

Melody 521

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 521

Chapter 521: Someone You Like

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He who was struggling to keep calm ended up kicking a nearby post. It was a good thing he was quite a distance away otherwise they would have heard him.

'Damn Nagawa, he is way too fast. I understand why Sumire has had a hard time, nobody would have seen that kiss coming, even her.'

Thankfully Sumire pulled away rather quickly. Yuhi could not miss the cold look in her eyes.

"I have a room nearby. Do you want to go?"

"No, or rather-" She stepped on his foot. "I told you not to do that!!"

"It's a habit."

"Then break it."

"Don't be angry, we won't see each other for awhile." Sano dangerously brushed his lips against her neck.

Yuhi's eyes twitched annoyed. 'That is pushing it!' The kiss aside, if he tries to sniffle her too he will definitely intervene.

Sumire swiftly moved away. "I think you should go."

"Don't be mad."

"I'll see you soon. Thank you again for the dress."

After a few more words Yuhi watched as Nagawa left.

"Sick bastard." Sumire furiously wiped her lips the moment Sano left. Then she slammed her fist against the wall. "Even if I tell him not to! What is with him, is he some kind of kissing monster?"

Yuhi watched her half curious and half amused. 'She seems angry.' Of course she is mad, that is the normal reaction. A relieved sigh passed his lips, her acting is way too good.

'She almost fooled me.' If he fell for that and walked up to interrupt them, she would surely have been upset. It's not like he doesn't want to trust her, but he knew her very well. She is the type of person to sacrifice herself to achieve her goals.

"So that's how you handle him." Yuhi waited until she had calmed down.

It was amusing watching her kick anything within sight and muttering curse words. Sometimes he forgets how fierce she can be.

Sumire sighed. "You're the weird one for just watching that."

"Well by now I understand that you're not interested."

'Still she really is good at flirting and leading people on. If I ask her where she learned that, it would surely damage their relationship.'

"Are you upset?"

"..." He doesn't reply immediately.

"Yuhi?"

Yuhi leaned down and kissed her passionately, and Sumire responded the same way.

"Mmmm, my dear. Your very horny today."

"I don't want to lose to him." Yuhi admitted. "I can tell he cares for you."

If Nagawa Sano was only messing with her and treated her like before, he wouldn't let it go this far. But at some point Yuhi realized that the man cared, and that was why he

"But I can never forgive him."

'That's true she said that before.'

"Sorry, I'm over-reacting."

"Mmm, it's okay." Sumire buried her face in his arms. "Say dearest, can we have lunch together?"

"Sure."

"Also, at night."

At night? He raised his eyebrows at this. What is she thinking of now?

Sumire laughed softly. "At night we can do something weird. I'll leave that up to you."

'She..'

Yuhi wrapped his arms around her waist. "What do you want to do at night, wife?"

"Hold me like you did earlier."

"Is that all?"

"It takes a lot of courage for me to say that."

Yuhi laughed. She is so cute. His gaze softened as he leaned down and kissed her forehead. "I will do whatever you say, wife."

"We're not married yet."

"Yet."

He grinned, "But it will happen sooner or later."

"Moron."

"I don't like the idea that he kissed you." Yuhi admitted.

'I have weird thoughts about her too, some very possessive ones.'

"Do you think I like it? If he wasn't useful, I wouldn't have to do such a disgusting act."

"Sorry"

Sumire leaned forward and kissed him passionately. "-kissing, I have learned it's better to do it with somebody you like."

"Do you have someone like that?"

"Mmm, currently his hands are touching somewhere unnecessary."

Yuhi chuckled. "I learned that my wife is very soft."

Sumire rolled her eyes. "I thought you knew."

Truly, he doesn't want to lose her.

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A few hours later, it was night when he finally finished all those jobs. Even though Jun interfered with the schedule, he still had a lot to do. Although he promised to meet Sumire afterwards Yuhi knew she wouldn't wait this long. It is already nine, he was supposed to finish at six.

Yuhi blinked when he saw brown hair by the lobby entrance. Huh? 'She waited? But it's three hours after our meeting time.'

Oh she is on the phone?

"That is important information. Thank you for letting me know San."

'Nagawa?'

Sumire laughed. "Your making it sound like I would have ignored you if you didn't give me information on Lucifer."

It seems Nagawa caught on to her.

"Mmmm, me too. I like you too San."

Yuhi sighed deeply when he heard those words. This girl is really good at tricking people. Then again, this isn't something new.

"I like you too?" Yuhi said after she ended the call.

Her sweat fell. "Yuhi-san, what's with your bad timing?"

Yuhi reached over and pinched her cheeks. "You don't go overboard with your act."

Sumire sighed. "Do you truly think I can? Besides je is so easy to trick, say a few words and bang."

'I don't think that's it. Nagawa truly likes Sumire, otherwise it shouldn't be that easy.'

His thoughts broke off when she grabbed hold of his hand. "Since Yuhi-san is now free, we can go shopping right?"

"It's late."

"This is Tokyo."

Indeed, he knew that the shops would still be bustling with energy. Yuhi nodded and the two of them exited the building hand in hand. The shopping district was only a short distance away, and it didn't take long before they reached it.

His thoughts broke off when Sumire let go of his hand and skipped ahead happily. Yuhi looked up and saw Christmas illumination lights lined up on both sides of the streets.

There was a large Christmas tree in the center, and he could hear different Christmas songs from every shop. Right, it's almost Christmas.

'I already have her present, but I feel like she might want something else.'

His thoughts broke off when he saw her standing in front of a stall. Yuhi thought he could get some ideas but once he saw what it was, he felt like his heart would stop. The shop vendecour was selling all types of rings.

'This girl is going to give me a heart attack.'

Yuhi sighed deeply and appeared beside her. She was too focused on the rings to notice his presence.

He watched her for a bit and saw her gaze on a particular ring. He reached out for it, and passed it to the shopkeeper. "I'll buy this."

"Ah sir you have a good eye."

"Yeah."

Sumire looked at him dumbfounded, it looked like she was about to protest. But it was already too late since the shopkeeper was wrapping up the ring.

Neither of them said anything until they were a distance away from the stall.

"Give me your hand."

"I--take it back."

"Sumire."

"I know it's shameful for me to ask you for a ring, but I--" He cuts her sentence short by slipping the ring onto her finger. Sumire's cheeks coloured. "Are you an idiot?"

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 522

Chapter 522: A Promise Ring

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"Well, this can be an engagement ring or a promise one." Yuhi was very serious about this but he could tell from her expression that she was having a hard time taking him seriously.

"Does it surprise you this much? That I treasure you?"

Sumire sighed deeply. "If you put it that way even I will have a hard time answering. Well, I guess it's more like even if I know I am still adjusting to it. It wasn't until recently where I started to accept your kindness, let alone other people." Her gaze softened. "Your truly stupid Yuhi-san, but I am thankful. You tried so much to make me see the beauty of this world."

