

Melody 571

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 571

Chapter 571: Gift

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No, it's not like they never tried to get her.

There were times when it felt like she was not alone. She felt like somebody was watching her. But she could not be too sure because she was half crazy. The only time she stopped feeling that way was when Toh visited.

Sumire paused as she thought about her words. When Toh visited?

He must know something. She ought to contact him.

For a while, she was indeed in contact with him, but after she arrived in Tokyo, a lot happened, and she had not heard from him. Would it be shameless of her to contact him now?

Her thoughts broke off when she heard the sound of rattling and noticed that Shin had attached something to the bracelet on her wrist. It was a small charm in the shape of a piano.

She blinked for a moment before asking. "Is this my Christmas present?"

Shin does not say anything, but Sumire immediately notices how he averted his gaze. She stared at the charm made out of pure silver. It was one of the things she learned of when she was studying fashion design, how to identify real silver and real gold.

It may seem like a small and cheap gift to others, but she could determine the value from a mile away.

"I didn't think you had good taste," Sumire commented, causing the silent Shin to speak up.

"I heard that silver can be used as a form of protection. Although I do not understand the logic behind it, I figured this was a less obvious way of protecting you."

She still wore the bracelet he gave her because Shin insisted it was for protection. Indeed she confirmed with Yuhi that there was a tracking device on it.

A small bracelet with a small ginkgo on it, it was such a simple gift, so she did not think much of it at the time. But she still showed Yuhi and told him that Shin had given it to her.

It is wrong for her to wear a gift from somebody who is not Yuhi. Even though they personally knew that he had no hidden intentions when he bought it for her. If the media knew that Shin gave it to her, it would be easy for them to cook up a story. So whenever anybody asked her, she casually mentioned that it was something Yuhi made for her. Yuhi also went along with the story.

Normally she would tease him; however, perhaps it was the impact of singing with Yumi-senpai. But for the first time in so long, she felt relaxed.

"Thank you."

"You don't have to thank me. I am only protecting you because I was asked."

At those words, Sumire shook her head; she already knew the truth.

Why is this person still trying to lie- no, why does he insist on protecting her to this extent? She already knew the reason, yet she also felt it was not that simple.

Her gaze fell back on the documents. "So next month, it seems the peaceful days have come to an end."

"Sumire, you-"

"I understand. I knew this time would come when I insisted on pursuing the truth. I could have easily turned back. They gave me a chance to turn back. However, they also provoked me."

The reason why Sano was suddenly interested in investing in the entertainment industry. It was something she asked him the last time they saw each other. 'It was something they ordered.'

Those people knew about Yuhi and her, and they also knew she would be in the company that day. It was a set-up from the very start. How despicable of them to use this method. They knew they could use Sano against her, and unfortunately, they were right.

They deliberately gave him that badge so she would take an interest in it. She felt like a huge fool when she thought about how obvious they have been this entire time. How could she have allowed such people to trick her?

But, a part of her already understood when she saw that emblem. It is far too much of a coincidence. No matter how much she asked Atushi to investigate it whenever he visited her, he said it did not exist. She knew Atushi, and the others thought she was going crazy. Perhaps she was, but that emblem remained in her mind even when she was sleeping.

It was a clue, but she could not make sense of exactly what it was in her state. Did she see it before or after the accident? What meaning did it have?

Even though she wanted nothing more than to have a peaceful life, now she was finally together with Yuhi. It was not possible at all. For her to move forward, she has to confront the things disturbing her heart.

The accident that day, and what those people want with her until she learns the truth, she cannot move on properly.

"Are you going to be fine? Those people are not using ordinary means. Half the artists they recruited are individuals who dislike you a lot." Shin pointed to the next page. "See this name?"

The words Hori Ayaka made her exhale deeply; it was clear who this person was even without much investigation. "Is there something wrong with that family? They were the ones who put me through hell; why do they keep harassing me and not leaving me alone?"

Is it not enough for that woman to have stolen her manager, place in the company, and used her status? Later on, after settling into Star records, she quickly investigated how far those two would go.

If they could get hold of the elite invitations sent for her, it meant they must have infiltrated the elite industry to a certain extent.

According to what she learned, Hori Fuuko debuted into high society using her status. She made it look like the only survivor of the Ibuki family was ill and that she would be the one to inherit all the assets. So, naturally, people started to flock to her.

She wondered how that woman could gain so much fame and connections in a short amount of time. It turned out she used the connections she gained there.

"Right now, there is not much they can do but this. However, if they do cause further trouble with you, let me know right away."

Sumire immediately sensed his change in tone.. "Does this mean that this one-" She pointed to the name on the top of the second page. "-is an evolved human too?"

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 572

Chapter 572: Who Is The Fool?

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"Correct. Hyou4 shared her records the other day, and it turns out she only awoken those abilities a year ago."

She shuddered when she saw the date on the sheet.

'Is this not the time frame where I started dating Ru, and then the kidnapping-?'

It could just be a coincidence, but Sumire got a bad feeling.

"Investigate this day and what she was doing then."

It was a simple order, but she knew it would confuse Shin.

"There are many others who could cause you more harm. Is there a reason why you are so fixated on her?"

Sumire did not see the reason why she had to hide it and immediately voiced out her thoughts. "What do you think?"

"It is true that it is far too much of a coincidence. There might be a link somewhere. But whatever lead this is will be faint. Do you still want me to look into it?"

Indeed if this woman was hell-bent on entering the entertainment industry, she would eventually learn it. People who go against her tend to become agitated and reveal the reason for their hate. When a person is angry, it is easier to pry away any safely guarded information with a bit of provocation.

Moreover, there are other things she wants Shin to look into.

"Multiply."

Shin exhaled, and Sumire sighed too. "It would be nice if you could."

"I'm not the only one who can look into things for you. I am indeed part of the police force and the SF, but the SF is making things difficult for me lately."

"I don't have any other options. However, you are right. Many people would follow my orders. How many of those do I trust? How many of them do I want to risk getting involved? Asking someone to investigate is the same as endangering their lives. I cannot risk that."

"So it's okay to endanger my life?"

Sumire wore a complicated expression on her face when she heard those words. The last time Shin went on that dangerous mission and came back severely hurt, she had many regrets.

Her thoughts broke off when Shin flicked her forehead.

"I can see why Yuhi does that to you."

"Hey-!"

