

Melody 631

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 631

Chapter 631: Setting the bait

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

Chapter 631 Setting the bait "I traveled around the world and visited different places all on my own. Not staying in one place for a long time, that's how it was supposed to be. I met a kid on one of my journeys then who asked me why I was traveling and asked me if I was lonely. I told him, 'I'm fine, as long as I have my freedom. I don't want to be tied down to anything, and I don't want to tie down others. The further away I go, the further away I get from people who know me. And the more I feel that I can get away from everything.' It was supposed to be like that, but that changed after I met you. I wanted to become attached to something, to have a place called home and carve a piece of my existence somewhere. "

It wasn't just her who had had such powerful feelings. However, she couldn't understand those feelings very well when they emerged. 'I was so confused and didn't know what to do, yet I knew it was love for some reason.'

It was the emotion she abandoned a long time ago. She ought to abandon it again, but the one she fell for is Yuhi. That is why she could not abandon these emotions so easily.

"Could it be?!"

"I met that kid again when I was with Kou, and he told me that I was being selfish, 'a sorry excuse of a person is what he said to me. Truthfully as annoying as it was, I couldn't disagree with what he said. Even if I had such powerful feelings like that, the truth is I'm a guy who thinks about nobody but himself. Someone like you shouldn't be with me; that's why I left. "

"Then, then why? Why did you come back?"

At that, Yuhi leaned forward and trailed his lips against the nape of her neck.

"Because after a while, I couldn't stand it anymore. I don't know whether Touko told you, but I grew rather frustrated, and before I knew it, I was a complete mess. I wanted to see you again, no matter what the consequences were. "

It's the same as her. After Yuhi left, she was a complete mess; she went to that party to change her mood. She coincidentally met Sano there. When she saw him, she thought, 'ah, I can use this person.' A person who wears a fake smile on his face. She observed him during that banquet and watched him make a fool out of himself.

If it is this person, perhaps she could forget just for a little while. Somebody who is completely different from Yuhi.

"Yuhi, you dummy, you always say the words I always want to hear. I've always, I've always loved you. I dated San, Toh, Ren, and Ru, and yet I - always loved you. I just couldn't say it then."

She didn't want a response, and he knew that, so when she felt his lips on hers. She felt relaxed. Yuhi is a huge fool. Does he not know how long she has waited for him to say those words?

To hear those words that align with her own thoughts. To know that she wasn't the only one. She never saw Yuhi as a friend, but she had not been able to confidently say those words. She even dated other guys. Once the kiss broke, and he intertwined their hands together, she felt her cheeks heat up and yet smiled.

"You know if we kiss anymore today, you won't be able to go out. No, I don't think you can go anywhere in the next few days."

Ah, right, because he bit her lips. Sumire briefly glanced at his regretful expression and chuckled. He is so clumsy. "Then you have to help me heal them."

"Put the ointment in yourself. If I touch you anymore today, then I will truly lose control."

Sumire blinked when she saw how worked up he was getting. Even though he was the one who did it, and just now, he messed with her too. Now he has returned to his usual clumsy self, but she doesn't like it. This person treasures her too much.

Yuhi escorted her down the stairs, and she returned to the living room. Huan was still safely sleeping on the couch. It is a good thing he isn't a bad sleeper; if he tossed and turned, he would have fallen. She did put cushions on the ground, but he is still young.

Sumire picked him up in her arms. "I think he should still use the crib, even if he has matured more than most kids his age."

Matured more than most kid is one thing. Why does he look like he is two years old when he is not even one yet? She truly needs to learn more about evolved humans, not Ru's power. Ru's sonic sound ability is considered to be the strongest in the world.

Perhaps it is related to this boy's unusually fast growth.

"What are we going to do about a nanny? Should I just ask Jae?"

"No, that won't do in the long run. Jae's powers are weak, but he is an important figure in Akagumi." Sumire trailed off. "Do you remember what I told you about? San had a caretaker before."

She initially planned to bring that woman over to her side. After all, that person has been a servant of the Nagawa household for a very long time. Surely she has more information than most people would. In order to win her over, she has to use her cute son as bait.

Back when she dated Sano, that person was the only kind servant in the estate. She could tell the moment they met; this one does not lie. She speaks nothing but the truth. With time comes wisdom; perhaps it was because the lady was the eldest servant. But even then, there was something different.

'I have to take advantage of that kindness.' "That person is indebted to me; if she hears I am calling for her, she will surely come."

After all, she did save her; there was chaos in Sano's household that day. She arrived just in time to save the nanny from being pushed down the stairs. In saving her, she ended up falling down.

Yuhi sighed deeply. "But if Nagawa hears about it, he will surely involve himself."

"True, but you should allow them to meet. Who knows, maybe she can stop him from being crazy?"

"Somebody does need to teach him to stop touching something that doesn't belong to him."

Sumire laughed. "You have a cute side to you, Yuhi."

"Cute, huh? Then do I need to remind you again?" Yuhi trapped her against the wall, but she easily broke free.

"You do not need to; tonight, I shall grant your request. But for now, allow me to do some homework since we are still students."

"You could just copy mine."

For somebody who slacks off so much, he gets his assignments done so quickly. "Then Yuhi-san, why don't we study together to make yourself useful?"

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 632

Chapter 632: Studying

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

Chapter 632 Studying After tying her hair up and getting all her books out, she spread them on the table in her room. Although Yuhi and her always end up sleeping together, Yuhi made sure she had her own room just in case she wanted privacy. Still, her gaze flickered towards Yuhi, who was sleeping on the couch. Isn't he going to help her? Not that she actually needs help.

For the next few minutes, she focuses on her homework. Their general studies questions are harder for an art school than most high schools. But this is still easy for her.

She was focusing on her own when she heard shuffling. Yuhi had sat down and positioned her onto his lap as he inhaled her scent.

Sumire sighed deeply. 'Just focus.' Even if she has returned to the entertainment industry, she is still a student at the end of the day.

Unfortunately, it was hard to focus since Yuhi inhaled her scent and kissed and sucking her skin. "Yuhi, let me do my work."

He didn't listen, so she jabbed him with her arm. "If you keep doing this, I will get angry again."

Those words seemed to do the trick since Yuhi lets go of her.

"Hah, we are in a bedroom. How can you work?"

Maybe she ought to have stayed in the living room after all. But she didn't want to disturb Huan with the noise. Her gaze fell on Yuhi, who had a troubled look on his face. Is he that bothered by it? Sumire reluctantly sat back down on his lap. She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him.

"Yuhi, let me do some work. I already said we can continue at night."

"I know, sorry, you're just too pretty."

Her gaze softened. "If my appearance is good, it's because I put in the effort to dress up for you."

"Even when we are at home?"

"Especially when we are at home."