"Sometimes it feels I didn't put in enough effort."

She shook her head. "No, you did."

"Are you tired? Do you want to rest for a bit?" Yuhi noticed her slightly pale complexion.

Sumire shook her head, "We ought to head back as soon as possible. Otherwise Atushi will start nagging."

His sweat dropped. "He truly is like a mother hen. But I learned that is his way of showing he cares."

If he thought about it carefully, up until last year Atushi and he didn't see eye to eye. They had an unusual friendship. But things have changed now. 'The main catalyst that changed things is no doubt Sumire.'

Sumire always says that she is thankful for coming here. But, he should be the one saying those words. If it weren't for her then his life would not be this peaceful.

"Speaking of which, I got the assignment done. All that's left is to write the paper and send it over. I'll handle all that myself. It looks like we will make it just on time." Sumire said happily.

Ah, that's right. Although she has been hospitalized since she returned. She still had to complete the end of year piece. Yuhi knew she would have a hard time on her own so he deliberately didn't do his so they could do it together.

"Yeah."

"Are you sure about not writing your name on it?"

Yuhi nodded. "Yeah, I wasn't able to help much anyway."

Indeed before Yuhi realised it the time he was supposed to spend with her was cut short.

'I was being considerate about Nagawa but also I focused on improving relations with the group.'

He still hasn't made much improvements with Iwa Ran. But, it's fine. There is still time to improve relations.

During the days he spent with her, he ended up focusing on holding her and making sure she was okay.

"If your putting it that way then I will respect your decision."

Sumire turned to him and smiled. "But I had a lot of fun debating with you and I learned a lot. Thank you for all you've done for me."

Yuhi looked away surprised at her response. There was a tint of red on his cheeks.

Despite it being dark, he knew that she could clearly see it. Or rather the girl was leaning forward so it was hard for him to avoid her.

"Ah your blushing."

"Quit it, just when I thought you haven't teased me in awhile."

Sumire beamed happily. "Since you know my personality is like this, the last thing you should do is let your guard down."

"It's almost been a year or so since I started teaching huh? I'm not sure if it went by fast or slow. I had a lot of trouble getting used to things here."

Indeed he wondered for a long time, if things were going to work out. His lessons being too advanced, expectations and all that. All of it was suffocating to him. He was on the verge of quitting. But then she showed up and everything changed drastically for him

"But eventually I found myself having a lot of fun. It's nice passing on these skills."

Sumire sweat dropped. "Haha it was difficult to keep up sometimes though."

Hard to keep up huh, she didn't make that obvious at all. Then again even back when they worked together in the underworld organisation Holy Knights she was like this. The others in the organisation feared and respected him. Even if they were stuck and required help, they would never ask for help.

But from day one Sumire didn't hesitate to approach him.

'She was my superior but she didn't hesitate at all to ask me for help.'

Normally people in those positions would hesitate to ask somebody who just joined. They would have too much pride but Sumire differed. She recognized her own weakness despite having a leading role, and asked for help.

It was the same this time around too. When Sumire first came to Tokyo, and when they first became partners in class. She didn't hesitate to ask him for help.

"Sumire, do you want to go to France with me?"

'Although I delayed my trip and won't leave after graduation, eventually I will have to go.'

His gaze darkens slightly. "Also..."

Sumire shook her head. "Thank you. You're worried about all those rumours about me right? But it's fine I've got friends I can rely upon."

"Heh, a while ago you wouldn't be able to say that."

"Mmm, but you have taught me a lot." Sumire trailed off and her gaze fell towards the sky as she extended her hand out. "This is something I have known for awhile now, but it took me awhile to accept. No matter how small or large, there will always be negative emotions in the world."

"You said it before, without darkness there can be no light and vice versa."

Sumire nodded. "That's right, these emotions will exist no matter what time frame we are in. Although it is upsetting to see all this hate, everything happens for a reason." She spoke those last words softly.

As she said this, she walked slightly ahead of him her arms to the side as though she was trying to balance herself.

"In the past I thought I could not accept a world like this. But, my opinion has changed quite a bit now. If we cannot get rid all of the hate, jealousy and conflict then it is better to embrace it."

For her to say something like that, it must have taken her a lot of courage. He knew how badly she wanted to give up on life due to all the misfortunes she has experienced.

"Even if we cannot get rid of it, there is one thing I have faith in."

"That is?"

"Human evolvement." Sumire laughed softly. "I believe humans will continue to evolve, whether it has anything to do with supernatural powers. I believe we will continue evolving over time. So even if this darkness exists, something new, a greater balance will suppress it to create a better world."

His eyes went wide at the girl's words, she really is amazing. It seems he is still no match for her.

'I built all this for her, but in the end there is no need. Sumire will carve her own future, even if she has nothing.'

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 523

Chapter 523: Investigation

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From the moment he chased after her Yuhi understood already. No matter how many misfortunes she meets along the way, she will get back up on her feet.

'How strong, one day can I be like that too?' Even though he has supported her this entire time. Yuhi knew that between the two of them he was still the one with the weakest mental state. He wondered if she knew how much he feared losing her?

Does she know how whenever she got involved with underworld matters, he wanted nothing more than to drag her away?

Yuhi recalled what she said the other day about wanting to lock him up. It surprised him not because he didn't think she would have such thoughts but because it was similar to his. Sometimes he wished he could just lock her up

Yuhi grabbed hold of her hand. "I guess I will see it, since I will be with you for a long time."

Sumire sighed deeply. "Yuhi-san, why are you like this?"

He blinked and startled at her tone. Why does she suddenly seem so disappointed?

"Sometimes you give me a perfect answer but most days your responses are terrible."

Despite those serious sounding words he saw her lips curve to a smile.

His eyes twitched annoyed. "Brat, you're messing with me again aren't you?"

"Isn't it your fault for being so easy to trick?"

Yuhi sighed. There is no use arguing with her, she always seems to get the last word in. The streets were rather busy and the area they were in was gradually getting crowded. Yuhi glanced around and saw some tables near a stall.

"Do you want something to eat?"

At that question her violet coloured eyes brightened and she passed him a piece of paper. It was a list of things she wanted to eat, he sighed once he saw the length of the list.

"You should have told me if you were hungry."

"I--I am not, I am only suggesting because you offered."

No he is quite sure she has been writing that since they came here. Well it doesn't matter. He pointed to the benches. "Meet me over there, I won't be long."

Although the lines looked long, he had a secret weapon. Yuhi went to the first location and thankfully the lines were not that long. During the busier lines, he would casually drop his hat and people would see who he was. Yuhi did this very subtly since he did not want to cause an uproar or ruin his date with Sumire.

'Since when did a simple outing like this become a date? Oh how times have changed.' Still he does not dislike this situation. Tonight she seems a bit different. Recently he has seen more of her shy side, but even then those faces she pulled when he touched her.

