

Melody 351

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 351

Chapter 351: Blue Wind Part 4

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

Even after he recovered from his strange mood and returned to the physics prep room to mark papers, Shin couldn't stop thinking of her- no, to be exact, what occupied his thoughts was his bold actions. What on earth was he thinking doing something like that for? Is he crazy?

On the day it came for them to meet her, Shin had purposely fallen asleep on one of the balcony ledges nearby to catch a glimpse of her before she came in, knowing that it would show on his face if he saw her again with the others. Not as though he doubted Kirishima's words; he just wanted to see it with his own two eyes.

It didn't take him long to recognize her, that same chocolate brown hair and those violet-colored eyes like an amethyst. Yet there was something different about it, and there appeared to be a burning fire in them instead of just a spark.

When he saw her walk back and forth, acting all nervous, it was a new experience for him since she only ever showed her serious side. It was a refreshing change, and she is quite clumsy. He hadn't been expecting that.

When Ryou greeted her, he noticed how nervous she was. When he saw a familiar expression on her face, he felt relieved. Seeing her that way, he knew that he couldn't leave her alone.

It's not Ryou's fault he didn't notice. But still, maybe it started again then. That love that came to a halt and never came to blossom when he grabbed hold of her hand that day.

His thoughts break off when he sees the door creep open and waltz in an angry-looking Sumire.

His face broke out into cold sweat. "Pardon my intrusion."

"I didn't think I'd ever see you in here again."

Shin knew what he did earlier overstepped his boundaries. Even though she acted all flustered then, he knew after she calmed down, all that remained would be anger. This is bad; even though he controlled himself this entire time, why did he do that?

"I just forgot to bring a book back," Sumire said, walking over to the bookshelf. "Besides, you said you'd be making our finals around now, right? I figured you wouldn't want a student in here that time."

"Yeah, your right." Actually, the last thing on his mind was making exams. Right now, he was thinking of ways to appease her anger.

"Sensei, can I ask you something personal?"

"As long as it is not too personal, I guess."

"Do you still have feelings for Mina?"

He wasn't expecting that sort of question. But how could she ask that despite what happened earlier? Good grief, she needs to learn to believe him more. "You know most people would consider that as a personal question."

"Sorry..." She trails off. "Um, this is just a hypothetical situation, but... If there was a female student who was relatively close to you that liked you. Would they still stand a chance?"

As she said that, he noticed the seriousness in her eyes and the faintest pink - or maybe that was just the light reflecting from the outside.

Shin highly doubted it. But is Sumire talking about herself? After all, she totally flipped out after hearing what happened between him and Mina. There is no way, but it is precisely because she likes him that she got mad before.

He knew it was impossible, especially since he saw that letter earlier. Right, it probably has something to do with that letter.

Shin placed his hand on his face. "Sorry, give me a second. My brain can't keep up with this."

"It's fine, and I was just curious, is all."

Despite that vague reply, Shin could tell that she wanted an answer.

"It's out the question while she is still a student. But if she were to graduate or if I were to stop being a teacher, it is possible."

Sure he was a student-teacher, but he was still a teacher; nonetheless, it would hurt his reputation if people found out.

Sumire looked away then with a smile on her face. "I see that's good to hear."

That's probably the only reason why he only makes careful movements towards her in terms of advancement. Their idol status aside, it wouldn't be right for him to confess to her while she's still a student and he's a teacher.

Who is he kidding? The words Mamoru said to him are like a thorn in his side.

You don't stand a chance to be with her, but you can protect her.

To think somebody as kind as that said such harsh words. Well, Shin isn't an idiot; he knew why Mamoru said that.

"Anyway, I better get going."

"O--okay."

It's when the brown hair girl turned to leave that he noticed her swollen cheek. "Ibuki, did you hit your cheek earlier?"

"Oh, this? Earlier I visited San, he had some guests over, and it seemed they were stressing him out a lot. When I tried to stop it, he ended up hitting me by mistake."

Shin didn't know how to react to that, so he asked her. "Are you okay?"

"It's fine. I have a sturdy face."

"But..."

"It's fine. This sort of thing happens all the time." Sumire waves her hand. "Anyway, I'll stop by again when finals are over."

"Okay"

Shin saw a flash of darkness in her eyes. "Does Yuhi know?"

Sumire laughed softly. "Well, I tried to hide it earlier."

"Sit down."

She blinked puzzled, and Shin stood up. "I will tend to your wounds and make it less visible."

"Then I guess I have to take you up on that offer."

Shin rummages through the cabinet as Sumire sat down on the couch. "You stopped the fight and got hurt. But what about that wound on your leg? Did he-"

Sumire sighed deeply. "I guess nothing escapes you, Shin. But honestly, don't worry so much."

"Sumire, he can't just hit you."

"I know that, and I stood up for myself after he did it."

"You did?"

She laughed. "I slapped him a few times. Afterward, I think he snapped out of it since he went down on his knees and apologized."

"You didn't forgive him, right?"

"I am not a saint Shin. I told him I wouldn't go back there for a few days, and he can think/repent about what he did."

Indeed the situation has changed now. "Did he hit you often when you dated?"

"Mmm, whenever he got angry."

So there was physical abuse in the relationship? Shin only knew bits and pieces regarding her relationship with Nagawa Sano, but he did not think something this extreme happened. Shin cautiously looked towards Sumire, and she seemed rather calm.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 352

Chapter 352: Blue Wind Part 5

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

Before Ibuki Sumire came to Tokyo, he met her before, and she already turned him down. It was back before he met Tsueno Mamoru, so naturally, he did not have as much information. About Sumire. Back then, he didn't know anything about her life or her feelings for Terashima.

Back when he was still ignorant, it was easier for him.

It was because he didn't know anything that when he said his honest feelings, she could turn him away the way she did.

....

Year XXX

It was during the funeral of one of the leaders of the Holy Knights. During that funeral, she was the only one who did not shed tears, and many people called her out on being heartless. Since it was a close person to Sumire, but she was the only one who remained calm.

His thoughts broke off, and the room turned silent when the doors opened, revealing a certain brown hair girl.

Sumire...

She brushes past him, and the girl walked up to the coffin. Shin watches as Sumire places her hand on the girl's hair.

"It's better to get killed than disappear, and I said that to you then. But in this instance, I would rather have you disappear."

He watches the girl's eye color change emerald. "Sorry for you; it would have been best if you just died peacefully. But like this, you'll be in hell anyway. That's why.." Sumire leaned forward and kissed the girl's forehead. "Rest in an eternal dream."

Shin recalls it then quite clearly what she said.

"The feeling of being scared... I've forgotten it already."

Is she....really not afraid?

Someone died already, someone who just until a day ago laughed, cried, got angry, and lived.

...

He kept watching her the entire time, so he didn't hesitate to chase after her the moment she left the hall.

When he finally caught up, he grabbed hold of her wrist." Hold on a minute. Where are you going?"

