

Umineko no Naku Koro ni Episode 1

Theories, Predictions and Reactions Introduction

This is a completely blind play/readthrough of the version using PS3 sprites and voices. I only know a few details about this VN going into it:

- Murder mystery that takes place on an island
- Family that owns a mansion on the island is involved
- Takes place in the 80s'
- 8 episodes, 4 per VN

I'm unsure about this, but I think that there's fantasy/supernatural aspects as well. This might be me confusing this VN with details from a certain other VN, but there may be time-loops of some kind involved.

Umineko Episode List

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[Theories on Umineko Episode 1-4 Link](#)

I encourage those who are interested to comment if they want, as long as it doesn't spoil future events or mysteries. For example you could comment on scenes and/or characters and what you think/feel about them. You could also comment on what I think about the VN whether it be one of my reactions or predictions/theories. However, try not to give any hints to whether I am right or wrong with my thinking or mislead/misdirect me.

Here we go:

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Episode 1

September 13th 2015

A short opening scene. Two elderly men talking and having a chess game, one of them is dying. He mentioned something about a witch and a contract, as well as having one regret. Then he started crying out for a "Beatrice" and wanting to see her smile, according to him she is invisible but in the room with him. Not much to go on yet, but that intro video just afterwards had some interesting imagery. Hopefully the VN delivers some creepy vibes, I enjoy that kind of atmosphere.

----Break/Play Session----

Got past the first introductions, at the part just after the plane lands at the airport. Battler(strange name indeed) is the protagonist, or at least he is so far. I'd like to say, I'm very grateful that the VN has a family tree that gives the backstory to each character. Makes it a lot easier to keep track of all the characters and their names. As for Battler, he hasn't seen most of the Ushiromiya family in six years, because his father remarried after his mother died which caused him to run away and live with his mother's parents, who both recently died. Weird coincidence that they died around the same time his father's father did.

His father Rudolf is married to Kyrie. According to the family tree, she had a prior work relationship with Rudolf that was ongoing even when his first wife was alive. So that's a bit

suspicious for sure, though I don't know yet how the mother died. I also think that she has a younger daughter, Ange-chan? She's supposedly sick and vomiting, so she's staying with Kyrie's family. Not sure if the child is Rudolf's as well, but it's possible or else why would they have considered bringing her to the meeting, that is if it's Kyrie's daughter to begin with.

This upcoming family conference seems to be about the wealth of Battler's grandfather Kinzo, the elderly man who was dying in the opening scene. Battler made a comment on how he likes European names, which is why the family(by blood) have non-Japanese names. I guess it's important to note that "Beatrice" is a European name as well.

Rudolf's older sister Eva had her husband take on their family name to keep her place in the Ushiromiya family. Clearly it's a very important place, possibly because of the wealth that they all seem interested in. Her husband Hideyoshi is a self-made businessman who owns a restaurant chain. Their son George continues the European naming and is around 23 years old according to Battler. Battler himself is around 18 in that case.

Rudolf's younger sister Rosa doesn't seem to have a husband or man in her life, she's also the youngest sibling. She has an unfavorable financial situation regarding the design company she manages, so I'd think that the family wealth is important to her as well. Her daughter Maria is 9 years old. Again a European name, and I don't think it's just a "tradition", I'm guessing they all chose to name their children with European(unsure if Battler counts) names to please the patriarch Kinzo. Gaining favor would be important to gain more of the wealth.

----Break/Play Session----

That tension between Battler and Jessica... *Les Cousins Dangereux* ;)

----Break/Play Session----

Just arrived at the island, if that clock that appeared in the corner of the screen is accurate, then it's 10:30 AM. Only keeping track in case it matters later on. From what I know about Jessica, she doesn't seem to like her parents much, her father being the oldest sibling. According to the family tree, she also suffers from sudden asthma attacks.

A strange observation they all noticed is the absence of the crag that held a shrine. For some reason it's gone. It must've happened after the previous annual family conference because it was a surprise to Maria, George and Jessica as well as Battler.

