

Melody 541

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 541

Chapter 541: I'll Bet Everything On You

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"Do you want to bet on that?"

A determined look flashed through Hino's eyes. "I do. I'll bet everything on you, Ibuki Sumire."

A deep sigh escaped her lips when she heard his serious reply. It seems the people who associate with Yuhi are all like this. When she first started to get to know the guys in Akagumi, she quickly learned they weren't scary.

'A group of foolishly honest people.

I have never met people who smiled so much.

I have never met such honest people.'

All the people around Yuhi are like this. Hino is not different. At first, he seemed strict and very cold, but she recalled when they first spoke properly. Hino learned right away that she genuinely loved Yuhi. He could tell just from their short conversation.

For her, that meant 'this person has been watching over Yuhi preciously.' That encounter was enough for her to change her mind about him.

It must be Yuhi's influence. She heard that before Hino met Yuhi, he was uncontrollable and cold-hearted.

Sumire rummaged through her bag and took out some score sheets. "Here, it's only half the song and some lyrics. But, these are my current emotions."

Hino scanned the sheets, and his eyes widened.

"This-"

"I know it's very different. It gives a more pure image too, which frankly speaking will not help me. If I act innocent, the public will surely--" Her sentence fell short when Hino picked up her guitar from the corner.

"Show me."

He really is way too blunt. Well, she supposed she could show him. Sumire took the guitar from him and played a few chords.

"One day, I could hear it

When it was raining the voice that called me.

You've always been there for me through thick and thin.

So that I can look forward and walk again
When I get to my dream stage someday.
I'll surely think of you, and I'll surely see your face.
For this song and this voice
connect me to my precious thoughts."

By the end of it, the expression on Hino's face looked priceless. It was a first for her to see him so shocked, so she burst into laughter.

"H--hey, this isn't funny!"

Sumire laughed. "Sorry, but is it that surprising?"

"Well yeah, it's different from your usual style."

"Is that not what you wanted?"

"It is, and this is a great song." Hino suddenly flicked her forehead. "But you started trembling halfway."
Uh, so he noticed that.

"Mm, it's still difficult for me. You and Yuhi are the only ones I can sing in front of, and even with you, I end up this way sometimes."

"Will you be fine? The concert--"

"I will be able to sing with Yumi-senpai. I am that confident."

"But singing alone is hard?"

"It seems so."

"Then why didn't you just get Yuhi to play the guitar while you sing?"

Sumire blinked, startled at his suggestion. "Eh?"

"I mean, I know you don't want to perform with him properly until you reach his level. But something like this should be fine, right?"

She didn't reply right away. "Will Yuhi mind?" She suddenly turned shy at the thought of performing with him.

'It's my dream to stand together on stage, but thinking about singing love songs with Yuhi makes me embarrassed.'

"Are you actually asking that?"

"You don't understand Hino, but even if Yuhi isn't singing, he is still the god of composers."

"You're really his number one fan, you fangirl whenever he gets on stage."

"When you see a handsome guy sing, that's the normal reaction." Sumire trailed off and picked up her phone. "Ah, my dear has a show today. I'll stare at him to get some more energy."

Hino's eyes twitched, annoyed. "Get back to practice."

"But it won't do any harm. I've been dancing for so many hours."

"Hours?" Hino trailed off. "Sumire, it's only eight."

Sumire looked for a place to hide, but before long, Hino was pinching her cheeks.

"I did say you could use this place but don't abuse it!"

"This is why I said let me use a shared training room. You'll have witnesses then." Sumire pointed out.

Hino sighed deeply and took something out of his bag. Sumire blinked when she saw the neatly packaged box.

"You made me bento."

"I made too many."

She slowly opened the box and blinked once before laughing.

Hino looked away, uncomfortable.

"Let's eat already."

Sumire nodded and stopped the music. She joined Hino on the ground with the lunchbox.

"Do you want me to bring some chairs?"

She shook her head. "This is fine."

The moment she starts to eat, she hears the sound of her phone.

Her gaze brightened when she saw who messaged her.

From: Yuhi

Hey, my love, I'll pick you up.

So tell me when you finish, alright?

From: Sumire

Two hours! Give me two hours.

From: Yuhi

Very eager, I see, but alright.

Hino sat beside her coughed, and Sumire laughed lightly.

"You know, so many months have passed since you two started going out."

"Right, it's been half a year."

"Half a year of dating, and you're still acting like a new couple in that disgusting phase."

Sumire paid no attention to the last part; her attention remained on the first half. 'That's right; half a year has gone by already.'

It struck her as unusual to think she survived this long. 'With my personality, for me to stay in a relationship for this long means I like the other person.'

It's not just like, though. Her feelings for Yuhi increase as the day goes by.

"Then again, it's because it's been half a year that Yuhi is busy these days."

Eh?

Hino quickly realized what he had just said, but it was too late. Sumire tugged on his shirt.

"Tell me what you mean."

"Yuhi is preparing something for you." Hino trailed off. "He indeed had some other work, but the main reason is because he is preparing a six-month anniversary thing."

"Um, but it's been like eight months."

"Better now than ever. The fool is excited so just let him be."

'Really excited..' An image of Yuhi's smiling face appears in her red, and unconsciously her cheeks turn red. Somehow lately, she doesn't know how to behave around him.

Is it because he learned that she had liked him this entire time? But it felt like he already knew that. What has changed between them? Why does she feel so self-conscious?

"The human heart is truly complicated."

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Chapter 542: The Colour Of The Night Sky

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Hino raised his eyebrow, and then he nodded. "You've been acting strange around him recently like you just re-discovered your feelings."

"After dancing with him that time, I started to recall the reason why I fell for him." Sumire trailed off.

"That smile of his is truly a crime."

That cheerful and bright smile that is so unlike him, no unexpectedly it suited him.

"The reason being?"

"Yuhi is handsome, brave, and intelligent. What is there not to like?"

Hino rolled his eyes and sighed. "Those reasons are superficial. I know you like good-looking guys.. But that's not the main reason."

This guy is getting better and better at understanding her. Then again, it seems like they knew each other in the past.

'I still don't have all my memories of that time, but one thing is clear. This person cares for me.'

Initially, she was mad at him for lying, but it's hard to stay angry. He is somebody Yuhi trusts; she can't stay angry for long. It would put Yuhi in an awkward position.

"The colour of his hair and eyes are beautiful."

Hino looked at her with wide eyes, and Sumire felt her cheeks heat up.

"This is embarrassing for me to say, but since you asked, let me tell you straight. I thought the colour of his hair and eyes was beautiful. This is Japan; so many people have black hair. But when I saw it on Yuhi, there was something different."

'When I first saw him, it was mesmerizing.'

