

Melody 201

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 201

Chapter 201: Difficult for her

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

As much as she wants him? Sumire repeated those words in her head and frowned. It is hard to measure another person's desires. Nobody can truly understand somebody else's longing. Longing for another person to the point of deprivation, craving for them so badly and yet not being able to get them. Since she realized she fell in love with Terashima Yuhi, she suffered a lot.

It was strange, falling in love with him.

She fell in love with him shortly after their first meeting, so it was difficult for her. When she realized she loved him, she wanted to see Yuhi every single day. But she couldn't, she had to control herself. She didn't write that note half heartily. She will see him once she has made a name for herself, until then she must refrain from meeting him.

It was difficult for her but she survived so long and coped with the pain and longing. But now that she has learned his warmth, it will be difficult for her.

"So you know what I was thinking?"

"Mm?" The two of them were walking down the busy streets of Tokyo hand in hand.

"We should go somewhere together."

"Somewhere?"

"A trip, just us two. How do you feel about blue skies, a field of sunflowers and an ocean?"

Sumire paused to think. She is not that fond of beaches or the hot weather. She preferred to stay in doors whenever it was summer. But this is probably the only chance she will get to be alone with Yuhi properly. Sure they have spent the last few days practically glued to the hip, but this is different. They will go to a place where nobody knows them.

"I'd like to see you in your swimsuit."

Yuhi laughed. "Just an old pair of trunks, unless you're after something else?"

Sumire tilted her head innocently. "I don't know what you're talking about."

She was messing with him of course but only because he saw right through her. The other day she briefly disclosed how she was going crazy around him. She pointed out that this was a serious thing and they needed to discuss it. Since then Yuhi has slipped in a few jokes.

"If that's what you want, you don't have to wait until we go to the beach." Yuhi brought his lips to her ear. "You can see it whenever you want."

The atmosphere around Yuhi suddenly turned sexual. Sumire had to admit that she was impressed whenever this happened. Yuhi was an excellent boyfriend, he was a gentleman but he also knew how to please her. He knew how to make her happy without doing it. For example the current situation where he is kissing her earlobe, one hand on her thighs and the other raising her shirt.

"Sumire, you really are pretty. It's a waste for us not to do anything."

"A waste?" Sumire repeated.

"Mmm, you--" Yuhi trailed off. "-dont want to try?"

The offer was tempting. But they both knew they couldn't.

If this were the old days then they wouldn't have to care about such rules or rather this would be the perfect age for it. But times have changed. Yuhi is two years older than her, there isn't a large age difference but he should know better than to touch somebody who is underage.

She knew that Yuhi didn't think of this as a problem. Nobody had to know too. The walls don't talk so it's not like anybody will realize. But what if something goes wrong? There are far too many risks involved.

Besides a part of the reason why she didn't want to was.. "Black Alice." Sumire mumbled.

Yuhi frowned when he heard her words. "Don't think about it."

"Yuhi, we can't ignore it forever."

Recently she gets this feeling that somebody is watching her too. Sumire didn't want to worry Yuhi so she only informed Shin about it. Shin told her he would check up on the matter and get back to her. But so far she has not heard anything.

"I know we can't." Yuhi admitted. "But I just don't want you to stress over these things. It isn't good for you."

"Yuhi, I appreciate your concern but I am not weak."

Yuhi extended his hand out and pinched her cheeks. "I know your not, you're amazing." He nodded at this. "But I just want to help you Sumire, you're not alone anymore."

She covered her face when she heard him say those words. "Uh, I thought you were going to lecture me. I didn't expect a rain of compliments."

"Rain of compliments? That was only one."

It was only one but it was enough to make her heart beat fast. Yuhi pulled her hands away from her face. He brushed his forehead against hers. "Don't be afraid."

"I--I am trying not to." She muttered.

"Good." Yuhi kissed her forehead softly. His lips seemed to linger on that space for a few extra seconds before he pulled away. "Lets get going, otherwise the night will disappear."

...

"So, I don't understand why you buy so much food but don't eat it."

Yuhi rolled his eyes. "You never know what you will need." She watched as he tossed some snacks onto the trolley.

"Ah-huh, but it just seems like a waste of money." She thought back to the amount of snacks she found in his apartment. Even though he doesn't go there often there was so much food.

"At least I will be prepared when something happens."

Something huh? What does he expect will-- she paused in midthought. Well if the world turns upside down due to the superpower thing then indeed they would need supplies.

Sumire grabbed some things from the shelves and tossed it into the trolley.

Yuhi grinned. "That's my girl, you catch on quick."

My girl? Sumire repeated his words in her head. Sometimes Yuhi uses terms that make her blush. He calls her love, my dear and sometimes he calls her his wife.

She wonders if this person is serious. He loves her a lot yes but the wife thing? Does Yuhi actually want to spend the rest of their lives together? He wants to be with her forever? Thump. Thump. She hears the rapid sound of her heartbeat. Forever with Yuhi? She actually liked that idea more than she thought.

The last few days she got a glimpse of their life together. It seems like if she is with this person she will achieve the happy life she has always dreamed about. But is it okay for her to be happy? A person like-- her thoughts broke off when she felt Yuhi kiss her. No, it seemed like he fed her something.

"Chocolate?"

"Mm, its a freebie. Tasty?"

Sumire slowly nodded her head and Yuhi laughed. "Nobody else is around, maybe we should get another."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 202

Chapter 202: The Path to the new world

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

This person seems so happy recently. The last few days she noticed it. Yuhi is smiling a lot more now. It makes her happy knowing that Yuhi is smiling now. But Sumire wondered what the cause was. When she first came here he still seemed distant and aloof. Is it a woman? They say that men change whenever it comes to love. Did Yuhi find another girl and that's why he is happier these days?

It wouldn't surprise her. While they are together nearly all the time. There are moments where Yuhi goes somewhere and leaves her alone for a good hour or so. Can love blossom in that short amount of time? Sumire did not know. But one thing is for sure he definitely changed because of her.

"Why are you making that stupid face for?"

"Why are you calling me stupid again?"

Yuhi sighed. "I told you before that if I call you stupid it is to confirm things." He trailed off. "Tell me what you're thinking."

