

Melody 581

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 581

Chapter 581: I Missed You

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At those words, Sumire's cheerful expression vanished, and she quickly turned her back on him.

Yuhi sighed. "Hey, I don't know whether you remember since you were half-conscious, but you confessed to me when I returned to your house."

'Even if she doesn't remember, he instructed Mamoru to tell her.'

Seeing that she was still hiding, he turned the girl around and sat her up—the moment he did that, he saw her red-stained cheeks.

His eyes twitched, annoyed when he realized something. "So you did remember, but you still—"

"I-I'm sorry! But I was embarrassed." Sumire exclaimed. "Moreover, I already turned you down. To run back to you and say it was a mistake on the very same day, how could I do that?"

"But you did."

It felt like an invisible arrow was hitting her heart since a dark aura surrounded the girl. Sumire kept her head down.

"I vaguely remembered it, so I called Ru and asked him if Yuhi came back here. He then told me what happened, and it matched my memories. When I felt slightly better, I remembered everything. I told you that I loved you and you even delayed going to Tokyo for a week to wait for me." She trailed off. "I was there that day, but I was watching you from a distance."

"Yeah, I know."

Her cheeks reddened more as she looked up. "You knew?"

"Sumire, when I called you, I could hear the sound of the station theme song. All I had to do was look around, and I saw where you were hiding." Yuhi ran his hands through his hair and sighed. "Did you have to hide? You were already there, and I wanted to hug you before I went."

"L-like I would have let you."

"No, it wasn't a hug. I planned to kiss you and leave you speechless."

Sumire throws a pillow at him, but Yuhi easily moves away. He grabbed hold of her hands. "I don't know why you are so embarrassed about it now. It happened a long time ago, and now we are dating, so I am just looking back on how things began."

"It's because I regretted turning you down," Sumire mumbled. "I really regretted it. I wanted to call you and tell you I changed my mind. I even bought a ticket to Tokyo. But when I went there and saw that you were doing well, I decided to leave."

Yuhi's eyes widened when he heard her say these words. Huh? Wait, what? Did she go to see him?

"When was this?"

"It was during Christmas. I wanted to see you so badly, so I took the next train without a second thought."

During Christmas- an image of Touko and him surrounded by people then appeared in his head. She must have seen that.

"So, you already knew about Touko."

"You two looked compatible standing next to each other." Sumire sounded bitter, and he frowned.

Yuhi reached over and flicked her forehead. "Stupid."

"What's with the name-calling?"

"You are stupid," Yuhi commented. "I only just confessed to you; how could I have another person already? Did you really think little of my confession?"

He can't believe this. She ought to have called out to him if she went all that way to see him. "Back then, I was missing you like crazy. Touko only noticed me because I was pouring all my emotions for you onto my paintings. If it wasn't for you, she wouldn't have even looked at me."

"Huh? Did I just indirectly help my love rival?"

Yuhi sighed deeply as he rubbed the temple of his forehead. "You are driving me crazy. I missed you so much. If I saw you, then I would have taken you away, though."

He watched as her cheeks slowly turned red.

"aren't you being too straightforward? H-how could you say-" Yuhi cuts her off by lightly kissing her.

"It's because I love you."

At those words, the girl buried her face in his arms. "I really don't deserve to be with you, Yuhi."

"Why?"

"I am a terrible person. My memories of my childhood are quite blurry. But one of the memories that remain clear to me is the memory of people telling me I am the devil's child. I was only young, but I was more sensitive towards other people's emotions. I could tell that the adults around me didn't like me. They preferred my sister, who was bright, cheerful, and outgoing. Whenever they looked at me with that disgusted look in their eyes, I understood even though I shouldn't have. I did stupid things to stand out, like causing problems because I craved attention. But that only reinforced their dislike towards me." Sumire laughed weakly.

"I waited for so long, waited for that one person who would reach out their hand to help me. But while I waited, I gradually became gloomier, and eventually, I turned into this socially awkward, anxious, and frightening person."

Yuhi gently combed her hair. "Sumire."

"I told myself for so many years that it wasn't my fault. But whenever I went to sleep, I would hear voices. I would hear the voices of those who looked at me with such eyes. Even if I didn't see their faces, hearing those voices kept me up at night. It isn't me; it's not my fault. I couldn't say that with confidence anymore."

'This girl, how much has she had to suffer? How much more does she have to endure?' No, he won't allow her to endure anymore. Even if it takes him time to erase the pain and scars from her heart, he will continue what he has been doing. He is determined that he will be able to make her love herself.

"I gradually lost whatever confidence I had to become a normal person. I became frightened to speak to others. What if they hate me? What if they look at me like those people did? I'm scared. I don't want to see that look on anybody's face again. Even when I did get along with people, I left them first. I left before they could leave me. If I do this, it won't hurt as much. But that was a lie; it still hurt. It hurt even more, knowing that some of them were genuinely trying to get to know me."

At this point, he lifted her face and wiped her tears with his thumb. "Sumire." He said softly. "Ssh."

"I-I'm sorry, Yuhi, I'm just so weak. I don't know what is wrong with me anymore. I don't like being alone; it frightens me. But when I am around others, I push away their kindness."

"I'm not going to tell you that everything will be okay. I cannot predict the future. But, what I can tell you is that I will never leave you."

"How do I trust you? I have heard that so many times. They said they won't leave, but they still left me."

Yuhi sat up and reached for a small box on the bedside table drawer. He turned to the girl who also sat up. She still had tears in her eyes, but she was looking at the box curiously. He chuckled.

"This is what you wanted. It took a while because I wasn't satisfied with the last design."

He watched as her cheeks reddened.

"N-no way. You can't be serious."

Is she really saying this now? Yuhi shook his head and closed the distance between them again. He grabbed hold of her hand and gently kissed her fingertips. "I already said to you that I would date you with marriage in mind."

"Y-you didn't. That was all me."

"Even if you didn't say it, I would have." He opened the box revealing a gorgeous ruby-colored ring. "This is just an engagement ring, but for now, it will do."

He watched as her expression changed from sadness, shock, and happiness all in five minutes. Yuhi slipped the ring onto her ring finger. "Will you marry me?"

Sumire stared at the ring for a few minutes before looking away. "You are being unfair. I wasn't expecting this."

"You need to stop underestimating my love for you. Or rather, you have no idea how hard it is for me."

'It is difficult for me because of her insecurities, but I will not blame her for that.'

"I don't mind working hard for you, my dear. But, once in a while, I would like-" Yuhi's sentence fell short when he felt a pair of soft petal-like lips on his. It was a brief kiss, but it was so sweet, and the most important thing was her feelings.

It was the first time Sumire had kissed him, showing not desire but her feelings for him.

She drew back and laughed with tears in her eyes. "I think you're the stupid one, Yuhi; you fell in love with me."

