

Melody 551

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 551

Chapter 551: That Man

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No matter how comfortable she gets, her bad habit waking up every two or three hours does not disappear. It was the same this time too. When she opened her eyes Sumire knew it was late into the night, but her gaze scanned a familiar back. Yuhi was sitting with guitar in hand and scribbling something down onto a notepad.

"Yuhi.." Sumire called out.

"Hmm? Go back to sleep, it's still late."

"Um, what about you?"

"I will soon."

Sumire buried her face in his back and Yuhi laughed.. "I thought you would be embarrassed."

"I am but."

'More than that I want to touch you and feel your warmth.'

She immediately shook her head. No, she definitely cannot get caught up in the flow like she did today. It was already bad enough that she agreed! She knew even without looking that Yuhi's wounds had reopened.

The saying exercise self restraint certainly applies to her right now. She has to control herself even more than he does.

Sumire reluctantly pulled away from him and buried her face underneath the thin sheets. Maybe she ought to go back to sleep. It is not like staying awake will help her.

But no matter how much she tried to sleep. It was hard for her to get rid of the image of what Yuhi and her just did. The only thing that remained on her mind was his smile, and how even in that messy situation he still shone so brightly in her eyes.

When did admiration turn into love?

How does one tell the difference? The reality is, it is very difficult. There are certain times where it felt like she merely admires and respects Yuhi. But then there are equally as many times where her heart would beat fast like a girl in love.

She pretends to fall asleep because she knew Yuhi would leave if she did. After a few minutes of pretending to sleep she hears him quietly leave the room.

'He doesn't smoke as much when he is around me. No, I seldom see it these days. It is nice that he is being so considerate.' But there is no point if he is just going to smoke double the amount later on.

Sumire took a deep breath before she managed to get up. It was a bit difficult considering how weak her legs felt but she didn't want to waste much time.

The moment she left the room and stepped out onto the hallway. She hears familiar voices. It was Sano, but right in front of him was a man with long straight pitch black hair. He wore a pitch black robe with fur on top and black garments underneath.

She felt her heart beat increase, and a splitting pain appeared in her head.

Sumire caught a glimpse of her eye colour flickering back and forth.

This presence, could it be that this person is who she thinks he is?

This man is he---her thoughts broke off when the man raised his hand and hit Sano across the cheek.

It was a mere slap but due to the amount of force he fell on the ground.

"You can't even please a client. Who told you to leave?"

"But sir she--"

"Do you think you're special just because I picked you to get closer to Ibuki Sumire? Don't make me laugh, I can always find somebody else. You should know now that I have another agent that is perfect for this role."

'Is he talking about Toh?'

A man with short grey hair and golden coloured eyes appears in her memory. It was one of the worse encounters in her life so she would rather not think about it. But if he is going to resort to threatening Sano with Toh, perhaps she ought to speak up-

Sumire shook her head. Right now she can barely stand, it would be bad if they caught her right now. Moreover, her gaze fell on Sano. He isn't that weak.

She didn't wait for his reply and simply walked in a different direction. The moment she rushed off, the rapid feeling in her heart slowed down. The pain in her head gradually vanished.

'A man with dark coloured hair and an overwhelming presence.' This is the only proper information Eli has managed to obtain about him, but it seems it was enough.

So that's Lucifer is it? Even his name screams evil. That was unexpected, she didn't think she would run into him so soon. No more importantly, how can Sano stay near that man? Just now she was on the verge of collapsing.

'Medicine.' That was the first thing that popped into her mind. Sano was feeding her that odd medication for a while wasn't he?

Is it that? He seemed so adamant that she took it. It seems he was preparing her just in case she crossed paths with him.

How dangerous, it was just a mere glimpse and they were standing so far apart. What if she was right in front of him?

It seems she is no match for him.

'Maybe I ought to consult with Yumi-senpai on this.'

Not maybe she ought to. The situation seems to be getting worse, on the surface it looks calm. But those people are getting bolder and bolder. She saw them on the streets earlier. If they can walk around openly now it must mean their plans are going well.

The moment Sumire entered the rooftop, she spotted Yuhi leaning against the railing. He was overlooking the city smoking, she spotted several cigarettes at his feet and sighed.

'He is way too fast.'

Yuhi immediately turned to her with a gentle gaze.

"Hey love, you joined me after all."

"How many?"

"A few packs."

"You weren't gone that long--"

"Hey give me a break, I have to stop myself from jyming on you again."

Sumire looked at him utterly speechless. Did he hit his head or something? What is with this level of honesty? She cannot get used to this. She didn't respond to this and her gaze fell on the city below.

Tokyo is truly an unusual place. She never thought she would get used to living here. It is far different from Star Town. Star town is not in the countryside, there is a large city too. But the vibe, no the colour, is different. Unlike the colours she sees in Star town that mesh together, the ones in Tokyo are separate.

Is it because there are more people here?

She did not have these thoughts for long since she noticed that Yuhi was gradually getting closer to her.

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Chapter 552: You Feel The Same Way I Do

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Oh this is bad, she is starting to think strange thoughts again.

'Even if he is handsome Ibuki Sumirre you cannot jump on him and eat him.'

"What's wrong?"

"No=nothing." Sumire averted her gaze. "An-anyhow Yuhi-san, which girl did you take up here?"

"Hm?"

"Don't act so casual. I saw how naturally you booked us a room!"

It means he has been here before. Before it didn't bother her, all those rumors and all those other women. But now? Now the situation has changed. She can't control her growing feelings for Yuhi.. She wants everything about him to be hers.

That last part sounds too possessive and strange so she can;t talk to him about this. Sumire recalled the words she told Hino. Hino told her that Yuhi would be happy if he heard those words.

'I think so too, he will be foolishly happy about it. But I do not want him to get too attached to me.' It seems stupid having such thoughts now but she genuinely doesn't want him to get too attached.

Ru was so foolishly honest with his feelings towards her. When they first held hands and the first time he touched her.

Yuhi laughed. "Are you getting jealous again?"

"Are you trying to dodge the question?"

"I have gone here before that is true but on business. As for how casually I booked a room and made romantic arrangements. I planned all that before for one special girl. It's the one I brought with me today."

Sumire immediately understood. "Wait was today-"

Yuhi nodded. "Yeah but it's alright. We can do this again properly another time."

'Gah why did my insecurities have to show up tonight of all nights?'

"I don't mind. I told you previously I already have a hard time controlling myself around you, so even if you didn't break down. I would have held you since it's been awhile."

This person is so shameless. How can he say that stuff with a straight face? Sumire took a deep breathe and placed her hand on the railing, a strong gust of wind blew across her face. But there was something pleasant about the night breeze.

"Black out, all I can feel is a silent heartbeat.

Once the curtain rises it's ride or die.

In my restricted field of view, I smell something sweet.

This place is a false paradise

Still a chrysalis, but nevertheless

Can I still survive here in the dark?

You feel the same way I do.

Once you bathe in the too bright light.

Set me free this is my stage." Sumire sang.

"Another new song?"

"It seems I am on a roll recently."