After all, who knows when he will attack her? Her thoughts broke off when he picked up the piece of paper in her hands.

"For this question, I ended up with a different answer."

"Oh?"

"But I think yours is correct, not mine. Hold on." Yuhi stood up and briefly left the room.

Their rooms are right next to each other; actually, her gaze fell on the connecting door that Yuhi had just exited. There is even a connecting door. This is why they decided to make this their main residence. Yuhi has many homes in Tokyo. But they decided on this building just because it's practically a mansion.

Yuhi quickly returned with his own notebooks and sat beside her.

"You see here."

"Ah." Sumire stared at Yuhi's answers. "Your right; mine is correct. You're supposed to use this formula."

"I see; what a clever way of working it out."

Sumire blushed when she saw his bright smile. Uh-oh, maybe studying together with Yuhi-san is a bad idea. Look at that smile; smiling like that must be a crime. Does he have any idea what he is doing to her heart?

Yuhi suddenly parted a strand of hair from her face. "You look tired. Are you sure you don't want to sleep?"

"I-I'm fine."

He suddenly cupped her cheeks and brushed their foreheads together. "I won't apologize for earlier. But don't act so nervous. I want you to look at me properly."

"Your too handsome, Yuhi; it's bad for my heart."

Yuhi coughed awkwardly. "Even if you say that I was born this way."

Sumire quickly kissed him and then returned to her homework. But she occasionally stole glances.

Yuhi sighed deeply. "Hey, why do you keep staring?"

"Why can't I stare? Isn't it my privilege?"

"It is, but it's distracting," Yuhi looks away. "You, do you always have to wear nightgowns in that style?"

Sumire tilted her head puzzled. She thought he was trying to change the topic for a moment, but her gaze fell on her nightgown. Now that she thought about it, this is one of the ones Toh gave her. So it is more on the mature-looking side.

"Do you not like it?" Sumire questioned.

Although she is the type of person who would wear whatever she wants regardless of what others say. If Yuhi doesn't like it, perhaps she should stop wearing it.

The last time she returned to star town, she secretly went back to her house and grabbed some more clothes. To think she ended up mainly taking the clothes Toh designed for her.

Toh's clothing naturally looked nice on her, so half her wardrobe was filled with his clothes before she knew it. So she supposes it is not surprising that she grabbed Toh's clothes for her.

Wearing clothes another guy made for her, Yuhi definitely won't like it. Has he noticed?

"It's not that I don't like it; you look good. But," Yuhi cupped her cheeks. "- if you look this good, I will have a hard time restraining myself."

"Do you have to? You even did that type of thing earlier."

Yuhi awkwardly rubbed the back of his neck as he lets go of her face. "I know you said you liked it. But, I said some cruel things back there, and your lips are grazed-"

He isn't apologizing for doing it with her. But apologizing for unleashing his passions. It's true he was acting harshly, but he was very careful with her even then. Sumire returned to doing her homework.

"It's alright; if it is you, it is okay." Sumire trailed off. "You see, Yuhi, I have always had this thought. If it is you, I do not mind whatever you do with me." She laughed. "Even if you betray or hurt me, I will not mind."

She is cautious and does not trust people easily. She is afraid of getting hurt and being betrayed again. But if Yuhi does those things, she will forgive him. No, it is not simply forgiveness; she wouldn't blame him for it.

"Yuhi-san, is it not the same for you? Am I not special?"

At those words, Yuhi sighed and suddenly pulled out his guitar from the corner of the room. He tossed some music scores at her, and her eyes brightened.

"Is this the song you're going to sing at the festival? The one you wrote for me?"

"It's still a work in progress, I haven't done the lyrics yet, and the tune is half composed."

Is that the reason he said he would refuse the solo performance? How strange, Yuhi is different from her. He does not just come up with songs out of nowhere. But normally, he does not struggle so much.

"If your singing for me, it should be easy, right? What is the problem?"

Hmm, is he having a hard time because his feelings have chan- no. That is a silly thought. Yuhi loves her so much, and he even has weird ahem desires towards her.

The only reason Yuhi would have a hard time writing a song for her is because his feelings have gotten stronger.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 633

Chapter 633: Do you like me that much?

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Chapter 633 Do you like me that much? Sumire felt her heartbeat increase at the thought. She shyly tugged on his shirt. "I feel like I am becoming silly. Do you like me that much, Yuhi?"

At those words, Yuhi pulled her into his arms and hugged her tightly. "Damn," Yuhi mumbled against her ear. "You must be doing this deliberately. Are you getting back at me for earlier? I thought you liked it."

"I-I did."

"Are you sure? I was too rough."

"There is n-no need to describe it," Sumire exclaimed. Just the mere mention of it makes her feel very embarrassed. How can Yuhi remain so composed while asking her that?

Composed? No that is wrong; she recalled his expression when they did that stuff. "Yuhi is also nervous?" She phrased it as a question, and for a moment, he was silent before nodding.

"Very nervous. What are you doing to me, Sumire?"

"Me?"

"As you know already, I have been with plenty of women. But none of them have affected me the way you have. Maybe you are some type of witch. Did you put a spell on me?"

Normally she would get jealous even at the brief mention of other women, but it is hard to feel that way now. Moreover, just now, what he said about a spell. It seems like even their thought process has become similar to one another.

They say that you eventually share traits with the person you live with. But these results are still surprising. Back when Yuhi was a member of the underworld organization Holy knights with her, they spent a lot of time together. The people around them started to point out how they have a similar thought processes.

She simply assumed it was natural since she wanted to learn from him, so subconsciously she started to behave in the same manner. But perhaps there is more to this than meets the eye.

"If I cast a spell on you, it would be to love me forever in this life and our next few lives. Love only me."

Love only her, and maybe then she will - her thoughts broke off when she felt Yuhi's hands on her back.

"Your too needy," Sumire mumbled. "Idiot."

"Mm, you feel tense. I want you to relax."

"Are you sure you're not doing this because you're needy?"

Yuhi laughed. "Perhaps a bit of both." He trailed off. "But your also needy, aren't you, Sumire?"

"That's because you keep doing weird things to me. Ah, I missed the days before you corrupted me."

"Before, huh? I seem to have read a certain diary stating how much you checked me out-"

Sumire felt her cheeks burn when she heard him say those words. H-he, really read it! That day, she did think somebody had touched her diary. But when she thought about the only ones which could have, she felt ashamed. If Ru read it, then he would know how weird she is, and if Yuhi did, if the subject of the diary contents did-

Yuhi laughed, disturbing her mini-panic. He nuzzled his forehead against hers. "It's fine; you know I found it cute."

Sumire puffed her cheeks into a pout. "You may find that cute, but it was very embarrassing for me."

"I know."

She stopped sulking when she saw the gentle look in his eyes. He makes it so hard for her to get mad at him.

