

# E9 - Lady Raven

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(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.)

**SIGN** YATAGARASU

**SIGN** The Raven

Does Not

Choose

Its Master

**[01:59] Hamayu**

Shiratama.

**[02:01] Hamayu**

You should never have come here.

**[02:07] Hamayu**

Not if you were in love with another man.

**SIGN** 10 Years Ago

Mansion of the Northern House

**[02:36] Shiratama**

How do you do, Grandfather, Grandmother?

**[02:40] Oryo**

Thank you for coming such a long way.

**[02:43] Genya**

What a sweet child.

And clever, too, Mutsu-no-Hana.

**[02:48] Mutsu-no-Hana**

You're too kind.

**SIGN** Shiratama's mother

Mutsu-no-Hana

**[02:52] Genya**

Shiratama, this will be  
your home from now on.

**[02:56] Genya**

You'll be a daughter to Oryo and myself.

**[03:07] Oryo**

Study hard now.

**[03:10] Oryo**

As third daughter of the North,

**[03:13] Oryo**

you'll ascend to the palace

and marry the kin'u.

**[03:16] Genya**

Now, now. Shiratama's only four.

**[03:22] Shiratama**

Father. Mother. I'll do my very best.

**[03:28] Genya**

Oh! Well said! Well said!

**[03:58] Shiratama**

You must be the one who leaves me  
flowers every morning.

**[04:12] Shiratama**

Would you tell me the name?

**[04:16] Kazumi**

K-Kazumi.

**[04:20] Shiratama**

Kazumi. It has a nice, sweet fragrance.

**[04:22] Kazumi**

Oh, uh... The flowers  
are called wintersweet.

**[04:27] Kazumi**

I'm sorry it's only a small cutting.

**[04:29] Shiratama**

No, this is enough.

**[04:33] Shiratama**

So you're Kazumi.

**[04:35] Shiratama**

It's nice to meet you.

**[04:40] Kazumi**

I happened to find it  
while I was out picking herbs.

**[04:44] Kazumi**

I stumbled into a clearing  
in a deep mountain valley

**[04:48] Kazumi**

full of blooming flowers that birds and  
the wind and such had carried there.

**[04:55] Kazumi**

The morning light turns  
the whole field a brilliant gold.

**[05:00] Kazumi**

Words don't do it justice.

**[05:11] Shiratama**

I'd like to see your garden.

**[05:15] Shiratama**

But I can't. I could never go that far away.

**[05:19] Kazumi**

I'll bring it to you someday. I promise.

**[05:27] Cha-no-Hana**

In Cherry Blossom Palace,  
you must always be mindful

**[05:31] Cha-no-Hana**

to comport yourself  
like a true Northern lady.

**[05:34] Cha-no-Hana**

Ascending to the palace means...

**[05:38] Cha-no-Hana**

You must not meet with gardeners.

**[05:43] Cha-no-Hana**

The moment you were chosen for the rite,  
you became the Prince's woman.

**[05:48] Shiratama**

I know that. But Kazumi is—

**[05:50] Cha-no-Hana**

The Northern House dreams  
of an imperial marriage.

**[05:53] Cha-no-Hana**

You no longer belong to yourself alone.

**[06:17] Kazumi**

Shiratama. Run away with me.

**[06:23] Kazumi**

We won't have much,  
but I'll make you happy. I promise.

**[06:32] Shiratama**

Thank you.

**[06:34] Shiratama**

But fleeing with you  
could never make me happy.

**[06:41] Kazumi**

I knew you'd say that.

**[06:44] Kazumi**

Even so, my feelings won't change.

**[06:48] Kazumi**

I'd give my life for your smile.

**[06:52] Kazumi**

No matter what happens.

**[07:09] Cha-no-Hana**

My lady. A letter from  
an agent in imperial service.

**[07:17] Cha-no-Hana**

Every house has skeletons in their closets.  
Just look at the South.

**SIGN** Kazumi

**[07:26] Shiratama**

Kazumi?

**[07:34] Hamayu**

A deal?

**[07:36] Shiratama**

I want you and the Southern House  
to give up on marrying the Prince.

**[07:39] Shiratama**

Or lose everything and leave the palace  
when your secret is exposed.

**[07:49] Shiratama**

If you should marry  
the Prince in spite of me,

**[07:52] Shiratama**

I swear I will ruin you.

**[08:25] Kazumi**

Did my letters prove useful to you?

**[08:30] Shiratama**

Kazumi? What are you doing here?

**[08:37] Kazumi**

Shiratama.

**[08:38] Shiratama**

Don't come near me!

**[08:39] Shiratama**

I've done so many awful things.