When she saw the serious look on his eyes, Sumire knew she couldn't keep this a secret so she told him.

"I am happy that you're cheerful now don't get me wrong or anything it is great. But I feel sad knowing that your happiness was caused by another woman.."

Yuhi pulled her into his arms and kissed her earlobe and then neck. "Another woman?"

"Y--" What is he doing now? Even though she probably caught him out.

"What other woman have you seen me with?"

"Nobody I saw but you know when you go out for an hour.."

"To buy your pastries and anything else you crave for?"

"Then on the phone you sneak around."

"I don't want you seeing the photos I took of you."

Sumire was running out of excuses. How come he has a perfectly good and acceptable answer for everything?

"Remember to trust me Sumire."

"Well I do but you're just behaving strangely," Sumire mumbled.

Yuhi kissed her lips again. "The reason I am happy is because of you. I mean these days you take the initiative more so.." He ran his hands through his hair. "So it makes me very happy. I can see that you really do like me. I thought so before too but it wasn't until now where I confirmed things."

So it was to do with her? The reason why he smiles more is her?

He nuzzled his face on her neck. "You know maybe we should skip the adventure tonight and go home."

"Go home?"

"You keep tempting me. I am having a hard time not attacking you."

Sumire laughed softly. "I want to buy more things. We can go after this."

"Alright, I will take your word for that." Yuhi trailed off. "Stay here for a bit and browse. I will go over there."

"I can come--" He placed his lips on her fingers.

"It is too cold in the freezer area. But we can get good food there. Be good."

"Relax, I will only be there for a few minutes."

She was reluctant to let him go but nodded. He bolted down a lane and disappeared behind some large metallic doors. Sumire stared at the tray of food and put it aside as she sat down on a high stool.

From: Unknown

Are you still going to continue ignoring my calls and messages?

From: Star

I am not ignoring you now am I?

From: Unknown

I will come there soon.

From:Star

You don't have to personally come here. I have this under control.

From: Unknown

Was dating Terashima Yuhi part of the plan?

Sumire frowned when she saw that message. It seems like that person already knew. She thought she could hide it from him, but that does not seem to be the case here.

From: Star

It won't interfere with my work. Besides, we made a deal didn't we? If I helped you, you would find out for me.

From: Unknown

We need to meet

From: Star

When?

From: Unknown

Two days from now.

Sumire sent a quick okay to confirm and closed her phone. She sighed deeply. It seems like she needs to get a grip. If she doesn't and that person senses her weakness then the situation would end up bad. After Ru died she ended up behaving recklessly. But the funny thing is she hardly had any memory of it. One day she woke up and found herself chained to the wall, she was in an underground research facility of some kind.

The old her would have panicked and thrashed about, but the her then was lifeless. She simply stared at the ceiling and walls for hours. She even played with the idea of using the chain on her wrists to cause more injuries.

It was then when she met him, that researcher.

In a laboratory on the other side of the pacific ocean.

A tall man with black hair and pale colored eyes wearing a white lab coat, black suit and leather shoes stared at the phone in his hands. A single okay was the only reply he received for the last few minutes. That girl never listens, but then again she was always a stubborn one. He knew the moment that he recruited her that it would be risky to keep her by his side. But he took the risk anyway.

It seems like she has already met Hino, met up with her ex, and meeting Nakara Shin again. But he picked up a sheet of paper that had Terashima Yuhis picture and details. Is this one important? What kind of role will this one play in the process of evolution and the world's change?

The scientist called Eli had no idea. But one thing was for sure. "The Queen is moving again."

As long as she keeps moving and forging ahead, eventually, the path to the new world will open up. But in order to create something new, something will have to end. What choice will she make? He is looking forward to finding out.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 203

Chapter 203: Dream World

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

Following day - Tokyo Main Streets-

When a bike pulled up in front of her after she left the convenient store. A bike that didn't belong to Yuhi, the last person she expected it to belong to, was Nakara Shin. It seems like she needs to change her opinion of him. This guy isn't the average nerdy scientist.

Shin tossed the helmet towards her. "Get on."

Her eyes twitched, annoyed. What is with the men around her? They all demand things without explaining. Sumire lets the helmet land on the ground.

Shin sighed. "This is important."

"The pudding will melt."

He looked troubled but nodded. "Then, is it fine if we talk in a park or something?"

...

The moment they arrived at the park, Sumire noticed how quiet it was. Recently she noticed this, and it is a lot quieter these days. Shin immediately pulled some documents out and scattered them onto the table.

"Do you recognize any of these men?"

Sumire scanned the photos, and her eyes widened. "These are staff members at my old school." She pointed to the ones on the right. "This one is the janitor, and this one is one of the canteen's servers."

The more she listed, the more she frowned. "Could these people be?"

"All members of the Black Alice organization."

Now that she thought about it whenever Ru showed up at school, he was strangely protective. For example, whenever she went to the cafeteria, he always said that he would line up in her place. Sumire thought it was weird, but she never pried or asked for more details.

To think the members of such an unknown and yet large group was all around her. Sumire frowned as she tapped her finger against the wooden table. "Not a coincidence?"

"Tsukuhara high school headmaster, have you ever met him?"

Sumire nodded. "Of course I have. He is Moonlight middle school president too. He was a popular idol in his time who sold billions of records."

"This man." Shin pointed to the man with long curly hair. "Seems to be acquainted with the headmaster."

The headmaster, huh?

"You don't seem shocked."

"Well, he was always a weird one. I remember when I was working on Nanairo feathers debut song, he kept throwing impossible challenges. Moreover, he tried to kick me out of school several times." Sumire trailed off and sighed at the memory.

Those days were indeed difficult. She went through a lot to prove her talent and ability. She went through so much pain.

"So.."

"So this doesn't surprise me. Yet I don't think he is the type of person who would get involved in the underworld matters." Sumire trailed off. "There is more to this than them simply knowing each other."

"I agree, that was why I planned to investigate the different high schools in this area."

Sumire tilted her head puzzled. "Wouldn't it be better to go to Star Town?"

"You're taking me with you?"

Shin sighs deeply. "Well, only if you want." He trailed off, and his gaze fell on her stomach. "It might get dangerous, so think about it."