Speaking of Maria, she's giving off strange vibes. Even for a 9 year old, she's very childish which in turn makes her a bit creepy at times. Another newly introduced character is Kumasawa, a servant of the family. She's close to eighty years old according to Battler, quite lazy but also very competent

----Break/Play Session----

Now inside the mansion, just as George whispered something to Kumasawa. Going by how they've all been talking, I guess the patriarch isn't dead quite yet like I assumed he was.

Got introduced to two other servants. First up is Gohda, he's been working for the family for two years. According to the family tree, Krauss (oldest sibling) and his wife hired him and trust him more than other servants, as those other servants may be Kinzo's spies.

The other servant is Kanon, who's pretty young. He's worked there for three years, since he was thirteen. He's not very sociable or strong as he's still growing up.

Jessica mentioned another servant named Shannon, a girl according to Battler, which means that she's been a servant longer than Kanon and Gohda. Going by George's behaviour and Jessica's teasing, I think George specifically asked Kumasawa about Shannon. If Shannon is a girl around his age, I can see him possibly having a crush on her, which would explain why he was trying to be inconspicuous.

----Break/Play Session----

September 14th 2015

It's now *12.00 PM* in-game. Jessica's mother, Natsuhi, was introduced. She suffers from headaches, which she claims is a condition she was born with. Eva doesn't seem to like her very much, might be that she considers her a rival due to being married to the oldest sibling, which would make her the matriarch (once Kinzo does die) despite Eva being older

than her. I think that's the issue because Eva doesn't have that kind of vitriol against Rosa or Kyrie, at least she hasn't shown it yet.

Shannon was also introduced, a young servant girl who isn't very liked by Natushi. She also seems to have a close bond with Kanon, as he called her Nee-san. Gohda doesn't like them according to Kumasawa, due to their inexperience despite having worked at the mansion longer than he has. It's clear that Kanon doesn't like him either, referring to him as a coward. I also got a glimpse of Genji, most likely the head servant, who was shown in the opening.

----Break/Play Session----

At the part just before Battler and the cousins are about to enter the dining room. Learned a bit more about Shannon, she has been with the family for 10 years, since she was six. So that means she's about 16 years old. Aside from having a non-Japanese name, it's actually not her real name either. She's not related to Kanon, which I suspected, he only calls her Nee-san because they're close.

Got a more proper introduction to Genji, who is indeed the head servant for the family. According to Battler, he has spent more than half his life at Kinzo's side. This is also why Krauss and Natsuhi are suspicious of him, as he's more likely to be a spy for Kinzo.

Lastly, I was told the story of the witch Beatrice. She supposedly owns most of the Rokkenjima island, since most of it is the forest. Kinzo is the only one who sees her, so he had a giant portrait of her made, so that others could see what he sees. That was 2 years ago, which is also around the time Gohda started working there, if that even matters. Her name is also European, something that makes the idea that she's only a figment of Kinzo's imagination a more believable answer.

----Break/Play Session----

Got introduced to ~~Kenzi~~ Kinzo, and he is quite unstable at all. He also doesn't seem to like his family at all, thinking that they're only after his wealth, he even has an advanced lock to his study.

He thinks that Krauss is bad with money, wasting more than he earns. He thinks that Eva only cares about money, making ~~Kenzi~~ Kinzo into her piggy bank. Rudolf he only sees as a womanizer, and he doesn't like that Rosa had a baby with a nobody.

As for the grandchildren, he sees Jessica as incompetent, George as not a man, Battler as someone ungrateful of the family honor and Maria as someone obscene. So to him nobody is worthy of his wealth, blaming it on "Beatrice's curse".

Genji is the one he relies on the most. He also makes some sort of strange liquor that Kinzo likes. Aside from liking Western culture, he's also into the occult and collects grimoires. He is going to rely on the power of magic to make his life's wish come true, whatever that entails. It sort of sounds like "Beatrice's curse" was set on him in order for him to gain all the fortune and glory he has, but now he's willing to abandon it all just to see her smile. I also got to learn the power ranking within the family. It turns out that the children have a higher rank than the spouses, those without blood relation. In that case I might've been wrong assuming that Eva has it out for Natsuhi due to differences in family standings. Still, Natsuhi does have a lot of responsibility just being Krauss' wife.

