

Melody 491

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 491**

Chapter 491: Another Secret

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'..We found her, but in a pile of dead bodies.'

'Sumire didn't recognize me.'

The words Atushi said to him when he first started dating Sumire appeared in his head. When they first started dating, Atushi called him to have a private talk.

'Can you still date Sumire despite knowing this? There is something we didn't tell you, Yuhi; you see, there was a time where some people kidnapped Sumire. Mamoru somehow managed to get her back, but when he returned, his illness had worsened. It was only a week after the two started dating.'

Yuhi frowned, just recalling the words Sumire and kidnap. During the time those two were captured, what exactly happened? It seems Sumire has no memory of this kidnapping; otherwise, she would have mentioned it.

The thing he asked Atsuro to investigate was the kidnapping. So why would Atsuro ask him to discuss the details with her? Unless she remembers everything.

So this explains the things that leave her mouth whenever she has a nightmare. Yuhi sighed deeply; why didn't he notice this before? He stayed beside her all this time and only just realized this.

Yuhi lifted her face and cupped her cheeks. "I asked Atsuro to investigate your kidnapping."

Sumire nodded. "Right, of course."

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"Back then, Yuhi-san, you were having a hard time yourself. There were so many people scheming against you."

Now that he thought about it, that was indeed the time he was struggling the most. But in comparison to her getting kidnapped, that was nothing. "I gave you that to contact me no matter what. You must have had it on you."

One of the first things he bought her was when she stopped behaving coldly and got close. It was a small brooch that had a surveillance camera and call function. Wait surveillance? He checked his several times but saw no such thing.

"Sumire."

Sumire shook her head. "I don't. I don't want you to see it, Yuhi."

"Show me yours." He could not recover the footage from the one he has if she deleted it. But she must still have it on hers.

"No."

Yuhi felt her tremble in his arms and changed his tone. "I won't watch it in front of you, okay? Just please show me, I need to understand. You said it yourself that sometimes you feel muddled."

He needs to see the footage to know what they did to her. He can open the documents Atsuro gave at the same time.

"Please, don't hate me." Her voice sounded so desperate, and Yuhi understood. She was a victim but also the abuser. He already witnessed how fast she was to pull out her weapon. She doesn't hesitate to say the words kill too. That part was fine; he also said similar things due to his experience in the underworld.

If she can say that with a clear mind, what happens when she is muddled? Yuhi is too afraid to ask sometimes. But he already decided a long time ago that he would accept everything about her no matter what. Besides, how horrible can it be?

Both of them have already seen such horrific things being a member of the underworld. Yuhi doubted anything could surprise him.

Still, for Sumire to react this way even though she is normally so calm, something must be there.

"I won't. How can I? You are the most precious to me." Yuhi placed a gentle kiss on her forehead. "Do you still want to stay? You can return to the hospital."

He didn't want to separate from her right now, but he knew his presence would only upset her now.

Sumire slowly nodded. She looked towards Huan. "Can you bring him to me later?"

"Sure."

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When they reached the hospital, it seemed Nagawa had been waiting for Sumire since he was already in her room. He sat on the couch with a laptop on his lap and put everything away when they walked in. It looked like he was going to make some remark, but when he saw how pale Sumire looked, he rushed over.

Sano placed his hand on her forehead. "What happened? You don't have a fever, but you're sweating a lot."

"I think I'm just tired. I want to rest, San."

Sano nodded and took her away from him. "Alright, but I think I should run a few tests. I'll do them here so you can sleep first."

Yuhi clenched his fist when he saw this sight, but all he could do was ask him to take care of her and walked away. 'I will watch the footage from the brooch, and then--' his thoughts broke off when he felt a pair of dainty arms hug him from the back.

"What's wrong?" Yuhi felt his heartbeat increase, knowing it was Sumire.

"Mm, I want a goodbye kiss."

Even in her state, she still finds a way to flirt with him. Then again, it makes me happy knowing she isn't too upset with him. Yuhi turned around and cupped her cheeks. He kissed her softly before it became more passionate; he wrapped his arms around his waist when he felt her trying to take control.

By the time he finished, the girl was in tears; she seemed reluctant to let him leave. "I'm afraid if you go and watch it, you won't return to me."

"Sumire, don't be so silly."

"I'm not, Yuhi-" Sumire shook her head. "Please don't watch; it's not going to be pleasant. You already saw how ruthless I am when I fight just using physical strength."

Right, she has inhumane strength. Many people call her a monster because of that. Is she saying what happened in the footage is far worse? Yuhi could see why she wouldn't want him to see that, but he knew it wouldn't change his opinion of her.

She is still Ibuki Sumire; no matter what she does, she will remain the woman who has his heart. But for her, his love for her is weak enough for him to give her up over something superficial.

Yuhi shook his head. 'I can't think of it this way; this is a serious matter. What can I do to make her stop crying?' He thought for a moment before he extended his pinky out.

Sumire blinked, surprised. "Eh?"

"Let's make a promise that I will come to see you after I finish watching."

Yuhi didn't wait for her to respond and intertwine their fingers together. "I promise I will see my lovely wife later and harass her."

Sumire's who was staring at him dumbly, suddenly turned red, but it was too late.

"There now we have a promise."

"I didn't agree!" Sumire exclaimed, but he was already walking away with a grin on his face.

Yuhi knew she was still worried, but that should have lightened up the mood a bit. He doesn't know what he will find, but he knew that his opinion would not change.

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 492**

### Chapter 492: Her Pain

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

Yuhi reluctantly went back to his place and went through Sumire's belongings. Based on what he has seen from her behavior, she must carry it around with her at all times. It only took a few seconds of rummaging through her bag when he found a small box.

His gaze softened, seeing how carefully wrapped it was.

He knew she liked small trinkets like this in comparison to luxury goods, but it still touched him knowing how she treasured it this much. Despite it being such a treasure, there is something painful in this. He took a deep breath before pressing a button, and a sizeable holographic-like screen appeared. There he could see Sumire tied up in a warehouse.

Yuhi felt his entire body tremble the moment he saw the footage. He didn't like it one bit, seeing her tied up and blindfolded. The following images stunned him. 'What are they injecting in her?' After they injected something, they would beat her up. Yuhi wanted to turn away so many times, but he restrained himself.

'No, I have to see this through.' He can no longer escape reality.

The more Yuhi watched, the more he wanted to hide. The way they treated her was like an experimental subject.

It was the next scene that led to him punching the wall. So they injected her with that stuff to see how badly she would lose control. The images on the screen showed a large wave of red-colored blood wrap around the torturers like poison vibes.

The ability to manipulate blood, Yuhi already confirmed this ability of hers, but perhaps there was something more. The next part confirmed his suspicion; red color-like flames appeared out of nowhere.

'There was a warehouse fire incident near the harbor' last year there was such a grand scale incident in the news. The police never found the culprit, and even the SF closed the case. The second most likely did it because they already knew what had happened there. So it was this. Yuhi recalled Sumire's frightened expression and her trembling body. That stupid girl, does she genuinely think he will hate her for something like this?