"I understand that I am the only one in the best place to help you. That researcher guy was too occupied with his research. Narasaki Hino is the president of an entertainment company, and he prioritizes Yuhi's safety. This type of snooping around and investigating could potentially get him in trouble. Nagawa Sano, well, if you ask him for a favor, it is the same as surrendering yourself to him, no?"

Sumire sighed when she heard that last part. Right, she also has to deal with that person on the second of January. Unfortunately, no matter how much she wanted to occupy herself with work that day, there were no jobs that day.

Sure, people have national days off; however, it was different for the entertainment industry. There were a lot of things they could do during the holiday season. She found it weird how there was no music-related job during that day until she heard Hino cursing the other day.

'Your saying Sano contacted you and canceled everything?'

That guy, even though he said he would not force her, doing something like this means forcing her to accept.

"You look troubled whenever anybody mentions him. Is it that hard to just let him go?"

"It is; even if you tell him directly, he still doesn't understand."

She honestly had difficulty dealing with him despite what she made it look like. She intended to use him at the start, no matter what methods she used. But after all those honest conversations with Yuhi, she realized how much her actions hurt him, so she rethought her plans.

"I am still deciding what I will do with him. But until then, I will leave things the way they are. This also benefits the media. If I continue acting ambiguous with San, it will distract them."

If they focus on the so-called love triangle, then they won't find out about her snooping around investigating Ru's case.

It will distract them for a while. There was a time when she first debuted that the reporters followed her to the Holy knight's headquarters. Fortunately, Aki was waiting for her at the gate that day and spotted them. She did not know how he dealt with them, but there was no report of it on the news.

"I see Atsuro is not a candidate."

"It is more believable with San."

Actually, since there were previous rumors about Atsuro and her, it would be easy to use Atsuro.

Sumire suddenly sensed him turning quiet. "What's wrong?"

"Nickname." Shin pointed out.

"Oh, are you jealous? Do you want me to call you a nickname too?" Sumire trailed off. "Shin-ch-" Her sentence fell short when he flicked her forehead again.

"Fool, merry Christmas."

However, before she could say anything else, Shin was already riding away on his bike.

'I wonder what that was all about; the guys around me are all so strange.'

Sumire did not think much of it and walked in the direction where she last saw Yuhi. She waited there for a few minutes before realizing something. They didn't exactly say they would meet up here after she finished talking to Shin. Did Yuhi think Shin would take her back?

As she thought this, she saw a trail of blood on the ground. It was faint and not very large, but how could she miss it with her sharp senses?

She recalled what Shin had just called her a few minutes ago. Who is the fool here?

Sumire followed the blood trail and saw a man leaning against the walls by the neighborhood dumpster area. Even from a distance, she could tell he was injured. This is strange; how did he get this hurt when he only had to fight off a mere reporter? According to her memory, the guy she briefly looked at was not strong at all. How did they catch Yuhi off guard?

She quickly approached him and found him gripping a watch on his hands. She unfolded his hands as she bent down and identified the watch.

'Sano's watch? To be exact, this is the watch I made for him.'

It was her first time making something like that, and she was unsure how well it would turn out. But surprisingly enough, Sano liked it enough to wear it every day. When they reunited, she did not realize that she had made the watch for him since he covered the strap.

Sumire exhaled deeply, understanding the situation. "San chased that reporter, and you two got into a fight?"

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 573

Chapter 573: Crazy Suggestion

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Yuhi, who had just been sitting there since she arrived, suddenly tugged on her hand. "I think I managed to win, but only because I knocked this thing off his wrist."

".."

Sumire immediately understood what he was trying to say. "It is already a thing of the past. If you want one, I can get you something better."

The important thing right now is being able to treat his wounds. Sumire inspected his face, a badly bruised eye, and swollen cheeks. 'I have to admit that I am a little impressed. I did not think Sano had it in him to start a brawl.'

Moreover, it must have taken a lot of courage to fight against Yuhi. When she worked together with Yuhi in the Holy knight's organization, many felt intimidated by Yuhi's presence alone.

"The past, huh? The strap is damaged, so he used something else to cover it. He did not want anybody to change the design, so he simply protected it. Your not moved after hearing this story?"

"Why would I be?"

Yuhi continued not letting go of her wrist the entire time but not making any other moves either. "It seems the biggest competitor to win your heart is actually Sano, not Mamoru."

What nonsense is he spouting now? She recalled the words she exchanged with Shin and sighed. If Yuhi-san is this insecure about it, she would be heartless to continue seeing Sano.

'I should stop meeting him to avoid this misunderstanding.'

"If I asked you not to see him, you would probably do so in a heartbeat. That would be the right thing to do. However, I do not want to see you fretting over him when your not around him."

"That's not-"

"While we are on this topic, tell me about the other one too."

It never occurred to her that Yuhi observed her reactions towards Toh. She only briefly mentioned it before. Sumire exhaled deeply and pulled him up.

"First, let's find a place to sit down."

In the end, they decided to remain in the residential area. If they go to a public park, even if it is late, there is a chance for people to eavesdrop. It was getting very late now.

While she was initially in a rush to get to the party, she knew they would be partying all night with those guys' personalities. It would make no difference whether they were late or not.

Sumire reassured herself of this fact as she turned to take some supplies from the medkit in front of her. It turned out someone had seen the fight and wanted to call the police but refrained when she

recognized the people fighting. When she went looking for a medkit, this lady approached her with one with a smile.

'You have to treasure that one. He was truly fighting to protect your honor.'

She did not know what kind of words Yuhi and Sano exchanged. But it was easy to guess since she understood their personalities very well. Sano probably said some misleading things regarding her, and Yuhi defended her. Even though they both harbor deep feelings for her, why was one of them such a fool?

"You're thinking of him again," Yuhi observed.

"Only as a passing thought." Sumire dabbed some antiseptic with the cotton and held it against Yuhi's eyes. "Hold this."

"Mm."

"Do you truly think that lowly of me Yuhi-san? You already know what kind of things he did to me in the past. Why do you think I still harbor feelings for him?"

"It is more like your actions say more than your words do. Don't you know whenever he gets hurt, you look very pained. It is small things like this that make me think otherwise."

"If that is the case, are my feelings a lie?" Sumire challenged him.

To her surprise, Yuhi shook his head. "No, I know who you like. It may sound like I am contradicting myself here, but I just want to make a few things clear before the new year."

"This sounds like an interrogation."

Yuhi laughed. "I won't do that to you."

Even though he could easily do so, she has learned by now that this person would do anything to ensure that she is safe from harm. He will never force her to do anything.

There are times when sometimes she wishes he would be harsh on her, but if he actually executed it, she would be disappointed.