"Nakarsensei, let me go."

Shin shook his head. "Not until you tell me where you're going."

Sumire looked blankly at him and proceeded to walk off again. Shin pushed her towards the nearby wall and pinned her with his arms preventing her from escaping. "You can't go anywhere. Someone just died. Why would you go on your own now?"

She is silly and reckless. Even though she looked calm back there, Shin could tell from where he was standing that there was something much more to her expression. Even though he couldn't quite pinpoint what that was.

"I see, you're afraid." It was just a general comment, he did not think anything would come from it, yet when she tells him to shut up, he knew something was wrong.

The brown hair girl reached over and placed her hand on his face, sending warmth all over his body. "I'm not afraid, Nakursensei. Even with something like this going on. I've already decided what I have to do. Asahi, she didn't deserve to die. This is my mess, which is why I'll handle the matter as I see fit."

"Let me help you."

Sumire shakes her head, "I can't have that. Idols aren't supposed to cross this line. Nakursensei, in the end, the strongest will win. You don't have to worry about me". She was about to push him away when he tightened his grip and brushed his lips against her ear.

No.

He didn't want that.

He didn't want her to go anywhere again. In the first place, it was because she saved him and got wrapped into a troublesome mess.

Shin leans forward and kisses her.

The words he told her friend just recently appeared in his head. "I won't tell her".

"That's not possible."

Yeah. It really isn't. Even if this situation didn't happen, even if it didn't end up this way. For sure, he would have certainly told her. When he pulled away, the girl seemed rather surprised.

A faint pink on her cheeks, it was faint, but it was there. "...N--akursensei you...."

"I won't let you push me away. I will get involved even if you'd rather not have me doing so."

Sumire rushed forward and tugged on the edge of his sleeve. "You can't.. You can't do that. Nakura, you simply can't."

Shin brought his lips forward again towards her ear. "Then, please stop lying about it. Tell me the truth. You remember me, don't you?"

"If I do?"

She's not even going to deny it anymore... She is affected by this, after all.

"Why didn't you-" His sentence fell short when she placed her finger on his lips.

Sumire shook her head. "I'm sorry."

...

Shin snapped out of his daze and sighed.

She already rejected him.

She rejected him before he could even get his feelings out there. That's why this much should be alright shouldn't it?

Unfortunately, he doesn't know much about the Nagawa family. If it's knowing something about nobles and elites, there is one person that he could rely on telling him that information.

That time, he had abruptly kissed her since fear had welled up inside him, fear that he would also lose her. Lose somebody else that was important to him. Yet losing her would mean losing everything because the one who had told him to work hard and follow his dream had been her.

He found the medkit and walked over to where Sumire was, and kneeled down.

"Even if you stood up for yourself, shouldn't you just-"

"Mm, I do know what you are thinking, Shin, and sometimes I wish I could do just that. But if I do that, then it would mean I am letting him off easily."

"Is it revenge?" It was a stupid question. Shin already knew it wasn't revenge. If it was revenge, she could have easily gone out with him and then dumped him.

What Sumire is doing with Sano now is something different.

Before Shin could say any more, the doors opened.

It was Yuhi who came marching through the door with a bag from a pharmacy in his hands. He waltzed over to Sumire and put the bag in her hands.

"For me?"

"It must hurt."

At that comment, he watched as her expression changed. It was no longer the weak smile or angry look from earlier, and she seemed confused and yet happy.

"I see."

Of course, Yuhi already knew about it. However, Shin found it odd that Yuhi came here. If he knew surely with Yuhi's temper, he would have beat Nagawa up already.

Yuhi bent down and tapped his shoulder. He immediately understood and walked back over to his desk. There is no need for him to tend to her wounds if Yuhi is here.

"All humans must die someday."

It's just a matter of sooner or later."

Once, he quit the world of Yankee's. Shin half expected, no he expected to completely escape the darkness in his life. He thought he would be able to bury away that dark past and live normally.

If one would call not being able to walk the streets peacefully due to fans' ambushing, then yeah, he lived a normal life.

In the beginning, he disliked it. In the end, idols are humans too there not any more special than anyone else. Yet, for some reason, people worship them like gods.

In the end, has anything changed from back when he was a Yakuza? What is he saying? Of course, something has changed, it's different in comparison to before.

He is an idol now, even a student-teacher. He's living his life in a completely different manner than before. His way of living is completely different now. But why does he still get caught up in these situations?

Chapter end

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 353

Chapter 353: No Longer

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

One of the main reasons he was busier than before was secretly doing his investigations. It was not like he didn't trust Shin, but he wanted to check up on something too.

It was noisy, yesterday was supposedly the last day they attended class for the summer, but they had to come in today too.

Wherever anybody goes, it's on the paper.

Kuruga Asahi seventeen years old

A second year in the Assassin school died.

Yuhi read those words over and over in the span of a day and a half. Even now, rather than the buzz of the festival tomorrow. The topic amongst his classmates now is this shooting incidence.

"The police say they are still investigating. But no matter how you think about it, it's got something to do with all those shady men all around town."

"We should check it out."

Yuhi sighed when he heard those careless comments. They shouldn't try to get themselves involved with a matter like this. He hopes they do not go through with that plan; otherwise, he would have to knock them all out.

At this rate, it is no good. The media shouldn't have published the matter or broadcasted it that way. What are those guys at the main HQ doing? This whole matter is going to cause panic and unrest in

other schools. The fact that it happened in TOKYO and not in the outskirts where the girl's school just shows that this will impact everyone here.

That person didn't stop this matter from being spread. As expected, those people knew something.

"From what I hear, it seems like Ibuki-san's quite close with the girl who got shot."

"Seriously?"

"Do you think she is a Yankee?"

"The girl who got shot is one. So it won't be a surprise, right?"

Well, that kind of logic isn't wrong; it's right on the mark. But their curiosity is dangerous. Sumire's lack of attendance is to blame for this too. The fact that she occasionally disappears doesn't help. Either way, that girl finds it difficult to fit in with others. Asami and Aika aside, it doesn't seem like she gets along with anyone else.

It may be because of that people are freely gossiping about her. Yuhi thought things improved since the cultural festival, but it seems many still dislike her.

"Come to think of it, Asami, your friends with Ibuki, aren't you?"

He watches the timid girl shift uncomfortably; uh oh, that's not good. Yuhi was about to speak up when Aika slammed her hands down on the table.

"You guys be quiet. We still have a few signs and banners left to make, those who have finished their tasks head outside."

"Ha? Since when could you order us around?"

Akatsuki claps his hands. "Now, now, please?"

When they saw his friend, the girl's eyes instantly turned to hearts, and they headed outside.

Asami sighed. "Aikchan, thank you."

"Welcome." Aika trails off. "But you know it really would help if we just get one phone call from her at least. She's making us worried over here."