Damn sometimes he just wants to lose control and stop trying to pretend to be a gentleman. But Yuhi understood how Sumire felt about the entire thing. She does not want that to become the center of their relationship. To a certain degree he understood how she felt there. His past relationships with women were like that. It was all about lust, he never went on dates with any of those women. He would always meet them in hotels or their place.

'I never brought them to my place though.' It was strange now that he thought about it. Most events would take place in the guys place than the female but he never bought any of them back.

It did not take him long before he walked back over to where Sumire was. She was looking at the documents and had them scattered on the table and seemed to be in deep thought. Yuhi moved some of the papers away and slowly removed boxes from the bag.

Soon he covered the table in takoyaki, yakisoba, yakitori, and imagawayaki.

He placed a napkin on her lap and the girl laughed. "Uh Yuhi-san?"

"You like that dress right?"

Sumire sighed and stepped on his foot causing him to yelp. "Hey-"

"You are so clueless, idiot."

Yuhi looked at her dumbfounded and wanted answers but she already started to eat the takoyaki. He immediately watched as her sour expression turned to a bright one. His gaze softened when he saw this. Whenever she eats, she ends up with that childish expression on her face.

He walked back to the other side and sat down. His gaze fell on the documents and a few words highlighted caught his attention. They seemed to be news reports on a case earlier this year where people's body parts were gradually getting stolen. First it was the eyes, then nose, mouth, the right arm, the left arm. But it stopped at the left arm, there was nothing on the news for it.

"You asked Nagawa for this?"

Sumire nodded and took out a document from her pile. "Look at this."

Modern day jack the ripper strikes again written in bright red letters.

A woman age thirty five was found dead in her apartment last night. Her chest ripped open like it was done by a beast, and her heart was missing.

Yuhi's eyes widened when he read the details. "This is?"

"It is an unreleased piece of news. It seems the police have had this information for a while but are not releasing it." Sumire trailed off. "Yuhi-san look at the date."

His gaze fell towards the top left hand corner and frowned. "This is the day I found you."

"The incident took place two hours after, it was during the time I was in surgery. Do you not find that odd?"

"Do you think this has something to do with you getting hurt and being in hospital?" Yuhi asked understanding where she was coming from.

"This is just a guess but they probably wanted to give me that heart."

Yuhi felt his body turn cold at those words. For a guess it was awfully disturbing. "What makes you say this?"

"Hmmm, I have no actual evidence. I suppose it is just a hunch and one of many possibilities."

So she isn't certain that is good. If it was really like that then he would need to secretly do some hunting. Still her hunches tend to be accurate. He should watch over her more.

That mysterious serial killer has returned huh?

"When the case happened earlier this year, I believe Shin was in charge of it."

"They asked the SF?"

Yuhi shook his head. "It was back when Shin was still doing normal work for the police alongside his SF duties. They asked him to lead the case, and I think he later on got the SF involved."

"So Shin determined it was a supernatural case, I see."

"Still he didn't find much. He found a relation to evolved humans, but it was a weak lead. When the crimes stopped they shelved the case."

"Do you not think that is strange Yuhi-san?"

"The SF do not like to waste their resources on resolved cases. But, I did get a strange feeling from it." Yuhi admitted.

At that time however he had a lot of other things going on with his career. So even though he found it strange he did nothing. Yuhi immediately understood how shallow that way of thinking was.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 524

Chapter 524: I Will Protect You

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"So because I turn my eyes away for a second, you forget the vow you made with me to protect people?" Sumire immediately guessed what he was thinking.

"Well uh-" Yuhi had no excuse and kept his head low.

Sumire chuckled. "Well I understand how you feel, even I had times where I wanted to escape from all this bloodshed and live a normal life. I said back then that we would meet as normal people right?"

"You did."

"But after I said those words I regretted it because I knew it was not possible. For the two of us to meet as normal people, we would both have to leave the underworld behind. You pulled away and quit. But I couldn't do it. Even when I started to train seriously for my debut I was still actively involved in the underworld. I was happy to see you managed to escape, but then I realized. This world of bloodshed that I wanted to escape from has helped save me too."

"You weighed out the benefits." Yuhi guessed.

"Mm and I discovered that there are more merits to staying. These delinquents may like to fight and have inhuman strength. But they are foolishly honest people, you can create the best bonds with these

people. Although there is still jealousy that leads to greed. It is not the same as a normal person. The jealousy will lead to further improving and developing themselves. They would not use underhanded means to improve."

Yuhi looked at her with a defeated expression. It seems she has already made up her mind. "I get it, there is no use convincing you."

"Were you actually going to try?"

"I was because things will get even more dangerous from now on." He doesn't want her to get hurt.

"If that is what you are worrying about then I will protect you."

Yuhi's eyes widened at those words. Huh?

"No, I think you misunderstand."

She tilted her head to the side and with the same bright smile said. "I don't think I have misunderstood anything."

"I am worried about you getting hurt."

"Ah I got that, but you're only saying that because it will be very dangerous."

So she does understand? Or does she? For some reason he felt very confused.

"I will protect you." Sumire repeated. "No matter what harm befalls you, whether you carelessly run into danger or whether danger follows you. I will protect you."

It was after she said those words he finally understood. She said that about protecting him because it is natural that he will be beside her when they are fighting. From the very start this girl has included him in all of her decisions.

Yuhi picked up the documents. "I guess I can help with the research partner."

Sumire laughed. "Right? But you should also eat something." She picked up a piece of takoyaki and extended it towards him.

Yuhi immediately bit into it and she looked at him startled. For a moment he caught a tint of red on her cheeks. But that shy demeanour turned to laughter.

"Uh right. Yuhi-san, you are that type of person."

Huh? What is she muttering about?

Sumire coughed and turned her attention back to the documents as she ate. For the next few minutes nobody said anything and he also focused on reading. It seemed there were a few more cases after the day Sumire was hospitalised. All of them fall under certain days though, is that a coincidence or not?

His gaze fell on the highlighted parts. Although there was no writing beside it, Yuhi had a gut feeling that these were clues from Nagawa. It seems that the guy intends to help them but he cannot leave the other side that quickly.

Sumire started to hum and it quickly formed a tune. Yuhi wondered if she realized what she was doing. She was not humming loudly but it still seemed to attract a few people's attention.

"Hey isn't that Ibuki?"

"Then the one opposite her must be Yuhi-sama."

His sweat fell. So much for keeping hidden it seems as though they both have sharp fans. Then again it was not like Sumire wore much of a disguise. She even took her hat off, all that remained were her sunglasses but even people recognized her.

"Hey you know people are watching right?"

"I know."

Then shouldn't she stop humming? It would be bad if they drew a crowd. He knew even though she has gotten a lot better, she still disliked being in huge crowds.

"Hmmm." Yuhi found the girl staring at him intently. "I know your jealous that people are looking at me, but relax this entire time I have only been looking at you. Or rather it is hard to not look at this handsome meal- person." Sumire corrected.

