

Melody 391

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 391

Chapter 391: Love never Fades

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After Sumire left to send Nagawa off, Yuhi silently remained in the same spot in a daze for a while before he rushed to the front.

Upon lighting his cigarette, he took a few puffs before his gaze landed on the scene. In a split second, his eyes darkened as he clenched his fist and punched the wall beside him, leaving a rather large crack. Instantly his fists turned red as the blood began to flow.

Nagawa had leaned down, so he was close enough for their foreheads to touch. "You will answer my calls, right?"

Sumire laughed awkwardly. "Uh, you are way too straightforward now."

"I thought you liked that."

The truth is Sumire; he has no confidence in himself. Even though he trusted in her feelings for him, Yuhi understood that the situation could change at any time, not because of Sumire but because of the other person.

If Sumire sees Nagawa trying so much, even she will not be able to turn away. It is because he kept persisting that she no longer hated him. What is to say the same thing won't happen again?

His thoughts broke off when Sumire pulled away. "Drive safely."

He watched as a dark expression appeared on Nagawa's face. "Even now? You are still going to-"

"Mm. If you don't understand, you can end this here. But if you do that, you will suffer."

"Shut up..shut up. Don't say it. Don't say that. 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. "

The words she said that day echoed in his head. She is so very foolish; even though she is the one suffering the most, she still prioritizes others.

From the very moment they met, he knew she was not normal, but since she arrived to Tokyo, she has overdone it.

The reason he left that day and left that letter, it was for her safety. But if she's still going to get targeted, he has no choice but to take action.

The old man had been right; after all, he can no longer live a life without that person. His most important, huh?

"I don't understand why you hide it; you clearly love her." Someone suddenly said, breaking his thoughts.

When he saw a man with long blonde and curly hair, Yuhi sighed deeply. "Ookoyama. Now I see why you've been a regular at the bar lately. What do you want from me?"

Indeed Yuhi had noticed it straight away, and yet he didn't act on it. After all, the last thing he needs now is to get involved in unnecessary drama.

"I don't want anything. I merely like to observe people's situations," Kirishima said with a smile, "Especially when it concerns that girl. As you know, I was part of Shin's group before, so I did meet her before. But we never spoke directly, and yet the aura around her fascinated me. A strong aura mixed with light and yet darkness. However, I could never get close."

"If you ask me, that's an odd fascination of yours."

Kirishima placed his hand on his chin. "Perhaps that it is. But along the way, something has changed. Especially when I found out her ties with leader." He trails off, "Terashima, do you already know about it? What that girl has been hiding from you?"

At that, he uncharacteristically clicked his tongue.

Of course, he knew; there's no way he didn't.

Yuhi didn't say anything and walked off; much to his relief, the blonde hair boy had the sense not to follow him out of the alleyway. His thoughts instantly purging and spiraling out of control.

"Beside Yuhi, it is the only warm place, the only safe place...."

"Yuhi, you were someone who was always by my side then. I did respect 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."

..

After having so many guests over, there was a lot of stuff to clear up, but there was no need since Ookoyama and Kira decided to stay over. But unfortunately, this place did not have many rooms, which led to this current situation.

Moments like this can last forever. Memories can be passed down from generation to generation and said to grandchildren when they ask the same question.

These stories imprinted into a person's brain; it can be a part of the many stories they will tell in their lifetime.

"Yuhi, please let me go already." Sumire shifted uncomfortably in his arms.

"No can do; you fainted yesterday, remember?"

Indeed the person he was speaking to right now was none other than the person he would love to be beside whenever those moments occur. In the future, if it's beside this person, then it's alright.

"But do we have to remain like this?"

"There is only one bed after all."

Since both Kira and Ookoyama had important work tomorrow, they decided to give the two the rooms. But unfortunately, that meant squeezing themselves in the smaller room.

"You sure you don't understand?" Yuhi murmurs in her ear.

"Hold on a second, time out." But he doesn't hesitate to plant kisses down her jawline as he wrapped his arms around her.

"Relax, not even I'll try to do anything to someone who collapsed, which is why I was trying to close the light a moment ago. It's late, so get some more sleep."

"You're too unreasonable."

After that conversation, it did not take long before the brunette fell asleep. Normally he would fall asleep easily after Sumire, but tonight was different. So much has happened between them recently, so it was difficult for him to fall asleep.

Geez, this girl, how can she sleep so easily? But as he clung onto her, more comfortable than ever, and all his previous worries were forgotten.

Even so, his gaze lands on the clock; all her hard work would go to waste if he doesn't do his work properly. Yuhi thought to wake the girl up, but he noticed how pale her complexion was.

He shook his head; there isn't any need for her to go. Yuhi carefully moved her away from his arms and rested her head onto the pillow.

The moment he did this, she stirs in her sleep.

"Ru."

"Love never fades, huh."

"That song was written as an indirect love letter, not just for admiration for me but also for her dearest person."

Yuhi sighed when he recalled the words Takahashi Yumi had told him. How frustrating, it is not like he does not understand. Mamoru will always remain important to her. But it hurts knowing that even though they are in a relationship, she still has someone else who is number one in her heart.

Is it that difficult for him to find happiness even though she is here beside him?

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Chapter 392: The World

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

A few days later, September XX - Tokyo

She didn't intend to fall in love.

That's how it was supposed to be. She learned those things at a young age because of her status in the elite circle. They told her not to fall in love and treat that marriage as something that will benefit the family.

Due to the circumstances, Sumire never asked either of her parents if they loved each other. Whenever others saw them together, they look like the perfect couple. But now that she thought of it was it not only for show? She can't be too sure, and now she doesn't have anyone to ask.

Sumire kicks the stone in her feet to a nearby curb.

She came out here to apologize for failing to attend that music program, but in the end, they tossed her out before she even said a word.

Sumire sighed deeply. She knew it would not be easy, but this is way too much.

In the end, exactly why did she submit to such an emotion? She shuts her eyes; that person's color was so very pretty and to her, to her whose world filled with monotone colors. She didn't understand why that person seemed to be so very bright, a gorgeous red.

Perhaps it was fate. After all, despite being a high member of the elite, she rejected the lifestyle of an elite member; she didn't want to live like that. Even now, it's the same; she doesn't want to be bound by any rules. She wonders if that's the reason she fell in love. Is it because she wanted to rebel? If so, then it really is quite amusing.

