

Melody 341

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 341**

Chapter 341: Cold Rain Part 3

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Now that Yuhi mentioned it, it surprised her when she found out they attended the same school. However, she should have realized that he would enroll in a liberal arts high school.

Out of all the ones in Tokyo, why would he choose "Iro road"? There were other top-rated art schools, so Sumire knew the chances of meeting him were slim.

It shouldn't have been possible to meet. It may have been the initial surprise that kept her from speaking with him at first. But even then, she could have spoken to him properly. However, ever since he broke into her apartment that night, old feelings she had locked away had resurfaced. Of course, those feelings then were mere recollections of the past. At that time, she was with Mamoru after all.

That feeling was hard to describe. But even now, she remembers it so well. So when she saw Yuhi again it all came back.

When their every day intertwined with each other. She gradually became self-conscious of his because that single action of returning to being her partner already showed how much he cared for her.

So when she kissed him in the science prep room, as "surprising" as it was for him, that action was not without thought.

Her cheeks turned redder at the memory; there is no way she can tell him that.

"I wonder what you remember now, Sumire."

He-- doesn't know; there is no way she is telling him. Even now, he is teasing her so much. What would happen if he knew what she thought?

"It's something I don't know about, huh?"

Eh? He's figured it out already. Sumire buried her head in his neck, causing his laughter to increase.

"Don't be shy. If I think about my actions towards you initially, I can pretty much narrow it down. You don't have to tell me."

"Yuhi, I get embarrassed. My confidence can only last so long. The stuff you do is bad for a person's heart." She trails off and pulls away slightly so she could see his face. "It's bad for me, but I like it so much."

She loves it a lot, being touched by those strong hands of his. Even though he holds back when he is with her, she enjoys it when he breaks those shackles.

"Mmm, I know. When you started blushing like that, of course, I became curious. So for a while, I gradually overstepped my boundaries, and each time you'd react the same."

"Y--you set me up?" Sumire said, startled.

Yuhi is one of the easiest people for her to trick. But now that she thought it through, Yuhi is the same type of person as her.

"Well yeah, I had to. I couldn't just brush off what I saw. I thought then if there was the slightest chance you were attracted to me, it wouldn't hurt to give it a go. The chances were against me from the start anyway. So I thought I might as well give it a chance."

She frowns at that comment. "You should have believed in our relationship more. Weren't we pretty close than necessary then too? You didn't think I liked you any more than a friend?"

"It was impossible for me to think of something that would have a happy outcome for myself."

Right they are the same type; that's why this shouldn't surprise her. "What kind of places did you go to?"

Yuhi laughed. "You want to hear?"

"Mm, I am curious where you went."

When Yuhi left, he didn't return to his career right away. So Sumire suspected that he did some dangerous jobs first.

"I went to some countries that needed help. Countries were facing a war every day. Initially, I just wanted to find a quiet place, and I was tired, you see."

Indeed, when he was a member of the underground organization with her, Sumire noted how busy he was every day.

He was busy and always hurt. She hated seeing him that way.

"But after I stepped out of the country and relaxed for a bit. In the airport, I looked over at the lines for the immigration center. There were so many people, so many just barely escaped their countries. When I saw that sight, I changed my ticket and went there myself."

He did something so dangerous. Why would he do something like that?

What a stupid question, he is like herself. If it were, she wouldn't be able to leave those people alone either.

..

It surprised her how they both fell asleep after that conversation. But then again, even when Yuhi held her, she noticed how tired he was. Her gaze fell on the man beside her. Originally when he suggested they live together, it baffled her. They are both still high school students, and she knew many people looked down on them both.

She does not care what others say about her but insulting Yuhi is a no. Sanos words echoed in her mind about her dragging him down. In the end, that person understands her mindset better than she does. It is frustrating that he still understands her.

Just as she thought that she heard her phone ringing sound, she immediately knew who it was due to the ring tone.

From: Sano

Do you want to come over?

A knowing ah passed her lips. He understands her very well and knows she hates rainy days. When he first brought that up not too long ago, it surprised her. He noticed something like that when they dated. She was nothing but his toy, but he noticed something like that. Maybe she was important to him?

From: Sumire.

It's alright. Yuhi is home today.

After she typed out that message, she received a call from him.

"Yes?"

"I want to see you for a bit; go out."

She didn't get a chance to say anything since he ended the call. Could it be he is outside? She focused on what she heard earlier and bit her lip. He must be around here.

Sumire quickly got dressed and quietly but hurriedly exited the room. Thankfully the other guys were no longer around. They probably left when they realized what she and Yuhi were doing.

The moment she opened the door, a familiar pair of arms pulled her into his embrace. "San?"

"You're alive."

Her eyes widened when she heard those words. It only took her a moment to realize that he was trembling badly. "San-- what's--" Her eyes widened when she spotted something red from the corner of her eyes.

"Blood?"

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 342**

Chapter 342: Shadow and Lights Part 1

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Indeed it was blood and a lot of it. Sumire genuinely did not know what to do about this situation. To think those people hurt Sano. She thought if she behaved ambiguously towards Sano, then they would think he is doing his job, but it seems that is not the case here.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi slung his arms across Sanos shoulders. "Alright, let us take him inside."

So he was awake?

This person tolerates her behaviour way too much. Even though she is a terrible person, he will forgive her for everything and shower her with affection at the end of the day.

Yuhi laid Sano down on the couch. "Give him basic first aid, and I will call Atsuro."

"Okay."

Sumire didn't know what to say.

She felt awkward having Sano around when Yuhi is here. Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi placed a gentle kiss on her forehead. Eh, what? Before she could react, he replaced the kiss with his thumb and flicked her head lightly.

"Don't make that face, and you didn't do anything to be ashamed about. Lift your chin up and walk confidently. That suits you better."

He really is such a good guy, way too good for her. But this part of him has not changed. Whenever she got depressed about failing her jobs and not getting along with others, he offered her a lot of advice. To walk with pride, huh? He said something similar before, and she wonders if he remembers that.

Sumire managed to nod as Yuhi walked out of the doors. She could hear him sit down on the steps by the door. It would be bad for Sano if they both took care of him at the same time.

She glanced over at Sano, and she clenched her fist.

"Does it hurt?"

Sano looked at her with a pained smile. "Yeah, but I managed to get away, so-" He trailed off. "Don't make that type of face."

What type of face is she pulling right now? She doesn't know. But she doesn't want him to think she cares.

"I will fetch you some clothes."

Sumire turned away, but Sano grabbed her wrist. She immediately felt his hand trembled, and she bit her lip. This is a first for her to see him so frightened; what exactly did they tell him? Why is he like this now?

"It's okay, and I am safe here."

"Can you stay within sight?"

"There is a video surveillance there; you can check on me," Sumire explained as she pointed to the computer in the corner of the room. He still wouldn't let go of her, and she sighed deeply. Well, she supposes it can't be helped; he did just go through something traumatic.

She turned to him. "Let me wipe the blood off, and you shouldn't stay that way."