So Shin knows about her pregnancy too. "I will come with you."

After they cleared the pictures up from the table, she followed Shin out of the park. As they left, Sumire could not help but get the feeling that somebody was watching them. It could just be her imagination, but she turned around and glanced back at the park on the other side of the road.

Not only are the streets so quiet today, but there is no sound anywhere - no sound from the birds either. Something is wrong here, but she doesn't understand what it is.

"Say, Shin?" Sumire asked.

"Yes?"

"Don't you think it is too quiet?" Since earlier, she got this nagging feeling that there was a problem. But unfortunately, she didn't know what it was.

Shin stopped walking for a moment and looked back. "You still can't tell?"

"Huh?"

"Right now, you are dreaming."

She blinked when she heard those words. Huh? Is he-- "Wait, I'm in a dream?"

"If you think about it carefully, yes. Do you genuinely think a place as heavily populated as Tokyo would be this quiet?"

A dream? But this morning she remembered leaving the house- or did she? Now that she thought it through, she isn't sure. Yuhi hugged her from the back, kissed her a bit, and didn't stop. He carried her back to the room.

"Wait if this is a dream, why are you here too... Unless your just my imagination."

Shin sighed. "This girl is investigating superpowers, but she finds this situation strange."

Sumire frowned. "Well, this is.."

"Were inside a dream, somebody trapped you here. I came here willingly because I need to investigate. I was with my team, but we ended up getting separated." Shin explained to her.

Did somebody trap her here? It seems like that organization is after her. But it doesn't seem like they want her dead. If they wanted her to die, they would have done it back then. Her most vulnerable moment was after Ru died. She locked herself up in his house and refused to see anybody. If they wanted her dead, they would have taken advantage of that a long time ago.

So what is their purpose- Sumire paused in mid-thought when she felt her vision go blurry. A pounding sound appeared in her head.

Her thoughts broke off when she felt Shin brush his hand across her forehead. "Excuse me."

Her eyes widened. Ah, somehow, this seems familiar. She has vague memories of something like this happening before—a young boy helping a young girl after she chased away some bullies.

"I think you have a fever, sit down for a moment?"

Sumire nodded, and he led her to some benches, not too far away. "Getting nausea in a dream is pathetic." She mumbled.

"Well, you are pregnant. This may be a dream, but they dragged your real body into the dream world."

"So, I'm not just sleeping?"

"You're in a trapped space." Shin trailed off. "Were you with Yuhi?"

At that comment, she nodded.

"Right about now, he must be trying to get you out. Or knowing him, he will try to come here."

"Come here?"

As she listened to Shin explain things, she felt bile in her throat and covered her mouth. It seems like she needs to get a bit of a reality check. Carelessly going out and investigating in her situation is no good.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 204

Chapter 204: Dream World PII

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

These days she plays with the idea of Ru being alive.

If he were still alive, he would support her with the child without a doubt. He would be very happy. Whenever her morning sickness happened, he would hold her in his arms. Sumire shook her head. What use is there thinking about this stuff now? Besides, it's not like Yuhi doesn't do that. Yuhi holds her so tightly these days like she is somebody precious. He treats her so kindly.

It's not like she isn't satisfied; she is very happy these days. But sometimes she can't help but think. How would Ru handle the current situation? Would he still rush and behave recklessly? Or would he stay by her side just like Yuhi?

"Say, Shin."

"What is it?"

"You told me before that you would protect me. You seem to have a strong conviction, why is that?" It was something that piqued her curiosity from the very start.

Shin looked away. "Is the reason important?"

"Well, I appreciate that you want to keep me safe, and I find it sweet and all. But why?"

"You don't need a reason for it. Just know that if something happens, I will be there for you."

Even now, he is saying such words with resolution and conviction. It doesn't seem like she will get any more answers from him. Yuhi is weird, so is Shin. Hino is acting strangely these days, and so is Sano. The guys around here are all up to Something.

She wonders if it were the same for that guy too. After that abrupt message conversation, he hasn't contacted her. He said three days, right? That means he should be here tomorrow. A part of her was not looking forward to this meeting.

"So, you came here with your team? What are they like?"

Shin sighs. "You're asking a lot of questions today."

"Well, it is rare that I get this chance." While they spoke a lot in school, it was always to do with physics.

She doesn't recall exactly how long she knew this person. But Sumire knew that her understanding of this person is small. She would like to get to know him better now that she has the chance. Sumire assumed that he was a typical book worm, but now that she thought about it, she heard some strange rumors before.

"Shin, you attended a Yankee school before you became a teacher, right?"

"Yes."

That's right; she first met him when he was still a student. It was before he started to pursue his career in physics seriously. Back then, she was frightened of him. After all, he had a scary look in his eyes and the rumors. "People used to say that you extorted money from women and children, was that true?"

A troubled look appeared on Shin's face. "Did you believe them?"

"Well.."

"Hey!"

"Well, the past is the past. The things that happened back then will stay in the past; right now, we should focus on the future."

Ah, just now, he looked quite cool. Sumire didn't know what it was. Maybe it was the gust of wind that suddenly blew just now. She wonders what kind of power Shin has; she hasn't seen it yet.

"Could I ask about your abilities?"

Hino has buzzer-beater.

That man's ability is earth.

Ru had sonic speed.

Shin blinked. "Are you interested?"

Sumire nodded, and he raised his hand. She watched as small droplets of water appeared from his fingertips. Her eyes widened. "Ah, water."

"Correct."

Water huh? It is a typical superpower, and yet she laughed softly. "It suits you."

"Suits me, huh?" Shin repeated.

An awkward silence appeared then, and her sweat fell. Should she not have asked him? But she was very curious. Recently she has been investigating a lot more. To think there are so many individuals with these unusual abilities. How come nobody has noticed before? They must have hidden it very well.

She often read the news and never saw things like this. But there were some bits and pieces before that she found strange—unusual accidents that happen all over the world, which can't be explained by science.

Sumire was about to break the silence when they heard Shin's phone ring. He immediately picked up the call. "Hello, Yuhi? Yeah, she is with me. Relax when we exit the dream, she will appear in the house. No, there won't be any interference. If you think so, you can make those preparations."

