

E18 - The Plum Blossoms Still Smell the Same

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

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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.)

[00:00] [POEM] Reader

during my forlorn years in this world

SIGN Saitama Hundred Poets Tournament

[00:09] Taichi

We appreciate all your help, Mrs. Oe.

[00:13] Mom

Please! Call me Rieko!

[00:16] Nishida

Kana-chan, do we really have to wear hakama for every tournament?

[00:20] Kanade

Of course!

[00:22] Kanade

It's a Mizusawa High School Karuta Club tradition.

[00:24] Nishida

What?

SIGN In that case,

[00:27] ---

I should probably learn how to put one on by myself.

[00:32] Both

Desktomu-kun!

[00:33] Kanade

Oe Traditional Clothing

[00:34] ---

offers lessons for wearing hakama!

[00:36] Mom

Oe Traditional Clothing offers a new line

[00:39] ---

of cotton hakama for competitive karuta!

SIGN Er, u-uh...

[00:47] Chihaya

*This will be my first official
match after making Class A*

[00:50] ---

that isn't limited to high schoolers.

[00:54] Taichi

First, you need to win!

[00:55] Taichi

After that, your goal is to win the
whole thing so you can advance in rank!

[00:58] Taichi

Let's get serious!

[00:59] Nishida

Yeah!

SIGN Mashima, you're fired up.

[01:03] Kanade

So am I.

[01:04] Nishida

Me too!

[01:09] Kanade

Are you nervous, Chihaya-chan?

[01:11] Kanade

Shouldn't you be used to
playing in tournaments?

[01:13] Chihaya

K-Kana-chan, I feel like

[01:15] ---

a rookie out of high school in
his first major league game!

[01:18] Kanade

Huh?

[01:24] Chihaya

*Class A is completely different
from the lower classes.*

[01:29] Chihaya

This is what I've always wanted:

[01:33] Chihaya

to play in a Class A tournament.

SIGN Chihaya Furu

SIGN Verse 18

SIGN The

Plum

Blossoms

Still

Smell

the

Same

[02:57] Chihaya

My first Class A match...

[03:00] (Flashback) Harada

Chihaya-chan, stop taking
cards with your speed.

[03:05] Chihaya

This will lead me to the Queen...

[03:09] Chihaya

but I need to win my first match.

[03:10] Sakura

Oh, that's a pretty hakama.

[03:12] Chihaya

Huh?

[03:13] Sakura

I love how colorful your hakama is.

[03:16] Chihaya

Thank you very much...

[03:19] Sakura

If I were a little younger,

[03:22] ---

I would love to wear a colorful hakama.

[03:25] Chihaya

Y-You look adorable!

[03:27] Sakura

I know.

[03:29] Chihaya

She knows. Oh...

[03:32] [POEM] Reader

Naniwa Bay, now the flower
blooms, but for winter

[03:36] Chihaya

My opponent in the first round.

[03:38] Chihaya

Kanai Sakura-san.

[03:41] Chihaya

*I can't let my nerves
get the better of me.*

[03:41] [POEM] Reader

Here comes spring,
now the flower blooms

[03:43] Chihaya

Stay calm.

[03:47] Chihaya

Today, my goal is to not move too fast

[03:51] ---

and not make faults.

[03:52] [POEM] Reader

Here comes spring,
now the flower blooms

[03:54] Chihaya

*Play a balanced style
that allows me to take*

[03:57] ---

*cards from both sides
of the opponent's field.*

[04:01] [POEM] Reader

When I must hide these burning feelings,

[04:09] Chihaya

I screwed up! I totally screwed up!

[04:11] Sakura

Wow, you're so fast.

[04:14] Sakura

Young people have such
excellent reflexes.

[04:17] Sakura

I can't keep up.

[04:24] [POEM] Reader

I feel as though my body is
on fire with Ibuki mugwort

[04:33] [POEM] Reader

Though my hatred...

[04:34] Chihaya

Ah! That's the wrong card! A fault!

[04:37] Sakura

Wow,

[04:39] ---

you really have fast reflexes.

