

Melody 671

Eternal Melody C671 A mission for you

Chapter 671 A mission for you

"Let's eat; you seem to have enough energy now."

But if he has been working hard this entire time, she doubts donuts will be enough for him. Oh that's right. Sumire broke free from his hold and walked over to the kitchen. She took out some sandwiches from the fridge.

It was a sandwich with vegetables and grilled meat stuffed inside.

"I'm sorry this isn't much. My nausea was bad, so I couldn't cook-" Sumire paused, seeing his expression, and averted her gaze. "What is it?"

"I just thought of the perks of having a talented wife."

Sumire stepped on his foot, and Yuhi yelped in pain. "Hey now, I am complimenting you."

"It's only a sandwich, your exaggerating."

Besides, she is quite sure his pretty childhood friend has cooked for him. Sumire recalled the article of them participating in a recent cooking show together.

Yuhi sighed, stood up, and brought her back to the couch. "Alright, you're having your mood swings again." He trailed off and caressed her hair. "I am tired after working so hard. Can't you be nice even if you have to pretend?"

Oh, her heart seemed to melt hearing those words. But she recalled what she saw on the net.

"Hey Yuhi-san, have you seen your friend recently?"

"Cas? We were on a program together a few days ago."

Oh, he isn't hiding it. She felt him flick her forehead. "Don't be jealous. Your cooking is a hundred times better. I even asked the show director if you could be the female guest next time, and he agreed. Hino will send you the details."

Sumire blinked, hearing those words. He is pushing away her jealousy before she even gets a chance to properly get jealous. Moreover, he even got her work. She wrapped her arms around his neck and hugged him tightly.

"I love you, my dear."

"Mmm." Yuhi nodded. "That's better. Rather, are you going to eat?"

She opened the box, and her eyes brightened. "There are so many to choose from; which one should I have first?"

"Whichever you like, and if you feel too sick, you can save the rest."

As Sumire bit into the doughnut, she beamed happily. Now that she thought about it, her cravings have increased recently. Is it because she is bored at home but has more time to surf the net. Yuhi-san would buy her the food no matter what new craving she got.

She put the doughnut down and hugged him tightly.

"My dear, I must have saved thousands of people in my past life. I am so lucky to be your wife."

Yuhi gently caressed her hair and patted her back. "Your schedule will be very busy when the house arrest is lifted. But do you want to come with me and see the venue?"

She may even try on the dress at the wedding venue. Sumire felt her face redden at the mere thought. Oh, to think this day is actually happening.

"I think I'm dreaming."

"Silly girl, you-" Before Yuhi could finish his sentence, they heard the sound of her phone.

Sumire, however, froze hearing the ring tone. She immediately answered it angrily. "Aki! Where on earth have you been? How could you leave everything to Atushi? He isn't even part of our group."

She heard familiar laughter on the other end and sighed. "This isn't funny; you know those people are taking serious action."

"As expected of you, riri, you're so well informed."

"And so? I would curse you to death if you didn't find anything worthwhile on your adventure."

"Now, now. I have something useful. Are you alone?"

Sumire glanced over at Yuhi; she pulled the phone away for a moment. "I'm just going to step out, okay?"

"Sure."

She headed towards the balcony and briefly looked back to see him eating the other sandwiches. Well, it's not like she can't just tell him later. Sumire slid open the double doors and stepped out onto the balcony.

"What is it?"

"Recently, there were rumors about a large-scale arms deal. You heard about that, right?"

"Yes, some guns were smuggled in from overseas. I am guessing you went over to stop the trade?"

"It was a coincidence that I did."

Her eyes twitched, annoyed hearing those words. This person has an unusual ability to make her angry.

"But when I went there, the guns were missing."

"Huh?" Sumire exclaimed. "Wait, how many?"

"Five thousand."

At those words, Sumire sighed. Five thousand guns went missing, and they are not normal guns either. Guns from overseas are most likely more advanced. This is no good; even half that amount is enough to start a large-scale war.

"Find them, no wait. We need to narrow down the search if that many went missing."

"I already did, Tokyo."

Sumire already had a bad feeling when she saw his caller ID but of course.

"Then I'll deal with it."

"As expected of the real leader." Aki trailed off. "And so are we getting Yuhi's help on this?"

"No," Sumire muttered. "Now isn't a good time for Yuhi to be involved in a large-scale operation. What he is doing is already risky enough; thankfully, the media are focusing their attention on cooking up a false love triangle."

"But is it false? What if he is cheating on you-"

"If you say another word, I'll cut off your tongue or fill your head with bullets." Sumire threatened.

"So scary, but you should bring someone with you just in case."

"Alright, is that all?"

"I'll mail you some more details, Riri; remember to value lives."

"I know."

She ended the call with those words and looked up at the sky. A clear sky and yet a huge cloud. It will probably rain; however, tonight is probably the best time to strike and do this job. Yuhi-san will be busy until tomorrow morning.

'I have to finish up quickly and then head back before he returns.'

Her thoughts broke off hearing a knock on the door, and she opened it. "Are you finished?"

"Yup." Sumire clung to his arm. "My dear, do you remember what you said? You said after we eat, you will attack me with kisses."

"Hah, but what should we do? I'm tired."

"Then I'll be the one doing the attacking." Sumire beamed happily. "What type of position do you like?"

She suddenly felt Yuhi lift her up. "You're provoking me too much. I guess you know what will happen?"

"That's what I want."

If only she could spend more peaceful days like this with Yuhi-san with nothing happening. However, she recalled Aki's distressed tone. Even though he tried to sound like his usual self, she sensed how tired and exhausted he was.

It's not like him; he has always remained calm ever since they first met.

Eternal Melody C672 This is Sumire

Chapter 672 This is Sumire

Tokyo - Suburbs harbor, 7:30 pm

It was the first time she had actually wanted Yuhi to leave her early. But up until an hour ago, he stayed by her side. The amount of kissing they did remains firmly on her mind. Ah, her dear is so good at kissing. It felt like she was on cloud nine the entire time.

Unfortunately, they didn't do anything more than kiss. It's so unfair; why can't they do it when she is pregnant?

"First, you arrive late, and now your spacing out." An annoyed-looking Nakura Shin said.

Sumire chuckled. "Sorry, sorry. But it's just like you to be punctual."

The person she decided to drag along with her was Shin. Hino was the other option, but Hino had been just as overprotective over her since they discovered her pregnancy. Hino certainly nags more. Shin knows about it, but he won't nag her.

"I already planned to charge the Holy knights a large fee if I got injured."

Her sweat fell. "Despite what it looks like, our group isn't made of money." She trailed off. "So, did anything interesting happen?"

"In those cargo boxes are little children, female orphans from the looks of it."

Sumire's gaze dimmed hearing those words. So, it's enough that they stole the guns, but now they plan to do something with those children? She could think of all types of scenarios, forced prostitution or being treated as slaves, but no, in this case, it is much worse.

"Human weapons," Sumire mumbled. "They plan to turn those girls into killers."