"What do you want to do?" Yuhi asked her in a kinder tone.

Sumire stopped treating his wounds and slumped her head on his shoulders. "It is hard to say." She mumbled. "I thought I knew what I was doing with him before, but it turns out that is not the case. I have regrets. I already told you this. But, even if I have regrets, what can I do about it? We cannot return to those times."

The person she knew had long disappeared. She could tell after spending so much time with him that the darkness had already taken over his heart. The pain and grief he experienced cannot vanish. The damage has already been done; that person has already suffered enough.

"There is a method, but you are going to scold and scorn me for even mentioning it."

Sumire felt her heartbeat increase and her face color turn cold, understanding exactly what he meant.

"I am not returning to him!" She exclaimed.

That is the last thing she is going to do.

"But hear me out if all you need is closure. You should temporarily get back together and then end the relationship in a normal way-" Sumire did not let him finish his sentence as she stood up and stormed away.

She did not get very far since she felt a familiar pair of arms hug her from the backstopping her in her tracks. "Let me go."

"I can't do that."

"Yuhi-" Sumire said angrily. "How could you even suggest that?" Although it was indeed the most logical thing to do. If she didn't enter a relationship with him, she would have probably done that eventually. But now that she is dating him, how could she possibly do something like that?

"Believe me. I didn't want to say that." Yuhi suddenly cursed. "Damn, I knew this was a bad idea."

Sumire immediately understood from his behavior and sighed. "Hino is a good guy. San does not deserve him as a friend."

"I have to agree. It turns out Nagawa has been neglecting his health a lot ever since you stopped talking to him."

"It did seem like he was going crazy from the very first day."

But as Yuhi described the details, Sumire had to admit that she was shocked. She immediately took out her phone and dialed Sano's number, but there was no answer. She tried again, but it went through to voicemail.

It took her a moment before she recalled something and dialed another number.. Moments later, she hears a familiar voice. "Yes?"

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 574

Chapter 574: Sano's Determination

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"Miss Penelope." Sumire addressed her. "I am sorry for troubling you but did something happen with you and Sano? Didn't you say you would look after him?"

She contacted the woman the day before she decided that she would be ignoring Sano for a while. She understood that he would do something stupid with that guy's personality, but she did not know what that stupid thing was. So she asked miss Penelope to watch over him.

At those words, she heard a sigh at the other end.

"Miss Sumire, actually, do you know where I am now?"

"Where you are-?" Sumire trailed off when she heard the sound of an airplane and paused. "The airport."

"Sano terminated the engagement this morning, and my grandmother was furious. She said she would deal with the embarrassment, but I have to go abroad and hide for awhile till the mess dies down."

Sumire frowned when she heard those words. She had to admit that she was shocked. Despite Sano saying all those things, a part of her still doubted it since he kept his engagement. But now that engagement is over; he is practically making it clear that he would chase her.

"I see, alright, sorry for disturbing you." Sumire did not give her another chance to speak before switching her phone off.

She thought she could use Penelope as a scapegoat, but now that option is no longer available. He is practically forcing her to choose! Sumire cursed in her head. That person leaves no room for his enemies to get to him; that is the one thing about him that has not changed.

If he is doing something like this, does it mean he is serious?

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi pinched her cheeks. "Damn, I knew it. I should have tossed him to the sharks a long time ago. Look how he is affecting you right now."

"No, uh." Sumire trailed off. "I am just shocked."

Even when they were officially dating, he did not do something like this.

"You know what that reporter told me? He said he had threatened all the media outlets in the city. This was why your concert went by smoothly. Initially, the media intended to stir trouble. On Christmas day, which is tomorrow, there will be an article regarding his actions and his statement that he would pursue you."

'What kind of twisted situation is this?' It sounds like something that would happen in a fairytale. But Sumire was more shocked than moved. It would be strange to say it has no impact on her; any normal person would be slightly moved. However, on Christmas day?

December 25th, 2012. It was a day she would remember for a very long time. The day he heartlessly broke up with her. The words he said to her that day remain firm in her mind. He was so heartless and cruel towards her. The fairytale-like dream relationship they had all seemed like a lie.

'Was he always like this? Did he truly trick me from the start?'

To think he is going to announce something like that, when two years ago, on that very day, he used the harshest words to cause her to break down.

She felt very conflicted about this. They are both public figures; making that type of announcement will lead to many people questioning her relationship with Yuhi. No, it will stir some excitement for the media who want to create a love triangle story.

Is he trying to win her back or cause her more stress? She no longer wants to deal with the reporters. But, at this rate, it won't be long before people misunderstand.

The details of her relationship with Sano, even though they have more or less admitted it individually, the media does not know the details. However, it would not surprise her if there was more information on it in tomorrow's papers.

This is giving her a headache. Sumire felt Yuhi rub her temple gently. "Don't overthink."

"I am trying not to."

She was truly trying, but the shock had yet to leave her.

If Sano terminated the engagement in the morning, she hadn't heard it. She was far too busy focusing on the concert with Yumi-senpai. It makes sense that there was no news on it, too, since the entire city focused on the concert.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi hugged her and sighed. "The road to your heart is difficult."

"Are you going to give up then?"

"No." Yuhi said with confidence. "But, I wanted to brood and sulk so you could pity me more."

Sumire laughed when she heard his words. She did not feel stressed for the first time since she saw him beat up. Her gaze softened as she hugged him tighter. "Alright, this is enough childish behavior. The person I am madly in love with is right here; why would I go anywhere else?"

She felt Yuhi respond by placing a gentle kiss on her forehead.

"I think we should go now; you're cold."

"Mm, let's go."

'I can try and call Sano after the party ends.' It will be difficult for her to stop him from posting that article. The reporters will definitely not let such a big story out of their grasp. But perhaps if she speaks to him the night before, she can still control the situation.

.....

Bar Akagumi is located in the downtown part of Tokyo, an area that has more delinquents/crime rates. But that did not mean it was a bad part of town. Or rather the buildings in this area were more expensive.

She noticed when they were still a distance away, but it was oddly quiet.

Sure it is late now, but that never stops those guys from making noise. Moreover, it is Christmas eve; it is normal for people to be awake this time and still celebrate.

This is weird; why are all the lights out? Sumire observed the room and did not see a single sign of a human being.

"Eh, did they all go home-" Sumire's sentence fell short when she felt a pair of arms hug her from the back. "Yuhi, what's the matter?"

"I told them to leave. I want to hog you myself till New year after all."

