

URUSEI YATSURA DISC 19, EPISODES 71 - 74

Episode 71, Story 94: "Shinobu's Cinderella Story"

Inspector Torii and his coat: The inspector is based upon a character from "Taiyou ni Hoero," a classic 70's TV show about a police department in Tokyo. This character was almost always seen wearing a long coat, Columbo-style, hence the inseparable association (and the "Damn, it's hot!" joke - because he so rarely took it off).

Episode 72, Story 95: "Lum: Rebel Without A Clue"

Utagoe Cafe: Before karaoke machines were invented and spread locust-like across the Land of the Rising Sun, those who wished to down a few belts and belt out a few tunes went to "Utagoe" sing-along bars, where they could sing, accompanied by live musicians.

"Watching movies is bad enough."

The joke here is that Ryuunosuke's father, who has been teaching (and forcing) her to be a male, has also been instilling many bizarre (and almost always wrong) ideas into her head. For example, in one instance, young Ryuunosuke was shown a Matsutake Mushroom (an expensive delicacy), but told by her father that it was an "evil mushroom." He told her to duck and look away while he chased it off; this was his excuse to enjoy it all by himself, of course. Ryuunosuke finally gets to taste Matsutake at Tomobiki High, in an act of rebellion against her father's teachings.

"A... A...An Electronic Acceleration Device!"

A reference to the classic manga and TV anime series, "Cyborg 009." The device allowed teleportation.

"Let us get rid of our old clothes and head for that mountain together!"

This phrase (and the song that accompanies it) is based on an old, classic movie series called "Aoi Sanmyaku," which portrayed the lives of youths and their struggles before getting married.

"Who the hell gave me the geese?!"

This sequence starts out with Unbaba calling the Tomobiki students "'fraidycat losers" or more literally "goosebumped losers." A pun is completed when geese come flying out, bumping into Unbaba.

Episode 73, Story 96: "The Ultimate Match: Sakura vs. Cherry!"

"The gods will be upset if you waste your food!"

The idea behind this old saying is that one should respect the food and its makers; wasting food is thus an act of disrespect.

The Goldfish Man: Like ice cream trucks, goldfish dealers roam about the town streets in the summertime selling the bagged pets. They are not as common today as they were decades ago. Other seasonal pet dealers of this sort sell fireflies and crickets.

Temples: Before their spirits were called upon, Cherry and Sakura recite names of temples (which also include shrines and cemeteries). They are among the oldest in a region that is collectively known as Musashino, which now covers pretty much the entire Tokyo area.

Nakano. Kouenji. Asagaya. Ogikubo. Nishiogi. Kichijouji. Mitaka. Musashi-sakai. Higashi-koganei. Musashi-koganei. Kokubunji. Nishi-kokubunji. Kunitachi. Tachikawa. Hino. Toyoda. Hachioji.

Or Maybe Train Stations: The names that Cherry and Sakura intone also happen to be the names of stations on one of the more heavily traveled JR mass transit commuter lines.

Tentoji-Udon is Tempura Udon, consisting of thick buckwheat noodles with Egg-Batter-Fried goodies in an Eggdrop-in-broth soup.

Episode 74, Story 97: "The Old Man of The Willow Tree"

This episode is based on a chapter from the UY manga, "Ryouseiou no Kyoufu" (The Terror of The Old Willow Tree Fairy).

Willow trees have long been a favorite subject in ghost stories. Many classic tales associate these trees with ghosts and other creatures.

Ataru's graffiti on the willow tree: The image is an octopus face, and captioned "idiot/jerk." Mendou keeps octopi as pets; they are in fact emblazoned on his family crest. In the comic version, the familiar "Waaan, semaiyo! Kuraiyo! Kowaiyo!" (Arrrgh! It's cramped! It's dark! I'm scared!) is also captioned in large letters surrounding the face of the octopus.

Waidan vs. Kaidan: "Waidan" are stories that are sensational in nature, e.g. "smut." "Kaidan" are "ghost," "boogeyman," and other frightening stories. The closest we could come in English is "gross" and "ghost" stories.

Tomobiki High's 7 Legends: As Ataru mentions, legends like these do indeed exist in virtually every school. Many times they are used by upperclassmen to frighten younger students. Several of the seven legends have been mentioned before in the series.

The Solingen Knife: Solingen is a city in Germany that is famous for producing cutlery of high quality (and price).

"After being moused around... it was only a cat!"

Onsen-Mark actually says "Taizan meidou shite neko ippiki." This line is based on a proverb, "taizan meidou shite nezumi ippiki," which literally means, "after all the commotion, only a

mouse," somewhat similar to an English expression, "much ado about nothing." Here, Onsen improvised a pun by substituting "neko" (cat) for "nezumi" (mouse).

Tsukune University's Professor Kusaya: The jokes here are: "Kusaya" sounds like "Kusaiya," which means "it stinks." Tsukune-Age and Tsukune-Yaki are ground fish meat, which are mixed with other ingredients (such as egg) before made into little balls. These are then fried (-Age) or baked (-Yaki). They look like, well, little turds, though we are told they taste much better than they look!

"The Holy Wine, with which to bless the sword"

In the days of samurai, the warriors used to spit out wine to cleanse and to bless their swords.

"A drop of wine... is like a sacred grain of rice... One must not commit such a sin."

It is said that a grain of rice takes an entire year to grow, and thus the wasting of rice is a sinful act. Rice is also the key component in Sake (rice wine), hence the equation.

Personal-belongings inspections: It may seem awfully strange, but many grade and high schools hold these inspections regularly, the idea being that no "illicit" items be brought to school. Other common regulations and restrictions include dress and personal appearance codes.