The two of them have truly come a long way. Almost an entire year has passed since she came to Tokyo. Sumire would never have thought that she would end up dating Yuhi. She came here intending to destroy those people who harmed Ru. But at some point, she strayed from her goal and focused on living a normal life with the one she loves.

She can no longer get distracted, however. Now that she has returned to the entertainment industry, now that she is working towards her dream again. She has to be stronger and more determined than ever before. Otherwise, those people will crush everything she holds dear.

'I wonder how Yuhi would react if he knew what she is doing in the shadows.'

Even though she told him they would work together, there are still many secrets she is keeping from him. There is a limit to how much she will allow his help. If Yuhi ever gets close to that dangerous line, she will ensure that he quickly withdraws.

He already got close, that attack in the forest, being chased by beasts and getting hurt. Her gaze dimmed at the memory. How dare they attack Yuhi so boldly?

Clearly, she is the target, but she still does not understand why. Sano does not seem to have any information on this either. It is still a mystery what that Lucifer man wants with her. But one thing is for sure; he is obsessed with her.

The Ibuki family manor was burning that day; that day, she saw somebody cloaked in darkness. Due to her inhaling the fumes, however, she could not be sure if what she saw was an illusion or not.

But after seeing his face not too long ago, 'it's familiar.' That man Lucifer, she has met him somewhere else before. Somewhere a long time ago.

Unfortunately, she cannot openly investigate him. She sent Eli over to act as a spy. But even Eli will struggle to obtain information or get close to that man. For now, she ought to be satisfied with the information she has, but recently she felt uneasy.

Yuhi kept patting her back, and a content sigh escaped her lips. "You are right, Yuhi; this is relaxing."

"That's good. I know you stressed about the entertainment industry and many other stuff. But at least when your with me, take this opportunity to relax."

"-and do weird things?" Sumire tilted her to one side innocently.

This caused Yuhi's face to turn red again, and she laughed.

"Hey, don't mess with me so much."

"I am not doing anything Yuhi. You're the one misinterpreting all my words."

"Isn't it your fault that I am doing that?" Yuhi leaned forward. "Or do you want to do what we did during Christmas so badly? I don't mind, it was nice, and you liked it, right?"

Uh, hold on, time out, even if she did like it. She would die of embarrassment if they did that again, especially since she started to have weird thoughts.

Her thoughts towards Terashima Yuhi were never normal, even when she was fifteen and they were partners in the holy knight's group. But, it did not take her long to realize how corrupted her mindset was.

The reason she likes Yuhi isn't because he is handsome; him being handsome is just a bonus.

Her thoughts broke off when he suddenly pulled away and moved her away from him. "Yuhi?"

"Let's go to the rooftop for a bit."

Sumire nodded. Despite her confusion, she did not miss the serious look on his face. Right now, what is this person thinking?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 634

Chapter 634: I stole somebody's treasure

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Chapter 634 I stole somebody's treasure Neither of them spoke the entire way up to the roof, and she pondered about their conversation just now. She didn't make a mistake, right? Was she being a bit too bold there?

She learned from the other girls in her class that sometimes being too straightforward can cause a misunderstanding. But that is how she truly felt.

'I do not see the need to hide anything from him at this stage in their relationship.'

More than six months have passed since they started dating; soon, it will be an entire year. She shouldn't be hiding her desires towards him now.

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi opened the door to the roof. Now that she thought about it when she first saw this house of Yuhi's. She found it unusual that he had a rooftop area instead of just a roof. But it seems like Yuhi-san likes scenery. She would occasionally find him here staring at the view of the city.

It was night, and this was the residential district. But despite that, they could hear the sounds of bustling life below.

'Whenever I have something in my mind, I come here, or just when I want to relax.'

Sumire recalled what he had told her before. In this instance, it must be the former rather than the latter.

"There is something on my mind."

She felt the sadness in his tone and paused. So there was something weighing on his mind. Normally it is hard to catch Yuhi off guard, but she did it easily; he seemed meek somehow.

"Yuhi?"

"It's about our relationship Sumire."

At those words, Sumire flinched. Wait, wait, is he going to break up with her? Ah, she knew it; she should have kept those unusual thoughts to herself. Does Yuhi think she only likes him for the same reason as those other women do? That is not it, Yuhi; she truly likes him for other reasons than his looks.

Her thoughts broke off when he caressed her cheeks. She looked into his eyes and understood something. This it's the same gaze he gave her when he first confessed to her.

But why? Why is he looking at her like this now?

Yuhi suddenly sighed and pinched her cheeks. "I'm not breaking up with you, so calm down for a moment, will you?"

"Ouch, ouch. But you are the one who said, let's talk about our relationship in a serious tone."

"Of course, I have to. We have the wedding, and about the other guys who like you. I think we should talk about it."

"Uh." Sumire trailed off. "You know, maybe the breakup talk sounds better."

Yuhi pinched her cheeks tighter and exhaled deeply. "I know we discussed things in New year. I heard your feelings towards them loud and clearly. But there are still others like Atsuro, for one. You are still not comfortable around him, but you ask about him. Sometimes when I see that, I misunderstand."

"It's true. I asked about him. But it's truly nothing more than concern for a friend."

Yes, he is a friend. How could she possibly go out with the man who saw her try to commit suicide several times?

Yuhi must have understood what she thought since he let go of her cheeks. "I don't want you to think I am trying to intimidate you."

"I won't think that way. Besides," Sumire paused and saw the troubled look on his face. "-it's rare seeing you like this, so I am enjoying it quite a bit."

"I'm just worried about him and Soujiro, who have been staying away from you."

Sumire laughed at his words. "Do you think they are plotting something in secret?"

"I do."

"The man I love is a dull guy, after all. How could you lose your confidence against people I do not even interact with?"

"They say absence makes the heart grow fonder."

Sumire blinked when she heard those words. Isn't that what she told him before? She did not speak to him on the day he returned to Tokyo. But she did leave that note as a response to that letter he gave her.

"You remember such weird things, Yuhi-san."

"Do you think so? I still have that note, you know. I would read it before I went on stage."

"W-what?" Sumire did not expect this piece of information.

Now she was getting this strange image of him reading that note before he went on stage. How embarrassing. She felt her cheeks redden again, and she coughed.

"That wasn't a confession."

"But I interpreted it as you'll grow even fonder of me than you already did during our time apart. Didn't you write it with that in mind?"

The reason she is embarrassed is because he is exactly right. But she also wrote it, thinking that he would not understand the real message. He is far too sharp when it comes to stuff about her; no, he is just unusually positive about her feelings towards him.

Yuhi must have kept it on him at all times, and even if the note got crumpled or wet due to the weather. He would take careful measures to make sure he could still read the words.