Sumire laughed softly at his honest-sounding words. She thought he was behaving.

"Well, I don't mind that." She turned to him and caressed his cheeks. "I did want to be with you tonight."

She felt bad for the others, but she sent them away anyway. After pouring her feelings for Yuhi, she wanted nothing more than to keep him to herself.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 575

Chapter 575: I Like Rainy Days

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Perhaps he read her thoughts, or maybe he saw how she was looking at him, but before long, he was all over her. He is kissing her deeply and with such passion. However, when she felt his hands on her clothing, she paused and looked at him.

"I'm kidding. I won't do anything tonight."

Yuhi backed away and walked towards the kitchen. "I'll heat up the food, and we can have a mini picnic."

"Ri-right."

Even when she went over to the couch to sit down, she could not control her pounding heart.

'What on earth is wrong with me? We have dated for so many months now; how can I still behave like a shy little girl?'

He has touched her quite a few times too. But just the mere thought of it made her feel embarrassed.

Yuhi-san has always had a weird impact on her. But now that they are officially dating, she felt even stranger.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi sat down on the couch beside her. It took her a moment to realize he had already finished placing the food on the table.

"Ah, it's ready? Then we should -" Her sentence fell short when Yuhi edged closer.

"You know, before we start eating, I have something important to discuss with you."

"Yes?"

"If you're going to tell me you love me, say it directly. Though I do appreciate you singing for me."

Sumire averted her gaze. "I wasn't just singing for you."

"Sure."

It was clear that Yuhi did not believe her and was not convinced either. Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi kissed the strand of her hair.

"Hooligan."

Yuhi laughed. "Really?"

Ah, forget it, even if her heartbeat is going crazy. How can she ignore this lavish meal in front of her? Sumire closed the remaining distance and sat on his lap before she kissed him deeply.

Sumire felt Yuhi's hands on the zipper of her dress. "Mmm, you really know how to provoke me."

'Even though he was the one who started this.'

To her surprise, however, after a few minutes, he pulled away again. Why is he acting like a gentleman now?

Sumire heard her stomach growl, and Yuhi laughed.

"Time to eat."

She supposes she can sulk about it later.

After they ate their meal, the two of them sat on the ground by the large windows. Yuhi had his guitar out and played random songs for the last few minutes. It was pleasant to listen to, even though he was not singing.

Yuhi is truly talented; she has to work hard in order to catch up with him. Sometimes she wondered how it would feel to perform on stage with him.

'I would be more nervous.' The stage with her dear senior made her nervous, but sharing the same stage with Yuhi? Just the mere thought of it made her panic.

She wonders why this person has remained by her side for so long.

"Why did you choose me?" Sumire was very curious. Although she heard his confession, it felt like there was still something more.

"We already spoke about this. But I guess I missed out on a few things not too long ago. When Masaru was still here, he asked me whether I really liked you."

Ah, it must have been during that time.

"It's not that I wanted to be persistent, but I couldn't persist because at first, I gave you all my emotions. I didn't have any emotions left for anyone else from that moment onwards. I decided then that I would only ever give my heart to only you. When we first met at that terrible facility - I understood it already.

That even if I didn't rush to sign the contract with you, eventually, we would come together not because of our parents but because of fate. For me saying something like this is strange. I'm not the scientific type or anything. But things like fate have always been fleeting for me. However, after I met you, that changed. "

Sumire could only stare at him dumbfounded. Wait a minute; he's dropping so many bombs on her without any warning at all.

'I only asked a simple question, how did it end up like this?' But Sumire knew better than to interrupt him. Since he has already started, she might as well listen to the very end.

"If you ask me of the many moments I realized that it was not a normal love, there are plenty of occasions. For many males and females, things like sleeping together and touching each other are not considered anything special even at a young age. People see it as something normal. That's why I wasn't sure at first. Your blood and the bright painting you did that day drew my attention. Before I knew it I-

After a pause, she spoke up. "You wanted to know more about me?"

"Mm, that's right. I wanted to know more. How is a being shrouded in darkness giving off such a bright light? When I knew who her parents were, I thought, ah, it makes sense. But after a while, I understood that it wasn't something inherited. It was something natural. One of the moments I was thinking about just now was. There was a time when I first joined would often find you pushing your bike past the football field. I played often. At first, I thought it was a coincidence, but I realized something was up and called out to her a few times. "

At those words, her calm composure vanished completely.

"I didn't think the reason would be that. You circled around that area for so long, and I simply thought you were waiting for somebody else. I didn't think for a second it was me. There was a time when there were some bad rumors about me, and something similar occurred."

"I--I was caught then too?!" Sumire exclaimed in disbelief. What on earth is with this situation?

If somebody could die of embarrassment, she would have done so long ago.

"Pfft, yep, I caught you. At the start, though, I thought it was a mere chance encounter. But I was mistaken. It was on a rainy day. I ended up being made to stay behind to help the class rep due to my grades. I was running late then, and I sent you a message to go home without me.

However, once again, I found you loitering around this time on the road opposite the school. Before I could call out to you, it started raining heavily, and you had already rushed off to look for shelter. I decided too that I'd just call you once I found shelter. We unexpectedly ended up in the same place."

Her gaze softened at the memory. "You know I thought it was fate. It reminded me a little of the song by Jay Chou."

"Rainy days aren't the most beautiful thing; it's to find shelter under a roof with you, that is."

"You must have liked it. "

She knew how hard it was to please this man when it came to music. He has a lot of opinions. Granted, it was only natural for him to be picky regarding music with his skills.

"Yeah.. After that time, I unexpectedly started to like rainy days."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 576

Chapter 576: I Love Everything

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"Because of me?" Sumire immediately guessed.

Yuhi nodded. "That moment, it was truly something like a painting. A drenched you, and yet the entire time, I was focused on how beautiful the rain droplets looked on your hair and how the aura around you seemed to radiate, how the background seemed like it was a wash of beautiful colors dancing around you.

It was exactly like the night when we first met, you standing in a single spot, and the aura around you was completely different. When I realized this, I understood. Ah, what I feel for you must really be love. In those moments, I was incredibly nervous. Something uncommon to me."

Sumire thought she could remain calm, but who knew reminiscing with him would end up like this? Her entire face reddened. T--this is embarrassing to listen to. But, Yuhi is being so serious with her right now. He is pouring his feelings out. No matter how embarrassed she is, she has to listen to the very end.

