

23 - Ties

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

[00:02] Nagi

I lost my parents soon after I was born.

[00:05] Nagi

In a fire, I was told.

[00:08] Nagi

I was passed around between relatives,

[00:13] Nagi

*and only barely held on
doing maid's work at an inn.*

[00:18] Nagi

*My only joy was taking the boat downriver
when I delivered to good customers.*

[00:26] Nagi

I was always alone.

[00:29] Nagi

Until the day I met Yotaro-san.

SIGN Blue Miburo

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[02:19] Granny

Try to calm down. The next wave's on its way.

[02:23] Sakura

You'll be fine, Nagi-san.

Take a deep breath in, then let it out.

[02:27] Granny

Once your head is clear,
the rest is easy. Let yourself relax.

[02:30] Granny

Babies *want* to come out.

[02:35] Granny

Nio, the bathwater's gone cold.

[02:37] Granny

It'll shock the baby. Add more hot water.

[02:40] Nio

R-Right.

[02:47] Granny

That's the way. Slow and steady.

[02:55] Nagi

I had no blood ties...

[02:58] Nagi

anywhere in this life.

[03:05] (Flashback) Child A

She's like a doll.

[03:07] (Flashback) Child B

Get angry at something, why don't you?

[03:09] (Flashback) Child C

Talk about creepy. She's hollow inside.

SIGN Hollow

[03:16] Nagi

Hollow?

[03:19] Nagi

Empty?

[03:21] Nagi

Of course I was.

[03:23] Nagi

I had nothing in my past or future.

[03:27] Nagi

I had no desires. I didn't resist.

[03:30] Nagi

I let the current take me and kept calm.

[03:33] Nagi

That's how I would survive.

[03:36] Nagi

Yet despite that...

[03:39] (Flashback) Yotaro

Fancy meeting you again.

[03:44] (Flashback) Yotaro

I'm off to give a home lesson.

[03:46] (Flashback) Yotaro

Do you like the river?

[03:49] (Flashback) Nagi

What?

[03:49] (Flashback) Yotaro

Oh, it's just, you're always looking at it.

[03:57] Nagi

Fate had a surprise in store for me.

[04:03] (Flashback) Woman A

Wasn't she a serving girl?

[04:05] (Flashback) Woman B

How can she marry a samurai?

[04:08] (Flashback) Man A

She ought to know her place.

[04:11] (Flashback) Man B

What a mismatch.

[04:12] (Flashback) Man C

Shh. They'll hear you.

[04:15] (Flashback) Yotaro

Nagi-san. Nagi-san.

[04:19] (Flashback) Yotaro

Don't worry.

[04:25] Nagi

I wasn't a fit match for him.

[04:28] Nagi

But my mother-in-law said to me...

[04:32] (Flashback) Asa

Delicious. I can really
taste that Kyoto flavor.

[04:37] (Flashback) Nagi

I learned at an inn.

[04:39] (Flashback) Asa

I was a farmer's daughter, too.

[04:41] (Flashback) Nagi

Huh?

[04:42] (Flashback) Asa

And I'm a second wife.

[04:44] (Flashback) Nagi

What?

[04:45] (Flashback) Nagi

So Yotaro-san and his older brother
who left home aren't...

[04:49] (Flashback) Asa

We have no blood ties.

[04:51] (Flashback) Asa

None at all.

[04:53] (Flashback) Asa

But between husband and wife,
or mother and daughter...

[05:01] (Flashback) Asa

what matters is keeping the family safe.

[05:10] Nagi

Why did I go along with Yotaro-san's brother?

Why did I come to this house?

[05:15] Sakura

There's so much blood.

[05:17] Granny

Put your back into it!

[05:21] Nagi

It was all so I could have this child.

[05:24] Granny

That's the spirit. Out it comes.

[05:26] Nio

Hang in there, Nagi-san!

[05:27] Nio

You're almost done!

[05:32] (Flashback) Asa

Sometimes, family ties without blood
can be stronger than those with it.

[05:41] Nagi

I'll pass something on.

I'll desire something.

[05:45] Nagi

*If I can leave something behind,
it means I'm not hollow.*

[05:49] Nagi

I'll leave behind...

[05:54] (Flashback) Asa

Nagi-san, take care of this family.

[06:01] Nagi

...proof that I lived!

[06:09] Granny

It's out!

[06:13] Sakura

You did it! Way to go, Nagi-san!

[06:16] Nio

Yes! The baby's born!

[06:19] Granny

Wait.

[06:21] Granny

It's not crying.

[06:28] Granny

Is something caught in its throat?

[06:30] Nio

N-No.

[06:33] Nagi

Give it here!

[06:35] Nagi

How?

[06:36] Nagi

Why?