Normally she would associate the colour black with darkness. But, when she first saw Terashima Yuhi, something else came to mind.

"A pretty black, I thought it was the colour of the night sky. His hair seemed to shine due to the stage lights. It looked like there were stars in his hair."

Hino didn't say anything, and she coughed awkwardly.

"That's how it was. His skin glistening in the dusk, and those deep brown eyes filled with life and hope."

It was the first time she met somebody who she could associate with so many different colors. She would associate the dark colors with a positive meaning.

"As an artist, I had this urge to draw him. But it was hard to do so just watching him on television. So I saved up money and eventually booked myself a ticket for his concert."

That day she drew a picture of Yuhi singing in the snow.

To her surprise, Hino suddenly burst into laughter.

"H--hey, don't make fun of me!"

"No, that's not it. I just thought the reason is pure."

'Now that I thought about it. Yuhi had a hard time introducing her to Hino at first.'

There are many rumors that Hino doesn't like any of the girls who approach Yuhi. Because he behaves that way, some think he swings the other way.

Sumire sweat fell at the memory. Hino has no idea, does he? If he acts that overprotective of Yuhi, others will get the wrong idea.

"Yuhi said you're staying with Makoto Soujiro recently."

"Ah, we had some things to discuss. I think Yuhi understood that."

"Is that regarding your engagement?"

Sumire immediately sensed his tone.

'*So this is the reason why. There are times where Hino seems uncomfortable when he watches Yuhi and me.*'

"I didn't end it."

At those words, Hino turned silent, and Sumire watched his expression. It seems like he has a lot to say on this matter.

Sumire was about to say something when somebody placed a paper bag in her hands.

"Hey, there, my love."

Her eyes brightened when she saw Yuhi. "My dear!" She wanted to jump on him and attack, but then it meant dropping the bag.

The bag? She took a peek inside, and the lovely aroma of pastries filled the air.

"Got you some extra breakfast."

"Thank you!" Sumire beamed happily.

Yuhi-san is the only one who would spoil her like this.

"Yuhi," Hino said sharply. "I think you two-"

"Just relax, Sumire knows what she is doing, and I trust her to handle this."

Even though he shouldn't trust me. No matter how happy she becomes, she often reminds herself.

The two of them are very different. Yuhi already put his dangerous life behind and lived a peaceful life for a year. But she has never left the underground. The days where she saw blood and dead bodies have piled up since they worked alongside each other as partners.

The number of things she saw after he left her was horrific.

Sumire's gaze fell on Yuhi, and she realized that his hair was wet. No, there were small droplets of white snow. She put the bag down and walked over to him. She reached over and parted his hair, causing him to laugh.

"It was cold out there, but I protected your food."

Sumire didn't say anything before she wrapped her arms around his neck. Soon she felt his arms wrap around her waist.

"Hino."

"Yeah, yeah." Hino quickly exited the room.

The moment he did, Yuhi mumbled. "Are you alright?"

"Mmm, we didn't get a chance to talk much the other day."

"Sorry about that." Yuhi kissed her eyelids, nose, and lips. "Something came up."

Despite his vague sounding words, Sumire didn't mind it. Yuhi is not the type of person who would hide things from her.

"I missed you."

"You are so honest; that scores you a lot of points with me." He pulled her face away from his neck and cupped her cheeks. This led to heat crawling onto her face at the speed of light.

Yuhi laughed. "I haven't done anything yet."

"The keyword in your sentence just now is the last one."

Despite being able to respond to him, her heart kept playing tricks on her. 'It's beating way too fast; what if he hears?'

Yuhi suddenly leaned down and kissed her lips. It was a brief kiss, but when he started to kiss her neck too, she shuddered.

"Yuhi."

"It's nice you have a practice room to yourself." He said mischievously.

"Oh dummy, we can't do it here."

"Then," Yuhi brushed his lips against her ear. "-- We shall continue this at night."

"At night?"

"At night, after a nice dinner. I already talked to Soujiro."

A dinner date so suddenly. Sumire looked at him with suspicion but then recalled something. Hino did tell her that he was making plans for their anniversary.

"So, miss Sumire, will you do the honor of being my date tonight?"

Sumire rolled her eyes at his exaggerated words. "But of course."

"Cool, then I'll pick you up at seven."

She frowned when she realized what he had just said. "Are you not staying with me today?"

"I can until lunch, then I have some work with the guys." Yuhi trailed off. "Do you want to come with me? I didn't ask initially since I thought your schedule is full."

"I can go."

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Chapter 543: I Want To Be With Him More

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'I want to be with him a bit more. I wonder when I started to feel this way.'

In the past, it was okay as long as she could see him occasionally, but that changed. Now she just wants to be with him every single day. She wonders, since when did she become so selfish?

When did she start to desire something only normal people should have? Even though a person like her does not deserve such happiness. Here she is enjoying the attention and love another person gives her.

Yuhi has already sacrificed a lot for her. Ever since she came here, he has neglected and pushed back a lot of his important work to spend time with her.

While his actions flattered her, Sumire understood how bad it was for his career. Nobody will like an idol who skips out on his job. After all, look at the backlash she has received for taking a break from her career.. At least she had an excuse, but Yuhi, it looks bad on him.

Recently he has been attending work again. But many people are using the previous incidents as an excuse to take him down from his position.

"Is this a new song?" Yuhi pointed to the scores on the ground.

"Right, but it's incomplete."

Yuhi picked up the sheets of paper and looked at them with great interest. His gaze seemed to soften a little.

"You've gotten better."

"Huh?"

Uh, she wasn't expecting that reaction.

"This is something you should be proud of." Yuhi lightly knocks her forehead with his fist. "Your amazing Sumire."

It was just a few simple words of praise, but somehow it made her feel strange.

'I feel happy.'

Even though Hino complimented the song earlier, she did not feel like this. Is it because she respects Yuhi? Or is there something else? Whenever Yuhi praises her, it feels like her heart will stop. Sumire was about to answer him, but she suddenly felt his lips on hers.

Her already frantic heartbeat seemed to increase even more. 'Oh, this dummy, he is so impatient.' But Yuhi would never kiss her if he knew she hated it. Even though he randomly kisses her, he only does that because he knows she likes it.

"Sorry, but you are adorable." Yuhi briefly parted their lips. "Do you understand?"

"I--" He kisses her more passionately before she could get another word out. Sumire enjoys the feeling of his lips on hers. The love and kindness this person gives her, sometimes it feels like a dream.

Is it truly okay for her to live a happy life? Is it okay for her to have a normal relationship? How many times has she asked herself this question? She has already lost count.

No matter how happy she is, she hasn't fully accepted his kindness and love.