Shin nodded. "I overheard them say something about them swapping ships mid-way."

"Then we should stop them at the harbor or jump onto the ship. Sensei, which one do you think is better?"

"We shouldn't be jumping into ships that we don't know anything about. Besides, if they are swapping ships halfway, don't you think they will blow up their other ship?"

"Oh that's true."

Shin looked at her with a troubled expression and then back at her stomach.

"You know I am going to prioritize your life over the deal, okay?"

"I know already." Sumire trailed off. "Sorry, and thank you, Shin."

She understands that this is reckless behaviour. But other than her, nobody else can stop this deal. Although there are thousands of members in the underworld, and a larger group may be better for this job. However, there is a higher risk of thousands of people dying.

"As for where the guns are," Shin pointed to many boxes in the harbor area. "I think it's obvious."

Sumire sighed deeply. "Well, it's good that we don't have to search, but now it's just too obvious. The boxes are so close to the sea. When we fight, we have to be careful that we don't knock them down." She trailed off. "Shin, how confident are you at shooting?"

"I suppose I am good, but why?"

"Can you shoot the two drones that have been watching us the past few minutes?"

Shin looked alarmed, and she chuckled. "Relax, it's not like we spoke about any sensitive information."

"You should have still said something sooner." Shin sighed and aimed his gun at the two flying drones.

Sumire used this moment to appear in front of one of the armed dealers. A man with blonde hair was wearing a strange bandana on his head and unusual sunglasses.

'These people dress weird.' Why does nobody in the underworld have a decent sense of fashion?

He seemed startled seeing her and aimed his gun clumsily; she only had to move away slightly for the bullet to miss her. Sumire swiftly pulled out her gun and aimed at the man causing him to fall down, leading to alerting the other men.

Seeing her, they quickly surrounded her.

She quickly changed the bullets to laser beams and aimed at the others. She trapped some against the boxes and on the ground.

"Rubber bullets?" Shin said from behind her.

"Right, this is why only I can do this job."

If it was anybody else, they would have killed these people.

"So your not going to-"

"Of course not! If I kill someone, it will be bad. I know when to cultivate good karma."

Besides, she plans to jump on Yuhi-san when he gets back. How could she do that reeking of blood? She will be cutting it close, so she won't have the chance to take a shower.

"Moreover, you could tell just now. These people are not good at fighting; they are very clumsy at using guns. Oh, but of course, not everybody here is inexperienced. I am sure the experienced ones are hiding in the shadows somewhere. Those are the ones I'll kill."

Shin raised his hand. "Forget it. I'll do that. Like you said, it's bad karma. I am fine with having bad luck, but you shouldn't." Shin looked towards her stomach. "-even though it's not obvious. Is there really two in there?"

At those words, Sumire laughed. "Mm, my dear is amazing."

"You sound so proud." Shin trailed off. "Is Nagawa okay with that?"

"Don't you start as well? What Sano thinks doesn't matter." Sumire mumbled.

Right at that moment, she felt blood lust and looked towards the large warehouse in the center. Her lips curved to a smile.

"See, they are the ones we have to kill." Sumire beamed happily. "Shin, can you aim that far?"

"Unlike you, my range isn't that good. I am better at close-range combat."

"Then I'll serve as bait." Sumire walked towards the center. She could hear Shin's protests, but it was already far too late. A rain of bullets came heading her way in seconds.

Sumire dodged every single blow and loaded her gun with real bullets. 'Just in case.' These people are attacking to kill her; unlike the ones earlier, their bloodlust is obvious.

The attacks became more aggressive, but she dodged every single bullet. Each movement in the air felt like she was dancing. Dance! Oh right, this is a good opportunity to test it. It became easier to dodge the blows when she used some of the dance moves.

Maybe it's because she has been practicing nonstop for days, but it feels like her reflexes have gotten stronger. Sumire increased her speed as she fired several bullets. She heard Shin fire from behind her, and some of the snippers went down.

He said he couldn't shoot from a far distance, but that was quite good.

But still, this is unusual.

'The boss ordered everybody in the organization not to kill you. He said he wants you taken to him alive. So nobody should be attacking you with the intention to kill.'

That's what Sano told her, and she even confirmed it with Eli. But, there is no doubt that these people want to kill her.

Eternal Melody C673 Mashima Mirako

Chapter 673 Mashima Mirako

What could it be? If Lucifer told his people about her, he surely must have distributed a photo. Or rather, at this stage, it would be unusual if people who belong to the underworld didn't know her? Is she missing something?

Her thoughts broke off; feeling an unusual presence, Sumire immediately stepped back and shoved Shin out of the way. A cloaked man stepped out of the shadows. That cloak is similar to the one Lucifer wears, but it is different.

"Who are you?" Sumire decided that there was no use beating around the bush.

"Oh, you don't know who I am? Even though you asked people to investigate me."

Investig ah, could it be?

"Your Toh's brother."

According to the files Kou gave her, his name is Mashima Mirako, and he is twenty-two years old.

"Seeing as how you're still calling him in a familiar tone. I see, so you're still seeing my brother?"

Sumire knew it would be stupid to refute his misunderstanding now. But she can't openly admit something that isn't true either, so she simply stayed silent.

"A woman like you, I wonder what's so special." He trailed off. "You used rubber bullets? Are you trying to act like some type of saint?"

"Of course not; that word doesn't suit me." Sumire raised her gun and casually fired it, causing the bullet to graze his cheek. "You see? I switched already."

"Hahahaha, I see you're that type of woman. But you know, when you shoot, it should be with the intention to kill."

Before she could even make a retort, he appeared right in front of her and aimed his gun at her. He is so fast-! Sumire barely dodged it, and the bullet hit her right shoulder; he aimed a second one just right after the first that hit her leg.

What is this? It's not like his marksmanship is better; his shoots are a bit clumsy. But his speed makes up for that. He is fast, but so is she. She learned from Ru after all, and yet is he faster than her?

Mirako laughed. "This is why you don't let your guard down."

Sumire took out her other gun, but it immediately slipped out of her fingers since Mirako fired another shot. She tried to aim at him, but for some reason, none of her attacks were landing.

'Is he using some type of trick? I have perfect marksmanship.' Although having that doesn't necessarily guarantee that she would have perfect aim each time. But, it does guarantee that most of her shots should hit. She shouldn't miss this many times in a row.

After saying those words, he punched her stomach hard, and her eyes widened, alarmed. Ah no-!

"Sumire!" Shin screamed as he caught her.

Sumire coughed and felt droplets of blood leave her lips as Shin laid her down on the ground. She clenched her stomach and felt a pool of blood appear around her.

The children--

Yuhi's children-

No, she can't allow anything to happen to them. She has to do something. But her entire body feels so weak.

'Then, do you want me to take over?'

'Isn't it fine? Once again, make use of me-'

Sumire hears voices in her head. Her vision was blurry, and she felt she was losing more blood each second. This isn't good; she has to move. She hears Shin exchanging blows with Mirako, but Mirako is obviously messing with him and not taking the fight seriously.