Yuhi stared at her speechless, and he felt heat creep onto his cheeks. How on earth can she say such things so easily? She is way too calm even though earlier she was blushing madly while screaming his name. This girl and her multiple personalities. Then again why does this surprise him so much? She has already admitted to having desires towards him.

"So these cases, Nagawa will be helping right?"

"In an indirect way, it would be bad for him to help openly. So whenever we meet I can get information. I suppose that is the only reason why I am meeting him, otherwise there would be no need."

"I'm not jealous." Yuhi immediately understood her thoughts and the girl laughed.

'Damn I can't get any words in.'

"I don't mind him helping, as long as I am still your partner."

"Of course."

"But you already know how I feel so let me say this much. You can involve yourself in these cases, but you have to promise me to stand by my side for the rest of your life."

If they stay partners forever he can protect her from all the dangerous of this world. At those words Sumire suddenly looked at him with wide eyes. She seemed baffled with what he just said.

"This is quite the proposal."

After those words left her lips Yuhi realized his mistake. His cheeks coloured more. "Oi that's not what I-" His sentence fell short when he felt a familiar pair of lips on his. It was a light kiss and yet a passionate one.

Sumire was not kidding when she said she has desires towards him.

'I can feel it whenever we kiss.'

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 525

Chapter 525: Tell Me The Truth

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Unfortunately it was hard for him to focus on the feeling of her lips for long because he remembered the crowd. They seemed startled but that surprise wore off since he heard the sound of people snapping photos on their phone. He was about to pull away from Sumire but she deepened the kiss.

After five or so minutes she drew back. But there was a problem, the sight of Sumire after the kiss was very alluring. There were traces of saliva that remained on her lips, and the passionate gaze in her eyes. Yuhi removed his jacket and placed it over her head.

He quickly dumped the documents into his bag and grabbed hold of her hand. He didn't waste enough time running off with her.

'This girl, how many times do I have to drag her out of troublesome situations?' This reminds him off the past. Did this not happen frequently too? Back then how many times did she get into trouble?

..

"I think this is far enough." Yuhi declared as he stopped running.

The place they arrived at was a clearing nearby the park they frequently passed by. His gaze fell towards Sumire who had remained silent this entire time.

"Sorry about--" His sentence fell short when he saw the look on her face. The alluring look had vanished replacing it with the look of an innocent and shy girl. Moreover, the jacket he put around her head seemed to make her look cuter.

Yuhi felt his heart beat speed up like crazy and he pulled his hands away. "You should be more careful."

Sumire extended her hand out and tugged on his clothes. "Was it wrong of me to show my feelings for you?"

"No, that's--"

Of course it wasn't wrong, but he didn't think she would display it that way. Normally she uses her songs to convey her feelings for him. 'I never thought she would express it physically.' But, then again they did just have that talk about desires recently.

Yuhi sensed her upset tone and sighed. He doesn't want her to misunderstand. He took a step forward and pulled the girl into his embrace.

"I'm just worried about your public image." Yuhi admitted.

There are still many disturbing rumors about her. Moreover the more he shows his love for her, the more people who are against it appear. 'They keep bringing up her past relationships in front of me.'

It does not help how the media recently found out about Sumire dating Nagawa. It caused quite the uproar due to their age difference at the time they dated.

There is still that fashion design student. Yuhi tried to look into the matter but he couldn't find out who it is. How odd, it shouldn't be this hard to find another person. But, there is no trace of him.

'Maybe I can ask Sumire for a name? But it would look like I am prying.'

He does not want her to think that he doesn't trust her.

"It's okay, if there are more bad rumors since it will be about me and you."

"Hey now."

Sumire's gaze softened. "It truly is fine now. I said it before that no matter what happens whether it is on a macro or minor scale. I have people by my side now. It will not end up like it did before."

"I'm worried, earlier you were shaking so much."

"It's true that there are days where I am still afraid. But Yuhi, like I said you gave me the strength to stand on stage and face my fears. I need to learn to stand on stage without you, but I can work that out. I do not have to rush the process. For a while I have to rely on you, but Yuhi you don't mind right?"

"I don't, actually rely on me more." Yuhi muttered frustrated. "You have a bad habit of trying to do everything yourself."

Yuhi understood the main reason for that is because she has lived that type of life with nobody reliable around her.

Sumire laughed. "Mmm, I understand. Then from now on I will bother you more." She pulled away from his arms and stretched her arms.

"I didn't get a chance to finish all the food, it's a waste."

"It's fine, I can just buy it again."

Sumire sighed. "You have no concept of being poor."

"Sorry I ruined our date." Yuhi apologised.

She shook her head. "It's okay, I mean we started talking about serious work topics so that already spoiled things. Even though we ran out quickly, you still brought that?"

"Yeah."

"I have already memorised all the information, so it would have been fine to leave it."

His sweat fell at her words. Who memorizes all of that in one go? Then again she probably does that so she can get rid of the evidence quickly. In her own way she is trying to protect Nagawa. If she disposes of the evidence that quickly nobody can trace it back.

"Your love for Nagawa is strong." Yuhi joked but this only earned him a harsh glare, and her stepping on his foot.

Yuhi yelled in pain. "Are there spikes on your shoes or something?"

"Maybe I should invest in some."

She seemed angry, of course she had the right to be.

"I thought we discussed it, why are you still so bitter? Or do you really want me to return to San?"

"You know calling him San doesn't help." Yuhi had to point this out. What is with the nickname? It bothers him more than I ought to.

Sumire sighed deeply as she rubbed the temple of her forehead with her fingers. "You truly don't understand a thing."

How is he supposed to understand when she is being so vague about everything?

'I thought I understood everything about her but there are days where I cannot read her emotions. During those times I do not know what to do.' Her little act with Nagawa bothered him more than he thought. Yuhi grabbed hold of her wrist and pushed her against a nearby tree.

"Yesterday...yesterday your friends told me some strange things. No Atushi told me strange things, I thought he was just talking nonsense at the time. But I still want to know what the truth is." Yuhi loosened his grip on her wrist. "I don't know what's going on anymore. Tell me the truth, I only have to hear it from you. I'll only believe you."

Yuhi clenched his fist, that's right he has had enough

He doesn't know what to believe anymore.

Ever since Sumire arrived he has heard, all sorts of things. Which is actually the truth? The reason why there are so many bad rumors about Sumire, it seems she has done loads of despicable things as a member of the underworld. He did not mind that part, he has done bad things too. But what frustrates him is not knowing the extent of those bad things.

She had missions to seduce guys for information. How badly did that affect her personality?

"Tell me the truth." Yuhi raises his voice slightly. Only from you, I'll only believe the words you say to me personally."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 526

Chapter 526: Our Feelings

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

By this point, he was desperate; he didn't care if this action of his was frightening her. He wants to know; he wants to get some answers from her. He wants to hear words from her that don't follow along with what another person has said.

"The truth, huh?" Sumire mumbled as she placed her hand on her bandaged one, as she looked down.
"Then Yuhi, will you also tell me the truth? "

At that comment, his eyes went wide.