"I can imagine, is this all that pent up stress for not singing on stage for so long?"

"It maybe." Sumire trailed off. "I truly didn't think it was possible for me to sing on stage again. I didn't think I could face the crowd again. Music is my life, but it was music that caused that accident. Those people knew Yuhi, they knew how precious music is to me. That was why they used that card my previous enemies have never tried to use before."

No matter how many enemies she made over the past few years, it was the first time somebody dared to use music against her.

"They played their cards well, they knew what it would do to me. They didn't try to sabotage my concert, instead they removed somebody precious to me. If that accident happened any other day, then even after. I would have still been able to sing."

She would have used those painful feelings and sang her heart out.

But the enemy didn't give her that leeway. "They stole my voice. So, in return I will take away a single thing."

She thought long and hard about what to do. Shin, Eli and Hino noticed that she didn't want revenge. Indeed what she wanted wasn't revenge. Sumire extended her hand out towards the sky.

There were many stars out, they covered the entire sky.

"Their most precious thing. I will take it from them."

Unfortunately she still doesn't have enough information on the enemy leader. 'I will have to continue to use Sano a bit longer then.'

"I see." Yuhi trailed off and draped his coat around her shoulders. It was the same as earlier and yet there was something different about him.

"Yuhi?"

"This is something I haven't told you yet. But you've seen the scars, no that large scar on my chest right?"

"Yes."

How could she miss such a large scar? Up till now however she hasn't asked him about it. There is no need to ask. Yuhi-san is the type of person who cannot hide things from those precious to him. Since she is so precious to him, Sumire understood that he would eventually talk to her about it.

"I got that, no I did that to myself when I started to hate music."

Eh? Yuhi hate-- Sumire paused in midthought. This is the first time she thought she would hear those words escape his lips. But if she thought about it back when they met during that snowy concert, he told her a lot of things.

"Was it too much?"

"It was. People's expectations, and how they controlled everything I did. The last straw was when they gave my songs to somebody else."

Ah now that he mentions it, there was a case like that. What was the other artist name?

"Kurosawa Touma. He was a upcoming rising newbie in the company, his skills weren't bad. But the only thing was, his manager overdid his promotions. He promoted him as a newbie with not only singing and dancing skills but composing skills. It was clear that this manager was trying to push Touma into competing with me. That was fine, I don't mind if the company has more composers."

"But he couldn't compose?"

Yuhi nodded. "No matter what he did, he couldn't compose. Right at that time I was in a great state. It was shortly after I met you, your meeting had a good influence on me. I wrote the most songs I did in that year. That guys manager thought quote that I won't miss a few songs since I wrote so many. He thought I wouldn't notice. Kurosawa Touma's debut single and his first album, those were all my songs. But by the time Hino realized it, it was too late."

Sumire saw Yuhi clench his fist and she placed her hand on top of his.

He gave her a weak smile. "At first I didn't want to make a big deal out of it. But when the media started to ask who the lucky girl in question was, I got ticked off. I wrote your initials on those drafts. Touma was a scapegoat and said everything his manager said to him. When he said those initials, I--"

"You punched him."

"You truly are my fan huh?"

"Of course." Sumire paused. "Back then I wanted to fly to your side. But I had to restrain. I knew right away those songs were for me and that you realized who I was too."

"I see. That was my only scandal in my whole career. The media tried to blow it up but with my fan base then it was hard for them to fight. I was surprised how many people still chose to believe in me."

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Chapter 553: Even My Tears Will Light My Way

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Sumire didn't reply to this part immediately. Why would he even have those thoughts? No she cannot dismiss or even get remotely angry at his words. This is Yuhi, this is the side of him that he doesn't show anybody. She was the one who told him to show his weak side more. Even if it does frustrate her to hear such negative things come from him.

"I already told you before Yuhi." Sumire took a deep breathe as she reached over and grabbed hold of his cheeks. "There are many snowflakes out there, some who will not fade even if you make a mistake. You just have to find that person, even if it is only one. Terashima Yuhi, you already have that person don't you?"

The same words she said to him a long time ago. This time she can say it with more confidence. Back then she felt like she was in over her head giving Yuhi such advice, but now she can puff up her chest with pride.

To her surprise his eyes widened. He seemed stunned, this surprised her but she still continued.

"That person is right in front of you. When I told you this before I actually hesitated. I didn't think it was right for me to say that. What did I know about your life? I am your fan but the things I knew about you back then were only superficial."

But even though she hesitated she didn't regret it.

"Yuhi you have me now. You don't have to feel lonely or keep all those emotions bottled to yourself. I am here! No matter what happens I will remain your ally."

To her surprise Yuhi burst into laughter and her cheeks coloured. "H-hey!" Sumire exclaimed. "Don't laugh at me, I am serious!"

"I know, I know. I'm not upset about it anymore. I just wanted to tell you that there was a time where it felt like music betrayed me." Yuhi trailed off. "None of my fans realized those were my songs, for people who claim to like me nobody realized how similar. No how the songs were practically the same as my recent ones. Sure I experimented with different styles then but they should have noticed. It hurt me more than I thought. Those songs are mine but they became his, they became another persons words."

Ah, she also had those thoughts. 'I can no longer sing, they took away my voice. But the music industry didn't stop, it continued even though I wasn't there.'

"It made me feel like my presence in the music world was so insignificant and I hated it."

Yuhi nodded. "I also thought the same."

"Yuhi-san, do you ever cross paths with that person?"

"Hino is very overprotective. After he learned it was my songs, he kicked them out of the company. Later on those two joined a big production company, and Kurosawa continued his career."

"But?"

"Naturally they couldn't create the same affect as when they stole my songs. They hired all sorts of people to replicate my style but nobody could do it."

Sumire sighed when she heard that. Cheaters will never win, at the end of the day their lies will end up exposed to the rest of the world.

"Kurosawa didn't do anything wrong, but even after he knew that kid stuck up for his manager and chose to leave the company. I told Hino that we should keep Kurosawa, he didn't do it after all. But

Kurosawa left. I understand caring for your manager but by doing that he acknowledged stealing my voice."

"Have you ever tried to sing those songs again?"

Yuhi shook his head.

Of course it would be difficult for him.

"You caused that scar back then?"

"I was in a lot of pain. I could have easily gone down the drugs and alcohol route but then I remembered how you reacted to me smoking." Yuhi laughed. "So instead I did something else. I thought if I disappeared nobody can steal my voice again."

The context is different from hers, but Yuhi understands how she feels far better than anybody else. They both experienced a time where music their most beloved thing became like poison to them.

Sumire moved her hands away from his face and took a deep breathe before she sang again.

"Once I start beating my sparkling butterfly wings.

There is no stopping me from flying.

As long as I live

I'll keep singing out to you.

I've chased after my precious world.

And I'll captivate it now, butterfly bright."

It was so painful for her, for so long she wanted to sing but no words, not even a single tune left her lips. When she tried to write music she would hyperventilate, and the sight of her instruments would make her dizzy.

"Even my tears will light my way.

The scales that color me now.

Layer upon one another to glow

To shine a light on someone else."