"It may be the country's wish for you to remain ignorant. Defer to their will and think of that as being for the sake of your country, and I'm sure they will be happy."

It was one of the very first proper conversations she had with Soujiro after their engagement banquet.

In the end, she couldn't do that.

At one point, those emotions became important to her, despite her empty and fleeting days. After she met that person, she started to desire emotions that she shouldn't have and even strength.

She began to desire the strength to be able to protect the others around her. If she ended up failing at becoming stronger, then perhaps things may not have ended up this way. Indeed it may have been different.

Her thoughts broke when a motorbike parked in front of her; she didn't notice the person getting off. The moment he did, he placed his hand on her eyes.

"You're so troublesome. How many times do you have to cry?"

Her eyes widened at those words. Indeed, how many times has she cried in front of this person? It is strange; when she is around other people, she can't shed even a single tear. But in front of this person, she always breaks down.

He is the only one who has seen this weak side of her—the only one who will accept it.

"I don't want to hear that from the person who was clearly stalking. You can't justify yourself now, Mr. Stalker-san."

"Sumire."

She took a step forward and closed the remaining distance as she buried her face in his arms. "Sorry, but just for a few minutes."

.....

Yuhi always says he doesn't know what to do when she cries. But he sure does a good job at cheering her up.

Once they arrived at the beach, she removed her shoes off and moved towards the ocean. The moment her feet made contact with the water, she felt a familiar cold seep through her body.

"This feels great! Yuhi, you should also ----" Her sentence fell short when she felt the black hair boy grab hold of her hand, such a warm hand despite a black flame. "Ah, I didn't know you were bold... that's quite unpleasant." She changed her words halfway when she saw the look in his eyes.

"Sumire, are you hiding something from me?"

He really is direct, huh? But this is one of his good points. It is because he is so straightforward that she accepted his confession. He is not the type of person who would lie to her. If he fell for another person, he would not bother sneaking around and lying about it. He would tell her directly.

"Aren't you going to let go of my hand? If people see us like this, they'll mistake us for a couple, it's not too far from school, and I know people pass by this way."

"Since when were we, not a couple?"

"Hmmm, did I directly say we are dating?" She teased him.

Yuhi, however, was not in the mood for jokes. "You didn't have to. I can tell just by looking at you. You are in love with me."

At that comment, her eyes widened. "Yuhi."

"I already told you before, did I not? Even if you see life as a script, I do not think that way. You are wrong for relying on another person's script instead of writing out your own."

Sumire nodded. "You told me that you wouldn't live by another person's script and write out your own ending."

"Yeah, that's right, even now that hasn't changed. No," Yuhi shook his head. "Something has changed along the way. I also want to write a part of your ending, even if it doesn't match with mine," Yuhi said.

She should have noticed how close he was getting, but she was too occupied with the conversation. So when she did realize, it was too late. He didn't kiss her, yet he nibbled on her lip - almost as if he was trying to savor it.

Yuhi quickly let go of her and scratched the back of his head again. She couldn't miss the red color on his cheeks. Normally she would tease him, but how can she when she is just as embarrassed as him.

"W--hat was that for?"

"I was doing something illogical."

At those words, her eyes widened. Isn't he the idiot here? She took a step forward and rested her head against his chest.

"Yuhi's color is warm. Even now, I still think so."

From the very moment, they met during that snowy concert, several years ago. She has always thought that only warmth surrounds him, whether it was his smile or his kind words. Sumire felt a pounding sound in her heart and averted her gaze. It seems she truly likes him. But, there are still many things she cannot tell him.

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Chapter 393: Nothing to lose

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To her surprise, he suddenly flicked her forehead. "You really do have to be more careful. Next time I'll attack you."

Before she could reply, though, she spotted a group of men clad in white clothes. "Ah, guess there here to get me."

"Get you?"

Sumire nodded. "Yeah." She pointed to the change of clothes in her bag.

"I see another souriee. You have to keep on keeping appearances."

Sumire chuckled. "It doesn't fit your personality, right?"

"You got that right."

Only after he said those words did she notice him hold her hand again as they walked across the ocean. They were pretty far away, huh. Even so, his hand it's different from the time they came before.

He was holding her wrist then, and now it's her hand. No matter how close they got to each other then he ensured that there was a distance. But now that's different; he's firmly holding on to her hand like he doesn't want to let her go.

What an odd feeling. Why does something simple like this make her so happy? She has become so strange, Ru. It wasn't like this before.

This back and this sight, somehow it's familiar. Where did she see it before? That snowy concert several years ago was the first time she met Yuhi. For the longest time, she thought that way, but recently she is

starting to think differently. How is it possible for Yuhi to develop feelings for her in such a short amount of time?

When he took care of her, it felt familiar, like it was not the first time.

It seems so nostalgic? Did something like this happen before? If so, then how come she doesn't remember.

If she met Yuhi before that concert, then surely she would remember him. His presence is so strong; it would be impossible for her to forget.

Moreover, if they did meet before, Yuhi would have told her. He is not the type of person who would hide; he would tell her right away.

"Hey."

"Hmm?"

"You heard I am in charge of the painting for the festival, right?"

"Ah yeah."

Though it had been a while since she had been in school, that much she did here. "Everyone was making a big deal out of it. I saw your previous works too. I know that if it's you, it will definitely be amazing."

That's right; she figured it out a long time ago. She figured out who the owner of that painting was.

When she saw him again - she got the same feeling as from that painting. It's then she thought, "Ah, coincidences really do exist." But even now, she kept quiet about it. If he were to know, then he would surely disappear again. For some reason, she didn't want that.

She didn't want anyone else to leave.

"That is what I was thinking. Would you like to paint it together?"

Eh? It took her a moment to register what he just said. "Does that mean...."

"Be my partner."

This time she saw it, his whole face turned red, even his ears. This is so unusual; this is the same person who gives off a Yankee appearance and aura even without any piercings or anything. Someone who gives off a distant aura, that's why such an expression is rare.

It seems he only makes this type of face for her. For Terashima Yuhi, she is the only special one.

Sumire shook her head, no. There's already no more means of keeping such feelings.

"Sumire?"

"I'd love to be your partner. Please take care of me!"

Yuhi laughed as he extended his hand out and patted her hair. "If I knew you would be this excited, I would have asked you right away."