"Maybe we are both dumb," Yuhi mumbled. "But, I already decided a long time ago that it has to be you."

Suppose somebody asks him why Ibuki Sumire, he has no answers because he cannot describe the extent of his feelings for her through words alone.. It is the same thing for her.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 582

Chapter 582: Shrine Visit

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December 31st, Tokyo Shrine

A legend says if a person rings the bell together with the person they love, they will be together forever.

He does not believe in such things, but he learned from Atushi that girls love this type of thing. So, he planned to tell Sumire that he wanted to do this with her. However, his eyes twitched, annoyed when he saw the other guys crowding around the gate area.

"Sumire-san! Yuhi-san! Over here." Yoru excitedly waved his hand around.

Damn these guys, how dare they interrupt his time with Sumire? Then again, he has hogged her all to himself since Christmas. Still, he was only left alone with her for two days; on the twenty-sixth, Atsuro showed up with the kid and said.

'I am going on tour in the next town for a while. Take him.'

What is with that going on tour during this time? He is doing that on purpose.

"Your so late, and you're the person who invited us too. Gee Yuhi, get a grip." Atushi lectured.

"My bad."

"As expected of King, right after the new year starts," Jae commented.

He drank way too much yesterday. "Happy new year, everyone."

He simply watches the others go around various stalls with Sumire for the next few minutes. He is not the festive type and did not enjoy doing any of these activities, so he simply stayed in a quiet corner and watched.

"How can you act so nonchalantly? Aren't you feeling anything?" His head honestly kills, or rather the dosage of alcohol on those drinks is way too dangerous. It took him by surprise when Kou suddenly dropped by like that.

Although he intended to spoil Sumire until the new year, he had something to deal with yesterday and did not get back till late.

Yuhi expected Kou to lecture him. But instead, all he got was a heart-to-heart talk. Damn him, acting grown-up when he usually acts like the fool most of the time.

Kou remained calm. "I understand my drinking limits, and I'm capable of controlling the amount I drink like any responsible adult. "

No, he is the one who drank a frightening amount.

"Your scarf, you ought to adjust it."

Yuhi mumbles yeah and quickly fixes it. He wonders why Shougo is being so nonchalant about all of this. Even if he is trying to look at it from a mature perspective, it doesn't change the fact that it's wrong. Then again, whenever he takes those drugs, he ends up in this condition. Thankfully Sumire was deep asleep when he returned and only woke up briefly during midnight.

He could only imagine how she would have reacted. She would definitely misunderstand.

'Aika was right. It is easy for an accident to happen to go to those types of places.' It is a good thing Kou showed up; otherwise, something bad could have happened.

"You don't have to feel so guilty. You've done nothing wrong."

"You think so? I feel like it's my fault those women became like that."

He had to leave Sumire alone for a while because he received a tip from a reporter that he was close with. Some of the girls he slept with in the past were rallying together to cause trouble for Sumire.

"I want all of this to end soon," Yuhi mumbled.

Sumire has finally stepped onto the stage properly again. He cannot allow foolish people to destroy her hard work and efforts.

Kou patted his shoulder. "It's alright, leave it up to me. It will still take some time, but I'll take care of it. Honestly, I'd love to just step in. But if I make any sudden movements and they notice." Kou's gaze lands on Sumire, who is beside Ran. "They'll go after her, won't they?"

Yuhi nodded, "I'd like to think it's an empty threat. But I don't think she would bother with that. "

"That's why I'll look into it. I'm sorry but bear with it for a while. "

Bear with it, huh? But, he truly hates going to those places. It reminds him of when he was a huge mess and used such stupid methods to cope with his pain.

His thoughts broke off when he felt a pair of arms hug him from the back.

Oh, it's Sumire.

"Wow, isn't that a parade? Let's look."

"Wait, idiot, if you go around by yourself. You'll draw attention!"

With Shougo leaving and Rinna chasing after him, he was left alone with the sleepy Lila. This is bad; she's so cute. He wants to take her back home with him.

"Are you tired?" Yuhi said kindly. "We can find somewhere quiet, and you can rest for a bit."

At those words, Sumire suddenly stepped on his foot. "Now you are acting concerned? I couldn't sleep at all yesterday because I was worried about where you went."

"I told you I had a business-" Yuhi trailed off once he saw her expression. "You didn't believe me."

He thought he managed to trick her, but it turned out she knew all along.

She wrapped her arms around his neck and tugged on the scarf. A dark aura surrounded her. "You even let those annoying flies get to you!"

His sweat fell. "It won't happen again, I was a bit tipsy, and one of them got close to me."

But his explanation did not appease her at all; instead, she got angrier. "Then it's your fault for dressing so handsome! I remember what you wore yesterday, how could you wear something like that? If you enter a club filled with single women, of course, they will pounce on the next looking prey!"

'Uh dear wife, are you sure you're talking about them or yourself?'

Yuhi rubbed the back of his neck. He hasn't seen her this angry before. He thought he understood how jealous she got, but it seems he underestimated her.

"I'm handsome?" Yuhi tried to change the topic, but Sumire wasn't having that either.

"Urgh, if you have to go to a place like that, you have to take me with you! Yuhi, you don't understand how scary women can be. As long as they don't see a partner with their prey, they will behave so shamelessly. Even if they bring their partners, if they aren't pretty enough, they will flirt right in front of them."

'Prey...' This girl is she lecturing him or flirting with him?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 583

Chapter 583: The Only Important Person

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Sumire tugged on his clothes. "Even now, what are you wearing? Who are you trying to impress?"

Yuhi felt happy, but at the same time, he felt very wronged. He honestly didn't go to the club alone deliberately. Initially, he was supposed to go with Shin. But an emergency arose in the SF, and Shin had to take a team to head to the location.

This was the perfect time to catch those girls off guard and gather some evidence; he did not want to lose this opportunity. It ought to be okay as long as he did not drink too much. Unfortunately for him, the moment people realized it was him, it was hard to getaway.

Seeing Sumire still fuming with anger, he leaned down and kissed her.

It did not take long before she had her arms wrapped around his neck. "Yuhi, we are in public stupid."

"Isn't it okay? It's crowded."

Although a few people passing by did stare, nobody looked for long.

"Mm," Sumire pressed her lips against his. "I guess so."

His lips curved to a smile as he ran his hands through her back. "Do you want to get something to eat? We can relax for a bit."

Sumire nodded. "Alright."

She drew back from him; the split second where she was not in his arms felt very uncomfortable. He watched her back disappearing through the crowd, and his gaze fell on his hands.

'Just now, I really wanted to attack her.'

His thoughts broke off when somebody passed him a drink. He turned and spotted a woman with purple-colored hair wearing a midnight blue floral print kimono.

"Asuka."