Yuhi looked over at the girl's desk, empty, at least it should have been. He spots a paperback from the corner of his eye and picks it up. *Strong in the Rain*. It's Miyazawa Kenji, huh? Yuhi had to admit that he wasn't a fan, but he did understand the meaning of the poem. That girl is reckless, after all.

"Terashima, don't you know anything?"

Yuhi was about to say something when he heard the sound of his phone. He quickly stood up. "If sensei asks, I'm taking a smoke outside." He doesn't wait for a response and quickly rushes off.

It was a text from Sumire.

It surprised him that she would show up today, considering how quickly she left yesterday after hearing the news. She made a quick trip to Star town just like that. Yuhi wanted to go with her, but judging how she left without saying a word to him, he knew she needed to be alone.

So she came back? That was good. Ever since she accepted his confession, one of the things he worried about the most was her returning to star town and never coming back.

Yuhi increased his pace, but the moment he went outside, he noticed the rain. What is with the random rain pour recently? He scanned the outside courtyard for a few minutes before he found her.

"Sumire?"

He called her name a few times before he made his way over. Yuhi peered at her curiously, and she hadn't moved an inch since he called her name or reacted to the fact that he was in front of her.

Yuhi raised her face with his hands and saw something he wishes he hadn't seen. Her entire face looked lifeless, like there was no soul in her body; it was almost like-

"What are you doing out here in the rain?" Yuhi asked.

She didn't reply, and he became increasingly worried. The sound of the rain filled the silence as he covered her head with his jacket.

"Asahi died-" She spoke in broken sentences, and Yuhi wondered if her voice was okay. He has never heard her speak this way before.

But he has seen this state before. When Mamoru passed away, he came to see her just once, but she has no memory of it. She looked lifeless then and didn't speak at all. She didn't speak, nor did she cry. At the very least, she is talking now.

She must have rushed over to confirm it herself. Exactly what did she see? If he drinks her blood, he will see everything she saw, but a part of him knew it would not be right.

"She died for me; Asahi was investigating what happened. She never stopped, they caught her, and she died."

When he heard those words, Yuhi finally understood what the situation was. Why did this have to happen now? Just when she was getting better, just when she was starting to heal.

Sumire will always blame herself for Tsueno's death, and it won't be easy for you, Yuhi. She could relapse any minute.

It was something Hino told him before, but Yuhi didn't think much of it; he knew how paranoid Hino got around the women around him. But he should have listened. The situation with Sumire is different. Sumire differs from all those other people. Hino never befriended those people.

She hits his chest. "Why? Why didn't I know?"

Sumire finally looked at him properly, but there was something about her dim gaze and her soaked clothes that made him feel guilty.

Kuruga Asahi's investigation, of course, he knew about it. He has never personally met the girl, but she contacted him a few times to update him. Since Kuruga got word that he would help, the girl has been very helpful in supplying info.

"Yuhi- Yuhi, you knew. Her last message was for you." It was then when he saw something else in her eyes. There was scorn, grief, and hopelessness burned in those amethyst-colored eyes he loves so much.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 354

Chapter 354: I hate that I can't hate you

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

So that was why she reacted that way. She must have gone over personally to dispose of the evidence. If Kuruga left behind a message for him, they would think he was involved in her death. But the reason they didn't must be because Aki found the message first and called Sumire over.

"I knew."

Yuhi didn't apologize. He knew there would be no use. Besides, he can't deny his responsibility in this. She must feel betrayed that he didn't tell her anything even though he has been careful this entire time with his words and actions. What he did by not telling her anything is the same thing Mamoru did.

When he first entered a relationship with Sumire, he promised her that he would make her happy and treat her equally. But by hiding this from her, he has betrayed the promise he said that day.

"I hate you." She exclaimed. "I hate you so much." Her voice broke.

Yuhi felt her pain when she said those words. She doesn't want to say it, and she doesn't hate him. But she has to say this; otherwise, she will lose control. It must have struck a nerve the way he looked at her since she broke down and cried.

For a moment, he stepped back. He couldn't stand watching her like this, so broken and so fed up with everything.

He was always bad at comforting people, even more so when it came to the girl he liked. One wrong move, and she may end up leaving her side forever. Hino warned him before to prepare himself, and Yuhi thought he was ready. He genuinely believed that he could do it.

Sumire kept repeating how much she hated him as she trembled due to the cold, cried, and screamed. But every single fiber of her being called out to him and screamed, don't ever let me go.

Sumire was a strong girl, but he, of all people, knew her vulnerable side, the side she would only show to those she cared for. He took a deep breath as he extended his hand out and put it on top of her head.

Her eyes widened, and she mumbled an idiot before she buried her face in his arms. Yuhi wrapped his arms around her and pulled her closer, so she could not escape. Sumire seemed so drained and lifeless, but she mumbled his name.

"Yuhi."

"Yes?"

"I hate you."

"I know."

She shook her head. "I hate that I can't hate you."

For a moment, Yuhi paused; what a silly girl. He wondered if she noticed it; even when she said she hated him, it was like she told him not to go and to remain by her side.

Yuhi softly kissed the temple of her forehead and squeezed her hands. He repeated this gesture a few times until she looked calm. Yuhi looked at the clothes she wore. It was the same outfit she had on yesterday, but Yuhi noticed the traces of blood- fresh ones.

He wants to know what happened and get all the details from her now. But what is more important is getting her out of the rain as he thought that Yuhi noticed her stagger, and her face seemed red.

Before he came, how long did she stand in the rain?

...

Yuhi had two options rush her to the nearby hospital, which the Nagawa family owned, or bring her back to the bar where Nagawa Sano was. He hated how both options involved anything Nagawa related.

The first option was riskier, and he knew the only reason the Nagawa family allowed Sumire to be a patient there was because of Nagawa Sano. Yuhi didn't want to risk finding out what they would do without Nagawa there.

So he brought her back to the bar. Yuhi didn't like this option either since even now, the wounds Nagawa Sano gave the girl had yet to vanish. Nagawa was speaking with Hino.

"Sumire?!" Hino exclaimed.

"She has a high fever, but--" Yuhi felt there was something else wrong.

He laid her down on the couch, but the girl seemed a bit reluctant to leave. So Yuhi had to sit down on the couch and carried her at the same time.

Sano pulled out his bag and took a few items out. He took out a stethoscope. After a few moments, Nagawa frowned. "Terashima, lift her shirt."

Yuhi was about to say something when he saw Hino's worried look from the corner of his eye. Now isn't the time for this petty behavior. He took a deep breath and slowly raised Sumires clothes, and he only did a little so she would not be as exposed. But that was enough to see a terrible black-colored bruise.

With shaking hands, he raised the rest of her clothes, and to his horror, he saw no normal bruise. There appeared to be lash markings like claws and strange wisps of smoke. What--what?

"Hino, give me my phone."

Hino hesitated but nodded and took his phone out of the bag at his feet.

Right as he was about to dial a number, however, somebody was calling him.

"Yuhi? Is Sumire there?"

"Asuka."