So, in other words, he was nervous about asking her? Why would he get nervous over something like that? It doesn't make sense.

Yuhi pointed to the wall along the beach. "Let's sightsee for a bit longer."

Sumire nodded and followed his head as they sat on the wall.

Despite what it looked like, she wasn't a person who believed in fate. She didn't disregard it to a complete degree like some people do by saying it is make belief" or a figment of people's imaginations. But she couldn't believe it. Because it is something that doesn't have any meaning to her, and that's why it isn't important.

From the very beginning, she's never held any particular attachment to anything. From the start, she was always empty, and that's why she unconsciously builds a wall between herself and other people.

Sumire reached over and extended her hand out to the sky, even though things are different now than before. Even though she has accepted it to a degree about needing others, she knew that her core views hadn't changed in the end.

No matter how many times she gets shaken up or amazed by someone's actions. In the end, it will always revolt back to this. "It's your color," Ru, has she gotten stronger now? Is it truly okay for her to take hold of this power and take another step forward? On days where she is left alone, she often thought about it deeply.

Even though Yuhi is right beside her, he is not talking. When there is silence, she often reverts inside her shell. It's painful, and it hurts, being this way. This feeling of helplessness that she doesn't like.

Sumire closed her eyes, recalling the words she had said to Nao that day.

"You see, I don't have anything. Things I want to do, things I can do, I don't have any of them. That's why, on the other hand, maybe something like that might work or something".

That's right.

Because she never had anything to lose from the beginning. No matter what reckless action she takes, she can easily go through it since there is nothing to lose.

Just now, she lied about the soiree gathering. If Yuhi knew what she was secretly doing behind his back, how would he react? This person is willing to sacrifice the world for her, but she will not allow him to do that.

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Chapter 394: Tree of Life

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He is not good at reading other people's emotions. But when it comes to Ibuki Sumire, it only takes one look for him to understand. So once again, he tried to change the topic and spoke about the piece again.

"Why does she look so happy over something like this?" This won't be the first time they are working together, but the expression on her face is like this is the first time.

"Are you that happy?"

"Yes, very."

Still, his gaze fell on the escorts Soujiro sent to fetch her. Do they have to stand out? Couldn't he have sent less suspicious-looking people? If Sumire didn't vouch for them just now, he would have thought they were terrible people.

"Have you discovered anything new lately, Yuhi?"

"No." He responded immediately, but the girl looked at him suspiciously.

"Are you sure? You're always sneaking off once I fall asleep."

"She noticed that? He supposes there is no use hiding it from her." Then again, he didn't intend to hide it from her; he just wanted to confirm a few more things. Since she already found out, he won't keep it from her. There is no use doing something like that.

Yuhi never understood why the other guys who liked her kept things from her. Atsuro and even Ichinose said something like they are doing that to protect her, but he didn't get it even then.

"Have you ever heard of the tree of life?"

"The tree of life?" Sumire repeated. "Ah, the silver tree?"

Yuhi nodded. "That tree represents all life forms in this world, not just limited to humans. The earth, the birds in the sky, the creatures on the ground, the water we drink, the sky and air we breathe in."

"Is that what Ru was investigating?"

"I am not sure exactly what he was trying to do with the tree. But, it seemed he made repeated visits to the several silver trees around the world. Is that familiar to you?"

Sumire tilted her head. "He did disappear a lot, but he never said where he was going. But, he did bring back photos and souvenirs."

"Photos? Did you bring them when you came here?"

"Mm, I did. Should I show you when I finish later?"

"Just tell me where it is."

"Yuhi-san, are you the type of person who would look at your girlfriend's belongings?"

Yuhi sighed when he heard her say those words. "You know, if you put it that way, I will sound like a bad person."

"I am curious."

"No." Yuhi trailed off. "Though Makino often shared her stuff with me. Touko was very protective and said she didn't want me to invade her privacy."

Yuhi watched as a dark aura surrounded her, and his sweat fell. "You don't like me mentioning them?"

"I don't; it makes me feel unpleasant."

Geez, this girl, can't she just say she is jealous? Then again, this is already good enough for him. It is enough that she is sparing him a glance.

"It feels like we're at the boundary between two worlds."

"Yeah, I knew you'd like it. After running around doing extra work for the slave-driving president, I arrived here. I didn't think I would find this place; it must be due to my charms."

Sumire laughed. "You use whatever opportunity you can get to compliment yourself. Hino will get mad, you know?"

Yuhi sighed. "Is it that obvious I skipped out so I could see you?"

He didn't think he gave anything away just now. But just like he is the only one who can understand her, the same goes vice versa. They know too much about each other.

"While I am flattered Yuhi-san, you should at least call and tell him where you are."

Yuhi reluctantly took out his phone and typed Hino a quick message. The moment he did.

Hino: Alright.

He blinked, surprised at the words on the screen.

Yuhi: Alright?

Hino: Yes, alright, cheer Sumire up.

The moment Yuhi saw those words, he deeply sighed. Now that he thought about it, Hino also likes Sumire, huh? It is not like he doesn't understand. Despite the things Sumire says about herself, those who get to know her will quickly understand what kind of person she is. She is a good woman. Why wouldn't guys go for her?

This was one of the things that worried him back when they worked together. Back then, so many people slandered her every day; they would say all kinds of outrageous things. The main reason why he never countered those rumors for her was because of his selfish feelings.

He didn't want others to see how good she was. If they saw, then the person closest to her wouldn't be him.

Whenever Sumire praised him, he would feel nothing but guilt. If she knew such ugly feelings existed inside him, what would she say?

"Hino kissed me recently."

At that comment, his gaze dimmed, and Sumire laughed. "I thought you didn't realize, but it seems like you did?"

"I was pretending not to notice," Yuhi mumbled.

Sumire's cheeks puffed into a pout, and he sighed. "You know why right? Hino is different. If Hino is the other guy, it is hard for me to get angry."

Sumire sighed. "You know, if I didn't know any better, I would think you two were a couple."

"Oj!"

She laughed. "But I mean, the way you two fondly talk about each other--"

"That is because I treat him like family."

Her gaze softened at those words, and she nodded. "He said the same thing to me too. He only kissed me to prove his point that he would choose you over me."

"Did he have to kiss, though," Yuhi muttered? He isn't mad at Hino, but how many times has another guy kissed her since they dated?