**[08:43] Shiratama**

Things I can't even tell you.

**[08:46] Shiratama**

The...

**[08:49] Shiratama**

The Shiratama you loved is gone!

**[08:56] Kazumi**

My feelings won't change.

**[08:59] Kazumi**

You still mean everything to me.

**[09:07] Shiratama**

I'm the Prince's woman.

**[09:10] Kazumi**

Come to the stable by the stage  
at the next new moon. I'll be waiting.

**[09:25] Shiratama**

I won't go.

**[09:28] Kazumi**

I'll wait as long as it takes.

**[09:31] Kazumi**

Until you come.

**[09:49] Shiratama**

Yes, of course...

**[09:51] Shiratama**

That wasn't Kazumi.

**[09:54] Shiratama**

Kazumi always watches over me.

**[09:59] Shiratama**

He said his feelings would never change.

**[10:02] Shiratama**

Even now, he must still be...

**[10:07] Hamayu**

Shiratama...

**[10:09] Shiratama**

Don't touch me!

**[10:21] Shiratama**

I'll become consort.

**[10:25] Shiratama**

You gave me your word.

**[10:28] Shiratama**

You'll withdraw and make way for me.

**[10:33] Shiratama**

Now that the North and the South stand united,  
neither the East nor the West can threaten us.

**[10:39] Shiratama**

Isn't that right, Lady Hamayu?

**[10:44] Hamayu**

Shiratama, the Southern House won't budge.

**[10:48] Hamayu**

I didn't promise a thing.

**[10:51] Hamayu**

I haven't told the South anything, either.

**[10:55] Asebi**

Then, when she said the North  
and the South had joined forces...

**[10:59] Hamayu**

I don't know what you heard,

**[11:02] Hamayu**

but the South would never content  
itself with another house's scraps.

**[11:09] Shiratama**

You'd betray me, Hamayu?

**[11:13] Hamayu**

Anyone who gets fooled here  
only has herself to blame.

**[11:16] Hamayu**

You did plenty of bluffing yourself.

**[11:18] Hamayu**

You have no right to blame me.

**[11:37] Toru**

Do you require an opponent, Sister?

**[11:42] Empress**

Toru.

**[11:50] Empress**

You must have business  
of your own to see to.

**[11:53] Toru**

I came at your call.

**[11:59] Toru**

What's this about an uproar  
in Cherry Blossom Palace?

**[12:02] Empress**

An intruder, I hear.

**[12:04] Toru**

Oh?

**[12:05] Empress**

Before that, a lady-in-waiting  
fell to her death.

**[12:08] Empress**

What are those fools in the  
Wisteria Guard playing at?

**[12:13] Empress**

The Prince shows no inclination to visit.

**[12:17] Empress**

The stage is set,  
yet Lady Raven still awaits her cue.

**[12:32] Shiratama**

You guessed wrong on one count.

**[12:35] Shiratama**

I told you I knew your secret.

**[12:39] Shiratama**

That was no bluff.

**[12:43] Shiratama**

This woman is no court raven.

**[12:46] Shiratama**

She's a hill raven.

**[12:48] Shiratama**

Maybe even a horse.

**[12:52] Masuho**

Impossible. Hill ravens and horses are  
forbidden from taking part in the rite.

**[12:56] Shiratama**

But what if she came from highborn stock?

**[13:00] Shiratama**

In the upheaval ten years ago, a nobleman  
and his wife committed a grave crime,

**[13:07] Shiratama**

and received a sentence of decapitation.

**[13:11] Shiratama**

And that couple had a daughter.

**[13:17] Shiratama**

Yes, this woman, Hamayu...

**[13:21] Shiratama**

is the child of criminals.

**[13:24] Asebi**

Lady Hamayu was born to criminals?

**[13:27] Masuho**

Shiratama, baseless slander won't—

**[13:29] Hamayu**

If you know that much,  
I might as well come clean.

**[13:32] Hamayu**

I'll finish the story myself.

**[13:35] Hamayu**

But where should I start?

**[13:38] Hamayu**

I assume you've heard about  
the Prince and Fujinami's mother?

**[13:43] Masuho**

Lady Izayoi. She was my aunt.

**[13:46] Hamayu**

Oh, so she was.

**[13:48] Hamayu**

Well, the one who killed Lady Izayoi  
was my father, the then Lord of the South.

**[13:56] Masuho**

Pardon?

**[13:59] Hamayu**

My parents murdered the Prince  
and Fujinami's mother.

**[14:06] Hamayu**

My uncle, who is now Lord Toru,  
put a swift end to the affair.