"The captain wanted to go to the shrine. He said this was a good opportunity to strengthen our bonds. Sora looked like he wanted to kill him and the other members who planned to go anyway said they can't flirt with the captain around."

Yuhi's sweat fell. That guy may be strong, but his subordinates know how weird his personality is.

"I heard what happened the other night."

'Is she going to lecture him?'

"I certainly hope it does not become a habit. Futaba heard of the news, and she was livid, saying, 'Terashima is no good after all.' Did you know the media was following you? They managed to get some shots of you drunk and surrounded by women."

Huh?

"But there hasn't been any news-" Yuhi trailed off when he saw her expression.

"It seems you're on good terms with a reporter. He dropped us a message, and we got rid of the images for you."

"I see, thanks."

He knew how sensitive Sumire became when it came to the media.

"I managed to delay Futaba coming here insisting she needs to stay in Star town to watch over Aki. However, Yuhi. You need to be careful with your actions. If you do anything to upset Sumire, Futaba will make things hard for you."

"Is their friendship that strong? Where was this friend when Sumire was suffering?"

"She was also grieving."

"Hah, I see that's how strong their friendship is."

"Yuhi, you cannot criticize people for not helping Sumire. Mamoru played a huge role in people's lives--"

"I don't care," Yuhi said harshly. "For me, the only thing that is important is Sumire."

Ever since they were younger, that has been the case, which will never change no matter how much time passes by.

"The reality is, when Sumire needed people by her side the most, all you guys could do was watch as she locked herself up in Mamoru's home. Nobody thought to stay with her or even check on her daily. How could you leave her alone in that state?" Yuhi shook his head. He felt angry just thinking about it.

"Kou and the others were on tour that time, and when they came back, they managed to persuade her to go to a hospital. At the very least, they did something. So, I will not blame them. You and Atushi also did your part. But the rest of them? They better not come here pretending they care about her."

He already knew about Momoi Futaba. He knew how close she was with Sumire. But, so what?

"If that woman even dares to step foot in Tokyo, don't blame me for what happens."

Is he being too ruthless? So what. All he cares about is Sumire.

Asuka was about to say something when he felt somebody hug him from the back again. "It's alright, Yuhi."

It was Sumire; it seemed like she had overheard their conversation.

Yuhi sighed deeply, and he turned to Asuka. "Sorry, I didn't mean to get worked up."

"No, it just shows how much you love her. I am relieved." Asuka turned to Sumire. "Happy new year. I hope we get on some more shows together."

"That would be nice."

With those words said, the purple-haired woman left. He turned to Sumire, expecting her to be angry but instead, what greeted him was a soft pair of lips.

"Thank you so much, Yuhi."

Yuhi immediately understood what she meant by those words. Right, she probably resisted this entire time. She held herself back from blaming her friends. It must have been difficult for her.

He bent down and kissed her forehead. "Where is the food? I'm hungry."

Sumire laughed. "I was searching for a table, one of my fans saw me and immediately gave up his seat. It's in a nice quiet corner too."

'A male fan?' Yuhi shook his head. He needs to control his jealousy. But the fact that Sumire was alone with a male fan for even a second disturbed him greatly.

Sumire leads him to the area. Bamboo trees and a gorgeous lake surrounded a small shrine there. There was a small table enough for two people in the center.

He silently thanked the male fan in his head.

He didn't know there was an area like this on the shrine grounds.

"Let's eat." Sumire clapped her hands into prayer, and Yuhi simply stared at the dishes on the table.

'How did she carry all of-' Yuhi paused. If her fans noticed her, they probably carried it for her. Geez, she is way too popular. Yuhi did not say his prayer and just watched her for a few minutes.

She truly is like a work of art. Her gorgeous chocolate brown colored hair, jewel-like eyes, porcelain-like skin, and those lips. Lips suitable for kissing.

His thoughts broke off when he felt her gentle hands on his cheek. She looked at him with puffed cheeks.

"Yuhi, stop staring at me."

"Why can't I stare? Your pretty."

"Oh hush you, I look the same as always."

The same as always? Today Sumire wore a gorgeous purple-colored butterfly pattern kimono, with a large white fur collar and huge ribbon on the back. She had her hair tied up with a beautiful silver colored butterfly hairpin.

She looked very good in these clothes, but he got a bad feeling.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 584

Chapter 584: Reminisce About Toh

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"That outfit seems different from what you would usually buy."

Yuhi only intended it as a casual remark, but her expression gave it away immediately.

At that comment, Sumire coughed awkwardly. "Uh."

"Now that I think about it, during Christmas day, you received a package."

She acted so secretively about it, so he decided not to think too deeply. But, 'Sumire is close to a designer guy.' Those rumors lingered in his heart. He even overheard those women discussing it in the bar the other day.

Sumire bit her lip and sighed deeply. "I can't keep hiding this from you, Yuhi. Have you heard of the name Kozumi Toh?"

Yuhi blinked when he heard her words. "Is that guy the designer student you fooled around with?"

"Yes." Sumire trailed off. "To be honest, we weren't fooling around."

"Was it serious?"

"It became serious. I was seriously considering him to be my boyfriend, and we talked about it a lot being in a serious relationship."

"But it never happened?"

"Well, we did date, but it was in secret. Nobody knew except us two. I didn't refute the strange rumors about us because it seemed like Toh's guardian was a hard person to deal with."

"His guardian?"

"His benefactor, it's Lucifer."

At those words, his eyes widened. He did not expect this piece of information.

"So the reason you didn't make your relationship official was this?"

"Yes. Toh was sent on a mission to star town to find a woman; that woman was me. But he did not know it and gradually fell in love with me. When Lucifer finally told him the truth, he was horrified. Back then, a famous model from abroad liked Toh's designs. She wanted to be his muse. But Toh was already designing for me, and she did whatever she could to break us apart. Toh was put in a bad situation; instead of declining the rumors about him and that model, he went along with it. Afterwards, he called out to me and broke up with me."

Yuhi saw the tears in her eyes, and his eyes widened.

"He was really stupid. Even though I had the power to help him, he told me that he could not betray Lucifer."

Yuhi stood up and sat down beside her. Sumire buried her face in his arms.

"Toh was a really good guy. He accidentally slept with me when I was drunk; that is how things started between us. He waited until I was ready to contact him, and afterward, he went to the company and asked permission from my guardian. He never touched me without my permission."

"He does seem better than Nagawa. But he was still older than you."

Sumire shook her head. "Do not blame him. He truly never tried to harm me; he treated me very well. I met him a month after the break-up with Sano. I was still heartbroken. I wasn't ready for romance at all. So after that one night stand, I didn't plan to contact him again. But then Futaba invited me to go visit

crescent fashion university. It seemed the students there were searching for models for their upcoming show. It was there where I met him again." Sumire laughed.