The main culprit for all those other kisses is Nagawa Sano and not Hino. But it bothered him. He brushed his fingers across her lips. "There needs to be a way for me to stake a claim on these."

"Maybe you should kiss it more to find out?"

Yuhi immediately pulled away from her, and he hears her click her tongue annoyed. "Look, you know that I am on a self-restraint p-" His sentence fell short when he felt her lips on his. "Mm, minx."

She laughed softly again as she drew back.

"Wait, your stopping?" He only just felt her lips; why would she pull away?

"Mm, I have to. You are supposed to be comforting me; why do I have to lead?"

This girl is a devil in disguise.

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Chapter 395: The only way

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

Even more than touching her, to spend moments like her with this is something he prefers. For her to rest so comfortably in his hold like this, despite the cold, all he felt is the warmth transmitting from her back.

"When you take a look at this, you really can tell that winter is approaching."

"It wasn't so obvious earlier. But it is, that season already."

For the two of them, winter holds so many memories. Memories that connect together; and memories that differ from each other. It was winter when he confessed to her and winter when they got together.

Winter when Tsueno Mamoru passed away, winter when Makino left him to pursue her dreams. Winter contains fond and beautiful memories, as well as sad ones. Every time winter comes, his feelings towards Ibuki Sumire increase. But for her, every time winter comes around; it's a trial, a test of her heart and emotions.

Whether it's the situation with Nagawa, Mamoru, or even Atsuro, Yuhi knew it would not take long before she solves everything.

"Are you comfortable?"

"Yes," Sumire muttered. "Am I being unfair right now?"

"Out of all the times you ask that it's in this situation where I'm barely touching you?"

Aside from his arms that wrapped around her waist, he isn't touching her at all.

"Perhaps that's why I can say it now." Sumire trailed off. "You know I probably won't ever directly tell you it's over. I'll probably never be able to say it's all finished and get you to move on. I'm very bad at expressing my feelings; after all, even now, what I'm about to say is going to sound wishy-washy and half-hearted. But you'll listen to me regardless, won't you, Yuhi."

"Yeah."

Of course, he would listen to her. After all, this is the only thing he can do for her right now. The only thing he can do for her is listening to her whenever she has worries.

"Did Yumi-senpai tell you I accepted performing at her event?"

"Yeah."

"The reason I suddenly decided to go is because of the conversation I had with Hino. It was rather long and wordy, so I won't repeat everything she said. But I shall tell you what words hit me the most, not feel guilty about my actions, and not hold myself back anymore to clearly sing my feelings. I wonder what it was, but after he said those words, I felt an emotional trigger of some sort. I suppose that's what you would call my switch? I want to sing, to sing solo, and let others hear my feelings. To everyone, to let my voice reach the vast ends of the universe. Feelings that I cannot understand myself let alone hope others would understand. But, whenever I sing his songs, I can breathe again."

Even though he's the one that caused her excess breath problem, but then again, he knew what was going to come out of this conversation, is not something bitter, but nor is it exactly sweet. It's filled with something that the eye cannot see.

"What about my songs?" Yuhi wondered.

Sumire often told him how much she admired him; she even said things about how she fell in love with his voice. But her feelings are very vague, exactly how does she see his music? He wants to know the answer.

"I don't know."

He leaves it at that, afraid that if he pursues the topic anymore. Those ugly and dark feelings would emerge again. Once the brunette felt better, the two of them stood up and walked along the wall.

"You know this isn't the beach trip I had in mind."

Sumire laughed at those words. "It is okay Yuhi-san, you know I prefer the cold over the heat."

But she gets sick during both seasons. Yuhi turned around and draped his coat around her shoulders before he walked ahead of her again. It was quiet for a few minutes. Now that he thought about it, recently, so much has happened. They have not had the luxury to spend much time together.

For skipping out on all those jobs when she first came here, he is now paying the price for it. His schedule is very packed now. He even considered taking leave from school.

It is not like he has that much time to spare, but instead, he negotiated to go to school. Even if it is only for a few hours, he still wants to be part of her school life.

He wants to be part of the ordinary days she will look back on in the future. The future, huh? Is it possible for him to be part of the future? Recently he has asked Atsuro to keep the child for more checkups even though he does not have to. It not only keeps the child away, but it keeps Atsuro in line.

If Sumire knew about this, even she would dislike him, wouldn't she?

"By the way, we aren't going back to the bar tonight. I have a studio on the other side of town."

Yuhi felt awkward saying this. He doesn't want her to get the wrong idea. However, a part of him did skip his work so he could take her away.

"You know, aren't you a bit too casual about this? If your parents were still around, I am sure they would lecture you about sleeping at other men's houses so casually."

At that comment, Sumire frowned. "Hmph, I don't want to hear that from the guy who thinks nothing about s.ε before marriage."

"I didn't think you held traditional views."

"Oh, your right; it must be a remark due to the moment."

"I never said anything about getting married immediately, didn't I?"

"But that's what it seemed like when you asked me."

"Really? I still don't understand what it means to be married? Why do such systems and rules exist anyway?"

Sumire looked at him oddly before she asked. "Then, why did you propose to me?"

"Because there's no other way to. .."

"To chase away the paparazzi?"

"To chase away Mamoru who lingers in your heart, despite your feelings for me."

Yuhi never wanted to admit this.

Whenever it concerns Mamoru, he always left it to her and never brought him up. After all, whenever it concerns Mamoru, Sumire would get this look on her face that exposes her feelings for him. He no longer wants to see that. When he first asked her out, he thought he could do it. He thought he could ignore that she still felt strongly for Mamoru, but it seems he can't dismiss it anymore.

Maybe it is due to the recent cases, but lately, he noticed something wrong.

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Chapter 396: Sometimes I think I want to kill you

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Yuhi doesn't bother glancing over her way, knowing what sort of expression she's pulling right now.

His gaze remained fixed on the ocean as the snow continued to fall heavily, "Just like a little kid, how childish my behavior is. A brief declaration on a plain piece of paper. Relying on such things to keep our relationship together renders everything worthless and empty."

To propose for such a reason, he knows now that he's told her the reason she will feel nothing but guilt now. He doesn't want to see that expression on her face anymore; he doesn't want to be the reason why she's suffering.