[06:38] Nagi

Please...

[06:45] Nagi

Please...

[06:49] Nagi

Cry.

[06:52] Nagi

Cry!

[06:55] Nagi

Please...

[06:57] Nagi

tie us together!

[07:12] Sakura

It's crying.

[07:21] Nagi

My treasure.

[07:24] Nagi

Ah.

[07:26] Nagi

You're so soft and so warm.

[07:31] Nagi

Yotaro-san.

[07:34] Nagi

Father. Mother.

[07:36] Nagi

I did it.

[07:39] Harada

She had the baby?

[07:40] Nagakura

She must have.

[07:44] Nio

Thank goodness. Thank goodness!

[07:50] Nagi

I did it.

[08:17] Taro

The baby's been born?

[08:18] Taro

Really? Is it a boy or a girl?

[08:21] Maid A

My, how adorable.

[08:23] Maid B

Let me hold it, too.

[08:25] Taro

Lemme see! Lemme take a look, too!

[08:29] Maids

My, my.

[08:35] Taro

Talk about cute.

[08:40] Taro

Hang on. Where's Nio?

[08:42] Taro

Isn't he back yet?

[08:46] Taro

Nagi-san must be over the moon.

[08:48] Taro

We oughta throw a party.

[08:53] Taro

Um...

[08:57] Hajime

She's dead.

[09:01] Taro

Huh?

[09:17] Kondo

I see. This will be
a hard ending for Nio to bear.

[09:21] Hijikata

What's done is done.

[09:24] Hijikata

Still...

[09:27] Hijikata

If you ask me, the only kind of person
who can really save anyone...

[09:33] Hijikata

is one who suffers
from the bottom of his heart.

[09:39] Hijikata

One who has known heartache.

[09:49] Sakura

It's been a whole day since then.

[09:52] Sakura

I can't keep crying forever.

[09:54] Sakura

The doctor even said to us...

[09:57] Sakura

there was nothing we could've done.

[10:03] Sakura

Anyway, I've got to cheer up Nio-kun.

[10:07] Nio

Oh, Sakura-san!

[10:09] Sakura

Huh?

[10:10] Nio

Good morning.

[10:12] Nio

Are you checking
everyone's swords again today?

[10:15] Nio

Thanks for coming so early.

[10:17] Sakura

H-Huh?

[10:19] Hijikata

Oh, Sakura. Perfect timing.

[10:22] Sakura

Hijikata-san.

[10:24] Hijikata

I tried to hammer a bent sword into shape,
and it came out like an ear of rice.

[10:30] Sakura

What did you *do* to it?!

[10:35] Harada

Nio! I'm hungry!

[10:38] Nio

It's breakfast time.

[10:39] Nio

I'll go help.

[10:42] Sakura

How do you think Nio-kun's feeling?

[10:45] Taro

B-Beats me.

[10:48] Taro

He didn't say much yesterday,
understandably. But now?

[10:51] Sakura

*Does he get over things quickly
because he's young?*

[10:54] Sakura

*Was he able to process it
because of who he is?*

[11:01] Nio

Please make way! Coming through!

[11:05] Sakura

Even after that big job,
this place hasn't changed a bit.

[11:10] Todo

Everyone changes.

[11:13] Sakura

T-Todo-san?

[11:15] Nagakura

Todo.

[11:17] Nagakura

Don't step on the edge of the tatami.

[11:19] Sakura

U-Um, who are you again?

[11:23] Harada

It's Shinpachi! Shinpachi's lost it!

[11:26] Nagakura

A samurai must be proper
in everything he does.

[11:31] Sakura

You shaved off your mustache?

[11:33] Nagakura

I've stopped pretending to be someone
I'm not. A samurai should act like one.

[11:36] Kondo

Magnificent.

[11:38] Okita

A real dramatic shift, huh?

[11:40] Yamanami

I know how he feels.

[11:42] Yamanami

That battle left a bad taste in our mouths.

[11:45] Harada

Don't sympathize! Move on!

[11:47] Harada

Like Nio has.

[11:49] Nio

I finished wiping the floors.

[11:51] Nio

Oh, I'd better go wash the vegetables.

[11:58] Hirama

You killed the ringleader
and ended the threat?

[12:00] Hirama

That's our Serizawa-sensei.

[12:02] Hirama

The greatest man alive.

[12:04] Serizawa

Don't stand in my way.

[12:09] Hirayama

Can you believe Hirama? No tact at all.

[12:12] Serizawa

Don't stare at me.

[12:14] Hirayama

I can't even *look*?

[12:19] Harada

Serizawa's in a rotten mood.

[12:22] Niimi

I'm supposed to write a report on all this
to wrap it up as neatly as possible.