"Do you truly love me?"

It was a stupid question, of course. He has loved only her for the longest time. But for her to ask him, this must mean he has heard something from another person. Who was it? Who was it that put this crazy idea in her head?

"I met with some people from the organization recently. They told me already what their reason for avoiding me was. It's because they all thought I belonged to Aki-san."

So it was those stupid guys. However, he also shared those thoughts. Back when he first joined, Sumire behaved coldly and pretended that she didn't know him. The girl had a stoic attitude towards everybody, which would have consoled him a bit. But she was kind to one particular person.

"When I first heard the reason, all sorts of emotions welled up inside me. I couldn't help but laugh, thinking it was amusing. I am nobody's possession; how could they think I belonged to anyone? They thought they'd soil me if I went near them. But I stopped being pure a long time ago."

Yuhi felt his heartbeat speed up at those words. Is she talking about those other guys she had to seduce? To what extent, how far did she get with them?

"Aki and I are just friends, although we've ended the friendship. He has told me twice that he has liked me and twice I've turned him down. Both reasons are to do with you, the one I have always liked you." Sumire exclaimed.

At that, his eyes went wide, leaving him completely speechless. 'Did she just confess there?' When he first asked her out, he didn't expect her to say yes. When she turned him down, it did not surprise him. When she came here to Tokyo and gave it another shot, he still thought it would be a no. Even if she did have a small crush on him, Yuhi did not think anything would come out of it.

So when she accepted his hand, he truly thought there was some type of catch.

'Because I liked you.'

The reason why Sumire rejected Aki was because she liked him.

She liked him.

He repeated those words endlessly in his head. But even so, he still doesn't understand what this sort of situation was.

'I figured she had a small crush on me, but a crush is small. I didn't think that she also returned my feelings. How do I react to this?' If it is like this, then her odd behaviour and desires towards him make sense now.

But still, what is this?

"Hey, take that thing out," Yuhi muttered.

"That thing?" Sumire repeated, confused.

"That thing you always take out."

"Oh, this?" Sumire said, pulling out a toy hammer from her bag.

Unbelievable, she does still carry that thing around with her. In a sense, that part of her hasn't changed at all, huh?

"Let me use it."

He didn't bother waiting for a response and snatched it from her and immediately hit her across the head.

Sumire immediately turned to him with an annoyed expression on her face. "That's it; you have gone too far."

"You said you liked me. What a joke." Yuhi mumbled.

How is it possible for her to have had feelings for him that time?

"Eh?"

Yuhi looked at her with a serious expression on his face. "Don't joke around with me!"

All of this has to be a joke. It has to be. Because even though it wasn't Aki, she was close with Mamoru back then, and there was Atsuro too. At the very least, it reassured him that there would be somebody else even if he left.

"Why are you so mad? I only said it because you wanted to know the truth." Sumire seemed genuinely confused.

Does she not realize the weight behind the words she just said to him?

"But why all of a sudden?"

If that is the case, why is she only just saying it now? Why didn't she say it when he confessed to her? No, he has given her plenty of chances after they started dating too. For her to say something like this now, what has changed?

Yuhi tried to wrack his brains for an answer, but he could not come up with one.

"I only realized it six months ago. Even though I thought it was a mere crush, I realized something after I started to date you. The feelings I had for you back then, those feelings were love."

Is she serious? Only when she saw him again did she -- argh he was irritated. He is irritated by this; what on earth is wrong with her? How can she only just realize this now?

"So stupid and slow, you never understood my feelings." Yuhi felt very irritated.

What on earth is with her? If they had mutual feelings back, then why the hell did she turn him down? Yuhi assumed that her feelings for him back then were minor; that is why he did not question her turning him down. But now, he is learning that isn't the case.

"How am I supposed to know your feelings?"

"That's why I said you're slow. I've always loved you. But I've just never said it, at least till that time."

She suddenly grabs hold of his collar. "If that's true, then why didn't you tell me earlier."

"How could I say such embarrassing things?"

"What? You said it just now?"

"Yeah, it just slipped out. It's embarrassing." Yuhi said.

At that comment, he noticed the girl's face turn a bright shade of red. Oh, she just realized that herself? Sumire snatched the hammer away from him and attempted to hit him with it once it was in her grasp.

Yuhi swiftly dodges it.

"How would I have known if you didn't say it?!!"

"Well, now that I've said it. If you were normal, then you would have understood."

"I'm just not normal then," Sumire exclaimed, trying to hit him.

But Yuhi dodged every single one of them. When she ends up in a situation that makes her feel embarrassed, she ends up lowering her guard down.

"Yeah, you're not. Truly abnormal, different, strange."

"If that's what you think, then I am leaving."

"I wasn't talking about that."

Suddenly the atmosphere between them becomes tense, causing Sumire to walk away. Yet he wouldn't allow it and grabbed hold of her wrist, stopping her in her tracks.

"Hold on a minute. I haven't finished talking." The moment he spun her around, he got a look at her expression and saw her red-stained cheeks.

Oh man, whenever she looks at him like this, he would end up losing control. But he knew better than to do that now. She truly knows how to stir up his emotions.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 527

Chapter 527: New Story

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

Yuhi pulled her into his arms. "You don't have to be embarrassed. The news indeed came across as a bit of a shock to me. But I am happy that you had feelings for me then."

"But I turned you down."

"Yeah, you are silly. We wasted a lot of time."

"I won't leave you now."

Yuhi laughed at her words. "You are stealing my line. The moment you accepted my confession a few months ago, I already intended never to let you go."

"Till death do us apart?"

He sighed at her words. "Quoting Shakespeare now seems like a bad omen."

Sumire chuckled, but he felt her wrap her arms around him. His gaze softened. She truly is a fool.

"Atushi was the one who told you?"

"Atsuro mentioned something too. I went over to check on Huan, and Atushi was there too. He told me how things were going and if he knew that you always had feelings for me." Yuhi trailed off. "I didn't understand why he would mention something like that."

Isn't that a disadvantage to him?

"Mmm, dearest, it was embarrassing, but maybe it was time you knew."

"Did you think I wouldn't find out?"

"Well, the others were not the type to blab. Moreover, only Asuka, Atushi, and Atsuro knew about it. Not even Futaba noticed."

No, no, with Momoi Futaba's personality, she probably realized it even before Sumire. This girl is genuinely hopeless when it comes to romance.

"School, you may have more work now, but make sure to attend."

"Ah-huh, Yuhi too."

"Well, we do have to make some more memories. It's okay; we still have six more months."

Sumire raised her head, surprised. "Six? Shouldn't it be three?"

"It's six. Iroroad is a specialized art school; there is a lot for third years to do in their final year. Since it is a crucial time frame to be scouted too, we have to paint more pieces and join tournaments." Yuhi explained.

"I see, then I can make up for the time I left."