"You know I fell in love with your voice; the first time I heard it, I was completely mesmerized. Whenever you sang, it felt like everything was coming to life. All the bleak and mundane things suddenly held a meaning. I fell in love with your voice and wanted you to keep on singing no matter what happens. Yet, at the same time, I wanted to stop you from singing. That way, you would remain by my side all the time and only think about me. That's all I wanted."

Yuhi continued. "If you don't sing, then you won't be able to express your feelings for other men. Like that, you would stay by my side and be with me always. You wouldn't be able to convey your feelings." He trails off, catching a glimpse of her remove her scarf. "Lately, I've thought that I want to kill you. I feel that if I do that, then I'll be able to make her mine forever. It's dangerous like this."

He is a beast disguised in human skin.

Even if he pretends to be an average person, Yuhi knew that side of himself is something he cannot erase. "These ugly feelings will only hurt you."

Sumire wrapped the scarf around his neck, and he immediately pulled her into a deep embrace.

"I might fall into hell someday; what would you do?"

"I'd be going with you. It's already too late to change everything now. No matter what I say or do, it doesn't change our situation."

"It was never your fault. Sorry, I love it whenever you sing your heart out, and yet these dark feelings won't go away."

No matter what he does, such dark and ugly feelings sprout inside of him every single time.

"I know. I'll sing Yuhi. For you, so listen carefully, okay?"

..

A few hours later.

So he doubts that the press would bother tailing them out here. He doesn't know whether the English media thinks they are big enough of a group to spy on. But Yuhi knew since the festival they've been paying more and more attention to Sumire's personal life. "How can she sing like that?" Indeed it would be better to dig into her personal life to find that answer.

Even then, this place is too far away for anybody to care. This is one of the reasons why he bought this palace. In the years since he became popular, nobody has followed him here. But Yuhi recalled that media guy who harmed Sumire; it was an incident that happened some time ago, but it left a scar whenever he thought of it.

Yuhi didn't know what he was doing. But since he exposed such an ugly side of him earlier, the lock on his desires leaked out. It started with him kissing her when they closed the door, but he carried her to his room before long.

Quite some time has passed since he last came here, so the place was rather dusty. But he asked Hino to send somebody to at least clean the room.

"Y--"

"Are you nervous again?"

"Yes."

Why is she nervous? Even though it is cute. "I can't wait," He mumbled against her ear. "do you understand?"

"Yuhi wait, the bed will get wet--"

"Sumire," Yuhi repeated. He didn't say anything, but he knew the girl would understand.

"Uh, I can't stop you, but Yuhi-san, I don't want you to catch a cold.

So foolish. Yuhi leaned forward and placed kisses on her neck, and slowly undid the buttons on her shirt.

"Uh--!"

"Your nervous, I get it, but you have to calm down."

"Yuhi, please..."

Yuhi gently kissed her lips. "You don't want to?"

"If she doesn't, he will have to use other means to get rid of this feeling."

His thoughts broke off when she hesitantly extended her hand out and caressed his cheek. "I understand you are hurt right now. But weren't you the one who told me not to use such means to cope?"

His gaze darkened at those words. Does she think this is the reason why he is doing this? But those thoughts broke off when he noticed how pale she was.

"Your cold, like ice." He mumbles.

"Aha, what's with that? But it's true, spending even a day here makes your body icy cold. Your warm Ren."

That sentence he's heard before, that's right, even in moments like this. The one she will think about the most is the guy she loves. Perhaps a part of him had already known that and had refused to acknowledge it.

He refused to acknowledge that because it would mean admitting defeat. Even now, he isn't acknowledging it. But these past few days he spent even closer by his side have made him realize it even more.

"In a few days, Atushi will come here with your son and pick you up."

"Why?"

"I realized, no, I know I've been selfish recently. I shouldn't stop you from spending time with your family. It isn't right..I don't regret touching you. But I have to start thinking properly about your happiness now. What do you really want me to do?"

"It is hard for me to be happy, Yuhi. I always thought I did not deserve happiness, but I changed my mind after I experienced it with Ru. I became selfish and wanted it. I don't hate you, Yuhi, surely you know that. I believe you're important to me. But I cannot get rid of the feelings I have for Ru, the feelings I never told him."

At first, he thought the only reason why she still cared for Mamoru was because she never said her feelings on time. But now he sensed something different, even though she is saying this, surely she knew there was something else.

"I don't want you to take this as my answer."

She's blunt about it. "I understand. These moments where we can be close like this, is enough isn't it?"

"Yes."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 397

Chapter 397: Moments

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

There was one more thing he asked Hino to prepare. Yuhi scooped her up in his arms and brought her to the bathroom. She seemed oddly nervous again when he took her clothes off her, but it did not take long before she relaxed.

"I don't know whether I should be glad that you're more honest when you're in the bath," Yuhi commented as she snuggled up to him.

"Quiet, help me wash my hair. I hurt my arm earlier on the job, so it's hard for me to do."

"Yes, yes, Queen."

But still, he heard from some of the patrol guards that Makoto Soujiro is here; it appears as though only the main guards were informed though.

Yuhi won't be surprised if the third prince already knows or will find out tomorrow and come for her. He's lucky that the people out here recognized him; otherwise, gaining access would have become a lot more difficult.

Still, she doesn't want them to do anything, and yet she's okay with them being bare naked in the baths together? Women, it's difficult to understand them after all.

"Still, you really like rose baths, don't you?"

"Mmm, the aroma is fresh and good for me, according to those guys. Well, even if it wasn't, being surrounded by a pleasant scent helps me relax better."

Yuhi reached over and put fresh shampoo on the girl brunette colored locks. "Sumire. Why did you grow your hair?" It was long before, but it only slightly passed her shoulders.

"It wasn't for Ru if that's what you were thinking. It was for somebody, though."

Yuhi recalled something he heard from Asuka when he followed her to Star town. "For Ichinose was it?"

"I see you saw through me. Right, it was because that idiot said he liked long hair. You know whether it's Arashi or Ru or Sano and Soujiro. I still don't think I've sorted everything out properly. Not just those four either, I know that there are plenty more people that I need to talk to."

For a moment, Yuhi felt uncomfortable. So she can mention her lingering regrets to Nagawa openly now? Then again, he was the one who made her openly confront it.

She should admit it than keep it from him.

"Before I left for TOKYO, I promised Arashi something. We made a promise, not necessarily a promise for commitment, but when we met everything, things would have changed.