[12:27] Nio

I'll get you paper and
an inkstone right away.

[12:31] Sakura

Do you think, maybe...

[12:34] Sakura

Nio-kun's trying to avoid hearing
much about what happened?

[12:39] Todo

Well, I bet he'd rather not.

[12:42] Harada

Still, he'll forget in three days,
if he eats and sleeps right.

[12:45] Nagakura

These things need to be done properly.

[12:47] Okita

It all comes down to his feelings.
How *he* thinks about it.

[12:52] Inoue

Maybe tilling a field
will take his mind off it.

[12:54] Hajime

Leave him be.

[12:56] Sakura

H-Hijikata-san.

[13:00] Hijikata

Kondo-san, can I leave Nio to you?

[13:04] Kondo

Yes.

[13:07] Kondo

This calls for swords. Nothing else will do.

[13:13] Kondo

Nio. Time to train!

[13:14] Nio

What?

[13:16] Nio

Huh? Kondo-san?

[13:19] Harada

Is he okay?

[13:20] Nio

Wait, what?

[13:20] Todo

I'm more worried about him.

[13:23] Hijikata

It's better not to think
too much at times like these.

[13:33] Nio

So, um, you want me to attack you?

[13:35] Kondo

Yes. With all your might.

[13:43] Kondo

Keep going. Don't rest.

[13:45] Nio

Yes, sir!

[13:48] Kondo

Keep it up.

[13:49] Nio

Yes, sir!

[13:50] Kondo

More.

[13:51] Nio

Yes, sir!

[13:52] Kondo

Come at me!

[13:53] Kondo

Keep it up!

[13:54] Todo

They're really just training.

[13:55] Kondo

Come on!

[14:02] Kondo

Nagi-dono was buried at a temple
for the destitute without family.

[14:09] Kondo

She had no relatives of her own,

[14:11] Kondo

and she was divorced
just before this business.

[14:15] Kondo

There was nothing else to be done.

[14:17] Nio

Wh-Why tell me that now?

[14:19] Kondo

Continue.

[14:22] Kondo

Weak.

[14:27] Kondo

I cut down Yotaro-dono.

[14:30] Kondo

I killed him.

[14:34] Kondo

I never could have stopped him
without killing him.

[14:38] Kondo

Serizawa-san slew Naozumi.

[14:40] Nio

Please stop.

[14:42] Kondo

Their bodies will be
disposed of as criminals.

[14:46] Nio

Please just stop.

[14:49] Kondo

The Kyohachi house and dojo both lie in ruins.

[14:53] Kondo

The line will be abolished,
including cadet branches.

[14:56] Nio

Please stop it!

[15:06] Nio

I know.

[15:08] Nio

I know all of that.

[15:12] Nio

It's because I fell short.

[15:18] Nio

Because I didn't notice back then.

[15:21] Nio

Because I failed.

[15:24] Nio

Because I was weak.

[15:31] Nio

It's all...

[15:35] Nio

my fault.

[15:42] Kondo

Giving birth always comes
with the risk of death.

[15:45] Kondo

The newborn has been left
with trustworthy people.

[15:50] Kondo

Now you know what happened.

[15:54] Okita

Do you think he can handle it?

[15:56] Sakura

Maybe he should be less blunt.

[15:58] Hijikata

No, this is for the best.

[16:00] Hijikata

He can't move forward
until he accepts reality.

[16:08] Sakura

Nio-kun!

[16:13] Sakura

He's burning up.

[16:15] Todo; Taro

What?

[16:16] Sakura

Why didn't anyone notice?

[16:18] Sakura

You idiots worked him too hard!

[16:20] Kondo

Awkward.

[16:33] Taro

Hajime, what should we do?

[16:35] Hajime

He's just exhausted.
Sleep will fix his body.

[16:39] Taro

J-Just his body?

[16:41] Taro

What else should we be worried about?

[16:44] Taro

Hey, where are you going?

[16:46] Hajime

I have business.

[16:46] Taro

What? Our buddy's in pain here.

[16:49] Taro

Have a heart!

[16:52] Taro

Man, Nio...

[16:56] Granny

Is that so?

[16:58] Granny

Thanks for letting me know about Nio.

[17:01] Hajime

So what did you want with me?

[17:04] Granny

I want you to meet somebody, Hajime.

[17:07] Hajime

Huh?

[17:09] Iroha

Granny! Long time no see!

[17:13] Granny

Look at you, dressed up all fancy.

[17:15] Hajime

Wh-Who's this?

[17:17] Iroha

You must be Hajime-chan.

[17:19] Hajime

Hajime... "chan"?

[17:23] Iroha

I'm Iroha. Nice to meet you.

[17:25] Hajime

And she is?