How could he possibly hate her when she has suffered this much? If only he were there, then they wouldn't have done this to her.

Yuhi pulled out his phone and dialed a familiar number. "Tell me what happened last year."

He didn't waste any time on greetings.

"They controlled the news to this extent, HYOU4 your group covered the incident?"

A familiar female voice fills the end. She sighed deeply. "I wondered when you would inquire about this."

"Tell me."

"We did because the captain said that we could not let anybody find out about Sumire's dual ability. So naturally, when she got kidnapped, we immediately took action."

"But you didn't find her right away?"

"We did; the force built with individuals with evolved genetics like the SF. So naturally, it would be easy. However, the barrier was powerful. No, it was invisible; just when we found one part of it, we would realize that there was another layer."

"A multilayered barrier."

"You should know, Yuhi, it isn't easy to make something like that on such a grand scale. Even with our people, we had a hard time. That is why we waited until the captain came back from his job overseas. He rushed as quickly as he could, but even then, it took time to arrive because of the interference."

Asuka's captain, huh? The head of Hyou4, the man's name if he recalled correctly, is Honjo Raizo. Yuhi has never met him before, but he already heard the rumors about the man.

Hyou4 was a specialized government police force group, but they deal with more serious cases and not just criminals. This group's main headquarters were directly in Tokyo, unlike the police force and SF, there are no branches anywhere in Japan. They directly deal with criminals but also keep an eye on the government.

The head of that very organization was an unusual man. So that guy can break a multilayered barrier, what kind of person is he?

"Then did he stop Sumires rampage?"

"No, Mamoru was the one who did that. However, the captain was there," Asuka trailed off. "Sorry, Yuhi, unfortunately, I am not too sure either. Only those three would know what happened. Why not ask Sumire directly? Since you found out about this despite the suppressed news, she must have talked to you."

"It's hard for me to ask her," Yuhi recalled her reaction earlier. He has never seen her like that before; he doesn't want to trigger her directly.

"Then do you want me to arrange a meeting for you?"

"With your captain?"

"That's right. I know you avoided meeting him this entire time since you didn't want to get too caught up in the underworld affairs. But bar Akagumi, that place is already a hang out for a delinquent group with evolved abilities."

Yuhi sighed at the last part. "So when did you find that out?"

"I have frequently been going after work. Do you think I wouldn't realize?"

Right anybody who spends that much time there would realize.

"You gathered a bunch of ability users together, Yuhi, and disguised them as a mere delinquent group. Many people question what your motives are."

"You mean your captain is suspicious?"

The girl doesn't say anything to that, and Yuhi sighed. Well, it does make sense. That group directly responds to the government and reigns over Tokyo. They are responsible for individuals with supernatural abilities. On the other hand, the SF, the group Shin is part of, works mainly in the shadows.

Tokyo is the center for a potential bloodbath. This is one of the main reasons why he gradually diminished his contact with Sumire. He didn't want her to come here and get tangled up with all these different power groups.

How ironic, he went through all the trouble of ensuring that she never came here, yet she ended up here anyway. Then there was no point in him staying away from her for so long.

"He is, but I have reported to him every day."

So that is why she goes over a lot; that makes sense. "Thanks."

"Sumire seems to like your group a lot, and she fits in very well. So I don't want anything to happen to them either."

Yuhi blinked at those words but carefully thought about it. Asuka is right. Sumire does seem to get along with those guys very well. But it isn't like how she gets along with the guys in Nanairo feather or his band members. There is something different. Whenever Yuhi looked at those guys alongside Sumire, he can't help but think they are one large family.

Huh? Since when did he start to have such thoughts? They are a bunch of rowdy men, but Sumire is always smiling when she is with them. It looks like she is having a lot of fun too.

### **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 493**

Chapter 493: More To Lose

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This is the outcome he wanted when he first saw her dead-looking eyes when they met again in that bar on her first day. 'I will do anything to make her smile again.' To think her spending time with the others would do that. Initially, he thought it would be bad to spend so much time with them, but it seemed that concern was for nothing.

It should concern him more than a bunch of delinquent guys were spending time with his wife. But for some reason, he didn't mind it. It's not like any of those guys have the nerve to make a move on her. Moreover, the like they have towards Sumire is different; otherwise, he would have said something.

"Yuhi?"

"Set up a meeting."

"Right, then take care of Sumire." With those words said, Yuhi ended the call. His gaze fell on the emblem; the screen vanished since the footage already ended.

He wanted to delete the data, but he knew Sumire kept it this entire time, so he put it back in the box and inside her bag. She must have a reason to bring this with her everywhere even though there is an excellent risk of somebody finding it out, especially in the entertainment industry.

Many people would stoop so low as to search through another person's belongings to find any dirt on them. But even with that risk, Sumire takes this with her everywhere.

Yuhi recalled her painful cries and even the tears in her eyes when she hurt those people with an ability she couldn't control. He rushed out of the house quickly. He needs to get to her as soon as possible.

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It was already quite late when he arrived at the hospital. Yuhi didn't waste any time with the formalities and headed straight to her room. If the security guards do see him, they already know who he was anyway. Besides, Nagawa extended the visiting hours for Sumire's sake, and they made a special exception.

Yuhi stood in front of her room and paused. What if Nagawa is in there with her? Maybe he ought to have called first. Yuhi shook his head. He needs to stop being so considerate. Besides, she heard from Sumire's own mouth what she thought of Nagawa Sano.

He opened the door to darkness not to a small light source by the girl's desk. Right, she has a hard time sleeping in the dark. He wonders how she has been sleeping well in the hospital this entire time. He knew how strict they were at saving energy and stuff. This small lamp probably switches off when she is sleeping.

Yuhi quickly crawled into the bed, relieved that there was nobody else there. The moment he did, he hears her shuffling.

"Mmm, dearest?"

"It's me."

Sumire snuggled against him. "You didn't bring Huan? You're so silly, Yuhi."

Right the kid, when he came back, Yuhi realized that Huan wasn't there anymore and there was a note from Atsuro.

'I will take the kid for a while. You and Sumire have way too many problems.'

Well, it's not like he could deny those words. Despite how much time apart Sumire spends with her son, however. Yuhi noticed how attached the kid was to her and how much she cared for him. Yuhi remembered asking her if it bothered her that she couldn't be with him every day, and she said to him.

'That is what makes each moment precious.'

Right when she said that, he thought that she looked like a mother.

But then he would remember the reason why she couldn't live peacefully with her child. Why does she have to suffer so much?

"You--I'm sorry." Right at that moment, he burst into tears.

Why wasn't he beside her then?

'If I didn't leave for Tokyo, that would never have happened.'

Sumire brushed her fingers across his eyelids. "You haven't cried in front of me in so long. I was starting to think there was something wrong with you."

"Why would I cry when you make me happy every day?"

'She is beside me now; why would I cry?'

But seeing how she suffered like that, he couldn't help it. A girl like her shouldn't have to suffer such grievances.