But even during that painful time, she couldn't completely discard music.

"I listened to your songs you know?" Sumire mumbled. "Back when I locked myself up."

She was in so much pain and she felt so suffocated. But when she thought of Yuhi, when she listened to his songs the pain would vanish a little. It didn't completely get rid of it, but it eased her soul.

This person is just like her.

It was the first time she thought they were similar.

It was the first time she realized how all his songs after they met were for her.

'No I knew, but I turned a blind eye to it. Yuhi's feelings for her were crystal clear.'

No matter how many times Ru told her, she blocked it out. She didn't want to acknowledge it. How could it be? How could he fall in love with her? How could he like somebody like her?

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi hugged her from behind, his strong arms wrapped firmly around her. This person he knows her far too well, even without words he knew that she wanted this. She wants him to hold her tight whenever she is sad, whenever she thinks of Ru.

"When I did, it helped me but it was also painful. I realized even then that I still had feelings for you. My feelings for you were still stronger than the ones I developed for Ru."

"Does it bother you? In the end you still loved him."

"It bothers me." Sumire admitted. "Even though he is alive now. I still can't do anything for him."

The fact that he hasn't shown himself once despite being alive, Sumire understood very well. He doesn't want to tie her down to him anymore. He wants her to continue living a happy life with Yuhi. He doesn't want to interfere.

"Ru encouraged me a lot you know? For me to debut. He gave me the final push I needed to achieve my dreams. Even though he knew by doing this he would push me towards you, not once did his smile falter."

From the very start that person has sacrificed so much just for her happiness.

"It seems I can't beat him." Yuhi mumbled.

Eh?

She turned around slightly and saw a troubled look on Yuhi's face. It was a first for her seeing him like this. What did he say just now? Something about not being able to beat Ru?

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Chapter 554: A Better Understanding

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"You know Sumire, you keep saying that you can't do anything for Mamoru and how guilty you feel. But I think you have already given him plenty of love."

"What do you-"

"I mean, look at your reaction when he supposedly died. You acted like your entire life was over."

Her cheeks coloured at those words. It is not like Yuhi is saying it sarcastically and yet she felt a sudden wave of embarrassment.

"You didn't even eat or sleep, and you even gave up music. Sumire you can't see it? You may think you love me more but your actions show otherwise."

"T-that-" Sumire couldn't finish her sentence. After all she never thought of it that way..

Could it be that she truly had stronger feelings towards Ru for awhile? Still even if that was the case, she turned around to face the troubled Yuhi fully. Sumire leaned forward slightly and brushed her forehead against his but she didn't do anything more before pulling away from his hold.

She took a few steps away from him.

"You know it truly surprises me, how you understand me far better than I do myself."

"Well it's a challenge, there are some things even I don't know."

"Indeed, but this is the second. No how many times does it make it now? I have lost count how many times you say such unexpected things."

"Is it that unexpected?"

Sumire nodded and her gaze fell towards the city bellow. Even though it was quite late already, she could still see many signs of life.

"Tokyo is truly a strange place. In star town everybody would be fast asleep by now but everyone here still has so much energy." Sumire trailed off. "But I don't dislike it."

In the past crowded places would make her uncomfortable. She would be self conscious about doing something wrong.

'Am I walking properly? Are my clothes weird?' There was a time where she got anxious about just being around others. Even before the accident happened she was uncomfortable around crowds. Ru took her hand and helped pull her along, so when he left her side, it was normal for her to revert back to her usual self.

"Just now you asked me if it was unexpected. The answer is yes. It has never crossed my mind before. But now that you put it that way, I think, no," Sumire shook her head. "You are right about that. There was a time where my feelings for Ru were stronger, and that was why I acted like my whole life was over. But when you started to send those little messages over, and then released that single. I understood something. I have to meet this person again, I can't leave things unresolved."

'If I meet Yuhi again then I will finally understand.'

"I was convinced that if I saw you again, I would have a better understanding of my heart and my own feelings. It was indeed like that. But I became attached, and now I am unable to leave you."

After she said those words she watched as Yuhi's face colour slowly turned different shades of red. Sumire chuckled when she saw that.

"Am I winning?"

"You really don't change do you?"

Sumire chuckled at those words. "The same goes for you."

Both of them chuckled.

"So now that I have this opportunity to ask. Back then you didn't regret accepting my offer to become partners, right?"

"Indeed."

"Despite everything that has happened, I am truly happy that we got a chance to work alongside each other."

The day he came to the Holy Knights, 'I thought I was going to die of a heart attack. He surprised me. When I saw him I wanted nothing more than to hug him and say how much I have missed him. It was hard controlling myself from jumping on him.'

When Aki said they would be partners, she truly wanted to hit him. Aki knew she was deliberately dodging Yuhi but he made them work together.

Still she can't blame him, after all she was a very difficult person. There were seldom any who could handle her. It was suicidal to keep on going on those dangerous missions alone. Aki acts the way he does but he does everything for a reason.

"Why are you acting like this? We can work together now and even in the future."

"Ah did I scare you?" Sumire laughed. "It was part of my plan. If I looked all nostalgic, and sad I thought your self control would break."

A troubled look appeared on Yuhi's face. "Just when I thought you haven't teased me in awhile." He suddenly pulled her into his arms. "You know, you make it hard for me everyday."

For a moment she is startled but quickly regained her composure.

But it was hard for her to continue teasing him since he used his secret hug technique. She becomes weak whenever he hugs her, his scent is so nice and he feels so warm. Sumire looked up briefly but quickly buried her face back in his arms.

"Hey, what was that?"

"Your making a stupid face again."

"Stupid she says. I was just staring at my cute wife."

"You keep calling me your wife but where is my ring?" Sumire trailed off. She knows he got her one but why hasn't he given it to her yet?

"Your so impatient. But well, I wanted to save giving it to you for a more special occasion."

Is that how it works? She would be fine if he just gave it to her.

"In half a year we will get married, it feels like a dream." Sumire laughed. "I would never have guessed that you would agree to dating me with marriage in mind."

"Hm? Were you only joking."

"No, I'm serious!" She unknowingly raised her voice causing Yuhi to laugh. Sumire felt heat creep onto her cheeks and she coughed. "It's just to propose like that when we are only high school students, normal people would find it weird."

"Really? When you asked me I was delighted. I was already making the preparations in my head."

'I can't retort him if he sounds so serious.'

He is such a big dummy. But her gaze softened, this foolishly honest side of his is something she likes a lot. Sumire looked up and wrapped her arms around his neck.

"My dear, I want to kiss you."

"Now she asks." Yuhi laughed and cupped her cheeks. "I prefer to be the one doing the kissing though."

"Not tonight." Sumire mumbled as she moved his hands away. She traced his bottom lip with her fingers. "It is rare for me to take the initiative right?"

"You got me there."

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Chapter 555: The Results Of The Experiment

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The events of the kiss from yesterday remained fresh in her mind even during the following day. It was awkward checking out of the hotel. She felt like people were watching them. But Yuhi acted so calmly. What is wrong with him? How can he behave so calmly? After she kissed him on the roof, they went back to the room and -- Sumire felt her face heat up at the memory.