[17:27] Granny

Nio's sister.

[17:28] Hajime

His sister? The one that noble family took in?

[17:35] Iroha

I know all about you and
the Miburo from Granny's letters.

[17:41] Iroha

I want to ask you for a favor.

[17:44] Hajime

Yeah? What favor? You'd better not
ask me to play games with you.

[17:49] Hajime

Anyway, it's not safe for a kid
to go out alone at night.

[17:54] Iroha

He's just like the letters said.

[17:56] Granny

Isn't he just?

[17:57] Hajime

Hey! What did you say about me?

[17:59] Iroha

I'm not alone, of course.

[18:02] Hajime

Huh?

[18:09] Anegakoji

Behold. My ball never falls.

Such is my mastery of kemari.

[18:16] Hajime

Wh-Who's this guy?

[18:18] Iroha

Hajime-chan.

[18:19] Iroha

This is the great and noble Anegakoji-sama.

[18:26] Hajime

Never heard of him.

[18:27] Iroha

Even the patriotic loyalists of Satsuma
revere him as a leader.

[18:33] Iroha

A trailblazer at 23 years of age,
he leads the anti-foreigner faction at court.

[18:38] Iroha

You stand before Anegakoji Kintomo-sama!

[18:44] Anegakoji

Am I truly so impressive?

[18:47] Anegakoji

You may fawn over me with reverence.

[18:50] Hajime

Oh, okay. I get it.

[18:53] Hajime

Now, do you mind if I sock this guy?

[18:56] Iroha

What for?!

[18:57] Iroha

Listen, I'd like you to guard
Anegakoji-sama for me.

[19:04] Anegakoji

I shall permit you to guard
my person. Rejoice, Hajime.

[19:09] Iroha

Only for three days, though.

[19:11] Iroha

And not all day. Just from
his house to the Imperial Palace.

[19:16] Hajime

A guy like him must have
lackeys and bodyguards.

[19:19] Iroha

Well, you see, they went to
an oyster festival and all took ill.

[19:24] Anegakoji

And yet I was spared,
for I am among the elect.

[19:28] Iroha

I wanted to ask Nio, too,
but it sounds like he has bigger problems.

[19:34] Iroha

Hijikata-san and Okita-san would stand out,

[19:37] Iroha

and asking the Miburo
would make things complicated.

[19:41] Hajime

"Complicated"? Why?

[19:44] Hajime

Anyway, who's after this big shot? And why?

[19:56] Hajime

Fine. Don't tell me if you don't want to.

[19:59] Hajime

So I just need to keep you
safe for three days?

[20:01] Anegakoji

You'll do it, then?

[20:04] Hajime

Yeah. I haven't got much choice.

[20:07] Hajime

None of us do.

[20:09] Anegakoji

"Us"?

[20:13] Iroha

Thanks, Hajime-chan!

[20:15] Hajime

Stop.

[20:16] Granny

Hajime-chan!

[20:18] Hajime

Stay back, old hag!

SIGN m 0 0 | 100 0 100 100 0 100

SIGN The Palace

[20:25] Hajime

You don't have far to go, right?

[20:27] Anegakoji

Merely to His Majesty's council

at the palace and back.

[20:31] Anegakoji

You cannot have entered the grounds before.
I'm impressed it doesn't show.

[20:37] Hajime

Gawking would make people suspicious.

[20:43] Hajime

A diary?

[20:45] Iroha

Keeping daily records is one of
a noble's most important duties.

[20:50] Iroha

It comes in handy the next time
they do something.

[20:54] Iroha

They link past, present, and future.

[20:57] Iroha

That's how they preserve traditions.

[21:00] Hajime

I don't really get it,
but it sounds like work.

[21:04] Hajime

Anyway...

[21:05] Hajime

Aren't you going to ask me about Nio?

[21:08] Iroha

Huh?

[21:09] Hajime

You must know some of what happened.

[21:13] Hajime

You're his sister, right? Isn't worrying over
every little thing what families do?

[21:21] Iroha

You don't pick up on much,
do you, Hajime-chan?

[21:25] Hajime

What's that supposed to mean?

[21:29] Iroha

Because we're family, I know.

[21:38] Iroha

My brother must be...

SIGN Ties

SIGN Next time

[23:22] Old Nagakura

The flow of the times grows fiercer.

[23:25] Old Nagakura

Its chaos gains speed, and the Miburo

hurtle toward a turning point.

[23:31] Old Nagakura

As new leaves sprout,
young wolves overcome sorrow and pain,

[23:40] Old Nagakura

striving to discover their own truths.

[23:44] Old Nagakura

Next time: "The Blue Oath."

SIGN The Blue Oath

[23:47] Old Nagakura

It won't disappoint.

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