----Break/Play Session----

1:30 PM, now got the introduction to Doctor Nanjo and Krauss, the oldest sibling. So the family tree is complete. Krauss is supposedly the most hated by the siblings, as he wants the wealth to himself. It also mentions that the results of his real estate venture have been criticized, probably what Kinzo meant when he said that he wastes more money than he earns.

Nanjo is a long time friend of Kinzo and his personal doctor, he also seems to be well trusted by Kinzo, though clearly not as much as Genji. He and Kinzo play chess together, as seen in the opening.

Also, it is said that Kinzo has been told about his life expectancy of "three months" for a year now. It's not come true yet though.

----Break/Play Session----

Now I'm getting a history lesson on the Ushiromiya family.

So, Kinzo is actually part of the "branch" family. The main family had their mansion flattened and many family members killed by the Great Kanto Earthquake. Kinzo was tasked with reviving the family wealth, and due to good luck seized every opportunity he got and succeeded. I assume that Kinzo considers his good luck to be connected with that Beatrice curse.

----Break/Play Session----

Dayum, the claws are out once the children aren't there. Eva is ruthless with her insults. Still, I can't trust any of these adults as they are all likely to have an agenda of their own, some might just be better at hiding it. Natsuhi seems to play the victim quite a bit, what with her instantly reacting to all the accusations and complaining about her headaches. Thank you Kumasawa, for gossiping into thin air so that I can hear. So it turns out that the reason Eva was able to stay in the family despite marrying Hideyoshi is Natsuhi and Krauss being unable to bear a child. Doesn't quite explain why Eva is the one who mistreats Natsuhi, but it does explain why the relationship is so negative.

Eva and Rudolf seem to be teaming up against Krauss as well, accusing him of embezzlement. That guesthouse was actually supposed to be a resort hotel, which explains that sign Battler saw when they first arrived. Rosa gets dragged into the conflict as well, she doesn't seem to care as much as the others when it comes to the inheritance, but that may just be her hiding her true feelings. After all, according to the family tree she's not doing so hot financially.

Other small details that might be worth bringing up: Concerning Gohda, it turns out he was forced to retire from the hotel he worked at during a big squabble concerning employee politics or something. He was hired around the same time the resort hotel on the island was constructed, which might be important to note since Krauss and Natsuhi are responsible for both these things.

Shannon was told by Kumasawa that the afternoon shifts were changed by Genji, and that she has a break until the evening. In case something happens before then, I guess it'd be good to remember that she was on a break. Now I'm about to see what the cousins were doing while the adults were arguing about money.

----Break/Play Session----

Got to hear about Kinzo's hidden gold, which is his explanation to how he was able to become so wealthy. The Golden Witch Beatrice gave him fortune and glory, in exchange for his soul. She also gave him 10 tons worth of gold bars. Must've been a pain to carry <_<

(Oh, and then George of course thinks logically and suggest that the gold was placed on this island, hence why it was bought by Kinzo.)

What the hell, Maria wants to be a witch when she grows up. Uu-uu-uu, is that her practicing the sound witches make when they're burned at the stake? Should've guessed that the weird kid has weird life goals as well.

----Break/Play Session----

This family consists of some really conniving people. So the three younger siblings are threatening Krauss into paying them a lot of money for gold that may or may not exist. Even the cheery Hideyoshi seemed to have no issues doing this, Rosa is a bit more weary about it though.

I see, so Hideyoshi is having issues with the stockholders of his company. That's why he's so willing to go through with this deal, as it would net him a sizable amount of money to let him buy stocks.

Rudolf is also in need of money, as he's been building a large amount of wealth with a certain type of niche market(Is it selling translated Visual Novels?). Somehow it violates the rights of an American corporate giant, so now he needs money to pick himself up after surrendering a trial.

Rosa as previously mentioned, is also in a bad financial situation. What a nice family this is...