Her consciousness will fade.

'Hey, don't sleep; if you do, I'll just use your body for my own use-'

Who is talking to her? It's annoying. She is already in so much pain.

Before her consciousness could fade, she heard somebody calling her name frantically and insulting her. She could barely see now, but she made out red hair.

"Atsuro?" Sumire mumbled weakly.

Why would Atsuro appear here?

"Tsk, damn it. You really are stupid!"

That's definitely Atsuro, but Atsuro wouldn't appear here on his own. Sumire mustered her remaining strength, turned her head, and spotted black hair wearing a black outfit with a cape. A cape? Her dear looks good in anything.

"Y-Yu-"

Yuhi must have heard her since he crouched down and kissed her lips softly. "Let Atsuro heal you. You worked hard. I'll deal with the rest."

"Children, our children-" Sumire sobbed.

How many minutes have gone by since she started bleeding? What if there is an issue?

"Leave it to Atsuro; even he has some tricks."

"But-"

"Stay strong, Sumire." With those words, Yuhi walked back over to Mirako and Shin.

Mirako's gaze was dark, and Sumire felt his bloodlust increase.

"So your Terashima Yuhi? You're the one who killed them-!" Mirako looked absolutely furious.

Killed? What did her dearest do?

She felt a warm light around her stomach and realized that it came from Atsuro's hand. Several scrolls with ancient writing scribbled around them were glowing too.

"You're seriously crazy," Atsuro muttered. "Do you know how frightened I was when I heard that Aki told you that and when Shin confirmed my thoughts?"

Ah, so Atsuro must have told Yuhi.

"But if you think I was frightened, Yuhi looked like he would collapse on the spot."

"Y-you were together?" Sumire said weakly.

"Yeah, we had something to discuss."

"Atsuro, what about the kids?"

"Thankfully, he didn't hit too hard. But he still hit you, and that's why you bled. Just leave it to me. I will have you fixed up in no time."

"Is this healing?"

"Something similar to it." Atsuro gave her hands a reassuring squeeze. "So, if I save your children, will you start trusting me now?"

Sumire blinked and laughed at his words. "You're so silly. Is that why you have been sneaking around with my dearest recently? Are you trying to persuade him first so he can persuade me?"

"If you know, then fall for it already."

"You still get annoyed easily."

Due to Atsuro's 'healing,' she was slowly regaining her strength, and her vision was gradually returning to normal. She turned to Yuhi, who was now fighting Mirako. He wasn't using guns but a sword, or rather two swords.

Sumire blinked, surprised. So that's the weapon he prefers? Now that she thought about it, when they worked alongside one another. He would always look at the gun and say, 'a bit too small.' She never understood what he meant, but now it makes sense.

His movements are so swift; he must have practiced a lot. Whenever Yuhi fights, he looks ten times cooler. It feels like she is going to fall in love with him all over again.

Eternal Melody C674 Angry

Chapter 674 Angry

"Stop looking, so love-struck," Atsuro said, annoyed.

"But he looks so cool. Ah, maybe I can attack him after this."

"Oi, even if I am healing you. I am only stopping the bleeding and any internal damages. The latter, I am only focusing on anything that would cause you to miscarry. You should still rest when you get back."

Sumire sighed. "Even though I had plans to attack."

"Also, Yuhi is very angry. He isn't going to shout at you in front of everyone. But when your alone, he will."

At that comment, her face color turned pale. "Wait, stop healing me. I think you should send me to the hospital instead."

Atsuro sighed. "Are you that afraid?"

"Yes!" Sumire immediately replied. "You don't understand, Atsuro. My dear never gets angry at me, so during the rare occasions that he does. It becomes terribly frightening."

"That's great then; even if I scold you, you won't listen."

Che, of course, she won't. Atsuro's scolding is him nagging after all. Sumire turned to the fight again. When she briefly looked earlier, Yuhi pushed back Mirako with his swords. The outcome of the fight was already decided.

But now, Mirako could no longer continue to take on a defensive stance. He slumped to the ground. Yuhi didn't waste any more words with him and returned to her.

Yuhi kissed her eyelids. "She looks better, thanks, Atsuro."

"If you're going to thank me, don't kiss her in front of me," Atsuro said, annoyed.

"I gave you time alone with her; that should be enough." Yuhi scooped her up. "Alright, time to go."

"Eh, but what about Mir-" Sumire turned to the scene and realized that Mirako was nowhere to be found. So, he ran off right after the fight ended?

For somebody who was acting high and mighty earlier, he sure is fast to run away.

"I let him get away, even though I could have finished him off. I feel like he can still be useful."

Sumire blinked, hearing those words. Wow, how frightening, and she thought she was scary. After beating him to a pulp, he is suddenly 'useful?'

"Just to let you know, if he didn't hurt you. He may have gotten off with a lesser punishment."

Nervous laughter escaped her lips. Yes, her dear is in a frightening mood. This isn't good for her. Perhaps it was due to the relief of being in Yuhi's arms or just being tired, but she felt her eyelids close.

When she woke up, they were already close to the house. She managed to persuade Yuhi to put her down. It did not take them long before they reached the familiar building and the moment they got inside. She felt the temperature drop.

Yuhi will never get mad at her publicly because he knew the media would use it to their advantage. He will not do something that will cause her more harm.

He leads her to the living room and still doesn't say a word as he makes her sit down on the couch. Uh-

Oh no, Yuhi-san is definitely angry this time.

Yuhi's gaze was dim. "-and so? What was all that about?"

"Um."

"Regaining the goods after a failed arms deal?"

"But if the enemy succeeded, it would have caused the start of a large-scale war," Sumire argued.

If that happened, there would be more lives that are lost.

"Who cares about that?" Yuhi yelled. He punched the wall causing a large crack to form. "I told you repeatedly, damn it, to prioritize your own safety even if you have to abandon your mission."

"But--"

"Sumire, have you forgotten that you're pregnant?"

"I know that's why I didn't kill anyone."

"That's not the point. The point is you put yourself in danger. You have to remember it's not just you anymore. You're carrying two other lives other than your own." Yuhi emphasized two other lives, and she paused.

So, that's why. He is worried about losing the children.

"What I am worried about is you, idiot." Yuhi suddenly said.

Her over the kids? Seeing his already frustrated expression, Sumire knew better than to question him.

"Ah, I-I'm sorry."

Yuhi sighed. "Show me your shoulders. Atsuro only healed your stomach; he didn't do anything about the other two."

That makes sense; he probably thought that saving the children in her stomach was a priority. But, show him her shoulder? Sumire carefully undid her shirt buttons and slid her shirt off slightly, revealing her injured shoulder.

Yuhi walked over with a medical box and slowly applied some ointment to the wound.

He still isn't looking at her. Is he that upset? What can she do? She doesn't like this atmosphere. It feels suffocating- Her thoughts break off when she feels a familiar pair of lips on hers.