He slowly nodded his head, but Sumire noted that his gaze seemed frightened still. She pulled up a chair and picked up some clothes, and soaked it in the basin of water. Thankfully they have this out.

She should prioritize getting the blood off him. She extended her hands out. "I will remove the buttons, okay?"

It was awkward for her to do something like this. But now was not the time to feel this way. She slowly undid the first few buttons, unknowingly getting closer.

What long eyelashes, how strange she didn't notice these things before. Perhaps he was right after all. Back when they dated, she did not like him as much as he liked her. After all, everybody was Yuhis substitute, and she used Sano to fill the gap Yuhi left.

"Sumire, won't you leave Tokyo?"

"You know I cant." She said firmly as she undid the last button.

The amount of blood on his body shocked her, and she felt a rush of anger; why? Why did they do this? Sumire figured out that a long time ago, while Sano was not directly involved, he must have somehow helped.

After all, she observed his actions closely. Based on what he told her, he does the background work like for illegal arms dealing, Sano would find safe ports for them to land in. So maybe in this instance to, perhaps it was Sano who tampered with the car.

"Isn't Terashima taking a while?" Sano suddenly asked.

"Mm, I think he is calling Atsuro. I heard Emma has a busy schedule today."

Her thoughts broke off when he extended her hand out and cupped her cheeks. "Then can I touch you like this for a bit longer?"

At that comment, she sighed. "Why are you like this? Then again, I am skillful at my work, and you're not the first person I tricked like this."

Aki-san hesitated to give her such jobs before, but she was good at the art of deception, so they had no choice.

"Sumire, do you have some time tomorrow?"

"I have a concert."

"Afterwards?"

Afterward, she planned to have a date with Yuhi; more like that was the main reason why she invited him in the first place. Almost like Sano understood what she thought, he suddenly mumbled.

"I will wait."

But then after, won't she and Yuhi naturally head back together. Why would Sano suggest something like that when he knows what the outcome will be? She did not respond to that and changed the subject.

"You ought to focus on recovering first."

They can't send him to a hospital; it wouldn't be safe. Hino is working overtime in the company a lot, so he isn't an option. Atushi is busy with things back home in Star town. Jae and the other guys have their own homes, so they do not have to come here. She supposes this is the best place for him, but she needs to discuss

Her thoughts broke off when Sano pulled her into his arms. She tried to pry away, but instead, she hears the sound of his beating heart. This is the first time she has heard this from Sano.

So he likes her this much? To the point, he would risk her life for her? She doesn't understand that logic. After everything that has happened between them, why would he like her this much?

"You need to change too."

It took her a moment to realize he was right. She also went out in the rain. "You take a bath. I wiped the blood, but you might still have some.." She trailed off in places where she can't see. But adding that will make him start.

"You won't come with me?"

Sumire sighed deeply. "No." She said firmly. "I will help you get inside, but you can manage on your own."

Actually, it might be difficult with his wounds, but helping him is overdoing it. Ah, she wonders why Yuhi is taking so long. Sumire paused in mid-thought. If Sano came all this way, then his pursuers should still be around. She sighed again, realizing where he went.

That fool, always doing reckless things.

But is she not the same type as him? They both do such careless things and make each other worry.

### **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 343**

Chapter 343: Shadow and Lights Part 2

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Sumire sighed deeply. So, why on earth is she waiting outside the door like this? She ought to get away before he does anything to her, and yet here she is right within enemy territory. Yuhi is taking a long time, and maybe she ought to go after him. But it would be dangerous to leave Sano alone here.

So many conflicting decisions. After a few minutes, she decided to hum out her new song, and only music can calm her down in an odd situation like this.

"Is this for Tsueno?"

"Don't tell Yuhi."

"I don't have to; he will hear it."

Sumire buried her face in her arms. "He will get mad this time right? He has been so understanding of everything so far, but this time...because it's music."

"Why is it different?"

"Because Yuhi loves music."

"I don't understand you, musicians."

She laughed lightly at his words. "I see. I guess it is strange for most people. But this is how it is for us." After she said those words, Sano stopped talking, and she sighed.

Is he thinking odd things again? Her thoughts broke off when she felt somebody part her bangs. She looked up and rolled her eyes. It was Yuhi, but she saw the traces of blood on his right shoulder.

"Is that a bullet wound?"

"No, a nailgun. Relax, I removed the needle."

Yuhi sits down next to her. "You know this is an interesting situation." He commented.

"Quit it. I'm just worried he might end up drowning himself or something. I mean, whatever happened must have been traumatic."

No matter how involved Sano is in the underworld, he is still a normal guy. He should have nothing to do with people like that.

Yuhi laughed. "I know already, don't sound frantic."

This guy treats her like a kid. "You know Yuhi, and you don't have to be so overprotective of me."

She knew the main reason why Yuhi rushed off like that. He was worried that those people would hurt her. Based on what Sano said, the real target was her.

"I know you can look after yourself, Sumire, and I trust you to do so. But what I am worried about is, well, me going out of control, and you get hurt."

This person is so foolish, and she does not care about any of that stuff. "Without darkness, light cannot exist either. The darkness that exists in your heart, something similar exists in the hearts of others. Yuhisan you're not the only one facing shadows."

"You are a piece of work."

"It's because you think that way you have a hard time looking ahead."

"Well, you're right about that."

She didn't mean to say that. The current Yuhi has changed his life, and she is the only one stuck in the past. At least, that is what she thought initially. Her thoughts broke off when he tapped a cold drink against her forehead.

"This?"

"Ice tea. You like these, right?"

Why on earth does he know that?

She took the drink from him and gulped it down. She didn't realize how parched her throat was until she drank it. To a certain degree, she has been able to control her blood urges, and thus she can drink normal drinks again.

Her thoughts break off when she hears Yuhi grumble about running out of cigarettes. She took something out of her pocket and passed it to him.

"You know, even if you do miss me a lot. I don't advise the smell of smoke."

"Who says it's for you?"

"I am sure we had this conversation before. Cigarette smoke is pervasive and lingers everywhere, so you only have to light it for it to stick."

I miss him too much when we are apart.

Besides, after he said he was going to Tokyo and left her, she did this every day. She not only lit the same brand of cigarettes he uses, but she also found out which shop he got them from and bought them. Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi reached over and intertwined their hands together.

"Are you okay?"

"Aha." Sumire laughed weakly. "Your way too straightforward." But if he beat around the bush, then it would not be right. "Tell me, Yuhi-san, I will do anything to find out the truth, but after that? After that, what will I do?"

Once she has found the answer, she is looking for and brings justice to the ones who killed Ru. What will she do afterward?

"Didn't you say you wanted to beat me?"

Right, she declared something like that.

"I don't know about you. But once we finished our respective acts of revenge, I would like to work with you properly. Singing beside you and creating music together, drawing/painting together is a lot of fun."

"Even if that future is vague and uncertain?"

Who is to say she can keep on singing forever?

"Yeah."

She sighed when she heard his response. She can never win against this person. "I wish you didn't leave me then."

If Yuhi didn't leave her, she would not have ended up in that desperate state and met Sano. If she didn't meet Sano, she would not have hurt Ren and Ru and ended up in relationships with them.



