



One Night of Stars

Takarazuka Snow Troupe 2015

Hoshiai Hitoyo original Japanese script by Ueda Kumiko
Translated and edited by chemicalperfume and zukadiary

Main Cast:

Amano Haruoki (Kinosuke) - Sagiri Seina
Sen - Sakihi Miyu
Genta - Nozomi Fuuto
Tokugawa Yoshimune - Ema Naoki
Hiro - Rika Masumi
Hyouta - Houshou Dai
Taka-Hime - Daigo Seshiru
Taizou - Renjou Makoto
Ikai Akisada - Ayanagi Shou
Chobiyasu (Yasukichi) - Ayakaze Sakina
Hosokawa Yoshikatsu - Tsukishiro Kanato

**DO NOT USE, HOST, OR RETRANSLATE
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Scene 1: Prologue

HARUOKI:

*I met a flower, like a blue star
A blue star shining in the evening dew
Her wet eyes flickered
Glowing with a blue flame
The flower shuddered faintly
Spilling its pale fragrance
I want to see you, if only for tonight
I want to be with you, at least for this night*

HARUOKI (narration): It was the night of the Star Crossing, when we first met. When I first met that girl, and that boy...

Scene 2: The Star-Watching Tower —Building the Tower—

SEN: Genta, there's lotsa good bamboo branches here too! Let's pick them for Tanabata!

GENTA: But there's still 6 months until the Star Crossing. No need to rush, Sen.

SEN: But what if someone gets them before us!

HYOUTA: Take this! And this!

SUZU: Hyouta, why am I carrying your stuff too?

YUU: Suzu!

HYOUTA: Come on, Taizou!

SEN: Hyouta! and Taizou and you, Ukichi, y'all played hooky when we were weeding out the paddy today

HYOUTA: Shut up, bird-brain!

UKICHI: The paddy is tiny anyway, even if we don't help out, Genta alone should be enough

TAIZOU: We went to pick some bamboo for Tanabata!

YUU: Didn't we promise we'd help Sen today, Chobiyasu?

CHOBİYASU: Sorry

HYOUTA: Talk back to her!

CHOBİYASU: But we did decide we'd all pitch in to weed out the paddy... Ouch!

TAIZOU: You can't even talk back to a girl!



UKICHI: Chobiyasu likes Yuu~

HYOUTA: Lettin' a girl push you around, you're a disgrace to Kyushu men!

TAIZOU: Hey, you crying?

YUU: Just stop it!

SEN: Don't cry over such a thing! Tell them, Chobiyasu!

CHOBİYASU: weeeeeeh~!

GENTA: Ow!

SEN: Genta? Ouch!

GENTA: Hello! Is someone up there?

KINOSUKE (off): Yee~!

SEN: You twit! Stones are fallin' off!

KINOSUKE (off): Come help me out!

GENTA: Whatcha doing over there?

KINOSUKE (off): You'll see, just come!

YUU: What is this?

SUZU: What are you making?

KINOSUKE: A tower!

CHOBİYASU: What're ya gonna do with a tower?

KINOSUKE: That's a secret! I'll tell you when it's done

GENTA: This is no good, you gotta redo it from scratch!

KINOSUKE: What?

GENTA: If you don't build it straight from the beginning it'll collapse later


KINOSUKE: Ah!!

SEN: It's alright, Genta is the best with these things!

HYOUTA: For Sen, Genta is aaalways the best!

GENTA: How tall do you want it?

KINOSUKE: Super tall! It's gotta be taller than the trees around us or that mountain ridge over there!



SEN: Then, taller than Mount Fuji?

KINOSUKE: If it's taller than the ridge there, it'll be taller than Mt.Fuji too!!

SEN: Wow!

KIDS:

*Let's make the best tower in Japan!
One you can see from the edges of the whole world
If we climb it, will we see beyond the mountain there?
Will we see the sea beyond the mountain?
Mikazuki Domain is right in the middle of Kyushu
The very middle of this big island
And the smallest Kyushu domain, that's Mikazuki
No one here has ever seen the sea
If we climb it, will we see Edo too?
That world of dreams beyond the sea!*

GENTA: Huh? The sun's gone down, I can't see a thing.

YUU: Oh no, we shoulda been home a long time ago...

KINOSUKE: I see it!

TAIZOU: What's there to see? It's pitch dark!

KINOSUKE: Right there on the mountain line. It's the star you can only see at nightfall, Aster Hirundo!

SEN: You wanted a tower to look at the stars?

KINOSUKE: This place is buried in steep mountains, the sky is small and you can't see all the stars! Aster Hirundo¹ comes out low in the sky, but I wanted to see it no matter what!

SEN: Where?

KINOSUKE: There!

SEN: Ah, found it!

CHOBİYASU: ...it looks the same as all the other ones though. That's what you were dying to see?

KINOSUKE: No, It's not the sa-

MIGIWA (off): Yasu~

HIRO (off): Genta!

UKICHI: We'll get yelled at, guys!

¹ Not a real star, made up by the scriptwriter, Ueda Kumiko. Latin for "Swallow Star" [japanese: ツバクロ星]



CHOBIYASU: Yeap

KINOSUKE: But now's the best time to start looking for stars!

HIRO: Where were you!

GENTA: Sen!

MIGIWA: Yasu

CHOBIYASU: Sis...

MIGIWA: How long are you rascals gon' keep loitering around!

YUU: C'mon, hurry!

MIGIWA: Hopeless twits, the lot o' you!

HYOUTA: Auntie, that hurts!

MIGIWA: Who you calling an auntie!!

HIRO: You kids, have you seen my Genta?

YUU: Nope!

HIRO: Shiota, when we find them, both Genta and your sister are getting the scolding of their lives!

GENTA: Let's go, Sen

SEN: Yea

GENTA: We gotta go home, mom'll chew us out. Shiota'll be worried too, right?

SEN: You ain't goin' home?

KINOSUKE: Nope

SEN: Won't your folks be worried?

KINOSUKE: They will, but none of them for real, so it's fine

SEN: What village are you from? What's your name? We're Sen and Genta from Hotaru Village

KINOSUKE: Amano Kinosuke

SEN: ...Amano?

GENTA: Where do ya live?

KINOSUKE: The castle. Mikazuki Castle

SEN: Mikazuki Castle... Genta, he says he's an Amano who lives in the castle



GENTA: I see

KINOSUKE: Thanks to you guys, we made a great tower! Now I can look for stars tons! Thanks, Genta! You too, Sen.

KINOSUKE: Come see the stars again! I'll be here every night

SEN: We don't got time for that! Star-watching, how stupid! I... I'm not playing with you!

GENTA: Sen! Sen!

GENTA: You... Are you the Mikazuki's lord's kid?

KINOSUKE: Yup

GENTA: Then, you gotta know about the revolt that happened here some years ago?

KINOSUKE: Re-volt? What's a re-volt?

GENTA: You don't know about the revolt??

KINOSUKE: Nope

GENTA: You're the lord's kid, how can you not know such an important thing!

KINOSUKE: I'm just the lousy second son, no one tells me anything important

GENTA: A revolt is like, when peasants ran out of food, they rose up. Sen's dad and my dad too, they rose up in the revolt, got caught, and then lost their heads² on the lord's orders.