Ah, he is kissing her. Despite the surprise, Sumire relaxed and opened her mouth. But the moment she did that, he stuck his tongue inside. This isn't the first time they have kissed using their tongues, but even she knew something was different.

"I-I can't bre-" Sumire barely managed to get those words out when Yuhi was kissing her deeply again.

After ten minutes, Yuhi stopped kissing her and mumbled against her lips.

"Don't do that again, okay?"

"Y-yes?"

"Like I said, don't do something that careless again. Next time you do, don't blame me if I lock you up."

"Y-yes."

What kind of kiss was that? J-just now, it felt--

"Hey, are you listening?"

"Can you kiss me again like what you just did.."

Yuhi looked at her dumbfounded and sighed. "Just now, I kissed you aggressively because I was angry. Are you telling me you liked it?"

"Y-yes."

"As your punishment, you're not having anymore."

Sumire looked at him dejected, but he suddenly cupped her cheeks. "However, you're too cute for me to stay mad at. Consider yourself lucky that I am addicted to everything about you."

That's wrong, Yuhi; the lucky one is her. If he hadn't shown up at that moment, she would have listened to that voice and lost control of herself.

That voice, no, there was more than one voice. It felt like she had heard it somewhere before, a long time ago.

Eternal Melody C675 If I go crazy

Chapter 675 If I go crazy

"So, I'm serious, yeah? Don't do that again." Yuhi kissed her eyelids softly after that round of intense kisses.

"Mm, I understand, my dear."

"You say that, but-" Yuhi sighed. "Forget it, next time I'll come with you. It's not that I don't trust Shin to have your back. But, you have a habit of rushing off on your own."

Next time they can be together?

"But, the medi"

"It's fine."

"You're the one who doesn't take safety margins, Yuhi," Sumire exclaimed. "I can't cope if you end up in a scandal and it destroys your entire career."

At those words, Yuhi kissed her again. It was so sudden, and yet it didn't take long for her to wrap her arms around his neck, and she rested her face on his b n shoulders.

"My dear, what was that?"

"I have decided," Yuhi mumbled. "Whenever you say something stupid. I'll shut you up."

Uh what? Sumire stared at him, speechless. Okay, so maybe what she says is silly in comparison. His career or her safety? Naturally, Yuhi will prioritize the latter since it involves her life.

"I think my lips will end up damaged. We already kiss as a greeting; if we add this, we will be kissing all the time, not that I would dislike that."

"Brat." Yuhi's lips curved to a smile. "Well, kissing is all we can really do at the moment anyway. So, increasing it isn't bad."

At those words, she pouted. "Yuhi-san, if I didn't get hurt. I would have attacked you!"

This is so unfair; now, all her planning has gone to waste.

Yuhi pinched her cheeks. "Behave."

How unfair; what's with his self-control? Wasn't he the one who said something along the lines of not having enough of her?

"We secured the guns, and I am sure Atsuro and Shin will pass on the message to Aki. So you don't have to worry about it anymore."

Sumire blinked. Does he still think she is thinking about the deal? Since earlier seeing him in that outfit distracted her, and now she really wants to do a bit of touching.

Still, now that he mentioned it, she is curious. "What about those people?" She was referring to the 'enemies' she took down.

"I called for a cleaner."

Her eyes brightened at those words. "As expected of you, my dearest, you understand me well." She trailed off. "Those people you see were clearly newbies who only just learned to wield a gun. They do not deserve to die."

"Mm, I am familiar with your fighting style well. Still, I think you should switch tactics when we face core members of the black Alice organization."

"Are you saying I shouldn't show them any mercy?"

"That's right."

Sumire responded to this by placing light kisses on his neck.

"Hey, don't try to bribe me. You understand after today, right? Even if you show mercy on the underlings, it will do nothing. The big bosses will just take advantage of it and cause you to drop your guard."

"I wasn't at my best. I would have held back regardless since Shin was with me."

Then again, Shin has already seen her fight seriously before, so she supposes it would have been useless. Her thoughts broke off when she felt Yuhi's fingers unclasp her bra strap, and she rolled her eyes.

"Mister, where are you touching?"

"A nice soft place," Yuhi mumbled. "Really, you scared me too much. I know I said I wouldn't, but just tonight. I want to reassure myself that you're here."

Hearing his shaking voice and trembling body, Sumire paused. Ah, that's right. Yuhi-san is a huge crybaby. More than anger, the feeling of fear must have been stronger.

She tightened her hold on him. "I told you previously, Yuhi-san, you can do whatever you want to me, and I will like it regardless of your emotions when you do it."

"Ha, I don't know about that. It feels like I won't be able to treat you precious today."

"Then, do it already."

Yuhi pushed her down at those words until she lay on the couch.

"If I go too crazy, stop me."

Sumire agreed, but they both knew she wouldn't.

The following morning, Sumire immediately regretted not stopping her dearest crazy rampage. It did feel nice, and she even blacked out, but now she feels all sore.

"I told Hino what happened. He said we should rest for a few more days, and then we can go back to school." Yuhi said, breaking her thoughts.

But still, this situation might be good. Her gaze fell on Yuhi, who was feeding her.

"We?"

"Hino said I should do my job as your limiter." Yuhi fed her another spoonful of porridge.

She woke up this morning with terrible pain in both her arms. She hadn't realized that Mirako had aimed at her other shoulder too. Unfortunately, since neither she nor Yuhi noticed, she woke up with an infection.

After receiving instructions from Atsuro, Yuhi wrapped bandages around both of her arms and said she couldn't use her hands for the next few days.

"But you know, what about bathing?" Sumire wondered.

"Well, if you don't mind, I can help you there too."

Sumire stared at him and then clapped her hands. "Just now, you said something shameless so easily, so I am praising you for it."

"This is an odd thing to be praised about." Yuhi trailed off and put the bowl of porridge on the bedside table. He caressed her cheeks. "Are you feeling alright?"

"No, I'm all sore because of a certain someone."

"Damn," Yuhi grumbled, and she laughed. "You really were pretty yesterday."

"Just yesterday?"

"No." Yuhi kissed her lightly. "Every single day since this earth was created."

"That's a bit overboard." Sumire laughed. "Are you getting better at flattery, my dear?"

"I improved for you. Do you want to lie back down?"

"Mmm, I was planning on adjusting Jun-kun's song a little. Yuhi, could you write down the changes for me while I listen to the melody?"

"Sure." He sat, adjusted the bed headboard so she could lay down and sit at the same time, and walked over to get her composition book that Tetsuo returned the other day.

"You know people recorded Tetsuo singing to you that day, and it blew up on the net. Tetsuo was quite upset that his new song was revealed in such a way even though he had plans for the reveal during a huge event."

Sumire laughed. "But it's good; people can hear the song when he is singing it directly for the person he wrote it for."

"Damn, that bothers me." Yuhi sighed. "Well, I understand by now that Tetsuo is the last one I should worry about."

"Mm, correct, my dear, your other rivals are improving themselves. You should be careful."