"We found Aki in a terrible condition. I am surprised he is still alive- Sumire? What about Sumire? He was supposed to take her back to Tokyo." Asuka spoke rather quickly. He could sense a mixture of panic and fear in her voice.

Her rambling to him sounded like. Is Sumire alive?

Yes, yes, she is alive but barely.

"She is here, but..."

What on earth happened? He can't make sense of this.

"The two decided to take an early train there. Or rather Sumire seemed rather impatient and kept mumbling how she didn't explain anything to you."

"An early train?"

"It was shortly after they left we received word about a train hijack and bombs. It was all over the news Yuhi- Sumire, Sumire was on that train-"

Wait, it was all over the news? "Was there anything on the news about a train hijack?"

Hino frowned. "No."

Yuhi hears Nagawa muttering something, and he clenched his fist, realizing something.

"Nagawa?"

"They told me to stop a particular broadcast from coming through. Are you telling me--"

If Yuhi didn't have Sumire in his arms, he would have hit the guy already. Why on earth is he so clueless? How many times has this happened already? Why does Nagawa keep falling for the same cheap tricks? How many times will they use him to hurt Sumire?

Why does it have to be Sumire?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 355

Chapter 355: Fears and Regrets

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

When Yuhi realized that Sano could not do anything, he had no choice but to call Atsuro. The examination lasted a few hours, and the entire time he paced back and forth in front of the door.

"You can go inside now, and she is awake. But she might fall asleep again, so be quick."

".."

Yuhi remained frozen by the door, his head low. He didn't know what to do, and he didn't have any strength left in his legs. He felt so angry and almost rushed off to do something careless earlier. It was a good thing Shin and Atsuro arrived right at that moment; otherwise, he - his thoughts broke off when Shin tapped his shoulders.

"This is equally my fault, and I gave her some information recently. She probably acted on that while she was there, and they found out." Shin said.

Yuhi knew what he was trying to say.

You are not the only one at fault.

But how could he possibly blame anybody else? How did she get this hurt when they are together now? Unlike before, he could protect her much closely now.

The moment he got inside the room, Yuhi noticed she wasn't on the bed. He scanned the room and noticed that the balcony door was open; from where he stood, he saw her back. Yuhi sighed deeply, and this girl is so careless. After that happened, why is she moving around?

He picked up a cloak from the drawer and walked over to where she was. When he got closer, Yuhi had to stop for a moment. He could tell that it was difficult just for her to stand.

Yuhi didn't approach her at first and just silently watched her from where he stood. She is fine, and she is breathing; she even managed to walk even though it was difficult. But just a few moments ago, it felt like he had lost her forever.

He could not cope with the pain and emotional battle. He wanted nothing more than to scream, shout and let loose as he did before. But using those methods to cope will not help in the long run. It will only lead to consequences for those people dear to him.

He took a deep breath, and he needed to calm down. It will do no good continuing this way.

He waits for a few extra minutes before he approaches her. He wrapped his arms around her waist and buried his face in her neck.

"Mm, your warm Yuhi." She recognized him immediately, and it felt like his heart melted—the way she said his name and naturally intertwined their hands together.

Yuhi brushed his lips against her ear, and soft laughter escaped her lips.

"What are you doing, Yuhi-san? Are you flirting with me?"

"I was scared." He muttered.

He was so terrified, just earlier, her skin was so cold and the sight of the injuries she sustained. Yuhi clenched his fists at the thought. Why on earth does she have to have to go through something like that? Why did she do wrong?

Sumire tried to turn around, but he wouldn't let her. Yuhi did not want her to see how vulnerable he looked.

"You know Yuhi, it still hurts. You're hugging me too tightly."

"Sorry." He apologized but increased his hold on her.

How could she have gotten hurt when he is around? It does not make sense. The safest place should be by his side and yet look what happened. He shouldn't have let her go alone. Yuhi kept repeating those words in his head like some kind of spell.

She only got hurt because he took his eyes off her, yes that is all. She wasn't within sight, so he should not have such thoughts. But how can he not blame himself? If he went with her, then perhaps he could have prevented this scenario.

"Did I save those kids?"

"Kids?"

"Mm, it looked like they were in middle school and were on their way to take high school entrance exams."

Aki and Sumire were the only ones who survived.

Asuka's words repeated in his head, and Yuhi frowned. Should he tell her? It is hard to judge what her current state is now. Before she collapsed earlier, she wore such a dead look in her eyes and was in so much pain. Sumire must have understood from his silence.

"I see. I couldn't save anybody again."

"That's not it, you—" His thoughts broke off when she turned around.

"Yuhi." She mumbled softly. "You don't have to try so hard to comfort me, I understand."

Why does she understand? Why does she have to be so used to this? He thought he could make her live a normal life here in Tokyo. But how come the shadows of her past are haunting her even now? He felt very frustrated and recalled something Nagawa told him before.

I can easily collapse the Empire – your stance in the Entertainment industry in a blink of an eye. If you genuinely want to protect her, you need something more.

It is not like he did not know that. How can he not know? Just his status in the entertainment industry cannot help Sumire. Now he understood why Mamoru approached other people other than him. That guy considered all possible options.

The guys Mamoru picked out to help Sumire if anything happened to him were all-powerful men. Shin confessed this information to him earlier. Maybe it wasn't a coincidence that Nagawa learned that Sumire would go here to Tokyo.

Sumire and Mamoru were planning on a trip to come here. The more Yuhi thought it through, the more it all added up. It is a real mystery why he did not figure this out beforehand. But then again, a lot has happened since she came here.

"I couldn't save anybody again."

"You've saved plenty of people already," Yuhi mumbled. He just wants her to rest and think for herself. She has spent all this time helping others. Yuhi wanted her to concentrate on her own needs and wishes.

"Like you, Yuhi-san?"

Yuhi nodded. "Like me."

If it weren't for her, he would have taken his revenge on that guy the moment she saw him. Even though they ended up going their separate ways because of his careless behavior, he still didn't do anything to that guy who destroyed his family.

Sumire raised her face from his chest and wrapped her arms around his neck. "My words have a lot of influence, don't they? I don't quite get it, but so many people have said I saved them."

"Yeah."

"But now that I have changed my way of living, I wonder if that is still the case?"

"Back then," Yuhi referred to the time they were still a member of the Holy Knights group together. "You were the only one who could accurately predict my moves and keep up with me. You were my irreplaceable partner, my boss, but you were so much more."

Sumire didn't have charisma, and people didn't flock to her when she talked. She was insecure and anxious about many things. Whenever somebody approached her, she would have an inner battle in her head. In the end, she will only say a few words, and people will conclude she is a cold-hearted person.

She didn't have that something that drew people in, yet she still saved many people with her words. Many fell in love with her voice, and she became somebody people couldn't keep their eyes off.

She was so much more than that insecure girl she thinks she is.

"I was that important to you, Yuhi?"

"The only important one."

She was the only reason why he put up with that hell and treatment for so long, and it was because he could finally be near her.