There are many times where she would wake up frightened. But during those times, Yuhi would hold her tightly. He won't say anything but simply caress her back to calm her down.

After he kissed her for a good few minutes, Sumire slumped her face in his arms. She felt drained.

"Are you alright?"

"Dummy."

Yuhi patted her back. "Sorry, but I like kissing you."

She already knows that very well. Whenever they do anything couple like, Yuhi is the first one to get into it. Even when they do something simple like holding hands, he looks so happy.

"Yuhi-san, where have you been?"

"Hmm? Now you want to know?"

"Hino said you were preparing for our anniversary."

Yuhi laughed. "I guess there goes my surprise."

This dummy, he was seriously planning for it.

"I also met with some forces in the underground to strike a few deals. But you know how unreasonable most groups working in the underworld are."

"Mmm, I know." Sumire played with his shirt buttons, causing Yuhi to laugh. "Not funny. I need to check."

"This isn't the time and place for me to strip--"

Sumire cuts him off with a glare as she undid the top shirt buttons. From the top, she briefly spotted red. Her eyes widened, horrified, and she immediately tried to undo the rest, but Yuhi stopped her.

"I'm fine."

"You're not. Is that blood?"

"It is; for some reason, it won't go away, but it's not bleeding anymore. It was from two days ago."

'That doesn't make it any better.' Sumire pulled her hand back from Yuhi and undid the rest of the buttons. Her eyes widened, horrified when she saw the large claw mark on his chest.

"This--" Sumire trailed off. "Did you go into the forest?"

"More like they chased me into the forest. How those people managed to tame several bears was beyond me. Or maybe they just lured me to an area that was popular with wild animals."

"Yuhi."

"I told you before, even if I am strong. I am still a human. I will still falter if I get hit by a paralyzer or something stronger than me."

That doesn't make this okay.

"You should have called me."

"There's a thought. Maybe we can have our next date fighting side by side in the forest surrounded by wild animals." Yuhi jokes.

Sumire carefully examined his face and noticed his pale complexion. 'It's not bleeding, but the pain must still be there.'

"Cancel your work."

It wasn't a request but a demand. She wasn't going to allow him to work in his condition.

"But the other guys-"

"The others will understand. Those four are reasonable." Sumire trailed off as she placed her fingers on the top of the scar. It was only a brief touch, but Yuhi flinched. "You can't even handle this."

"Then, I'll leave myself in your hands."

Right after Yuhi said those words, he collapsed in her arms.

"Yuhi?!!!" Sumire said, horrified.

Right at that moment, Hino walked in. He rushed over and sighed. "Damn him. I knew this was a bad idea."

Sumire frowned at those words. Does this mean he knew?

"I know what you are thinking, Sumire, but let us move Yuhi to a safe place first."

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Chapter 544: Please Treasure Him

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At the Akagumi Bar

This place was the closest, so she and Hino brought Yuhi here. From its looks, both Atushi and Jae were out since there was a note on the bar.

But, her gaze fell on the man fast asleep on the bed.

'Yuhi lectures me for being careless, but what about him?'

Still, she can't blame him. Sumire understood that the only reason he became this way was because of her. This is why she didn't want him to get involved. She already saw how dedicated he was to her. Sumire knew he would do something careless that would risk his health one day.

'I still didn't stop him despite having those thoughts. A part of me must have missed working alongside Yuhi..'

Back then, people naturally assumed they were a couple. There were a lot of rumors then. They spent so much time together, but nothing romantic happened. Sure, there were times when their hands would casually brush against each other and end up closer, but that was all.

They had a relationship based on mutual trust; they worked well together and shared mutual interests and hobbies. Everything came naturally whenever they were together.

'Strangely connected by fate.'

Many people made such remarks. At the time, she didn't understand what they were talking about. It wasn't until she started to date Ru. Ru always said that it would be easier to sever ties if the foundation of the relationship is mutual trust.

If it were just romance, though, it should be even easier to sever ties after all; relationships are fickle things. What she has with Yuhi is something she cannot define with a single word.

Sumire changed the towel on his forehead with a new one and sat down on the chair beside the bed.

'Truly, he is a fool. But I love that part of him.' The part of him who would do anything for her sake. She feels so loved.

"Hino, did you know?" Sumire asked the violet-haired man who had just entered the room.

"Yeah."

"You should have told me."

"You know why I didn't."

Of course, she knew. "Yuhi didn't let you."

If Yuhi said that much, naturally, Hino would not be able to do anything. Hino said it before that he would prioritize Yuhi even though he has feelings for her.

"Sumire, you know Yuhi has always loved you. Whenever he got into bad situations in the past, all it took was mentioning you for him to get back on his feet. That guy truly loves you; that's why the thing with your fiancée and with Sano. I want you to handle it carefully without hurting Yuhi."

"You are harsh with me."

Hino sighed. "You know I don't want to. I have been trying to keep an open mind since the start. But Sumire, I can't understand. Yuhi already treats you this well, the thing with other guys- what is that all about? I know you are not bad, and I know you don't like the other guys. So exactly what are you trying to do?"

Sumire was about to say something, but she felt Yuhi tug on her hand. She looked back to see that he was still asleep. Is he doing that unconsciously?

"You see, even now, he is shielding you. It seems Yuhi already understands why you are doing that stuff. But occasionally, it would look like he is in pain." Hino trailed off. "You know this, right?"

"I know."

"Sumire, I know you have a hard time understanding love and relationships. But please, I am begging you not to make a mistake when it comes to Yuhi. Yuhi didn't like those girls as much as he did you, but he was still in a relationship with them. When they betrayed him, it hurt."

Sumire suddenly felt somebody pull her onto the bed and nestled in Yuhi's familiar arms.

"Hino. I told you already-"

"I know you two talked about it, Yuhi, and I know it isn't easy for her. But she-"

Yuhi wrapped his arms protectively around her. "It's not because of Sumire. I look like I am in pain recently because those girls are harassing me, and it turns out my so-called manager was the ring leader. You better fire that woman. I don't care that she has been

Her eyes widened when she heard those words. She didn't know about that. But wait, girls, harassing him?

Sumire stepped on his foot, and he laughed. "My love, you're already angry?"

"By girls harassing, is that what I think it means?"

Hino quickly interjected. "You see, Yuhi's manager has been sending different girls to his doorstep ever since you disappeared."

Her eyes twitched, annoyed when she heard those words. That woman was doing what?

"Of course, Yuhi isn't stupid; he didn't fall for it even once."

"You don't have to say that. I'm so cute, pretty, and loveable. Those other girls stand no chance since Yuhi is head over heels for me."

Yuhi laughed and kissed her forehead. "You really are cute."