"Ssh, it's alright."

"No, it isn't. You, I should have been there."

"Mmm, you should have. But I am glad that you weren't. If you were there, they would have kidnapped you instead. So at the very least--"

He cuts her off by missing her.

"No, it should have been me."

"You'll keep blaming yourself even if I tell you to stop. So I'll say this; instead, Yuhi, it's fine because I escaped, and I'm alive right now."

That's true; she is alive right now. She is alive and right here beside him. But why does he feel so uneasy? What is this odd feeling lingering in his heart?

"It's okay because you are beside me now."

Yuhi caught a glimpse of her expression and saw how happy she was. Yuhi sat up and made her do the same. "Shall we talk a quick walk, Sumire?"

"Sure!"

Yuhi made sure she was wearing something comfortable, but even then, he made sure to wrap his jacket around her shoulders.

She seemed chirper, unlike earlier, and the color had returned to her. It was quiet; there was nobody other than them walking around the hospital.

When they reached outside, she skipped ahead happily.

He accomplished his goal, and she can smile now, yet sometimes he felt that something was missing.

"Say Sumire?"

"Yes?"

The moment she turned around, Yuhi felt his heartbeat increase seeing her bright smile. 'What is this feeling? Since when did I feel like this towards her?' This felt very stupid to him. How many years have passed since he learned of his feelings for her?

"Are you having fun with the others in bar akagumi? Before you disappeared for two months, went there frequently, and you liked staying over."

Sumire nodded. "I find it fun being there with everyone."

"You also seemed to have gained a lot of weight."

She puffed her cheeks into a pout. "Are you calling me fat?"

His sweat fell at how quickly her attitude changed. "Not that, but when you came here, you looked so frail like you would collapse if somebody merely passed by you. But unlike that time, you eat more."

'She also smiles more.' He wondered what those people in the underworld would think if they saw this side of her. Then again, some have already seen it.

He also heard recent rumors saying that she isn't as ruthless as before. Although he is happy with her smiling more and making friends, it could potentially be dangerous in the long run.

Now that she has more precious things, now that she has more things to lose.

Yuhi shook the negative thought out of his head. If it were in the past, he would be more concerned. But there is no doubt that Ibuki Sumire has changed.

#### **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 494**

Chapter 494: I Think Of Them As Family

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"Mmm, Atushi is always thinking of different menus for me. He always disliked how I had a limited diet before, and whenever he could, he would make food for me. But we were both swamped then, and I had to look after Ru. So now that he has this opportunity, he is working very hard to develop various dishes that I would like. Jae is very good at baking; he always makes different treats with me. Oh, and Chitose has his vegetable garden; it's amazing. Kawa and Yoru always treat me to good food whenever we go out. They know a lot of good places."

Yuhi listened to her and noticed how tender her facial expression was. She indeed looks like an ordinary girl now. Nobody would have thought that just a year ago, this girl was standing at the top of the underworld as the Queen and living a bloody lifestyle every day. Although she cannot completely escape from that fate, at the very least, she now has peaceful days.

"I'm glad I got to know everybody in Akagumi."

'Not I'm glad to have come to Tokyo, but Akagumi specifically.' Who would have thought those guys could make her this happy? Then again, they aren't bad people. Sure he disguised them as a delinquent group, but the guys were not vicious at all. They do have their tough moments, but the reality is they are a bunch of kids with huge hearts. They all had terrible lifestyles, though.

If he didn't help them, they might have lost to their despair.

Now that he thought about it is that the reason why he didn't abandon any of them? Why did he personally help them out even if he didn't have to?

"So you think of them-"

"I think of them as family."

Oh, they thought the same thing.

"You know how it is with my family Yuhi. Even when they were around, I never felt that we were family. But when I lost them, I realized that it didn't matter if things were awkward; as long as they were around, it was enough." Sumire trailed off.

There was a lonely look in her eyes. But it was only for a second. "That is why I am very thankful to those guys. Even though we are not blood-related, I feel family ties towards them."

Suppose she feels that strongly then Yuhi had a hunch, and he immediately voiced it out. "Is this the reason why you have been dealing with underworld matters more?"

"Mmm, because I want to protect them. That drug that the organization is spreading is very dangerous. Right now, they are targeting random members of different groups. Even though not everybody knows about my ties to the group, there is still a high chance that those drugs could end up in their hands. I do not want to take any risks and lose people anymore."

Yuhi couldn't say anything to that. She truly is a brave one. Where does she get that strong conviction from?

"Then Christmas eve, and New year, do you want to spend time with them?"

Sumire blinked, surprised. "Christmas eve?"

Yuhi chuckled. "They didn't want to get in my way to hog you during Christmas. So they planned a small gift exchange on the twenty-fourth. It may be too much considering you also have your live with Takashi Yumi that day, but-" His sentence fell short when he saw her sparkling eyes. "You want to go, right?"

"En, of course! I also want to visit the shrine with everyone."

Geez, she is way too honest. So much for monopolizing her time until New year. Still, this isn't a bad development. Sumire most likely knew how he felt about her getting close to the others, so she refrained from speaking about it.

"Then let's go with everyone."

Sumire suddenly stopped walking and appeared directly in front of him. Yuhi felt his heartbeat increase when he realized how close her face was. "What is it?"

"I was just thinking, Yuhi-san, you're a very kind person, aren't you?"

"What brought this on?"

"I heard from Yoru and the others how they met you." Sumire trailed off and laughed. "Even though you criticized me for playing hero before, at the end of the day, you still did it?"

"It's your bad influence."

"Mm, but still, I think it is a good thing. We may have scary powers and unusually inhumane strength, but we are still human at the end of the day. We still cry when we are in pain or suffer injustice; we still

get angry and lash out at people. We still smile when we are happy when we are with the ones we care for. We still fall in love," She whispered the last part softly, and that was when Yuhi felt her lips on his.

It was a brief kiss, and yet Yuhi felt the strong emotions behind them. She brushed her forehead against his. "I truly am happy now, Yuhi. Even though so many bad things have happened recently, this is still the happiest I have been in my life. The reason I can be this happy is no doubt because of you."

Indeed, unlike her previous life, Sumire leads a relatively safe life now. She can be a normal high school girl, worry about school-related matters, and hangs out with her friends.

But now she has more precious things.

"You have more to lose now." Yuhi voiced this out, knowing if he left it, it would trouble him a lot more.

"I don't think of it that way," Sumire mumbled against his lips. "Now I have more things to protect."

Yuhis eyes widened when he heard those words. Of course, she would see it that way.

"That includes you. I will make sure nothing bad happens to you."

Despite how calmly she said this, Yuhi sensed the strength behind those words. The strength and the pain. Even though Sumire knows Mamoru is alive, she still blames herself for what happened even though she has met Mamoru.

'If only I were stronger.' In the past, he also had the same thoughts. If he were stronger, then he wouldn't have lost a precious friend.

Yuhi flicked her forehead, and the girl yelped in pain.

"That hurts! What was that for?"

"For being stupid."

"Hey--!"