Yuhi leaving acted as a trigger for all her bottled-up emotions to come pouring out. She didn't realize how much she suppressed her feelings. It surprised her when he suddenly showed up in the Holy Knights headquarters. What on earth is he doing here? She didn't have to ask, and she could tell when she looked at him.

He came here for her. But this is not how she wanted to meet him again.

She wanted to meet him on stage and stand on equal footing, and she didn't want him to see her this way. That was why when he first came, she pretended not to know him and treated him coldly. But it did not take long before he made his way to her heart.

"Sorry, Sumire, back then, all I thought was revenge. I did join to see you again, but I changed my objectives when I saw that man. So I did what I had to."

"I already knew all that. But even then, I wish I could turn back time. I wish we had more time." She unconsciously shifted closer until their shoulders touched.

"Yeah, me too. I made the wrong decision then. You were right in front of me, and I should have focused on you and you alone."

"Dummy, you were such a fool. Why did you have to leave me?"

"If I hadn't left, you wouldn't have ended up this hurt. Meeting Nagawa scarred you even more than before."

"Even if it wasn't him, I think the outcome would not change." Maybe it would have been worse. She would have ended up becoming the type of girl who just slept around with anybody to fill her loneliness. "I felt empty after you left. I didn't realize how much I started to rely on you."

She kept her distance, and yet he still managed to get close enough for her to miss him like crazy when he left her side.

#### **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 344**

Chapter 344: Shadow and Lights Part 3

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"Having friends, getting close to other people. I always thought that there was no need for me to have such bonds that would tie me to other people. But after I spent that short time with you, I realized how much I craved the warmth of another human being. Now that I had experienced it for myself, I did not want to return to those cold days again."

That was why when she met Nagawa Sano, it all worked out for the best.

She already knew from the very beginning that this person did not love her, but that was fine. It was okay this way because she did not love him either.

The reason she was so devastated was not because she was attached to her feelings for him. The thing she was attached to was having somebody by her side who trusted and believed in her. Even if she could

never bring herself to love him, at the very least, she thought he would be a companion that would never leave her side.

To think that even that companion would end up betraying her.

Ah, why did she think this person would be any different? Is it because he showed her kindness? No, a part of her already felt there was something amiss when he first approached her. But she dismissed that feeling because of her loneliness. It was very pathetic now that she thought about it.

"I am sorry for leaving you."

"Shouldn't this be where you promise you won't do this again?"

"If I let go of my revenge, will you do the same?"

"It isn't revenge, and I just want to know the truth."

Yuhi sighed deeply. "Look, Sumire, I just want you to be happy. Even if you learn the truth, what will happen afterward? You will get justice for him, but then what about you? What do you have to sacrifice to reach that answer?"

Her eyes widened when she heard his words. Yuhi tried to stay calm, but she could sense a hint of desperation in his tone.

Indeed he is a kind person. She thought this when she first met him, but he can remain a good person despite all the bad things that have happened.

She knew that he offered a prayer for all those people he killed. Yuhi-san has never deliberately harmed somebody, and he only goes after those who are too far gone.

"Everything. But it's not like I have much anyway." She trailed off. "I know what you want from me, Yuhi-san, and I am flattered that you would throw away your revenge for my sake. But I have to know."

"Then at least-"

"You want me to rely on you again like I did back then?"

"..."

"If I did and you left again, then I would truly fall apart." She laughed sheepishly. It was already difficult the first time. She ended up resorting to drastic measures like using Nagawa Sano.

"I won't leave anymore. So, trust me."

What honey-coated words that anybody could say. This person always tries to give her everything when she doesn't deserve any of it. The truly rotten person is her, and yet the last few months, she has experienced happiness that she doesn't deserve. Happiness that this person gave her.

If only he could hate her, he could scorn and be disappointed in her like all the others. Then she would treat him the same as she did them.

No matter how much she cries and screams in agony, nobody will care; nobody will reach out to her. It is suffocating and difficult for her to breathe in this world, to live every single day. Just living is already a challenge, let alone experiencing normal things such as happiness.

But Terashima Yuhi has done what all those who turned their back on her in just a few months.

I can't get too attached, and yet maybe it is already too late.

I hate this side of myself who clings to something I shouldn't have.

Her thoughts broke off when he ran his hands through her hair.

"I feel like confessing to you."

Yuhi chuckled. "Well, we are already dating. What am I getting in return?"

"Mmm, me being romantic?"

"Ibuki Sumire, a romantic?" He raised his eyebrow. "Are you hiding something from me?"

"Maybe I am. Do you want to check Yuhi-san?"

He leaned forward and kissed her lips softly. "I checked earlier, and it was nice."

Oh, that's right. Before Sano came, the two of them, her cheeks burned, and he laughed.

"Feeling shy now, boss?"

"Well, mmm, I admit I am."

To think she let herself get caught in the flow like that. But for some reason, it felt right. The previous times too, she got the same feeling. Whenever they do it, it feels special to her. Sumire stopped herself from saying those thoughts out loud.

If Yuhi-san heard her say such things, then he might tease her, or it will end up as a serious conversation. Sumire wanted to avoid both scenarios.

She ends up drifting off. Now that she thought about it, Yuhi-san did something silly when they first dated.

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Sunday XXX 2015

"Sumire, I need to talk to you." Yuhi entered the room hurriedly, and she put her book down.

"Yes, Yuhi?!"

Yuhi looked at her with clouded eyes. "Whenever I touch you, you hesitate..."

Her entire body froze when she heard those words. It felt like somebody paralyzed her body. Her heartbeat increased by the minute.

So this is why he maintained

"Sumire, I know that part of you is still attached. I know that you have chosen to live with me, but it isn't enough. It may not be easy for you, but... I think I should tell you everything I know. Even if it isn't the truth, you want."

"The truth?" Her brow furrowed now. What truth could he be referring to? What was untrue in her life right now, other than her own heart?

—

Yuhi touched her cheeks which broke her thoughts, almost like he knew. He didn't say anything but the look in his eyes was enough for her.

He's an idiot too.

Even if that was the case, even if that is how it was, it didn't make a difference to her. What upset her the most that day was the expression on his face. Since when could he make that face? How could she have missed such a deep sadness? It was painful for her, and she does not want to be the cause of his sadness.

### **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 345**

Chapter 345: A small gift for you

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It was a good thing there were some rooms downstairs too. Atushi said they hadn't started the repairs yet, but she saw the rooms blocked off when she went upstairs.

Sumire laid Sano's futon on the ground. "Sorry, but all the beds are upstairs."

"..."

"I know it is smaller than what you're used to, but at least it is safe. The next few days, we can gradually bring some of your things or buy new things."

Or they could call Razel. Razel is like his assistant outside of the hospital, too, right? That might be a safer choice than actually going to the house to get things.

"..."

A deep sigh escaped her lips. What is with this awkward situation? Then again, Sano did catch her kissing Yuhi. It was weird; she spotted him and yet carried on anyway.