"Quit flirting with me, dummy. I need the details." Sumire trailed off. But she was having a hard time concentrating due to the feeling of Yuhi's lips on her neck.

Hino sighed and shook his head as he quickly left. The moment he did, she pushed Yuhi down onto the bed and kissed him passionately.

To think other girls were trying to harp onto Yuhi while she wasn't around. Even though Yuhi is hers, how dare they have the nerve to get close to him?

"Mmmm, this is nice."

Sumire rolled her eyes but didn't move away from him; instead, she leaned forward again to kiss him.

"Dearest."

"I'm sorry for worrying you."

"Good." Sumire trailed off. "I know it's hard, Yuhi. You try to be strong for both of us. But it's okay for you to show weakness once in a while."

"Alright, I guess you will see it more often now. I have been having a hard time."

Sumire frowned knowingly. It seems those girls trying to leech onto Yuhi aren't ordinary people; otherwise, it won't bother him this much. She caresses his cheeks.

"Do you want me to handle it?"

She doesn't understand the situation very well, but if it is handling flies, she is good at that. Moreover, since staying over at Soujiro's place, she has remained on her best behavior.

In short, it is hard to create havoc when Soujiro watches her like a hawk. The security in his place is way too scary. It is no wonder why Sano couldn't harass her the last time she stayed over. Soujiro does not give his enemies any opportunities to attack.

This is the main reason why Yuhi told her to stay there. It is a dangerous time.

'There are those who dislike you to the point they will cause physical harm until you prove yourself by winning against Takahashi. You should stay in that place.'

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Chapter 545: Together

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It is not like she doesn't understand where they are coming from, but it is frustrating sitting around and doing nothing all day. However, she can use any of the empty rooms in Soujiro's mansion to practice. It is hard to do so with the servant's watchful gaze on her.

"Mmm, but together. I don't want you to stain your hands."

That would have sounded sweet, but she felt his hands on the zipper of her dress. "What are you doing Yuhi-san?"

"Touching."

"No," Sumire growled. "I am angry. If you were having such a hard time, you should have told me."

"I know, I'm sorry. Please don't be mad."

She understood why he did it. Lately, she has been very distressed about returning to the entertainment circle. Yuhi most likely didn't tell her because he didn't want her to worry. But the more he does stuff like this, the more troubled she will feel.

'I appreciate it, but I can't allow him to continue getting hurt for me.'

"No." This time around, she won't let him sweet-talk her.

"You know what Hino just said. I do worry about you falling into Sano's trap. When I first talked to him, he was so confident that you would return to him. It seems he knows this side of you very well."

At those words, Sumire froze. This is so unfair! If he is going to guilt-trip her like this, she knew she can't get mad at him. After all, it was her fault. Hino was very harsh with her, but he was right to say all that. The thing with Sano aside, what on earth was she doing with Soujiro?

"I won't cheat on you."

Yuhi laughed at her words, and she shook her head. "I know what I am doing seems strange, but I won't betray you."

"I already know, love." Yuhi kissed her forehead. "If you were going to betray me, you would have done so already."

"You know I hate that you know me so well."

"Well, if I didn't, we won't have a great relationship." He gently caresses her hair. "Are you not worried about my injuries anymore?"

"I am, but there is just so much to discuss."

"I want to start with topics regarding you. Is it okay to stay over at Soujiro's? I know he won't cause issues, but his servants may."

"The other night, we slept together on the same bed."

At those words, Yuhi's eyes twitched, annoyed, and he reached over to pinch her cheeks. "I see how it is." He tried to shift their positions, but the moment he moved, he winced in pain.

Sumire remained on top of him and ran her fingers through the scar on his chest.

"Ouch."

"It still hurts, right?"

"Well, it does," Yuhi admitted. "But I thought we could do something."

Sumire laughed at his words. He is so honest it is hard for her to get mad at him. She placed her fingers across his lips.

"What shall we do?"

....

An hour later.

Sumire rested her head on Yuhi's chest. A content sigh passed her lips. Even though they only kissed, she felt delighted. She truly is lucky to be with this person.

"My concert, you'll attend, right?"

"Of course, are you reserving me a seat?"

"I wanted you to stay backstage, so I can run to you and get energy. But it will be hard to watch from there. You can only get the full experience of a concert watching from the audience seats."

Yuhi laughed. "You know that well, huh?"

Sumire's cheeks colored when she realized what he was referring to. "I only went to your concert a few times. After the whole ange thing, it was hard for me to go just in case you saw me."

"That's what I don't get. Why were you so reluctant to meet with me?"

She didn't reply to him. Although, she can discuss nearly everything with him if it concerns her admiration and respect.

'I find it embarrassing.' Sumire wanted to make a meal for him, but unfortunately, it was hard to move.

Yuhi placed a soft kiss on her forehead. "Just stay here. I will get the food."

"Alright."

She watched as Yuhi weakly stood up.

"Ah, Yuhi I-" Sumire stopped in mid-sentence when she got a good look at his naked torso. She buried her face under the sheets. Now that she thought about it, she always had that past habit of staring at him whenever he walked around shirtless in the training room in the Holy Knights base.

Yuhi didn't like to practice with other people; she often found him training alone. It was during those times where they unconsciously closed the distance between them.

"First, put on your shirt!"

Yuhi laughed. "I already am; why are you freaking out?"

"I am not!"

Alright, so she was. But only because she is getting de-ja vu vibes from this.

"Are you remembering that time you used to stare at my torso after my workout?"

How come he knew? It was a good thing that she was hiding under the blanket. It would be bad if he saw how red her face was. This fool would tease her like crazy.

So far, she has the upper hand in this relationship, even though there were times where his teasing led to her dying of embarrassment.

"But I remember those times very well. It was after those people murdered your classmate. You didn't know her very well, but she was still someone you knew. You blamed yourself for her death."

"I heard that doing physical activity was a good stress reliever."

Yuhi chuckled. "If that was your reasoning, we could have done something other than throwing a few punches at each other."

"Something?" That question fell on death's ears when she felt him lift her body from the bed. "Yuhi, put me down."

"No. Besides, what if I collapse when I am in the kitchen? If I set the bar on fire, Atushi will kill both of us."

Well, she cannot ignore that logic of his. Sumire resigned her fate him carrying her out of the room. With Yuhi's injuries, it wasn't wise to carry him upstairs, so Hino and her had placed him in one of the downstairs rooms. It was a good thing too. Just from him carrying her, Sumire spotted the top of the bandages on his chest turn red.

The wound is reopening so fast. He shouldn't do any drastic movements for a while.

Yuhi placed her down on the counter, and she watched him clumsily get the pans and ingredients out. Seeing him wince in pain every few seconds, she got off the counter and started to help.