Yuhi? His phone works here? Then again, Shin said something about them using their real bodies in this dream. She rummaged through her pocket and pulled out her phone but saw the black screen with the red battery symbol.

Sumire sighs. It is a good thing that Yuhi stopped her from going out. Imagine if she ended up being pulled into the dream outside, with a dead phone.

Shin tossed the phone to her.

"Yuhi?"

"Listen to Shin, stick close to him, and I repeat, do not get involved."

Sumire sweat fell when she heard the long list of instructions that said the same thing. It seems like she can't do anything unless Shin says so.

"Uh Yuhi-san, you do realize that if we get into a brawl here, I can't just stand by and do nothing."

"Stupid girl, just wait for me."

Sumire wanted to say something, but Yuhi quickly ended the call. So much for trying to bribe him with some sweet words. Then again, Yuhi is not the type of person who she could bribe during a serious situation. Sumire passes the phone back to Shin.

"It seems you're in charge of me, officer Shin."

"Well, Yuhi has the right to be concerned. If a fight does break out, you can fight but stick close to me."

Her eyes brightened at those words. "I can fight?"

"This girl is so eager to get into a brawl."

"But Yuhi is so overprotective. Just a trip to the convenient store two blocks away ends up with him fussing."

"Yuhi knows you can take care of yourself. He doesn't underestimate you. He knows if worse comes to worst, you will emerge the victor. But what he is worried about is the dirty tricks from the enemy."

"Shin, you understand Yuhi better than I do."

Shin sighs as he passed her a bottle of water from his bag. "It's not that I understand him. But after spending so long as his friend, I learned these things."

Forget knowing things about Shin. She still doesn't understand Yuhi very well. Sumire proceeded to open the cap when she saw the small straw attached to the top. Ah—? Could it be that Shin drinks his water like this?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 205

Chapter 205: I will protect you no matter what
If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

It took her a moment to understand. Just now, it looked like he was fiddling with something when he had his back turned from her. So this is what he was up to? Sumire chuckled softly. Indeed it seems like she has misunderstood him. He isn't an average man, nor is he that scary person, others said he was. There is more to people than meets the eye.

After resting for a few extra minutes, the two of them are walking through the quiet streets. Indeed this is a dream, while the entire town is a replica. Sumire noticed a few things that differed from the real world.

"Shin, when can I go to the SF again?"

"Right now, we are dealing with a lot of crimes. So, unfortunately, not anytime soon."

"Is that why you don't stay in school for long?" Sumire noticed that he wasn't there as frequently as before.

At that comment, Shin nodded. "Something serious is about to happen. I don't know what the Black Alice organization wants with you. But I don't think your pregnancy is part of their plans."

"Are you saying--"

"It is a good thing it doesn't show. Otherwise, the situation could be very bad right now."

So she ought to keep it a secret. Sumire intended to do so anyway. She tried to shrug away Sano's words, but it remained in her head. When she safely gives birth, she can hide the child. Wait until they have both graduated and then reveal it. One year, she can do that can't she?

It will be hard for the child, but she has no choice. She wants to protect Yuhi and his dreams.

"Just be careful."

"You said before that you would always be able to find me whenever I'm in danger."

Shin nodded. "As long as there is water nearby, then it is easy for me to pick up your trail."

Eh, but then— she pointed to the bracelet in her hands. "Do we need this GPS?"

At that comment, she watched as Shin awkwardly looked away. She immediately understood from that action alone. "You don't need an excuse to buy me a present."

"I didn't think you would wear it," Shin admitted.

Why did he think- Sumire paused and sighs. "I know I mess around and joke a lot, and it is a bad habit of mine to tease people. But I was only joking. You don't have to be in a relationship to give girls presents."

To think he remembered a conversation she had with Asuka a long time ago. Back then, she said something along the lines of guys giving presents to girls with bad intentions. It seems like Shin overheard that conversation.

"Then I will bother you a lot," Shin mumbled.

Her gaze softened. "Please do."

He is a lot clumsier than she thought. She looked at the bracelet in her hands. I can imagine it now, him choosing this gift for me. Awkwardly entering a jewelry shop and looking around lost. Getting bombarded by questions from the store clerk.

"Your welcome."

Again another silence. But this time, Sumire didn't mind it. So Shin is a clumsy and awkward guy, huh she could get used to this. She wants to know why he joined the SF instead of the regular police force. Normally people with superpowers would try to hide it. Why would he join a force that makes use of people like him to hunt their kind?

Then again, she doesn't understand this superpower thing very well yet. Before she makes careless remarks, she needs to learn more.

The Black Alice organization and the tale she told Shin not too long ago. If it is exactly like what she thought, then could it be the Queen is- her thoughts broke when Shin suddenly stopped walking. She bumps into his back.

"Shin? What's wrong?"

"We have trouble."

Trouble? Sumire looked over at what he was pointing at and saw something strange. At first, she wasn't sure what she was looking at. It looked like a block, yes, a block of black static.

"Shin.," Sumire mumbled.

Shin extended his hand out and gave her hands a reassuring squeeze. "It will be fine; we need to stay out of the way, though. I wouldn't advise fighting those."

"What is it?" She questioned. To her, it looks like a box of static, but maybe there is something else? For a moment, Sumire thought she got a glimpse of a human figure.

"People."

Sumire paused when she heard that. Huh? What?

"Inside those boxes are humans with evolved abilities. They are going through a process of their powers evolving, that's why they are in the box." Shin explained. "It seems like the person who is in charge of this dream at least has the sense to control them."

"There are people there; we should help them."

Shin grabbed her arm. "Do you want to die?"

"But—"

"The people inside those have unstable abilities. If you were to intervene now, you could get severely hurt or even lose your life."

Is it that serious? But she glanced at the black boxes. She could hear it if she listened carefully, their painful cries. Shin grabbed her wrist and pulled her along, so they walked in the opposite direction. He seemed like he was in a hurry.

"Their range... it shouldn't be that large, but just in case." Shin increased his footsteps.

Sumire knew better than to say anything during this situation, so she kept her mouth shut instead. It frustrated her leaving those people behind, but if anything happened to Rus child, she would never forgive herself.