"He was so straightforward when he said, 'I found my muse.' Everybody was competing to be in his show, so you can imagine what happened."

Yuhi continued to listen to her talk about her memories with this guy. He only interrupted a few times to ensure that he truly asked for her consent before he did anything.

"So, Toh and I were serious. At the very least, I liked him enough. But it just wasn't meant to be. When Toh left, Ren came back at the same time. Ren declared me as his girlfriend, and I didn't have the energy to refute him. I was exhausted, and I missed Toh."

So that's how it was. It is a good thing he decided to ask her instead of listening to those rumors. Yuhi wondered if Sumire knew how bad those rumors were. He gently patted her back.

"I am sorry, crying about this."

"No, it is alright. Since it was a secret relationship, you must have been devastated when he left. Did you cry alone?"

"No, Ru comforted me. He probably guessed at some point that Toh and me were dating, but he never said a word."

'That is good; at least she did not cry alone.' But huh, seeing her reaction now.

"Do you still like him?" Yuhi asked softly.

Sumire shook her head. "I don't. I love you. But I do have some regrets; that is probably why I cried just now."

He likes how she easily said that she loved him; however, the last part bothered him. She has regrets towards Sano too, and he is already having a hard time with that one.

"Did you remain in contact?"

"He came back when he heard what happened to Ru and slept with me a few times. But then he sadly said, 'It seems I am scum after all. How could I do this with you now? Sumire, you have to get better. When you do, we can discuss things again.' He left and went abroad again. When he heard I came to Tokyo, he sent me a few messages asking about my well-being. When I started dating you, he congratulated me, but I decided it wouldn't be right if I kept talking to him."

"You didn't have to."

"It didn't seem right. Before my concert, he sent a message saying he got me a Christmas gift and when it will arrive."

"Those clothes do look very good on you," Yuhi admitted. Although he does not like the idea of her wearing clothes given let alone made by another man. He does not know anything about fashion.

She seemed to really like the clothes. He watched how happy she was when she was dressing up earlier.

Her gaze softened. "Toh's clothes always look good on me. It's like all his clothing was made for me. This is why he was initially the chief designer for my brand. Ru took over, and I liked Ru's clothes too. But Toh's clothes are indeed special."

The more he listened to her, the more worried he became. Huh? What is this feeling? He thought Makoto Soujiro and Nagawa bothered him.. But, this is the first time he is seeing Sumire behave this way.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 585

Chapter 585: Reminisce About Sano

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

'Another rival.' Yuhi exhaled deeply. His future wife is far too popular. If they lived in imperial times, she would have enough men to form her own harem. It is not like he does not understand it. Anybody who meets her and spends time with her is bound to fall in love with her.

His thoughts broke off when he saw Sumire staring at him. "Are you upset?"

"Just a little," Yuhi admitted. "Sorry, I didn't realize that he meant that much to you."

Although he could not determine the extent of their relationship based on rumors, he did not think Sumire would care for another man other than Mamoru.

"It's alright. I have already chosen you. We are going to get married in half a year, have plenty of children, and grow old together."

Yuhi felt his heart melt at her words. He liked every single word she said, but what stood out to him was. "You want to have loads of kids?"

Sumire's cheeks reddened, and she averted her gaze. "I suppose."

"Do you know what we have to do to have so many?" Yuhi did not hesitate to ask such a shameless question.

Wasn't she the one who brought it up?

He brought his lips to her earlobe and kissed it before his lips made their way towards her neck. "Do you know?" Yuhi repeated. "If you don't, I can show you."

"O-of course I know. Le-let go of me." Sumire struggled in his arms. But he knew she was only pretending. This girl is stronger than him; if she truly wanted to get away from him, she would have easily done so already.

"If we're going to have a lot, I think we should start now."

"W-were outside!" Sumire exclaimed.

Yuhi laughed at her words. "Silly girl, since when was setting important?"

Besides this is a beautiful area, didn't she say something the last time that if they have to do it outside it should be in a beautiful area? It was almost like Sumire understood since she wrapped her arms around his neck and mumbled.

"I'm nervous."

Yuhi felt his heartbeat increase when he heard her say those words. What is she talking about? How can he continue to tease her when she acts this way.

"Me too," Yuhi mumbled.

Sumire laughed softly. "Then I suppose we can continue later. Let's calm our nerves and eat first, okay?"

"Yeah."

All he could do was agree as he returned to his seat opposite her. Yuhi watched as she happily ate the various dishes on the table. It was just street food, and yet the girl seemed very content.

"What is your schedule like?"

He knew with Hino as her manager, she would have a lot of work to do.

"Ah, I will send you a copy." Sumire took out her phone and sent him a message.

Yuhi scanned his calendar that was now synched with hers and noticed something. "What's happening on the second?"

At those words, Sumire awkwardly looked down again.

"Nagawa?" Yuhi guessed.

'Just after the talk regarding the other rival ended. Hah, she really isn't giving me a break, is she?'

"If you don't want me to see him Yuhi, I won't. It's just Hino told me the other day that Sano didn't go on a business trip like he said, and he is here in Japan still. But nobody can reach him. It's just what if-" Sumire did not continue, and Yuhi understood.

"It is okay if you go see him."

After hearing how she felt towards another guy, his guard around Nagawa Sano suddenly dropped. Unlike this new guy, her sudden concern for Nagawa felt like nothing.

Sumire extended her hand out and squeezed his hand. "Thank you, Yuhi, for trusting me."

"I trust my looks. You like handsome guys, and I am clearly more superior in that department." Yuhi joked.

Sumire laughed. "That is true." She trailed off. "I wonder what is wrong with him, though; it is unlike him not to answer anybody's calls. Maybe he is sick.."

Yuhi exhaled deeply. "I think I am jealous after all."

"Aha," She laughed softly. "You don't have to be. It's just Sano doesn't have anybody now who will look after him. He had already ended his engagement with Miss Penelope. Miss Penelope still cares for him, but her grandmother sent her abroad. So right now, there is nobody who can look after him if he is sick."

"Even though his family runs a hospital?"

"That guy has far too much pride. Whenever he got sick, he always made sure he looked like nothing was wrong when people came by to visit him. But, only when he was around me did he show his weak side."

'Forget what I said a few minutes ago. Nagawa is still a threat.'

But he truly does find it strange how these guys all played a key role in her life. Sumire has a hard time trusting people, after all. The fact that these guys managed to leave such a large impact on her means they could have easily snatched her from him.

No, they can still do that now. Even if Sumire loves him deeply now, there is a chance her feelings could change if those guys play his cards right.

"Does he not have a housekeeper or someone?"

"Ah." Sumire suddenly exclaimed. "There was someone before. But she must have retired. I haven't seen her around."

"Then maybe we should find somebody for him."

'So he can stop stealing Sumire when he is sick.'