It didn't take long before she was doing most of the work, and soon there was a full course meal on the table.

"I see you didn't set the kitchen on fire today."

Sumire's cheeks reddened, and she coughed. "Can Soujiro and you not exchange information on me? It is an invasion of privacy."

'I don't want Yuhi to know I am bad at baking.'

It was almost like he knew since he laughed again. This person who is supposedly severely hurt keeps smiling. How can he smile when he is in so much pain?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 546

Chapter 546: Right Here

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

"By the way, do you remember that time you kissed me during our first training session?"

Geh, it seems like he won't let her escape from talking about back then.

"I already apologized for that kiss."

"But I wasn't sorry."

Right he wasn't; he kissed her deeply after saying those words. Every single training session, there were a few accidental kisses. But even then, she didn't allow it to get to her head. The Holy Knights organization mainly had male members; there were seldom any females. At the time, she simply thought he was pent up staying with so many guys, and he released his stress on her.

"The first time you kissed me, I was worried you would hear the sound of my heartbeat," Sumire mumbled.

Back then, she wore a poker face expression all the time, and others called her heartless. But whenever she was around Yuhi, it was difficult for her to maintain that look. The man she loves is right there in front of her; how could she possibly remain cold?

When he kissed her back, she thought she was going crazy. It was a good thing the training room lights were dim.

Yuhi's gaze softened. "Well, I did hear something when we kissed."

Sumire wanted nothing more than to hide. It happened a long time ago already, but whenever she thought about it, her heart would race.

"The sound of my own heart, it was crazy."

Sumire was mentally screaming in her head. What on earth is with those perfect-sounding replies? This is cheating! Why does this person always know what to say? Why does he continue to love her so?

She stood up and brought her chair over to where Yuhi's was. But she didn't sit beside him. Sumire placed the chair behind Yuhi's and sat down.

"Back then, I told you my only objective was my survival."

"I remember. I thought you were very cool."

"Yuhi, I have been thinking. Is it truly okay for you to get involved?" She whispered.

Is it okay for him to continue getting hurt for her sake?

"You already put this life of bloodshed behind you. I know you gathered the guys in akagumi, so you can't say you completely escaped it. But I already talked to them all; you only created the group so they would have a place to belong. Terashima Yuhi, you worked hard to have a normal life."

"I see." Yuhi trailed off. "It is not like I don't understand what you are saying. Hino talked to me a lot too. I also thought if it was okay for me to throw everything away when I was at the top. But, I think I told you five years ago, Sumire. I was lonely for the longest time, and even when I became a star surrounded by people, I didn't enjoy myself. I loved to sing, but people decided everything for me."

"Yuhi."

"But after I met you, I decided I would change things. I was able to build such a grandstanding in the entertainment industry because of our meeting. I would remember that beautiful girl singing in a small karaoke place. No, it felt like you were singing outside surrounded in snow."

This person thinks way too highly of her.

"I still dislike myself. When you say things like that, it is a burden."

"I know, but I don't want to lie to myself. These are my natural feelings."

She already understands that much. This person is truly foolish. Back then, she noticed his feelings. No, she noticed how fond he was of her. He made it way too obvious, giving her those gentle gazes. However, he was harsh with her when it came to work. He only did that so she could learn from him and improve.

"I don't want you to get hurt. Yuhi, you say it is because of me that you broke through your shell. But even if you hadn't met me, your love for music would have won." Sumire trailed off. "The entertainment industry can be a frightening place. You saw how the media are treating me like some type of murderer? If they hear you are involved in the underworld, they will most likely do something."

'It surprises me that nobody knows about mine. Considering how the media practically stalk me, it is a real surprise that they haven't found out.' Then again, she knew that Aki would never allow them to find out; that person is very useful for things like this.

"I know."

"Then-"

"But Sumire, I don't want to be apart from you anymore. I want to share all your burdens, all your fears. I want to share all your emotions. You're not alone. I am right here. I won't leave you anymore."

Her eyes widened when she heard those words. Sumire clenched her fist. This is so difficult; he won't even give her a chance to push him away.

"I think I understand what you are thinking, Sumire. There was also a time where I wanted to pull you away from the darkness of the underworld. A time where I wanted nothing more for you to enjoy living a normal life."

"Is that-"

"It was fairly recently where I had to settle my feelings on this. From the very start, I told you I would support you. But I have to apologize now. This entire time I was waiting for an opportunity to stop you."

Sumire couldn't believe what she was hearing. But even though she could not see his expression, she sensed his serious tone.

"Did you find one?" Sumire asks, despite knowing the answer already.

"Unfortunately no, in the end, I found myself swept up with the flow wanting to support this crazy girl with her careless ambitions." Yuhi trailed off. "I know it is hard for you. But didn't you say that you missed working alongside me?"

"I did, but Yuhi, your current life-" Her sentence fell short when he suddenly appeared in front of her.

Yuhi knelt on the ground and grabbed hold of one of her hands. "My life is all yours. It was from the start, and it will continue doing so."

"But what if you get hurt again? What if you get severely hurt when I am not with you?"

'What if he sustains a life-threatening injury and dies? What if I don't make it on time? What if-' Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi squeezed her hands.

"Look at me, Sumire; it will be okay."

Sumire shook her head. She felt the tears she was holding back this entire time fall from her eyes. Once she started to cry, she always found it hard to stop. Yuhi stopped kneeling on the ground and pulled her up, causing her to get up; she immediately landed in his arms.

"Sumire, it is okay. I am alive."

"You scared me."

"I know. I really am sorry." Yuhi caressed her hair. "Do you really think I will die and leave you all alone?"

"I-Ru."

"I am not him. I won't do that."

Right, Yuhi and Mamoru are vastly different from one another. But sometimes, when she sees how dedicated Yuhi is to her, it frightens her. It would remind her of Ru; Ru was so dedicated and devoted, and look how that ended up.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 547

Chapter 547: Same Position

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

Yuhi didn't say anything and picked her up, instead of returning to the room he brought her to the couch. Yuhi pulled the blanket around her and kept patting her back.

"Yuhi, the food."

"It is okay, we can eat the rest later."

"I'm sorry, I'm just-" Sumire didn't know how to explain her current mood. But now that her feelings are out in the open, she couldn't stop shaking.

'I was frightened? I was frightened that I would lose Yuhi?' If Hino didn't come into the room then she would have broken down. She was only able to remain calm because there was another person there. But the moment it was just Yuhi and her, all those fears emerged from the surface.

Before she knew it she was in this state again..

Her entire body felt cold all over. She was trembling badly and she knew even without looking at a mirror how pale her face was. Despite the warmth from Yuhi's arms, she was having a hard time settling down.

"When Hino was there I didn't notice."

"Yeah."

