied and said she was working on new songs. If they learned that she had this much homework to do, then she would never hear the end of it?

"Well, I just used that formula."

She dropped her pen, all of these problems are due tomorrow. That math teacher gave them such difficult problems.

It's not as though she couldn't solve them because this is something she could solve rather quickly. But that is only if she used her regular ability.

Yes, what she's finding difficult now is how to solve this the normal way. It's a complicated problem. After all, how do people with regular levels get this kind of question wrong?

She sighed; she supposed this is her fault for missing all those days now. To think she would suddenly start regretting it. Now that she is a third-year student, exams and all these assignments are more important.

Her thoughts broke off when she heard a voice mumble in her ear.

"Hmm... What is this? Are you doing math?"

Her eyes widened when she saw who it was. It was none other than her black hair boyfriend. He came back much earlier than she thought. When she heard that he had important work, Sumire immediately knew what it was about.

"Wah! Yuhi?" Sumire exclaimed.

"So noisy. That loud voice," Yuhi said, in his usual monotone as he yawned.

"Anyone would be surprised if they weren't aware of someone behind them!"

Normally that is the case, but she and Yuhi share a connection. He can't do what he did just now.

She should have noticed that he snuck up on her. As she thought, something really must have happened after that day. The day where she admitted that she was using Sano, for some reason, the connection between her and Yuhi became strange.

"Since you were groaning and further distorting your ugly face, I wanted to do something."

Hey !!!

How can he say something so cruel lightly? She looked away from him then.

"I am busy with these problems. So if you have something you want to do here then please hurry up."

"Oh, I came here because I wanted to sleep."

"If you wanted to sleep, please sleep in your room."

"I don't want to. My room is a mess now." Sumire looked at him skeptically, thinking he was lying until she recalled what Atushi had told her about renovating the room plans—but not starting due to the mess.

"Then, you should tidy it up."

Yuhi, however, did not reply and walked over to the couch. She watched as he immediately laid down, and she sighed. This guy just does whatever he wants.

They do not spend as much time together as they did before so this situation isn't too bad. She returned to solving the problems in front of her. Sumire would occasionally glance over at Yuhi.

His sleeping face is cute too, and she wants to get a bit closer to him. On the other side of the mini table was the couch Yuhi laid on. Sumire changed her position, so she was right below the couch. This is nice too, spending small moments with him like this.

She felt the sudden beating sound of her heart. Even when Yuhi is not awake, she ends up in this state around him.

I feel nervous and slightly shy.

Why does being around this person make her act like a silly young girl? Now that she thought about it, it was the same before too. Back when he was her subordinate, and she was his boss, she ended up behaving oddly.

Sumire managed to solve a few of the complicated questions in the simplest way possible until she struggled with another one.

"I don't know what to do about this one."

Ah, now that she thought about it, Yuhi is supposed to be older than her. He is a senior technically; she wondered if she should mention having issues with this problem. Guess it is worth a shot.

Going to Shin at a time like this would be useful but he would tell her directly and bluntly, "Answer it by your own ability".

Alright, let's go ahead and try. Sumire decided as she stood up. She picked up her maths exercise book.

"Uhm... ..Yuhi...yuhi... ..?" Sumire called out.

After a few seconds, he stirred. "Ugh, what?" He trails off, looking over at her. "You sat down on the couch. Are you trying to attack me?"

"Wh--what is he talking about?" Or rather, since he just up, there was something seductive about his voice.

She manages to hide her blushing cheeks. "It-it's not like that! This problem, I was wondering if you understood it, Yuhi. It's a little hard. Can you teach me?"

It isn't hard at all. She can solve it quickly, but she can't solve it the normal way. If it is Yuhi, then he should be able to solve it normally, right?

Yuhi glanced over at the page. "I don't want to." He immediately refused.

Well, of course, I expected that sort of response. He is that kind of person, after all. Still, one would think since they are dating, he would change his personality more on this matter. It seems like that is impossible, huh? There are traits individuals can never change even if they try, let alone somebody who does the opposite.;

"You study from so much school work that you don't remember how to seduce a man. The way the world is, can't you pass easily?"

He was probably trying to get to her with his teasing.

But she genuinely felt stressed, so she has no time to spare to entertain him.

"I understand, forget it. " Sumire mutters. What was she expecting? This is the time he normally takes his naps.

Sumire sighed deeply, and she shouldn't have asked. "Well, even though you are a third-year Yuhi, the school held you back. You barely attend class, and before I came here, you seldom went anyway. I suppose you won't even know any of this stuff."

"I see, so that is what you think of me?"

Sumire realized what she just said out loud and covered her mouth. She didn't mean to say that stuff out loud. Then again, even thinking it is dangerous. Yuhi has an odd ability. He can tell what she thinks before she even says anything.

"I didn't mean anything by it."

Sumire tried to escape, but he grabbed hold of her arm. "Hmm. You're lying. Did I hear correctly? You were saying bad things about me. I may be half asleep, but I heard what you said about me. Though that was the case, I don't recall telling you any of that stuff."

Oh, why did she have to run her mouth for? What is she doing to make the situation worse?

"It wasn't deliberate."

Why on earth would she walk into a life and death situation?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 340

Chapter 340: Cold Rain Part 2

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

Before Sumire could say anything, she watched in a flash as Yuhi took her pen and sped through the answers.

Amazing, he did them so fast.