Why does this person love her so deeply? Why does he give her the hope that she ought to have given up on a long time ago?

Yuhi, does Yuhi not understand? In that year, he went off to be even more famous. How many times did she stain her hands with blood in that year? How many people did she kill? How could he possibly still love and treat her so preciously?

'I have sinned so many times. I have taken so many lives.' She had already prepared herself not to be happy for the rest of her life. The weight of her crimes cannot be judged due to the laws regarding the delinquent world. But if those rules were not in places, then she would just be a plain murderer.

The people she killed have greatly sinned too. But did that give her the right to judge them? She did not think this through when she was an active member of the holy knight's organization.

'I have to end people's suffering with my own hands. Yes, this is the only way.'

During her darkest time, she had such thoughts. But after experiencing such happiness and joy because of Yuhi, she finally understood. She never had the right to judge those people.

Those people she killed and thought were bad people may have had loved ones who cared about them no matter what they did. People like Yuhi who would forgive her for doing bad things.

She stole someone's treasure, that is why she does not deserve to live happily.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 635

Chapter 635: I helped you

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Chapter 635 I helped you But, if somebody were to ask her to let go of her happiness. Sumire knew that she would fight for it.

"That was my intention," Sumire mumbled.

Yuhi laughed. "I thought so."

That innocent laughter and smile of his has to be a crime. However, it is during these times that she remembers Yuhi-san's age. He is two years older, so he is twenty. In society's eyes, age he is already an adult. But the Yuhi right now is worrying like a child and laughing so carefreely.

"But still, I worried a lot, and although it was sly and cruel of me. I asked Mamoru to send me photos and videos of you. I wanted to keep looking at you. I wanted to see every change."

Hold on, photos and videos? Ru was indeed in the best position to do that, and that was why she was upset when she found him sending such things to San. But, even Yuhi? W-what did he send to Yuhi? How much did he see?

Yuhi took out his phone and flicked through it for a few minutes. It was the hidden gallery in his library. She noticed it when she was browsing before, but she did not pry. Could it be, he stored all the photos and videos?

He passed her the phone. "Here, it's all in date order, and I starred my favorite ones."

"I- I don't think I should look."

Yuhi only laughed again and circled his arms around her waist so and drew her towards him so she would get a look. She reluctantly glanced at his phone screen as he scrolled. There were various images of her just going to class, talking to people, playing the piano, drawing, failing at cooking, and most importantly.

Sumire saw the star mark on a photo of her sleeping face.

"I like this one the most," Yuhi mumbled in her ear.

"H-hooligan."

"To think you would look so pretty when you were sleeping. Who would have thought that a photo would be enough to turn me on?"

"You're trying to get back at me." Sumire sighed. "But these were when I slept next to Ru. You knew?"

Back then, she did not think much of it. She was lonely, and she feared her nightmares and state of mind. She felt that if she was left alone, she would go crazy. During those times, she would stay over at Ru's place, not just stay over; she would sleep in the same room and the same bed as him.

Now that she thought about it, what on earth was she doing? No matter how lonely she was, a grown man and woman sharing the same bed when they are not dating is wrong.

"I knew. Mamoru confined in me. I almost misunderstood since he was so nervous. I thought something happened between you two."

"That wouldn't happen. Ru never had such weird thoughts. He used to freak out whenever our hands brushed against each other."

Yuhi sighed. "I see Mamoru was a saint, and I'm a beast."

"I think I prefer the latter."

At those words, Yuhi nibbled on her earlobe and mumbled. "When he told me, I was very confused. I didn't know what to say to him."

"That's normal, you probably thought; why is he informing me?"

"No, I knew what the reason was. Mamoru wanted to reassure me that he would never make a move on you. He wanted me to know that he supported us being together."

Sumire only sighed when she heard Yuhi's explanation. Ru was so weird; she never understood how he could do that. It was the main reason why she thought he had feelings for her during the moments. She would end up doubting.

No normal man can push the woman he loves towards the arms of another man. But Ru did it so easily, and yet he cared so much for her,

"When I saw this photo, I understood how lonely you were. I'm sorry, you cried a lot because you missed me, right?"

"That was my fault. I was the one being stupid. I thought to myself that we were still young and that I would get in your way. Your career really took off when you returned to Tokyo. If I accepted your confession, you would have been dragged into scandals and not achieved that level of success."

"Don't be so silly," Yuhi said sharply. "The only reason I succeeded was because I was thinking of you. I wrote the best songs about you that year. If it weren't for my feelings for you, I wouldn't have succeeded."

Huh? It took Sumire a moment to understand what he was talking about. But after listening to him, something came to mind. Now that she thought it through, during that year, Yuhi's songs-

'He is still writing songs for you, and you doubt his feelings?'

Asuka harshly reprimanded her when she cried about the possibility of Yuhi moving on and not loving her anymore. That's right, Yuhi's songs. He never stopped writing about her. Those songs brought him to further success internationally and stabilized his position in the industry.

"So I helped you?" Sumire repeated as she tugged on his clothing, causing him to drop his phone. "I-I helped you? I didn't get in your way."

She had wanted to meet him for so long, but she feared that she would only drag him down with her terrible reputation.

'If I ever became an obstacle to his dreams, I would never forgive myself.'

She does not want the man she loves to sacrifice everything for her sake. What she wants is for him to find happiness and to succeed in what he loves to do.

This entire time she assumed that she was only an obstacle to Yuhi's career and that she would stand in his way. So rather than being a hindrance, she helped him?

She currently felt very emotional, and before she knew it, she was crying again. Yuhi wiped her tears away with his fingers. "Are you happy?"

"I was so silly. I wasted too much time."

"Exactly, you silly girl. I always loved you, and you know I loved you, even more when you turned me down. My feelings for you just continued to grow even when we were not together. When I realized that you would sacrifice your own feelings just to make sure I succeed. I was even more determined to work hard. I will work harder, and stabilize my position at the top. Then I would propose to you on a grand

stage, in front of thousands of people. I want them to hear me clearly propose to the special girl I want to spend the rest of my life with."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 636

Chapter 636: I practice

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Chapter 636 I practice They were both so silly, but she was the most foolish one. If she had accepted his hand a long time ago, she might have been happy long ago.

But, sometimes, she is frightened. She is so happy now that it feels like a dream. What if she wakes up from this dream one day and he is not by her side?

'I would hate it so much.'

"The reason I brought you up here is also because I wanted to discuss something." Yuhi picked up his phone from the ground. "Here."

Sumire stared at the photo on the screen to see an image of two people entering a hotel. She recognized one of the people as Hori Fuuko's relative, and the woman was clinging to a man with brown-colored hair.

"Ah." Sumire immediately understood. "Is this what Soujiro found out?"

When they were talking in his place, it looked like there was something he wanted to say. So it was this.