He extended his hand out and pinched her cheeks. "Whenever you try to act cool, it only makes you look like a loser." He commented.

Sumire's eyes twitched, annoyed. "That heartfelt speech took me ages to think off, and yet here you are insulting me."

"I am only telling the truth. I understand your resolve to protect everyone and me. But who said you have to do all of this alone?"

She suddenly turned quiet.

"Ibuki Sumire, you're not the only one who sees those guys as family. The same goes for me, and the same goes for them towards us. Rather than face things alone, let us fight alongside you."

At those words, the girl looked surprised before she sighed deeply. "I figured you would say something like that. Yuhi-san, you acted like a loner and didn't allow people to get close to you. But when they did, you treasured them dearly. It was the same with me; that was why I could never tell if you liked me."

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 495**

Chapter 495: A Warning

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

Uh, how did it end up like this? Yuhi was about to say something when they heard the sound of a couple arguing up ahead. It seemed like they weren't the only ones out on a stroll. Yuhi was about to grab Sumire so they could use another path, but she suddenly went.

"It's San."

Yuhi looked in the direction of the voices to confirm Nagawa was there. But he wasn't alone, and a familiar redhead woman was with him. That's the fiance. Are they arguing?

This is none of their business; he was about to suggest they leave when he hears their conversation.

"I told you already not to get involved when Sumire is concerned."

"Even if you don't love me, the least you can do is treat me with respect? But why do you want to bring another woman to the event."

"It won't be safe there. Sumire might get hurt."

"I understand your concern. But won't she face danger regardless? Moreover, that person has been very angry with you recently, isn't there a higher chance of you being in danger?"

He immediately understood and sighed. Right, Sumire mentioned that she would go with Sano instead of Soujiro to that gathering. At first, it bothered him since it meant Sano and Sumire would appear somewhere together in front of the general public. But that seed of concern vanished already.

To think talking with her would resolve all the internal battles he has faced in his heart since he heard about Nagawa.

"Sumire do you the-" Yuhi suddenly hears a large yelp and noticed the items not too far from Sumire's feet.

Yuhi frowned when he saw the scattered litter. 'This is a bit careless and unusual. Nagawa general hospital is usually very strict about keeping things clean since it could worsen injuries.'

"Did you hurt yourself?" Yuhi asked, concerned.

"Uh, I just tripped. I'm alright."

This didn't go unnoticed by Sano, who hurriedly rushed over. He immediately bent down and rolled up Sumire's hospital gown like it was that simple.

Hey, hey, the boyfriend is right here, and yet- Yuhi shook his head. There is no use complaining. Besides, he saw that brief look of disgust before Sano kneeled. It seems like he will never see eye to eye with this guy.

Sano frowned. "Sit."

"You're exaggerating, Miss Penelope is here, and you're in the middle of a discussion."

Sano seemed unsatisfied with her response. "I care more about you."

Sumire stared at him speechless, and so did he.

'What honest sounding words.' Yuhi had to admit that he was impressed. For a player like Nagawa Sano, such words should come naturally anyway. He already heard the way this man spoke to other women. But there was something different about it now.

Yuhi observed the man. Nagawa's eyes were only on Sumire; he wasn't looking at anybody else.

"Then I'll take Miss Penelope home."

Sumire seemed startled with those words and pouted. "But our walk."

He walked over and whispered something in her ear. "Calm him down first."

It seemed Sumire understood since she agreed. Yuhi walked away with the redhead woman. At first, nobody spoke, but eventually, he heard her voice.

"Are you stupid or something, Terashimsan?"

Yuhi's sweat fell when he heard those words. "Are you going to call me crazy too?"

Penelope nodded. "With that guy's current mood, he will do something cruel to Ibuki-san."

Right he figured that out when he saw the dark look in Nagawa's eyes, but still, Yuhi also understood something.

"I think right now, the only one who can stop that guy from going on a rampage is Sumire."

"Are you not worried that they may get back together?" Penelope asked. "Pardon me for asking, but with the way they spend time together, it wouldn't surprise me."

"I was worried."

"Past tense?"

"I asked Sumire directly just earlier today how she felt regarding Nagawa, and I heard what I had to know. If it is like what she is saying, then there is no need for me to worry."

Despite his vague terms, Penelope nodded. "I see, then Sano doesn't stand a chance?"

Yuhi sensed her disappointment and asked. "Shouldn't you be happy about this? I can tell that you genuinely like him."

"That is true, but even I understand that he has never liked me that way. From the very start, he has only ever had one girl in his heart. Even when the engagement talks became more serious, I didn't step out of line. That guy already has somebody he loves and treasures, so no matter what I do, I won't stand a chance."

So this is why Nagawa could still fool around with other women. Normally those informal engagements would no better than to do such things, more so business ones. They fear losing the support of the other person.

"I only want happiness for the person I love, even if it means sacrificing my feelings in the process."

"I think I understand that."

When he heard Sumire was dating Mamoru, Yuhi decided to take a step back. He genuinely thought that Mamoru was the one that Sumire has always liked and that she only had a crush on him.

It didn't take long before they reached the gate, and Yuhi saw the car parked in front.

"This is far enough."

"Yeah."

"Terashimsan, please don't let pointless rumors cloud your judgment. From now on, there will be many trying to separate you two, but as long as you trust each other, I believe you will overcome any hurdle."

Yuhi didn't get a chance to say anything since she quickly went inside the car, which immediately drove off. His gaze fell on the sky as he thought about her words. 'That must have been a warning.' Yuhi knew the girl's grandmother was among those trying to ruin Sumire. It seems that the old lady will do anything to make Sumire miserable.

The thing holding Sumire up right now is their relationship, so it is only natural to target it. But he still found it unusual.

Perhaps Miss Penelope's family is also in league with those people. If that is the case, that makes more sense. If those people didn't have a strong backing, then surely they wouldn't act so brave.

Yuhi took out his phone.

Come to bar Akagumi.

It is to do with Sumire.

It was a short message, but he sent it to Asuka. Even though Asuka is with the government organization Hyou4, he knew that the girl prioritized Sumire first.

From: Asuka

I am already here.

It seems like she must have caught on too. Yuhis gaze fell towards the dark skies. It will be a long sleepless night discussing the situation with Asuka and Atushi. But at least they will have more information. It will lessen the burden Sumire has to carry.

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 496**

Chapter 496: A Hopeless Case

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

Sano kissed her harshly the moment Yuhi was no longer in sight. Sumire already sensed his mood when she saw Yuhi with her.

'I tried to signal Yuhi-san with my eyes, but he didn't get the hint.' No, he probably saw it but decided to trust her. That guy trusts her way too much. He should understand that she has a hard time dealing with Sano.

It has already become a habit, and she is still searching for the old him. So naturally, it is hard to refuse.

Sumire mustered whatever strength she still had and pushed Sano away. "That's enough!" Sumire exclaimed. "I--I told you already. Why are you still making it worse for yourself?!"

"Then what about you? You're daring enough to walk back here with those marks on your neck. How many times did he touch you?"