'I need to snap out of it, but how can I? Ah, my dear, why is he so handsome?'

Her thoughts break off when she hears people passing by.

"Did you get tickets? I couldn't; they sold out so quickly."

"Behold ta d"

Right today was her concert, the big battle with her senpai,

.

It was all over the city, fliers, trailers, and even an air balloon promoting her showdown with Yumi-senpai. Sumire knew that people would make a huge deal out of it when the day came, but this was more than she imagined.

"What are you doing out in the city on the day of your live?"

"I can't just practice all the time until the concert. Let me have a break."

A panting and out of breath, Hino appeared behind her. He was carrying many bags in his hands.

"A break aside, what is with all this stuff?"

"I plan to celebrate with my dear afterwards."

"Then buy this stuff and send it over."

"That will ruin the surprise."

Moreover, she doesn't want to disturb his rest. Her cheeks colored as she recalled the events of the previous night. It seems ever since that time, Yuhi has been touching her more.

'I do feel happy, but it's still a bit strange.'

Also, he has increased the amount of times he tells her that he loves her. She feels so happy to think the day would come where she would feel such happiness.

Her thoughts broke off when Hino suddenly leaned forward. "Your turning red again. Did something happen with Yuhi?"

"Gah- aren't you way too sharp recently?"

"You are the one who makes it obvious. However, it's a real miracle that he survived this long. You have your days cut out for you now that his limiter broke."

Sumire awkwardly looked away. Even though he says, Yuhi is the most important. This guy still has feelings for her, right? Lately, she has been more self-conscious regarding talking about her relationship with Yuhi in front of him.

"Hey, are you starting to feel bad? You don't say much." Hino immediately understood.

"Your the one who is strange acting so calm."

Hino looked troubled.

"Listen, Sumire. I don't want things to be awkward between us. I understand that you find my behaviour strange, but I want to make this work."

"Make this work?"

"I don't want to lose you as a friend."

Her eyes widened when she heard him say those words. 'He truly is a foolishly honest person, just like Yuhi-san.'

"Then you'll carry more bags for me?"

"You're still going to buy more?"

"Of course, I want this date with my dearest to be perfect."

Her thoughts broke off when she spotted somebody familiar in the crowd. It was Sano; there was a pretty girl with short hair clinging to him.

"Sano-sama, do you have to leave so fast?"

"I already said we won't meet for a while."

"You haven't explained things to me. What is going on? You don't see other women; lately, you're always working overtime in the hospital."

"There's somebody I like. I don't want to do this stuff anymore."

At that comment, the girl's face colour turned pale. "S--somebody you like?"

"Yes."

"Are the rumors true? You really like Ibuki Sumire?"

"I love her."

"Listen to that; he says he loves you." Hino pointed out.

Sumire sighed. "I already know."

"Do you truly understand? That guy--" Hino suddenly paused. "-is about come over."

Gah--?!!! Sumire quickly found a place to hide, and it was just on time. He must have heard Hino's voice. But why did he have to come so quickly? She hid behind a lamp post nearby two stalls, but this was risky. If she moved slightly, he would see her.

'Stay completely still.' Sumire peered over. But she still wants to listen to their conversation.

"Hino."

"Hey, good job over there."

"I don't want to upset Sumire." Sano looked around. "Did she not come with you?"

"What makes you think she is with me?"

"I heard your manager now. Those things are stuff she would buy too."

'How observant. He knew about Hino becoming my manager, but he didn't even come and cause problems.' It seems he has changed. Unlike a few months ago, the current Sano is less arrogant, and he is easier to deal with.

When she avoided him at the start, he used to act so unreasonably. He would come to find her and cause problems for her. But now, he is holding back and waiting for her to see him.

What if she ignores him forever?

This experiment is fascinating. How long until his self-control breaks? Will he return to acting unreasonably?

"Is she not willing to see me? I haven't heard from her in a while."

Hino sighed deeply. "That's not it; she's been busy."

"Then-"

"She'll meet with you on the second. Just stay put."

"I miss her. Do you think she misses me?"

"Gee, you're asking me this?"

Sumire saw Hino's complicated expression. It seems Hino-san is having a hard time. After the last time, she resolved herself not to meet this person. That previous incident was already enough. If they meet again, her plan will surely fail, and yet she watched Hino's expression again.

'I don't want to trouble him too much.' Sumire took a deep breath before she stepped out of her hiding spot.

The moment Sano saw her, he pulled her into a huge hug.

"I missed you."

"Mmmm."

"I really wanted to see you. Sorry but I want to hug you for a while."

"You've lost weight."

So observant of the smallest details. 'I have to admit I am impressed. Back when we dated, he wasn't this attentive.'

"I'm fine. Are you okay? You're working too much."

"I'm alright."

"Will you come and see the show later?"

"I'll be there." Sano trailed off and gently caressed her hair. "Sumire, have you been taking medicine?"

"Um." She immediately averted her gaze.

"You have to take it."

"Alright."

Sano squeezed her hands. "I have to go, but I'll be at your concert."

"Mmm, see you."

She suddenly felt a light kiss on her forehead. For a moment, Sumire froze, completely shocked. She didn't think he would do something like that.

"San-" He cuts her off by leaning forward until their lips are dangerously close to each other.

"On the second, you have to go out with me. Don't forget."

"Right." Sumire managed to say.

Sano nodded, satisfied with her reply before pulling his hands away from her. The moment he was far away, Sumire wiped her clothes with a handkerchief.

"Couldn't resist?"

"I did it as a favor since you looked so worried."

"You're really cruel. Whatever you were planning, I think it's worked already."

"No, it's just the beginning."

This still isn't enough. But, just now, what was with the forehead kiss? He has never done that before. Moreover, just now, he could have easily kissed her, but he didn't. The results of this experiment so far intrigue her.

Still, she has spent far too much time on this issue with Sano. There are other important things she has to do. Her gaze fell on a poster at a nearby music store; it was a poster of M5, her dearest group.

"Sumire?"

"Hino, there is still some time before the concert, right?"

"Yes." Hino trailed off. "Wait, if you want to see Yuhi, you can't right now. He has important work."

Sumire rolled her eyes when she heard his words. He truly is overprotective.

"I thought we could head over to Jun-kun's set."

"Kira Jun?"

Sumire could not miss the dark look that flashed through his eyes. It was only brief, but she saw it.

"Mm, there is something I want to ask him."

"I guess that's fine, but-" Hino's words fell short when rain rapidly fell from the skies. He tossed his jacket over her head and grabbed her wrist.

"Let's wait until the rain stops."

'Rain on a day like this, that's not a bad sign, right?' Still, she cannot continue neglecting others for Sano. During her investigations, there is something she came across, the key she needs may be closer than she thought.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 556

Chapter 556: Innocent Wind Part 1

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

It started the same as usual, the same tiring dream where he was in a green field. It was a bright and warm sunny day.

Jun never understood how he got there. He was aware it was a dream, but it was an unusual one. People normally dream of things that have happened to them. But he has never been to such a place before. The sky never changed; it was the same as ever—a sky with no clouds, the sound of chirping birds.