[04:42] Sakura

People with fast reflexes tend to mix up

[04:46] ---

similar-sounding first syllables.

[04:48] Sakura

Lucky me.

[04:51] Chihaya

I see.

[04:52] ---

She's right.

[04:54] Chihaya

*Fast reflexes and sharp ears
can be powerful tools,*

[04:58] Chihaya

but they can also cause mistakes.

[05:01] (Flashback) Harada

Stop concentrating on speed.

[05:04] Chihaya

That's why Dr. Harada told me to stop.

[05:07] [POEM] Reader

While it pains me...

[05:08] Sakura

Lucky me!

[05:09] [POEM] Reader

The tail feathers of...

[05:10] Sakura

Lucky me!

[05:12] [POEM] Reader

I wish I could show...

[05:13] Sakura

Lucky me!

[05:14] Sakura

You let me take another card.

SIGN and I have yet to visit Amanohashidate or read my mother's letters

[05:20] Chihaya

I'm having trouble attacking her...

[05:22] Chihaya

Why?

[05:26] Sakura

Lucky me!

[05:28] Sakura

I get to play a girl who only has speed.

[05:31] Chihaya

Why did she have to say that?

[05:34] Chihaya

My goal today was to not move too fast.

[05:36] [POEM] Reader

have been soaked red with tears of blood

[05:45] [POEM] Reader

Would this old palace courtyard...

[05:47] Chihaya

A dead card!

[05:53] [POEM] Reader

be as dear now, those
were the good old days

[06:02] [POEM] Reader

Since I could not hide my love,

[06:03] Chihaya

Dead card!

[06:08] [POEM] Reader

Impassioned vows exchanged...

[06:10] Chihaya

Again?

[06:11] [POEM] Reader

Look for the sound...

[06:11] Chihaya

Another dead card!

[06:13] [POEM] Reader

I know that my heart...

[06:17] Chihaya

Five dead cards in a row.

[06:19] [POEM] Reader

and by no fault of mine

[06:28] [POEM] Reader

Nobody wishes to see the
beautiful cherry blossoms

[06:34] Chihaya

The next card has to be one in play.

[06:39] Chihaya

The next card...

[06:42] Chihaya

The next card...

[06:43] Chihaya

I really want to move!

[06:43] [POEM] Reader

covered by the smoky mountain fog

[06:53] [POEM] Reader

So the flower has wilted during

[06:55] Chihaya

Seven dead cards in a row!

[06:55] ---

the long spring rains, just
as my beauty has faded

[06:57] Chihaya

A fault...

[06:59] Sakura

You couldn't hold yourself back, huh?

[07:01] Sakura

Lucky me.

[07:02] Sakura

Then I'll send you

SIGN the red that is the Tatsuta River

[07:05] Sakura

this card.

[07:09] Chihaya

She sent me the "Impassionate gods" card...

[07:17] Chihaya

I can do this!

[07:18] Chihaya

I'm gonna take the next card.

[07:19] [POEM] Reader

While it brings me no joy...

[07:21] Chihaya

Take the next card!

[07:22] Chihaya

Take the next card!

[07:29] Sakura

I'm in luck again.

[07:35] Chihaya

*I should have been able
to take that card.*

[07:37] Chihaya

If I'd been ready to move back from

[07:39] ---

"While it may" to "While it brings"...

[07:41] Chihaya

I have faster reflexes!

[07:45] Chihaya

Stay calm...

[07:47] Chihaya

This may be my first Class A match,

[07:49] Chihaya

but I can't lose!

[07:53] Chihaya

*If I'm not the strongest
female Class A player,*

[07:55] ---

I don't even get to challenge the Queen!

[08:00] Chihaya

*If I lose here, I can never
take on Shinobu-chan!*

[08:05] Sakura

This is no fun.

[08:07] Chihaya

Huh?

[08:08] Sakura

Ayase-san, it feels like you're
only playing against the cards.

SIGN it is as though pearls have been strung across the autumn plain

[08:17] Chihaya

She sent me "Since the," which is a

[08:19] ---

one-syllable card now because

[08:20] ---

"Since I could" not hide has been read.