Sumire looked at him dumbfounded.

They may have had that talk, but as expected, nothing has changed. Her gaze dimmed. But this shouldn't surprise her; she already told Yuhi that she knew it was hopeless. The person she got to know is no longer there.

Sano must have sensed her disappointment since he walked over. He shrugged Yuhi's jacket off her shoulders and placed his on top. "It is too cold out here; let's return."

Sumire reluctantly nodded, and they headed back towards the building. On the way, they passed the security guard, and Sano gave a few instructions. She couldn't miss the way the guard looked at the two of them as they left.

She only has to put up with the unusual stares for a while longer. After she gets discharged, it will be much harder for them to meet. They live two completely different lives, after all. She will return to the entertainment industry and be as busy as ever; there is also school. Indeed they won't be able to meet for a while.

So whatever rumors transpired during her stay should vanish too.

'I don't want Yuhi-san to feel uncomfortable anymore.' The reason she left the rumors about her and Sano be is because it worked to her advantage. But there is no longer any need for her to play along.

Also, it would be hard to go along with the rumors about the upcoming concert. 'I plan to confess to my dearest on stage.' Sumire's lips curved to a smile at the thought. Yuhi won't expect that at all. How surprised will he be?

It was one o'clock in the morning when they returned to the room. Sumire didn't realize how long she was walking with Yuhi-san. Then again, he did come quite late. Sumire sat down on the bed.

"Stay still," Sano said as he took out some medical supplies from the cabinet. He didn't say anything and continued to disinfect her small wound.

Sumire carefully observed him before she voiced out her thoughts.

"Are you upset?" Sumire wondered. "You're the one who told me I could go see Yuhi today."

"That doesn't mean I'm okay with you two--"

"You're not my boyfriend, remember?"

Sano sighed deeply. "You're as harsh as ever." He trailed off. "I told Penelope that I would attend the event with you."

"Ah."

'So that explains why she was so upset.' Indeed showing up to a formal gathering with someone other than the fiance openly announces how bad the relationship is.

This is why she would always attend with Soujiro. She may not like him, but she doesn't want him to lose face.

"Drink this." Sano passed a cup to her.

She scrutinized the glass. 'a pink substance.'

Sumire didn't hesitate to drink it, and Sano frowned.

"What if I gave you poison?"

She laughed at those words. "Then I will deal with it."

Sano walked over and cupped her cheeks. "Do you not remember tet?"

'Uh, why is his timing so in sync with her, dearest! How dare they both ask me this question. I managed to get away with it before and said I don't remember, but recently, it's become clearer.'

Something happened between her and Sano that night.

She recalled it clearly when she was in the facility. The first time she recalled it, she ended up screaming and lost control of her powers. Thankfully Ru was there and stopped her.

Sumire looked away, and Sano nodded. "So you remember."

".." She didn't say anything, but this only made the situation worse,

He leaned closer. "What do you want to do?" After each word, Sumire gradually felt the distance between them decrease.

"We can't--!" Sumire exclaimed.

Sano frowned. "You already remember. We did it once before; why can't we do it now?"

"That time was different! I wasn't in a relationship, but now I am."

It seemed her words only made Sano more confused. 'right, he is this type of person.' How to phrase this? Sano took a seat beside her, and she flinched.

"I'm not going to do anything if you're rejecting that strongly."

"Uh-huh." Sumire looked at him doubtfully. This is coming from the guy that was about to kiss her.

Sumire peered over and noticed that he had gotten a book out.

'What is he reading? More medical books?' No, it seems different.

Sumire reluctantly laid down, but it was hard for her to get any sleep. So she just stared at the man who was reading. 'Indeed, he is different, but like Yuhi said, he still doesn't respect her.' Fortunately, she can't clearly remember what happened between them.

She knew how badly those memories would haunt her. Why doesn't she remember?

Could it be that? When Ru passed away, she started to blank out a lot more. She would go through long periods of memory loss because she couldn't accept the reality of him not being there.

It was all for nothing; not remembering made it worse. She was in so much pain but couldn't remember why.

Her thoughts broke off when she felt Sano's hand on her forehead. "Why don't you sleep?"

"It's hard."

'I don't have Yuhi.' Sano doesn't know this, but she has a hard time sleeping without Yuhi here.

He ran his fingers through her hair, and Sumire looked at him puzzled. He is acting so gentle with her, but she couldn't forget what happened earlier. Does this guy have something wrong with his personality?

"Sumire."

"Uh, yes?"

"Do you want to go somewhere with me on the twenty-fourth?"

"Somewhere with you," Sumire repeated his words before realizing something.

'Is he asking me out on a date?'

If that's the case, she has to say no. Besides, the twenty-fourth is Christmas eve.

"It won't take up too much time."

'Why does he look so serious? I wonder what it could be.' But even so, she needs to draw a line.

"I'm sorry, I want to spend time with Yuhi until the new year."

"You already made plans?"

'Not quite, but I suspected as much when I saw how he cleared his schedule.'

Sano must have understood since he nodded. "Then, make time for me on the second and the twentieth."

"San--"

"I want to spend time with you."

He is way too straightforward. Sumire sighed deeply. This is a bit troublesome. Maybe she should get Yuhi-san to deal with him? But, she doesn't want to trouble her dearest for such things. Contrary to what Yuhi-san says, his jealousy is very severe.

### **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 497**

Chapter 497: Nobody Deserves To Die

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

"I have some rules."

"Rules?"

"We can't be alone, but we can't be in public either."

She doesn't want the media to get hold of anything. Moreover, the first thing is key. If she is alone with him, he will do something to her again. 'I can no longer allow him to do whatever he wants.'

The kiss from earlier still lingered on her lips, and she sighed.

It does seem like Sano is on her side now but at what cost? Won't it be more problematic in the future?

Her thoughts broke off when Sano put his book down. "Go sleep; tomorrow, you will get discharged."

Eh, tomorrow? But aren't there two days left? What is the sudden news?

"Tomorrow, the Lord-sama will be admitted here. So you should stay away from the hospital for a while."

"Admitted?"

Sano nodded. "Yeah, it seems he has a terminal illness. It's slowed down due to his evolved genetics, but recently it has flared up. This is the best hospital in town. Moreover, I'm in charge, so he more or less has control."

It surprised her how much Sano was telling her. Then again, this is what she wanted from him, no? This is the reason why she went through all of that.

Sumire recalled what happened recently and looked at him concerned. "So, will you be okay?"

"It's fine; I doubt we will cross paths."

Oh right, Sano said before that he has never met him. But this isn't the first time he is coming to the hospital? How does that work?

Sano caressed her cheeks. "Get some sleep; we can talk more the next day."

Right. Sumire wanted to text Yuhi but realized that Sano wouldn't leave until she fell asleep. It would be better to leave it for tonight.

...

The following day, she woke up and took a quick shower before getting changed. Sumire looked at her reflection in the mirror for a few minutes before sighing deeply. 'I look so pale because I have been cooped up here for so long.' Her gaze fell towards her leg.