Nearby the field was a forest, but he never went inside. There is an unspoken rule never to enter a forest, even more so in dreams. Jun sat down by the large tree and stared at the sky.

Now that he thought about it, perhaps this is a familiar place. The school courtyard in Tsukuhara high school is vast, and there is even a chapel in the back.. He would often fall asleep there, and Sumire-san would always be the first one to find him.

'Go back; you cannot stay here.'

He would occasionally hear a voice telling him to come back. He would listen to these voices, and then there would be a strong gust of wind, causing the skies to turn grey.

He never saw what happened next because this would be around the time he woke up.

Jun opened his eyes and found himself in the gardens of the set area. His junior - the one he was mentoring over Kudou Sei was staring at him.

"Jun-San, are you okay?"

"Your concern is unnecessary," Jun said flatly.

"As cold as ever, huh."

Come to think of it; he couldn't find his other junior, the one with the black hair again. According to his calculations, the boy was probably slacking off again.

'I find it a waste since he seems to have talent. But it is his decision.'

"Sei, you made a mistake in that last scene."

At those words, a downcast expression appeared on his face.

"Again, huh? Well, it doesn't matter. I'll just do it over!" Sei declared.

Jun always found his random outbursts quite peculiar. Previously he asked about it, Sei had told him that it helped keep his motivation up, but he didn't understand that.

"But, Jun-senpai, I came all the way here to Tokyo! At least be more excited to see me."

'But the reason this person came in to see Sumire-san's concert.'

It surprised him when he received word that Sei accepted the role and would join him.

His thoughts broke off hearing a familiar voice.

"Jun-kun! Sei!"

One of the main reasons why he followed the other guys to Tokyo was for the sake of advancing his career. But, the main reason is still, without a doubt, this woman in front of him.

"Sumire! This is a surprise; what are you doing here?" Sei said.

"Ah actually." Sumire laughed nervously.

"It's because of the bet, correct?" Jun interjected.

"Eh, that sounds fun; what bet?"

"On the last day before this break commenced. The others were arguing about who would spend time with Sumire over here. That's why we decided to use a quick method of janken. I'm up first until this shooting is over."

'I didn't think she would come today, though, since she has her big concert later on.'

Sumire turned to him. "But even if it was because of the bet, it's perfect timing. I did want to go see you!"

She did? Why? He was well aware that the brunette had plenty of songs she needed to compose, so why would she bother with coming here. It made no sense to him.

His thoughts broke off once he spotted somebody else with her.

'Narasaki Hino. I have seen him quite a few times with Yuhi, but we only exchanged greetings once.'

There are rumors that he became Sumire's manager.

"Everyone. It's time for the next scene."

Once the rain started, the crew headed inside the huge house they rented out for the movie. It was quite an old mansion; there were cracks on the walls and ceiling.

'It looks like it is about to fall apart, and yet they still chose this place as the location for the shoot.'

Jun found Sumire by the huge staircase staring at the rain through the small window and sighing every few seconds.

"Even if I do this, it's not like I'll remember anyway."

"Remember what? Is there something you've forgotten?" Jun asked, appearing behind her.

Sumire almost falls till he catches her with his arm.

"According to my calculations, had I not just caught you there, then you would have ended up in the hospital again."

"Thank you," Sumire mumbled; he gave her a silent nod as a response and let go of the girl's arm.

He always wondered why the girl's cheeks would end up turning a shade of pink like that was similar to that of Momoi Futaba's hair color. If he thought back to it, it did tend to happen whenever anybody touched her.

He wondered what would happen if he touched her more. Jun thought back to that time by the piano in the beach resort during her first year. But he shook his head.

"Did you truly come to see me help with the shoot?"

Sumire laughed. "You're as sharp as ever, huh?" She trailed off. "Yesterday, I finally saw the mysterious leader."

"Did you-"

She shook her head. "We didn't fight. It's more like I saw him drag Sano around."

"I see."

"Tell me, Jun-kun. San is a good person, right? It was his brother who did all those bad things in the past."

"The court didn't make a wrong decision; there was enough evidence. Even those other things you asked me to look into, Nagawa Sano didn't do."

'The only thing I found was his strange possessiveness towards you.' But that was not new to him. How many times has he seen this scene before? The scene of guys falling so badly for this girl.

She is so popular with men. But that isn't her fault; she isn't seducing them or being shameless. The guys who fall for her genuinely have feelings for her.

"I see."

"Do you not want to go and speak with Sei? You haven't talked to him in a while, correct?"

Sumire shook her head. "There is no need. I decided that I won't speak to any of them in private."

"Those guys, I am surprised they all aren't here."

Jun half expected to see the members of Nanairo Feather come running when they heard about the concert. This is a perfect chance for them to meet her.

"There is no need for us to meet now. They understand that very well."

"Indeed, Yuhi-san seems reluctant to share you."

"Aha." Sumire laughed softly. "He acts like that, but he has a good heart."

"I can see that."

Terashima Yuhi is a very good person, contrary to what the rumors say about him.

Jun watched her expression. 'Just a brief mention of Yuhi-san, and her eyes sparkle so much.'

But the brightness in her eyes vanished quickly.

"Remember when I talked to you about losing my memories? It was during one of your movies. I visited the set like I did today."

How could he forget?

That day was the first time it felt like he truly got a glimpse of the real her.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 557

Chapter 557: Innocent Wind Part 2

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

A year ago - Star Town-

It was the first day for his shoot for one of his latest movies. Recently he has received more jobs involving acting. It does not bother him; he is flexible enough to do any job. But on days where it is raining like this, he would rather stay inside.

The increase in rain led them to head inside the building used for one of the movie scenes. The director is most likely deciding on the shooting order. He was wandering around when he found Sumire in the chapel.

"What was that you were mumbling about?" Jun said, making his decision.

He usually does not pry into other people's affairs, but Ibuki Sumire differs from other people.

"Oh, so you heard.." Sumire trailed off. "Jun-kun, do you think you can you keep a secret?"

"I do not find the need to endlessly blabber about other individuals' personal lives in the first place anyway. Therefore I suppose I can give you a favorable response," Jun said in a monotone voice.

"I have amnesia."

Jun could only stare at her with wide eyes for a moment, but he quickly regained his composure.

"From what period of your memories do you seem to be missing? As I can see, you're well aware of Senbi Nao being your childhood friend."

'I wasn't expecting that at all. I thought I already had a good understanding of this girl, I thought I collected enough data, but it seems that is not the case here.'

It seems he will have to observe her for a bit longer.

"For some reason, I have always felt like something was missing. Like there was something important that I had forgotten, I didn't understand what it was. Yet my feelings told me that it was necessary. Every single time I fell in love, something would always go wrong. It wouldn't last long; it would always come to an end. In the end, she probably won't ever truly understand the meaning of love.

The meaning of being close to others or even being friends, I never once thought I needed them in the past. I always believed that I didn't need anyone, that it was okay to stay by herself. Yet, there was indeed someone who taught her the meaning of being close to others. Someone I couldn't remember."