KINOSUKE:they killed them?

GENTA: The dads of all the kids you saw before, they all got killed. My dad was very scary so I only cried a little, but Sen cried more than anyone when they killed hers. Her mom had died very young, so her and her brother became orphans you see. And so, she thinks of the lord as an enemy. That's why she said those things.

KINOSUKE: Can she go home on her own?

GENTA: No worries, she knows these mountains like a wild pig!


GENTA: You must've been sad to hear those things

KINOSUKE: She was more sad

GENTA: ...Right. She worked the paddies all alone, with her brother on her back; she was the loneliest and most pitiful one

YUU: Guys, trouble! Sen is fighting with some water thieves in the paddy!

² *Gokumon* (獄門): sentence/execution method, used from the middle Heian era to early Meiji. Involved decapitation, slashing of the corpse to test a sword, and public displaying of the severed head on a spike or stand. The body was also not allowed burial or funeral rites.



GENTA: That twit!

YUU: They're boys from Kumamoto. They want to break the dam to our paddy and spill the water down the mountain!

Scene 3: The paddy on the ridge

BRAT 2: Move it! We're gonna open the dam and take your water!

BRAT 1: If you dont, we'll show you!

SUZU: Sen, let it go!

GENTA: Sen!

BRAT 1: Break the dam

KIDS: Aaah!

BRAT 3: OW! She bit me!

BRAT 2: You bitch, you're really asking for it!

SUZU: Sen!

KINOSUKE: Dammit!!

SEN: Let go!

KINOSUKE: You twit! Get out of the way!

SEN: I don't need your help!

KINOSUKE: Just because I'm the kid of the lord who killed your father?!

KINOSUKE: Genta! Catch this wild piggy! She's in the way!

BRAT 1: We won! Do it!

KINOSUKE: You put that back or the Kumamoto lord will hear about it!


BRAT 4: Pfft, our lord makes 500 thousand koku³ a year! We crush Mikazuki and its stinking 30 thousand!

KINOSUKE: What was that??

BRAT 5: Starving and getting all skinny suits you poor Mikazuki peasants better!

BRAT 3: Just like your poor homeland!

3 Koku: old unit of volume, defined as the quantity of rice needed to feed one person for a year. Under the Tokugawa shogunate, koku was used to determine the land value of each province.



KINOSUKE: Hmph! Your lord is a dimwit!

BRAT 1: What??

KINOSUKE: He can't even teach you manners, 500 thousand koku my foot!

GENTA: Watch your mouth, Kinosuke

TAIZOU: They'll kill you!

KINOSUKE: Kumamoto's lord and all his peasants are STUPID!

BRAT 1: You'll pay for this!

SEN: Let me go!

BRAT: Someone's coming!

BRAT 1: Hmf! We took the water anyway. Drop him!

HIRO: You kids!

YUU: Auntie Hiro... they took our water

HYOUTA: We're sorry, auntie...

UKICHI: Our rice won't grow this year

KINOSUKE: Stop crying and think of something!

GENTA: No matter what we do, there's still half a month 'till the Star Crossing!

KINOSUKE: Star Crossing?

SEN: When the Star Crossing Festival comes around, we drain the paddy's water for the seedlings to breathe. If the water is drained before that, the plants will wither

CHOBİYASU: WE'LL STARVE TO DEATH!

YUU: Be quiet!

KINOSUKE: So, there just needs to be water 'til the day of the Star Crossing? No problem then, the rice WILL grow! Come!

GENTA: Wait for me~



Scene 4: The Star-watching Tower —The Stargazing Song—

KINOSUKE: There!

GENTA: What do you mean “there”?

KINOSUKE: The Star Crossing is tonight!

GENTA: What’re you saying, there’s still half a month left...

KINOSUKE: The calendar we have now was made a long time ago, it doesn’t match the true movements of the sky. With the right calendar, Tanabata is today

GENTA: How’d you know that?

KINOSUKE: By stargazing!

GENTA: By looking at the stars you can figure out the calendar?

KINOSUKE: There are many strange rules hidden in the stars. The stars go around the whole sky in a year, and seasons change with them. The calendars humans make have mistakes too, but the stars always move the right way!

GENTA: They even tell you when it’s the time to sow seeds or plant rice?

KINOSUKE: Yeah! (To Sen) That’s why, the rice will grow this year too. You and your little brother will make it. The stars are so amazing. They are so beautiful, and so useful to us all. The stars are beautiful and kind! Right, Sen?

KINOSUKE:

*In sad times, and in happy times
The stars carry the seasons, they watch over us*

KINOSUKE & GENTA:

*When you look up at the stars, their light is tender
One will glitter
Another will fall
And your sadness will melt away*

SEN:

*Beyond that forest, over that mountain
Are there unknown stars, glittering, waiting for us?*

ALL 3:

*The stars I don’t yet know, the stars I will someday see
The vast and endless sky, they all stir inside my heart*

SEN: Say, that Aster Hirundo star you were talking about, you mean beyond that mountain, there are stars we can’t even see from up here?

KINOSUKE: Yea! Ah~ how I want to see them!



SEN: If we walk all the way to the other side, could we see them?

KINOSUKE: We could, but it's too far to walk

SEN: Then, if I do this—

KINOSUKE: You twit! That's dangerous!

SEN: Sorry...

GENTA: What's this thing!

KINOSUKE: It's called an "armillary sphere", you can tell the movement of the stars with it! I made it! If you do this- ah!

SEN: Genta, can you fix it?

GENTA: Oh bummer!

KINOSUKE: C'mon, fix it!

HARUOKI (narration): The stars went around the sky three times, and three years passed. The children, unaware of the far, distant fate that awaited them, would get together night after night, and look up at the stars.

Scene 5: Mikazuki Castle

MIWA: So you mean to say, Kinosuke is to be sent to Edo?

SASA JINGOROU (CHIEF RETAINER): Exactly. That is why we have summoned you, his mother, here today. Since his elder brother passed away, we have no choice but to send Kinosuke. It is an absolute rule of the shogunate to send the formal wives and heirs of all provincial lords to live in Edo. Kinosuke is our lord's only rightful male heir left. Ah, it has also been decided he will be changing his name to "Haruoki"

MIWA: Will it really be alright? That child grew up carefree as the son of a concubine; to have him serve in Edo...

SUZUMUSHI: Indeed, that young man's knowledge of formal etiquette, swordsmanship and philosophy is lacking. He's immersed in books of astronomy and arithmetics, and every night he slips out of the castle and disappears somewhere

SASA: Suzumushi Zeneimon! As the one in charge of his upbringing, this is your responsibility

SUZUMUSHI: Yes, sir

OKUDAIRA: There are even rumors he is running around with peasant children

WATASE: His mother comes from a lowly samurai family. Not remotely a suitable lineage for the lord of an entire domain



SUZUMUSHI: Lady Miwa is present

URITA: However, if his language and conduct are those of a peasant child, the crude mistakes he might make in Edo could interfere with the future of the entire Amano clan.

OKUDAIRA: He is unfit for this duty.

INATSUGI: His brother's death was such a calamity...

SASA: At any rate! Bring Kinosuke here, Suzumushi!