She was only teasing him but seeing the disturbed expression on his face caused her to stop. Recently, he has reacted sensitively regarding this topic. Is he that worried that somebody will take her away? How foolish.

Previously love was a foreign subject to her, and she didn't think she deserved to have it. But after she met him, those thoughts changed.

Eternal Melody C676 Inner fear

Chapter 676 Inner fear

"What is it?" Yuhi must have noticed that she was staring.

"Mm, I was thinking how handsome."

At those words, Yuhi looked even more troubled, and she laughed.

"My dear, you've been acting weird recently. Are you alright? Is there something you need to discuss with me?"

Yuhi shook his head and kissed her again. "No." He placed a pair of headphones on her ear and connected it to her laptop. The familiar melody she wrote for Jun-kun played through the headphones, and she looked at the score.

"This bit, reduce the tempo." She pointed to the score, and Yuhi made the adjustments.

She occasionally felt Yuhi looking at her as she concentrated on the song.

This makes her feel a bit self-conscious, although Yuhi has already told her that he likes looking at her. It doesn't stop her from feeling embarrassed.

"So hey, after this. Do you want to go over our song?"

"Y-yes, but we can't practice any dancing with my hands like this."

"That's fine; we can take turns singing instead. Or I should at least show you how much progress I have made. But honestly, unlike you, I haven't had much time to practice."

Even if he says that, if it's Yuhi-san, there is no doubt that his few minutes of practicing are ten levels higher than her.

"Yuhi-san, do you truly think I can stand on stage next to you?" Sumire mumbled. "I am not just saying this because of my lack of confidence. It's just in terms of skills-" Her sentence fell short when he kissed her again.

Sumire pouted after he drew back. "I'm being serious! That wasn't a stupid comment."

"Yeah, you're right. I just wanted to kiss you again." Yuhi admitted.

"Now, who is being needy?"

"To answer your question about skills, you're probably only a level or two below me. Sumire, you said you used to practice independently for hours every day. When your parents went on vacation, you took advantage of it.

After the accident, you didn't speak to anyone for a while, and according to Aki, all you did was sing. When you started living on your own, you had nobody to restrict you, so you sang. Just think about it; all that time and effort you used to sing is no different than somebody who debuted as a child."

Now that he puts it that way, she tried to calculate the hours in her head. 'I did practice a lot; it would be strange if I didn't develop skills that time, the more I sang, the better I became-'

"If that's true, why am I not at your level?"

"Because you suck at dancing."

"Ah hey!" Sumire exclaimed, and Yuhi laughed. "I know I'm bad, but hearing it from you upsets me."

"I am joking; your dance skills are a bit above average already. But since your singing level is on a higher tier. Naturally, you will see your dancing as bad."

"That makes sense," Sumire mumbled. "Because I focused so much on singing, my other skills fall short."

"Yeah, but you're trying to change that now."

"You see, singing is everything to me. If I can sing, that's all I need. I don't have to stand on a grand stage or enter a large competition. I don't need money or fame either. If I can sing, then that is enough." Sumire laughed weakly. "Does that make me strange, I wonder?"

"No, I think it's great." Yuhi's gaze softened. "I was the same way, and I probably still am. For people like us, singing is our lifeline. We can only sing well when we are not thinking of complicated factors. Everything else is not important."

"But you enter many contests, Yuhi, at least you did before."

"Yeah, because it was what Hino wanted. I had no interest in them personally. Perhaps I didn't get along very well with the other contestants because I showed such indifference."

"Did they bully you? Are you alright, Yuhi?" Sumire leaned her body forward so she could brush her forehead against his. "I'm here for you."

"You seriously have no idea what you are doing to me." Yuhi trailed off and sighed as he drew back. He adjusts the headboard again, and she ends up laying back down.

Yuhi plops himself beside her, and Sumire blinked, confused. Maybe they are going to cuddle? She stared at him, puzzled for a few minutes before Yuhi pointed to his arm. So, they are going to cuddle? It's hard to predict his behavior after what happened yesterday.

This morning when she woke up, she saw Yuhi with a pained expression on his face as he changed her bandages. He looked like he was in pain, then his expression changed to an angry one.

Sumire cautiously rested her head on his arm, and Yuhi sighed.

"Why are you acting all jittery?"

"I-I think you're still angry," Sumire mumbled.

Even though he has been spoiling her this morning with affectionate words, she can't forget that pained look she saw when she woke up.

"If I was still mad, I wouldn't be lying here with you."

"But Yuhi, I-"

"I'm sure you have reflected on it, and honestly, I have to apologize for yelling. What you said was certainly correct. There would have been more bloodshed and a high chance of you being in danger. Thinking about it, you would end up dragged into the conflict if that many guns vanished. Too many people hate you."

Her sweat fell hearing him sigh at the end.

She indeed ends up making enemies wherever she goes. But does he have to sigh like that?

"So, you don't hate me, Yuhi?"

"So she asks after spending that passionate night with me. Hey, be honest. Do you think I am the type of guy who would spend the night with a woman I hated?"

"You could do-" She paused, seeing Yuhi glare at her, and she laughed softly. "I am joking, my dear."

"Every time you joke with me, I end up having a heart attack."

"I said this because I woke up briefly this morning and saw the expression on your face." Sumire paused, wondering whether or not she ought to continue.

Yuhi seemed troubled, but he nodded. "I just felt frustrated. How could I have allowed something like that to happen to you? We were together not too long before; if I didn't go, you would have been safe."

"Yuhi, calm down. You don't have to blame yourself every single time something bad happens to me." Sumire trailed off. "Okay?"

"How can I not blame myself? Before we dated, fair enough, I had an excuse. But now that we are together, you will soon become my wife. How can I not protect you?"

"But, you didn't date me so you could protect me, right?"

"I know, but I feel so useless. I want to keep you safe and see you smiling always. I never want to walk and see such a terrible sight again."

Ah, his voice is faltering again. If only she could use her arms and hug him tightly.

Eternal Melody C677 It is already impossible

Chapter 677 It is already impossible

If she could hold him tightly, perhaps she could squeeze away all of his worries. But even she understood that was impossible. If a single hug is enough to disperse people's pain, then this world would not have so many people suffering.

Yuhi's gaze met hers, and he sighed. He brushed his fingers across her cheek. "Sorry, I got worked up again." He lightly kissed her eyelids. "I'm fine, don't worry."

Is he really? This reaction of his reminds her of something similar. Back then, Yuhi was so distant from others because of a friend he lost, a friend he failed to save during one of his missions. Perhaps he is reacting this way because he still hasn't gotten over what happened back then?

"I was with Atsuro to discuss some suspicious activity happening in the harbor in the suburbs. He informed me what took place recently in Star town and how the culprits escaped to Tokyo. When I heard that, I actually asked him. So, what are the chances of Sumire involving herself in this?"

Her sweat fell at those words. Is that why he was investigating the suspicious activity in the suburbs. Did he ask, so he could prepare himself for her doing something careless?

"When Atsuro mentioned what happened at the arms deal, he contacted Aki, who told us that he told you already. Right then, Shin sent us a message. I almost had a heart attack on the spot Sumire."