"If Ru is alive, Yuhi-san, what would you do?"

His eyes widened when he heard those words escape her lips. For a moment, he did not know what to think.

"What if I told you that I saw him?"

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 356

Chapter 356: Possibility

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

The possibility that Tsueno Mamoru was alive was quite high.

That was why he went briefly to Star Town right after Mamoru's death, and he wanted to check for himself. But in the end, he could not find any definite clues. He couldn't stay long just in case people found out he was there.

When he came back to Tokyo, he tried to investigate things here from his end. But it was difficult to do so with his busy schedule, so he had no choice but to halt the investigation.

When Sumire came here, and she vocally explained the other reason why she came here, Yuhi decided that he would help her.

Mamoru's death was odd. He and Sumire were not the only ones who thought that way. When Atushi found out he was investigating, he also joined in and commented on the same thing.

"Did he save you?" Yuhi did not question her, but instead, he asked her another question.

Sumire blinked, and then she drew back from him; with a large sigh, she said. "Why did you believe me right away?"

"Huh?"

"Most people would say I am delusional." Sumire trailed off. "This isn't the first time Yuhi, where I thought I saw him."

"It isn't?"

"Back when I locked myself up in his place, there were a few times where I thought I had seen him. But, there is no way." She shook her head. "There is no way he would watch, let alone leave me in that terrible state. If he were alive, he would see me right away. He would have no reason to sneak around."

Yuhi didn't say anything to this. Mamoru would have a reason to act sneaky. That guy would think he is doing everything for her sake.

"Yuhi, tell me that I'm wrong. Tell me I didn't see him." Her tone and her eyes looked so desperate.

She probably feels like screaming too.

"Sorry, but I also considered that he might be."

"Ru wouldn't do this to me. He would see me." Sumire exclaimed. "He wouldn't leave me alone for so long or let me suffer."

Yuhi bit his lip when he heard those pained words, and it sounded like she was screaming in agony. It seems he doesn't know as much as he thought he did about Sumire's relationship with Tsueno Mamoru. If he knew, then perhaps he could understand what she is trying to say better now.

She seems so confident that Mamoru could never do anything to hurt her. But with him and with others, she seems so distant. Sumire always says that she is ready for him to betray her anytime. However, Sumire does not consider the possibility that Mamoru will betray her?

What on earth did this guy do to convince somebody as stubborn as her? He would also like to learn those tricks.

Yuhi pulled her into his arms again. "Ssh, I will find out." Yuhi caressed her hair and back. "I will find out Sumire, and you just have to—"

The girl shook her head and raised her face. There was a serious look in her eyes. "No, I have had enough of sneaking around. I will find out the truth at any costs."

.....

At TS station

Yuhi sighed deeply as he thought back to what happened yesterday. He did not want to leave her behind and go to work, but it was not like he had much of an option. Sumire would hate it if he skipped work for her. At least Sumire on her normal day. Before he left in the morning, there was a strange aura around her.

"Terashima, if you are going to occupy our break room, could you at least not sigh every five minutes?" Kira Jun said in a monotone voice.

Right now, he was currently in Quatro lights break room. It turned out they had work in the same building, not that it surprised him.

The entertainment board is serious about him forming a group with them, but he had other things to worry about right now.

"Now, now it is refreshing." Maon Kou beamed happily as he placed a box in front of him. "Here, Yu-yus portion."

Yuhi raised his eyebrows. "What?"

"Tda, my family restaurant"s specialty. Maon karage bento."

Yuhi looked at the lunch box and saw karage and other meat dishes. Sumire would like this.

She probably won"t have the strength to cook in that state, and he is not counting on Nagawa.

The brown-haired man placed another two boxes in front of him. "For Sumire and Nagawa."

This guy is oddly perspective. Yuhi mumbled thanks and looked around the room. "Where are the other two?"

"Those two get a lot of jobs together," Jun explained. "A lot of people believe they are similar."

He supposes he could understand that logic.

"By the way, Terashima, have you heard of a designer that clings to Sumire-san a lot?"

"A designer?"

"Yes, we often saw that guy around a lot, but he went abroad near the time Mamoru-san passed away. I wonder if there was a connection."

Wait, a male designer? Yuhi frowned but quickly shook his head. He has no right to act jealous.

"Jealousy is a monster in disguise, Yuhi-san will you become a monster for me?"

But now that he thought it through, Sumire will most likely like that.

"I haven't."

"He was always around Sumire-san, but she didn't push him away. I don't think she liked him either since she responded coldly to everything he said."

That sounds like a complicated relationship.

"Do you think this guy is involved somehow?"

"One time, Kou said he found them in an odd situation. Sumire-san was pointing a blade at his neck while the guy had her pinned to the ground."

Yuhi almost dropped the boxes in his hands when he heard those words. Huh? What on earth is that all about? He turned to Maon Kou.

"I think that time Mimi mentioned something about being more cautious towards anybody new."

Despite the vague information, Yuhi gradually understood. That designer guy must have been a spy somebody sent to gather information on Sumire. But it would be difficult to pinpoint who. The girl has many enemies, and he doubted that guy told her who sent him.

"But you know after that time, I saw them together a lot more, and Mimi wasn't as cold as before—" Kou paused like something just came to mind. "Mimi was very lonely then, maybe—"

"Fool," Jun muttered. "She was with Mamoru-san then."

"But Mamoru-san was weird! When Ran-chan was making a move on her, he never did or said anything!"

"That doesn't surprise me either. Yuhi knew Tsueno Mamoru, at least the Tsueno Mamoru who loved Ibuki Sumire very well. That guy would do anything to make sure she is happy. Both of us want the same thing, and yet I could never push her to other guys."

"You think they have that type of relationship."

Kira nodded. "I don't mean this in a bad way but back then she—"

Yuhi shook his head. "You don't have to explain things."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 357

Chapter 357: What I never asked.

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

"There was a time where I latched onto other people like a parasite, and I clung to them because I didn't have anything else. I was empty. I let them use me because I didn't have anything to lose and wanted to feel something."

This was how Sumire described her relationship with Nagawa Sano to him. Yuhi clearly remembered the look on her face when she said those things and her pained voice. She looked so lost and fed up with everything.

He has no right to complain if she slept with other people. After all, didn't he do the same? To get rid of the loneliness and pain, he did careless things to cope with the pain of not having her.

If Sumire felt the need to do that despite being with Mamoru, then perhaps there is more to that relationship than he thought. She is not like those women who would cheat on their partner because they felt unsatisfied; there must be something he is missing.

What kind of relationship did Sumire and Mamoru have?

It was one of the questions he avoided asking her even more so after they started dating. Yuhi felt that the topic was awkward for him to approach. Her heart needs to heal; reminding her of her previous relationship would not help. As time went by, a lot of stuff happened in between, so he did not think to ask.

..

At the Akagumi bar

"You know you two, and I only left for a few hours—"Yuhi looked around at the bar to see several bottles emptied. "Atushi is going to kill you both."