The injury healed up a while ago, but she remained here to gather information. She received more than she should have.

The last piece of news being larger news than she thought, so she needs to discuss this new development with Eli. The supposed leader of the Black Alice organization has an illness severe enough for him to end up in hospital.

They could use this to their advantage to turn the situation in their favor. Right now, their side isn't necessarily losing, but it is not like they have much of a lead either.

This current stalemate won't last forever. Each side is waiting for the piece of information to turn the situation around.

Sumire quickly headed to Sano's office. She was in a rush and wanted to leave as soon as she could. Sano didn't look up right away when she came. It seemed he was too focused on whatever he was typing.

It was only when she leaned forward and called his name did he respond.

"I don't think you need a final examination; you should be fine now."

Of course, she doesn't need a final examination; she healed up a long time ago. Then again, there is no use discussing it now. Sumire wondered, though, since when did Sano realize she was pretending? Her thoughts broke off when he slid a transparent bag with several bottles inside in front of her.

"Take these with you."

Oh, it's the medicine he has been giving her this entire time. But does she have to continue taking this now that she is no longer pretending? Moreover, Sano admitted how dangerous this was.

Sumire looked at the bottles cautiously.

"This isn't harmful. I changed it, but the appearance looks the same to trick them."

Ah, so that's how it is.

Sumire accepts the package and their fingers brush against each other. She felt his gaze on her and quickly drew her hand back, only for him to grab her wrist.

"Uh."

"Will you come see me?"

"I thought you told me to stay away from the hospital."

"I have equipment in my place. We can do your checkups there."

'His place?' That wouldn't be appropriate. Sumire coughed. "I'll find somewhere else and contact you."

They can't go to his place. Besides, reporters will be tailing her the moment she steps out of here. Due to the strict guidelines of this hospital, reporters cannot go in easily, so nobody could get any information here.

Sumire would have left after that, but he had yet to let go of her wrist. Sano stood up and pulled her into his arms.

"I won't be able to see you for a while. So let me have this."

'Uh, since when could he do such sweet things?' Sumire reluctantly nodded. He was only hugging her and not doing anything else.

She doesn't owe him anything, but he did take care of her for a while.

"Sano."

"Hmm?"

"You have to promise me something."

Sano chuckled. "If you're asking for a favor, I should get a decent reward out of it."

"A reward, huh? I'll think about it, so listen to me."

Sano seemed surprised at her response and pulled away from her. "I don't want you to think badly of me again."

"I'm not; just you have to listen."

"If this is about the Lord, I already know what to do."

"You already disobeyed him the last time. It's not safe, San."

His lips curve to a smile, and Sumire looked away, understanding. "I am indeed worried about you, but only because you have already sacrificed so much. I don't want to owe you something--" her sentence fell short when he cupped her cheeks.

"Would you be sad if I died?"

'What crazy things is he saying now?' Then again, this is the part of him that has never changed. He has a bit of an eccentric personality at times.

"Of course, nobody deserves to die."

No matter how evil or corrupt they are. They all deserve a second chance.

Before she could say anything else, Sano was kissing her again. But unlike the other day, she managed to pull away rather quickly. Sumire raised her hand and slapped him.

"Why do you have to ruin it?"

"That's the type of person I am."

Sumire looked at him angrily. 'Why is he like this? It's so frustrating.' She didn't say anymore and walked out of the room quickly. It's so unfair for him to behave like this.

The moment she arrived at the lobby, she felt a familiar pair of hands pull her back. It was Sano; he had run after her.

"What now?"

Her thoughts broke off when Sano wrapped something around her wrist. "I'll see you around then."

Sumire stared at the bracelet dumbfounded. "Wait, is this for me?"

"It is."

'So odd, this doesn't look like a brand bracelet.' Sumire carefully examined the bracelet. Is this handmade? It does look like it; there are some clumsy-looking areas. But why would he give me a handmade bracelet somebody else made on his behalf?

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 498**

Chapter 498: Relief

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

"Do you like it?"

"Yes, but-"

"Thank god, I've never made anything before, so I wasn't sure it would turn out well."

Did he make this for her? For a moment by, those words shock her. She figured it was handmade, but she thought somebody else made it on his behalf. To think he made it himself, and yet is he serious? Sumire is doubtful, but her gaze fell on his expression.

The man standing before her is no doubt her first boyfriend, who hurt so much. He is the one who destroyed whatever hope she had in humans. But right now, that very same person is showing her the most sincere expression she has ever seen.

Her gaze fell on the bracelet and then back at him. "Thank you, San. I'll treasure it."

It was awkward for her to walk off after that. It suddenly felt wrong just to leave. But Sumire noticed the whispering and stares of the other staff members, so she had no choice but to leave quickly.

Her gaze fell on the grey-colored skies; drops of snow caught her attention. 'I could walk back, but these shoes aren't appropriate.'

Where should she go? The bar? Or, 'I'll be staying in this house more frequently. When they discharge you, come here.'

Sumire recalled Yuhi's words. Would he be home? Or would he be at school?

Her thoughts broke off when she spotted somebody at the hospital gate—a man with black-colored hair and chocolate brown eyes leaning against the fence with his phone in hand.

It felt strange walking properly after so long of pretending, let alone run. But she didn't want him to go. She wanted to reach him as quickly as possible.

He was on the phone and hadn't seen her. "I already told you, do the job as cleanly as possible. Sumire has a lot going on right now. She won't be able to go for a while, and neither will I. Take care of it. But if you do anything stupid, you'll be responsible."

'Something must have happened.' Sumire knew that Yuhi was silently taking care of her underworld work since she came to Tokyo, though he is no longer a formal member of the Holy Knights. People still listen to him like he is the King.

He doesn't have to dirty his hands for her, and yet he does.

It didn't take long before she reached him; the moment she did, she collapsed in his arms.

"Hey, Sumire?"

She suddenly feels relieved. It felt like a decade has passed since she last saw him, even though they spent time together not too long ago.

Yuhi brushed his fingers across her forehead. "You're burning up! Why are you so pale?"

"Uh, I have a fever?" Sumire repeated.

Yuhi clicked his tongue, annoyed, and scooped her up. She noticed a familiar car parked on the sidewalk.

"Call Atushi if you need help no even ask Yoru or Chitose."

She hears protests on the other end of the phone as Yuhi placed her on the other seat.

"Yuhi, you're not taking me back?"

The hospital was right there, and knowing Sano, he would still be in the lobby. It would be easy for them to get her checked out.

He shook his head. "I'll call Atsuro over; just hang on for a bit." Yuhi trailed off and cursed. "Damn, I should have taken Jae along so he could have driven."

"I'll be okay."

She understood why she had a fever. Everything she has held back since being hospitalized is now flowing out.

'I couldn't sleep well or even eat.

Whenever Sano looked away, she would pour half the meal onto the bin or dump it in a bag.

At night, I felt so restless and uneasy.'

....

When Sumire woke up, she found that Atsuro had finished injecting something in her arm. The sight of the needle startled her, and she almost freaked out but realized that Yuhi was right there.