"I suppose, but he is very stubborn he probably won't accept. It's alright, Yuhi. I will just check on him for a day. I have a lot of work the next day, so I won't be able to cancel anyway."

"Mm." But Yuhi already knew that the girl would cancel the next day. He should discuss things with Hino in advance.

"Since we are on this topic, he treats you well now, right?"

"Right, he is very good to me now. It reminds me of how things were when we first went out." Sumire laughed. "He behaved like such a gentleman. It was the first time I had a man spoil me as much as he did."

'First time, huh? Whenever I tried that in the past, she drew a firm line between them.'

"At first, he was very cautious about picking me up from school. But he realized it wouldn't make me feel good if I kept the relationship a secret. So he would openly pick me up from school, and he always had a bouquet of flowers in his hands. It was very romantic."

Flowers? He can do that too. Yuhi made a mental note in his head.

"At first, I didn't know how to react to his treatment of me. He was good to me. I could tell that much. But I still wasn't sure about it. However, after we went on a short trip together, I learned to accept him. He took me to a private island and showed me how beautiful the scenery was there.. It truly made me feel special and loved."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 586

Chapter 586: Happy New Year

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A private island? 'I have loads of those. I will find out where he took her and take her to a better place.'

"Due to the age difference our schedules did not match up, so he was often busy. Whenever he had free time I would be in school. But we still made it work. He was a busy man, but he made enough time to call me daily. It was reassuring for me just hearing his voice everyday to show that he hadn't forgotten me."

"You must have had a lot of fears, since he was older than you."

"Yes." Sumire admitted. "I was always worried that an older woman who was his age would snatch him away. But he always reassured me." She laughed weakly. "At some point he stopped doing that. I guess that was when he started to cheat. He is not the type who can lie with a straight face after all. So when I started probing him about his cheating, he gradually told me."

"I'm sorry for bringing this up."

Sumire shook her head. "I think it is okay, you deserve to know what happened back then. Oh do you want to talk about Ren too?"

"I think this is enough for today." Yuhi picked some takiyokay and extended it towards her. "Eat."

Sumire laughed. "Alright."

After they finished eating, they returned to the others. It was almost midnight. Thankfully, the other guys had lined up to ring the bell and they were second to the front. They would be the next ones, by that time it should strike midnight.

He already has it all planned. He sent a message to Hino a few minutes ago checking if it was ready.

Yuhi felt the girl look at him, no he found her stares at his hands and he blinks. Honestly, she's way too obvious. "Do you want to hold hands? There's a lot of people here. "

Sumire's gaze softened. "Then I'll monopolise your hand for a bit Yuhi."

"Yeah. "

When the girl firmly intertwined her pretty hands with his, he felt content. Even more than holding her, simple actions like this seem to be enough for him. He wondered since when did he become such a simple person?

Although he felt restless after hearing how she spoke about that fashion designer guy. Whenever he touches her all those fears seem to vanish.

"After we finish here, why don't we watch the sunrise? You found that nice spot before."

"Mm alright. But we can't stay out too late. The little one is all alone."

"We left him with that researcher, he should be fine."

Sumire laughed. "Yuhi-san, even if you want to monopolise me you should keep your desires in check."

"If you ask me I have been doing a great job refraining myself since christmas." Yuhi sighed. "We are both going to be busy for awhile. At least let me steal your attention. Moreover I don't know when your new lover will show up."

Sumire's eyes twitched annoyed. "What lover? Toh is just a friend now! How can you be so rude after you listened to my story."

"Didn't you have his photo in your old student ID book?"

Yuhi remembered seeing it that time she was still settling into the school. She accidentally brought the wrong ID book with her.

At those words her entire face turned pale, before she slowly turned red. She looked at him horrified. "You actually saw it."

"Yeah, I saw some of your little love notes too."

"Jerk!" Sumire exclaimed.

"But, I guess what stood out to me was your photo.

"M-my photo?"

His lips curve to a smile. "Yeah. Although the others sent me plenty of photos of you. There was something refreshing and innocent about you wearing a school uniform. I fell in love with you all over again seeing that picture. I thought, ah she truly is the one for me."

Even now she is able to evoke such powerful emotions inside him. Yuhi glanced over and saw Sumire and his eyes widened. She was looking at him with an innocent look in her eyes, and flushed cheeks.

Yuhi coughed. "What's with you looking at me all dazed? You make it look like I just seduced you. Careful." He tried to say it in a joking manner. But it took a lot of willpower for him not to attack her.

"If you know then keep your hormones in check."

"It's not my fault, whenever I am with you I feel like you are seducing me and I lose all rationality."

"Shameless man. Don't blame me for your behaviour." Sumire looked away but the girl did not stop drawing circles on his hands.

"What are you going to wish for?"

The people in front of them are taking their sweet time, they will be cutting it close.

"Hmm, I wish the child is healthy for the upcoming year and I hope I can take him out more. A successful return to the industry and-" She looked at him with a smile. "Happiness with you."

Yuhi felt his heart beat increase. "I thought you weren't going to tell me. Isn't there a jinx regarding saying your wishes?"

Although he is not the type who believed in that stuff, he knew Sumire was a strong believer for those type of things.

"Mmm, but it is not like I told you the full wish so this is still okay."

There is more to the words she said just now? Happiness with him huh? They are already plenty happy.

Sometimes he can't believe how smoothly this year went by. When he slipped in that last note and told her to come to Tokyo. Yuhi did not think that the girl would listen to him, but not only did she listen- she even accepted his confession.

'Even though it was clear that she still liked Mamoru then.' He wonders why she ended up saying yes. Before Yuhi could ask her, the people in front of them finished and it was their turn. There was a lot of them but the others ensured that Sumire and him were in the center as they rang the bell together.

It seems they heard about his surprise. It was exactly three minutes till midnight, after three minutes it will be his surprise. He did a quick prayer.

'I want to be with her forever.'

It was a wish that was not limited to the upcoming year but for the future too. Yuhi waited until Sumire finished praying and right that second they hear the sound of fireworks. The girl looked up and he used that chance to kiss her.

In the sky lit up with fireworks there was a clear message for everybody to see. 'To be with my dearest Sumire forever.'

Although he could not openly propose to her, he knew this would send a clear message. Sure enough the people lined up behind them started to take their phones out to snap photos.

Sumire who was still resting her head in his arms after he kissed her looked up at the sky with red stained cheeks. "Y-you hooligan. What are you doing in front of everyone?"

"Staking my claim." His lips curve to a smile as he placed a soft kiss on her forehead. "You don't like it?" Yuhi tightened his hold on her waist.

"No, I like it. Happy new year." Sumire mumbled.

"Happy new year."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 587

Chapter 587: Don't go anywhere

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

Chapter 587: Don't go anywhere

The big boss was angry at him. It was clear after that last stunt he pulled he

would fall out of favour. But, Sano did not think the man would be so cruel to make him do such vicious jobs.