Ah, this is no good at all. Recently she is acting far too cruel. She was already cruel before but now? Now, this is too much, and yet a part of her does not want to stop. A part of her likes to see Sano like this.

"Alright then, I will get going. If you need anything, just cal-" Her sentence fell short when he pushed her down onto the futon as he hovered over her.

His fingers lingered on her shirt. Oh, of course. He wants to do this, after all. She thought he was acting well too behaved. But what is this feeling? There is something different here? It looks to her that he is in a lot of pain, not just from his injuries but something else. How can that be, though?

Since when she wonders, did he look at her like this? What an odd feeling.

"San? don't your injuries hurt?"

"Sumire...." He mumbled softly. "I just want to touch you."

Indeed she can see it in his eyes. This person desires her, but his desire isn't like what she thought. So even a person like this can change, huh? It seems she has underestimated people far too much. If even somebody like Sano can change, then perhaps it isn't impossible for her.

"Can I take it off?" Sano tugged on her shirt.

"Mmmmm, but it's cold."

For a moment, he seemed surprised at her response before he sighed. "Hah, that's not the reason, right?"

"Please get off."

Sano didn't and kissed her deeply. It felt strange the way his tongue went inside her mouth, and for a moment, Sumire forgot to breathe. She wonders if he used to kiss her like this. Did he use the same cologne back then?

It is strange, but she didn't pay much attention to those things before. It was so easy for her to get lost in that passion and just forget everything.

But the situation now is different. She has become more aware of her surroundings thanks to the efforts of Ru. Now she can see things she didn't before.

After a few minutes, he drew back irritated.

"Tsk. Why didn't you pull away?"

"Well, you'll only be satisfied this way, right? You'll think you have the upper hand because you kissed me."

"...please don't do this anymore."

Sumire caressed her cheeks. "Alright, I get it, it's my bad too. I shouldn't sulk too much just because Yuhi is busy." Or rather, he is taking too long again.

Yuhi said he would fetch a few medications from Atsuro, who couldn't come over in person. He also said he would pass on her message to Shin if he saw him.

"You're way too cruel."

"If you can't accept me as I am, then you have to give up now."

"Sorry, I just wanted to give you a gift."

She raised her eyebrows at this comment. "A gift?"

He took out a small-sized box from his pocket. "I managed to keep it safe. But, you can check yourself if the contents were damaged."

"This isn't a ring, right?"

"Like I'm that brave."

She laughed. "That's true." She took the box from him and opened it. Inside was a small trinket, a teardrop necklace. The design was fairly simple, surprising her.

How strange, normally he would get her extravagant gifts. But now, this looks like a cheap necklace one would find in a corner stall.

Why did he give her something that she likes?

"What's wrong? You're acting a bit strange?"

"You... don't dislike me any more right?"

"Mmm, correct. I guess we are friends now?"

Sano played with her hair. "Your hair has gotten longer after all."

"I grew it out."

She grew it out for Yuhi, and he told her that he liked long hair.

"When did you get sick?"

"I don't know."

"Did none of those girls notice? How careless."

Those girls? Of course, they wouldn't notice. It was a stupid question. The girls who go after Sano do not like him at all.

"Why did you come here?"

"Hino told me you weren't picking up your phone. I tried calling too, but you wouldn't answer, so I came."

"Say, San," Sumire mumbled softly. "I know that you still like me. But you do understand, right? It's hard for me to forget what you did. You may have changed slightly, but I can't get rid of my fear that easily."

"I.. I'm..."

"Ssh." She whispered. "Don't apologize. I understand already; it's enough, and your suffering."

But she is no saint. She can't completely forgive him. If she does that, then she would be betraying her own heart again. She no longer wants to lie about her true feelings.

Sano was about to kiss her again, but suddenly somebody grabbed her arm.

"Oi."

Sumire laughed. "Welcome back, Yuhi-san."

"Geez, I leave for a few seconds, and I see you two flirting."

"Aha, silly, we weren't."

Yuhi extended his arms out and passed her a bag. "I got you some meat buns and other things."

"You did? Lucky!"

"Nagawa, you eat too."

So this is how she found the three of them sitting down on the floor eating snacks. This is quite strange being with both of them like this. Surprisingly, Sano hasn't complained yet.

"Yuhi, did you see Shin?"

"He said he would drop by later. It seems Atsuro is watching his every move lately, so he hasn't met with you."

Sumire sighed deeply. "Why does he have to do that? He isn't my boyfriend. Besides, Shin is a good friend."

"Ouch, have you said that to his face?"

"Of course he knows." Even though Shin supposedly has feelings for her, she knew he wouldn't try anything.

"Harsh. But maybe next time you turn somebody down, you should say how much you love me?"

"Narcist."

Yuhi laughed.

"Geez, he is having way too much fun." Then again, recently, he seems stressed out. This is a good thing for him.

Both Shin and Yuhi have sped up their investigation. That's why she doesn't see them as often before. Bit by bit, she is getting closer to the truth, and an uncertain future awaits her. She wonders if Yuhi will be by her side in that uncertain future.

"So Nagawa, when will you tell us what happened? Though I can guess."

"I mentioned before to Sumire how involved I am with those people."

"The new thing they are smuggling in is a bit, no on a different level of danger."

"Ah, you tried to stop that?"

Sano nodded. "I did."

So he really is willing to do things for her. To what extent, though? She still needs to experiment a bit more.

### **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 346**

Chapter 346: Rely on me

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

Shin's phone call came at the right time. It felt like she almost messed with Sano in front of Yuhi-san. She does not want Yuhi to see any more ugly sides of her, even if he accepts them.

"Put this on, and this." She lingered around the door for a good few minutes because Yuhi kept putting layers on her.

Sumire laughed when she saw Yuhi fussing over. "It's only around the block, and I won't be gone long."

"Sure you won't." He brushed his forehead against hers. "But I worry anyway, and I don't want you to get sick."

"Then Yuhi-san, please behave and don't fight with San, okay?"

"Right."

"Promise?"

"If he starts it-"

She quickly interjected. "He won't. He is tired and fell asleep before us. Don't disturb him, okay?"

"Alright." He leaned forward and brushed his lips against hers. "Sumire."

"Mmm, yes, Yuhi?"

"Don't tease me too much."

What a silly person. She traced his lips with her fingers. "If I am to tease you seriously, then Yuhi, we will have problems."

"I want to have a problem."

"Then, maybe later."

"Huh?"

Sumire pulled away from him. "The stars are watching us, Yuhi-san, so I can't say anymore."

.....

Like she told Yuhi. It was only around the block. It was the park they often passed by. She found Shin at one of the tables.

"Sorry."

Sumire laughed when she heard those words. "That's the first thing you say?"



"Yuhi told me what you said." Shin awkwardly rubbed his neck with his hand. "Look, you know I didn't mean to avoid you, and I did say if Atsuro came back, it wouldn't be like before."

"Mmm, you did, but I was a bit lonely."

After all, they get along very well.

Shin sighed. "Still as straightforward as ever."

She looked at him, puzzled.

He flicked her forehead. "It seems my resistance is low..."

Resi-oh!!!

It took Sumire a moment to understand. Shin normally doesn't mention his feelings.