"I only wanted one."

Nagawa shook her head. "She was the one who kept drinking." His face still seemed flushed. "How on earth is she okay?"

Indeed unlike Sano, Sumire only looked slightly red.

She must have drunk to cope with all the pain and stress from the previous day. Yuhi pulled out one of the bent boxes. He watched as her eyes lit up. "From Kous place?"

"Right, Mimi, it's the karage lunch set."

"Then give."

Gee, this girl changes her behavior so quickly. Yuhi passed her the box and passed one to Nagawa too. "Did anything happen?"

"She vomited a few times, her temperature flared up, and I think she has broken one of her legs. She can't walk properly."

"I am fine!" Sumire exclaimed.

Yuhi sighed deeply. This girl, when she is troubled by something, acts so childishly. He took a seat beside her, and Sumire peered over before she buried her face in his arms.

"Alright, now you, quit causing problems. We have a doctor living with us, so you should listen to him."

"But Yuhi, he tried to take advantage of me. Are you okay with that?"

Yuhi frowned and glanced over at Nagawa, who quickly averted his gaze. Well, it's not like he thought Nagawa would behave; he knew the man well enough by now to know what kind of stunt he will put if he isn't around.

"No." Yuhi traced her lips with his thumb. "But we do need him here."

"Then Yuhi-san should take bigger advantage, and it will solve the problems."

No, no, even if he would love that. Yuhi felt Nagawa glaring in his direction. How can he get in that kind of mood with Nagawa around? He isn't crazy.

"Sumire-san, do you feel better?"

"Ah Jun-kun, mmm a lit-"

"She is lying."

"I am fine!" Sumire insisted.

This girl is so silly; even as she clung to him, Yuhi could tell something was wrong. "I guess we can't go to the beach," Yuhi mumbled.

Sumire laughed softly. "It seems so, but we can still go see the fireworks on the 31st?"

But she can't walk properly, that is only two days away. She won't get better that quickly.

"Carry her or bring a wheelchair. It isn't good to just stay cooped up inside, but don't go to the festival." Sano advised.

Yuhi immediately understood. Right they can't be too careful. Those people tried to prevent Sumire from returning to Tokyo, so that means they must be around.

"Jun-kun and Kou, did you two need something?"

As perspective as always, Yuhi also thought it was odd that the two would tag along. At first, he thought they just wanted to visit her, but he changed their mind on his way here with them.

"I have a question, there was that designer who liked you a lot, what is his name?"

For a moment, Sumire froze, and Yuhi blinked at her changed expression. It is rare for anything to catch her off guard. So she and this designer guy must have had something.

"Jun-kun, your too blunt." Sumire sighed. "Don't worry, and he isn't involved."

"How can you be sure?"

"Because he went abroad to study in France. I haven't seen him since."

Yuhi sensed how uncomfortable she was and scooped her up in his arms. "You guys carry on eating." He didn't give a reason why and walked off with her.

The bar had a mini garden-like area outside, so he brought her there and placed her on the swings. He kneeled down and massaged her feet.

Sumire didn't say anything at first, but he felt her look at him. "Does it upset you?"

"Well, a little, but I can't lecture you."

"I don't remember Yuhi-san if I slept with him or not. My memories on this matter are very hazy."

"So was it—"

"I think after Ru died."

A relieved sigh passed his lips when she said those words, which didn't go unnoticed by her. "Did you think it as before?"

Yuhi froze at her words and thought of several explanations, but Sumire laughed.

"You don't have to panic so much, and I am not angry if you do think that way."

"No, it's not like that." Yuhi took a deep breath. "I don't understand your relationship with Mamoru well since I never asked you. From what I hear from the others, it seemed normal, but there were some strange parts too, like him letting guys flirt with you."

He had a strange thought on the way here. What if their relationship was only a deal? It would explain why they remained slightly detached from the other's affairs.

"Then what did you think?"

"You were dating on the surface but not actually going out?"

"Yes."

Yuhi blinked when he heard those words. For a moment, he thought he just heard things. What?

"You see, Yuhi-san, I had enough. I was upset when Ren went off to go abroad. I liked him a lot, and he was very good to me. There was that thing with Sano too. I didn't want to date again. But Ru he said then let's make a deal if I can make you happy, then we can be in a proper relationship."

Is that guy an idiot? No Tsueno Mamoru was a genius.

"It didn't take him long to make me happy, but even then, he told me it isn't enough. He wanted me to say that I loved him."

Now he is starting to get a clear picture of their relationship. Indeed it wasn't normal, but they still dated.

"But even then, I respected our relationship. Of course, I didn't cheat."

"That designer..."

"He was a spy for another group I took over, but he supposedly ended up falling in love with me."

"That sounds vague."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 358

Chapter 358: The most important

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

"He kept calling me his muse or whatever." Sumire sighed. "He is one of those types that I am bad at dealing with. So I struggled to push him away."

So it was something like that. "You won't tell me his name?" Even though she was explaining things to him, Yuhi noted that she would not give a name.

"If I told you Yuhi-san, you would get paranoid and research him won't you?"

Indeed he would do something like that. She is probably thinking of his previous reaction when she mentioned Nagawa, and he did overreact a little then.

"You know I don't care how many men you had a past with Sumire."

"You don't?"

"Well, the petty side of me is very bothered, but the other side is saying something else."

She didn't reply, and he took a deep breath.

"I don't care how many men you had a past with; what is important to me now is the present and our future together."

Yuhi immediately regretted saying those words.

It sounded cheesy, corny, and so unlike him. Since Sumire did not reply right away, Yuhi assumed that she thought the same. Even if he does feel brave lately, what on earth is he doing?

"Sorry that—" Yuhi's sentence fell short when he got a good look at her face. The loveliest shade of red dawned her porcelain-like skin, and her eyes sparkled.

Yuhi felt his heartbeat increase. What? Why is she looking at him like that?

His eyes widened when he saw the look she gave him. For once, he didn't know what to do, so he looked away. What is she thinking? The words he said just then were it too much.

Yuhi was about to say something when Sumire kissed him. "Thank you, Yuhi."

This is the first time she has made that face for him and said such words. "Maybe he is healing her heart." Yuhi didn't think it would work

His thoughts broke off when he felt the familiar sensation of her hand on his cheek. "Aren't you working too hard? You look a little tired."

Yuhi placed his hand on top of the hand that caressed his cheek. "Says the girl who got into an accident the other day."

"I am sorry for worrying you so much. But Yuhi-san, I wanted to see you quickly."

"Didn't you hate me?" Yuhi joked.

"Maybe I did. When I found the letter, I felt bitter and furious. But I couldn't keep it up for long. I remembered the warmth you gave me these last few months and changed my mind."

His eyes widened when he heard those words.

It wasn't all for nothing, and his efforts reached her.