"Um, I mean, you knew Aki was the one who called me, right?"

"No, when you took that phone call. I thought it was from Sano." Yuhi said awkwardly.

Sumire frowned hearing those words. If she could use her hands, she would have hit him.

"Why would it be from Sano?" Sumire glared at him.

"Uh, because you use a separate ring tone for him, right? That ring tone was different from the usual."

She only uses a separate one for Sano so she can avoid his calls or mentally prepare herself. Sumire sighed deeply, seeing his expression.

"Yuhi-san, since we are on this topic. I have to ask, are you sure you trust me?"

"I think we spoke about this before, too. I trust you too much, you crazy girl. You could stab me with a knife right now or put sleeping pills in my drink, and I would still think you were right."

"That's quite the exaggerated example. But I also find it romantic."

Yuhi flicked her forehead after hearing her say those words.

"You and your strange idea regarding romance."

"Hey, it's not strange!"

"You turn everything into a tragedy; if that's not strange, then what is?"

"You simply don't understand the beauty of tragic romances, Yuhi-san." Sumire pouted as she tried to break free from his hold. Unfortunately, he had his arms wrapped firmly around her waist, preventing her from moving. "-and yet you trap me and keep me hostage."

"I can see why you like Nagawa so much. He was the type to treat you coldly like that, right?"

"I always feel a headache coming on when we speak about him. Isn't it bad that Hino mentions him a lot?"

"Well, they are best friends."

Best friends, huh? Sumire's gaze fell towards Yuhi. Yuhi has many people by his side. He is very popular, yet she hasn't seen a trace of a close male companion. She tilted her head, puzzled. It's so strange, how come?

"What is it? Just so you know, I am tired. So I won't be attacking you today."

"That's not it, Yuhi. Do you not have any best friends?"

Yuhi considers Hino as a family, so he doesn't count, and the same with the guys in akagumi.

"My friend who got killed. I told you about him before, didn't I?"

"Ah."

"For male friendships, saying 'we are best friends' is unnecessary. If we are close to one particular individual over another, we naturally hang out with them more. It was the same for Yujiro and me."

"I'm sorry for bringing up such a painful topic." Sumire trailed off. "It's just I find you amazing, Yuhi-san; you're such a nice person. That's why so many people are attracted to you. So I find it weird that nobody is particularly close to you."

"But there is someone." Yuhi turned to her and caressed her cheek. "Are we not close?"

"We are, but I don't think we should include me."

"It's alright if I don't have a best friend anymore. Truthfully, I had no intention of getting close to another person after his death. But, in my line of work, it's naturally impossible. Over the years, I have met a few interesting people that I have kept in my close circle. However, there is nobody I am particularly attached to other than you." Yuhi paused. "No, I suppose that is wrong. The other guys in M5 have become important to me."

Her eyes brightened hearing those words, and Yuhi looked troubled, but he continued.

"I suppose if somebody asked me if I had any close friends, I would say them. When you weren't here, they were here for me. Nobody asked them, certainly not me. But there didn't go a single day during those months where I was alone."

She heard this from the others but has yet to hear any details. It surprised her; she did tell Kou before. 'Please be good to Yuhi.' But he would have done that regardless. However, the other three of their own violation?

Her gaze softened; those guys must have seen what she saw in Yuhi.

Sumire rolled on top of him and lightly kissed his lips. "I think they all saw how much of a good guy you are, Yuhi."

"Ha, I have mixed feelings about that."

"You're a good guy, Yuhi, and I want everyone to see that."

"Then I wish the same for you. I wish the unnecessary hate would vanish."

For a moment, she didn't know what to say. This is not the first time she has heard this; so many people have said it. But, when she hears it from Yuhi. She feels like crying.

'No, I can't. If I cry now, it would seem like it bothers me.'

Sumire shook her head and laughed weakly.

"That is impossible already. I think I have already resigned to my fate; people just naturally dislike me. Even if the relationship goes well at the beginning, they get tired of being around me. My presence in this world is nothing more than that of a villain. If humans are assigned roles from birth, then this was my role. No matter what I do, I cannot escape my role."

She saw the pained look on his face and laughed again.

"It is alright. I think it would have bothered me in the past, but now I have you, Yuhi-san."

That's right, what is different from the past and now is that she has Yuhi. Because she has him right by her side, her world has brightened up.

Yuhi suddenly sits them both up. "Do you want to practice together?" Yuhi said, averting his gaze.

Sumire blinked and burst into laughter. "Sure."

Eternal Melody C678 A sweet love song

Chapter 678 A sweet love song

Two hours later, in one of the training rooms.

"My world has become a lot more intriguing and unbelievable." Sumire sang.

"I even thought that this was a dream bestowed by heaven." Yuhi sang.

"I had to confirm this reality from the warmth of your hands to the beat of your heart." Sumire sang.

"-dare I say, I love you." Yuhi sang. "Oi, not again."

"B-but-" Sumire stammered.

"You always freeze up when we share lines." Yuhi walked over to the music player and switched it off. "Shouldn't singing a love song with the man you love be easy?"

"Mister, I think your ego has gotten larger. Why are you so confident?"

"I received a confession right before we started to practice; of course, I am confident."

A confession? Sumire recalled what she said and sighed. "If that's your idea of a confession, I can see why the first time was so bad."

"But we managed to work on the lyrics separately and only just put it together. If you think about it, that's amazing."

"We still communicated through messages."

But he is right; it's not easy to put a song together like that.

"Still," Yuhi stretched her cheeks. "-what is with you?"

"What do you mean?" Sumire said, feigning ignorance.

Now that they were practicing properly together, she knew she wouldn't be able to get away with it. Yuhi has many years of experience in the entertainment industry. An expert like him can tell immediately.

"This song is talking about the sweet and gentle emotions of a girl's first crush. But your face either stiffens up, or you end up looking too aggressive." Yuhi paused. "Could it be your bad with sweet love songs?"

Bingo, he hit the nail right on the head.

"I know as an idol I have to sing love songs, it's practically a given, and I have written numerous love songs. But this one is a bit too much."

The feelings of secretly crushing on someone older and being embarrassed? It resembles her situation not too long ago. Besides, her first love is Yuhi! How could she possibly sing with those emotions right in front of him?

Yuhi sighed. "Try it again; sing any of the lines."

"My world has become more colorful, so much that I can't express it with words. It makes me think this is just a nice dream gifted by the heavens." Sumire sang.

"Your expression there was sweet, but your body language shows you are stiff." Yuhi trailed off. "Alright, let's do this. Pretend that I am your first love."

H-h-huh? P-pretend? Sumire looked at him dumbfounded. 'Oh, my dearest, you have no idea that you're my first love? Why on earth do I have to pretend!'

It already feels like her heart will stop.

'Am I struggling to perform well because the song strongly reflects my past situation?'

Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi suddenly leaned forward. "Look at me for ten seconds, and don't break eye contact."