SUZUMUSHI: Ah, yes my lord retainer, but....

SASA: Again?!

SUZUMUSHI: No matter how much we stand guard, he always finds a way to sneak out...

WATASE: My lord Suzumushi! If something should happen to the Amano clan because of him, we shall all be ruined!

Scene 6: The Star-Watching Tower —Farewell—

UKICHI: So cool! I can't believe Kinosuke is gonna be a lord!

YUU: Lord Haruoki!

TAIZOU: A lord, huh...

KINOSUKE: I ain't a lord yet, just next in line.

SUZU: But you're gonna be one eventually!

GENTA: Do us Mikazuki folks proud, Kinosuke!

TAKI: I always thought lords were bad guys who just took our taxes and pushed us around, but you're different, Kinosuke!

UKICHI: This is awesome! Kinosuke is nice, I'm so happy he's gonna be my lord!

SUZU: I'm happy too!


KIYO: Me too!

NAMI: Me too!

SHIOTA: Me too!

HYOUTA: Me too.. (to Chobiyasu) Hey, why you cryin'?

CHOBİYASU: Cuz, we won't see him anymore...



SEN: Chobiyasu, don't cry.

CHOBİYASU: But, even though everyone is so sad, how come you're laughin'? Even though you're the saddest of all of us, how come you're laughin'? Sen likes Kinosuke, everyone is sayin' so! If you like him, you don't want him to go right?

GENTA: What are you saying, dummy?

CHOBİYASU: I'm gonna miss you! I'm gonna miss you, Kinosuke! Cuz we all love you! Edo is so far away! We won't be able to see you anymore!

SUZUMUSHI: Master Kinosuke! What are you doing with all these peasant children?

KINOSUKE: Suzumushi, I ain't goin' to Edo!

SUZUMUSHI: Master Kinosuke...

MIWA: Fine then, don't go.

KINOSUKE: Mother...

MIWA: If you don't go, in the absence of a legitimate heir the Amano house will become extinct. If you say you won't go despite that, that's fine. However, you were born into a different world than those children. Your path is different from theirs. I will not force you to go to Edo. Please decide for yourself. You're smarter than everyone else thinks, after all.

SEN: Kinosuke! You've ALWAYS said you wanna go someplace where you can see the stars better! You can go! You can leave this mountain and go somewhere where you can see lots of stars! If you go to Edo, I bet you can see ALL the stars!

KINOSUKE: That's my short sword! I wish I could give you something better, like a proper sword... but that's all I got for now!

SEN: People say a samurai's sword is his life. I'm... happy to receive this!

KINOSUKE: ...HEY, STARS! CAN YOU HEAR ME? TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE. IF YOU MAKE HER CRY I'LL SHOW YOU! When times are tough, look at the stars, Sen!

SEN: KINOSUKE!

KINOSUKE: SEN!

KINOSUKE:

The stars I don't yet know

The stars I'll someday see

The vast and endless sky

They all stir inside my heart



Scene 7: Edo Castle —Moon Viewing Banquet—

PRINCESSES, MAIDS:

*The moon is shining clear and bright
Brilliant in the sky this night
The autumn flora's glistening dew
Blushes as we sing for you*

INOUE: With special permission from Shogun Yoshimune, on this day, we are in the presence of a number of princesses for this moon viewing at Edo Castle. Please know that we are all extremely delighted by your exceptionally good graces.

KUZE: In this time of economic difficulties, in accordance with the shogunate's will, we will be providing neither liquor nor food. Please oblige the shogun's wishes and accept the moon as a feast and the maiden's song as a refreshing cup of sake.

HOSOKAWA: Although we will not be receiving liquor, our princesses' varied garments suit them so splendidly, it is as if my eyes are becoming intoxicated.

TAMA-HIME: This evening, we have all prepared our garments to resemble the seven flowers of autumn. I am the Bellflower, Hisa-hime is the Dianthus, and so on...

NABESHIMA: Beautiful women and the harvest moon, I am immensely satisfied.

TOUDOU: However, if we are to speak of the seven flowers, are you not one person short?...

YOSHIMUNE: The silver grass...

TAKA-HIME: Excuse my lateness, my dear uncle.

YOSHIMUNE: What is that, that outfit?

TAKA-HIME: In accordance with what you've been saying, my dear uncle, I've abstained from extravagance. Were I to wear expensive garments just for the sake of this banquet, would I truly be adhering to your wishes?

KUZE: Taka-hime, you may be the Shogun's niece, but please be more mindful of the occasion.

YOSHIMUNE: (roaring with laughter) You look like a scarecrow on a moonlit night. Splendid, well done. With the poor crops and high priced commodities of late, our financial affairs have come to a truly terrible state. It might even go as far as to affect the fate of this country. In times like these, there is no greater harm than unnecessary extravagance, my dear seven flowers. Haha, no need to be ashamed; rather, show restraint from now on. After all, just like the moon, you maidens are beautiful as you are, without any decoration.

PRINCESSES: Yes.

INOUE: Please excuse me for interrupting this banquet, but there are two people seeking audience with the Shogun, and all preparations are in order.



YOSHIMUNE: Let them in.

INOUE: The Lord of Mikazuki Domain, Amano Teruoki, and his son, Haruoki.

TAKA-HIME: Well well, if it isn't a real scarecrow family.

NABESHIMA: Speaking of Mikazuki, Hosokawa, am I correct in saying they are your neighbors in Kumamoto?

HOSOKAWA: What they are is a disgrace to all of Kyushu!

YOSHIMUNE: I'll allow you to speak. As we are in the midst of a banquet, keep it brief.

TERUOKI (muttering): Um... A few years ago, the head of the Amano family, Shigeoki, passed away suddenly, and as it was truly very sudden... (he trails off into an inaudible whisper).

YOSHIMUNE: Hmm? SPEAK UP!

TERUOKI: Um... (still speaking quietly, even more ashamed) A few years ago, the head of the Amano family...

KUZE: Amano, speak more from your stomach...

HARUOKI (in a loud voice): My father is trying to say that my older brother is dead and he wants me to be made heir!

HARUOKI: Aah... my name is Amano Haruoki, and I heard that for lords, there's a custom that says I can't be made heir without meeting the Shogun and getting permission first, so I came here to do that.

TERUOKI: Please excuse my son

YOSHIMUNE: Are you saying you want to be the next head of your clan?

HARUOKI: It ain't so much that I want to as there's nothin' I can do about it. With my brother being deceased and all.

YOSHIMUNE: Well, this might make even the harvest moon turn pale. Next to such an unusual guest, not even the likes of the moon are quite as amusing.


HARUOKI: Aah... if I've somehow put a damper on things, I apologize. Oh, but this moon oughtta be interesting. Ain't it surely the lunar eclipse tonight?

YOSHIMUNE: Lunar eclipse...

HARUOKI: It's a special thing when the mid-autumn harvest moon is totally eclipsed, you can definitely see an interesting moon!

HOSOKAWA: This country bumpkin...! How dare you be so rude to the Shogun, control yourself!

HARUOKI: Aah, I ain't familiar with the classy way y'all talk in the castle yet, please forgive me.