Michael Bluth: *What have we always said is the most important thing?*

George Michael Bluth: *Breakfast*

Michael Bluth: ~~Family~~ Money

----Break/Play Session----

Oh, so Kanon is indeed one of Kinzo's spies. I neglected to previously mention that Kinzo's wife believed that he was cheating on her with a blonde-haired person. Also the president of Maursoo, before he died, supposedly saw the gold that Kinzo owned.

So what Kinzo is doing is that he wants everyone to try to solve the riddle. He believes that by placing a larger bet on low odds, he'll gain more should he win. Winning would strengthen his magic, which would cause a grand miracle or something. That will resurrect Beatrice. So he encourages everyone, even those outside the family, to try and solve the riddle.

Basically he's a nutjob, or magic is indeed real.

----Break/Play Session----

3.00 PM, the cousins are at the beach talking about the epitaph. I wrote it down as well, even though the nifty Tips section has it, may as well include it here too:

**My beloved hometown, the sweetfish river running through it.
You who seek the Golden Land, follow its path downstream and seek the key.**

**If you follow the river downstream, you will find a village.
In the village, look for the shore the two will tell you of.
There sleeps the key to the Golden Land.**

He who lays hand upon the key shall travel under the rules below.

**At the first twilight, you shall lift up as sacrifice the six chosen by the key.
At the second twilight, those who remain shall tear apart the two who are close.
At the third twilight, those who remain shall praise my honorable name on high.
At the fourth twilight, gouge the head and kill.
At the fifth twilight, gouge the chest and kill.
At the sixth twilight, gouge the stomach and kill.
At the seventh twilight, gouge the knee and kill.
At the eighth twilight, gouge the leg and kill.
At the ninth twilight, the witch shall be revived and none shall be left alive.
At the tenth twilight, the journey shall end and you should reach the village of gold.**

The witch will praise the wise, and should bestow four treasures.

**One shall be, all the gold from the Golden Land.
One shall be, the resurrection of the souls of all the dead.
One shall be, even the resurrection of the lost love.
One shall be, to put the witch to sleep for all time.**

Sleep peacefully, my most beloved witch, Beatrice

They already tried figuring it out, but without solid confirmation of Kinzo's hometown, it becomes impossible to solve. They got to the point where they thought "Sogakishi" might

be what the "shore" is referring to in the fourth line, past that there's not enough to continue on.

Shannon also told everyone about the rumors that spread among the servant of old concerning Beatrice. It was believed that there were two Master, one of the Day and one of the Night. Sometimes, lights would turn on and off. Doors, windows and locks would be open even though they should be close. Things would appear/disappear out of nowhere. It's believed that Beatrice turns herself invisible and wanders around the mansion, and that servants can hear her footsteps. Being invisible is inline with what Kinzo said in the opening at least. Speaking badly of her might cause you injury, as it did to one of the servants that quit after falling down the stairs.

Maria has a lot of black magic stuff in her notebook, where she wrote down the epitaph. It might be copied from one of the grimoires Kinzo owns, as that's the most probable source for where she could've found it. She also has weird charms, two of which she handed to Battler and Jessica. At least this kid inherited something from her grandfather, his delusions that is. Or maybe it's actually all real and neither of them are crazy...

Forgive me Beatrice-sama

----Break/Play Session----

September 15th 2015

I agree with Rosa-san, Maria should lay off with the constant "Uu"s or else it'll get ingrained in my head. Except it's not nearly as cute as say "Tuturu", so having it playing in my head would not be good for me.

First mystery of the VN, what happened to the unhealthy rose? Somehow, I feel that even this small detail will have some significance eventually.

Oh damn, she hit Maria. Well, now it's uncomfortable... And she did it again, yikes. Rosa also revealed that Maria is being bullied/made fun of by her classmates, which isn't surprising considering her personality. Physical violence is no way to raise a child though, so Rosa definitely showed an ugly side of herself just now, at least to me.

----Break/Play Session----

Kinzo continues to act like a crazy person, yelling that he is offering the family inheritance first, just before throwing a golden ring of his out the window. The typhoon is coming.