"You're not shocked at all." Yuhi pointed out. "That's good; I didn't know how to explain."

At those words, she sighed. "I think the media forgets how long I have known Ru. I have known him since I was seven years old? Since then, I have spent the most time with him. I know him far better than he does himself. Ru has never shown interest in other women that were not me. He actually shows visual discomfort around women." She pointed at the photo. "Look at his face and how he is casually moving away?"

Yuhi peeked over her shoulder, causing her heart to beat fast. "Huh, you're actually right there. I see; no wonder they don't publish the photo. They are afraid the sharp netizens would catch on."

"Exactly, so until they catch an actual photo of Ru smiling with this woman. They can't use this news."

"But the media knowing Mamoru is alive, that should clear their hostility towards you?"

"Not quite. Now they can change the story too, 'Tsueno blames her for the accident and found his true love.' They might cook up a story that this woman took care of Ru when he was hospitalized, and their they fell in love."

"It's scary how accurate you are at predicting their moves."

Sumire chuckled. "It's because I am just as twisted as they are." She trailed off. "They assume that Ru has not met with me since the accident. So, of course, they can lie all they want."

"I don't know what Mamoru is thinking, so even if they post this. I do not know if he will stand up for you."

"But he will," Sumire answered confidently. "I do not know what type of deal they made. But it's probably to do with me. Ru has always had this bad habit of doing stupid things to ensure my safety. He will never harm you."

At those words, Yuhi grumbled. "He hurt you, though."

"Yes, but he was under their control then. What frightened me more than getting hit by him was his pained cries. It was the first time for me heard him in so much pain. I was shocked, but it did not take me long before I cried. When I did, he snapped out of it and caught me before I collapsed."

She heard him despite being in a weakened state. 'Ki, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry, I turned into this beast, so I could protect you. But in the end, I hurt you. I'm so sorry. Please return to Yuhi.'

Even though he could have easily kept her beside him, he let her go. He even admitted to her that it was all for her.

"Atsuro and Soujiro aside. I wanted to ask, do you still love Mamoru?"

Her gaze softened when she heard his tone. Sumire wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him.

Sometimes there is no need for words; sometimes, it is easier to convey her emotions through actions. Yuhi has done so much for her; he has made her so happy since they started dating. How could she possibly leave his side?

It does not matter how many other guys still love her. Their feelings would not sway her in the slightest.

After a few minutes of kissing, she pulled away. "If I still loved Ru, could I kiss you like that?"

She watched as a dark aura wrapped around him at those words, and he crouched to the ground.

"H-hey, uh Yuhi-san?"

"Damn you," Yuhi muttered. "Are you practicing kissing on someone? Why are you becoming better at it than I am?"

W-what is he talking about? Just now, she kissed him like she normally would. There was nothing different than her thinking how silly he was for feeling uneasy.

Sumire took a deep breath as she crouched down too and brushed their forehead against one another.

"I do practice."

"You do?" Yuhi raised his eyebrow. "Brat, your practicing on Nagawa, aren't you? You take advantage of those surprise kisses that he gives you."

"Your imagination sure is wild, Yuhi-san, but not wild enough." Sumire leaned forward. "The one I practice on is you."

"Huh?"

Sumire laughed and shyly covered her mouth with her sleeve. "You see, Yuhi-san, I practice on you when you're fast asleep."

"When I'm asleep?"

"Mm. You always take the lead when we kiss; even if I initiate it, you end up in control. It's nice that you always try to please me, but Yuhi-san, I want to make you happy too." Sumire understood how misleading these words sounded. But she genuinely wants him to enjoy it whenever they are together.

She can't always be the happy one. Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi stood up, and she suddenly felt her body being lifted into the air.

"You silly woman. Do you think I feel nothing when we get intimate?"

"W-well, I-I don't know."

She ends up becoming dizzy with happiness whenever he touches her. Sumire explained this to him, and he laughed.

"You truly are a vixen." Yuhi lightly kissed her lips. "My heart always beats when we are together." He moved her hand towards his chest. "I didn't realize that you were attacking me in my sleep. So, you only stopped at kisses?"

"Ahem, so maybe I had a look at other parts of your body. But I could only look. If I touched, I might have died."

"I guess I can let you attack me tonight."

"N-no," Sumire exclaimed, realizing what he was getting at. "We got distracted; let's return to doing homework!"

If she allows him to have his way with her, then she won't get a decent wink of sleep. Still, she feels happy; being with Yuhi, she can smile more naturally. She can laugh more.

This is what Ru wanted, isn't it? He wanted her to feel this joy of being with her loved one. But then, where does that leave him? Right now, the one who fought so desperately to make her smile and be with her loved one is alone and suffering.

Can she truly leave him alone?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 637

Chapter 637: Hold you

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

Chapter 637 Hold you One of the many challenges a girl has to face in their life is their period.

'Since coming here, due to the stress levels, it does not happen as frequently.' It stopped before when she got pregnant, and afterward, her cycle became irregular for awhile.

After doing homework with Yuhi, she felt the familiar pain and crawled under the sheets.

But when she checked in the toilet, she was not bleeding. Then, is this due to the irregular cycle? Does her stomach just hurt?

'I didn't eat anything bad either.'

Sumire tilted her head puzzled. Maybe it's a side effect of the new medicine San gave her recently? He did tell her that the new medicine would have unexpected side effects.

Is this one of them? Fortunately, it is not her period; otherwise, she wouldn't be able to fool around with Yuhi-san.

He acts like a lion who finally had it's shackles released. It would be a problem for them both if she was on it.

She felt nauseous too, and she threw up the meal Yuhi made for her.

"Yuhi, you're not going to work?" Sumire knew Yuhi's schedule very well. So it surprised her when she returned from her many bathroom trips to see him still around.

"How can I?" Yuhi kissed her eyelids. "Does it hurt?"

"Yes."

Yuhi nodded. "What do you normally do on days like this?"

"I'd lay down in bed all day since I can't move and cry because it hurts." Sumire trailed off.

Should she mention to him that this pain is different than usual? Or would that only make him worry about her more?

"You're not crying now."

"Km, because you're spoiling me, Yuhi."

Yuhi gently kissed her eyelids again and mumbled. "If you cry, I'll be here."

He is so gentle, so kind.

She wants nothing more from him than this when she is in pain. He must understand that very well.

"Sumire, you're sweating a lot; you don't want to go to the hospital?"

"I'm okay." She mumbled weakly.

It hurts a lot. It's so unfair; others who go through this don't experience this much pain. But she just has to be part of the group that does.

Yuhi kissed her lips lightly. "I guess it was a bad idea to fool around."

Sumire laughed. "It's fine; it just started."

"Does your stomach just hurt?"

"I feel nauseous. I threw up a bit earlier."