"But when it was just us two, my mind kept wandering and I kept looking at your scars even when you gave me that kiss that drives me crazy."

Yuhi laughed softly. "A kiss that drives you crazy?"

Actually there were many of those. Each different kiss he gives her drives her crazy. But he doesn't have to know that. She maybe in a weak state now but she will not allow him to know that.

She cannot allow him to get a deep glimpse into her heart, that would be far too dangerous. Yuhi-san must understand that too and that is the reason why he does not pry, he is waiting until she is ready.

"I would like to give you more pleasant memories if I can. But both of us know how bad the situation is getting. Those people are becoming bolder and bolder with their actions. They won't stop."

"But do you really have to get so involved? Yuhi you almost died. Please rethink about whether you want to keep doing this." Sumire tried to maintain a calm expression but it was difficult.

Just the mere thought that she almost lost him sent shivers down her spine.

"You should also try to look at things from my perspective."

"I am-"

Yuhi shook his head and she bit her lip and averted her gaze.

"It's not just about you and me Yuhi. I don't know if you remember but back when we worked together in the Holy Knights you were very popular."

"Are you jealous again-"

Sumire raised her hand and cut him off.

"No, it has nothing to do with my jealousy. But I will admit that I was jealous back then."

"If you say it so seriously it is hard to tease you."

"This is what makes you such a boring guy." Sumire rolled her eyes. "Back then who was the one who was so oblivious to those girls' advances towards you? They really had the nerve though even though I was right there beside you."

Whenever she looked back on it, she hated how those girls just pretended that she wasn't there. Then again it was not like they were in a relationship. Even after she warmed up to him there was still times where she would treat him coldly. It is no wonder those girls behaved the way they did.

"Well of course I didn't notice. I was too busy stealing glances at you."

At those words she picked up something on the side table and hit him. Yuhi caught the small box and sighed.

"Isn't this my precious gift to you? Why are you tossing it carelessly."

"You're the one who keeps saying such stupid things."

"Hey you may think it is stupid. But those are my feelings for you."

Aaaahh he makes her so mad. Why is Yuhi so foolishly honest with her? It does not make any sense at all. She has a terrible personality and she has many issues. But this guy is madly in love with her to the point he would do anything for her.

"Back then you were not only popular with the girls but everyone else too. There was something about you that drew others towards you. You have the charisma and talent that a good leader requires. But even more than that, there was something else."

That something is the reason why she was worried for him.

"You influenced others with your behaviour."

A deep sigh passed Yuhi's lips.

"To be honest it doesn't suit me. But I can't dismiss those words your saying. This talk is reminding me of somebody and I really don't want to mention it."

"If I told you I used to think you and that person were similar, I am sure you would hate me right now."

"That won't ever happen. But similar huh? Do you truly think that?"

"Back then you understood him far better than he did, you were one step ahead of him when it came to solving cases. So when he did become a traitor officially, all those clues and hints you left for us helped us survive."

If Yuhi didn't make his dislike towards the man clear, then so many more people would be dead by now.

"That guy killed my family. It doesn't sit well with me being compared to him." Yuhi trailed off. "Do I really resemble him?"

Sumire briefly closed her eyes. The man in her memory, the one Yuhi regards as his biggest enemy is a ruthless psychopath. But that guy never did things without a reason. It is similar to Yuhi but also herself.

"You're not the only one though who predicted him."

Yuhi frowned. "No, you're definitely not the same."

"Perhaps, but the truth is there were times where I understood him better than you. So when everybody learned his true face I had a hard time for a while. They looked at me like I was some type of walking time bomb ready to explode."

There was a time where she faced even more stigma from her peers.

"Sumire--"

Sumire shook her head. 'Once again he will dismiss his fears just to comfort me. I can't allow him to spoil me like that forever. Besides he has his own inner demons to face, this is one of them. I want to help him overcome this.'

"Just now you asked me if you resembled him. The answer I have for you right now is I do not know."

He seemed baffled at her response and she continued. "I do not know because your way of living has changed. Even though you are involving yourself a lot more in the underworld matters, it is not the same as before. The position you are in now is far different than his. It was different before too but it was a lot closer."

"So-"

"So Yuhi-san I can conclude your question like this. Unless the day comes where you cut yourself off from the rest of the world leading to you abandoning everything you hold dear. Then you will never be in the same position as that guy."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 548

Chapter 548: Is That What You Truly Want?

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

To her surprise after she said those words he slumped his head on her chest.

"You truly know what to say." Yuhi mumbled. "The truth was I left the organisation because I started to see this. The amount of people who wanted to put me in the same position as that guy appeared. I didn't want you to get dragged into that mess."

Now that she thought about it, there was a time where loads of strange people started to look for Yuhi at the base. Back then she made a joke that he was starting his own cult or something but to think it was this serious..

Sumire gently ran her fingers through his hair and spoke softly. "I wish you told me."

"Would you have dropped your cold beauty act then?"

"Quit trying to slip in compliments."

Despite how casually he said it Sumire noticed that beauty comment. Yuhi only laughed and she sighed. What is it with this person?

"What I told you just now, doesn't it remind you of me?"

"Sumire." Yuhi said sharply. "Please don't say-"

She shook her head. She cannot run away from this.

"I have been thinking about it for some time since I started to use Sano. From what he told me the enemy leader seems to be very fond of me. I thought long and hard what this guy wants with me, and then I recalled Akishima. That guy before he escaped he told me 'One day you will see things the way I do, no you already are starting to see them. We will cross paths again.' It seems unconsciously I am becoming more like the man you hate. I was willing to abandon everything and live a life of solitude."

But before she did that she wanted to meet with Yuhi one last time and confirm things. It was her original plan to leave after she confirmed everything. But she ended up staying this long.

'Now I do not want to leave.'

"If I did do that, then there is no doubt we would have crossed paths as enemies one day. What the Black Alice organisation wants from me, what that man does is not something pleasant. They want to bring out the inner darkness in my heart, they want to see how much damage my abilities can cause. They want me to cause harm."

She thought long and hard about it. If she thought about their movements so far, the damage they have mainly inflicted is emotional and mental damage. Those people have not hurt her directly not even once.

Yuhi raised his face from her chest and grabbed hold of her shoulders. "Is that what you truly want?"

"I wonder myself. I told you already these days I am very happy being with you, you have given me enough happiness to last a lifetime. I could leave and be content with the memories we have made so far. But after I started to get serious about singing again I realized that I still have so many more things I want to achieve with you. No, I still have to fulfill that promise I made you when I met you as Ange. I want to sing together, no I want us to reach greater heights together."