Time is 6.00 PM, Rosa and the cousins were worried about not finding Maria, but she was still out there looking for the rose. She claims that the white umbrella she was carrying was borrowed from Beatrice. She's not exactly the most believable witness, but there's certainly something strange going on.

Found it interesting that Jessica has to take a boat to school everyday, if the weather allows it. Sounds like a pain to me, I would've thought that she was homeschooled instead.

----Break/Play Session----

Alright, the mystery of who gave Maria an umbrella, begins. So it couldn't have been any of the siblings(discounting Rosa) or their spouses(discounting Natsuhi), as they were all together. Presumably, the same applies to the cousins(not counting Maria) as they were together.

That leaves either the servants, the doctor or Kinzo. Why this is important, I don't know but I may as well do this for the sake of it. Shannon and Kumasawa were together, but it might have been a two-man job so they're still suspicious. Gohda was in the kitchen, but since he was alone there's no alibi. Same goes for Natsuhi, who claims that she was resting. Kanon was also alone when he was on his way to the guesthouse. The doctor and Kinzo were playing chess at the time. Don't know what Genji was doing, he denies giving the umbrella though.

Battler asks if it's possible Genji put on a dress to disguise himself as a Beatrice... not a sight I'd like to see. I'd believe it if Kanon was dressed up as Beatrice, he has this sort of feminine vibe to him, might be the voice.

You can tell that there's some tension between Gohda and the other servants, probably because he was hired by Krauss and Natsuhi as a counter to servant that might be Kinzo's spies(like Kanon). Also, it looks like Kanon and Genji believe in what Maria was saying when she said that Beatrice handed her the umbrella. At this point I wouldn't be surprised if Beatrice does actually exist, as to whether she's a witch or not is a different story though.

----Break/Play Session----

Maria suddenly reveals that she has a message from Beatrice, an envelope with a wax seal and an imprint of the family crest. Nanjo notes that the imprint is made with a ring that Kinzo owns, so I'm assuming that it's the same golden ring that Kinzo threw out his window a bit earlier. A bit of an outburst by the siblings though, as they explain that anyone who has ever received a letter by Kinzo could've faked the imprint.

So the letter is from Beatrice, and it roughly details the same thing that Kinzo was talking about earlier about betting his inheritance and such. Beatrice calls herself an alchemist rather than a witch, and she confirms lending Kinzo gold. Now she's there to collect her gold and interest as the contract is about to be terminated. Unless someone else is able to find the gold before that, in which case that person gets everything.

It's now *10.00 PM*, Kinzo and the servants(excluding Gohda, for now) are very aware of what's going with the letter. It's Kinzo versus the rest, as he previously said. Even the servants have a chance to try and find the gold. The roulette comparison by Kinzo has me a bit confused though, because it makes it seem like the whole thing is relying on pure chance rather than skill. Anything Kinzo says leaves me confused at this point, either he's lost his mind or he's a genius speaking in riddles.

----Break/Play Session----

George acting all superior when Battler and Jessica are disgusted by their parents conversation surrounding the inheritance and the gold. He kind of gives off the vibe of "too perfect", where you just expect him to have some major flaw hiding somewhere.

Kyrie brings up the point that maybe Beatrice is one of the 18 people in the island, as opposed to a 19th mystery person. The name Beatrice is definitely a bit odd, as it follows the naming convention(Western names) that Kinzo likes so much. So her being a creation of his could make sense. Still, I'll reserve my thoughts until I know more.

Kyrie is pretty smart. She argues that if Beatrice wanted to make themselves known, why hide? Why use Maria to deliver the letter telling everyone about herself? However, one must keep in mind that this could very well be part of Beatrice's plan. Maybe she wants to create

this doubt within the group, make them suspect each other of being the real Beatrice. After all, it's them versus her.

----Break/Play Session----

Rudolf just tells his wife and son that he'll probably be killed that night. Alrighty then. Turn the chessboard over, she says. How about just asking Rudolf what the hell he means?