"It made me realize, ah, I am a normal guy after all. When you came to Tokyo, you transferred to my school and ended up sitting next to me. I found myself even more mesmerized—the habits you have in class. I noticed. You gradually moved your chair closer to mine so you could rest your head on my shoulders. You conveniently forgot your textbook despite being an organized person, so you could share it with me. Taping your pen and getting all frustrated when I didn't notice your signals of wanting to be held."

This, he remembers everything. No, he noticed everything.

"You sneakily trying to hold my hand whenever the teacher wasn't looking—getting all pouty whenever I spoke about another girl. You're determined expression whenever you were assigned homework or task—your hard-working attitude. You accompany people who are bullied and speak to them like normal in order to draw people in—not hesitating to stand up for those who are suffering. The amount of effort and thought she has for her friends. I love everything."

'Her sad expression, angry, calm, happy and the expressions she makes only for him. All of it.'

Her eyes widened when she heard something. It sounded like Yuhi's voice, but it came from her head?

Just now, what was that? He didn't say anything, right? Indeed after that 'I love everything,' there shouldn't have been anything else, and yet just now, she heard extra parts to his speech.

This isn't telepathy, right?

Sumire laughed at the thought. No, no- but then again, there exist people with evolved genetics. Individuals with powers that society cannot explain, it is possible, but if that is the case, he should have just said that part too.

Yuhi-san's sincere feelings towards her that's something she's known for a long time.

No matter how clueless she is with this stuff, how could she not realize how half his songs when he returned to Tokyo after they parted were for her?

There are many who use songs as messages, messages to convey the words they cannot say out loud. Terashima Yuhi is one of those singers. So it was clear to her that he still felt something for her. She already knew and yet heard all of this. She felt the warmth of his back disappear, and she was immediately pulled into his arms.

Really, what have you done to me? I don't remember being like this before."

Sumire laughed at his frustration. "Are you sure about that? You have loved me for a very long time, right?"

"True, but I had more self-control." He trailed off. "Well, forget it; it feels like you have been stringing me along from the very moment we met."

Sumire rolled her eyes when she heard those words. "Who was the one who took me to his home on the first meeting?"

"Technically, we met before when we were kids, but I suppose that was the first proper meeting since you don't remember."

He is mentioning it so casually now, even though he seemed reluctant to speak about it before. Sumire recalled what Shin told her. Perhaps Yuhi has already heard the news. If that is the case, then his behavior makes sense.

She drew away from his hold but slumped her body against his shoulder. Yuhi affectionately caressed her hair.

"Next month, I am going to be busy. I can already imagine Hino going spartan mode on me."

"Well, you only did entertainment industry work for two months, so you do not have much experience in the field despite being so skilled. So Hino will most likely give you hell at the start to make sure you catch up."

"I only care for singing jobs." Sumire did not want to lie about this. "But, I understand since I chose the career path of being an idol rather than a singer. I have to engage in other activities too."

"Relax, you have Hino as your manager. He is very familiar with the industry. If you tell him you prefer singing jobs, you will mainly get those."

"Is it that simple?" She did not have many experiences with managers. But based on her knowledge, normally, they take full control of their artist schedule after they decide on an image.

"It is because it's Hino."

Sumire could not miss the confidence behind his tone and her gaze softened. They truly do get along very well. Is it because she has also known Hino since she was younger, but she also felt a family bond with him.

No, no, saying this even in her head is far too cruel since Hino has feelings for her.

Sometimes she wonders how it ended up like this. How did she end up attracting so many guys when she had such a terrible personality? No, the biggest mystery to this was how did she get Terashima Yuhi to fall for her?

The first time he confessed to her, it truly felt like her heart would stop beating on the spot. How on earth is it possible for him to like her romantically? But, that serious gaze in his eyes. She could not dismiss it. There were times when she felt that he liked her more than other people, but she never concluded his feelings as love.

So when he confessed to her, she was in shock.

'I almost said yes.'

Right, she was so shocked by his confession that she almost agreed. When she looked into his eyes and realized it was real, she truly wanted to say yes. It took all her willpower to say no.

She cried all night after he left.

'But I did not want to be a hindrance to his future.' She knew if she wanted to, Yuhi would have taken her with him. However, back then, she did not have the status to match him. Even if Yuhi did not care for such things, she would not allow anybody to badmouth him.

Despite her rejection and her refusal to see him for so long, they still ended up together. Her status in the entertainment industry is far worse now than it was before.

'I wasted so much time.' Sumire exhaled deeply.. If she didn't reject him then, then she would not have met Sano.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 577

Chapter 577: A Gamble

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It was a gamble on his part.

He knew how much the others wanted to celebrate the holidays with her. Ever since she admitted that she treats everybody in Akagumi like family, he has been more generous about her spending time with the guys.

Yuhi could only steal glances at her, hoping she understood his signs. But unfortunately, the silly girl was spacing out with a deep look on her face. What is she thinking of now?

'She spends far too much time thinking about others-' Yuhi quickly shook the thought out of his mind. He can't be that petty, no matter how much he wants her.

It still frustrated him, however.

After hearing her sing for him, of course, he would end up worked up. He knew that she would sing for him, but all those songs? She even managed to portray her love for him, singing her mentor's songs. That girl truly has amazing musical talent.

Unfortunately, she does not think so. 'She is far better than me.' It was something he acknowledged a long time ago. Most people with his status in the industry would not admit something like that. But he is not that type of person. If there is somebody more skilled than him, he will acknowledge it immediately.

Why act stubborn about it? Eventually, the fans and others in the industry will be able to tell.

How does he tell her, though?

'You don't need status to stand next to me; you surpassed me a long time ago.' Yuhi shook his head and dismissed those words. He knew Sumire very well. If he said such words, she would certainly run away with her personality.

That girl is a fast runner too. How many times has she run away from him whenever she gets embarrassed?

Yuhi sighed deeply as he stared at their intertwined hands. Although he managed to hold her hand, Sumire did not think much of it. She was even playing with his fingers as she spaced out.

'This is truly driving me crazy.' He could only stare at her during the entire time they were eating. She keeps getting prettier and prettier. Unlike the first time she arrived in Tokyo, Sumire's cheeks had a healthier glow, and she gained enough weight. Even when she wore simple clothing, she looked beyond gorgeous.

Moreover, she smiled more. She truly looked like a woman showered with love and affection. It seemed like the main reason for her change was his doing, but at the same time, he could not take the credit.

Many others contributed to her current transformation. However, sometimes he would worry about her. Her nightmares have become less frequent, but the fact remains that she still has them. Moreover, she has more violent breakdowns. There must be an issue somewhere; what is he missing?