If it is with this person then she can achieve something that she didn't before. Her thoughts broke off when Yuhi tugged on her hand and soon she was resting her face on his chest as they laid down on the couch. It was a fairly small couch, if Yuhi was not holding onto her she would surely fall off.

"I think we should go to the room."

"Mmm, I know you prefer the bed but this is good too."

Her eyes twitched annoyed at his words. This guy, his level of shamelessness increases as each day goes by. Although it was partly her fault, at the start of their relationship she allowed him to get away with a lot of things.

Still she watched Yuhi close his eyes. He must be exhausted, there is no doubt he pushed himself to stay awake when he should be resting. His wounds must still hurt.

Sumire extended her hand out and caressed his cheek. A content sigh passed his lips. "Sumire, keep doing that."

"Yes, I will."

After a few minutes she watched as Yuhi fell into a deep slumber. The moment he did, she drew back from his arms and sat up. She looked at him for a few extra seconds before she headed out of the room. The moment she arrived outside a cold gust of wind hit her face but she didn't mind it.

"Is he fast asleep now?"

Sumire sighed deeply. "You truly have a bad habit Eli."

A man with dark hair wearing his usual lab coat stepped out of his hiding spot. He wore his usual signature smile on his face.

"Did you tell him that you have been receiving death threats?"

"I intended to, but I didn't think something like that happened to him." Sumire trailed off. "There is no doubt that you knew."

"Of course."

Only this guy can say that with his casual smile and get away with it. If it was another person she would have hit them by now.

"One or two death threats would be fine, but-" Eli pulled out a black box. "You received another box full today."

"Is it the usual? A black card covered in blood?"

"I looked around all the shops in Tokyo and nobody makes cards like these. Of course it is custom made. At the very least this person is putting in some effort. Their hate for you must be quite strong." Eli beamed.

This guy is so weird, why does something like that make him happy?

"Other than the threats, has there been anything else?"

"Nothing noteworthy. Although I am starting to see more suspicious people in town, those people have not done anything." Eli trailed off. "But it seems they are keeping a close eye on your concert with Takahashi Yumi. I wonder what they are hoping to see?"

Her live concert huh? Are they going to pull the same stunt they did last time? Sumire shook her head. Those people aren't that stupid. The whole attack towards Yumi was probably only to frighten her, they wouldn't have killed him.

But it still bothers her. Why are they trying to scare her now? Could it be they don't want her to have the concert? It was a far fetched theory but it seems to be the one that makes the most sense right now.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 549

Chapter 549: A Deadly Tool

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

"Is there something about my concert with Yumi-senpai that would bother them?"

"In the first place Sumire-chan. I think you need to rethink about who you are performing with. It's Takashi Yumi of all people. Do you know how many amazing things that woman has done?"

"Well I do know."

'I thought I did anyway. But Eli is making Yumi-senpai sound like some type of goddess.'

Eli must have understood her thoughts since he placed his hand on his forehead.

"It seems you have no clue. Let us put it this way, Takashi Yumi showed that the power of music can be as deadly as any lethal weapon. What those people are worrying about is your voice.. You have a talent

that far surpasses Takahashi Yumi. That person caused a lot of damage with her singing back in the day, of course they do not want a repeat."

"Yumi-senpai saved a lot of people with her singing, to say she used it as a weapon-"

Eli shook his head. "There is no doubt. It happened when you were locked up in that facility though so it is natural you do not know. It seems cliché to say something like music will destroy the world. But there are remains of such information in ancient scriptures. Every few centuries a woman with an amazing voice will lead the world to destruction or harmony. For this generation I would say it would be you."

"Hah." Sumire laughed. "You flatter me way too much. I don't think this voice can save anybody, all it does is cause people pain. But not the world destruction pain, I am talking about a more emotional level."

"I think you are the one who is underestimating yourself."

"We can argue about this all day but we all know that nothing will change." Sumire trailed off. "Hey Eli, do you think you can work together with Hino for me?"

At that comment she watched a disturbed expression appear on Eli's face and she laughed. It was similar to the expression Hino-san made whenever she mentioned Eli in front of him.

"If Yuhi and Soujiro can put aside their differences, I thought maybe I can ask you two to do the same."

"I do not think using that logic is very wise. The grudges between those two are small, moreover they are tied by their feelings for you. They would never do anything to harm the other person since it would hurt you."

"I see." Sumire trailed off. "But even Sano put aside his ill feelings and talked to senpai not long ago."

By senpai she was referring to Ichinose Arashi. It surprised her when she learned that they met up and talked.

"It seems you are trying to pair us all up. But then what of Nakura Shin?"

"-with Atsuro." Sumire pulled a face when she thought of the red-haired man. "I honestly hate the idea of talking to that guy. But we need more people. It is more effective to work in pairs than solo."

Moreover she has observed Shin's behaviour towards Atsuro. Shin appears to be closer with Yuhi than Atsuro, even though Shin and Atsuro belong to the same group. There is friction between them but Shin pretends there isn't.

"Then what about you Queen?" Eli joked. "Are you going to work solo while you force us to work with people we despise?"

"There is no need for me to work with anyone."

Besides she already has to trouble those guys. She does not want to drag another person into this. After she parted ways with Eli, somebody ambushes her with a hug the amount she entered the bar. It caused her to lose her balance and she landed on the ground with Yuhi on top of her.

"Yuhi-san, what are you doing?"

"I don't want to hold back anymore."

His words sounded so desperate and needy. It was the first time for her seeing him this way. Moreover, she watched as his brown coloured irises turned a lovely blood shot red. This is a first time for him to openly show this side.

Back when she was still adjusting to this half demon bloodline. Yuhi told her many things. But it did not take her long to realize that Yuhi never shows this side of him.

What a pretty shade of red, unlike hers there was something beautiful about it. Sumire wrapped her arms around his neck.

"I do not mind."

She hasn't minded for a very long time. No even at the start this seemed to come naturally for both of them.

....

After spending the night with him like that, naturally one would expect them to spend the morning cuddling. Normally that is what would happen, but instead she ran away.

'I left him breakfast and a note, but it doesn't change the fact that I escaped.'

She didn't return to Soujiro's mansion or the company, instead she just wandered around town.

Like what Eli told her the previous day she saw many strange people wearing odd cloaks all over town. But they did not pay any attention to her even when she walked directly by them. Perhaps this was a good thing. It was hard for her to focus so getting into a skirmish with them was no good.

When she looked up, she saw a large screen broadcasting a video of Yumi-senpai practicing seriously for the showdown. 'Even when she is training she looks beautiful, such graceful movements.' It will be difficult to beat her but what was weighing on her mind was neither music or the conflict with that organisation.

'Yuhi, what am I going to do with you?'