Yuhi sensed her tone and leaned down to kiss her forehead. "You don't have to worry; the others didn't hold a grudge against you for disappearing. Since the festival, they warmed up to you; at the very least, the people in our class like you a lot."

"It still feels like a dream sometimes. After all, you know how I am. I have a hard time dealing with other people. Ever since I was younger, I have always been an outcast in class. Even if I formed a social group, I had difficulty speaking to them regarding anything outside school. Those relationships were formal, and I could not enjoy myself in school events."

Yuhi kept kissing her, and Sumire laughed softly. "Yuhi-san, you truly are silly. I know you are just as awkward as me when it comes to talking to other people. But you tried your hardest for me."

"Well, I have to do this much for my future wife."

"Indeed, then let me repay your kindness." Sumire pulled away from his arms. She looked around and suddenly sprinted towards the staircase.

'She runs way too fast.'

"Traced with my fingers

A story sung by these words

To a place, nobody knows yet

Let's fly to that world

Solitude and the opposing words

What I was looking for, I'm sure

it exists in my memory even though a little

That you are here in the repeating days

The flowers and humming that color the streets

If I had looked back, I would have realized

I am not alone." Sumire sang.

Yuhi's eyes widened when he heard that song. This girl is doing it again. Why is she singing for him?

'When I first heard her debut song, it surprised me. I could tell she was singing for me.'

"More than the story I've traced with my fingers

I'll become a new me

Ride on a new story

That which has never been seen

Dyed in vibrant colors

Even if we are far apart, I hope it reaches you," Sumire sang.

'The reason why Sumire-chan said what she did. I think you ought to know.'

It felt like all his emotions were spiraling out of control. Everything he had been holding back since then, everything was coming rushing down to him almost like a hurricane. It was all coming back.

Ah, as he thought, this person is very foolish.

Every single year, he always received a mysterious gift from someone in the post. Every single year on his birthday he always gets a present from someone without fail. Without fail, it's always the first one he gets.

At first, Yuhi couldn't determine who it was from. But after a while, he noticed a pattern in the gifts. He then recalled something somebody said to him about getting presents every year.

Only one person could have done it, and indeed when he pulled out the draw filled with the girl's gifts from him. All the presents had something in common.

Every single year, she's always doing something for him. But he never gives her anything in return.

Suppose it's this year, even if it's just this year. He wants to be able to return that kindness that she's always shown him.

Yuhi's gaze fell on the girl who rushed back down; she was in his arms again in seconds with a bright smile on her face.

"You seem happy."

"Mm, I always feel like this after I sing about you."

She truly is something else. It is dangerous confessing to him so much. But it makes him happy knowing that their feelings are the same. `

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HYOU4 Headquarters, Tokyo - 9:00 am.

Two days later, Yuhi decided to go through with coming to this place. Initially, he would dodge the meeting for a few more days, but what happened two nights ago renewed his resolve.

'I have to help her. I have to make sure she can keep smiling.' But for him to do that, he has to know everything.

Yuhi awkwardly sat in the waiting room. Ever since he got here, he has received the strangest looks. Is it that unusual? Then again, he has taken such great lengths to avoid meeting this person. His group akagumi often got into skirmishes with the men from here. So Yuhi understood that he wasn't exactly popular here.

His thoughts broke off when the doors opened, revealing a man with dark blue colored hair wearing glasses; beside him was Asuka.

'Here he comes.'

Raizo waltz over and took a seat on the couch opposite. His lips curve to a smile. "So you actually came."

"Hah, you already heard the report, I am sure."

"Still, it surprised me that you would come in person. Are you not allergic to this place?"

Yuhi sensed the mockery behind his tone, but he knew better than to fall for such taunts. "Asuka must have briefed you on why I am here."

"Indeed, I am surprised, though. I did not think you would share such a connection with that girl."

"Is it that big of a deal?"

"Of course, as your former classmate, I have to remind you that you were the one who said romance is troublesome."

'I simply meant romance with women other than Sumire. But I don't need to tell Raizo that do I?' Or rather, he still found it odd that they were even sitting here face to face like this.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 528

Chapter 528: Assistance

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

"I suppose I shall not tease you on this." Raizo trailed off. "Asukkun, if you may."

The silent Asuka nodded and pressed a button on the wall, causing all the blinds to shut. A large transparent screen appeared between him and Raizo. All sorts of information regarding the case. Yuhi's eyes widened when he saw the data and frowned.

"The powers merged?"

"I only intended to lend her some of my power so she could get back up. However, when I took her hand, there was a huge light, I got knocked away. But Sumire-kun remained unscratched, her outfit had changed, and there was a purple not red glow around her."

Red and blue make purple; if the two abilities merged, it only makes sense for the color to change to purple. But if the two powers merged like that, why was it only Sumire and not Raizo?

"I did a bit of research on this and discovered I am only a proxy host for these powers. Sumire is the real owner."

Yuhi's gaze dimmed more. "You're not holding a grudge, are you?"

"Not at all; it is not like my powers are gone. I can still hold onto them. Moreover, it seems humans like us with evolved genetics evolve in other areas other than obtaining supernatural abilities. I have already benefited enough and can survive."

He is one of the leading members of a government organization. He has all the power and money in the world to live a luxurious lifestyle for the rest of his life.

Yuhi's gaze fell on the information on the screen. "Is it harmful on her body? Her health is already bad."

"It would be more harmful if she continues not to activate it. The fact that she lost her memories and only just learned of it again a year later is already bad. But now she is suppressing her true ability."

That is right ability users have no choice but to use their ability one way or another. If they do not and suppress the power for so long, it will be harmful to their health. Yuhi recalled Sumire's condition. Could it be the reason why she is so unhealthy all the time?

Raizo suddenly nodded. "It is like what you are thinking. The suppression of her powers is the main cause for her falling ill. I have received her medical reports from Nagawa general hospital, and the scans show what I needed to know."

The screen changed, and several medical reports flashed in front of him. "How did you get these?" Yuhi questioned.

Even though Atushi was Sumire's direct guardian, Nagawa has kept all of Sumire's medical reports a secret. Nagawa said that there was no need to tell them since he would resolve everything. Yuhi knew how much the other guy cared for Sumire, so he did not think much of it at the time.

"Hmm? I just marched into Nagawa general hospital and obtained them. It was not a big deal."

His sweat fell when he heard those words. 'Just marched in? He didn't bring his troops with him, did he? Still to think Raizo managed to persuade Nagawa. I shouldn't underestimate him.'

"What are your plans?" Raizo suddenly asked.

"I will support her no matter what; my resolve has not changed there. However, I am a bit concerned regarding Nagawa Sano's intentions. It seems Sumire has a certain degree of control over him. But I fear when it comes to a crucial situation, he may double-cross us. I think Sumire has also considered that possibility, but I cannot be too sure."

"I see; you wish for us to keep an eye out on him?"

"Akagumi's surveillance network is good for the underworld only. It is hard for us to get other types of information. Hyou4, on the other hand, can make up for that gap. You would be able to watch over Nagawa without drawing any attention."