If he thought about her activities since she came back, nothing seemed amis- Yuhi paused in mid-thought. Right, since she came back. Sumire told him that she was held captive in that facility, according to the information. It must have triggered something inside her to stay in that place.

When Mamoru was around her, it was not noticeable. That guy probably did something to prevent her nightmares.

A deep sigh passed his lips. 'Sometimes, I regret helping Mamoru out so much when it came to Sumire.' How many times did Mamoru message/call him for advice regarding her? Granted, that fool probably did not need his help.

Mamoru had a better understanding of Sumire since he could spend more time with her. At first, he thought of it this way. But later on, he realized his mistake. Those two have a level of understanding of each other that he cannot interfere with.

The second time he asked her out, he knew it was risky. She lost Mamoru only four months before, and the accident traumatized her. She already turned him down once. But, even though she turned him down.

'Why was she crying?'

After she turned him down, he indeed left, realizing it would be awkward to stay. His injuries still hurt like hell, and it was not wise for him to move around so much. So he booked a room at a hotel nearby. After a few hours, he realized that leaving might send the wrong message to her, so he went back.

The memory remains fresh in his mind even now.

..

December 2012- Star Town

Yuhi did not hesitate to bolt out of the room, realizing that Sumire was not replying to anybody's messages. Is it because of the confession? Did he anger her that much?

His speed did not take him long before he arrived at her house.

The front door was unlocked still, and even the gate. The gate aside, how could she not lock the door? When he saw no lights in the house, he became increasingly panicked.

Did somebody take advantage of the door being open and --? Yuhi shook his head and flicked on the light switch at the entrance. He examined the surroundings carefully.

It does not look like there has been any sign of intruders.

Still, it will not hurt to be careful. Yuhi carefully tip-toed inside the house, and when he approached the living room, he heard sobbing.

It was faint, but he could clearly hear it. Yuhi pushed the door open and found Sumire curled into a ball shape on the corner by the door. He did not miss the knocked-over desk and vase on the side.

He spotted the glass shards by the door, and he immediately bent down. There was a large gash on the girl's forehead and blood on her fingertips.

"Sumire? Hey Sumire?"

"Yuhi, I'm sorry." She sobbed. "I'm so sorry, but I can't get in your way."

What is she talking about- Yuhi paused in mid-sentence. Could it be she heard about him leaving? He felt his heartbeat speed up. It seemed that the girl did not realize he was there; she was in an unstable state.

"Do you love me?"

It was risky for him to ask this question, but he had to do this. He has to learn the truth. Earlier, he sensed there was something amiss when she turned him down, but he did not want to dwell on it in front of her, so he quickly left.

His thoughts broke off when he felt a familiar pair of arms wrap around his neck. Sumire buried her face in his neck and mumbled. "I love you; of course I do.. I have always loved you, Yuhi."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 578

Chapter 578: 2012- The Biggest Lie

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If there was a god in this world, then they would certainly be mocking him. He felt devastated when she turned him down and even cried. To think a few hours later, he is learning that he wasted his tears and she actually loved him too. Yuhi ran his hand through his hair and exhaled deeply.

She is such a silly woman. He already understood from her mumbling why she turned him down.

Because she was hugging him so tightly, it did not take him long before he realized that she had a fever due to her wounds and was only half-conscious.

Yuhi scooped her up in her arms and carefully brought her up the stairs.

Even though he did not visit her often, he knew which room was hers immediately. Yuhi flicked the light switch on and carefully placed her on the bed. The moment he did, however, she pulled him down.

It did not take long before he found himself on the bed with the girl snuggled against his chest. For a moment, he panicked, but when he heard the sound of her peaceful breathing, Yuhi simply sighed.

Taking care not to move too much, he reached over towards the nearest draw and found a towel. He carefully wiped the blood from her fingers and her head; he did this carefully, taking extra care not to wake her up.

'Honestly, she is making this difficult for me. After turning him down just a few hours ago, now she is confessing to me and not letting me go.'

Truthfully the main reason why he confessed to her was because he was confident. Recently there have been many signs that the girl liked him back, such as that recent mission they went on together.

It was a low-level job that turned into a serious one; the two of them had to spend overnight in a cabin together.

He intended to sleep on the couch, but the girl said it would be uncomfortable. The bed was very small, so naturally, there was no space between them. He had to hold her to prevent her from falling. During that time, he carefully observed her reaction.

For her to react that way, then perhaps there is something. After that day, he searched for more signs and gradually found some more.

When he heard that he had to return to Tokyo, Yuhi felt terrible. Just when he was on the verge of confirming her feelings. He wanted to gather more evidence before he told her, but when he realized there was no time, he did not hesitate and said it.

'Maybe I should have confessed more romantically.' He recalled his appearance earlier and sighed. Even if he was in a rush, that was not the best atmosphere/time to confess. He should have taken her out on a lovely dinner and walked around the town.

Maybe she would have been caught up in the flow if he did that.

'How did she find out? Not many people know about it yet.' But amongst those that do know. Yuhi thought for a moment before he dialed a number on his phone.

When Mamoru arrived at the door, he immediately called out. "Ki-" But paused when he saw the sight before him. "I see."

"You're not surprised?"

"Well, everybody knows she likes you."

Everybody huh?

"Your not bothered by it?" Yuhi questioned. He already knew full well that the person in front of him likes Sumire a lot.

"Well, it's because I know."

'It surprised me when I learned that Mamoru came from the same facility as Sumire and me. When we first met, he explained everything.' His gaze fell on the girl asleep in his arms.

When he is not by your side, you silly girl still do such careless things. But after he heard that story, he understood something. Sumire, who normally does not open up to others, felt comfortable around Mamoru. So that means this guy is trustworthy.

Yuhi tried to move away so Mamoru could get a look at Sumire, but she immediately looked uncomfortable.

"Sorry about this."

Mamoru shook his head. "I'm glad. Are you two together now? You should have just said so."

Yuhi frowned and then went on to explain what happened earlier. Mamoru looked disturbed when he heard everything.

"It wasn't me who told her."

"Then-"

"I don't think the other two would say it either." Mamoru trailed off and paused for a moment. "Could it be somebody did this intentionally knowing Ki would end up like this?"

It was a far-fetched theory. How many people knew that Ibuki Sumire was in love with him? How many people knew how bad her mental state was? Only a few people have this knowledge, and none of them would do anything that would hurt her.

"Hey, pass me my bag."