...

Another thing she discovered about Nakara Shin was that he is a fast runner. She thought she was fast, but this person is on an entirely different level than all the others.

"Let's hide out here for a bit," Shin said as he barricades the door with planks of wood.

Sumire slumped to the ground and leaned against the wall. She is more exhausted than she thought she would be.

"We should wait until Yuhi gets here."

"We should?"

Shin nodded. "This terrain suits Yuhi's ability better. That doesn't mean I can't fight here, but it would be difficult." His gaze fell on her. "Rest assured, no matter what happens. I will protect you."

Sumire paused when she heard him say those words. He repeatedly told her that he would protect her, so she should be tired of hearing it by now. But somehow, it felt nice.

This entire time she has been fighting all her battles alone. Nobody ever said such things to her because she was stronger than them. The people in the underground world call her the demon Princess for a reason.

Chapter end

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 206

Chapter 206: Regrets

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

Sumire never thought that the day would come where somebody would tell they would protect her. Shin must know her reputation, so why is he saying such things? If he isn't careful, she might misu— ah is that the reason why? Is he trying to act cool in front of the girl he likes? If that is the force motivating him, then maybe she could shrug this off. Perhaps she could stop feeling weird. But Sumire understood something already.

Shin is not the type of person who would ask for recognition or acknowledgment of anything he does. What an unusual man. From now on, would it be okay for her to get closer to him?

"Sumire, do you know a researcher called Eli?"

At that comment, the fond expression left her face and replaced it with a dark one. "What about him?"

"I think we will need his help for this. I am a good scientist, don't get me wrong. But that man has a lot of experience and wisdom. If it's him, surely he has more information on individuals like us."

Sumire sighs deeply, and she nodded. "He is coming here tomorrow. I don't know what for, but I could ask him for you."

"Is that why you look so troubled?"

He noticed?

She slowly nodded her head. "I suppose you could say that is the main reason. Honestly, I don't have the best impression of him after our terrible first meeting. But the reason why I am still associating myself with him is because he is useful. If it is that man, then I will find the answers I need to know."

He told her that he would help her regarding the incident when she was younger. No, not that strange kidnapping one but the incident that took the lives of her family members. She wants to know the truth, and she will use whatever means available to her as long as she can get answers.

It's not like it will bring them back. Sumire understood that her family was gone forever. But she cannot let this go, and there is clearly something wrong. Until she finds out, she won't be able to live her days peacefully.

—

Back in reality

Two people were arguing intensely inside a small flat. The reason why he has yet to leave to go after Sumire was because this woman stopped him. Amano Touko, his ex-girlfriend, since she cheated on him last year - Yuhi decided to break up with her. They have been broken up for a while now, so he doesn't understand why she behaves so unreasonable.

Why does she react like this whenever he gets a girlfriend? It was the same for Makino too.

"I told you already, Touko, it doesn't matter what you say. I will stay with Sumire."

She didn't say anything, and Yuhi quickly turned to the door. The moment he tried to leave, though, she hugged him from the back. Yuhi sighed deeply and turned around. "Look, I told you —" He paused when he saw the tears in her eyes.

Yuhi dropped her hands and pulled her away. He shook his head. "A simple sorry won't cut it." She hurt him a lot. Back then, he had other things going on; his life was falling apart. During the time where he needed her the most, she ended up inflicting him more pain.

No matter how sincere her apology is, he could never bring himself to date her again.

To his surprise, she suddenly rushed towards one of the rooms on the right. She bolted the door open, picked up a bucket of black paint, and tossed it towards the black canvas - and the piece he was just working on. She picked up a brush and painted over it; no, his eyes widened when he saw his recent work transform.

As expected, she is a very good painter. It seems like it isn't just him and Sumire who get triggered and do emotional paintings. Contrary to what Touko thinks, her dark emotions are what make her a good artist.

"Hey, Touko, that's enough." Yuhi grabbed her hand.

"My world is so dark without you. I came back from France because I could no longer paint. I can't continue without you, Yuhi."

So she didn't come back because she heard about him and Sumire? Yuhi sighs. "I already told you before it was too soon for you to go. If you just waited an extra year, then the situation would be different."

She must have encountered a huge slump. No wonder he hasn't seen any of her paintings in the international art competitions. It is normal for artists to have a slump. Sometimes art can deprive people of their happiness, their normal emotions. The more engrossed somebody is in their piece, the more a part of themselves slips away.

"I didn't want to wait. I can't stand it here. It is a good school, but it isn't enough; the teachers are mediocre, and there are no other talented students. Can't, you see Yuhi? If you stay here, then you won't be able to improve." Touko trailed off. "Come back with me to Paris."

Yuhi sighs, even more, when he hears that. So this is what she was after?

"If it were a while back. If you came for me when I was still with Makino, I would have gone with you. It's not that the teachers here are mediocre, it's because they have nothing left to teach us. Artists grow day by day; they surpass their teachers and those who came before them. This place is a good school and the perfect environment for that sort of thing--" Yuhi stopped in mid sentence.

"No more." Yuhi didn't say anything than that and simply walked away. He exited the door and didn't bother looking back. 'No more of this.' Why did he even bother with her? After she betrayed him, he shouldn't have bothered trying to impress her. It was so stupid. 'Sumire..' 'thinking of the girl who brought sunshine to his life he took a deep breathe. Sumire isn't Touko, she already proved that to him.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 207

Chapter 207: A mess

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

Sometimes she wishes she would fall down a dark hole and never come back. If she could escape then maybe this pain would go away. But that is only her trying to run away from reality.

That is only her trying to escape from the nightmares and shadows that plague her every night.

One second she was talking to Shin about their next move.

The next second she is a mess, trembling and wishing she was anywhere but here.

The next second she has to stop herself from picking up her blade and hurting herself.

She is unable to breathe properly and she noticed beads of sweat falling from her face.

Why does this have to happen now of all times? She must have done something bad in her past life for this to occur.

If only Ru was still alive, he would know how to handle her. He was the only one who bothered dealing with a messed up person like her.

"Is there anything I can do?"

Yuhi.

Call Yuhi.

She needs Yuhi.