Then again, if she thinks about it carefully, he is the student council vice president. So his grades ought to be good for him to get the position. Then does that mean Akatsuki-san's grades are better? One wouldn't think so. It surprised her when she found out what role Yuhi has in the student council.

"Why are you making that foolish face?" Yuhi said.

Again with the insult, he does this a lot these days.

Then again, she interrupted his nap, so she supposed this was somewhat normal.

"It surprised me but thank you very much! I am sorry for being so rude." Sumire apologized.

Yuhi nodded before pausing. "I just wanted to let you know that a problem like that anybody can solve."

Ugh, of course, she could solve it. Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi took the notebook from her hands.

"What are y-" Sumire paused when she saw the expression on his face.

"It seems I can't hold back anymore."

"You couldn't in the first place," Sumire mumbled, and he laughed. He pulled her into his arms, and she heard it clearly, the sound of his beating heart.

"I like you more than I thought I did, Sumire."

"I like...."

The way Yuhi is too.

I like the color of his eyes.

The feeling of his strong arms wrapped around me.

The way he says my name whenever he holds me

I like everything about him."

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi gently laid her down on the couch and hovered over her. He took a strand of her hair and kissed it. "I love you so much."

Like turned into love, this person truly wants only her. He is the one person who will never betray her—the one person who will accept everything.

..

Sumire never knew what to talk about after they finish doing it. She heard stories from the other girls at school, but it still baffled her. After doing something so embarrassing, it is hard to look at Yuhi in the eye. Although she got caught up in the flow, there is a limit.

Oh, somehow, this is different. She wonders what this strange feeling is. "Yuhi-san." Sumire decided to call out. He looked at her. "I think something is different."

"Silly, nothing has changed."

But somehow, this is different than the previous times.

"You're prettier."

"That's n--" Her sentence fell short when he kissed her.

"You okay?"

"No."

Yuhi laughed. "Sorry, but it's been a while."

"I don't mind."

"Mmmm, I know."

So why does he hold back? But this is nice too.

"Yuhi." She ran her fingers across his chest, and a hum of approval escaped his lips.

"Yes?"

"Do you have some time for me tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow?"

"Um, I have a small live by the station." She suddenly felt nervous. What if he finds this behavior annoying?

To her surprise, Yuhi looked at her with a gentle expression. "You want me there?"

"I do."

If Yuhi is around, she will feel less nervous. But she looked over at him. "I don't think I should say that." Yuhi probably thinks she genuinely wants him to attend.

Her thoughts broke off when she felt him gently run his hands across her cheeks. "Yuhi? What are you doing?"

"This is nice, being like this with you."

"Yuhi, you know we have work to do today."

"It's Sunday, idiot. I have weekends off, remember?"

Oh right, but as far as she recalled, ever since, the situation became more serious. Yuhi would often investigate the places Ru went to.

For him to bring this up now, is he still worried about that nightmare from yesterday? No, she knew it wasn't just yesterday.

"I'll make some tea." She proceeded to stand up until he pulled on her arm.

"Don't go anywhere. Stay here."

He's been like that a lot recently, though he always wanted her to stay by his side before somehow, now it is different.

Sumire didn't know what it was, but it felt like the current Yuhi needed her, and if she wasn't with him, then he wouldn't be able to go on. His smiles vanished as well, and there is definitely a problem.

"The lights have been on in your quarters these past few days, did something happen?"

Sumire decided it would be better to get straight to the point. After all, she didn't know anything, so she didn't know where to start. This was the best option she had.

"Like what?"

"I don't know."

"That's vague of you, boss."

"What a fool." Sumire was about to say something when she hears the sound of something clattering against the window.

"It's raining?"

For some people, the sound of the rain comforts them. Those are the people who enjoy and see the beauty of rainy days. However, some only see painful memories.

Sometimes, even if it's only for a moment, those feelings become unbearable. The pain that comes alongside it is unbearable. It does not matter if the situation differs per individual. That suffocating feeling never goes away.

For her, the sound of the rain reminded her of those days, the days where Rus's illness got worse, and he would have an attack. It was painful for her to watch him suffer like that.

Her thoughts broke off when he pulled her back into his arms. He wrapped the blanket around them both, but it was mainly on her side.

"Just rest."

"It's raining, Yuhi."

"Perfect time to snuggle and not do work."

Sumire laughed. "You're" so lazy at times, Yuhi-san." Rather when it comes to ordinary things, he is so casual.

But if it was something to do with music or art, he is a lot more focused.

"You know, it was great, but you could describe the situation more."

"Describe?"

"Although I am aware after what you said that you had desires for me since we were younger. I'm pretty sure it wasn't as twisted as mine. "

"Oh." She always had a faint idea of his desires since he often watched over her. But this is the first time she heard him admit the full extent of those desires.

"I never got a chance to properly hold you then. Even though I tried on various occasions to do so, I never did. When I left, I regretted it so much. I never thought I would ever get the chance to see you again. But not only did I break the promise not to see you anymore. I seduced you when I did."

"D--du--mmy! Don't call it seducing. You did no such thing."

If he is talking about that time, though, it was only natural for her to blush. How could he break into her house and then borrow her shower like that?

Yuhi chuckles at her reaction. Gee.

"But I suppose I couldn't confirm it then. I only realized that there might have been something after you came here. When you kissed me in the science prep room, no, before then, you were always acting so nervous around me. Did you not realize it? It took you a long time before you spoke to me properly."

Chapter end