YOSHIMUNE: It isn't that. It's that it is simply inconceivable that on the eve of a total lunar eclipse, abhorred as an ill omen, I would hold such a luxurious banquet for gazing upon the moon.

HOSOKAWA: It is disrespectful even to mention such a misfortune!

YOSHIMUNE: Since ancient times, the eclipsing of the sun and the moon has served as an allegory for the reigning sovereign falling into ruin.

HARUOKI: Yeah but, the eclipse is tonight.

AKISADA: Court Chief Astronomer, Ikai Akisada, humbly asks to be granted permission to speak.

YOSHIMUNE: I'll allow it

AKISADA: Regarding the prediction of the upcoming eclipse, I have made certain calculations, and it is to occur tomorrow evening between 9 and 11pm. There will be no eclipse during tonight's moon viewing. Everyone, please enjoy your feast with peace of mind.

HARUOKI: But I'm telling you...!

KUZE: Are you still talking?

TAKA-HIME: Such a disgrace to the incomparable Lord Yoshimune's moon viewing. So, Mr. Scarecrow, if there is no eclipse tonight, will you slit your stomach?

HOSOKAWA: Hah, a scarecrow from the mountains surely does not possess that kind of courage.

HARUOKI: I will do it!

TAKA-HIME: What?

HARUOKI: If the eclipse doesn't happen, I will cut open my stomach or my whatever!

TERUOKI: Haruoki!

TAKA-HIME: Hohoho. So when is this eclipse supposed to happen?

HARUOKI: Just within the next half hour.

TAKA-HIME: Well then, while we are waiting for either the eclipse or your death, let us dance as if we are a scarecrow husband and wife. Lest everyone grow bored. Here! (She hands half of the straw she was holding to Haruoki)

TAKA-HIME: Enough, it's been half an hour. If you value your life, you may beg me for it.

YOSHIMUNE: Taka-hime, that's enough... it is no longer amusing when you overdo it.

TAKA-HIME: Dear uncle, please give the order for this scarecrow to take his life.

TERUOKI: Wait!

TOUDOU: It's the eclipse...



NABESHIMA: It's disappearing...

TOYO-HIME: An ill omen...

TAKA-HIME: Ikai! As the representative of the astrological surveyors, you will do something to take responsibility for this disgraceful incident! You sullied the Shogun's name, YOU are the one who must cut his stomach!

AKISADA: Yes... for this error, you have my life...

HARUOKI: What's this nonsense y'all are talkin' about? A lunar eclipse is just a natural part of the sky's movements! To call it as a bad omen or a catastrophe to the point of taking a man's life, that's just backwards thinking!

HOSOKAWA: Why you insolent—

YOSHIMUNE: No! Ikai, in deference to this boy here, let's not question who is to blame this time.

AKISADA: Yes, my lord.....

YOSHIMUNE: Scarecrow! How did you know the eclipse would be tonight?

HARUOKI: I'm only self-taught, but I study the stars.

YOSHIMUNE: You like stars?

HARUOKI: Yes! The stars, no matter how much you study them they still hold endless secrets. I think that's very interesting.

YOSHIMUNE: So you're a stargazing scarecrow! (To Teruoki) Amano, you have quite the heir.

TERUOKI: Yes...

YOSHIMUNE: Amano Haruoki, I am appointing you to the role of my Closest Aide and Spokesman.

KUZE: Um, My Lord Shogun, by Closest Aide and Spokesman, you mean...

YOSHIMUNE: Currently, my mandates only reach my close associates, they are not delivered down into the lowest ranks. To convey my orders to the common people, I want to create the role of a messenger to act as an intermediary. I have searched for someone in this region, but I think I will try to have this boy do it.

TERUOKI (because Haruoki is spacing out): Haruoki!

HARUOKI: YES! Uh, I'm that's great.

YOSHIMUNE: Haha. Taka-hime, you teach him the "classy way" we all speak in the castle. (To Haruoki) Scarecrow, I expect you to perform your duties perfectly!

HARUOKI (narration): That person, as if he were the father of us all, was such a strong and large presence. He reached his hand out to a pitiable boy, and that boy swore in his heart to serve him with all of his strength... without yet truly understanding the significance of that fate.



Scene 8A - The Star Crossing Festival

GENTA:

On this summer night

The night of the Star Festival

Let it come true,

This love,

This wish.

Will I say it

Perhaps I won't say it:

"I love you"

Will I say it

Perhaps I won't say it:

"I love you!"

That star is quivering, flickering, twinkling

This pounding in my heart

Only wants you

GENTA: Yo, Yuu, Hyouta! You guys look like you're having fun this year too!

HYOUTA: This is what the Star Festival is all about, ya know!

CHOBİYASU: Hey, Yuu, you shouldn't be dancin! If you fell down...

YUU: Zip it!

HYOUTA: Chobiyasu, you call yourself a Kyushu man? You're a husband now, show 'er who's boss!

CHOBİYASU: (Loudly, determined) Yuu, QUIT DANCIN'! Your body don't just belong to you no more!

GENTA, HYOUTA: Huh?

TAIZOU: Aaah, Kiyo, let's get married! Even that idiot Hyouta got himself together with Suzu, how 'bout us two, just like Orihime and Hikoboshi⁴ tonight...

KIYO: Aw, cut it out, Taizou!

UKICHI: HEEEEY! Our new lord has arrived at his castle!


TAIZOU: Kinosuke! He's back then?

CHOBİYASU: Will he come to the festival?

HYOUTA: As if a lord would come to a peasants' festival.

GENTA: Now that his father's died, he's taken over as Mikazuki's lord, and on top of that he's the shogun's closest aide!

⁴ Orihime and Hikoboshi: star-crossed lovers in the legend of Tanabata. See appendix for further reading.



UKICHI: Not only that, but I heard this fall he's gonna be marryin' a princess named Taka-hime. Seems like the reason he's come back this time is to announce that.

NAMI: I heard she's a beautiful, important princess!

HIRO: Aaaah, here you all are!

SHIOTA: Auntie Hiro, uh, where's my sister?

MIO: Oh yeah, we haven't seen Sen at all.

MIGIWA: Well, we lost sight of her.

HIRO: I had her put on the good kimono I made for her, I thought she could show it to you, Genta.

GENTA: Did she look pretty?

UKICHI: You lucky dog!!

HIRO: Now that it's decided that Sen will be your wife, it's a weight off my shoulders. You're so shy and took your sweet time, I was worried it would never happen.

GENTA: I'll go look for her.

HIRO: Genta, (with implied meaning) if you come back late, that's fine with me!

GENTA: Maa...!

AKISADA: My lord Amano! Was this wise? Slipping away from the castle like that...

HARUOKI: I'm gonna show you around Mikazuki.

AKISADA: If you disappear as you please, everyone will grow worried.

HARUOKI: I was always sneaking out when I was a kid, Suzumushi will cover for me well enough.

AKISADA: What a lush green mountain. This is a beautiful place.

HARUOKI: Yes, it was so normal for me back when I lived here that I didn't even notice.

AKISADA: Asking the Shogun to allow me to accompany you under the pretext of surveying was ingenious.

HARUOKI: There's a hot spring nearby too.

AKISADA: What a good trip.