I was the only one who couldn't fulfill my side of the promise, and I ended up getting much worse instead. However, he kept his promise. He really has changed now, and he is doing his best to make up for the damage he caused. I can see how much effort he has put and how deeply he conveys his feelings."

Yuhi didn't say anything and continued to listen to her story. He gently ran his hands through her back, and a content sigh passed her lips.

"His feelings I've known for a long time, and he knew mine. Even though we never conveyed it directly. In middle school, we circled each other a lot. Whenever we would see each other, our eyes would meet without fail; we would look away once before it met again."

So something like that happened. He supposes Nagawa was right to be suspicious.

"It was cliché like some sort of romance movie. However, it wouldn't have such a sweet ending and the two of us knew that. Arashi knew about you Yuhi and that must have been why. You were also the reason why I didn't do anything more than watch senpai because it wouldn't have been right. The day before you left we had that huge fight after all. I didn't want to leave things on such a sour note.

So I decided that if I still didn't have feelings for you when I saw you again, I'd tell Arashi. But by that time, things were already spiraling out of control, and when you returned, it worsened. Yet you were the only one who could save me from my sadness."

So that's how it was; it makes sense now. Why Atsuro turned her down, he knew that it couldn't be him no matter what he does.

"What about now? Is that still the case? Am I just your refuge?"

"No, you know that's not it." Sumire turned around, and he saw the tears fall from her eyes. "That's not it. I really am just confused right now. I know that I still care for Arashi and have regrets regarding Sano, but I can't leave you alone. I love you, Yuhi, but I don't want to leave things unsettled with everyone else. I don't get this at all."

Yuhi pulled her into another hug; their bare bodies pressed against each other provided more warmth than earlier. When he saw her squirm, he kissed her forehead gently.

"Don't be nervous. I won't do anything. Hugging is fine, just being close like this is fine. Sorry, I didn't mean for my words to come out harsh like that. I understand; you're just afraid of being left alone; that's why you're not giving out proper answers. Because you want an excuse to continue having ties with those people."

It would make sense if he thought about it carefully. Suppose he considers her life till now. Sumire is the type of person once she gets closer to someone, will treasure them; she is the loyal type. As long as they show they are sincerely good to her or have helped her out in any shape or form, they would remain their ally.

She doesn't want to lose the connections she made with others now because she is afraid to be alone. It took a few extra minutes before she settled down.

"Did I comfort you after you comforted me?" Yuhi mumbled. He recalled the strong arms that supported him on their way here.

Sumire slowly nodded and wrapped her arms around his neck. "Sorry about all of this; lately, I know things are weird between us."

"Even if that is the case, you know you don't have to blame yourself for everything. We can work on things together."

"Then I have something I have to talk to you about."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 398

Chapter 398: Make everything clear

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That night for the first time in a long time. She and Yuhi slept side by side. There were so many things they wanted to say to each other, but they did not; she got lost in his warmth and fell into a deep sleep.

She spent the next morning staring at him.

Still, why is he so handsome? She thought this before, but recently hasn't he gotten better looking. Maybe there is something wrong with her head.

"What?"

"Mmm, just something." She leaned closer to him. Maybe she needs to get a better look?

"You want to kiss?"

"I think I do," Sumire mumbled.

Yuhi puts the brush down and turns to her. He started with a light kiss until she started to urge him.

"If we keep doing this, though, we might have another problem," Yuhi said as he parted her lips with his fingers.

"Problem?"

"Mmm, I might attack you all the time regardless of time and place."

"Don't you do that anyway?"

Yuhi pulled away from her, and she sat up, her cheeks puffed into a pout. "Yuhi!!"

"I need to finish the sketch."

The moment he returned to his drawing, though, Sumire wrapped her arms around him.

"Hey, do you want to distract me?"

"I do. I want to bother you."

At that comment, Yuhi turned around and placed some files beside her. "Read those."

"Case files?"

His lips curve to a smile as he pulls her off the couch and onto his lap. "If you want to distract me, you should be sexier about it."

Sumire laughed softly. "So that's the kind of thing you like, Yuhi-san?"

"Is there something else you need to say?"

...

Whenever Yuhi-san got like that, she knew better than to act coy, and that is why she brought him here, the delinquent hideout in downtown Tokyo.

"Hey, the boss is back!"

"What really?!!"

"But get this, she brought a guy?"

"Nagawa Sano again?"

"No, it's the boyfriend!"

Uh, Sumire's sweat fell when she heard the whispering from behind the door. This is a bit awkward. Before she could say anymore, however, the others suddenly left, saying all types of excuses.

"They seem like good guys," Yuhi commented.

"Mm."

"Nobody's made a move on you either."

"I think they are too scared."

"Scared, huh?" He repeated as he leaned closer.

"Yuhi?"

Oh, this position is kinda making her feel odd. Did he deliberately back her against the wall like this? It is a good thing she sent the guys away; she wonders what they all thought. The few times she came here, she brought Sano along and pretended to be intimate with him.

Sumire sighed deeply. She can see it now; there will be some new gossip. Moreover, she has to make sure they don't blab about her fake intimacy with Sano.

"Yuhi?"

Yuhi leaned forward and brushed their lips against each other; she immediately understood but shook her head. "Not in this place."

"Why?? Are you afraid your subordinates would see?"

"The scent of blood is everywhere," Sumire mumbled. It makes her feel nauseous. Those guys most likely dragged somebody in here and beat them. She will find out later, but for now. "I didn't want to bring you here."

"I know, but I don't like it when I don't know what you're doing. I need to know Sumire."

"I'm sorry, Yuhi."

She understands the reason why. He is concerned; after all, those people are after her. Sumire extended her hand out and caressed his cheeks.

"I thought you didn't want to get affectionate."

Is he sulking? Sumire wrapped her arms around his neck and placed a soft trail of kisses there. "Sumire, what are you doing?" He growled.

"Mm, getting affectionate."

"In front of your subordinates, dear? That is quite bold of you."

Sumire sighed deeply. "You don't know how many times they brought girls over here. Why can they do it and not me?"

Yuhi laughed. "Are you trying to compete?"

"Mmm, maybe."

Also, she likes burying her face into his neck like this because it means inhaling his scent. Yuhi ran his hands across her back, and Sumire mumbled. "The people here are afraid of me. Did you see?"

"Yeah."

"But you can still treat me this way?"