**[14:13] Hamayu**

He seized them before the Royal House  
could act and beheaded them the same day.

**[14:21] Hamayu**

As their daughter, I was stripped of  
my rank and sentenced to disarticulation.

**[14:28] Asebi**

Disarticulation?

**[14:30] Hamayu**

Cutting off my third leg  
so that I could never revert to human form,

**[14:34] Hamayu**

then working me as a horse till I die.

**[14:39] Hamayu**

Though in the end, they let me off  
because I was still a child.

**[14:44] Hamayu**

I lived as a hill raven after that,  
practically crawling around in the dirt.

**[14:53] Empress**

The Rite of Ascension is like a play.

**[14:58] Empress**

Actors burdened with roles cross the box  
called Cherry Blossom Palace.

**[15:05] Empress**

But none of them realize it.

**[15:08] Empress**

They do not know they are in a box,  
nor that they are merely game pieces.

**[15:13] Empress**

How I pity those women.

**[15:17] Toru**

That may not hold true for all of them.

**[15:21] Toru**

You know how tenacious women can be.

**[15:25] Toru**

Some may only pretend to be pieces,  
waiting for their chance to escape the box.

**[15:33] Hamayu**

My luck changed eight years ago.

**[15:36] Hamayu**

I met my uncle again.  
He'd become head of our house.

**[15:41] Hamayu**

I more than half expected him  
to kill me, but I made him an offer.

**[15:47] Hamayu**

If he would restore my status,  
I'd do anything the Southern House wanted.

**[15:54] Hamayu**

And so, I reemerged as a lady of the South,  
in exchange for accepting a crucial mission.

**[16:02] Asebi**

What mission?

**[16:06] Hamayu**

Assassinating the Prince.

**[16:09] Shiratama**

N-No.

**[16:12] Hamayu**

I guess you didn't discover that part.

**[16:14] Hamayu**

Well, the Prince probably did,

**[16:18] Hamayu**

considering how much  
he avoids this place.

**[16:21] Hamayu**

My other role was as a substitute.

**[16:24] Hamayu**

If the Prince dies,  
Lord Natsuka will return as crown prince.

**[16:29] Hamayu**

The South wanted to save  
their prized daughter for that day.

**[16:35] Hamayu**

Between the Empress, Lord Natsuka,  
and any child his bride bears him,

**[16:40] Hamayu**

the Southern House would dominate  
three generations of kin'u.

**[16:45] Hamayu**

That's long enough to get  
an iron grip on power.

**[16:49] Hamayu**

The Southern House will have  
Yamauchi under their thumb.

**[16:53] Masuho**

That's the Southern House's true scheme?

**[17:00] Hamayu**

Whoops. I went and told you the whole plot.

**[17:03] Hamayu**

Still, I can't believe the Southern House.

**[17:06] Hamayu**

They want to make me kill the son  
of the woman my parents murdered.

**[17:13] Masuho**

If you know all that, then why...

**[17:17] Hamayu**

There you have it, Shiratama.

**[17:20] Hamayu**

I acted all haughty and told you to leave,  
but I'm the one who needs to go.

**[17:26] Hamayu**

Sorry.

**[17:31] Masuho**

Where will you go?

**[17:36] Hamayu**

I'll run, of course.

**[17:38] Hamayu**

I failed my mission and talked too much.

**[17:43] Hamayu**

If they catch me this time,  
I'm dead for sure.

**[17:46] Hamayu**

Tell Takimoto to search my chambers later.

**[17:50] Hamayu**

She'll find what I swiped while you were  
busy sipping tea and ogling flowers.

**[17:56] Shiratama**

You don't mean...

**[17:57] Hamayu**

Listen up, all of you.

**[17:59] Hamayu**

I'll tell you one last thing.

**[18:02] Hamayu**

Cherry Blossom Palace  
isn't the whole world,

**[18:05] Hamayu**

and being with the man you love  
isn't the only way a woman can be happy.

**[18:10] Hamayu**

Don't get that mixed up and  
miss your own shot at happiness.

**[18:15] Hamayu**

See you around.

**[18:17] Masuho**

Hamayu!

**[18:31] Shoin**

I bring a report.

**[18:35] Empress**

Hmph. So a piece has escaped the box.

**[18:39] Empress**

Shoin.

**[18:40] Shoin**

Majesty.

**[18:41] Empress**

Summon that man.

**[18:43] Shoin**

At once.

**[18:58] Yukiya**

I finally caught up with you!

**[19:00] Yukiya**

You've got to hear this  
right away, Young Master!

**[19:02] Nazukihiko**

Not "Young Master."

**[19:04] Nazukihiko**

I'm Sumimaru, a manservant from the Center.