HARUOKI: We gotta do some work too.

AKISADA: But you know, when you left this mountain village 7 years ago, I'm sure you never imagined that you'd return as the fiance of a Tokugawa princess.

AKISADA: Have you fallen in love with her, my lord? Taka-Hime...



HARUOKI: Don't use polite words for impolite questions.

AKISADA: Because you are the closest aide to the Shogun...

HARUOKI: Knock it off, you're the only friend I've made in Edo, Akisada.

AKISADA: You can't refuse a proposal of marriage from the Shogun's family, eh?

HARUOKI: I don't have a family with social status behind me, so there is a limit to the work I can do for the Shogunate. The Shogun wants to fortify my foundation through this marriage, so that I am able to do more work going forward. Right now, he is considering huge reforms for this country, and there are things I want to try in relation to that myself. This is an engagement I never even dared to hope for.

AKISADA: So then you should be grateful to Taka-Hime.

HARUOKI: Huh?

AKISADA: She is the one who said she'd become your bride. She couldn't remain indifferent to the fact that you're surrounded by men who envy you, and try to prevent you from performing your duty as you'd like. Taka-Hime is in love with you, you know.

HARUOKI: I wonder about that.

AKISADA: She's only surly like that when she's in love. Haven't you ever been in love before?

HARUOKI: Who knows...

SEN: I really don't need any...

GENTA: Sen! Se-

GENTA: Kinosuke...

HARUOKI: ...Genta

GENTA: You... Ah... no, um... Welcome back

HARUOKI: Have you been well?

GENTA: Ah, yes, thanks for asking... Kinosu—uh, my lord, have you also been well in Edo? Ah, no... everyone knows you've been doing well and had great success, what am I saying... uhm... I heard it's been decided that you'll marry a high-ranking princess, congratulations...

HARUOKI: Oh, thanks...

HARUOKI: Ah...

GENTA: Ah... um, there's a lot to talk about, but I'm gonna go look for Sen, please excuse me. She's been actin' funny... Um... I'm glad I got to see you.

AKISADA: Heeeey, they were handing these out over there! Rice balls



HARUOKI: I'll pass.

AKISADA: Where are you going?

HARUOKI: To look at the stars.

Scene 8B: The Star-watching Tower — Reunion—

HARUOKI: That flower, I wonder what it's called.

HARUOKI: They've always bloomed everywhere around this time of year...

SEN: Bellflowers... You don't even know about bellflowers...

HARUOKI: I guess not. Earlier, why'd you run away?

SEN: You're asking why?... You're so grand now, and I'm still just a poor ugly country girl... When we met earlier, you looked so shocked. Compared to the Edo princesses, I must look so ridiculous.

HARUOKI: You haven't changed... competitive as ever. When we met earlier... I thought you were beautiful.

HARUOKI: Those flowers too, I never paid them any attention before because they were always around, but now they look incredibly beautiful to me.

SEN: Please stop teasing me.

HARUOKI: Sen

SEN: I can't stand you teasing me like that

HARUOKI:

*I met a flower, like a blue star
A blue star shining in the evening dew
Her wet eyes flickered
Glowing with a blue flame
The flower shuddered faintly
spilling its pale fragrance
I want to see you, if only for tonight
I want to be with you, at least for this night*

SEN: Please stop! You're going to marry a Tokugawa princess. And I'll be marrying Genta soon!



Scene 8C: A Night for Star-Crossed Lovers

YOSHIMUNE: Haruoki! I will begin to carry out the Kyoho reforms⁵ very soon. It's a gamble whether this country will be kept alive or fall into ruin. You, taking Taka-Hime as your wife, will become my strength!

HARUOKI: Why me?

YOSHIMUNE: You looked at the stars, Haruoki. While everyone else was preoccupied with the trifles of the earth, you looked up to the stars. You sought to learn the truth behind this world by looking at the stars high in the sky. That wisdom is indispensable to me. It is for that reason that I promoted you, a miserable scarecrow. Haruoki, take Taka-Hime as your wife, and become the strength of my regime!

HARUOKI:

*The stars move across the heavens following destiny
Never resisting, never wavering.
They smother their feelings
And just move across the sky
Because that is the fate
Of the brilliantly shining stars*

SEN:

*The stars that have strayed from their path
Burn up and fall with a vivid light
They illuminate the darkness of destruction
Ruining the both of us.*

HARUOKI:

*I will erase these feelings
In the stardust-laden sky*

SEN:

*I will wash away these feelings
In that river of light*

HARUOKI:

Aaah, why can't I forget

SEN:

Why can't I forget

HARUOKI & SEN:

*I want to see you
If only for tonight*

⁵ *Kyoho reforms: an array of economic and cultural policies introduced by the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1736. See appendix for further reading.*



HARUOKI:

*I want to be with you
At least for this night*

SEN: Please stop! I'll be marrying Genta soon!

GENTA: It's alright with me, Kinosuke. If you love Sen, you can have her. Turn down your princess, and take Sen. She's been thinking about you all this time. Even over 7 years she never forgot you for one second. So, take her! Tell the Shogun you won't be needin' that princess, and take Sen. I just want her to be happy! She's only known hardship, I want her to be happy more than anything. I'm begging you, Kinosuke.

HARUOKI: No one has cherished you like Genta, ever since we were kids... Be with him in good health. Serve him well. Be happy with him.

GENTA: KINOSUKE!

SEN: Genta, that's enough! Forget about him! I will make you happy!

Scene 9: Under a bridge near Edo Castle

YURI: Hey mister...

RICE PEDDLAR: Here you go.

SUZUMUSHI: Ah, just one.

YURI: Hey mister... (calling out to a different man)

AOSAGI: Hey old man, You've been hanging around here a lot lately. You're pretty shabby, but you kinda look like a samurai.

KAJIKA: What the heck is a samurai doing in a place like this? Don't tell me you wanna buy one of us?

SUZUMUSHI: This old woman's cooking is my favorite.


AZAMI: Hah, the stuff people like us only eat to survive, it might as well be dog food. Who are you, old man?

SUZUMUSHI: My name is Suzumushi, I'm the chief retainer in Edo to a family called Amano.

KANOKO: Amano you say, the same Amano in the Shogun's council?

YAMAME: Ahahaha... Yeah right, you're the Amanos' retainer. No matter how you cut it, you're just a washed up back-country samurai. As if someone that important would take shelter here!

SUZUMUSHI: Every time I accompany Master Haruoki to Edo, I wait for him here. I can't help but feel ill at ease in the castle...



YAMAME: Old man! If it's true you are Amano's retainer, we'll bury you!

AOSAGI: Let him be, it's just the blabbering of an old man. (To Suzumushi) Old man, even if you are just losing your marbles, the name Amano is no good around here. These girls, you know, they've taken a blow from these so-called Kyoho reforms that have been going on for 10 years now, and this is what they've become, so they feel some resentment for your Master Amano. The way they take our land taxes has changed, and it's been really hard on the rural farmers. These girls' parents sold them so they could have fewer mouths to feed. This is what destitution looks like. Everyone says Amano is such a capable person, but even if he's doing right by the government, there are things that aren't going right too, you see?

AZAMI: Just once I'd like to look upon Amano's vile mug, and spit on it.