Aah, she is so hopeless, to think she is relying on another person like this. Who would have thought that she would trust somebody as much as she does Terashima Yuhi?

Ever since she was younger there is one thing she wanted more than anything. She still clearly remembers it, that small wish. But a person like her doesn't deserve something as good as that.

She deserves to fall into this hell and never come back.

There is nobody in this world who cares for her, nobody who will listen anymore. It is already too late to fix the damage. No matter what she does, nobody will listen.

She is all alone.

She was fine just a few moments ago, so why does she feel so messed up and terrible now? Ah, its no good like this, she really wants to -- her thoughts broke off when she suddenly felt someone pull her up.

She was hunched up on the sidewalk but somebody grabbed her arm.

It wasn't Shin.

There stood the last person she expected to see. A man with short red colored hair and azure-colored eyes. Her eyes widened alarmed, and she pulled her hand back.

"You are going to try and run from me in this situation? Sumire."

At that comment, Sumire kept her head down and she bit her lip.

"Atsuro."

Atsuro leaned forward and pulled her into your arms. "What's the matter?"

"Nothing."

"You sure?"

She can't talk to him about how she still feels so insecure and a mess. Her thoughts broke off when he gently patted her back.

"I haven't seen you in so long, I missed you Sumire."

If she were a normal girl then she would have acted cute about all this, it would make her heart flutter or something. But this isn't the case here.

"Look you can't just show up and expect me to do what you want."

He grabbed her hands and started to kiss it. "I want you."

This person! Before she could say anything he continued to kiss, and suck her palm. She bit her lip and held back her voice. What is he trying to do?

She hastily pulls her hand back. "Give me a second gosh."

Atsuro allowed her to have her hand back. "First of all, what are you even doing here Atsuro?"

"I came for you."

Here was the thing. I used to have a crush on this person, or at least I thought so at the time.

He says he came here for her. But there is no way he would go all the way to Tokyo for her sake. A famous agency signed his band recently, Jupiter Records - one of the largest music companies in Japan. Their main branch is in Tokyo. That's right, he most likely came here because it benefits his band. Why would he come here for her?

"Shin, when did she become so unreasonable?"

Shin didn't say anything, he kept watching though.

Sumire took a deep breath. "Second, I'm dating Yuhi."

At that comment, Atsuro frowned. He rubbed the back of his neck and sighs. "Don't joke around. Yuhi is messing with you, he isn't serious."

"You don't know him."

"You will be surprised by how much I know."

What does he mean by that?

Atsuro however does not continue the conversation. He looked around the shop. "We shouldn't stay for long, there is dark energy everywhere."

Sumire looked away. She still felt terrible but after arguing with Atsuro she was no longer shaking.

He extended his hand out. "Come."

"I can walk alone."

"Suit yourself." He removed the pieces of wood from the door and opened it. The streets were clear and as dead as earlier. But when they got outside Sumire saw it, footsteps. Signs that a person no something was here.

Could it be the people from before?

So strange..

Shin patted her shoulder. "Are you okay?"

Sumire laughed awkwardly. "I still feel a bit strange. Um, could you contact Yuhi?"

She needs Yuhi to come not just for her sake but to keep Atsuro in line. Look how he took advantage of her just a few moments ago.

"I can't seem to get through his phone."

"I see."

Maybe he is already on his way here? But what is this bad feeling she is suddenly getting?

Shin looks over at Atsuro then back at her and sighs. "You don't have to mind him Sumire. He came back here because we got offered to do a major program."

"I already know. Atsuro isn't that sweet, he isn't Yuhi who would move the stars, sky, and earth for me."

"Is that you boasting?"

"Of course I need to boast. Yuhi is a good guy and he treats me very well."

But so was Sano, and look how that ended up. She understood that there are other guys out there, those who actually treat their partners well - those who are genuine. Not everybody is like Sano, Yuhi is doing his best to prove that to her too. That's why she also has to do her best. She needs to move on, she can't remain like this forever.

"Atsuro will make a mess of things for you two."

"I know." Sumire understood that since he first tried to contact her. But there is nobody capable of pulling her away from Terashima Yuhi. No matter who they are she would fight them.

Right now that is the one thing that she is sure of.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 208

Chapter 208: Ambush

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

According to the makeshift time on the large clock, they passed a few minutes ago, it was almost lunchtime. This meant several hours went by already. It didn't feel like that to her; nothing in this place is moving. The only sign of life was what she saw earlier at that park.

For the next two hours or so, only little conversation passed between the three of them. It was mainly Shin and her talking while Atsuro simply nodded along.

It looks like he was focusing his attention on how to get out of here, which relieved her.

She is not in the best mood to talk about what happened back then. The last thing she needs now is to fall into a messy and complicated situation talk about the past.

A deep sigh crosses her lips.

Yuhi should hurry up and come here.

Until he arrives, it does not seem like her insanity will disappear. Shin keeps trying to make small talk with her, but it is not working very well. She was never fond of small talk or any type of conversation at all. Sumire silently followed the two; at some point, she ended up lagging.

Another reason why Atsuro came here is most likely because he does not trust her. He does not trust her not to lose control and go crazy. Sumire knew that eventually, she would no longer be able to hold it back.

Her violent urges.

Since she arrived in Tokyo, she only snapped that one time - the first day she came here. But even then, she was not serious.

Sumire recalls Toukos words and took a deep breath. More and more people will find out.

Those peaceful every day will eventually come to an end. When that happens, what will she do? Yuhi said he would stick by her side no matter what happens, but what if that was a lie too? What if he is simply better at lying and concealing his thoughts and feelings? She doesn't want to know. She doesn't want that to happen.

It doesn't matter if the whole world turns their back on her. Maybe it would be better if that were to happen, then she would only be able to focus on Yuhi and Yuhi alone.

It doesn't matter if others don't trust her or believe in her as long as Terashima Yuhi does. Even if it is only one person, she wants to hold on to them no matter what happens.

"Are you free later?"

Sumire blinked when she heard Shin's voice. She glanced over and noticed that he was beside her again.

"Later?"

"I will send you the rest of the documents. Also, there is a nearby restaurant school."

