

## MACROSS DISC 9, EPISODES 33 – 36

### Episode 33 - "Rainy Night" (2011)

Kawamori Shoji says a retrospective on Fokker and Claudia's past was always planned -- even before the series was extended. He felt their relationship foreshadowed Hikaru and Misa's own.

### Episode 34 - "Private Time (2011)

The name of the puppy Misa sees is "Shane."

Kawamori Shoji notes that Hikaru is taking his relationship with Misa for granted, even as Misa's patience and understanding is tested. Kaifun also walks away since he feels held back by his brotherly figure role for Minmay.

### Episode 35 - "Romanesque" (December 25, 2011)

Onogi City is a not-so-subtle nod to Oonogi Hiroshi, one of the scriptwriters for the later part of the series. Oonogi, who was school buddies with Kawamori and Mikimoto from junior high through college, came aboard the project after the sponsors extended the series to 36 episodes.

In the toy stand run by the former Zentraedi spies, look for toys of Kaitei Gunkan/Atragon, Minky Momo, Godzilla, Ironman No. 28/Gigantor, and Mighty Atom/Astroboy (whose 1980s remake was directed by Macross chief director Ishiguro Noboru). Hiding off to the side of the stand is a nod to Tamiya, a famous Japanese plastic model outfit.

This episode demonstrates how Christmas is celebrated differently in Japan than in some other countries. Naturally, stores eagerly take advantage of the secular commercialism that the holiday now embodies for non-Christians. Still, celebrations are limited mostly to gift-giving for children and workmates. In fact, Christmas is not a Japanese work holiday, with it being sandwiched between the current emperor's birthday and the all-important New Year's break.

However, a recent Japanese trend (spurred by commercialism naturally) does dictate that people celebrate Christmas Eve with dinner and a Christmas cake -- \*especially\* for young couples. Arguably, Christmas Eve now holds the same significance among Japanese lovebirds that Valentine's Day or New Year's Eve holds among North Americans.

According Kawamori Shoji, Minmay goes to Hikaru since she's afraid of being alone. Unfortunately for her, Hikaru is still struggling with his own life. Meanwhile, the creator set up Kamjin for the series finale.

### Episode 36 - "Fly High" ["Yasashisa Sayonara"] (January 2012)

The creators deliberately decided not show the title of this episode onscreen. The Japanese title is a reference to the Minmay song used to close the episode and the series. The English title "Fly High" is not a direct translation of the original Japanese title, which literally means "Tenderness, Farewell."

Originally, the creators wanted to end the series with the launch of the SDF-2 and the newly-wed Ichijo Misa in her new captain's uniform. Mechanical designer Miyatake Kazutaka and character designer Mikimoto Haruhiko even drew new designs appropriate for the occasion. Unfortunately, the sequence was never animated. The creators finally got the chance to redesign and animate the SDF-2 Megaroad launch (along with the Minmay Sayonara Concert that was planned but cancelled for the Do You Remember Love? movie ending) four years later. The conclusion of Hikaru, Misa, and Minmay's story appears in the 1987 music video The Super Dimension Fortress Macross: Flash Back 2012.

Kawamori Shoji says Hikaru finally makes his long-awaited choice -- between Misa and her colonization mission, or Minmay and a life away from the military. Even though Minmay has matured much in the past two years, Hikaru chooses Misa because he is no longer ruled by "fleeting emotions." Still, to Kawamori, the three characters represent equally important aspects of the new human race. "Minmay is 'the side of humanity which creates culture' while [Hikaru] and Misa are 'the side of humanity which protects culture.'"