**[19:07] Yukiya**

Oh, of course, Sumimaru, sir.

**[19:09] Yukiya**

But we've got bigger problems right now!

Cherry Blossom Palace is a mess!

**[19:13] Yukiya**

Intruders, escapees, and—

**[19:15] Nazukihiko**

Calm down and explain.

**[19:16] Yukiya**

Before that...

**[19:18] Yukiya**

Do you mind if I eat something?

**[19:22] Yukiya**

I guess nothing's ever simple  
in Cherry Blossom Palace.

**[19:31] Yukiya**

Sumio went to ask  
about all these incidents,

**[19:35] Yukiya**

but the intruder in the Autumn Hall  
died in bird form, so he's hard to identify.

**[19:42] Yukiya**

And we still don't know who the comb  
on the dead lady-in-waiting belonged to.

**[19:48] Yukiya**

Takimoto won't say much,  
and neither will anyone else.

**[19:54] Yukiya**

Sumio was at his wit's end.

**[20:01] Yukiya**

Oh, but we did find out one thing.

**[20:03] Yukiya**

Lady Hamayu was plotting  
to kill His Highness.

**[20:07] (Flashback) Nazukihiko**

An assassin after my life  
lurks in the Cherry Blossom Palace.

**[20:11] (Flashback) Nazukihiko**

I received a warning letter  
just before the rite began.

**[20:14] (Flashback) Yukiya**

Who sent it?

**[20:15] (Flashback) Nazukihiko**

Who knows?

**[20:16] Yukiya**

All His Highness's letters to the ladies  
turned up in the Summer Hall.

**[20:21] Yukiya**

She must have hoped  
to discover where he'd be.

**[20:28] Yukiya**

Well, anyway, that's one  
less thing to worry about.

**[20:34] Yukiya**

That was delicious.

**[20:36] Nazukihiko**

So, are you convinced?

**[20:40] Yukiya**

Well...

**[20:42] Yukiya**

I'm honestly not sure.

**[20:45] Yukiya**

She confessed, but something  
still doesn't sit right.

**[20:49] Yukiya**

Lady Hamayu did save me one time.

**[20:52] Yukiya**

And who sent that warning letter, anyway?

**[20:57] Yukiya**

Still, we're at our limit.

**[20:59] Yukiya**

We can't handle what's happening  
in Cherry Blossom Palace on our own.

**[21:03] Nazukihiko**

There must be clues, however minor.

**[21:07] Nazukihiko**

Think.

**[21:08] Nazukihiko**

Dredge up all your memories  
and put your wits to work.

**[21:15] Yukiya**

Something tells me Lady Hamayu  
is still hiding something.

**[21:19] Yukiya**

And why would she confess?

**[21:21] Yukiya**

She must've known it would get her killed.

**[21:25] Yukiya**

Lady Hamayu's not the assassin!

**[21:27] Yukiya**

Maybe she's after something else.

**[21:30] Yukiya**

But then, why would she...

**[21:34] Nazukihiko**

You picked a decent starting point.

**[21:37] Nazukihiko**

Also, you shouldn't take  
what Takimoto says at face value.

**[21:41] Nazukihiko**

She's an imperial lady-in-waiting.

**[21:43] Nazukihiko**

Her only concerns are protecting the Royal  
House and ensuring the rite goes smoothly.

**[21:50] Nazukihiko**

She has tried to bar the  
Yamauchi Guard at every point.

**[21:53] Nazukihiko**

She could easily have fabricated  
her reports to suit her own ends.

**[21:59] Yukiya**

Ugh! Cherry Blossom Palace is just—

**[22:04] Nazukihiko**

We're returning to the Center.

**[22:06] Yukiya**

Did something click for you?

**[22:09] Nazukihiko**

I'm going to find out.

**[22:15] Nazukihiko**

Yukiya!

**[22:20] Nazukihiko**

I'll need you to work even harder  
than before. We're going to be busy.

**[22:29] Yukiya**

Yes, sir!

**[22:43] Hill Raven Child**

That's the place.

**[22:57] Sumio**

It's still breathing.

**[24:30] Narrator**

*Hamayu revealed herself and vanished,  
but the schemes have not stopped.*

**[24:38] Narrator**

*On a stormy night, danger befalls  
the prince in a house redolent of blood.*

**[24:46] Narrator**

*How will Yukiya respond?*

**[24:50] Narrator**

*Next time: "Assassinating the Prince."*

**SIGN** Assassinating

**SIGN** the Prince

**SIGN** YATAGARASU:

The Raven

Does Not

Choose

Its Master

**SIGN** Illustration: Natsuki

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