KOGARA: Hey, I heard there's been another uprising.

KAJIKI: Not again, where?

KOGARA: In Gujo⁶, sounds like the farmers got pretty violent.

AOSAGI: 'Cause they're really poor over in that area, aren't they. Hey, Amano didn't do such a great job after all, did he, old man? (To the rice peddler) Swap this.

KANOKO: Aaah, how long is the rainy season gonna drag on this year...

YURI: Business is a bust.

YAMAME: Not just ours, the farmers' crops will probably suffer this year too, eh?

AOSAGI: But that's got nothing to do with you.

SUZUMUSHI: So, the farmers are falling into hardship... again.

Scene 10: The Hall at Edo Castle —Monthly Audience Ceremony—

INOUE: The Shogun and the Elder Amano have arrived.


HARUOKI: Thank you for coming to the castle in this rain. Regarding the recent uprising in Gujo, we've decided on a punishment. The 114 leaders of the riots will be sentenced to death, and additionally their lord, Kanamori Yorikane⁷, will be demoted, and will forfeit the domain.

HARUOKI: This is his punishment for the offence of failing to suppress the uprising swiftly, thus allowing unrest to spread to other domains as well.

KUZE: But, Lord Amano, with regard to our recent policies, I wonder if they aren't a bit unreasonable. The increasing frequency of these uprisings has come since the reforms, whereby in place of the system of collecting the annual tribute based on the volume of crops one produces,

⁶ Gujo: an old feudal domain located in modern day Gujo-Hachiman, Gifu Prefecture

⁷ Kanamori Yorikane: A real person, see appendix for further information



it's now recommended that we be paid a fixed amount every year. Might you consider that this, rather, is overbearing to us.

HARUOKI: The only way to ensure the financial security of this realm is to standardize the volume of crops circulating in the market annually, thereby stabilizing the price of rice.

HOSOKAWA: Well, what purpose does a government serve if its people are dead?

HOSOKAWA: Speechless are you?

HARUOKI: If there are people who die of starvation, it's because this country lacks the means to provide for so many citizens. Right now, losing a little to gain a lot, and strengthening this realm, is our first priority. Creating a world in which anyone can live happily comes later. Governing the territories under our supervision has been our duty to the Shogun since the dawn of this regime. Each of us must do everything in our power to maintain order in our domains.

GROUP: As you command...

INOUE: That's all for today.

TAKA-HIME: Are you finished with your work, my dear?

HARUOKI: I think I've told you not to enter the castle indiscriminately. You are merely a vassal's wife after all.

TAKA-HIME: In the ten years since I became your wife, you've done nothing but work and I've barely had the chance to see your face, so I am taking the initiative. Dear uncle, you mustn't push him like this. He's taken on such a detestable job, I feel sorry for him.

YOSHIMUNE: Hmph. Haruoki, have you not looked at the true stars recently?

HARUOKI: When you say "true"...?

YOSHIMUNE: The ideals we uphold are our stars. The ones that glitter in the night sky are the true stars.


HARUOKI: No, my lord, I haven't had any free time. Not since long ago.

YOSHIMUNE: There are the rumblings of an uprising even in Mikazuki. It's a confirmed fact.

TAKA-HIME: Since you have always tried to turn your gaze away from that place, I have been keeping a watchful eye on it instead. Mikazuki has had one poor crop after another, and among the starving citizens there are the beginnings of a revolt.

TAKA-HIME: ...You always have that look on your face, one that never shows anything on the surface, always concealing your pain.

YOSHIMUNE: Haruoki, I'm sending you back to Mikazuki! Akisada will go with you. Suppress the insurrection with your own hands, bring judgment upon the citizens, and return to me. You are a crucial part of this realm. Come back quickly.



TAKA-HIME: If you are to succeed at your mission, sometimes the weak must be left behind. Those things that you have been trying to forget but haven't yet been able to let go, you **MUST** forget them.

Scene 11: Genta's house

SEN:

*Cleansed by the rain
A lush emerald green
This village sleeps enveloped
By the deep mist of the mountain.
Time passes by
The flowers are blooming again
Oh, the smell of the forest
The fragrance of summer
The forgotten remnants of a song.*

RIN: Grandma, what's that?

HIRO: Sen's old dress clothes. I'm going to mend them and have you wear them to your festival.

RIN: Wow!

HIRO: Sen, it's boiling.

SEN: I've got it

CHILDREN: Pa!

SEN: Welcome home.

GENTA: I'm back.

CHILDREN: Pa!

SEN: You're back late, did you go somewhere?

GENTA: Yeah.

SEN: You must be cold from the rain.

GENTA: Ooh, hot water.

SEN: I thought I'd warm you up a bit.

GENTA: I appreciate it.

SEN: I can't feed you, but I can at least do this much.

GENTA: Thank you for that.



SEN: Is something wrong?

GENTA: Hm?

SEN: You look as if something sad happened.

RIN: Hey, look! Syrup!

SEN: Oh...

RAITA: Syrup!

RIN: I found it so it's mine!

SEN: No! We're giving that to Chobiyasu's son Kenbou. He's sick from malnutrition.

RIN: If we do that, will Kenbou get better?

SEN: He will.

RAITA: Alright, then we'll go without it.

GENTA: Sen, Kenbou died this morning.

HYOUTA: Genta, the other villages have begun preparations.

TAIZOU: Everyone says they'll follow you.

UKICHI: Villages everywhere are getting ready!

SEN: Preparations, for what?

GENTA: Sen, we're starting a revolt.

SEN: Genta...!

HIRO: A revolt... that's the one thing you all must NOT do.

MIGIWA: Hiro, we can't go on accepting this. The rice we grow is taken from us, our families' lives are taken from us, we can't go on like this anymore.

HIRO: So you plan to follow in your fathers' footsteps...?


TAIZOU: Are we supposed to stand by and let everyone starve?!

EIJI: We were all so glad when Haruoki became our lord. But look what's become of it!

SENICHI: He's tormenting people all over the country!

SHIOTA: After all, he IS the son of that scum who killed our fathers!

HIRO: So you'll let him kill you this time? You'll put Sen and Suzu and Yuu through the same pain I endured?! You'll have these children grow up without their fathers like you did?!



SEN: Genta, no matter how bad things get, if we can all be together that's good enough.

CHOBIYASU: (Timidly) I want to do it... (Shouting) I WANT TO DO IT!

GENTA: Ma. We're going to fight to make sure these kids DON'T have to go through what we have. Sen, would you take the kids outside?

Scene 12: The Tower in the Forest

RIN: What's that?

SEN: A tower to look at the stars.

KUMOTA: Can we climb it?

SEN: You can't, it's old and dangerous. Come over here, you'll get wet.

RIN: Who are you, mister?

RAITA: You know him?

SEN: I don't, let's go

HARUOKI: Sen

RIN: See, you do know him!

KUMOTA: Ain't he lookin' nice!

RAITA: Who is he? Ma, how do you know him?

HARUOKI: Back in the day, we used to play together on that tower.

RIN: Then, you're friends?

KUMOTA: You too, mister?

HARUOKI: Not him. Akisada, will you watch the kids for a while?