Yuhi hated to admit it, but his guys are no good at being discreet. He once gave them a spying job, and it ended up as a disaster. Atushi had to bail them.

"Very well."

Yuhi blinked, startled at Raizo's sudden words. "Huh?"

"I believe I just agreed."

Yeah, he got that much, but he agreed that quickly?

"If I am a proxy for her to obtain her full powers, then it is only natural that Hyou4 helps her out." Raizo stands up, and Asuka deactivates all the screens. "Asukkun has printed off the information so that you can go through it at your leisure later on."

"Raizo-"

"If you are going so far to protect her, then we shall do the same." Those were the last words Raizo said before exiting the room.

Yuhi felt slightly overwhelmed. To think the talk went that smoothly. He figured that Raizo would take advantage of this to think of other unreasonable demands. After all, his group akagumi has caused so much trouble for his Hyou4. But Yuhi recalled his expression just now. It seems he has a soft spot for Sumire.

Asuka tapped his shoulder. "I will walk you out."

"Right." Yuhi stood up, and they left the lounge area. On the way out, people were still staring, but unlike earlier, they could not say anything hostile.

It seems Asuka has quite the reputation here.

"The other day, I received a message from Futaba. She told me she wants to come here."

Momoi Futaba was Sumire's best friend. With all the dangers surrounding Sumire recently, it is a wonder why she is only just coming.

"Delay it." Yuhi's request was a fairly simple one.

'It will be troublesome for Momoi to come here now. I have only conversed with her a few times in the past, but I can tell she is hard to deal with.'

Asuka nodded. "I also think it will be hard for Sumire to investigate with you with Futaba around."

"I get that she is overprotective, but Sumire wants to resolve this case with her own ability."

"You're against her making direct contact with the enemy organization, though? Sumire mentioned to me that it may be faster if we use her as bait, but you disagreed, right?"

Yuhi sighed deeply at the memory of Sumire's so-called suggestion.

"I understand what she is trying to do and why she can be so brave."

Sumire only suggested something that careless because Nagawa is there. Does Sumire truly think Nagawa will help her out if things turn bad? The level of faith she has on that person surprises him. Why does she trust him so much? It does not make sense to him.

"I dislike that man too." Asuka suddenly said. "But he does seem different recently, so I believe we should wait and see."

"I am just worried that Sumire will get hurt because of him again. I know she is only acting, but she already admitted to me that a part of her still has hope that Nagawa will return to how he was before."

"That is like her." Asuka nodded. "She is not the type of person to give up on someone, even if they turn completely evil."

"He hurt her." Yuhi still couldn't get over it. "When she first told me about him, I was horrified. I didn't think she would end up in such a terrifying relationship."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 529

Chapter 529: The Nagawa Family Case Part 1

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'I was positive that if I left, one of those guys would make a move. I thought Aki or Mamoru would jump for the chance, but those guys didn't. I understand why Aki didn't; it seemed Sumire already turned him down twice. But why didn't Mamoru do anything?'

Yuhi already knew the answer to his own question. From the very start, it was Mamoru who openly supported and encouraged him to confess to Sumire. Yuhi knew that Mamoru also had feelings for her, so he always wondered why he was doing that.

"Atushi and I had encountered Nagawa Sano several times before he dated Sumire; that was why we knew. We knew that he was not a good person. Once, we saw him exiting a hotel room with a girl. He was dragging her with what looked like a collar after doing it with her. Her body badly bruised, and he practically tossed her out onto the bushes. Atushi and I helped the girl; we had to ask Atsuro, however, because she couldn't go to the hospital."

Yuhi flinched when he heard those words. 'I thought I already knew based on how he treated Sumire, but this is far worse than I imagined.'

"What happened to her?"

"She had to undergo severe rehabilitation and therapy; even then, it was difficult. So we resorted to tampering with her memories. We erased the relationship she had with Nagawa Sano, and we ensured that she was protected too. It would be bad if she encountered Nagawa with no memories."

"Is she living well now?"

"The guard we assigned to her fell in love with her, and they are in a relationship now. So it seems she is slowly healing."

"Is that the only time?"

Asuka shook her head. "No, there were several other disturbing cases." She trailed off. "I would rather not go into detail about them, but since you are that concerned, I think you should know. Nagawa Sano does not treat the opposite gender as a human; he treats them like dogs. Once during a ship party, I saw Nagawa tossing a girl out to sea.

She was begging him that she couldn't swim, but he tossed her aside. I saved her, of course, but it was still terrifying. He was already with another girl after tossing that one out. That other girl did not last long either; she committed suicide the morning after."

Yuhi felt like he was getting a headache from all of this. Asuka has only told him three cases, but why are they just as bad as the other?

"I think the worse one was when he dated an underage girl and then sold her off to a group of men."

At that comment, his face color turned pale. "That-"

"It was his previous relationship before Sumire."

His gaze darkened, and he clenched his fists tightly. "I see, so he truly is a scumbag."

'I can't allow Sumire to get further involved with that person.'

Yuhi was about to say something when he spotted somebody exits a car. It was Sumire, and he frowned when he saw Nagawa.

"Is this far enough?"

"Mm, thank you for the ride."

Sano pulled her into his arms. "It was a nice coincidence. I didn't think I would see you again for a while."

"Me neither."

After hearing those disturbing stories, Yuhi wasn't going to stand by today. He quickly walked over and pulled Sumire away from Nagawa.

"My dear?"

Yuhi didn't say anything and wrapped his arms protectively around her.

Sumire must have understood, too, since she turned to Sano. "Thank you for dropping me off. I think you ought to go now."

It looked like Nagawa was about to say something else but quickly left. The moment he did, Sumire drew back from him.

"Dearest, are you jealous again?"

"I have something to ask you."

...

Asuka leads them to a quiet area in the courtyard of the Hyou4 grounds. She didn't stay long after exchanging a few words with Sumire she returned to the building. Yuhi decided to directly ask Sumire if she knew of Nagawa's previous relationships, and the girl turned quiet for a bit.

"If you are asking if I knew about his previous relationship before mine, then yes, I do know."

"Then-"

"It wasn't him." Sumire trailed off. "One of the first things I helped him with when I became his girlfriend was this case."

"Even if that one wasn't him, what about the previous times?"

"It wasn't him either. I know what you think. Asuka and Atushi both saw him. But Yuhi, are you forgetting that Sano isn't the only son in the Nagawa family?"

At those words, his eyes widened, understanding where she was getting at. "Are you saying it was one of his brothers?"

"There are six sons in the Nagawa family. The eldest one, Evans, is a man with a moral character who treats his duties seriously. He is a bit strict, but he has never done anything bad. The second Alios is a strong fighter; San is the third son, with the brains. But he was born as a twin, the fourth son Alphard." Sumire trailed off. "He is the one who did those bad things to those girls. He and San look very similar. I was stunned when I first met him."

"So he tricked them?"

