

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST DISC 4, EPISODES 13-16

File 13 - Big Trouble at the Little Onsen

An “onsen ryokan” (bath house) is a hotel with hot springs baths, usually both indoor and outdoor. They typically provide breakfast and a lavish dinner with many courses, and most of the rooms are Japanese-style tatami mat rooms. They are quite diverse in size, ranging from small hotels to larger ones with over a hundred rooms. They will often have a large party room with a karaoke machine, like the one in this episode. They are a great place for a large company trip!

Traditionally, New Year's and Obon (around August 15) are the only two extended holidays in Japan. In the old days, even Saturday and Sunday were workdays in Japan, so these were the only two times of the year that people had the opportunity to go back to their hometown and get together with their family. Typically, the two vacations last for one week. For New Year's, businesses will be closed from late December until early January.

Since businesses (and therefore, restaurants) are closed during this time, people will prepare special dishes called “Osechi Ryoori,” enough to last for an entire week. This way, wives can have their days off, too. On the night of December 31st, it is tradition to have Soba Noodles, which folklore says will extend your life.

New Year's Eve is also the time to visit shrines to pray for good luck in the new year.

Karaoke (Kara = empty, oke = orchestra) originated in Japan. It is often used in both private and corporate parties. People either go to karaoke bars, karaoke trailer houses, or use karaoke equipment at home.

The sake hangover that the Chief has the morning after the party is probably worse than a beer or wine hangover. The alcohol percentage of sake is around 10-20%.

File 14 - “Manju Terror! Natsumi's Edo Escapade”

It is customary to bring “omiyage” (gifts brought home after a trip) back when you visit somewhere in Japan, and most sightseeing spots have specialty foods and sweets. Those that do not have them will make ones for commercial purchase. Interestingly, when you return to Tokyo (or other major cities) by train, you can find omiyage in the train station from all the places the trains travel, in case you forgot the souvenirs while you were there.

The sweets that Yoriko had were “Manju,” which are pastries with sweet bean paste in them. Hot springs typically have manju. Natsumi is obviously crazy about them!

Edo is the old name for the city of Tokyo and also the period between 1603-1867 A.D.

Edo was established by Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu as the capital of Japan. This was the first time Edo had been designated as the capital; former capitals included Kyoto, Kamakura, and Nara. The Tokugawa Shogunate government was the third, and final, shogunate government in Japan's history. There were fifteen Shoguns during the Edo period; subsequently, in the Meiji Restoration, the Emperor became the official head of government. Edo was renamed Tokyo, but remained the nation's capital.

Maho thanks Ken for giving her a stuffed bear doll. Stuffed bear dolls were not called teddy bears until around 1905. "Teddy" is a reference to President Theodore Roosevelt.

When Natsumi is finally confronted about her manju-stealing by Miyuki and the others, she claps her hands together and says, "Hitorijime" ("I guess I've been caught red-handed"). Literally translated, this means that Natsumi has "taken it all on herself," which she did with the sweets. "Hitorijime" is also a parody of "iponjime," the act of clapping one's hands together at the end of the party.

Natsumi doesn't want the gang to get upset when she eats the manju, remarking, "Don't get steamed about the manju!" Manju are, of course, steamed.

Song: "O' My Cherry Blossom"
An only woman officer, that's what I am...
...in this rosy City of Edo.
Hate the crime, not the criminal...
I look at the sky, there goes another day.
Sometimes you can't show your tears...

O' my cherry blossom...
O' my cherry blossom...
...cries on my back!

File 15 - "Up Against Chie Sagami-Ono... Again!"

"Ooka Echizen" is one of the most popular (and longest running) samurai television series in Japan, and there are many references to it throughout "You're Under Arrest." Echizen is a judge for the Tokugawa Shogunate government. However, despite his position, he had a cherry blossom tattoo. Until recently, the only Japanese who sported tattoos were the Yakuza and other criminal lowlives. Echizen regularly disguised himself as an ordinary citizen to investigate cases, using his tattoo to infiltrate criminal organizations and obtain evidence. Later, in court, the bad guys would act innocent, but, in a popularly routine scene, he would reveal his tattoo and confront them with their crimes. The bad guys, with their true nature revealed, would confess and be found guilty.

The whole point of the show was to repeat this routine, but the audience felt happy seeing the bad guys tricked and punished by the judge. People like Natsumi love "Ooka Echizen!"

Sabu calls Kaz “Aniki,” which is a term of respect meaning “brother.” Kaz and Sabu are probably not brothers by blood, but Kaz serves as a surrogate brother to the younger Sabu. Guys tend to use this term to denote respect and/or hope that someone will take care of them.

College in Japan is financially comparable to college in America. The actual costs vary by the school. Private colleges are around \$10k-15k a year, while public ones are around \$2k a year (although this price is currently on the rise). Medical schools are much more costly - sometimes in the six digits to graduate!

File 16 - “Nakajima’s Double?”

Arranged marriages still occur in Japan, but they are in decline. A more common practice is an “omiai,” a more practical way to meet someone of the opposite sex. Typically, related middle-aged women (neighborhood ladies or aunts, etc.) introduce eligible candidates to each other. They will carry around pictures and a resume, listing important information such as employer’s name, income, family background, hobbies, religion, and expectation of the family (how many children wanted, where they want to live, responsibility for parental care, etc.) Since they are introduced by people that they know, they are not strangers. Best of all, an omiai is only for people who are certain they are ready to be married.

Those who are introduced have the option to either meet or not meet and the option of whether they want to start dating or not. Omiai are far more reliable than computer match-making, want ads, etc. because they have a go-between who knows both parties and their family.

The cops at Bokuto have several theories as to the connection between the rider of the Black Ducati and Nakajima. Specifically, there’s a split on the rider being a Nakajima clone versus a Nakajima robot. We support the theory that it is a robotic clone.