T-that is impossible! Even during her staring at Yuhi sessions, she can only last five seconds before taking a break. Sumire knew, however, that she had no say in this and stared back at him.

Perhaps it was due to the atmosphere, but she ended up averting her gaze at eight seconds. Three extra seconds than usual.

"T-time out!" Sumire exclaimed. "I can't anymore; my heart will stop."

At those words, Yuhi burst into laughter. "You don't have to be that honest about it. You're always looking at me, so I thought this would be an easy exercise for you."

"No, no, that's different. Normally when I stare at you, it's because I want to attack. There is nothing sweet and pure about those feelings."

Moreover, she has only ever lasted five seconds looking at him. But he doesn't need to know that.

Yuhi rolled his eyes. "Why don't you just use your own experience? I mean, you should be good at that. You use your own experience to write most of your songs, so you should do the same this time, too."

But that is the issue here, 'My own experience is with you, idiot!' Sumire wanted to scream. However, she knew it would cause issues. It's already enough that he knows that she has liked him for a long time, but to say he is my first love would be too much.

"I guess I'm not the best person to advise you on this-" Yuhi paused. "Hold on, let's call for backup."

Huh? Yuhi steps outside to make a quick phone call, and after thirty minutes, he re-enters the room with a familiar person. It was Asami.

"Here, the love expert. Have fun."

"Ah Yu-kun!" Asami exclaimed. "That's so mean, summoning me without telling me what's going on."

Her sweat dropped. Yuhi-san, what on earth did he do now?

"Sorry about this, Asami." Sumire apologized. "I was struggling with facial control when singing a sweet love song. Yuhi tried to advise me, but it wasn't going very well."

Asami quickly turned to her. "It's okay. I figured it was something for you. Can I listen to the song?"

Sumire nodded and quickly switched on the music player as she handed Asami the lyrics.

The girl's eyes were bright when she saw it.

"This is so cute! No, no way, no way! Are you and Yu-kun really going to sing this together?"

"Uh, I suppose," Sumire replied awkwardly.

Even now, she has a hard time dealing with Asami-san's enthusiasm. It would explain why she is closer to Aika.

"Hey, can I try this too?"

"Oh, sure."

"My world has become more colorful, so much that I can't express it with words. It makes me think this is just a nice dream gifted by the heavens." Asami sang.

Sumire blinked, hearing her sing. These are the lines she sang just now, but it sounds so different when Asami-san sings. It's just a few lines, but she certainly felt the feelings of a girl's first love.

"That was so cute! How did you do it?"

"It's all about imagination." Asami beamed.

"Imagination?"

"When you want to be sweet, you have to think of sweet situations. I suppose singers would call it image training. Train your mind to think about a sweet moment. Whether it's your own situation or another person."

"But that's the problem." Sumire averted her gaze and looked at the ground. She bent over and whispered in Asami-san's ear.

"What? Yu-kun is your first love!"

"Ssh, be quiet! What if he is still out there?"

Asami clasped her hand in her mouth briefly and pulled away. "Well now I can see why you are struggling. I suppose he doesn't know?"

"I apparently met Yuhi when I was younger. Our first meeting was different to what I thought, and it seemed we had a good relationship then that people misunderstood us as lovers. But since we were only kids, naturally, it wasn't serious, and certainly, for me, the first time I fell in love with Yuhi was during that snowy concert. Even though it took me a long time to figure that out."

Even though it took her a long time when she realized she liked it. She had difficulty controlling her feelings.

Eternal Melody C679 Who is your first love?

Chapter 679 Who is your first love?

"Maybe that's an issue, too, because you spent a long time figuring it out. If you knew about it from the beginning, then those emotions would come through more naturally. I'd say just scrape the complicated thoughts."

"Uh, is it that easy?"

"It is. I think you have a bad habit of overthinking." Asami trailed off. "Even if you can't use your personal experiences, you can easily use references like watching a sweet film or reading a sweet story. Sumire-chan, you read a lot of books, right? Since you are always in the library."

"I do."

"Have you ever read romance stories?"

Romance stories, huh? She does read romance but tragic ones.

"A little?" Sumire didn't know how to reply to this.

"Hmm, I suppose I will just send you some reference videos and magazines. But the most important thing is harmony. If the two have harmony, then it makes it sweet-" Asami trailed off. "Actually, I think the best example is you and Yu-kun, after all."

"The best example?"

"Right, your relationship is so sweet that even the jealous girls can't intervene. Your harmony is perfect; you naturally get along, have a lot in common, and push each other to great heights. Your perfect partners."

Partners huh?

"Sumire-chan, you're looking a bit pale. Are you alright?"

'I managed to hold back since earlier, but if someone points it out. It is a bit difficult to do so.'

"I think it's just my nausea," Sumire mumbled weakly. "I will lay down. Sorry about this, but I have to send you away."

"It's alright; it's nice to see you after so long. Right now, there are all sorts of crazy rumors about you. But, I believe in what I have seen." Asami grabbed hold of her bandaged hands. "Sumire-chan, you are not the type of person who would fight for an evil purpose. You are the type to fight to protect your comrades."

"I-"

"You don't have to say anything. I understand."

With those words, Asami left, and Sumire slumped to the ground and sighed. While it's true that she fought that time to protect Jun-kun, but at the same time, 'I have fought for evil purposes too.' Perhaps deep down, Asami-san knows that, and that's why she didn't allow her to speak.

Sumire felt pain in her stomach, and she lays down on the ground. This pregnancy is taking more of her usual strength. Although there were complications with little Huan, her nausea wasn't this bad.

From: Aki

Cargo shipped.

Good work, Riri.

Her eyes twitched, annoyed when she read the message. What is with that 'good work' comment? Because of what happened, her hands are in this state where even lifting up her phone would be dangerous for her.

Sumire sighed deeply. Why does she subconsciously end up following Aki's orders? Back then, it made sense, she felt empty, and her life had no meaning. But, the situation presently, she has a lot of stuff to live for. Her life is no longer hanging on the very edge of a cliff.

'Maybe it's just a bad habit.' There is a saying that it's hard to break away from a habit that has been developed as a child. When she thinks about when they first met, it was certainly during a time when she would be easily influenced.

But, she has to stop listening to him. Her gaze fell on her stomach. "Mommy is sorry for putting you both in danger; it won't happen again."

When she thought back to it, she wondered what she was doing. But, after hearing the details from Aki, her first thought was. 'I have to do this.'

She didn't even think of the consequences afterward- Sumire sighed.

'I am too selfish; even now, that part of me doesn't change.'

"I don't see you doing much practice," Yuhi commented, returning to the room.

"I felt nauseous, so I told Asami-san to get back."

Yuhi picks her up. "I'll take you back to the room; that's enough practice for now."

"I wanted to sing for a bit longer, but saying that is selfish."

"Then I'll sing for you; you should get some rest."

Falling asleep to Yuhi's voice does sound nice. Sumire quickly agreed, and Yuhi brought her out of the training room. It felt nice being in Yuhi-san's arms.