"Is she going to be okay?"

"It's just fatigue and neglect of health." Atsuro sighed deeply. "She was staying in a damned hospital this entire time. I wonder why they didn't realize."

'Of course, nobody would notice. The medicine Sano gave me daily was very unusual. But it did wonders on my body, and most days, I felt alright.'

Yuhi brushed his fingers across her forehead, realizing she was awake. "How do you feel, love?"

"Uh, I'm hungry."

Now that she thought about it, when was the last time she ate properly?

Yuhi's gaze softened. "I've made you something to eat."

Atsuro glanced back with a frown. "Yuhi, you have to talk to her, okay? If not, I'll do it."

"Don't frighten her; she isn't well." Yuhi nodded. "I said I would, so go."

Sumire immediately understood. To avoid Atsuro from lecturing her, Yuhi said he would talk instead. 'He is so good to me. I can no longer allow Sano to do such foolish things.'

Atsuro looked annoyed but left quickly. The moment Atsuro left, Yuhi hovered over her. The gentle look on his face vanished, and her sweat fell, realizing he was holding her wrist.

"So, what is this?"

"Uh---"

"You know I'm not usually a petty person. But I have my limits."

"Y-Yuhi."

Yuhi kissed her lips softly. "A bracelet is a sign of possession. Did you know that?"

She seemed at a loss when she heard those words. He mentioned that giving gifts usually have hidden meanings, but Sumire doubted that Sano thought that far. Moreover, this is handmade.

Yuhi must have understood from her reaction since he pulled away and sighed deeply.

"It's not like I don't get it. Normally you won't accept such things from him, so it surprised me."

"Well, I am a girl with a boyfriend; accepting gifts from other men sends the wrong message." Sumire trailed off and pointed to the bracelet. "I had no choice but to accept this at the time. But if you dislike it, Yuhi-san, I won't use it."

It was hard for her to turn him away in front of so many people. Moreover, it stunned her. Sano went through the trouble of making her something.

"You don't have to go that far. Besides, the craftsmanship on this is good. I can tell he worked hard to make it. As an artist, it would be wrong of me for you to tell you to return it."

Her gaze softened at his words, and she wrapped her arms around him from the back. "I do like the bracelet, but I like the earrings and necklace more."

"Stupid."

Sumire laughed softly. "Didn't you make me food, Yuhi-san? Can I eat?"

"Yeah."

He reluctantly left her side. Sumire watched as he stood up and left. The moment he did, she removed the bracelet on her hand and placed it inside the drawer.

'Even if he says that it bothers him. I shouldn't wear it when we are together.'

Sumire sighed deeply. What is she going to do about that one? It's getting increasingly complex for her to be around Sano since his feelings are genuine. But it is already too late. No matter how sincere he is, all she feels when looking at him is pain.

Besides, there are more important things going on right now.

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 499**

Chapter 499: Desire

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

She closed her eyes for a few minutes when she heard the familiar ringtone from her phone. Sumire clicked the answer button but put it on speaker.

"Sumire?"

"Shin."

"I heard you just got discharged. Are you back home now?"

"Mmmm, a few minutes ago."

"Your show tomorrow night, I don't think you should attend."

It was only when he said those words did Sumire realize something was off. His tone sounded weird, and there was a strange noise in the background. If she listened clearly, she could hear the sound of firing--gunshots?

"Where are you?" Sumire said, alarmed.

"It's just a mission."

"I told you to refuse the SF orders! They are onto you spying and being suspicious of them."

She exclaimed.

"Refusing directly would seem strange. Besides, this is the first time they have shown themselves like this."

Sumire frowned at those words. She felt increasingly anxious by the minute. Did they show themselves openly? That didn't seem right. Moreover, Sano said the leader would stay in hospital due to a flare-up of his condition. Should this be the time to appear before the special forces?

Before she could say another word, she heard the sound of an explosion.

Her face turned pale. "Shin?"

He didn't reply right away, and she became uneasy.

But after a few minutes, she hears a weak and muffled voice. "I'm okay."

"Shin--"

"I'll hang up, get some proper rest Sumire." Shin hung up before she could say anymore.

Sumire tried to call him back, but Shin wouldn't answer. Her gaze dimmed, and she threw the pillows across the room. That stupid guy! For somebody with such a high IQ, sometimes he could act like an absolute idiot. She already warned him before that the Sf is suspicious of his movements.

Refusing the order would indeed make people more suspicious, but at the very least, he would be safe. The reason she suspects the SF is because of the incident last year when those people kidnapped her. Some of the kidnappers looked like people from the SF organization. While they were careful not to wear the uniform, the way they spoke, their demeanor and mannerism.

If that were the only lead she had, she wouldn't be suspicious but how they reacted to Shin bringing her to the SF headquarters. Her visit suddenly gets canceled, and several other strange incidents

A deep sigh passed her lips. Even though she has been very happy, it seems many people want to destroy the peaceful life she has now. Sumire recalled Yuhis concern. She understood where he was coming from.

She does have more things to lose now.

In the past, this was one of the key reasons why she avoided getting close to people. Sumire knew if they got close to her, they would end up targeted. Some have naturally grown to dislike her in the entertainment or delinquent world—a strong dislike enough for them to target her life.

She thought back to what happened recently when she went to visit that group with Yuhi. The things those people said remained firmly in her mind.

'I thought I was used to hearing such things, but it seems that isn't the case. If Yuhi didn't come with me, I might have had a breakdown.'

It seems she can no longer live without Yuhi. She remained cautious towards him initially; she wouldn't let him get too close to her. But she allowed him to come within arms reach. If she thought about it carefully, she didn't have to do something like that. The old her would have just pushed him away.

When he first became a member of the underground organization Holy Knights, she coldly pushed him away and pretended they never met. But Aki-san decided to mess around and put Yuhi under her care.

No matter how coldly she treated him, he never left her side; before she knew it, she had warmed up to him. She still didn't reveal that she knew him before, nor did she bring up that promise. That was fine for Yuhi; he mentioned focusing on the present.

When he said those words, she felt ashamed. She didn't want to meet Yuhi again like this to have him see her working as a member of the underworld. She wanted their reunion to be on stage. But all of those thoughts seemed foolish.

She learned so much about Yuhi that year, and they gained an irreplaceable bond and trust. She was working alongside him as partners who had each other's backs. She liked it a lot.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi entered the room with a trolley of food on the top. The moment he got close, she pulled him onto the bed and hugged him.

"What's wrong?"

She didn't say a word and continued to hug Yuhi tightly.

'It seems I am unable to let this person go. I feel so attached to him.' The attachment she felt is far stronger than their first or second meeting. Now she can say for sure that she is unable to live without him. But with the recent dangerous events, can they be together forever?

It is hard to say; the future still looks so bleak to her.

"My love?"

Sumire wrapped her arms around his neck and brought her lips to his neck. It occurred to her how quite some time has passed since she last drank any blood or had any urges. It seemed the medication Sano made her take every day led to suppressing her urges.