Mamoru sighed as he picked up the bag on the ground. "I put everything inside. But you're not going to go back?"

"She has a bit of a fever due to the wound, and I'm not in the best state to go walking around either. I'll stay up since I have work to do."

"You should try to get some sleep too."

"It's alright. I have a few things left to settle before I leave. I'll probably stay for another week."

"A week?"

"I was supposed to leave in two days." Yuhi looked over at the girl. "But I want to give her some time to calm down. Maybe she will change her mind before I go."

At those words, Mamoru nodded. "Yuhi, you should tell her when she wakes up that you already know about her feelings and that you will take her with you."

"The reason she is holding back isn't just me alone. She does not want to part with Star records and all the friends she made here. Even if I want to bring her with me, it is not that easy. What identity will she have by my side? Even if I call her my girlfriend, that is all she will ever be. Sumire has not debuted yet. Getting together before she makes a name for herself, many people will not like that. I know she does not like the idea of people gossiping about me because of her." Yuhi reasoned out.

When he realized that the silly girl might like him, he came up with these possibilities.

"Sumire has a dream; she wants to stand at the top," Mamoru mumbled. "Is this why she would rather sacrifice her feelings?"

Yuhi nodded. "That's right. We can pretend that status does not matter. But we both know how dirty and ugly the entertainment industry can be. Even if we do not care about it, people will. If possible, I want to live a peaceful life with her by my side."

He does not want any disturbances.. He wants to freely walk with her hand in hand on the streets without people judging her.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 579

Chapter 579: 2012- The Diary Entries

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Moreover, he knew how important the girl's dream was. "The good news is. This girl is more talented than me. All she has to do is debut, and after a few singles, she will match me easily."

"But debuting, you know she-"

"I know, and that's why she has to find a better company. I am sure many are willing to poach her over."

"I will look into it."

"Mamoru, you have to take care of her while I am gone. No, until she is ready to go to Tokyo."

If Sumire takes the music scene seriously, she will eventually go to Tokyo. In that place, they will meet again, and then maybe he can confess to her once again. When she has more confidence, perhaps they can be together properly.

His gaze fell on Mamoru, who was looking at her concerned. "However, if something happens between you two while I am gone, then that is fine too."

He does not mind if it is Mamoru. Although there are plenty of others who like her, he can tell that Mamoru is the one who will treat her like a treasure.

"You don't have to worry about that; unless something drastic happens, I won't confess to her."
Mamoru smiled weakly. "I know my place. The one Ki loves and has longed for this entire time is you? I am content with what I have with her now."

After a few more words, Mamoru left; he returned to reading some documents and briefly looked at his laptop screen. It was the plans for expanding the company Tokyo branch. The expansion will become the main branch, so naturally, all the core artists must move.

'What is with this terrible timing. I don't want to go.' Even if Sumire didn't turn him down, he would have still been reluctant to part ways with her even if he did not learn the truth.

He took it for granted, coming here and spending time with her every day. When he returns to Tokyo, he will have difficulty surviving his days since she is not beside him anymore.

He should change the water. Yuhi carefully put Sumire's head down on the pillow as he stood up; on his way to the bathroom, he spotted a journal in her desk.

It was wide open, and he knew better than to look, but he had to after spotting his name.

December 14th

Yuhi went on a dangerous mission today without telling me. When I heard it from the others, I was so angry. But then I saw those stupid notes he slips inside my books, and although it is no longer new, it made me smile.

Yuhi blinked when he saw that entry. He felt his heartbeat increase. Is it just a coincidence that she wrote about him? He recalled her short confession and paused, perhaps- he flicked towards a random page in her journal.

February 14th

Today is valentines day, and I casually mentioned chocolates in front of him the other day. I think he got the hint, at least since he only ate my chocolates despite receiving all those boxes.

I fear for my future. I have too many rivals.

March 20th

Today I am going on my first mission with Yuhi-san after a long time. I am slightly nervous. After last time I learned my lesson, so I at least put on makeup even though I am not familiar with it. I hope it looks okay. I hope he notices and compliments me.

If he calls me pretty, I think I will be very happy.

March 23rd

It took the fool two entire days to realize that there was something different about me. Even then, he had to think about what it was. I didn't realize he was this slow.

March 24th

Aki just informed us that the mission would extend a little, and we have to stay overnight. Thankfully we are in separate living quarters; otherwise, my heart might stop.

March 25th

I said separate living quarters, but I simply meant separate rooms. We still share the same kitchen living room- I felt like my heart has been beating rapidly when I realized we practically have to live together.

March 26th

I didn't realize that Yuhi-san was so muscular. Ahem, it seems I have underestimated him a bit despite staring at him every time he works out. This is the first time I got a proper look, and I have to admit that my thoughts went wild. I wonder if I can get to touch. Does he sleep like that?

This silly girl, she truly likes him. Judging from this, she has liked him for a long time too. Yuhi exhaled deeply. Why didn't she just tell him? Her heart was beating so fast; that is his line. It drove him crazy hearing each movement from her in the other room.

Still, it was not just him who was self-conscious and had weird thoughts- Yuhi paused in mid-thought. Her feelings aside, he didn't realize that she would have such strange thoughts about him.

He continued to read through the entries.

June 24th

I heard from the others that Yuhi-san had plans for me. But I did not expect a mini-concert at my doorstep the moment the date changed to June 24th. It surprised me. No man has ever serenaded at my doorstep before. I have to admit it was quite romantic. Even more when he sent the others away and said he wanted to spend some time with me.

Right, her birthday. He didn't hesitate to express that he wanted to be with her then. It was a Friday, so they both had school, but they both ditched and went on a trip to the next town. The next three days with her were like heaven. He got to see her smile more.

August 31st

I did not think he would invite me out to see the fireworks. It seems like he is getting bolder recently, but he is still a bit slow. It took him a while before he complimented my appearance; moreover, he did not wear a Yutaka. It would have been nice if we matched. I teased him a little, but I got to see his red-stained face, which pleased me.

September 9th

I think Yuhi-san is messing with me too much recently. He keeps inviting me to train with him in the gym at the headquarters- and this behavior is causing me to think even weirder things.

September 17th

Yuhi-san showed up at my school. I did not think he would participate in the student exchange program. He caused a scene when he asked or rather forced the person next to me to change seats. The person beside me being Ru, I thought they would talk it over nicely, but no. Sometimes it feels like I am babysitting children.

September 18th

Sharing a textbook with Yuhi-san is nerve-wracking. Our hands keep accidentally brushing against each other how; I want nothing more than to keep holding on.