[08:22] Chihaya

*I was hoping to take
that card from her...*

[08:26] Chihaya

She's so hard to play against...

[08:30] Chihaya

*She's making it hard for
me to play against her?*

[08:33] Chihaya

Right, she also sent "Impassionate."

[08:36] Chihaya

*The opponent's right side
doesn't have many cards left.*

[08:43] Chihaya

*Her cards are positioned
to prevent me from*

[08:44] ---

using my speed effectively.

[08:46] (Flashback) Sakura

Wow, you really have fast reflexes.

[08:48] (Flashback) Sakura

*Ayase-san, it feels like you're
only playing against the cards.*

[08:53] Chihaya

She addresses me by name

[08:55] ---

and watches how I play.

SIGN Vs. Ayase

Ayase

Komano

1) The "Impassionate" card in my right middle row is taken by Ayase.
She sends "The sound of people" from her right lower row to my right lower row.

2) I take "In order to" from her right middle row.
"In order for" is on my side and Ayase was focused on taking that card from me.
I send "I feel as" from my right middle side to her right middle side.

[08:59] (Flashback) Tsutomu

*But you have trouble with
three-syllable cards,*

[09:01] (Flashback) Tsutomu

so I would place those cards in

[09:03] (Flashback) ---

region B and constantly attack them.

[09:07] (Flashback) Tsutomu

I'm sure you'll come up against people

[09:09] (Flashback) ---

who use these strategies.

[09:14] Chihaya

Excuse me.

[09:19] Chihaya

I have a habit of going for every card

[09:21] ---

as though it were a one-syllable card.

[09:24] Chihaya

That's why I end up using too much force.

[09:28] Chihaya

*In that case, I should
move back my start line.*

[09:32] Chihaya

Just a little bit.

[09:41] Chihaya

Find the position that

[09:42] ---

lets me take the lead at the goal line!

[09:48] Sakura

Oh, she moved back?

[09:49] Sakura

*She was on the edge of
the boundary before.*

[09:53] Sakura

Ten centimeters?

[09:54] Sakura

No, she moved back fifteen centimeters.

[09:58] Sakura

Can she still reach the cards?

[10:01] Sakura

*She must have a plan.
I love it!*

[10:04] Sakura

Youth is a wonderful thing!

[10:08] [POEM] Reader

*Said night was young when
the false rooster's crow*

[10:11] Chihaya

Whoa! A dead card!

[10:14] Chihaya

That was close.

[10:16] Chihaya

*But I can reach the farthest
row on both sides.*

[10:19] Sakura

Her arm is so long.

[10:20] Sakura

*She can easily reach
any spot on the field.*

[10:23] Sakura

If she finds her rhythm...

[10:27] Sakura

I'm moving a card.

[10:28] Chihaya

Huh?

[10:32] Chihaya

She moved "Said bed" as soon

[10:34] ---

as it became a one-syllable card!

[10:35] Sakura

Keep worrying your pretty little head.

[10:39] Sakura

So innocent and cute!

[10:41] [POEM] Reader

I feel as though I am...

[10:42] Sakura

Lucky me.

[10:44] [POEM] Reader

The emotions experienced...

[10:46] Sakura

I have to take the cards
that are there for me.

[10:50] Chihaya

The cards that are there for her?

[10:52] Chihaya

Is this all part of her plan?!

SIGN She finally noticed...

[10:59] Chihaya

Her karuta has something that mine lacks.

[11:03] Chihaya

I need to watch her play.

[11:05] Chihaya

*Figure out what Sakura-san
has that I don't.*

[11:09] Chihaya

The way she's been watching me play.

[11:17] [POEM] Reader

banish any lingering memories of the past

[11:26] [POEM] Reader

My fear is not of...

[11:33] Sakura

Oh.

[11:35] Sakura

We used the same three-syllable
timing to take the card,

[11:40] Sakura

But since we touched it at the same time,

[11:42] Sakura

it's mine.

[11:47] Chihaya

Three-syllable timing...

[11:50] Chihaya

Timing...