"In those memories that I lost. I felt as though there was someone that I loved deeply. That's why every single time I go out with someone, it always ends eventually. I always end up comparing it to that feeling. That feeling of loving someone so dearly to the point it feels like somebody is stepping over my heart and crushing it into small pieces."

....

Jun snapped back to reality when he realized Sumire was standing directly in front of him.

"It is strange, but maybe I am thinking too deeply."

What is she talking about?

"Jun-kun, you've always reminded me of someone."

Remind her of someone?

Before Jun could say anything else, somebody yanked Sumire away. It was Narasaki Hino. A disturbed-looking expression was on his face.

"Sumire," Hino said sharply. "I thought I told you. You can't force yourself to remember things. The strain it has on your mind is too severe."

"But not remembering is just as bad." Sumire sighed. "Don't think I haven't noticed Hino. You act very sensitively when it comes to the guys in M5. You only behave this way when it comes to the past, so I just put two and two together."

"Damn."

"You know I dislike it the most when you hide things from me."

Sumire walks back up to him. "Jun-kun, you told me you lost your memories before. I thought there was a chance that we knew each other."

Jun blinked at this sudden theory of hers. 'I knew her in the past?' For some reason, he can't dismiss that idea.

"But hmmm, I still can't remember. Hino here is being too stubborn, so I will never get anything out of him."

Hino sighed deeply. "You keep causing problems."

Before he could get any words out, the doors opened, revealing Yuhi. "Hey Jun, you left behind--"

The brunette by his side quickly vanished. It surprised him how quickly she disappeared and landed in Yuhi-san's arms. No, what surprised him more was how she suddenly kissed him.

"Man overboard." Yuhi laughed. "I didn't think I would see you here."

"Mmm, me too! My dear, it's telepathy."

"You're so cute."

'What an idiotic couple. Just now, she seemed so serious, but her behavior changes when she is around Yuhi.'

In the past, he had a conversation with Sumire about those foolish girls in his class harping on and on about romance.

Why do people change so much when they fall in love? He had a hard time understanding, at least back then.

"Yuhi-san, she is here because of the bet."

"Oh right. I have indeed hogged you since you came here. You should have more time to spend with Kou and the others who went out of their way to come here."

"Che, if I have free time, I would rather spend it with you."

She is as blunt as ever. But this is one of the things he liked about her. Ibuki Sumire is not the type of person who would hide what is on her mind. She is not the type to pretend in front of those dear to her.

"What were you two talking about just now? Why does Hino look like he is going to hurt someone?"

"Oh, you see, uh."

Jun quickly interjected and briefly explained what had just happened.

"You wanted to know if Jun was with us in the facility?"

"Yes."

"Well, you didn't have to worry your pretty head about this and just ask me." Yuhi turned to him. "Yes, he was."

Huh? Jun blinked, startled at the sudden revelation. Huh? How come-

"Jun, I don't know how much you do know. But you had an accident when you were younger. Your brother had no choice but to leave you in the facility because no other medical center was willing to accept you. Because he was worrying that much, Kou also came with you."

Kou also came with him? An accident when he was younger led to him losing his memories. Jun placed his hand on his head; it felt like all the pieces were coming together. But the moment he tried to focus on it, a wincing pain appeared in his head.

Sumire walked over and placed her hand on his forehead. "I think you're coming down with a fever Jun-kun."

"I knew it." Yuhi sighed. "Jun acts like a robot half the time, but he is a normal human; nobody can have this much energy after not sleeping for a week."

"A week? Not even a little?"

"That's the thing, he closes his eyes for like five minutes, but I don't think he is sleeping."

"Jun-kun, you have to lay down!"

So this is how he found himself on a rather old-looking couch in one of the downstairs rooms. Sumire put all sorts of blankets to make it comfortable for him. Yuhi went to find the director and dragged Narasaki Hino with him.

"It is chilly here. I guess the heating doesn't work."

"Sumire-san, I apologize."

"Hm? I find it weird that you are apologizing." Sumire pulled a few things out of her bag. "It is a good thing that I come prepared for these things."

"Sumire-san, aren't you too calm?"

"Maybe it's because I don't remember yet. I see I knew not just Yuhi as a child but also you and Kou." Sumire laughed. "I suspect the other two as well. It will be hilarious if it turns out to be true."

Chapter end

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 558

Chapter 558: Innocent Wind Part 3

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

Is she really having fun with this? He watched as she put some water in the kettle and pulled out a bottle of sugar and a bottle of coca powder.

"Hot chocolate again?"

Sumire laughed. "Mm, it's the best drink for rainy days."

Now that he thought about it, something like this happened in the past. He noticed how unusual she behaved whenever it rained. She seemed more docile and weak. It was during those days where he caught a glimpse of the real her.

"I didn't think you would come; at least I thought you would skip the first day since you have your concert."

During the draws, Ran and Kou were doing strange chants and other things to avoid getting first. They usually would argue who would go first, but it was the opposite this time..

It didn't matter to him whether he got first or not. Sumire-san will find a way to skip out and spend more time with Yuhi-san. Unlike Ran, he is not bitter about her not spending time with them. It is normal. Sumire-san has a boyfriend now; naturally, she wants to use her free time on him.

'It does feel a bit lonely but as long as she is happy.' That's right; they didn't come to Tokyo to bother her. They came here to make sure she was living happily.

"Something has changed between you and Yuhi-san."

It was just a normal remark, but he watched as the girl seemed to tense up.

"S-something has changed?" Sumire stuttered.

He knew even without facing her that her face was bright red. Or rather, he could see through the reflection of the window.

"Remember, you are still high school students."

"I don't want to hear that from the four who deliberately failed a year."

"If we didn't, then it wouldn't be possible to attend the same the same school."

Sumire sighed deeply as she walked over with a cup of hot chocolate and some medicine.

"Drink this first, and then you can have that."

Jun nodded and weakly sat up. His entire body felt sluggish and hot, but he managed.

"You guys didn't have to come here."

It seems she is finally willing to talk about this.

"Indeed, there was no need. But we didn't trust Yuhi-san back then."

To think he managed to do the impossible. Back when they first met her, she was a very cold-hearted person. She only brightened up when it came to anything music-related. She had a hard time getting along with others.

It surprised him when he first entered the school and saw her getting along with her classmates. What sort of magic did he pull?

"He did the impossible." Jun trailed off. "I thought only Mamoru-san could manage it."

Sumire laughed. "It is impressive. Yuhi-san's stubbornness won."

"More like his love for you."

"Uh-aha."

"It is because of his strong feelings towards you wanting to live a normal life, to see his loved one experience happiness."

Even though they all tried back then to help her, it did no good. She got along well with them. But it was hard to close that distance between the members of her class and her. It was strange because everyone in the senior year liked Sumire.

She just never seems to get along with people her own age; why is that? They never figured it out, and yet Yuhi managed it.

After spending time with him in the same group, Jun finally understood how he could do it.

"This is the first time for me, meeting such a foolishly honest person."