"Don't act awkward. I didn't mean anything by it."

"Aha, of course."

"Is Nagawa really staying over?"

"Well, there isn't another option."

"That's true, but what if it was deliberate?"

"You mean getting injured?"

Shin nodded. "I don't know him well. But the people around him appear to be calculating individuals."

"Well, mmm, your probably right."

"Yet?"

"This is a good opportunity to test him. The shock from his wounds caused him to forget. But eventually, he will remember what orders they gave him."

What will he decide?

If he betrays her again, this time, she won't show any mercy.

"You're a scary woman as usual."

"Is that bad?"

"No, it's good for the current situation."

Sumire peeked at the documents he just gave her. "That bad?"

"I looked into that thing you were suspicious of. You were right. Somebody from the Holy Knights headquarters branch went through your schedule that day."

"Did you find out the user?"

"It was a common worker. But I did a profile check anyway."

Sumire blinked when she saw the picture of the girl. "Ah, I think I remember her."

"From?"

"Back when I started to become a bit well known, there was this designer who wanted to design for me. He was very popular. I didn't have anything then, so I didn't think it was right of me to be his muse, so I declined. But he kept coming to see me."

"So did he like you?"

Sumire rolled her eyes. "Older than me by four years."

"Isn't that within your strike zone?"

"It is. But that isn't the point here."

"So this promising older guy looking for a muse for his brand picked you a trainee before you even debuted. If he didn't like you, then he is just strange."

"Oh, hush. So yes, he was persistent and even visited me in the Holy Knights headquarters. I think that girl started to have a crush on him. So she started to hold a grudge against me."

"Uh-huh." Shin trailed off. "You know there is a degree of how clueless you can be."

"Fine, so he liked me."

"See, wasn't so hard."

"That girl saw I wasn't returning his feelings, so she gradually became bitter towards me. At some point, she started behaving suspiciously. But back then, I had a lot going on."

"A lot going on?"

"Ru's condition was getting worse, so I mainly stayed in the hospital to do work. I didn't head back to the base."

Then the accident happened. So the last time she went to the base was last year. "I don't know what happened at that time."

But judging from these reports and the way the people in the Tokyo branch treat her, this girl must have manipulated things. Sumire sighed deeply.

"It's that guy's fault."

"Maybe we should get in touch with him?"

Sumire shook her head. "I told him to go abroad and finish his studies. I think he has established his brand and stuff and has moved there for good."

"Give me a name at least."

Sumire mumbled quietly. "Mashima Toh."

Shin paused before he looked at her with a questioning gaze. "I'm impressed, and you have a bad eye for people."

"Quiet, nothing happened."

"Why? Why are you looking at me like that?"

"It's like I touched a doll."

At the very least nothing, she needs to talk about with Shin. Besides, her memories of that are very vague. Did that actually happen?

"Let me contact him. You are in danger, Sumire."

Sumire sighed. "Alright, but tell Yuhi first, okay? I don't want to make it worse."

"Are you two fighting? He seemed cheerful."

"Well, mmm. It's just it feels weird lately."

She can't put a lid on her emotions anymore.

Her thoughts broke off when Shin extended his hand out and pointed to her neck. "I can see why he was cheerful."

"Uh, aha."

"If you love him, that is all that is important."

She wonders how Shin can remain so calm. He likes her, right? But, it is a good thing for her. A friendship between them would be impossible otherwise.

"Say Atsuro likes you a lot."

"Yeah, I know."

"I don't think your plan regarding Nagawa will work the way you want to."

"I know that."

"Is this fine with you? You don't like hurting people."

Sumire laughed weakly. "That is true, no matter how strong and ruthless I behave. It is still difficult for me to hurt those I care for." She trailed off. "You knew what happened with Atsuro and me, right?"

"Yeah."

"Back then, I didn't think it through. I wasn't thinking anything. Ru was no longer there, but I didn't want to accept that. My mind was a mess. Even though I did that stuff with Atsuro, I don't actually remember."

She recalled what Toh said to her.

"But, I remember what the other one said to me. He called me a doll. I realized that my state wasn't good, but I think it struck me hard when he said those words. To overly rely on someone, and then to lose them. I became an empty shell."

She ended up in such a terrible state.

I hate the side of myself that relies too much on others.

I was careful for so many years, but both Ren and Ru persisted. In the end, when I lost Ru, I completely fell apart.

"Then does that mean you can't rely on me?"

### **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 347**

Chapter 347: I don't want to become your burden

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

She was about to reply to him when she suddenly felt a menacing presence. Shin quickly pulled out his gun and stood in front of her. "Are you fine?"

He knew what he was asking her. "Can you fight?" Sumire nodded.

One, two, three, no, there were at least twenty people.

"Yuhi, let some of them go earlier."

"Yuhi, let them go?"

Shin nodded. "He didn't want you to smell the blood."

A knowing ah escaped her lips. Now that made more sense.

One of them stepped forward, but only to speak.

"Look, we know that we can't beat you. So why don't you just let the best man through?"

Sumire rolled her eyes at those words. Do these people think she will allow them to go through?

The man next to him exploded in rage. "This is nonsense, and she is just a little girl. Why do we have to negotiate?"

Sumire clenched her fist. "I won't allow anybody through."

A man at the end of the line stepped forward. "She can't take all of us!"

"Uh, yes, he can," one of them said meekly.

But the others were already charging towards her.

Sumire closed her eyes and extended her hand out. Small droplets of red bubbles slowly turned into large ones, and in the next second, she has created a sword made out of blood.

Her amethyst-colored eyes flashed red. For a moment, they halted in their tracks but charged towards her again. She lunged forward and swept the sword in one blow. A gust of blood scooped all the men and flung them several times before they came crashing back onto the ground.

The fight did not last long and after a few minutes, she and Shin dealt with all the attackers.

Sumire felt her vision grow blurrier as she balanced herself with the strange blood sword. She didn't even know how she managed to form this thing, but she knew she used her blood. "I feel a bit anemic."

Shin appeared behind her. "Easy."

"I think I overdid it a bit."

"Can you get rid of that?" Shin pointed to the odd-looking blade.

She somehow managed to do so and slumped in Shin's arms. "I'll get you home."

Sumire shook her head. "Wait, I don't want Yuhi to see me this way."

Shin sighed. "No can do." He picked her up. "You weigh like nothing; what are you a feather?"

"Is that a compliment or an insult?"

"A bit of both."

What a cruel person, but she supposes she is one to talk. Sumire allowed Shin to carry her back. At first, he carried her bridal style but realized it would be easier to carry her on his back.

The journey back was oddly quiet. She knew they didn't have to worry about the bodies.

Shin probably called for backup when she wasn't looking.

"Hey, Shin?"

"Yeah?"

"Is my power weird?"

She made brief eye contact with him earlier and saw his reaction.

"Not that. It just felt familiar."

Familiar huh? She wonders what it is about. What a strange feeling, she feels a bit warm.

..

When she woke up, it was darker than before. She spotted makeshift bandages around her arm.

"Sumire, you are finally awake. I'm glad."