At those words, she watched Yuhi look at her with an odd expression.

"Is something wrong, my dear?"

"N-nothing." Yuhi trailed off and pulled out his guitar from the corner. "I'll sing you something."

"Mmm, thank you. I like listening to you sing."

"I see you standing here

But you're so far away

Starving for your attention

You don't even know my name

You're going through so much

But I know that I could be the one to hold you

Every single day

I find it hard to say

I could be yours alone

You will see someday

That all along the way

I was yours to hold

I was yours to hold

I see you walking by

Your hair always hiding your face

I wonder why you've been hurting

I wish I had some way to say

You're going through so much

Don't you know that I could be the one to hold you." Yuhi sang.

Oh, he is singing this song in English, despite her lack of understanding. Yuhi can convey the emotional aspects very well. His singing is so good that it overcomes the language barrier.

Her gaze softened. 'He keeps singing for me too.' This person, since his first confession. No, ever since they met during that snowy concert several years ago. Not once has he stopped singing for her.

Sumire eventually drifted off, listening to his voice like this. Maybe she can rest peacefully.

—
"Yeah, it's fine. I can do it from here. I'll send you guys the stuff over, and you can practice without me."
Yuhi had exited the room when he saw the caller ID.

He didn't want to wake her when she finally got some rest. It worried him that she might overhear the conversation too. With her personality, if she overheard, she would certainly persuade him to leave.

"What about Sumire-san?" Jun asked.

"Sumire? She's resting now. I'll tell her to call you when she is better."

"You better take care of her."

"Of course, I'll take care of her." Yuhi trailed off. "Is something wrong?"

"Ran-san is causing problems again. He insists that you keep neglecting her, and that's why she keeps going to Nagawa Sano. He is not happy about the rumors about you and the childhood friend too."

"I haven't seen Cas in awhile since she returned. You can reassure Ran that I'll put a stop to the ridiculous rumors myself."

"Yuhi-san, you should probably drop the nickname; others will misunderstand and think you are close to her."

"Right."

"Also, Sumire-san will get jealous."

"Over a nickname?"

"You'll be surprised. She always says jealousy turns people into monsters. If you continue using that nickname, you'll see a true monster."

His sweatdropped. It's not like she hasn't mentioned it, but he didn't think too deeply about it.

"I got it, and also, are you alright?"

"Did I do something worth your concern?"

"Transferring to the art department. I didn't tell Sumire the reason why and pretended I forgot. But you know how sharp she is. Moreover, she will often visit the music building now. She will find out."

The reason why Jun transferred is because he was getting bullied. It was a severe case of bullying. When Ran and the others are around, they naturally cannot get to Jun, but there are days when those guys are busy. Even when they are around, they can't be together all the time.

"This is not new. I have experienced this before and have enough data to deal with the situation."

"If you did, you wouldn't have transferred departments." Yuhi sighed. "Look, I am only saying this because I am worried about you."

"I am aware, but please do not let her find out yet."

"You said it happened before. Is this back in tsukuhara?"

"Yes. Sumire-san dealt with the bullies. But it led to worsening her reputation. It seems even the company had to step in and help conceal what had happened. It was troubling."

"I see; you didn't want to cause problems for her?"

"Back then, she was going through a lot. So I did not want to burden her with my issues."

Ha, this sounds very familiar.

'I didn't want to trouble you, Yuhi-san.'

"You know, Sumire will find out at the end of the day. So before she hears it from your bully's mouth, you should confine her."

"With her personality, you know she will confront them directly. This timing is not good."

"I understand. But you can rest assured, I'll have her back."

He won't let Sumire walk into a dangerous situation.

"Then, I shall do so when she gets better."

"Alright, take care." With those words, Yuhi ended the call.

'I am still worried, but it's the weekend right now. Jun should be fine.'

Ran seems to care a lot for Jun, unlike the other two. Ran laughs more around the stone-faced boy. It's an unusual combination, but he can rely on that care.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 638

Chapter 638: So cute

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

Chapter 638 So cute He should focus on Sumire first.

Yuhi is surprised to reenter the room and find her awake. No, what surprised him was the bottle of wine by the bedside table and the cup.

'How did she know I keep those in the drawers?'

"H-hey, did you drink wine?" Yuhi asked, despite knowing the answer already.

"I drank! I also took my clothes off already." Sumire said proudly. "It will make it easier for you."

So underneath that blanket she is naked?, Yuhi quickly erased the image from his head. His thoughts broke off when he heard her hiccup.

"Sorry, this is the first time I drank so much. But strangely, I'm not drunk yet." Sumire laughed.

'Damn, I'm in trouble. She is so cute.' He would rather she openly seduce him. Either situation will cause him problems. Yuhi walked over, and right at that moment, the blanket fell from her shoulders, briefly revealing her skin.

Yuhi rushed over and stopped it from falling. "Lay back down." Yuhi somehow managed to get her to lay down on the bed, and he quickly joined her.

Even now, laying side by side makes him feel nervous.

"Hehe." Sumire laughed.

"What?"

"Even when I'm like this, you're holding back. You're so kind, Yuhi."

'If she knew my thoughts, she wouldn't say that.' Suppose this girl knew that a simple glimpse of her bare skin is enough to drive him insane. What would she think?

"Don't drink when I'm not around; you could attract weird guys."

"Aha, Toh said that to me too."

This is a chance; it's rare for her to openly talk about this man.

"How did you meet him?"

Sumire cutely tilted her head to the side. "I met him when I was running away from dangerous people."

"Dangerous people?"

"I was accompanying Asahi to a job. I saw one of my targets and lured him away, I succeeded in killing him, but his people immediately went after me. It seems he was prepared for an assassination. He just didn't think it would succeed."

Now that he thought about it. 'I think Mamoru told me about this; he mentioned being concerned about her state of mind.'

"I met Toh when I was running away; he helped me, and then we went back to his place so he could treat my wound."

Wait, she followed a stranger to their house? Yuhi looked at her dumbfounded as she continued her story. But he relaxed a little when he noticed how happy she was when she talked about Mashima. It seemed like the first impression was a good one. That guy treated her wounds and treated her well.

"Afterwards, he started drinking and offered me one. I thought it would give my age away if I didn't drink, so I drank. But it made me all muddled-headed. I became emotional, and I think I pounced on him first?"

Yuhi already knew where this story was going, and sure enough, Sumire tells him how she woke up the next morning.

'Damn alcohol. I'll definitely not let her drink in the future. So that's why she acts so strangely when I ask about her first time. The one who took it wasn't Atsuro or Mamoru. It was the designer guy.'

Yuhi felt conflicted. It's good that he finally knows, even if he had to hear it this way. His thoughts broke off when he felt the girl edge closer and closer until she was directly beside him.

It did not take long before Sumire kissed him deeply. "Mmm."