After he saw her in that state in the rain, Yuhi felt that all his efforts this entire time were in vain. He couldn't heal her heart even a little bit. But now all those worries seem so silly. He looked at her eyes directly and saw a tender and warm-hearted expression. A few months ago, she would not have been able to make that face at all. Yuhi pulled her into his embrace.

"The beach, I still want to go with you."

"Ah-huh, I also want to see Yuhis swimsuit."

"Hah, right. But maybe I should rent it out. I don't need anybody else hitting on you."

Sumire laughed. "You so petty, Yuhi-san."

..

The two of them did not return inside and instead walked around the area hand in hand. Yuhi spoilt her on their walk, but he kept his eyes out on their surroundings every time.

Atushi and Jae mentioned that they wouldn't attack directly if he is next to her. But Yuhi could no longer be so sure.

After all, they attacked Sumire when she was with Aki of all people; what is to stop them from doing the same with him?

"By the way, Yuhi, you came with Kou and Jun-kun."

"Yeah, I was thinking of joining them."

"Then-"

"But, the timing is a bit off. Recently I don't see them together as much." There is always one missing. He doesn't want to bring up the topic when there is one of them not there.

"That's because those two get a lot of jobs together at this time in the year."

Sumire seems to know a lot about them, but what is more important to him now is her current state. Yuhi scooped her up in his arms, and the girl laughed softly.

"I can walk Yuhi-san."

"No, your movements are still a bit strange."

"But we're supposed to be going on a walk." She trailed off. "Yuhi, you don't have to treat me so preciously."

"But I want to spoil you rotten." Yuhi didn't want to hide this from her. "I want to spoil you, but you're always rushing off recklessly on your own."

"..do you want to ask me why I got on that train?"

"You must have known Sumire. It isn't safe to travel using public vehicles unless I am with you."

"I know."

"But you--" Yuhi struggled to get the words out. He wanted to deny it but based on her expression, his suspicions are true.

"You lured them deliberately."

"Yes, it was the only way."

"Did you find something?"

Otherwise, she would not have gone this far.

Sumire nodded. "Yes, but I hid it before the train crashed. I'll have to go back and retrieve it."

"I'm going with you." He won't let this girl out of his sight ever again. This time for sure, he will make sure nothing bad happens to her.

"Then Yuhi-san, I will have to tr--"

Yuhi saw it before she finished her sentence. A small wisp of black smoke around her gradually grew larger. Yuhi's eyes widened, it was not just the smoke around her, but a black shadow seemed to flash through her eyes.

"Sum--"

"Stay away from her." A voice from beside him said. It belonged to Atsuro, and he rushed over with a frantic look.

He pulled out some scrolls and wrote ancient letters with a large brush.

Yuhi was about to take another step, but Shin pulled him back. "She is losing control, Yuhi let's leave."

"But--"

"Atsuro will handle it."

Yuhi wanted to say that he would help too, but Shin was pushing him away quickly. He got one last look at her face before he followed Shin. Even when they walked away, Yuhi heard her pained cries. The expression he saw from a few moments ago reflected in his head.

Why cant he doing anything for her even now?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 359

Chapter 359: Why?

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

Nagawa General Hospital - August 29th.

Only a day and a half have gone by since then. Truthfully he wanted to be by her side the moment she woke up. However, Atsuro told him to go, "She's going to undergo several transformations. Knowing her, you're the last person she wants that form to be seen by. Relax, I'll mail you when it's all done. "

It's not like he worried about Atsuro flirting with her or anything, contrary to the girl's warnings. Yuhi knew Atsuro would not pull any stupid moves anymore during her treatment.

His gaze fell on the door in front of him that had Sumire's name on the label. "Hospitalized again." How many times has this happened already? Then again, this didn't happen when he wasn't looking; he was right beside her.

"Ah, Yuhi. Did you come to see me?" The voice didn't come from inside the room but outside. Yuhi frowned when he saw her.

What the hell is she doing up and about? He immediately rushes over and hugs her.

"I expected to find you resting; why are you walking around?"

"I heard you would come. So I wanted to get some drinks from the canteen." Sumire pointed to the bag in her hands. "Ah, I even prepared you a meal. The nurses were mad that I snuck into the kitchens, though."

Is she serious? Why on earth does she do these crazy things for his sake? Honestly, why is this the one thing about her that never seems to change?

"Let's go back to your room. Let me carry that."

"Yes. Alright."

When he arrived, he was relieved that the room was empty. The last thing he needed was any unwanted visitors during his precious time with Sumire. Honestly, he worries a lot about it still. He can never shake the fear that all of this is a dream. It's all a dream, and he would wake up to being all alone.

Suppose he were to wake up and find that all of this was a dream. Whatever sanity he had left would break.

Yuhi watches Sumire walk over to the fridge and take something out.

"Ah, wait for a second. I will heat it."

"Yeah."

"I know your hungry, Yuhi. So I'll permit you to attack me from behind while I prepare."

This means he can drink her blood, right? Yuhi walked over and hugged her from behind, arms wrapped tightly around her. He repeated her name in his head. If this is a dream, he wouldn't know what to do.

"Yuhi? Don't be silent. It scares me."

"Sorry. Just-" Yuhi didn't know what to say.

To think he let her suffer when he was right there. This is no good at all; why does this keep happening?

"I know, this time around I overdid it. I won't say I'm fine now because I feel like collapsing even as we speak. However, I want to see your smile Yuhi. I've always liked it a lot. Did you know? When we were children, it was your smile that motivated me."

"Hah. Don't make me listen to that stuff now. I'll get nostalgic."

Sumire chuckles softly. "Indeed, now isn't the time to get nostalgic. I suppose it is the time to get frisky, though. Before we eat, would you rather touch me first?"

At some point, he gradually got closer to her until he kissed behind her ear. His hands are trailing on her sides. Damn, what is he doing? He isn't a horny brat anymore—a guy who is older than he shouldn't act this way.

"If I attack you here, I'm pretty sure even Atsuro can't cover it up."

"Yuhi, you've become so considerate."

"Brat. That sounds sarcastic." He was not in the mood to keep teasing her and quickly turned quiet.

Whenever he is in deep thought about something, he would end up turning quiet like this. He was still trying to figure out what went wrong.

"Yuhi?"

"Please don't leave me again. Please Sumire. .don't go anywhere anymore. .I know I've avoided talking about this since you got back. But --"

Sumire turned around and placed her hand on his face. "Yuhi, your shaking..... you're trembling so much. I understand already. I do, so don't worry anymore. I know it's difficult for you to believe in my words after all that's happened."

No. . .it's not that. It's not that he doesn't believe in her. What he doesn't believe in is himself. Yuhi recalled the sight from yesterday. Why did she lose control like that?

He frowned as he recalled what happened. He examined the girl carefully. She looks fine now, although the color from her face had yet to return, and she staggered as she moved. She can talk normally but--

"Before we eat, can you tell me?" Yuhi asked. He couldn't figure it out just from looking at her face, and he wanted answers. Surely Atsuro gave her an explanation.