Even though they are in this place where she has committed so many crimes as the Queen of the underworld society? How many people did she torture in this very room? This pillar Yuhi pressed her against; how many people did she tie up and beat them up? Even now, there are traces of blood and markings. With Yuhis good eyesight, naturally, he can see it, and yet he still treats her so preciously.

Yuhi responded by lifting her face from his neck and cupping her cheeks. "I can; you're very pretty."

"If I were ugly-"

"I would still think you're prettier than the stars in the sky."

"Since when did you get so corny?"

"Since I learned that my girlfriend, no, my wife-to-be has severe self-esteem issues."

Her gaze softened at those words. In other words, he means to say from the very beginning? Indeed this is the type of person Terashima Yuhi is. This is one of the many reasons why she fell for him.

But wait a moment. "Wife, to be?"

"Dating with marriage in mind." Yuhi reminded her.

Sumire blinked, surprised. Quite some time has passed since he last brought that up. But indeed, she was the one who said something crazy like that.

"So, wife." Yuhis lips curve to a smile. "I would like more clarification on that she brought another guy to mess with?"

Her face color turned pale when she saw that deadly smile on his face. Gah, he can be so scary! Those stupid idiots, why did they say something like that in front of him? Don't they value their leader's life?

She knew that people who meet Yuhi for the first time could see it. This guy is not normal. Maybe it is because he does not smile, but there is a powerful unapproachable aura around him.

Sumire looked down as she explained the situation.

"So you two kissed—"

"N-no! We were just pretending!"

Yuhi frowned and flicked her forehead. "Idiot, Nagawa naturally tried to take advantage of the situation."

Uh, why is he starting to understand Sano far better than herself? But he is right about that. How many times did she catch Sano sneaking a feel at her breasts?

"I was going to tell you when everything was clear."

She wanted to make sure that she successfully tricked those people.

Yuhi flicked her forehead again, and she pouted. "I know you're mad, but at least let me explain."

He shook his head. "That isn't it; we just had that talk recently, after all. I trust you, Sumire, but I want you to start learning to trust yourself too. Right now, we are still kids, so the worse hasn't happened. But if you became a member of the mafia and did something like this, something bad could have happened to you."

The mafia, huh? She wonders if Yuhi knows that the mafia has been after her since she saved Shin.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 399

Chapter 399: So she ponders about him

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Then again, if Yuhi knew about it, indeed, he would have said something to her by now. If he knew, would he get mad again? Sumire couldn't forget how he acted when he was angry. It was her fault, and yet it reminds her of before.

Yuhi has been very careful not to behave like Sano did. It has burdened him a lot since he has to be cautious about everything he says.

But it still hurts. "I thought he would leave again." She thought she would end up abandoned. If that happened again, then she knew she would lose herself completely.

Sumire wrapped her arms around his neck and mumbled something quietly.

Yuhi patted her back. "I know, relax, okay? I'm not going to leave you no matter what you do."

He sounds so confident about that. "I'm sorry for being so insecure. I know it is stupid, but I just--"

"You don't want people to abandon you again, yes I know."

Why does he know? He shouldn't.

It was hard to concentrate on this conversation due to their close proximity.

"So hey," Yuhi mumbled. "I don't mind you coming here, you have the right, but well, I just want to know. If I did something to you here, would your subordinates care?"

"That depends on what you do."

She asks, but she already knew what he wanted. She did tempt him earlier, but now that they are here, she felt odd about it.

"Let me see your face."

"No."

Yuhi laughed. "You're so stubborn."

"I don't want you to tease me again, Yuhi."

Yuhi raised his eyebrows at those words. "So you can tease me, but I can't with you?"

"That is different."

"Different, huh? I don't see what is so different, but you know I am not going to question anything you say."

He should, but he won't. Sumire pulled away from him and walked over to the cabinets on the right-hand side of the room. "There is some stuff here we managed to obtain a few days ago. But unfortunately, it is written in some type of code, so I cannot decipher it. Yuhi-san, you're good with stuff like this, right?"

Yuhi chuckled. "We're going to work?"

"Of course we are."

..

Terashima Yuhi left a huge hole in her heart when he disappeared.

She hadn't realized how much he meant to her until he was no longer beside her.

So much time has passed since she felt something. If the incident with Ru didn't happen, she would have remained emotionless.

After what happened with Sano, she closed off her heart even more. She didn't even feel angry or express her anger whenever she got hurt. When others stepped over her, she would look at them with a blank look in her eyes. That look is all it took for people to stop trying.

She kept herself busy so she wouldn't have the time to think properly; as long as she kept working, she wouldn't think of him, wouldn't think of Yuhi.

While she was with Sano, she thought of Yuhi as little as possible, but she told him everything when she dated Kanagawa Ren.

"I am afraid of being alone, even though speaking to others frightens me, and I am awkward at social relationships. I crave human contact more than anybody. But if I get too attached, I am worried that they will leave me one day."

Now that she thought about it, Ren was a good listener. He listened to her worries a lot and did whatever he could to comfort her. Sometimes, no, most of the time, he did not have the solution. Ren went through a lot, too, so she didn't want to put unnecessary strain and burden on him.

Her gaze fell on Yuhi, who was pulling out the files from the cabinets and bringing them over to the couch.

She wonders what Yuhi would think if she spoke about Ren. He is too busy thinking about Ru and Sano. But if Yuhi learned that the person she felt closest to since he left her was Kanagawa Ren, what would he say?

"So hey."

"Yes?"

"You sitting over there in your fancy leader desk reminds me of something."

Sumire sighed deeply as she stood up and walked over to where he was. "I didn't think it was appropriate to work in the den area, so I brought you to the office, but you still want to fool around?"

Yuhi put his arms around her waist when she sat down. "Is there a problem with my behavior?"

"Your acting too clingy."

"You know everything I do is for you."

Of course, she knew that; he makes it so clear to her every day. Sometimes she wonders what he would do if something bad happened to her. If she could no longer handle it and end her life, what would happen to this person?

From the very moment she became close with Hino, he told her all about it. He explained to her how Yuhi's empire in the music industry is all for her. After he said that, she became suspicious. Yuhi was already famous before they met that snowy concert. But Hino is certain that Yuhi didn't debut for his love for music but for her sake.

There are so many gaps, but everything is leading to one theory. She knew Yuhi before then; they might have met when she was younger.