"Atushi? Jae..?" Sumire murmurs as she attempts to get up only to feel a wincing pain spread throughout her body.

Jae carefully helped her. "Don't move. Your neck and wrists are hurt. You should take a good rest."

"Ah okay."

It really is painful. But it was worth it since she won. She glanced back at Atushi and saw him smiling warmly at her, "Sumire, I don't regret believing in you. You did a good job."

This is the first time she can say Atushi is a handsome guy. Usually, he would put people off by his long talks, but now he looks like an actual gentleman.

Atushi took something out of his pocket, and her eyes widened when she saw a familiar fragment. "Ah?"

"This is the result of your fight."

So those people who attacked were involved directly?

The brunette smiled and scratched her cheeks, embarrassed. "I want to drink some water."

"Oh, you're up already?"

They all glanced over and spotted Yuhi leaning on the door frame.

Shit, what comes will come. She can't escape from it. He is very angry at her! Once he made his way across the room, he dismisses the other two, and with one last glance at them, she watched as they left the room.

Yuhi doesn't say anything for a few minutes before he spoke up. "How brave you are."

Sumire averted her gaze and lowered her head. It's only natural that he is angry at her. He kept her beside her to keep her safe from harm's way; because he was there at her last medical check-up.

Her thoughts broke when Yuhi passed her a glass of water. "Eh?"

"Didn't you want to drink water? Take it."

She looked over and saw a warm-hearted expression on his face, causing her cheeks to heat up.

When she tried to reach over for it, she felt a sharp pain in her wrist.

"Stupid." He scolded her.

Her eyes went wide when he supported her by placing his arms around her shoulder. Although Jae just did something similar, she felt her heart beating faster with this one.

"Weren't you greedy? Aren't you regretting it now? Anyway, drink this first."

He really is too kind. Sumire took a drink. "I'm not regretting it. I don't want to become your burden, and I want to be with you and everyone else."

That's right, and she doesn't want to be a burden to him anymore.

—

"If you think that way, then you should get better quickly, Sumire."

He backs away slightly, only to notice her heated face. She is defenseless in this state, isn't she?

Yuhi placed his hand on the girl's brunette locks and bent forward. "Hey, can I?"

"Why-- why- are you asking that?" She stuttered.

"So you're saying it's okay for me to do so without asking?"

"Eep! I didn't mean that."

She said "eep." She is very cute, isn't she? Too adorable. But she got hurt again.

He leaned forward, ready to kiss her, but she pulled back slightly. He paused and looked at her face. Terror and desire fought an epic battle in her eyes.

"Sumire..."

Just saying her name like that softly and warmly seemed to relax her. Her fear vanished, and all that remained was desire. He stroked her hair, and she leaned into his palm.

"Yuhi."

She smelled intoxicating. What was it? A mixture of flowers, nature, and femininity.

Yuhi cursed in his head when he heard soft noises escape her lips.

"Making me worry like that!" he scolded between heavy panting and moist kisses. "It's time to punish you."

"W--aa...Yuhi, you are very unpleasant..."

"I am, aren't I? Maybe you still need to learn who is in charge. Brat."

"Wait." Sumire looked away. "What about Sano? Is he still sleeping? Did the noise wake him up?"

Yuhi frowned at those words. Why does she have to consider that man? No, that is not it. He watched her carefully and saw how red her face was. Whenever she is nervous, she ends up rambling a lot.

He ran his hands through his hair and scolded her. "Are you stupid?"

"That's you, Yuhi-san."

He can't get mad at her for long. She thinks of him so dearly too. "Go back to sleep?"

"Mmm, I don't want to now."

He laughed. "More?" He traced her lips with his thumb, and she nodded.

"Mmm, a bit more Yuhi."

A bit, huh? Yuhi's thoughts broke off when he heard approaching footsteps and sighed. Well, even he can be petty. He leaned forward and complied with Sumire's request.

**ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 348**

## Chapter 348: Blue wind Part 1

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

Whenever Shin thought of Ibuki Sumire, he would recall the time he spent observing her.

She truly is different from what he pictured. He thought she was an emotionless girl someone who didn't have any emotions. It was only natural for him to think that because their past aside. She never reacted to any of the cruel things he said to her. No matter how cruel his words were, she didn't react to them. No that's not why he was so cruel.

It frustrated him, seeing her like that. It was frustrating watching her act exactly like a doll with no emotions. There's no way because the girl who helped him escape that day looked so frantic and desperate. That's exactly why, despite the feelings of anger he felt that day, and he didn't hit her.

Shin felt it was her again when she visited Tokyo on a class trip, and he saw her loitering around. She always wore a mask then and would only show her face around certain people. He didn't know what it was, but he felt it was her, the silhouette - her hairstyle it's completely different than before. But he knew he could never make a mistake when it came to her.

He had to confirm it, no matter what he had to know, and when he did find out, it shocked him. Although he wanted it to be her, it surprised him even more so when she hides her face again slowly afterward, ticked him off.

"She doesn't want to see him", that's obvious. Her reaction was normal - and yet, when he caught a glimpse of the girl's eyes, there was nothing but sadness.

But why? Why would she be so sad upon seeing him? He didn't get it. He debated it constantly in his head and finally worked up the courage to speak to her about it.

His group went on tour. The next time they meet, he will ask her, and they will speak about before. That's how it was supposed to be. But upon his return, he noted that she no longer wore the mask, and the expression behind the mask was a broken doll.

It irked him to see her like that, especially since he knew that she wasn't like that. It was only for a short while before, but he could still remember the girl's smile from years ago. The reason why he was so cruel was to bring out her emotions again.

Though that tactic failed, what brought out her emotions again was those words. "When you're too kind to me, I become afraid."

When she first said that to him, he could only stare at her in wonder. She's showing a different expression now, and yet it was completely different than what he suspected. At the start, he thought it was different but thinking about it carefully, and it made sense. She was that way before, too, not being able to say anything to her father and yet smiling whenever she's given food.

She is weak and fragile; when he's kind to her, she gets all confused, and yet to him, that is cute. Ever since he changed his attitude towards her, things have been different between them. He did suspect things would change, but who would have thought that it would become like this now.



He didn't think that he would end up caring for her to such an extent. Damm, that girl is sneaky.

Shin sighed deeply as his gaze fell on the large building in front of him. The huge sign akagaumi bar in neon-colored lettering stood out even from a distance.

So he ended up here. But for the last few minutes, he could not summon the courage to go inside. So he kept walking back and forth.

"The young man lurking around with a suspicious package can come inside."

Shin averted his gaze and coughed. "I didn't want to disturb you."

"But you're worried about me, right, Shin?"

Indeed he was, he left in a hurry because Atsuro called him. But the moment Atsuro left, he came here.

"Go back inside, and you might catch a cold."

Sumire laughed. "Come in, and I unlocked the door from here."

"Isn't Nagawa there? Won't it be awkward?"

But, he did want to talk to her and make sure she was fine. Last night's events must have shocked her. Sumire isn't a delicate person, but he knew that she disliked fights.