He stopped reading when he heard her toss and turned on the bed. Yuhi quickly joined her again and pulled the girl into his arms. He frowned, realizing how cold her body was. She was just sweating a lot moments ago. Yuhi hesitantly removed his shirt and pulled the girl into his arms.

This would work better if she was not wearing anything, but he is not an immoral man. How could he get her out of her clothes without her consent? But the more he thought this, the colder her body became.

'Alright, she can curse him for being a bastard later on. I can't let her die.' If she continues to shiver like this, she will seriously become sick. Yuhi hesitated but removed the clothes the girls were wearing. It did not take long before her beautiful bare skin was in sight.

'She is so pretty. I thought so before, but what is this? How can she be this beautiful.'

Yuhi felt his body heat up, but he quickly shook his head and pulled half the blanket around her. Before pulling the girl into his arms again.

She is seriously causing him problems. Yuhi recalled what he had just read moments ago, and his lips curved to a smile.

November 24th

I have decided that I want to debut seriously.

If I have to move agencies, I will do it.

I want to stand by Yuhi-san.

'Silly girl, if that is the case, then maybe it is fine for things to remain this way.' He will still wait for her at the station.. But even if she does not come, they will eventually see each other again.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 580

Chapter 580: Lucky

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

Sumire's nightmares may have decreased, but that does not mean they have vanished. Moreover, every time she gets a nightmare, she has a terrible fever.

It was a good thing he stopped at just kissing her; if he did anything more, it would have been bad. But still kissing her like that, Yuhi felt like he was going crazy.

It was like that back then, too, back when we first saw her bare skin. Yuhi sighed. To think he resisted the urge to do something then, most guys wouldn't have. He isn't a saint either; he is just like those other guys. However, Ibuki Sumire is different.

She is different from all those women who flocked to him. When he spent that night hugging her bare body to keep her warm, Yuhi realized exactly how much he fell for her. He didn't do anything to her even though they were in that situation.

His thoughts broke off when he sensed movement and realized she was awake.

"Mmmm, you're up?"

"Yuhi." Sumire extended her hand out. "It's still night?"

"Yeah, get some more sleep." Yuhi continued to wipe the sweat off her forehead. "You're going to be fine."

Sumire looked at him for a few minutes before mumbling. "I had a nightmare?"

"You were sweating a lot and cried out."

"Yuhi, why do you like me?"

"What's this silly question? Did you forget how I confessed to you?"

At those words, Sumire sat up and tugged on his shirt. "Are you sure you like me?"

"Hey, why are you asking that now?"

Did he do something wrong again? If he did, he wishes she would just tell him. Sometimes it is hard to tell what she is thinking. Her fever doesn't seem to be going away either.

His thoughts broke off when she caressed his cheek, and he sighed.

"Quit messing around. What if I attack you."

"But I am sick."

Does she truly think he will stop because of that reason? This girl underestimates him far too much. Then again, if he wanted to do something, he could have done so earlier.

"You should lay back down."

"Yuhi too."

Hearing her faint petal-like voice call his name weakly, he felt his heartbeat increase and his cheeks reddened. "You are not a child; sleep on your own."

They have to sleep separately today; otherwise, he will really go crazy and attack her nonstop. He just had to recall that time he first saw her bare skin. Yuhi frantically shook his head. He needs to snap out of it.

Sumire innocently tilted her head. "You don't want me anymore?"

'I didn't say that at all.' Yuhi saw her innocent expression and her hands stretched out, indicating she wanted him to hug her. This girl is truly going to bring out his inner beast one day.

Yuhi resigned himself to his fate, and soon he was laying down on the bed, with Sumire nestled firmly in his arms.

"You seem to get fevers a lot at night."

"Is it that hanyou fever thing?"

"No." Yuhi trailed off. "But, I cannot rule the possibility that it has something to do with your powers."

Nightmares leading to a fever; he has never heard of something like that before. The best person who would know this type of thing would be Atsuro. When he thought of the redhead, however, Yuhi frowned. He does not want Sumire to deal with that person.

The other person with sufficient knowledge, the name Makoto Soujiro popped into his head, and Yuhi sighed. 'I would rather not see him, but Sumire will be taking her career seriously from now on. There will be days where she has a late schedule and won't be back till late.'

It will be bad if she gets a fever like this when she is in the middle of work. With Hino by her side, it should be fine. But there will be times when Hino cannot be with her. They need to take some precautions.

His gaze fell on the girl who was staring at him.

"What?"

Sumire giggled. "I was just thinking how lucky I am; you are very handsome, Yuhi."

"You're seriously driving me crazy today."

"If you want to touch me, it's okay," Sumire said, understanding. "I mean, it is Christmas eve; we should make some beautiful memories."

It won't be a beautiful memory, though.

For Terashima Yuhi, sex was not something beautiful; he does not understand why Sumire can see it that way. That panting mess and desperation, how can that be beautiful?

Yuhi looked at the girl's face and saw how pale it was. To think just a few hours ago, she was standing so brightly on stage. Initially, Sumire was not supposed to appear for that many songs, but she sang all the songs in the concert. Didn't she have more songs than Takashi Yumi in the end?

Maybe she just overexerted herself. She has not stood on stage in a very long time and sang that many songs. Hopefully, it is just fatigue.

"I'm handsome, huh?"

"Ah, do you not believe me?"

"No, it's just we both know you're not dating me for my looks."

Even though she has made plenty of comments regarding his appearance, Yuhi understood that she was only saying it in a joking manner.

"Hmm, then why are we dating?"

At those words, Yuhi's cheeks reddened, and he coughed. "Are you going to keep teasing me?"

Whenever he thought back to his second confession, Yuhi wanted to find a hole somewhere and hide for a while. How could he blurt out such cheesy-sounding things? It wasn't like him. He is not the type of person to say flowery words and just tell the person directly. His first confession was like that too. He just directly told her.

"Maybe. But it was the first time, you know? That a man confessed to me like that. It was very romantic."

Yuhi awkwardly coughed again. "It was embarrassing for me."

Sumire's gaze softened. "Mm I know. But I was very happy. I think if you confessed to me like you did the first time, I would have said no."

The first time he confessed and got turned down, huh? Perhaps it was because he went down memory lane earlier and clearly remembered the events from then, but he wants to ask her now.

"Why did you turn me down when you clearly loved me?"

It had weighed down on his mind even though he heard her reasons when she was half-conscious.. The fact that she never told him directly bothered him.

Chapter end