"This file, you've been researching the hospital case from a few months back?"

Sumire nodded. "I do have a better understanding of things now, so I understand that it was one of our kind who did that. But it still strikes me as odd why they targeted hospitals only."

"Why is that unusual? They were after blood, so naturally, going to a hospital is the best choice."

"I am unsure if I understand this part correctly, but our kind prefers fresh blood, correct?"

"Yeah."

"So using the hospital's blood supply doesn't work with that theory, does it?"

"But you are forgetting that they drank from living patients too."

"I also searched that up, and supposedly they took from people who they knew. The blood of somebody who they treasure?"

Sumire watched as an odd expression appeared on Yuhis face. Is this something she shouldn't have found out?

Then again, if that is the case, that is even more so the reason why she has to learn.

Yuhi sighed deeply. "Well, I was going to tell you this when it was the right time, but I suppose I have no choice but to rush things now."

Is it something bad?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 400

Chapter 400: Clues

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"You see, people like us tend to drink the blood of somebody they treasure. This is why we could live in hiding this entire time since we do not necessarily have to drink a random person's blood. If we take the blood of somebody we treasure, that is enough to satisfy our blood lust, so we can live like a normal person without getting any cravings. But if we drink from somebody, we treasure it also means we can read their thoughts."

At some point in Yuhi's explanation, Sumire became very embarrassed; her cheeks turned red. Wait-- wait a minute, does that mean he can see what she is thinking? Oh no, no that-- her thoughts broke off when Yuhi grabbed her arm.

"That is why even if you don't tell me, I can tell you are fond of me. That is why I can tolerate everything."

What--what is that supposed to be? If he says stuff like that, then how is she supposed to? She felt a familiar feeling on her lips and froze on the spot.

"It seems I won't be able to let you go again." Yuhi brushed his lips against her ear.

"I think that is a problem."

..

It was not easy for her to escape Yuhi for a bit, and even then, why did she feel that he knew what she was doing? Her gaze fell on the man in front of her. This guy is the information broker Kuga she previously saw that time Sano first followed her. When Yuhi was about to kiss her again, she saw him from the corner.

She sighed deeply. She made up some random excuse on the spot, but it most likely won't last for long.

Moreover, did they have to go to a place like this? The area Kuga brought her to was something similar to the red light district from ancient times. The moment they entered the streets, she saw women on the side lines. They are wearing so much makeup, is that necessary?

"It's been so long. Won't you play with us?" All the girls giggled.

"Sorry ladies, not tonight," Kuga apologized as he pulled her closer to him.

Sumire rolled her eyes. If he didn't have important information, she would have stepped on his foot, actually, she could do that, no?

"This one is enough."

Sumire stepped on his foot, and Kuga yelped, causing the girls to look puzzled. "My dear is getting jealous."

"Aw, we don't want you to get in trouble." The girls hurriedly left with the same bright smiles on their faces.

Despite the overdone makeup and odd clothing. "They're so beautiful."

"Well, so are most girls in the Yakuza world," he joked.

She rolls her eyes at that comment. Making a joke about the Yakuza, only he can get away with something like that. Once they got a table, Sumire noted that it was in a rather enclosed space once they got a table than the rest.

When girls get led away to a private room like this, of course, it's a clear trap; anyone knows that.

Sumire knew she didn't need to worry. Despite that display earlier, she knew that the violet-haired boy had no interest in her that way. Even if he was thinking about doing something like that, he wouldn't because of those two. She didn't know what the reason was, but Kuga seems to follow their orders.

"Why did you come here? Is the matter that private?" she asked once the waiter had given them their orders.

"Yeah. I didn't mention this earlier when I was speaking with Momoi. But I think she more or less got the message."

"You were with Futaba?"

Momoi Futaba was a famous model and also her best friend.

"The situation has escalated, and Aki is in trouble. But even then, they can't kick him out since only Aki can solve that matter. I mentioned previously that there are many people obsessed with Aki, right?"

"Mmm."

"But I'm sure had Aki not interfered in the matters of the Yakuza, then none of this would have had to happen. Do you know the reason why she interfered?"

The reason, huh? Come with me. Even now, she could remember it clearly, the man who saved her when she wandered through the forest.

"He rescued somebody." She admitted rather vaguely. Sumire still wasn't too sure whether or not she could trust this person after all. It would be bad if he double-crossed them.

Kuga fiddles with his drink. "Hmm, I see. I'm guessing it was a girl."

Gah, did she make it that obvious? But she barely gave out any details.

"Cause if you think about it, if it were just a normal person, he would have left them be."

Sumire didn't say anything. Indeed Aki is that type of person. It surprised her when he saved her. She already heard the rumors regarding him. Although she is not the type of person to believe in rumors, she took them with a grain of salt. There are some truths mixed with lies.

But if he puts it that way, then that means Aki-san got into trouble because of.

"Anyhow, you should take this."

Kuga slid a bag in front of her. Sumire looked at him puzzled, yet he ushered her to open it. She did so only to find a metallic piece of object.

"A real gun?"

Kuga nodded, causing her to immediately let go.

"Why are you giving this to me?"

"Kiragi Asuka reacted negatively after the others one's death, that one did something quite reckless after hearing you were involved. They've already gone after her once, and she barely survived."

Sumire blinked. Ah, she wonders why Asuka came here. She has yet to meet up with her friend, but she did find her appearance here in Tokyo strange.

"But more than that, Momoi Futaba. She will die."

Sumire clenched her fist. "You can't know that for sure."

"I can, and the ginger head that stayed behind here to become a teacher's assistant? She, too, I can guarantee, will fall under some danger. After all, Tachibana Masaru is also someone that guy dislikes."

Kuga is making it sound like the inevitable has happened already. People will die, huh?

Sumire closes her eyes and picks up the gun once more. "Will it come down to this?"

"If you've fought his men before, then you'll know."

Indeed she saw the weapons each time; she made sure to carefully dodge the bullets. After all, a single strike can be painful.

"Now, now I wonder since when did I approve that you can use toys like this?" A familiar voice said.

Sumire looked at the source and found a tall young man with short dark brown colored hair and grey colored eyes, and he wore a white lab coat and a dark black suit.

She sighed when she recalled the message she received not too long ago. She thought it was strange that he knew.

It seems like it is about to begin Yuhi, that cruel and twisted game.