He awkwardly opened the gate and walked across the lawn till he arrived at the door. He opened the doorknob and glanced around. There was strangely nobody around.

After a few minutes, he hears the sound of somebody going downstairs. But the footsteps stopped in the hallway.

Shin felt that there was something wrong.

It was Nagawa, he had Sumire backed against the staircase, and he was kissing her. For a moment, Shin recalls a scene from before, scattered garments, lustful gaze, and a strange perfume scent in the air.

He shook his head. Sumire is different from before, and she won't do that stuff.

"San, stop."

"Why?"

"Because I said so." She pushes him away and sighed. "We have a guest; behave okay?"

"Okay."

"Mmm, good."

It is impressive to see how she has tamed Nagawa.

Soon Sumire walked out with Nagawa following behind her. He looked meeker than the last time Shin saw him. He heard the details of Atsuro, but did that one incident change the arrogant man that much?

He awkwardly sat down on the couch, and Sumire and Nagawa sat opposite him. The latter leaned his head on Sumire's shoulders like it was natural.

"Sorry about this. He isn't feeling very well, and he keeps reopening his wounds."

"It's fine."

But a bit strange to watch. Then again, he was the first one to suspect the thing with her and Atsuro.

"Are you alright?" Shin asked. "Last night-" He paused and clenched his fist at the memory. When he saw her ability, he wanted to stop her from using it. Using that much blood is not healthy for anybody, let alone her, who was already weak.

He couldn't stop her, and as he suspected, it was too much for her.

"You don't have to feel bad, Shin, and it was not your fault. I made the decision myself."

So she is basically telling him that she knew what she was doing. But that makes this situation worse. He should have been the voice of reason and told her not to use it at all costs.

"You know it was nice."

"Nice?"

"It's still better fighting alongside Yuhi, but he is not the only one I trust to have my back. I knew you would defend me."

"I told you before, as long as I can sense you, I will protect and find you."

Even though he knew Yuhi or Atsuro could do a better job than him, it didn't stop him from wanting to protect her.

"I know, and you kept that promise this entire time. I am very grateful to you, Shin; you suppressed your feelings for me and treated me as a friend since I came here."

He had no choice; after all, he visited her a few times after Mamorus

's death. Due to her current state, she did not recognize or recall it, but he was there. He saw how broken she became.

Chapter end

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 349**

Chapter 349: Blue Wind Part 2

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

It was a rather short visit. Sumire knew that Shin was acting considerate or cautious regarding Sano. Either way, he left rather quickly. She wanted to discuss something with him.

"Do you want to go after him?"

Sumire shook her head. "I will see him in school tomorrow." Knowing Shin, he would attend, right?

...

Iro Road High XX

Although the summer holidays are almost over, she still had to go to school. There were no classes, but they came in to clean. Sumire eventually took a break at the bridgeway connecting the art and music buildings.

Sumire inhales deeply and glances down at the cigarette between her fingertips. The smoke doesn't follow a path, and it never will. It simply floats around like it is, guided by something, but never for very long.

It was just like Terashima Yuhi. Sumire sighed. She is way too dramatic just because she doesn't like him as often anymore. Besides, Yuhi is not the type of guy who would stay put in one place. Even if he did, he would find a way to make his own space. For example, in school, he has his atelier, and the rooftop is his domain.

Back when they worked together as a member of the underworld organization Holy Knights, people often called him a dog. Sumire has never once thought otherwise.

She saw him as dangerous and yet alluring, and occasionally she would have other thoughts - the kind that a girl like her shouldn't even consider. After all, Sumire has always considered herself a rational woman.

At least, in most ways.

A rational woman wouldn't have become so obsessed with a man from the moment she heard his voice.

It was something she understood, and yet recently, she can't calm down her heart. She thought she could control her emotions if she hunted down other delinquents, but it did not work.

No matter how many groups she destroys, this feeling inside her like it's about to explode can't calm down.

"Ah, Sumire-chan! That's where you were."

Her thoughts broke off when she spotted somebody rushing over. "Asami-chan."

"Nakursensei still hasn't come back yet. He isn't in his office either. So we were wondering if you know where he was?"

He hasn't? Could it be because he saw....Uh, this was her fault after all, wasn't it? After all, even though she knew his feelings for she never really said anything about it anymore.

Moreover, he acted normal around her. But as expected, seeing something like that on the person you love has got to hurt. The person she loves, huh?

"Asami-chan, I'll find him."

"Really? Then when you do, please give him this."

Asami pulled out an envelope with a heart.

"It is from Seiko-chan next door. I told her already to confess personally, but she won't listen.."

Confession huh?

Of course, that's normal since he's an idol and all. But it does surprise her." Leave it up to me."

....

Sumire found him right away.

If he isn't in his office, there's only one other place that he could be after all. On the third year floor, behind the stairway, there's a small section where people don't go. Sure enough, when she opened the door and stepped inside, she stumbled upon him after a few minutes of walking.

Gee, even if he is a student-teacher, what is he doing sleeping here so carefree like.

Sumire bent down, oh his hair standing up. He has bed hair, and it's kind of cute. Even when he's asleep, he looks grown-up, huh? The complete opposite of Yuhi, who looks like a child when he's asleep. Even so, she moves strands of Shin's hair out of his face, and those piercings are rather noticeable. She will never understand why he has so many.

It's kind of like that time. Other than Tsueno Mamoru, there was somebody else she cared for a lot.

..

September XX - Tsukuhara High School

Whenever she found the time, she often visited Ichinose Arashi's classroom. It became a habit since she started high school.

Rumi follows her gaze. "He's been asleep since homeroom. Whatever we do doesn't work."

He must be really tired. Is it because of yesterday?

Kensho noticed her. "Ah, that's perfect timing. Sumire wake this fool up; we have JoshimSensei next. He's going to get into trouble if he sleeps in."

The brunette looked back at the indigo-colored-haired boy who nodded.

"It's fine; I'll take care of the rest," He said as he took the other box from her.

Sumire mumbled a quick thanks and made her way over to the pale blonde-haired boy. The moment she came over, she saw that he was clutching the pen she had given him tightly.

"He's been fast asleep this entire time. Yet he doesn't let go of that pen."

He used it, even though it's so girly.

Really when he's fast asleep, he does look so much younger. Oh, his hair is standing up a bit; it's cute.

"Senpai, wake up," Sumire said lightly, shaking him, yet he didn't budge an inch.

He is a heavy sleeper...

She pulled up another chair. She put her arm on the other side of him as she lowered herself over his sleeping form.

"Senpai senpai, wake up," she said, barely above a whisper.

Sumire quickly realized that she would frighten him this way, so she lowered her head further until her lips connected with his cheek.

She didn't do it because he looked so adorable when he was completely defenseless and endearing while he was asleep.

"Senpai, wake up," she said with a bit more strength in her tone. He made a sound in his sleep and turned a little, starting to stir. "It's almost the fourth lesson."

She scans the rest of the room and saw the others focused on getting their orders. Rumi took charge and helped Dai-chan out at the front; if it's like this, maybe no one will notice.

"Arashi, I might I-" Sumire whispered in his ear.