HARUOKI: A revolt is brewing

SEN: I thought you had forgotten all about this place

HARUOKI: I remember. The mountains, and that tower. We made it to try and see the stars beyond the mountaintop. We believed if we made it tall, we could do it. Children come up with the strangest things.

SEN: The boy we met at that tower taught us how to look for stars. When we were with him, we'd take our minds off what to eat tomorrow, and start thinking of the stars hidden behind the mountain. We'd lift our gaze from the grass and the dirt and our muddy feet, and look up to the skies. That boy told us we could become happy some day. We were lonely, but always stuck



together. You are no longer that boy I knew. You are.... you are a stranger to me.

GENTA: I think I told you to watch the kids

SEN: ...Yes. We are done here.

GENTA: Sorry for sending you out in the rain

RIN: Bye bye, mister!

GENTA: We're leaving.

HARUOKI: Genta, wait. (To Akisada) Leave us.

HARUOKI: Are you the one organising the revolt?

GENTA: I am

HARUOKI: Then you can also stop it

GENTA: Are you afraid we're gonna end up like Gujo Domain, and you'll lose everything?

HARUOKI: I am not incompetent like Kanamori. I could easily crush you

GENTA: Let's see you try then!

HARUOKI: If a revolt breaks out now, many will die. Many more than starvation would claim. If you oppose me, I will show no mercy. If you have half a brain, you will stop this revolt.

GENTA: I can't stop the revolt. But you can. Make changes in the reforms you and the Shogun have imposed. We want to decide for ourselves how much tax to pay each year, according to how the rice crops turn out. We will only keep what we need to feed ourselves, and pay the rest of the yield to the domain. But we cannot do as you say. This is the only way to stop the revolt.

HARUOKI: ...I cannot bend the government for the sake of my domain.

GENTA: The land here is poor, it's impossible to do it your way! Please, Haruoki, I'm begging you

HARUOKI: ...What cannot be done, cannot be done

GENTA: No matter what?

HARUOKI: It cannot!

GENTA: That's right, a great elder of the shogunate like you couldn't possibly be swayed by personal feelings and change the rules of the government for himself and his tiny little domain. If that's how it is, we don't need any of your useless kindness. Please spare us your half-baked pity! Forget about us and just walk your own path. And we'll walk ours!



Scene 13A: Revolt

HARUOKI:

*The stars move across the heavens following destiny
Never resisting, never wavering.
They smother their feelings
And just move across the sky
Because that is the fate
Of the brilliantly shining stars*

GENTA:

*Oh stars, glittering in the heavens
Be our guide
Shine brightly upon
The righteous path
Even if it should mean
My body will perish.*

TOGETHER:

If this fate is inescapable

HARUOKI:

I'll kill my heart

GENTA:

I'll set my heart

HARUOKI:

I'll let go of my life

GENTA:

I'll offer up my life

TOGETHER:

*I will live as fate dictates
Until my end
I will live as fate dictates
Until my end*

YUU: YASU!

TAIZOU: CHOBIYASU!

SEN: Chobiyasu!

GENTA: Sen, go be with the kids!

SEN: Genta, make everyone stop! If you go through with this, everyone will die!



CHOBİYASU: Haruoki... I'll never forgive him for what he did to this place

SEN: Even if you fight him you have no chance! Genta!

GENTA: Everyone! Listen! Don't give in to your hunger and attack the rice granaries! We're different from those miserable peasants who riot just because their stomachs are empty. We look at the stars! When you live life on your hands and knees, all you see is dirt. But, if you look up, there's a whole world of stars. A world different from the one we're living in now. We will fight Haruoki! Won't we?!

EVERYONE: YES!

SEN: GENTA!

YUU: (Realizing that Chobiyasu has died) Yasu! Yasu!

SEN: YUU!

SUZUMUSHI: Poor fools. Not one attempted revolt has ever succeeded.

A VASSAL: Reinforcements from other domains have just arrived, annihilation of the insurgents should not take much longer.

SUZUMUSHI: What a pity.

HARUOKI: ...is this it, Suzumushi? Is this the path my life has led me to walk?

SUZUMUSHI: This is the standing into which you were born. This fate was decided for you from the very start.

TAIZOU: Aaah... (he is slain and falls)

KIYO: TAIZOU!

SUZU: HYOUTA!

HARUOKI: WAIT! Rioters, it is I, your lord, Amano Haruoki! I command the leader of this insurgence to step forward.

HARUOKI: You and I will fight. If you win, I will listen to your demands. But if you lose, everyone involved in this revolt must surrender. Any other dispute will be completely futile

SUZUMUSHI: My lord, you don't mean you yourself will be his opponent...?


HARUOKI: Any complaints?

GENTA: No complaints.

HARUOKI: You've lost, surrender.

GENTA: Not yet!

HARUOKI: Do you plan to fight to the death?



GENTA: You think I'll give up while I'm still living? If I lose, my friends will be publicly executed⁸. I will absolutely not surrender. I will beat you!

HARUOKI: You fool.

GENTA: I don't need your pity. Bring it on, Haruoki! If this is the path you and I are meant to walk, let's take it to the end!

Scene 13B: Verdict

YOSHIMUNE: Amano Haruoki, I commend you on your splendid suppression of this revolt. I entrust you with passing judgement on the populace. Be strict.

HARUOKI: In that case, I would be obliged if you would exempt the people, and in their place, indict shogunate council elder, Amano Haruoki, for his crime.

YOSHIMUNE: You have done what you were supposed to do. What crime do you speak of?

HARUOKI: For the crime of being henceforth unable to live as the Shogun wishes, I will accept Our Lord Shogun's judgement, if you would

YOSHIMUNE: ...You won't be coming back to my side?

HARUOKI: No

YOSHIMUNE: It will cost you a great price to atone for the lives of the entire populace

HARUOKI: Yes

YOSHIMUNE: You foolish mountain scarecrow

HARUOKI: Yes

YOSHIMUNE: Haruoki, 6th generation head of the Amano clan, is charged with instigating turmoil in the area through negligent governance of his domain; he shall be demoted, exiled to the Morioka Domain in Mutsu Province, and sentenced to solitary confinement for life. For this time alone and by special pardon, the populace are deemed innocent. Until a new lord is appointed, Mikazuki Domain shall be under the jurisdiction of Kumamoto's Hosokawa clan. Amano Haruoki is to depart for Mutsu⁹ tomorrow morning.

HOSOKAWA, KUZE: Yes, sir

⁸ *Gokumon* (獄門): sentence/execution method, used from the middle Heian era to early Meiji. Involved decapitation, slashing of the corpse to test a sword, and public displaying of the severed head on a spike or stand. The body was also not allowed burial or funeral rites.

⁹ *Mutsu*: old domain in the area of modern-day Iwate and Aomori



Scene 14: Star Crossing

HARUOKI: The skies are finally clear, on the night of the Star Crossing. At this time of year you can see Aster Hirundo. I've heard you can't see this star from Mutsu in the North. It's right on that mountain line

HARUOKI: Sen, I couldn't be a good lord after all. A revolt broke out, and Genta is dead. Being sent to Mutsu is not enough punishment. Sen, take your revenge.