"How was it? Did you learn how to be sweet?"

Sumire sighed. "I got some pointers, yes, but it's difficult." She trailed off. "Say Yuhi-san, who is your first love?"

"The girl asking me that very question."

He replied way too quickly, even though she suspected it as much.

"Is it that difficult? Imagining me as your first love and singing that song with me."

"I think I should clear up the misunderstanding before you get any more crazy ideas in your head. But you're my first love, Yuhi."

At those words, he almost dropped her, and she sighed.

"I knew you'd react this way."

"But, what about Mamoru?"

"There was a time when I thought that he was the first one I truly loved and the feelings I had for Toh and Ren were only to fill the void in my heart. When I was with Ru, I genuinely felt happy and immediately knew I liked him. However, just feeling happiness isn't enough. I realize I have to endure suffering and hardships too. That's why I can safely say you're my first love." Sumire concluded.

Yuhi's sweat fell. "Hey, why does it sound like I put you through a lot of pain-"

"Because you did." Sumire pouted. "You should have just swept me off my feet."

"I see that's another one of your desires; alright, I'll note that down." Yuhi trailed off. "So the reason you're struggling with the song is more to do with you being embarrassed, right?"

"Uh, if you put it that way, it makes it seem like my personal feelings are interfering with my profession."

"But well, if that's the case, then we should just practice being sweeter with each other."

P-practice? And dare should she ask, how are they going to practice that? It did not take long before they reached the room, and she was on the bed again.

After he put her down, Yuhi removed his shirt, and she panicked. "W-what are you doing?"

"Huh?"

"I-I know you said we should practice. But there is nothing sweet and innocent about you stripping-" Sumire exclaimed with flushed cheeks as she averted her gaze. But, occasionally, she would stare.

There is nothing innocent, and it makes her have crazy thoughts. He isn't planning on jumping on her when she is in this state, right?

Eternal Melody C680 Forget Me Not

Chapter 680 Forget Me Not

"I got some stains on my clothes when I was cooking, so I wanted to get change. But, when I saw Asami leave. I decided I'd go to you first."

Oh, so that's the reason why. Her thoughts break off when Yuhi walks over to the bed. He caressed her cheeks and leaned forward.

"I-I thought you were getting changed," Sumire mumbled.

"Well yeah, I was. But it's a bit hard for me to ignore you when you are like this."

"Like what?"

"You know you're giving off the 'I want you vibes' so strongly." Yuhi trailed off. "When you blush, you look even lovelier. Hey, let me tell you something, Sumire, you're the only one who has ever stirred my heart like this."

Sumire tried to avoid his gaze, but he was so close to her, so it was difficult to do so.

"You don't have to tell me."

"You're being stubborn again. Did I take time off only to have you refuse me?"

"I-I can't move my hands, remember."

Yuhi brought her fingers to his lips, and she flinched. "It's alright. I'm not that much of a beast. I was just teasing you."

"This teasing has gone too far," Sumire mumbled after Yuhi finished kissing her fingers.

"By the way, when I was looking through your composition book. I noticed a few new songs. You have enough for an album; have you tried discussing it with Hino?"

"Mmm, I have loads of new songs, and Hino and I have changed which ones to use for my single several times."

"Hino is being stingy; he should just make you release a new single and album at the same time."

Sumire sweat fell at those words. "Yuhi-san, no matter how much confidence you have in me. I can't do something that outrageous with my position."

"You may think it's crazy, but it would be a good way to promote you as an artist in our company. By releasing a single and album." Yuhi trailed off. "Besides, are you okay with keeping all these songs a secret? I thought you wanted to release your music to the rest of the world."

"I do, but I wrote so many songs in a row. Shouldn't we question whether they are good quality or not?"

"Hm? I can tell at a glance; I'm surprised you can't." Yuhi picked up her notebook that was on the bedside table. "Especially this one."

Sumire looked at the page that she titled forget me not.

(Oh, everything turns from ash to ash

Life sets its sights somewhere far in the distance

Dragging my wounded sins and pain along with it

And everything turns from dust to dust

On the day I collapse and return to the earth

I hope at least that a small flower will bloom

forget-me-not

How do I escape from the monster before my eyes?

A hero who ran away, unable to face it

Here in this world with no edge

Running here and there, arriving back at the same place.

It just repeats, and life goes on.)

She immediately tried to hide it, but it was already too late as Yuhi hummed the lyrics.

"This feels like an invasion of privacy."

Yuhi laughed, and his gaze softened as he picked up his guitar. "Hey, try to sing this. I'll play along."

"You even memorized the sheet music." Sumire sighed deeply. She supposes there is no use.

'Initially, when I wrote this song, it was shortly after Toh left her. Back then, I was already tired of everything. No matter what I do, it feels like nothing will work out.'

'I am a monster. I do not deserve happiness or love, yet a part of me still clung to it. Even if the outcome was the same.'

"I wonder if even the deep-sea fish using lungs to breathe

And the bird who can't really ride the wind

Are you out there somewhere, on a journey

Even if we don't meet

They're out there

And that's enough for me, that's enough

My body turns to ash.

My memories turn to dust.

Ending without leaving even one word to history

Even so, I aim for the distance

Even so, I search for proof

I want to know why I lived.

I want to leave something meaningful behind." Sumire sang.

If the day came when she finally hit her limit and ended her life, she wanted to leave something behind, to prove that something like her was able to survive in this world.

By the end of the song, she felt tears fall from her eyes, and Yuhi had put his guitar down. He was wiping her tears away.

"Your songs reflect your reality and your emotions. That's why I can tell, even if you write a number of songs in a short time, every song is special." Yuhi kissed her eyelids. "I forget how much you can cry. Is this a lifetime amount of tears?"

"Yuhi, you dummy," Sumire mumbled. "You did it on purpose."

"I did; you never talked to me about it after all. Why have you attempted suicide several times? You were afraid I would judge you if I found out, but even when I did, that didn't happen. But you still didn't tell me why."

"It's a bit hard to explain," Sumire mumbled. "One day, I will tell you. But I don't think this way anymore. I want to survive and live alongside you."

"I know you do, and we will live a nice long life together."

"When I was writing lyrics for this, I remembered the painful feelings I had the last few years."

She engraved those feelings so strongly into her soul. She was a coward, and yet she picked up a weapon because she wanted to get stronger. She wanted to carve her existence no matter how small it was.

"I am right beside you Sumire." Yuhi mumbled as he hugged her tightly. "You don't have to prove your existence like this anymore. You are alive, and your feelings for me are so strong."

"I wrote about a part of you in this song Yuhi. Even if we didn't meet again, even if I couldn't stay by your side, it was enough for me as long as you were living well out there."

"I had similar thoughts, even if I wasn't by your side. If you could smile, I'd be fine with it." Yuhi mumbled. "But both of us were being silly. I need you, and you need me, right?"

"I can't live without you."

"After receiving so many confessions from you, I have to admit that my poor heart is struggling to cope."

He is so silly, and yet he is her foolish idiot.