She is driving him crazy. After kissing for a few minutes, Sumire drew back with red-stained cheeks.

"Are you done?"

"Ah." Sumire trailed off and quickly hid under the blanket.

Yuhi stared at her, speechless.

First, she asks him to do homework and lures him into her toom. Second, she attacks him, and now she is hiding.

"So, you know how to seduce now? Is this a result of your practice?"

"Mmm."

"You don't have to wait till I sleep."

'I am flattered that she is even doing this. But, I want to be awake and see her many different expressions.'

"But I'll get nervous."

"So when I'm asleep, you don't get nervous?"

"I do, very nervous."

"Then---"

Sumire giggled. "Do you want to help me practice Yuhi? I'm not very good."

"Maybe when you feel better," Yuhi recalled what she said earlier.

'Nausea and a missed period.'

Sumire explained how her cycles become irregular due to stress. She has been busy running around since her concert with Takahashi Yumi. But with Hino as her manager, the burden should have lightened.

'Is she pregnant again? It can't be but then again, considering my behavior during Christmas.'

I'll have to ask Nag-no Atsuro. Nagawa is serious about Sumire now. It is hard to predict his behavior. He does not want to do anything that would bring the two closer. Moreover, it seems like the media intends to use Nagawa's feelings for Sumire to cause a rift between them. He cannot let that happen.

Yuhi continued to caress her hair and noticed the girl was staring at him. "What is it?"

"Recently, Yuhi-san, you haven't met up with your childhood friend. Why is that?"

His sweat fell when he heard her direct words. Didn't Sumire want him to stay away from Cas and avoid mentioning her? Surprisingly she is the one bringing her up.

"Cassie's schedule has been hectic since she returned. We met up in that cafe that one time just to catch up, but she mentioned it would be hard to meet for awhile."

"So, in other words, you wanted to meet with her but couldn't."

Yuhi panicked when he heard her tone. Is she angry again? He doesn't like it when she is mad. She tends to have this empty look in her eyes, and she closes her heart off- his thoughts broke off when she buried her face in his arms.

"S-Sumire?"

Isn't she still naked? Being this close to her is a bit dangerous.

"Listen to me rant for a bit. Yuhi, I am extremely jealous of that girl because she has known you for far longer than me. She knows things about you that I had to learn and ask along the way. It makes me envious. I struggle to learn things about you, but she will know them naturally just because you spent more time together."

This is the first time he is hearing this.

"I don't want to hate her, but it's difficult for me to get close to someone who knows you better."

"But Hino-"

"I was a bit bitter towards him at the start. But then he told me that he felt the same way, and we naturally got along better afterward. Yet that girl is different. I can tell that she cares a lot about you. Previously you told me that all the girls you slept with only wanted you for your body and money, right?"

"Yeah."

"This girl isn't like that. I can tell that she likes you. What I am trying to say to you, Yuhi, is, I am terribly frightened now that somebody better has shown up; she will take you from me."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 639

Chapter 639: His child?

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

Chapter 639 His child? "Why do you think so?" Yuhi looked at her seriously.

Did somebody put crazy thoughts in her mind again? He has closely monitored the media since that time, but he cannot be too sure.

"Because unlike me that girl has no flaws. She has no insecurities or anxiety. She will not drag you down-"
Yuhi stopped her from saying anymore as he kissed her.

He did not stop even when she punched and kicked him. It wasn't until she bit his lip did he pull away. This was the first time he kissed her without her permission. He does not like to force her to do anything with him, because he does not want to remind her of Nagawa. But, this time he had to do this.

Sumire sat up and turned around so she was not facing him. Yuhi sighed and wrapped his arms around her. "Don't sulk, you should I understand how I feel when you belittle yourself like that."

"I know Yuhi, but I truly think that way."

"Mm, I understand. But you know for me you are a precious treasure." Yuhi moved the stray hairs from her neck and placed light kisses there. "Sumire you're so precious to me. Thank you for telling me what was on your mind, it wasn't easy but you did it."

At those words Sumire turned around and wrapped her arms around his neck as she mumbled. "It's because you're so silly. I can tell Yuhi when you're very worried about me. I don't want you to feel troubled regarding me for a long time."

"Even if you say that, you're always on my mind. I think about you twenty four seven."

"You fool, think about your work."

"No can do." Yuhi kissed her lightly. "Besides you are my work. I work hard to make you happy, and have you screaming at night."

Sumire's face colour turned red and he laughed. "Are you impressed?"

"You're a hooligan." Sumire mumbled. "But, thank you so much Yuhi."

She is so silly, she doesn't have to thank him this much.

Jupiter Records - Studio 1

The place he decided to visit after Sumire fell asleep again was Jupiter records. Normally entering a rival company isn't easy even if he is a huge star, but it seemed like Atsuro was expecting him and informed people. The receptionist gave him directions and it did not take long before he reached the room Atsuro was in.

He was hunched over and fiddling with his guitar, a few scores in front of him. Atsuro kept grumbling how it doesn't sound right.

This guy is excellent at composing songs, but his songs are always missing something. That something he is missing is most-likely Sumire.

"Atsuro."

"Finally you came to me on your own." Atsuro didn't seem surprised at his arrival.

Yuhi awkwardly shifted into the room. "I think she might be pregnant again, so I--"

"She is."

His eyes widened at the redhead's immediate reply.

"Geez you're still slow after seeing it before? The thing is due to her unusually strong powers as a evolved human. She won't get fat no matter how many weeks go by. Normal people shouldn't notice. But because of this she will experience slightly different symptoms."

Half of Atsuro's explanation went out of one ear to another. Yuhi could not believe what he just heard. Sumire, Sumire has his child?

"My child?"

"Yes idiot.

His and Sumire's? This entire time he has refrained from holding back his emotions regarding Sumire having Mamoru's child. It happened before they got together, so he has no right to comment on it, even if she claims he does.

Due to that child's unnatural situation, she cannot see the kid often. He would occasionally find her spacing out and mumbling the kid's name. The kid is important to her, and if possible she would be with him always.

But everytime he saw her that way he felt very lonely and envious. Why? Why was it not his child? Why did she have Mamoru's child first? All of these worries and concerns were stupid.

No they were dangerous. Back then they still didn't know Mamoru was alive. So that child was a great consolidation for her.

He never dreamed that Sumire would have his child after almost a year of dating. He didn't want to get his hopes up when they got together, he knew how she felt towards doing intimate things. So he held himself back, because he did not want to hurt her.

"Wipe that stupid smile off your face." Atsuro said irritated.

"R-right, b-but-" Yuhi felt nervous. "I can't believe this, I'm so happy."

Atsuro sighed. "You didn't even touch her that much, how did you do it?"

Yuhi immediately sensed how dangerous this conversation was.