[11:52] Chihaya

Timing!

[11:54] Chihaya

There's another way to play karuta!

[11:57] Chihaya

A way that doesn't rely on speed!

[12:00] Chihaya

The way Sakura-san plays!

[12:07] [POEM] Reader

In order for us to find our way home,

[12:14] Both

Thank you very much.

[12:19] Chihaya

I lost by six cards...

[12:26] Chihaya

Kanai Sakura-san!

[12:30] Chihaya

Oh!

[12:33] Sakura

Yes?

[12:34] Chihaya

Th-They're adorable!

[12:35] Sakura

I know.

[12:36] Chihaya

So she knows. Oh...

[12:41] Chihaya

Thank you very much for your help today!

[12:46] Chihaya

I'll do my best to become a player
that doesn't rely on speed!

[12:49] Chihaya

I want to become Queen!

[12:53] Sakura

Oh, dear. So do I.

[12:56] Chihaya

Huh?

[12:58] Sakura

Does it sound strange coming from

[12:59] ---

an old lady who's been
playing karuta for 35 years?

[13:01] Chihaya

35 years?!

[13:03] Sakura

20 years ago, I was much cuter

[13:06] ---

and considered a karuta idol like you.

SIGN Not a karuta idol

SIGN Not a karuta idol

[13:11] Sakura

I've never won any major tournaments,

[13:14] ---

and no matter how hard I try,

[13:16] ---

I keep losing to younger players.

[13:20] Sakura

But I love karuta.

[13:25] Sakura

I still dream about becoming Queen.

[13:29] Tsubaki

What? Then I also want to become Queen!

[13:32] Kaede

Me too!

[13:34] Sakura

Oh? That makes us rivals then.

[13:37] Sakura

I'll see you at the East qualifier.

[13:47] Chihaya

*And so, I had just lost
my first Class A match,*

[13:53] Chihaya

yet I had no idea that I was

[13:55] ---

*about to experience the
worst moment of my life.*

[14:02] Chihaya

*The Class B final is
between Taichi and Porky!*

[14:07] Chihaya

The Class D final is between

[14:08] ---

Desktomu-kun and Kana-chan!

[14:11] Chihaya

*The other four members of
the Mizusawa karuta club*

[14:14] ---

*trumped their captain
by reaching the finals!*

[14:16] Chihaya

Wh-Who do I...

[14:17] ---

Which match do I watch?!

[14:19] Chihaya

Who do I root for?!

[14:20] Chihaya

What should I do as their captain?!

[14:24] Chihaya

Retro-kun!

[14:25] Chihaya

Y-You were in this tournament.

[14:27] Chihaya

How did you do?

[14:28] Hiro

I didn't do anything!

[14:31] Hiro

I ran into Mashima in the first round

[14:33] ---

and lost by three cards...

[14:35] Hiro

I had all the momentum!

[14:37] Hiro

*This is what it means to win
the battle, but lose the war!*

[14:41] Chihaya

What about the other Hokuo members?

[14:43] Hiro

*Amakasu-senpai and the
others already left.*

[14:46] Amakasu

I lost, so I'm leaving.

[14:49] Hiro

*I'm going to take whatever
I can from the winners!*

[15:00] Nishida

Next month is the East Master qualifier.

[15:04] Nishida

*This may be my last chance
to advance in rank.*

[15:06] Nishida

I have to win here!

[15:10] Nishida

*I bet that's what Mashima's
thinking right now.*

[15:13] Nishida

I'm not too interested

in the Master final,

[15:16] Nishida

but I can't let Mashima beat me!

[15:22] Tsutomu

I admire Kana-chan.

[15:26] Tsutomu

*Her elegant playing
style, her tenacity...*

[15:30] Tsutomu

and she has the stats to show for it.

[15:33] Tsutomu

She averages 0.6 faults a match.

[15:35] Tsutomu

*During practice, she comes
back to win 74% of the time.*

[15:38] Tsutomu

Due to her size,

[15:40] ---

she rarely goes on the attack.

[15:43] Tsutomu

*Her personality makes her
more defense-minded.*

[15:46] Tsutomu

Gulp.