Sumire nodded. "It seemed those other girls were indeed in a relationship with Sano, but it was a normal relationship at first. Suddenly San started behaving differently and started hurting them. It turns out Alphard had severe jealousy towards San. Even though they were born around the same time, their parents treated San better. So he dyed his hair the same color as San and met up with those girls in his place. San was busy with his studies during that time, so he could not meet with them often, so it was easy."

Nagawa Alphard, Yuhi tried to recall if he ever crossed paths with that man before nothing came to mind.

"Before I dated San, the Nagawa family was having problems. The main cause was the bad rumors regarding San. It seemed he was on trial for selling underage girls. The Nagawa family suppressed the other cases, but that one was difficult to deal with. San attended that party to find somebody who could help him."

"So that person was you." Yuhi was finally starting to understand.

"Mm, I helped him. San won that trial because of my connections. I helped testify too. I heard Alphard had to undergo surgery to have a different face afterwards. It seemed that was the court's decision since it was difficult to punish him. They sent him to a juvenile center abroad, and he has not returned since."

"That still doesn't change how he treated you."

"What Alphard did caused a lot of emotional strain and damage on San. There were still many people who looked at him with disgust even though the court revealed the truth. Over time the details of the case faded from people's memories. Out of all the Nagawa brothers, San was the only one frequently seen with different women, so people assumed it was him."

So it was something like that; now it makes a lot more sense.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 530

Chapter 530: The Nagawa Family Case Part 2

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"Did Nagawa Alphard ever approach you?"

"There was a short time where they granted him leave from the center abroad, and he returned here. It was due to a relative's funeral, so they permitted him." Sumire sighed. "That man hadn't learned his lesson; when he heard about me and San dating, he tried to trick me."

Yuhi quickly recalled something she told him before. "Wait, are you saying he was the one who hit you?"

"San indeed hit me once, but the other times was his brother. San has gone through a lot of emotional turmoil. I am surprised that he can still live life normally despite all the discriminatory behavior against him. How can somebody still have faith in humanity even after being stabbed in the back several times?"

"He isn't a bad guy," Yuhi concluded. "But all of those pent-up emotions led to him hitting you that one time?"

"Mm."

"It seems there was a reason for his cheating, too, hah."

It all makes sense now. Sano's behavior towards Sumire was unusual. Yuhi observed it for a long time, hoping to get some huge clue. 'I wanted to know if he could be an ally.' Atushi informed him that Sano was a member of that side, and Hino confirmed it. But now that Sumire is involved, surely something would change. So he wanted to see what the man would do.

"I understand that you may still dislike him. But everything happened for a reason." Sumire trailed off. "I came here to tell you today, Yuhi, that I am going to meet Nagawa Evan."

Yuhi blinked, startled at her words. "Why?"

"I want to have a full understanding of the deal San made with those people. It seemed the one handling the issues with that organization is San and not the eldest son, which is peculiar."

"That does seem strange. Do you want me to come with you?!"

Sumire shook her head. "I just wanted to inform you in person and see how your meeting with Raizo went."

"Well, he told me a lot." Yuhi pointed to the documents Asuka left earlier. "In there contains everything including your medical reports. I'm going to head back to the bar and read through it."

"My medical reports," Sumire repeated before sighing. "San had a hard time dealing with Raizo. Did you know he brought his troops into the hospital?"

Yuhi's sweat fell when he heard those words. He did think it would be something like that, but to think that his theory came true.

"Even if Nagawa didn't do those things and there was a reason for the cheating. Sumire, he still hurt you, so I hope you understand why I feel hostile towards him." His thoughts broke off when he felt Sumire's lips on his.

"Mm, I understand, thank you."

'Is that how she will thank me from now on?' Yuhi didn't dislike the idea. But sometimes, he wishes she would give him some type of warning. Asuka did find a quiet spot in the courtyard, but there were still people around; many had seen this brief kiss just now.

Yuhi squeezed her hands. "Will you come home after?"

"I will, but if I take too long, just have lunch without me."

—

An hour later, at an apartment complex on the other side of town.

Sumire sat opposite a man with mid-length golden colored hair. He wore casual clothes. "I apologize for intruding on you during your day off."

She initially went to his office, but his secretary informed her that he had a break today. 'I would have left, but after I gave my name, it seemed sir Evan wanted to meet with me.'

"Not at all. I have meant to be in touch."

"I already learned from Ren how you helped me out back then; thank you very much." Sumire thanked him.

It was only because of Evan's testimony that she could get that restraining order and things proceeded smoothly.

"It was the least I could do."

"Did you feel guilty?"

"Yes." Evans nodded. "It should have been me. I should have been the one to make those sacrifices for the family, not Sano. But I ran away."

Right, she heard about it in the news shortly after she broke up with Sano. There was a report that the Nagawa family heir gave up his fortune, and he went off to study abroad. It seems he returned earlier this year even more successful with his own business independent of the Nagawa family.

"The reason being?"

"You already know how my family is like. This was something that happened before Sano dated you. But there was a girl I liked, and we entered a relationship. However, because of the girl's background, my family did not accept her. They hurled all types of verbal abuse on her and even interfered in her work. It was an extreme case of bullying."

"I think I heard about it on the news, she attempted suicide, but you managed to save her, correct?"

"Yes, but she gained a fatal injury. It seemed the cause was my mother, and she barely got onto the roof."

Sumire frowned at those words. "It does not seem like they punished your mother even though the incident happened after meeting your mother."

"It is as you say. I was barely able to tolerate it, but then you came along. You resemble her slightly, and I could tell my brother cared for you. The reason I ran away from the Nagawa family is because of-" Evan's trailed off when one of the doors opened.

A woman with long straight caramel-colored hair wearing a lilac-colored poncho and white dress came in a wheelchair.

Sumire's eyes widened, recognizing the girl from the news report.

"I heard we have guests. I brought some tea."

"Veronica." Evan's tone was gentle as he stood up and walked over to where the girl was. He took the tray from her. "You didn't have to do this."

Veronica chuckled. "I am alright. I also wanted an autograph; that's Sumire-chan, right?"

"You ran away from your family to be with the woman you love. I have to say I am impressed." Sumire commented.

At those words, the girl looked flustered. "I guess you were talking about it?"

Evans nodded. "We were."

In the end, Veronica joined them. Sumire could not miss the way Evans looked at her. It was the same look that Yuhi-san would give her. Look at this Sano; look how nice it is breaking free from all those rules and restrictions.

'If San could leave the Nagawa family and find someone he loves, he would be this happy too. I wouldn't have to worry anymore.'

She has tried suggesting it to him thousands of times, but he always stubbornly told her that he wouldn't abandon the family as his brother did.

Evans had to take a phone call, so he stepped out for a bit, leaving her with Veronica.

"Are you surprised I still remained with him despite all the abuse from his family?"

Sumire nodded. "I am, actually.." Normally in those situations, one wouldn't try to get involved with the other person anymore.