He mumbled something, and Sumire couldn't help herself this time. She lowered her head and kissed his cheek and then his lips lightly; when she straightened her posture, Arashi was wide awake.

"I see you are awake now." She brushed his fingers across his cheeks. "Senpai, you slept all morning."

She savored the look on his face and chuckled. She never knew he could blush like this, and there was something nice about it.

"Oh, that's a good one. Didn't think you'd try that." Kensho said.

Sumire laughs. "Aha, well..."

Rather she didn't know why she did it.

She turned back to Arashi, and his entire face seemed to turn redder by the minute. She did not mean to tease him that much.

Despite his embarrassed state, he wore a serious look on his eyes as he stood up and grabbed hold of her hand. "Come with me for a minute."

...

Sumire snapped back to reality and clenched her fist ah. What was she thinking of just now? There is already no means of returning to that time. After all, she had already made her mind up to take a path completely separate from his.

But during the time she needed support the most, he was the first one to run away. It was not like she expected much; no, maybe she expected too much from him, and that was why it ended up hurting more when he didn't say anything.

It does not help anybody at all. Her thoughts broke off when she saw a lot of sweat on Shin's face.

Is he having a nightmare?

## ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 350

Chapter 350: Blue Wind Part 3

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

"Nakursensei, wake up."

"Shin!"

Shin gasped and panted heavily as he felt Sumire shake him awake. She called his name so loudly, leading to him breaking free of the nightmare that plagued his subconscious.

He felt his body trembling, his heart pounding, and the blood rushed to his ears. His nails dug into his palms, leading to blood.

He tried to calm down as his hands moved away from the clenched position to cover his mouth.

"Sorry about that. But you wouldn't wake up so." Sumire hesitated.

"You appeared to be having a nightmare too. So I couldn't just leave you here." Sumire suddenly reached over and placed her hand on his forehead. "You're really sweating a lot. Even though we should be heading back now, I don't think we should go with you in that condition. Ah, I know I still have some water."

Now though, the true reason had come to light--he still hadn't gotten a reign on these nightmares and didn't want to give her any reason to worry.

Well, there went that plan.

He accepted the girl's water bottle, and his hands were still shaky. Shin used the first two mouthfuls to wash the bile from his mouth before he gulped down the rest of the water.

"Did you drink it okay?"

"Y--yeah."

Or rather, he just realized that he drank from the girl's bottle. Shin shook his head. He isn't a child; how can he get embarrassed over something like this?

"Why are you here?"

"Asami-chan asked me to find you. Sensei, you know, even when it's break time, some students still want your help with work. They value your input as a teacher even if you are a bit of an airhead at times."

That's right. He was in school; he almost forgot about it. He is completely out of it today, huh?

His gaze flickered onto the girl's back to see an envelope sticking out of her pocket. "What's that?"

Sumire pulled a face like she almost forgot about it and quickly took it, "Uh... it's nothing."

Hmm? Why is she acting all suspicious about it? Or rather how odd, she seems to be unusually nervous today.

"I am surprised you know where to find me."

"That's because there was that time you were acting strange and you told me about this place. Gee sensei, if you're going to try to find a place to ditch, you shouldn't be telling your student about it."

She suddenly rambled on and on.

During this entire time, she hasn't been facing him at all, not that he minded having a view of her back.

"Ah...you don't seem well at all, I'll tell Asami-chan that we're going to be late for a bit..."

He watched her get out her phone.

But she was acting all clumsy and not being able to write her message properly. Come to think of it, he heard about it from her friends a while back.

"Did you notice it? When Sumire starts rambling on and on about things. It means she's either embarrassed or nervous. It's always the perfect method to get juicy stories about her and Terashima".

He wondered if it would work if it were him. There is only one way to find out.

As Shin thought that the brown hair girl's phone rang, yet before she could answer it, he grabbed hold of her hand, lacing their hands together. This led to her dropping her phone.

"S--sensei? What are you doing?" Sumire stuttered.

Oh, she is stuttering. Shin blinked, surprised at this behavior. She usually is so calm and composed. Could it be that the direct approach works on her?

Shin doesn't hesitate to pull her down until she sat on his lap.

"Wait a second. What are you..."

Indeed, he could see it now. Her face was turning redder by the minute. So the theory is correct.

"You're the one who gave it to me, and yet you're the one being all embarrassed over it." He stated calmly.

"Stupid, anyone would be embarrassed over this situation."

"Is that so? Then, we can stay this way for a while."

Shin bent down and brushed his lips against her neck to prove his seriousness.

At that comment, he felt the girl shiver. "H--hold on a second. Sensei, if anyone finds us...."

"Then, is it fine if nobody finds us?" Shin challenged.

She seemed baffled by his words.

He chuckled at the girl's reaction. "Relax. I feel drained of strength right now. So I won't do any more than this. Just for a while, stay here like this with me."

Although this is the first time he acted out on his feelings for her, he wanted to watch this situation longer.

Why is he suddenly doing a complete turn on his feelings despite saying he would keep it intact? It must be because of this sudden weakness of his, and he has no strength to think rationally.

Yeah, that's clearly what this is. Or it may be because of the words Ryou told him. Somehow it inspired him or something like that. Because he could relate to it, for sure later, he will regret this. The only reason Sumire trusted him was because she knew he would never act on his feelings.

But for now, he wants to remain this way, and he wants to bask in her scent and the feeling of her in his arms.

...

However, he doesn't have any luck. At least not in the same way Ran or the other guys in Quatro light and the lucky souls in nanairo feather do. The moments he has with her like this when he isn't acting rationally usually don't last long.

If it were just the girl's phone, he would probably just leave it be and carried on, nuzzling his face on her neck. But it wasn't, the announcement came from the intercom.

"Can Ibuki Sumire-ch-I mean -san. Rather Sumire-chan, please come to the student council room...Yuhi is scary!"

His eyes twitch in annoyance; hey, kids shouldn't be messing around with the intercom so easily. Then again, that voice is from the student council president, isn't it?

However, that must have caused the brown hair girl to snap out of it since she suddenly pulled away from him.

"Sorry, I have to get going." Sumire apologized.

"Yeah."

"I-f you're still not feeling well, then you should stay here. I'll leave this water with you too...So ....um...."

It was rare for him to see her acting so nervously like this. So this is her weak point, huh? She isn't good with love. If people confront her directly, she does not know what to do. That surprises him, considering the number of people who like her.

Sumire turned to walk away when he grabbed hold of her arm, leaned over, and placed a kiss on her forehead.

"Yeah, thank you for taking care of me. Have a safe trip."

At that action of his, she bolted away from him immediately and bows.



"Excuse me."

Shin watched her retreating figure, and he noticed that the envelope she had been carrying had dropped out of her pocket. Shin walked over and picked it up; this is... His gaze darkened, so that's what this was about. In the end, to her, he is still nothing. But he already knew that from the beginning.

It is fine as long as he can protect her, isn't that right, Tsueno?

Shin recalled the words, the last ones Tsueno Mamoru told him, and they were words that stabbed at his consciousness.