Sumire nodded. "Mm, I thought that too. He is so foolish and honest about his feelings. It was dazzling. I never thought I would see somebody shine so brightly. His honest feelings won me over. I could tell that he genuinely wanted me to get better, to experience love and happiness."

"Are you still afraid?"

"I am; there are times where I feel like breaking down, but unlike before, something has changed. I have Yuhi-san by my side. I can run to him whenever I have a hard time."

It seems there is genuinely no need to worry about her. Jun's thoughts broke off when they heard a knock on the door. Narasaki Hino enters.

"Sumire, head to the venue with Yuhi."

"But-"

'Oh, now I understand the reason why she is with Narasaki when Yuhi-san's schedule this morning isn't that busy.' Is she worried that something will happen like before?

"You said it yourself that you doubt that the enemy will use the same move twice."

"Stupid Hino, don't tell Yuhi that."

At those words, Yuhi entered the room. He quietly observed the situation before picking Sumire up. No to be more accurate, he lifted Sumire-san over his shoulder.

"Yuhi! Please put me down! I already said I won't go with you!" She kicked and hit his back, but it did no good.

"I'm escorting you right to the door. Hino, you can send over that stuff to the house and join us."

"Alright."

Jun finished drinking the mug of hot chocolate and put it down before swallowing the tablets Sumire-san left.

"Kira Jun."

"What is it?"

"Yuhi acts nonchalant about it. But it would do you no good to remember."

'That should be my decision. I wonder why he is acting so sensitive about it.'

"Think why Maon Kou hasn't told you anything even though he remembers."

Why hasn't Kou told him anything, huh? Jun didn't reply and watched as Hino shut the door behind him. Jun slumped back down onto the couch and placed his hand on his forehead.

It is not like he wants to remember. Back when he told Sumire-san that he had lost his memories. He only said those words to comfort her; he wanted to indirectly say that she wasn't the only one.

'You can live even without those memories.' Up till now, he has never tried to get his memories back. There is no need; he is content with his current life. But after learning that he knew not just Sumire-san but even Yuhi-san in the past.

'I am curious.'

Even before the idol board proposed making a group with Terashima Yuhi, a part of him drawn towards Terashima, is it because he is the god of composers? Certainly, it would not be odd for him to admire someone based on their skills. But there was something more.

When he first met Ibuki Sumire, he realized that there was something different about her than all the others.

'Why are those two so important to me?'

Jun couldn't fight back the exhaustion and sickness in his body anymore and ended up falling asleep. For once, the image of that field did not appear in his mind.

Chapter end

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 559

Chapter 559: My Dearest Person Part 1

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

At a radio station in the center of town-

A man with brunette-colored hair just finished his weekly radio program recording.

One of his bad habits since he started his career and since Junie's accident was randomly falling asleep in random places. The moment somebody tells him that work finished for the day, he would fall asleep. Today was no exception either, the light turned red after his radio program, and he fell asleep in seconds.

Whenever he would fall asleep, a memory from the past would come to him.

No, it was not about his comatose friend. For so many years, he only had dreams/nightmares about Junie. But when she came into his life, that changed.

He recalled it just like it was yesterday. They somehow ended up in that type of relationship despite only knowing each other this month..

...

At Tsukahara High School

It had been a week since then, the two of them more or less acted normal with each other. But when the occasion came to it, they would get intimate.

He would act as her friend, senpai, and someone she could go to whenever she had problems with those guys, whenever she was worried or longing. The person she wants so bad is Arashi, right? In the beginning, it didn't bother him, but now it irritated him.

'I already promised her that I won't get attached but what is this?'

Is it because of their physical relationship? No, even before they started that he was already attracted to her. She is pretty, but there are prettier people out there, so it can't be about looks.

'I wonder how long this physical relationship will last. It would be bad if others found out they were sleeping together.' Mimi already has a bad image among her peers. Should he end it? But he recalled the lonely look in her eyes.

It would be bad to leave her that way.

His gaze fell on his friends. The pink-haired model Momoi Futaba is Sumire's best friend. She was talking excitedly to Ran about something.

"Get this Ran-chan was like whoosh and pow!" Futaba explained.

'Should I discuss it with her?' Kou shook his head. Futabchii will kill him if she finds out he has been sleeping around with Sumire.

Ran sighs. "What's with the strange actions, Futaba?"

"That's how it is, though."

His thoughts broke off when he spotted a brunette-haired girl by the doorway and stood up. "Mi-mi."

"Oh, Kou-kun."

"Did you need Futabchan for something? I'll call her over."

But before he could turn away, she tugged on his sleeve.

"I came here for you."

Kou seemed genuinely surprised at this. "Me?"

He watched as she suddenly turned a bright shade of red at those words, causing him to chuckle.

"What did you want?" Kou murmured, whispering in her ear seductively.

"K--Kou-kun wait stop were--"

Before he could do anything, suddenly somebody wedged a book between them. Kou looked at the culprit.

"Ran-Ran."

"Tell him already."

Sumire suddenly brought out a piece sheet of music. "I wrote you a song."

She did what? Kou couldn't believe it.

This action didn't go unnoticed by all the others in the room since all the students exclaimed. At the very least the girls reacted first.

"Ibuki Sumire wrote a song for Kou-sama!"

"Isn't she Nanairo feathers composer?"

Right, Mimi is Nanairo feather's composer. However, there is no rule in the academy about composing for more than one group. The composers normally avoid it because it would cause misunderstandings.

"A rivalry?"

"Mimi, are you sure?" Kou finally managed to ask.

A faint blush dawned on her cheeks as she fiddled with her fingers, "Yes. Actually, in the beginning, I was quite nervous about it. But lately, my thoughts, my soul, everything is filled with you, and that's why I couldn't help myself."

...

Kou woke up to somebody shaking him. It was Sumire.

"Kou? Are you alright?"

He blinked once and then another, but it was indeed her. What is she doing here?

"What about your concert?"

"You really must be out of it; my concert doesn't start till later. I was heading to the venue with Yuhi when I saw you here."

Is that so? But wait to head to the venue with Yuhi? 'I thought she would avoid that.'

"If you would like, you can join us."

Kou didn't think she would ask him to tag along. It looked like they were arguing about something but after a while. He watched as Sumire buried her face in Yuhi's back.

"I'm only scared; you understand why right?"

"I do, but I want to reassure you that nothing will happen."

Despite the vague exchange, Kou understood the current situation. So, Mimi wanted to travel separately from Yu-Yu today because of what happened before?

It's not like it's any safer if they are apart. In fact, it may be better if they stick together. But he also thought she would do this. Despite how happy she is now, Kou knew the scars had yet to heal from her heart.

Mamoru-san is alive, but Sumire is still affected.

It isn't fair, even though music is the most important thing to her.

Yuhi turned back to him. "Earlier, when I saw Jun, he had a terrible fever."

"Ah."

"Next time, you should stop him from staying up late. Then again, with your schedule, it is a bit difficult."

Kou laughed. "I will remind him."

'Jun is very hardworking, just like Junie. The only difference between the two is one is emotionless, and the other is bright and cheerful. How strange, I used to think of Junie every day but now-' His gaze fell towards Sumire.