She already knew that he held back around her. He has made this clear to her so many times already. But each time he holds her now there is something different. Perhaps it was due to the long absence before the next time, but something differs. That something causes a strange feeling in her heart.

What is she going to do about this?

She never thought that Yuhi would become this fond and attached to her. Although she dismissed those rumors regarding Yuhi, she took them with a grain of salt. She still kept it at the back of her mind. People are so wrong about Yuhi. If she told people how loyal Yuhi was they would most-likely laugh at her.

Yuhi will never cheat, hurt or betray her. He will give her everything she has ever wanted in a relationship. He will fulfill all those expectations she thought she got rid of a long time ago.

His feelings for her keep increasing everyday. It is getting harder for her to maintain a distance between them. She is so attached to him, that sometimes she forgets that her hands are stained in blood. How many lives did she claim?

During the time Yuhi left for Tokyo, those unspeakable things she did then. That time was her worst.

Yuhi already learned about what she did in the kidnapping incident. But what if he learns about the rest? He will still accept her, but her heart will never be at ease.

What if one day the day comes where she ends up hurting him?

Sumire sighed deeply. How many times has she had those thoughts? She needs to get a grip. No matter what happens Yuhi won't leave her. If she continues to have such thoughts then it would be bad. These thoughts will be the thing that hurts him.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 550

Chapter 550: A Pair Of Idiots

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

Back whenever she felt down after they handled a case wrong, she often wandered around the city deep in thought. During those times he would magically appear out of nowhere. It was the same this time too, at first she thought she was just seeing things. But when their eyes made contact, it suddenly started to rain.

That didn't stop Yuhi from dashing over and grabbing her wrist the moment he was opposite her.

"Y-Yuhi."

"Damn, you're really good at hiding."

From the looks of it he ran all over to find her.

"Y--your wounds." Sumire noticed small patches of red on his clothes..

"Hurt like hell, and probably reopened but at least I found you.'

'Oh I want to hug and kiss him so badly! But I must refrain.'

Her thoughts broke off when she felt a familiar piece of fabric on her shoulders. Yuhi had placed his coat on her shoulders.

"I know it is wet already, but it's better than nothing."

It seems even when he is mad, he is still fussing and taking care of her. She really needs to stop taking advantage of his kindness. It will do neither of them any good. But for now, she wants to accept it.

She rested her face in his chest and he patted her hair and caressed her back.

"Are you still angry?"

"I wasn't."

"You don't sound very convincing since you ran away, and don't make up an excuse. I know how weak you are during rainy days. Normally you would stay and cuddle with me."

'You would only stay during rainy days.'

'Those were the only days where it felt like I could get to know the real you.'

Sano's words echoed in her mind. She wonders if she does the same thing with Yuhi. She doesn't understand it herself, but during these days she becomes more honest.

"I want to rest." Sumire mumbled.

"Then let's go home-" Sumire tugged on his clothes and shook her head. "Alright I understand."

After walking for a few minutes in the rain, they arrived at a nearby hotel. Due to her strange state she didn't react like normal and just followed him in. It was a proper hotel, but she still spotted many unusual couples in the lobby. Those two over there are probably having an affair, look how secretive they are acting. The ones in the counter beside them are regulars. The ones on the couch are a new couple.

She wonders how people saw Yuhi and her. 'I don't know how to classify our relationship sometimes. We are dating sometimes doesn't seem right to me.' Yuhi turned back to her with the keys in his other hand and squeezed her hand.

He didn't say anything and yet she knew it was her cue to follow him. It surprised her how quickly they arrived at their room. Just a few minutes ago they were in the lobby but after following Yuhi for a few minutes they arrived in front of a grand looking door.

"Would you like to shower?"

"Uh I'm good."

"Then I'll go first." Yuhi let's go of her hand. "Feel free to relax. I know you are tired."

'Whose fault would that be?' It surprised her how she even managed to get up. Yuhi-san has such amazing stamina. Sumire watched as he disappeared behind the doors to the bathroom. She walked over to the large no oversized bed and laid down.

She placed her arm over her eyes, and blocked the source of light. This is so silly, what are the two of them doing acting like a foolish couple for? But she is so tired, she doesn't want to return home. To come to a place like this though, Hino will lecture her again.

'Right now I want to be closer to Yuhi.'

To think one day she would have these thoughts. No the more accurate thing to say is, to think the day would come where she would break the lock on her heart.

'I have always had these feelings for him, but up till now I put a limiter, a lock to conceal them.'

Now that she has personally removed the lock, there is no escaping his love and care. Sumire tossed and turned on the bed. How many months have passed since she came to Tokyo? So much has happened but she doesn't regret anything.

She ran away once but it won't happen again.

'I don't want him to make that type of face again. I want to see him smile.'

Her thoughts break off when she hears approaching footsteps. It was Yuhi, he just finished showering. Even though he was thankfully wearing clothes, the water still clung to his shirt.

If she is to be completely honest. No matter how bold and brave she is around other people. She becomes really shy whenever anything intimate is mentioned. There are times when she is in her 'hanyou' state where she loses control. But even those times have a limit.

Sumire immediately sat up thinking it would be too dangerous to remain laying down.

"If you don't want to, we don't have to. We only came here to get out of the rain."

"R-right."

"Shall we drink a little?"

"I don't need alcohol to talk."

Yuhi laughed. "Is that so?"

It was a bit difficult for her to just sit here and talk. The people next door were really 'having a good time.' Why aren't these walls soundproof? Isn't it an invasion of privacy being able to hear this much?

Then again maybe she needs to stop being so self conscious. Her thoughts broke off when she realized how close Yuhi was.

"You're really nervous."

"Quiet dummy, it's unpleasant when you tease me so much."

"Tease huh? I don't even do anything and you end up with crazy ideas in your pretty head."

"T-!"

Yuhi kisses her deeply.

"I love you."

Whenever he tells her that he loves her, she always felt like crying why does this man care so much for her? Why does he treasure her to this extent?

Stuff like this is still unusual for her. She has no experience in it. The previous times she simply just went along with the flow. It is the same this time too except she is paying a bit more attention than usual.

She didn't know when he got his shirt off, nor when he pinned her down onto the bed. But when she finally processed what was happening in her head it was already like this.

His muscular chest, and the sweat clinging to his body.

"Don't laugh."

"But I'm happy."

"T-time out Yuhi-san." Sumrie covered her face with her hands.

"Why? You're so pretty. Please stop hiding your face."

'I feel happy too, but is it okay? Is it truly okay for her to accept all his kindness and love?'

No, this is too much. She can't--

"Sumire." Yuhi gently caressed her face. "Ssh, I'm here."

He always gives her a perfect answer. How is he able to do that? Then again he said something similar towards her. The two of them are a pair of idiots.