"It seemed like I came in contact with a demon familiar or something? Since I was near it for a long time, it made me absorb its powers."

So that was because she was overflowing with power, one of them being an unknown one? What a simple-sounding answer; it scared him so much when he saw her that way. It was a good thing Atsuro and Shin were there that time, and he wouldn't know what to do.

His thoughts broke off when he saw how Sumire looked at him. It always felt like she was searching for answers whenever she stared at him. What kind of answer does this girl want from him?

"You're already at the end of your limit. You can barely fight anymore. What can you do?" He exclaimed.

He really didn't want to bring that up, knowing it was a sensitive issue. But it's already something she can't keep hiding, aside from those who are always with her. The people in school have begun to notice too.

Yuhi knew when the next semester started, more and more people will talk. He needs to get this discussion out of the way now.

At that comment, she suddenly spun around and pushed him towards the nearby wall. He hit his head lightly, yet it still hurt.

"Sumire...you can't hide it anymore!!"

The last thing he wanted to do was argue with her, but after the train accident and losing control, Yuhi felt frightened. He needs to strengthen his defenses around her.

Sumire is stronger than him and can handle herself. But whenever it came to any news regarding Mamoru, she would behave irrationally. Her enemies could use such moments to go after her.

She raised her hand and hit his chest several times. "Shut up, please don't say it. I still have time. I have to last. I can't go now. Not when the situation has become like this. I can't leave everyone behind to suffer.

At that, Yuhi finally noticed the tears in the girl's eyes. His eyes widened when he saw how sore her eyes were.

She must have cried this entire time. How many tears did she shed since she lost control of her ability?

Yuhi lifted the girl's other hand to notice several bruises. Not just normal ones either, all sorts of cuts not limited to her hands, he noticed some on her neck.

"I can't break down now. This whole thing, this whole thing, is my fault, to begin with. That's why I have to be the one to end it. I have to be the one to end it. I don't want any more people to get involved."

Yuhi felt her hands and her entire body tremble.

"Why did Asahi die? She didn't deserve to die. She didn't do anything wrong why?"

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 360

Chapter 360: I have to let you go

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

Sumire... Sumire cried.

From the video footage shown on TV, she seemed to be the calmest person out there. But this entire time, she is the one who has suffered the most. She cried, even though she's the one who told him that tears are weakness.

Yuhi cups the girl's face with his hands wipes the tear in her eyes. "Yu--" He cuts her off by gently lowering his lips down to meet hers.

The tears didn't stop, but her hand had gripped onto the sleeve of his jacket. Once he finished, she immediately slapped him, yet she laughed bitterly. "Ah, what am I doing at a time like this? I'm being rather unpleasant, aren't I?"

He was about to answer, yet she covered his mouth with her free hand. "Don't. Don't say anything. I get it already. I already knew. Back then, I noticed it too. Yuhi, you were someone who was always by my side then. I respected you a lot, the way you conducted your work and investigations. But I can't be with you Yuhi, I can't be with you. Everyone's going to get hurt. Asahi isn't going to be the only one; that is why I have to--"

"I have to let you go."

Yuhi already knew how she would end that sentence, but he saw how she struggled to get the words out. She was trembling badly, just like how she was that day in the rain. He knew he could never forget that sight for the rest of his life.

Before Yuhi could say anything, the doors burst open, revealing a rather panicked-looking Maon Kou.

"Mimi, there you are."

Sumire, let's go then. "Kou, what is it?"

The maroon-colored-haired boy waltz over and placed his hand on the girl's shoulders. "Alright. Listen to me and be calm, okay? We only just heard about it now. But it seems like, after Asahi-chan's funeral, there was another incident, the other party called Futabchii, and she heard it happen..."

Sumire was already trembling before Maon said the other person's name. It seemed like she already knew.

"It's...Ichinose."

Yuhi's eyes widened. That's the last person anybody should chase after her.

He watches the girl's knees go weak, and she slumped on the ground. "Senpai was...senpai was.."

"Mimi, calm down. He isn't dead...but I heard that ----ah, forget that. Mimi, get going over there! Hamano is already there."

He watched the brown hair girl stand up just barely, and she still seemed to be shaken up. But she turned around and pulled him closer. Her lips brushed against his, but she didn't kiss him. She stuck her tongue out as she pulled away.

"Serves you right!"

Brat, what is she- he saw the flash of pain in her eyes.

"Sorry." She whispered the last line and rushed off in an instant, leaving him alone with the maroon-colored-haired boy.

She is an idiot. Why does she have to apologize for? In just the span of two days, her life has turned upside down again; the people she cares for deeply are getting hurt one by one. It is only normal for her to behave this way, it is normal, and yet it pained him.

At the end of the day, she can easily leave him behind for others. Yuhi shook his head, and he needs to stop thinking negatively like that.

"Terashima?"

His gaze darkened. "They are going too far, killing Kuruga Asahi is one thing, but now they attacked Ichinose Arashi too? It's on purpose. They are trying to break her down."

He didn't know how they found out about Kuruga Asahi and Sumire's close relation. But the latter one was obvious. That concert was broadcasted all across the world, after all. It was something everyone had seen. Her strong feelings of love. An indirect love letter.

"Shall I lend you a hand?"

Yuhi looked up to see him wrap a red-colored scarf around his neck, causing his eyes to widen. "Maon did you..perhaps..."

"Hamano Atushi is already there. And I'm sure Ran-chan the others will accompany Mimi over there too. Jun-Jun and Myu-chan will do mine and Ran's jobs..." Kou paused and walked over to the window. "There is already no more means to let this fight go any longer. She's definitely going to get mad when she finds out that I came back to this side of the world for her sake. But this is already a matter I can't stay away from. That's why Terashima, I'll have to ask for your help."

"Why me?"

Kou smiled. "Because you two are connected." He laughs lightly. "I'm honestly really jealous here. But it's something we can't deny anymore."

Sumire, she can't handle this on her own anymore.

No, he wouldn't let her. There's a reason why he accepted to be her partner again. It wasn't so she could leave him in the dark. It was so he could help her and ease that loneliness and pain, even just for a bit.

"I'll cooperate with you, Maon."

..

August 31st, Universal Star Town.

Yuhi didn't know much about Sumire's previous high school. When he was in Star Town before, she already attended this place, but he never visited. He quickly replied to a message from Hino.

He wondered if it was careless of him to come here like this, but he would have had to wait for Sumire back in Tokyo if he didn't agree.

He no longer wants to sit around and do nothing.

No matter where he looks, he can't find evidence for what happened back then. It's almost like somebody erased the records. Yuhi thought that if he traveled all the way out here, he would find the answer. But it seems as though it's not that simple, huh?

He sighed he leaned back on the chair. Yuhi briefly glanced at all the books scattered everywhere. That was when he spotted a figure hover him.

Yuhi already knew what she was going to say to him, so he beat her to it. "I won't take a break."