The girl was clinging to Yuhi's arm.

She truly has an unusual ability to draw people.

No, it's probably because of his feelings for her. If he didn't fall for her, then perhaps the situation would be different.

Kou was about to say something when they saw a huge crowd gathering; in the center was a man with ginger hair and one with dark hair, wearing glasses and a blue uniform.

"Uh, Yuhi, isn't that Yoru and Sora?"

"Atushi, Jae, Kawa, Chitose are there too." Yuhi trailed off. "It's unfair for them to start a brawl without me."

"I can even see Asuk geh Yuhi stop them! I don't need injured people attending later."

With those words, Yuhi quickly left. Sumire turned to him. "Now I got Yuhi out of the way, Kou come with me for a bit."

Huh?

Sumire didn't say anymore and turned away. Kou quickly went after her. It would be bad for her to be alone right now. He heard the recent movements of those people from Hamano. It seems they are worried about her concert with Takahashi Yumi.

There is no way they will leave her alone. They have to be on their guard. This is the reason why Tachibana Masaru and Kudou Sei came all the way from Star Town to Tokyo.

It surprised him when he heard from his kohai that only those two would attend out of the seven. But it would attract too much attention if they all came.

Those guys would rather sacrifice their longing to see her than cause problems for her.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 560

Chapter 560: My Dearest Person Part 2

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

In the end, Sumire stopped at a nearby riverbank.

"Taking it easy like this is nice," Kou said, staring into the orange hue that filled the skies.

'It is already this time? I didn't realize.' Then again, with the earlier rain, it was hard to tell.

"You're always so busy after all."

"Being busy has never bothered me. I knew I could always quit if I wanted to." Kou said. That's right, because there is no official contract, He could have easily quit, and there would have been no hassle whatsoever.

"You can't quit!" Sumire said frantically..

"What? Uh, Mimi?"

She suddenly looked so frantic and panicky. Kou smiles; ahh ahh, this really is like her.

"Everyone needs you--" He cuts her off by reaching over and patting her head.

"It's okay; I don't think that way anymore. "

Those thoughts that had once been in the forefront of his mind had gone. After she disappeared, the other guys began to act strange, and before long, they all fell apart as a group.

They were on the verge of disbanding; he was one of the first ones who wanted to quit. Yet she came crashing down in their world almost like a shooting star. If he thinks about it carefully, the girl's timing was far too good.

Sumire sighs in relief as he gently ruffles his hair before releasing his hand.

'Out of respect for Yu-yu, this is as close as I will get with her. I cannot close that gap even if I wish to.'

It is hard for him to erase his feelings for her. However, he will never act on those feelings. Mimi looks so happy when she is with Yuhi; it would be stupid of him to intervene. Moreover, he has become closer with Yuhi too. He is a very good person. Kou could see why Sumire fell for him.

"I have a pretty long history in the entertainment world. I debuted as a kid, worked solo for a while, and appeared in plays, movies, and TV shows. I had good times and not-so-good times. Somehow, after all that, I ended up in a group."

"You mean Quatro Light."

"Yeah." He trails off. "At first, I didn't think we'd do well. And when Yu-yu came along, I thought it would become even more of a disaster."

Having four cold-hearted and cool type guys in one group is a recipe for disaster after all. She must have realized what he thought since she chuckles.

"But you all seem to understand each other."

"Is that how it looks to you?"

"Yes," Sumire said with a tender gaze.

"Lately, Nanairo Feather has been growing rapidly."

"What?"

"They were good before, but they had their shortcomings; individually, they were all weak. But now that is no longer the case."

'Their speed of growth worries me. Right now, M5 is standing on top, but the thing weighing them down is their strength as a group. Ran-ran's dislike towards Yuhi is a huge problem. The others have settled their differences but not Ran.'

On the other hand, Nanairo feather is strong as a group and individually. At this stage, they will end up surpassing them.

"Yes."

"The members of Nanairo feather don't just get along. They're united." The brunette blinked, and yet he continued with his sentence. "Since meeting and watching them, I started to think I could enjoy singing in a group."

It was mainly Sumire's influence, but Kou truly wanted to enjoy singing and dancing with his group members watching those guys. But those three can be quite cold-hearted. They aren't honest with their feelings.

Kou thought Terashima Yuhi would be the same, but it was not like that at all. That guy is strangely good at getting along with people.

Sumire's gaze brightened. "I agree. They love singing. I love all their smiles, too-" As she spoke, Sumire slowly got closer to him until her face was inches away from his. Huh?

The two of them back away from each other immediately.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I got caught up in my thoughts."

'It was just a brief contact, and yet my heart beat like crazy.' Kou quietly sighed in his head. Whenever it concerns those guys, this girl lets her guard down too much.

"You know if you saw Jun earlier. Then surely Kudou was there too. Are you sure you should be here with me?"

At those words, he watched as a troubled look appeared on her face before she loudly exclaimed. "I am practicing self-restraint!"

Kou sweat fell at her words. "You don't have to. They came here to see you."

"But last time I said I would meet them together. It doesn't seem right for me to have a one and one private meeting."

"No, no, it doesn't matter. You realize that too, right?"

Sumire sighed. "I understand, I do-" She trailed off. "But somehow, I get the feeling that now isn't the time."

"Say, Mimi."

"Yes?"

"What do you plan to do with Atsuro?"

He watches the brunette turn stiff at the mention. "Ne tell me. "

"W-- don't say it!" Sumire exclaimed.

Oh, this is a fresh reaction.

"Why not?"

Kou spotted the girl's cheeks go bright red; it seemed to compliment the sunset scenery quite well. It's not new for her to be self-conscious about Atsuro, but this is the first time he's seen this expression on her face.

"That it doesn't tell Yuhi but awhile ago at the start of my hospitalization after my return--"

Ah, come to think of it, he called Ryou because he was worried about her condition and the violet-haired man sent Atsuro over.

"So, what did he do?" Kou said curiously.

Surely there's nothing else Atsuro can do to make her nervous anymore? Atsuro had that type of relationship with her; even though she wasn't in the best state, then they still did it.

When he first heard the news, it didn't surprise him too much; after all, he saw how lonely Sumire was.

'I took advantage of it, so why wouldn't anybody else?'

"P--p-r-opo---"

Despite her saying only half the sentence and in a flushed state, he could make out her words.

"Eh? Mimi? Are you serious? Atsuro proposed to you?"

What is with this development? How could Kusaji Atsuro have the nerve to propose to her. The guys that have been around Sumire since she came to Tokyo including Yu-yu are Nakara Shin, Narasaki Hino, Nagawa Sano and that researcher Eli.

Moreover, Mimi has been doing a great job avoiding him. Normally, under those circumstances, one would rethink their next move carefully. How does he have the confidence to propose? What made him think she would say yes?

"Sssh!" Sumire placed her hand on her mouth. "What do we do if there's some press lurking around here on their break or something?"

Kou chuckles. "Mimi, you've actually become wary of the press?"

"It's only natural, don't you think?"

Indeed with the level of harassment, the media has given her, it is normal for her to remain more cautious.