He told his family that he would be going on a business trip.

That was a lie, for the past two weeks he has been dealing with the underworld.

Lucifer is truly angry at him, this is what his aide Henry said.

'But rest assured sir Sano, there are many who have vouched on your behalf.

Even if he is displeased he will calm down after awhile.'

He eventually did on the fourteenth day, but it was far too late. Now he was bedridden with a terrible fever. He has lived his entire life as a precious young master. He has never had to experience such grievances or see such terrible sights.

He switched his phone on the other day and the first thing he saw was news that made him want to hurl.

'An indirect romantic proposal.' It was all over the news Terashima's gift for Sumire.

A gift for Sumire huh? He had one of course. But it was not anything new.

During the year they were dating he asked her if she liked rings, and Sumire told him that she disliked all the ring designs. So he took her to design a pair of rings.

It was a simple pair, but the girl truly liked it. He later on took her design to an experienced jeweler and crafted the rings again but better quality.

He wanted to put this ring on her finger and propose.

How happy would she have been? Or maybe she would have just scooped and thrown the ring away. Sano remembered how during that time they were in the middle of one of their fights, he had not seen her in a few days.

In that time he tried to persuade his parents as much as he could regarding her but his efforts went to waste. If he can't persuade them, at the very least he wanted to persuade her. He knew that no matter how angry she was, she would

denitely want to spend Christmas together.

Sure enough, he received a message saying she would come over. He excitedly made preparations for their big day. He planned to apologize for everything and tell her that he was serious about her. But that messenger showed up that day, and destroyed everything.

'Break up with her.'

It was just four words, but it was from a sponsor. The rst person who said they would sponsor and help out his family. He later on learned that this sponsor was Lucifer. So even before they met ocially, he was already planning on helping his family.

At rst, he did not understand why a man like this would help them out. But it did not take him long to realize why.

Lucifer's obsession towards Sumire is something he does not understand very well. But what use is there trying to understand that crazy man?

Sano exhaled deeply as he placed his hand on his forehead. He only stood up brievely to fetch some water from the kitchen but it seems like the state of his body is bad after all. Is it bad that he is seeing double? No good, he ought to go to the couch- he hears the sound of the door opening.

"San?" He hears a soft voice call his name, no a nickname.

There is only one person who would use that nickname, only one. But how could that be? Sano knew that the girl was playing games with him, she does not want to be near him at all.

But she allows him to get close to her, just when he thinks he has her she slips away again.

Is it time for her to appear before him again? It should be, he hasnt seen her in a month.

"Sumire, is that really you?"

A deep sigh escaped the girl's lips and she walked over. The moment the girl got close he pulled her into his arms.

"I missed you."

"Mm, happy new year." Sumire trailed o. "You're sick?"

"Yeah, since Christmas."

"Since christ-" Sumire frantically shook her head. "Lay back down."

Sano reluctantly made his way over to the couch despite his blurred vision.

"Have you gone to the hospital?"

"No."

"San-"

"Will you take care of me?"

Actually, if it got any worse, he was planning on at least calling one of the doctors he trusted over. If he goes to the hospital, it would attract far too much attention. Moreover, there is a high chance his family would hear it and cause a fuss.

Sumire looked troubled but nodded. "Okay."

"Hino's been looking for you."

"What about you?"

"Eh?"

"You didn't miss me at all?" It was a stupid question, he knew that she didn't.

She must have spent the past few weeks with Terashima, she spent the holidays with him.

"Just a little. But then I remembered how you dumped me on Christmas."

Sano inched when he heard her cold tone. "I'm sorry."

"Even if you apologize now nothing will change."

"That day, I intended to propose to you."

"Huh?"

He wanted to propose, he even bought the ring. If that messenger didn't appear, he would have gone through with it. Now that he thought about that

messenger guy, he was a weird person. He even suggested how to break up with Sumire.

'I followed his instructions, and I regretted it.' He didn't think that she would get that hurt. It was the first time for him seeing that type of expression on her face.

"Don't go anywhere. Let me look at you for a while."

"You're so helpless."

Sano however pulled the girl onto the bed with him and held her tightly in his arms.

"Hold on--"

"I won't do anything else."

Despite her reluctance, she didn't budge. She felt tense in his arms and he tried to soothe her by kissing her forehead.

"San," Sumire mumbled. "You know we--"

'We aren't dating.' Sano nished the sentence in his head. He no longer wants to hear such things escape her lips. Even if that is the truth, right now the truth does not matter to him. What is important is the present moment. Right now it is just the two of them here, with no interference.

He can hold her in his arms like he used to.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 588

Chapter 588: Fleeting moments

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

Chapter 588 Fleeting moments Sano felt content just holding her, but he found himself placing kisses on her neck after a while.

"Hold on your-" Sano did not give her the chance to finish her sentence.

"Sumire. Hey, do you remember when I first touched you? I was so nervous. I thought I wouldn't be able to do anything."

"Liar."

"I'm not lying."

"Liar," Sumire mumbled. "If you were nervous, you wouldn't have done such a horrid thing."

"Horrid-" Sano paused as he thought about it. "That was-"

"Doing something like that, I was so confused."

"Weren't you the one who kissed me?"

"Other than kissing, I didn't know anything else."

Sano stared at the girl, speechless. She was the one who asked him out so boldly and even followed him back home. But she didn't know anything?

'I am surprised she isn't changing the topic.' Still, quite some time has passed since he last spoke to her carefreely like this. He feels comfortable and relaxed around her.

"How is your health?"

"Oh right, the medicine." Sumire trailed off. "I only have three left; you told me I have to come to you when I have three left, right?"

"Yeah." He trailed off. "I'll check later. I-" Sano trailed off and coughed.

Sumire frowned and placed her hand across his forehead.

"Your fever is bad. Wait a minute. I'll cook something for you."

"There's nothing in the fridge."

"I brought groceries."

Huh?

"I planned to have a nice meal with you to make up for ignoring you. I didn't think you would be sick, but it works either way."

'She admitted to ignoring me so casually. But I can't get mad. A meal together?'

His lips curve to a smile at the thought, and he lets go of her.

A relieved sigh passed her lips the moment he did, and he frowned. Does it bother her that much? He didn't even do anything.

His thoughts broke off when Sumire gently placed her hand on his forehead. "Mm, you need to rest. You don't look well. It's been many days, but you're still sick because you haven't looked after yourself properly."

What can he do when his body is in such a terrible state? Sano grabbed hold of the edge of her clothes.

"Are you not going to ask me more about what I said earlier?"

"About proposing to me?"

"Yeah."

Even if she no longer has feelings for him, isn't her reaction too low? No, what is he thinking? Of course, she won't feel anything now.

"Can I see the ring?"