[15:48] Tsutomu

I know Kana-chan!

[15:50] Tsutomu

I can beat her!

[15:51] [POEM] Reader

*Naniwa Bay, now the flower
blooms, but for winter*

[15:59] Chihaya

Everybody's playing against

[16:00] ---

*each other for a chance
to advance in rank.*

[16:01] [POEM] Reader

*Here comes spring,
now the flower blooms*

[16:02] Chihaya

This will never happen again.

[16:05] Chihaya

I have to serve as their witness!

[16:12] [POEM] Reader

*Here comes spring,
now the flower blooms*

[16:20] [POEM] Reader

The emotions experienced...

[16:22] Chihaya

Huh? What?

[16:23] [POEM] Reader

My life means nothing...

[16:25] Chihaya

What? What?!

[16:26] Chihaya

This is impossible!

[16:27] Chihaya

I have no idea what's
going on in either match!

[16:29] Chihaya

Who got that card?!
Who got it?!

[16:31] Hiro

Can you calm down?

[16:33] Chihaya

I want to watch them play!

[16:37] Chihaya

Huh? Kana-chan...

[16:40] Chihaya

*She isn't sitting back the
way she does in practice.*

[16:43] Chihaya

Has her exercise paid off?

[16:44] [POEM] Reader

I will not cast myself into Naniwa Bay,

[16:45] Chihaya

But she just started...

[16:48] Chihaya

Is it because of the hakama?!

[16:48] [POEM] ---

but I will risk my life to see you again

[16:53] [POEM] Reader

As my love first came to realization,

[17:09] Kanade

Excuse me.

[17:16] Chihaya

Oh!

[17:18] Chihaya

Now that I think about it,

[17:20] ---

this is the first time

I've watched Kana-chan

[17:22] ---

play in a hakama.

[17:23] Mom

When wearing a kimono,

[17:26] ---

you must maintain proper posture

[17:27] ---

and suck your stomach in,

[17:29] Mom

*as though you have a board
running down your spine.*

[17:33] Kanade

My obi helps to support me.

[17:37] [POEM] Reader

*All alone, I step outside
my house seeking comfort,*

[17:40] Kanade

It helps to strengthen my center!

[17:52] Person A

How lovely.

[17:53] Person B

Kimonos are so beautiful.

[17:55] Person C

She's so pretty.

[17:56] Mom

Chihaya-chan is very beautiful,

[17:59] Mom

*but she's beautiful no
matter what she wears.*

[18:01] Mom

Kanade isn't necessarily beautiful,

[18:04] ---

but she knows how to use a kimono.

[18:07] Mom

*She is the true poster girl
for Oe Traditional Clothing!*

[18:11] Tsutomu

*Kana-chan attacks better when
she's wearing a hakama.*

[18:14] Tsutomu

*She can play 100% when
she's wearing a hakama.*

[18:17] Tsutomu

I practice with her every day,

[18:20] Tsutomu

and I can still learn new things

[18:21] ---

about her in a real match.

[18:23] Tsutomu

Still, the normal Kana-chan is there.

[18:28] Tsutomu

*There is one card that I can
always take against Kana-chan.*

[18:32] [POEM] Reader

While it brings me no joy...

[18:38] Tsutomu

It's quite simple.

[18:39] Tsutomu

Ayase cares about the "Impassionate" card,

[18:42] Tsutomu

and similarly, Kana-chan believes that the

[18:43] ---

"While it brings" card belongs to her,

[18:45] [POEM] Reader

*and I have yet to visit Amanohashidate
or read my mother's letters*

[18:45] Tsutomu

because her name is Oe.

[18:48] Tsutomu

Plus...

[18:50] Tsutomu

Whenever "While it brings" is read,

[18:52] ---

her attention is drawn to "The storm will."

[18:54] [POEM] Reader

The autumn paddy shacks...