"Do you want some?" Yuhi asked.

"I haven't had any urges for a while. I think I forgot how to do this."

Yuhi chuckled. "Just bite; it's like when you give me a hickey. But your lips are there longer."

Her cheeks reddened at those words. This man is way too calm.

"You don't have to hold back, Sumire."

"Hmmm, I don't think I will be able to. Your scent is driving me crazy."

"Then-"

"But I think I understand why Sano tried to suppress my urges. Deep down, he most likely hasn't accepted this side of me yet."

"Have you accepted it?"

"Even if I am against it, it would make no difference. It is pointless to struggle when the situation is like this."

"So it's simply because you can't fight back?"

"I suppose, but at the same time, I don't mind this. I always thought that my thoughts towards you were unusual, but now I have an excuse. These uncontrollable urges and desires whenever I am around you are because I am a hanyou. I am a beast, but I am a human too."

"Since when did you have such thoughts?"

"It was the moment we first worked together as partners when we were both in danger and surrounded by the enemy. You held my hand for the first time to reassure me that you would get me out of there. It was only for a moment, but that moment was it all it took for me to understand." Sumire trailed off. "I desire everything about you, I want more than the warmth of your hand. I felt a sense of security and safety. I wanted to give everything."

## **ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 500**

Chapter 500: Please Don't Hate Me

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

Sumire knew how crazy those thoughts of hers were, and for a while, after that, she avoided him like the plague. But Yuhi confronted her unusual behavior, and Sumire figured it would be strange to avoid him. All she has to do is control this ragging lustful beast inside her, no problem, right? Except it was a huge problem for her.

Whenever Yuhi remotely got close to her, it took all her willpower not to do anything weird and to contain her crazy thoughts.

"This is quite the confession."

Sumire rolled her eyes. "Even in this situation, you find a way to flirt."

"Naturally."

"Yuhi, I learned more about hanyou's when I was in the facility. Drinking blood is the same as taking a person's life force, isn't it?"

"Yeah."

"If that's the case, then I don't want to do that. I don't want to shorten your lifespan and harm you."

"You know that's the same with me. But you don't have to worry. With the advancements soon, it will no longer mean taking someone's life force."

"Do you truly believe that will happen in our generation?"

"I do."

'What's with that confidence.' But she supposes she is the same too. Her thoughts broke off when she felt Yuhi run his hands through her hair.

"At the very least, there are changes now, unlike before. So, I want you to feel more comfortable."

"It doesn't frighten you, Yuhi? What if I drink you dry?"

Yuhi chuckles. "Well, that would also be an interesting way to die."

"Don't be stupid; you would be breaking your marriage vows if you do that."

"Oh? Are we married?"

"We will be!"

"Mmmm, I can't wait too. But just cope with this for now. I have wanted to make you my wife for so long; waiting a few more months is nothing unlike the years I had to endure."

Endure huh? She wonders if it is the same for him. How much did he have to endure and keep his urges for her in tact? He behaves so calmly whenever they do this, but it most likely isn't easy for him either.

Even though she is worrying so much here, he is acting so nonchalantly! This is unfair.

"Anyhow, if you want to drink, go ahead---" She didn't wait until he finished his sentence and pushed him down.

Sumire hovered over him; a dangerous look flashed through her eyes. For a boy, Yuhi-san has such fair skin, and he always smells good.

"Sumire?"

"I truly can't control myself around you anymore, Yuhi-san."

"Is that so?"

She brushed her lips against his neck. "Please don't hate me."

"I won't."

....

'I'm happy your so honest with me and that you desire me so much.' Yuhi said those words roughly four hours ago. When she woke up, he wasn't beside her anymore, but a note said he would return before dinner. Sumire didn't want to move and continued lying down. However, she heard the sound of somebody knocking on the door aggressively.

That way of knocking it could only be one person. So when she got up and opened the door to find grey hair, she wasn't too surprised.

It was Aika.

Her friend looked frustrated at a glance and held up a newspaper. There in the large photo was Sano giving her a gift in the morning in the lobby. Moreover, several other pictures from the past.

Sumire blinked once and then twice before leading her friend to the living room.

"Do you want coffee or tea?" Sumire asked, preparing to get the stuff from the kitchen, but Aika stopped her.

"Sumire," Aika said seriously. "Do you know how I got this?"

"Connections?"

"It was on my father's desk." Aika clicked her tongue annoyed. "It seemed like the newspaper company targeting you this time is from one of my father's side companies. I looked around and noticed that my father has information on you from when you were in Star Town."

"And so?"

"I'm sorry--"

Sumire shook her head. "The parents are too blame; the children aren't. Remember awhile ago you seemed surprised that I didn't know what connections you have?"

Aika nodded.

"It's not that I didn't know; it just surprised me that you have the same name as the ring leader of those targeting me." Sumire trailed off. "I know you don't have any bad intentions. This was just a coincidence."

Jae-hee sighed deeply. "I want to argue and say you are way too trusting, but we both know that isn't the case."

Sumire chuckled. "Indeed."

"What are you going to do about this? I spoke to Masaki, and he said he would deal with it like usual. But I think you should personally do something this time."

"Mmmm, I think so too. It has come to that point where ignoring them would only cause more issues." Sumire trailed off. "I see this is why Yuhi-san rushed off. I wish he would talk to me first before doing these things."

Aika rolled her eyes. "He probably didn't want to disturb your rest after wearing you out."

At those words, her cheeks colored.

"We didn't do anything."

Aika laughed. "Are you sure? Yuhi is like a beast. You should hear how he talks about wanting you all the time."

'That moron, what is he saying in front of other people?' Then again, he is most likely pent up from all that.

"Tell me something, Aka. Does experience matter?"

Aika paused. "Huh, I didn't think you would ask this. Normally your so calm, but when other girls in class speaking about this, you're frozen stiff and get embarrassed."

"Well, I'm not used to it."

"It depends on the guy. For Yuhi, it doesn't matter. He is the type who looks like a player but is one of those rare to find loyal types who will like everything about the girl they love."

"Then for other guys?"

"Seventy percent are jerks who care about the amount of sexual experience a woman has. The remaining sixty percent have strange fetishes like preying on innocent girls with no experience at all. Those sixty percent can be the cruelest because the women they pick on are the type to fall in love with them and be unable to let go."

"I see."

Aika stared at her with a severe gaze. "Sumire, about Nagawa Sano. Initially, I wasn't going to say anything anymore. I said a lot of stuff without understanding the situation clearly. But, now I have a clear picture, I can tell you that guy won't change. It may seem like he has, but there will be moments where you see the old him again."

Sumire thought back to that kiss and the words that followed after. She tells Aika about it, and her friend looks very angry.

"You just left him off the hook like that?"

"Well, what could I have done?"

"If I were you, I would have ripped him a new one and made sure he doesn't have the nerve to harass another girl."

Sumire laughed. This is why she likes Aikchan; she is so straightforward and blunt. She has never had a friend with such a powerful personality before.