Sano blinked, puzzled at her question, but he pointed to the top of his bedside table drawer. Sumire pulled it out, and he watched as she carefully examined the design.

"Your right; this is the type of ring I like. You know my tastes well. If you were truly not serious about me, you wouldn't know something like this."

There was something different about her today. There was a nostalgic look in her voice and even her tone.

"Will you take it?"

"For now, I will. But, do not misunderstand my intentions. Right now, I just want to help you overcome your regrets."

"Am I the only one with regrets?" Sano asked bitterly.

Even though she acts the way she does, he has had more than enough time to observe her behavior. "Is it not the same for you?"

He did not dare to say this to her at the start, but the situation has changed now.

Sumire laughed weakly. "You caught me there."

Is she admitting it?

"You know I gave Yuhi-san a brief overview of my thoughts, my regrets towards you in the past, and I ended up crying. I guess I still end up emotional when I look back on things. Even though it is already too late to make amends, I still cry if people ask me. It's weird how fate works. No matter how many times you push a person away, you will meet them repeatedly if you are destined to play a role in your story."

"Are you saying that I still play a role in your story?"

Sumire laughed. "You already are silly."

Sano felt his heartbeat increase once he saw her bright smile. Since when? Since when could she look at him like that?

'Even back when we dated, she has never shown such a sincere smile on her face.' Sano lets go of her sleeve. "Can I make some requests?"

"Sure."

.....

It did not take long for her to finish cooking and return to the room with a tray. The entire time he could not get any sleep. His thoughts were a mess. He wonders when did she become so important to him? The feelings he has for her differ from before.

'I want to be by her side, even if it is only for a short while until I can no longer suppress those people to the very last moment. I want to be with her. I want to see her smile like that.'

Sano did not think such pure-sounding emotions existed inside him.

Since when did he start feeling this way towards her?

He noticed for a long time that something was changing. When he first heard that she was coming to Tokyo, he decided to follow her. He didn't truly know what he was expecting. At first, he did not entertain the thought of getting back together with her. Even he knew how badly his words hurt her.

But before he knew it, he was watching over her. 'I am even utilizing the connections I made to help her return to her career be as smooth sounding as possible.' He knew his actions baffled so many people, yet he wasn't stopping.

'I wonder if she knows about him bribing the reporters yet.'

"Is it good?"

"Yeah."

Sumire laughed. "I didn't think you would ask for rice porridge with honey; it's such a simple meal."

"Even I like simple foods like this."

"Is that so?"

'I love her so much. I don't want those people to hurt her.' But their recent behavior towards him shows that they are planning something significant involving her. He asked his assistant to investigate, and he received the news this morning.

"Sumire, those people will start an entertainment company to take you down."

"Mmm, I know."

Does she already know? It is not easy to get that information. Then again, he should stop underestimating her information network. He already saw how involved she was with the underworld affairs with his own eyes.

His thoughts broke off when he heard the sound of a bang, followed by rushing footsteps. For a moment, he is alarmed, thinking those people came here. They usually wouldn't, but it is hard to predict their movements recently. Sano proceeded to stand up to protect Sumire, but there was no need.

"Hino, I only sent you a brief message. Your too fast." Sumire commented casually.

Indeed there, standing at the doorway, was none other than his best friend, Hino.

Sweat trickled down Hino's face onto his neck, and he appeared to be out of breath, indicating that he ran all the way here.

"In that brief time, something could have happened>" Hino glared at him. "You didn't do anything to her again, did you?"

"Relax, manager; he is too sick to try anything."

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 589

Chapter 589: I won't give up

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

Chapter 589 I won't give up 'That isn't true. I hugged her.' But, unlike his previous actions, a hug is nothing. Manager huh? When he first heard the news, Sano felt livid; he knew Hino liked Sumire. If Hino became Sumire's manager, the two would spend more time together. He did not like that at all.

Although Hino had never made a move on Sumire before, Sano felt that his friend's self-control would eventually break.

Hino sighed. "Even so, what are you doing here again?"

"Didn't you clear up my schedule for this day to check on San?"

A complicated look appeared on Hino's face, and he reluctantly nodded.

"Anyhow, perfect timing. I'm going to wash the dishes. Keep an eye out on him for me." Sumire swiftly left the room carrying the tray with empty plates.

Hino positioned himself in the chair by his bed, and Sano raised his hand. "Before you lecture, I will apologize in advance."

"You told me you were going on a business trip." Hino trailed off. "Why didn't you just tell me?"

"If I told you, you would have tried to interfere."

"Of course, I would have. You don't tell me much these days. Is it because your worried that Sumire will end up involved?"

"You're weak against her. If she asks you anything seriously, you will reply."

"I guess I can't deny that. But if you continue this way, those people will kill you."

"They won't, no matter how bad it gets."

Sano felt very confident in this. No matter how bad the situation becomes, at most, they will work him till he is half dead. They will never go as far as ending his life.

'As long as they can see that Sumire still cares for me. I think she realized that too; otherwise, she would have stopped associating with me long ago.'

The reason why she keeps coming back to him even though she does not have to. Even if she hates him, it is not to the extent where she would stand by and watch him die.

That foolishly honest side of hers is something he has always liked.

"But really," Hino looked towards the door where Sumire was moments ago. "Don't do anything to her, okay? No matter how many desires you have towards her, don't act on it."

"I am surprised at your self-control. How do you do it?"

Hino rubbed the back of his neck awkwardly. "This isn't the first time for me, so I am used to it. I told you before there was a girl I liked, right?"

"You mentioned it before."

"The reason I never confessed had nothing to do with our careers, like I said. It was because she was in love with Yuhi."

Sano blinked when he heard those words. Huh? But if that is the case, why does Hino not resent Terashima? This would be the second time having the girl he liked stolen from him. It surprises him that there is no resentment between them.

"For me, Yuhi is more important. That is probably why I can cope with all of this."

"Does it hurt?"

Hino laughed weakly. "I can't say it doesn't. She is right there next to me, but all I can do is give her love advice."

"She asks you?"

"Sumire can be very brutal about it. But it's more like she noticed herself that I wouldn't do anything. She is comfortable around Nakara Shin and me because we both chose friendship over our feelings for her."

Right, it is not just Hino but that guy too.

"I don't think that is possible for me," Sano admitted. "No matter how often I see how close they are, I don't lose my fighting spirit. A few times, I felt upset, but I never thought of giving up."

"What will it take? Yuhi putting a ring on her finger or getting a wedding invitation?"

Sano flinched when Hino mentioned the word wedding. He knew about it, of course. Although both Terashima and Sumire are being low-key about it, there is already talk. 'The wedding ceremony is the day after their high school graduation.'

When he first heard about it, his mind went blank; he remained frozen in one spot for a long time. How come? How come they decided to get married that quickly? They would have only dated for at least a year when the wedding came around. Isn't it too soon?