[18:57] Tsutomu

*Which delays her response
to the other cards.*

[19:01] Tsutomu

*Because Lady Izumi Shikibu
and Koshikibu no Naishi*

SIGN Daughter

SIGN Koshikibu no Naishi

*While it brings me no joy, the
road beyond Mount Oe is too long
and I have yet to visit Amanohashidate
or read my mother's letters*

SIGN Mother

SIGN Lady Izumi Shikibu

*The storm will soon carry
me to the afterlife,
so I wish for a memory
of you to take with me*

[19:03] ---

were mother and daughter.

[19:05] Chihaya

Desktomu-kun is really calm.

[19:07] Chihaya

He understands Kana-chan's karuta.

[19:10] Tsutomu

*Kana-chan doesn't
recognize cards just by syllables*

[19:13] ---

the way other players do.

SIGN Ariwara no Narihira

Impassionate gods have never seen
the red that is the Tatsuta River

SIGN Brothers

SIGN Ariwara no Yukihiro

Note that though we may
be apart, if I am to hear
that you pine for me as the Inaba
mountain pines, I shall return to you

[19:17] Tsutomu

When Ariwara no Narihira's card is read,

[19:19] ---

she looks for his brother, Yukihiro.

SIGN Lady Sei Shonagon

Said night was young when
the false rooster's crow
but the gates of Afusaka remained shut

SIGN Father and Daughter

[19:21] Tsutomu

When Lady Sei Shonagon is read,

SIGN Kiyohara no Motosuke

Impassioned vows exchanged
over many a tear shed to last
until the day waves crash
over Mount Suenomatsu

SIGN Rivals

[19:23] ---

she looks for Kiyohara no Motosuke,

SIGN Lady Murasaki Shikibu

Long last we meet, only for
me to leave hurriedly,

for I could not recognize you, like
the moon hidden behind the clouds

SIGN as well as Lady Murasaki Shibu.

[19:27] Tsutomu

Kana-chan values the meaning

[19:28] ---

and history behind every card,

[19:31] Tsutomu

*but the syllables are what
matter in competitive karuta.*

[19:35] [POEM] Reader

As I wait for someone...

[19:38] Tsutomu

I screwed up!

[19:39] Tsutomu

A fault!

[19:40] Tsutomu

*I have trouble differentiating
between "As I" and "As this".*

[19:43] Tsutomu

My focus is on the syllables,

[19:45] ---

but my hearing isn't as good as Ayase's!

[19:47] Chihaya

*Desktomu-kun reacted as
soon as "As" was read.*

[19:53] Chihaya

Which card will Kana-chan send?

[19:59] Chihaya

Huh?

SIGN I can look up and see the
snowy cap of Mt. Fuji

[20:01] (Flashback) Chihaya

Kana-chan, why is "No matter" always

[20:04] (Flashback) ---

the first "No" card you send?

[20:06] (Flashback) Chihaya

I would send "Note that" first,

[20:09] (Flashback) Chihaya

since it sounds different
from the others.

[20:11] (Flashback) Kanade

My hearing isn't as good as yours,

[20:14] (Flashback) Kanade

so "Nobody", "No more", "No matter",

[20:16] (Flashback) ---

"Note that", "None are," and "Nothing"

[20:18] (Flashback) ---

are all difficult for me.

[20:20] (Flashback) Kanade

But the bigger something is,
the easier it is to notice.

[20:26] [POEM] Chihaya

*No matter where I stand
on the shores of Tago,*

[20:31] [POEM] Chihaya

*I can look up and see the
snowy cap of Mt. Fuji*

[20:35] Chihaya

She's drawn to the image

[20:38] ---

of Mt. Fuji!

[20:39] [POEM] Reader

*No matter where I stand
on the shores of Tago,*

[20:46] Chihaya

I didn't hear a thing.

[20:49] Chihaya

Her motion was flawless.

[20:52] Chihaya

Straight as an arrow...

[20:56] Chihaya

I'm not here to cheer them on.

[20:58] Chihaya

I'm not here as their captain.

[21:01] Chihaya

*I'm going to take whatever
I can from them!*

[21:14] Chihaya

*Meanwhile, there was another
intense match going on,*

[21:18] Chihaya

but only Retro-kun was watching!

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