She immediately understood his invitation. A restaurant near school means other members of the general public go there too. "Then we can go later. I will message you."

Shin nodded.

Is that why he looks so troubled these days?

Suppose that is the reason why then maybe — her sentence fell short when something grazed her leg. In that second, Shin pulled out his gun and fired it. He pulled her behind him.

In the next second, she saw numerous guns and other weapons aimed at them. A large group no a team of armed people, all drew their weapon toward them. All of them wore police uniforms. For a moment, she thought they were Shin's companions, but that wasn't the case here.

"Sumire," Shin mumbled. "Sorry, but you will have to.."

She nodded in understanding. It seems like she will no longer be able to avoid it. She looked over at Atsuro and noticed that he was completely still. A dark aura seemed to surround him, and her sweat fell. This isn't battle mode, and it's just him being irritated.

Sumire watches as he pulls out the scrolls and takes out a gorgeous medium-sized brush.

The art of using scrolls reminds her of ancient times. Back then, onomyojis and ninjas would use scrolls to cast spells. Long before she even learned about supernatural powers, she already knew about ancient methods to use unusual abilities. After learning that, nothing else should have surprised her.

....

After a good hour or so, Sumire felt her vision begin to blur. It seems like even for her, this is a bit too much. No matter how many they defeated, it seems like even more would show.

Her older sister was perfect in every way.

She was kind to everyone, and she was practically good at everything. She would achieve those things in the first try, and everyone loved her. It was like nobody ever needed or noticed her. It was something that stuck with me at a time when I was young and impressionable. She was just at the end of elementary school when she entered her rebellious phase. She talked back to everyone and didn't care what they said about her. It didn't matter whether she was at school or at home. She felt like the walls were closing in on her.

She wanted to be free

So when she heard that she had the strength that matches that of a Yankee, she entered the delinquent world. A year after Mamoru passed away, his first fake death. By that point, she had already broken

down and was just merely wandering. That's when she met Yuhi. Yuhi was a weird guy; he was pushy and got into her personal space. But at the same time, it didn't really seem like he cared about anything. It was like a breath of fresh air to her.

The air out on the rooftop, where they weren't allowed to go, was the freshest and purest to her. She finally found a place she could breathe.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 209

Chapter 209: Reques

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

"Sumire, jump."

When she hears Shin shout those words, Sumire felt puzzled, but then she saw the look in his eyes. Sumire walked over to the edge of the rooftop, and there she saw him from below. Her eyes widened when she saw who it was.

Yuhi...

Ah, it feels like she has not seen him in so long, even though it was only a few hours. To think parting with this person would be so painful. Only a few hours went by, but it felt like forever.

Sumire took a deep breath and jumped down the roof.

The moment she did that she closed her eyes and then she felt it. A strong gust of wind seemed to wrap around her. She opened her eyes slowly and realized that she was no longer alone. Somebody caught her, but they were not on the ground.

Her eyes widened. "Y--Yuhi?"

"Mm." He didn't say much and looked her up and down. Then he kisses her forehead, nose, and eyelids softly. "Hey there."

Hey? Sumire looks at him, dumbfounded. What on earth is that weak reaction? More important, she glanced down and noticed that they were indeed in mid-air. A strong gust of wind surrounded them.

"Your power?"

"Mmm, correct."

So Yuhi has an element type power? It did not take them long to reach the ground. Sumire wanted to savor the feeling of being in the air, though. There was something beautiful about it.

Yuhi cupped her cheeks and gently kissed her lips. "Hey, you okay?"

It was different from when Atsuro asked her this question.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him.

Yuhi laughed when they broke apart from one another. "Your doing this now?"

"I missed you."

"Yeah." Yuhi nodded and gave her hands a gentle squeeze. "Me too."

All the turbulent emotions she felt from a few minutes ago seemed to have vanished in an instant. All she could think of now was Yuhi's gentle smile and his lips on hers a minute ago.

Yuhi looks over at the rooftop. "Atsuro is over there?"

"Ah, yes."

He looks her up and down, and then his gaze lingered on her hand. "I should disinfect this later."

Sumire blinks. How come he knows? Atsuro did say that he knows a lot about Yuhi. Back then, though, the two seldom spoke to one another, so she wonders how close they are.

"Sorry, I'm late."

Sumire frowned. "Why do you smell like another woman?" She immediately backed away from him.

Yuhi sweat fell. "It was Touko; she hugged me."

Her gaze dimmed, but a bright smile appears on her face. "Is that so?"

"That's scary! What is that smile? Geez, you know you don't have to be jealous."

"I am not--" She stopped in mid-sentence when she saw the expression on his face. "What did she say to you?"

Is that what this is all about?

"Second, Touko and I were not in love with each other. Like I mentioned before, we only got together because of our talents. I thought if I dated somebody similar to myself, it would help me get over you. But I was wrong, and it didn't do anything."

"Other than hurt you?"

Yuhi nodded. "I suppose so." Yuhi then proceeded to tell her the entire story why he ended up delayed.

When he finished explaining, she was furious. It seems like that woman won't leave Yuhi alone. If it is like that, then it looks like she will have to do something about it.

"Should we wait for those two?" Yuhi points at the roof, and Sumire shook her head. His lips curve to a grin. "Then I guess we ought to head back."

Sumire blinks. "Shouldn't we help? I mean, get to the bottom of all this?"

"No." Yuhis voice is firm. "I mean, I understand that you need to investigate and get revenge for Mamoru. But don't get yourself involved in the SF matters."

"Is this a command?"

"A request from your boyfriend."

Boyfriend huh? It still felt weird hearing Yuhi say those words. Yuhi is her boyfriend. Terashima Yuhi, who she looked up to ever since she was a child. The God of Music, huh? It was a cheesy and corny title. But Sumire also agreed with it. Nobody else but him could have this title. Nobody else in this industry could stand a chance against him now.

Other than her senpai Takahashi Yumi, no these days, it seems like Yuhi is just a slip away from surpassing that legendary person.

He is so talented, and yet she recalls what he said not too long ago at the hospital. It seems like he is tired and not as motivated anymore. She appreciates that he is willing to start a family with her but his career. Despite what he told her, Sumire knew it was important to him.