HARUOKI: You twit! That's dangerous

SEN: Why can't I kill you! You killed him, so why can't I kill you! You're a foe, an enemy, of Genta's, of my father's, of everyone...

HARUOKI: You are the only one I ever loved

SEN: I... I....

HARUOKI: You don't have to say it

SEN: You must have been... so lonely, in such pain... Me... Even though I've ended up like this, why do I still love you, I wonder

SEN: I'm such a twit

HARUOKI: it's alright

SEN: I won't let you go to Mutsu... Do you remember that cave close by where we used to play? That cave goes on for a while, and then leads to an open highway...

HARUOKI: Are you telling me to run away?

SEN: From there... you can get to the sea... and then...

HARUOKI: Sen, there is nowhere I want to go anymore

SEN: There must a better place, somewhere you can see new stars! A land beyond the sea, or anywhere else! I ain't giving you to no Mutsu, I ain't letting you get locked up forever! Please, please, run away from here...

HARUOKI: ...Sen, will you come with me then? Shall we go to that place where you can see new stars, the two of us? Throw away everything, look back on no one, and cross the sea? Will you make the only wish I ever had in my life come true?

RAITA: Rin!

RIN: Ma, Ma!

KUMOTA: Let's go home

RIN: Where did Ma go?



RAITA: She went nowhere

RIN: Why is she not at home?

KUMOTA: Must've gone to see the paddy?

RAITA: Since Pa died, Rin always starts crying when she doesn't see Ma around. But we must keep smiling, and help out Ma!

KUMOTA: That's right!

RIN: Ehehe, stoo~p!

RAITA: Let's move it! Grandma will yell at us!

RIN: She'll be mad at us?

KUMOTA: Scaryyyy~

SEN: I...

HARUOKI: Sen. ...I was just teasing you! You will live your life here. Here in this land, you'll raise your children, grow rice, and live out your days here. Pray for Genta's soul to find rest in the next life, eh! The rice will ripen again, and you will make sure that everyone becomes happy, just like Genta wished, Sen!

SEN: Kinosuke

HARUOKI: Sen! Ain't the stars you can see from this place beautiful?

Scene 15: The Stargazing Song

HYOUTA: Hey, Rin-bean!

RIN: You guys are coming too, mister?

HYOUTA: Well 'cause of the revolt last year I missed my chance to dance!

SUZU: With that bad leg, I told him to drop it but he wouldn't listen!

KUMOTA: You can dance like that?!

HYOUTA: Don't underestimate Uncle Hyouta!

SEN: Everyone, they're ready!

UKICHI: Oooh?!

HIRO: They're not for adults! There's only a few!

HYOUTA: Whaaaa??



RAITA: (To Sen) Let's go!

KUMOTA: Ma, you got tears in your eyes.

RIN: Are you cryin' 'cause you're sad Pa ain't here?

SEN: No. It's the stars, they're so beautiful, it moved me to tears.

RAITA: They're beautiful!

RIN: The stars are ALWAYS beautiful.

KUMOTA: How'd they get to be so pretty?

SEN: Huh, I wonder.

FROM THE WINGS:

When you look up at the stars, their light is tender

One will glitter

Another will fall

And your sadness will melt away

KINOSUKE & GENTA:

Beyond that forest

Over that mountain

KINOSUKE, GENTA, & SEN:

Are there unknown stars, glittering, waiting for us?

ALL THE CHILDREN:

The stars we don't yet know

I wonder if they're waiting, shining.

KINOSUKE: Ain't they beautiful, the stars.

—End—



—Appendix—

Tanabata

Tanabata, also known as the Star Festival, is a Japanese summer festival celebrating the once yearly meeting of the deities Orihime and Hikoboshi, who are represented by the stars Vega and Altair. Legend states that these deities, who are lovers, spend the year separated by the Milky Way, and are only allowed to meet on this one night. The theme of fated lovers brought together briefly by the stars but generally separated by circumstance is paralleled in the play.

Star Crossing / ”Hoshiai”


”Hoshiai” (星逢) is a word made up by Ueda Kumiko (director & scriptwriter of the play). It is most often used in the play as another name for Tanabata, the two kanji meaning ”star” and ”to meet”, respectively, referring to Orihime and Hikoboshi’s yearly reunion. As ”inescapable fate written in the stars” is a big theme of the play, there are deeper nuances behind this naming: of lovers (Kinosuke&Sen / Hikoboshi&Orihime) being crossed (betrayed) by fate/the stars and only being able to meet on that one night. In an effort to reflect as many of these nuances behind Ueda Kumiko’s words, we chose to render this term as ”Star Crossing”.

Haruoki’s position (“goyou toritsugi”)

The ”goyou toritsugi” (translated in this script as ”closest aide, spokesman to the Shogun”) was an official government position Tokugawa Yoshimune made during the Kyoho era. It was the most important role, working very close to the Shogun himself. The number of officials who bore this title at the same time in a court of Edo fluctuated from 1 to as many as 5. A ”goyou toritsugi” was essentially the shogun’s right hand; his duties involved (among others) presiding over the Edo Castle nakaoku (where the Shogun went about his daily life and attended to his duties), acting as an agent between the Shogun & his council and other government officials, offering advice to the Shogun regarding political & personnel matters, and managing the Oniwaban agent corps. Occasionally, he even had the power to give instructions to other elders without asking the Shogun first.

The Kyoho Reforms

The Kyoho reforms were an array of economic and cultural policies introduced by the the Shogun Tokugawa Yoshimune in 1736 Japan during the Edo period, encompassing the first 20 years of his shogunate. They were introduced in response to an ongoing economic crisis (spurred partially by the falling price of rice), and were aimed at making the government financially solvent and improving its political and social security. Under the reforms, Yoshimune emphasized frugality and made a number of changes to taxation, currency, and rural administration. In *One Night of Stars*, we see the effects of certain aspects of these reforms: an increase in power given to the *daimyo* (provincial lords), the formation of an inner circle of trusted advisers to the shogun, and the revision of the land tax policy, in which Yoshimune attempted to take control of the falling price of rice by standardizing the amount available in the market. Farmers were required to surrender a flat volume of rice as their land tax, rather a percentage of their crop. This was very hard on poor farmers/



farmers who experienced a bad harvest; they were left with insufficient crops to feed their families, which led to famine and uprisings.

Kanamori Yorikane (1713-1763AD)

Second lord of the Gujo Domain in Mino Province (part of what is today Gifu Prefecture), last ruler of the Kanamori clan. Director and scriptwriter, Ueda Kumiko, was inspired by his story to create the character of Haruoki. His father, Yoshihiro died early at 37, while his grandfather, Yoritoki was still alive; so, Yorikane was made heir to the position of Gujo daimyo unexpectedly fast. Yorikane was known for his love of astronomy, poetry and culture. He had an astronomical observatory built at his castle, and compiled a memoir on his ancestors. He got to serve in Edo as a shoshaban (a master of ceremonies position, in charge of teaching etiquette to other daimyo and attending events when the Shogun was indisposed). His extravagant spending and poor government of his domain led to 4 years of revolts in the Gujo Domain, at the end of which he was demoted, his land confiscated and he was exiled to Mutsu in Morioka Province, where he lived out his days and died at the age of 51.