"You know, it's not like I wanted to stay away from her. This past year I kept quiet, because that's what she wanted. However, that's going to change."

"I see."

At those words Atsuro sighed again. He looked troubled. "You convinced her to talk to me?"

"Just earlier."

But she works fast. Then again this person must have been waiting for her.

"You, better not treat me like what Mamoru did."

"Huh?"

"That guy was nice, but he underestimated all the guys who liked her."

"Mamoru isn't--"

"Whether he intend it to be malicious or not, you understand right? He convinced himself that Sumire would only ever like you, because of that he unintentionally underestimated those around him."

"Did you ever tell him that?" Yuhi didn't know how to respond to Atsuro's words.

'I can't refute it.' Unfortunately Atsuro is correct there.

"I told him, who would have thought he would end up in an accident shortly after."

Despite how casually Atsuro said those words, Yuhi sensed the pain in his tone.

'I worry about him.'

Sumire's words remained firm in his mind. So this is what she was talking about.

"So, I'll be making a move on Sumire again. Out of respect of our strange friendship, I won't be pushy like Nagawa and do anything weird."

"I get it." Yuhi trailed off and glanced at the scores. "Since she is willing to talk to you again, maybe you can get her to help you?"

At those words Atsuro looked troubled and he sighed. "I'd rather not, if she saw a score like this, I would receive a scolding." He trailed off. "It's a good thing that you came here." He tossed an envelope towards him.

Yuhi opened it to see several case files. "This?"

"It's a list of important officials that are connected with Sumire's external relatives. All of them were women, and found dead overseas."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 640

Chapter 640: Suspect

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

Chapter 640 Suspect "What does this have to do with-" Yuhi's eyes widened when he flicked to the next page.

There was an image of a man with silver-colored hair wearing glasses and a basic profile. "Mashima Toh?"

"It's the guy Sumire dated before."

"Are you saying he is the culprit?"

"Not quite; he is a suspect. But it won't surprise me. This man is one of Lucifer's main henchmen. If he killed these women based on his orders, it's no wonder we had a hard time identifying the bodies."

Yuhi scanned the images of the dead bodies and recalled Sumire's words.

'Toh is very gentle; I sensed how kind he was from the moment we met. But I was afraid of that kindness, and that's why I initially pushed him away.'

It can't be possible. Even if he is Lucifer's right-hand man, Sumire does not misjudge people. But if this guy is on the suspect list, something must lead to him being suspected. Unfortunately, he does not know what that something is just yet.

Huh, wait a minute? Atsuro said the words 'dated' and not 'fooled around.'

"You knew about Sumire and-"

Atsuro sighed. "Of course, I knew about it. I was watching over her carefully then because of her suicide attempts. Do you truly think I wouldn't be able to figure that out?"

Right, Sumire mentioned this too.

Yuhi looked at Atsuro suspiciously. "You're not doing that now, right?"

Atsuro sighed. "Why do I have to? I know you stick to her like glue and your team members? They behave so casually, but their surveillance on her is worse than what I did."

His team members? Now that he thought about it, those guys seemed to know where Sumire is most of the time.

"Do you think Sumire knows about this-?" Yuhi pointed to the case file in his hands.

"Of course she does. She has probably been communicating with that guy again because of it."

"I see."

"You should be careful, Yuhi, when Mashima Toh returns. From what I observed when those two were together, Sumire strangely listens to everything he says. I don't even want to count how many dangerous situations I caught her in because of his words."

"Dangerous situations?"

"Mashima Toh is a psychologist who can see through all forms of disguises. There was a case a while ago where evolved human body parts, particularly their brains, were taken after being killed. Even Masaru struggled as a profiler and suggested to Sumire to use this guy."

"So you're saying she was with him just to get information and use his skills?"

"It started that way, but she naturally started to get along and fall for him. Of course, she would. Back then, everybody was protective of Sumire. The knowledge of her suicide attempts was limited to just Aki

and me. But a few caught on that she didn't value her life. So they were unnecessarily protective towards her."

"Was he not like that?"

"Mashima believes that overprotective and sheltering behavior towards a person prevents that person from growing to their full potential." Atsuro sighed. "Because of that belief, he used to drag Sumire with him to dangerous places. Sumire being Sumire, saw this as him trusting her."

It seems like this guy is different from the others. 'How dangerous.'

"Is there any sign that he will be returning to Japan?"

"Yes, since he is being suspected abroad. Lucifer will use this chance to bring him back here before the suspicions turn into police questioning."

"Won't that make the police suspicious?"

"Mashima's work visa is expiring. Normally, it would be easy to renew this, but Lucifer will ensure that it would be bad for him to continue working there because of the rumors."

A foolproof plan, Lucifer has this all planned out. If that's the case, then did Mashima Toh kill those people? Unfortunately, he is not the type to judge unless he has met the person. It seems like Sumire trusts him a lot too. It would be dangerous for him to suspect.

Yuhi was about to return the files to Atsuro, but he pushed it back and said sternly. "Yuhi, you should take on this case."

"Huh?"

"I know you're reluctant to do any major jobs since your only helping Sumire out occasionally. You haven't returned to the underworld. But if they give this case to somebody else, Sumire will be in danger."

Right, because she frequently contacts Mashima Toh, and there are rumors about them.

"If you take this case, it will be less risky, and you can keep an eye out on Mashima too."

"I understand." Yuhi reluctantly put the case files in his bag, but not before glancing at the man's picture briefly.

Ever since he learned the man's name, he had to stop himself from searching him on the internet. But now that he had seen a photo, he felt even more troubled.

That silly girl really likes pretty faces. He could even imagine her saying that Mashima looks like a piece of art. It must be due to the artistic blood inside her, but it bothers him.

She always jokes about not his looks not being important. But sometimes, he feels insecure. If somebody better looking comes along, will she change her mind?

Yuhi frantically shook his head. He can't have such negative thoughts; it's rude. Besides, Sumire can openly admit her feelings now.

Atsuro tossed him another bag. "This is medicine for Sumire. I don't know what Nagawa has been giving her but gradually replaced it. I do not trust his medicine at all. You're the same, right?"

"Sometimes she experiences very bad side effects," Yuhi explained what happened earlier.

This was the main reason for his visit, but it slipped his mind.

At those words, Atsuro frowned, and he rummaged through his drawers. "Hold on. I think I have something else." He trailed off. "But can you get me a sample of the medicine Nagawa gives her?"

"A sample?"

"Even if it's just a few drops on a handkerchief. If you take the entire bottle, Sumire will become suspicious."

"Do you know something already?"

"For now, I am merely speculating, but it will do no harm being careful."

Indeed with Sumire's current situation being careful won't hurt. Those people, the black Alice organisation won't stay in the shadows anymore. They will use whatever opportunity they can get to target her.