..

When they left the dream space, she does not remember how they left. One second they were talking and the next they were at home already. Sumire felt very bad about leaving Shin behind, not so much Atsuro. She recalls what Atsuro did to her hand earlier and sighs. That man does not change. She never understood what he wanted from her, either.

Yuhi wrapped his arm around her waist and mumbled against her ear. "Do you want to go back to sleep?"

"Well." Sumire trails off understanding what he meant. "Did you eat breakfast yet?"

She answers her own question by glancing over at the table filled with food. Sumire points to them, and Yuhi sighs.

"I want to eat together with you. You only had some coffee earlier."

So he noticed that? She thought he was still sleeping. "I guess we could have breakfast together."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 210

Chapter 210: Does this mean something to you?

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

She was in love with Terashima Yuhi for so long that other guys did not register in her head. It's not like she was oblivious to their feelings, but it did not matter to her. The love she has for Yuhi was unexpected, which was why she never thought of confessing to him. But nowhere she is with that very person who she thought was out of her reach before.

After eating breakfast, the two of them rolled back onto the bed. Sumire wanted to do something more productive, but Yuhi was still sleepy. So he pulled her onto the bed, wrapped his arms around her, and fell back asleep.

At first, she tried to go back to sleep too. But she realized it was futile. Whenever she is with Yuhi, those negative feelings vanish. No, it stops temporarily. But it does not disappear. She wonders why this person cares for her so much. Say something happened in the past; that was the past and not the future. Why does Yuhi feel so obliged to her now? It's not like she saved his life or anything.

This person is shouldering a lot on his shoulders too, but he makes so much time for her.

She is a mess, and he knows that. Yuhi admitted to stalking her this entire time they were apart. Yuhi should understand, those last few years and the past year what she was up to. But even then, he does not judge her, and he treats her like an average person.

Sumire buries her face in his arms.

"What's wrong?" Yuhi mumbled.

"Cold." It was a lie, of course, the sun is blazing outside - it was a sunny day.

Yuhi pulled her closer. "Better?"

Sumire nodded. She feels so happy, so content, and at ease with him. But these peaceful days will end soon. Atsuro did not just come here because of his company or even her. Something major is happening.

She felt Yuhis lips on her forehead, and a content sigh passes her lips. Indeed, she would rather spend the rest of the day like this with Yuhi then go anywhere else.

"You know, I think Im jealous of Atsuro."

Uhhh..

"Well, he knows a lot about you that I don't know."

Sumire sighs. "The things he knows about me are superficial and have no meaning."

"Meaning, huh?" Yuhi repeated. "Tell me being here together with me, does it mean something to you?"

Her eyes widened when she heard him say those words. It felt strange that he was asking her something like this after everything that has happened. But she supposes this just means that Yuhi is gradually opening up to her. She is not the only one who messed up, depressed, and a reck.

Terashima Yuhi hides it well, but she understood that they were the same type. Yet he focuses more on trying to help her than get help himself.

It felt strange that somebody who was supposed to live a different life from her is the only one who can comfort her—the only one who can understand.

"I am here, aren't I?"

..

"Just for the record," Yuhi said after he stopped kissing her. "Touko has somebody she likes, who isn't me."

Sumire blinks and laughs softly. "Do you think it still bothers me?"

"I would like it if you don't misunderstand."

"Did you do something else that's why you feel bad?" This time she was the on top of him. She drew small circles with her hands on his chest as he ran his hands through her back.

"Well, nothing too serious." He trails off. "Being in that dream, how did you feel?"

"It felt familiar, the empty and deserted streets of Tokyo."

She found it very strange. Why did that place seem very familiar to her? Since she came to Tokyo, the streets were never that empty; there were always people there. But it was familiar, even that conversation she had with Shin. Something like that happened before.

"I see."

"Yuhi, do you know something?"

"You feel soft."

Sumire sighs and brushes their lips softly against one another. "Do you not have to work?" It seems like he does not want to say anything.

"I don't."

"So we can stay like this?"

His lips curve to a smile. "Yeah. Though cuddling and relaxing is nice, if you do want to do something like take a walk or go shopping we can --" He trails off when she nibbled on his bottom lip. "We should stop kissing. Like you said, it gets addictive."

"I don't want to." She kisses him again and this time with more passion than the last. She could do this all day and not get tired. Kissing Yuhi is like a drug, but this one does not have any harmful side effects.

"You sure?"

She nodded. "Its nice, just spending time like this."

"So honest," Yuhi muttered. "So, since we're like this, what are your thoughts on existentialism?"

Sumire rolled her eyes. "No."

"I thought it would be fun to get into a literature debate with you."

"Not today." She mumbled.

Why is kissing him so addictive? She wants to keep doing it, kissing him over and over again.

"I thought after fighting; you would want to fight more, not flirt with me."

"Well, I did want to continue helping, but now that I see the alternative, I am glad I listened to you."

"Good girl, you need a break. Lately, you have been working too hard and overthinking."

"Are you saying Im too dramatic?" She was genuinely offended.

Yuhi shook his head. "No, that's not what this is." He trailed off and parted her lips with his fingers. "You seem strange. Do you still feel weird?"

"I feel like a mess, sad, and depressed all the time. I want to cry, but these days I can't. I just end up feeling very numb instead." Sumire admitted.

Flirting was all excellent and all. But they both know she called for him. "How did you hear my voice?"

"I picked it up using the wind."

Right, that's what his power was. If she thought about it carefully, something similar happened in the past. Back then, she already suspected something.

"Sumire," Yuhi called her name softly. "You know I am here for you. You don't have to pretend that everything is okay too. If you want to break down and cry, you can."

"No, you know I can't cry right now."

Yuhi caresses her cheeks. "You sure? Because you know I am a good listener."

"I already know that." But right now, she does not want to fall into hell when she could be spending blissful moments with Yuhi like this.

"Sumire, you don't have to worry about Atsuro."

"Im not."

"Then what's the issue?"

Why does he think something is wrong? Yes, there is a problem, but how does Yuhi know what that is without her saying anything? Sometimes she thinks this is unfair. He knows too much about her, and while she does know a few things about him, her knowledge is smaller.