But if his information is correct. Sumire has known Terashima long before him. The two already shared a connection and made memories together. That irritated him; if he met Sumire first, Terashima would not be in the picture anymore.

Right, the only reason why Terashima is winning is because he knew her first. If their roles reversed, perhaps the one who would be marrying her now is him.

"Sano, you, I don't know whether you're just trying to lie to yourself. Sumire fell in love with Yuhi; she fell in love with his singing years ago. No, even back when they were kids, the two were strangely connected by something."

"Lucifer told me about that," Sano mumbled. "The three of you knew each other since you were kids."

Hino nodded. "Yeah. Back then, I unconsciously already gave up. I liked her then too, but I had already backed down before I understood that. It was silly for me to give up without trying when I think about it now. We were kids; anything could happen. However, when I saw those two together, I just gave up."

"Does she love him that much?" He was frightened to utter these words this entire time, but he wanted to know.

In other people's eyes, in their eyes, does it truly look like that?

He has heard many people's opinions regarding Sumire and Terashima Yuhi's relationship. But half of those comments were superficial and said out of jealousy. Those people only say things like Sumire doesn't suit Terashima because they dislike her.

What he wanted to hear were genuine opinions. Does it look like he is fighting a losing battle in others' eyes?

"Yes." Hino nodded. "But you know Sano; this is my own opinion. You have always had this bad habit of caring for others' opinions. It would be best if you scraped that way of thinking already. What matters is what you think."

"You already heard my opinion and disapproved."

"Right. But that's just how I think; you shouldn't care about it."

Sano looked at him blankly. He doesn't understand anything Hino is saying. Ever since he was younger, he has had to pay special attention to others' opinions. If he makes a bad impression, it will impact the rest of the family. He has lived his entire life like this, so how is he supposed to change that now?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 590

Chapter 590: Even if

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

Chapter 590 Even if 'Even if I acknowledge that I have to change, I do not know the first steps of going about that change.'

His thoughts broke off when Hino suddenly extended his fist out, getting ready to punch him. Although he is not good at fighting, he is still flexible and knew the basic self-defense movements. However his entire body ached due to his beatings, and the wound on his arm was still fresh.

Two days ago when, those people paid him a house visit and beat him up again.

Sano exhaled deeply. The ones who came were just taking out their frustration on him. He didn't do anything wrong.

To his surprise, instead of being punched, all he saw was Hino's hand just inches away from his face.

Hino's eyes twitched, annoyed. "I wondered why you were wearing long sleeves when you have a fever. How bad is it?"

"As you can see, it's hard to move it."

He forced himself when he hugged Sumire earlier. But if somebody attacks him directly, it is hard to dismiss the pain.

With the pretext of a house visit, he watches as Hino stomps around the room to fetch his medical supplies. Hino is as impatient as ever, huh? Then again, he must be quite busy, and yet he still came here.

Sano didn't need anyone to see to his injuries since he could take care of it himself. However, Sumire most likely saw that he wouldn't be able to use his hands for a while and so asked this guy for help.

That girl is surprisingly sharp; is that due to her fighting instincts? No, even back when they dated, she always noticed these small things about him. He never complained about being hurt or sick in front of her; she would just notice automatically.

He hadn't realized how much he took those days for granted until she was no longer by his side.

Even if he got sick, his family would not look after him personally. They would simply hire other people to do so. The people they hired varied, some did care, but even those people did not overstep their boundaries. Most of them did not care about his well-being; all they cared about was completing their job and getting the money benefits.

Some younger servants tried their luck to 'seduce him' when he was sick.

Sano laughed as his 'guest' 's irritated tone knocked down one of the cabinets. Well, now, he's still the same as ever. " Are you going to get me a new cabinet next? "

"Like hell, your the one who keeps your medical supplies in weird locations." Hino finally took out a first aid kit. "Show me your arm so I can leave."

Sano extended his arm out and mustered the strength to roll up his sleeves, revealing a large discolored bruise. There were traces of blood that remained too.

"We're already twenty-four. Is there any need for you to lose your temper all the time? Even that guy doesn't snap as much as he used to. "

"Shut it. I'm stressed out."

Stressed huh? Sano decides to leave it at that, not wanting to further make him angry, and stays quiet as Hino continues the medical treatment.

After a few minutes, Hino finished up, and right at that moment, Hino called out. "Come out already."

Sano watched as Sumire appeared from behind one of the shelves, and he spotted the dishes nearby. 'So she pretended to go out and snuck back in when he was far too busy speaking with Hino?' But why would she have to eavesdrop on them?

He watched as the girl shifted uncomfortably. Hino sighed and flicked the woman's forehead. "My lips are sealed. I didn't see anything. Just don't do anything uncalled for." Hino turned to him. "That applies to you as well."

"Don't strain your arm, idiot. I'll charge you for this visit if I do. "

With those words said, Hino left, and he extended his hand out. "If you heard everything, you should know just doing this is painful."

"You're an idiot!" Sumire shouted.

Before he could even begin to make excuses, the girl had jumped into his arms and hugged him in the next second.

For a moment, it felt like the world had stopped. Her sudden hug shocked him that he almost forgot how much pain he was in. This is the first time she has ever reacted this way. However, he saw her cry when she first learned why he joined those people. But since then, her reaction has been low.

What is this situation? Moreover, even though he saw her cry that time, something was missing. He has never seen her cry this much. Even back when they dated, even back when he did such cruel things and when she first found out about his cheating. Sumire never cried like this, but now she is shedding so many tears.

No matter how oblivious he was with these matters, he knew that the girl was crying this much for his sake.

Sano didn't know what to do. Is it okay to put his arms around her? This is the first time he has encountered this type of situation. After debating about it for a few minutes, he eventually did so and carefully caressed her back.

"I want to stay with you for a while," Sumire mumbled.

Sano's gaze softened as he felt the girl's hands shaking. " You don't have to."

The fact that she came here today was already a miracle; she does not have to do any more than this.

"I want to."

Her reply startled him more. This is the first time he hears her say that without a cold tone and a disgusted look on her face.

"Should you be here? What about Terashima?"

Sano regretted mentioning him a second later. 'Why do I have to bring up that man and remind her?'

To his surprise, she did not answer him and mumbled.

"Why didn't you tell me?" She looked at him accusingly, and his lips curved to a smile.

For a moment, he recalled how she used to behave around him when they dated. She always sulked like this whenever he disappeared without informing her.

"You already know the reason why. I don't want you getting involved."

"But they are only taking their frustration out on you because of me, right? I ignored you during that time."

'This girl is now boldly admitting to my face that she did that deliberately?' Then again, it is not like he did not notice. But it does not matter anymore, even if she plays with him and uses him. As long as he can remain by her side, he does not mind anything she does.