Oh snap, there's a gold ingot right there. So Krauss found this gold, which also has the crest imprinted on it. Is that guaranteed proof though that the gold exists though, because I'm not 100% convinced.

----Break/Play Session----

It's *11.00 PM*, at the part where Shannon returns to the mansion. Got to learn quite a bit about her(and Kanon's) backstory. She is from an orphanage called the Fukuin House, owned by Kinzo. Those who graduate from there are able to become servants for the family, which is the case with Shannon and Kanon. Just as with Shannon, Kanon's name is a fake. All servants from the Fukuin House must have the character "on" in their name. Two other servants are Manon and Renon, but they're not at the island at this time.

Also, being from the orphanage doesn't necessarily mean that their parents are dead, the child could just as well have been disowned. This detail might be important, since Kinzo's wife once believed that he was cheating on her with another person. Just throwing a wild and mostly baseless theory, but it's possible that Kinzo had a child outside his marriage, and that child could've ended up in the orphanage as a result.

Shannon's real name is Sayo, and the suspicion that George is infatuated with her is pretty much right. Shannon seems to like him as well, but it's complicated with all the "This is an order" stuff. George even gave her ring, if it's a wedding ring I'd be shocked, it might just be something with a similar meaning. It's a bit weird though, since if I understood it right before, Shannon is 16 and George is 23. Quite the age gap going there. What's next, is Kanon going to make a move on Maria?

Shannon being at the mansion is a bit strange too, considering the schedule/shifts changed and she's supposed to be at the guesthouse. Only Gohda has the night shift at the mansion

while the rest of the servants have to stay at the guesthouse. Well I guess I'll see what she's doing.

----Break/Play Session----

It's 6.00 AM, October 5th. Before that however, Shannon saw what looked like orange butterflies flickering in the hallway of the mansion. It is said that Beatrice takes on this form to fly around the mansion. It was a tiny bit unsettling/creepy, it's night time where I am so I was a bit on edge expecting something to happen.

I got to see the location of everyone except for Natsuhi. Thankfully I had a save shortly before that so that I could get a second look and write it down.

- The siblings and their spouses, excluding Natsuhi, were in the dining area.
- Shannon was in the mansion, in the hallway on what I think is the second floor.
- Gohda was in the mansion's servant room.
- Kanon and Genji were in the guest house's servant room(looks identical)
- Kumasawa was in some room in the mansion, I think. I sort of recognize the lamp.
- Doctor Nanjo was in some dark place, so that's weird.
- George was in the guest house's lounge(?) area
- Battler and Jessica were in one of the guest house's rooms(with Maria most likely asleep)
- Kinzo was in his study

This was around midnight.

So that begs the question, where is Natsuhi? Of course, it's very possible I'll find that out in another 30 seconds as I continue reading.

----Break/Play Session----

Oh shit, they're dead. Krauss, Rudolf, Kyrie, Rosa, Gohda and Shannon? Both Rudolf and Kyrie had their faces completely ruined, that's messed up. Krauss had half his face destroyed. The rest seem to also have been disfigured, this took a really sudden turn for the worst. I knew that a murder would happen eventually, but six at once!?

Although, that's following the epitaph in that case. Six sacrifices

At the first twilight, you shall lift up as sacrifice the six chosen by the key.

It's odd how some of them had their whole faces smashed apart, and others only had half their faces remaining. Also, that was a wedding ring that George had given to Shannon, and it looks like she accepted it. Unless the murderer is so twisted they put the ring there themselves.

According to Nanjo, they've been dead for at least six hours. It's somewhere between 8-9 AM right now I believe, so no later than 3 AM was when they died. Also, it couldn't have been sooner than midnight because most of these people were still together with the living at that time.

Battler should really remember the fact that Rudolf himself warned that this would happen, that he would probably die that same night. He's the only one alive who knows this information, or I think so anyway unless Rudolf told someone else along the way.

Alright, time to gather some of the strange happenings and potential clues. First up is the "magic circle", which to me looks more like a demonic symbol. It's almost certain that the murderer drew it, which also means that the murderer at one point tried to enter Natsuhi's room. Red liquid was staining the doorknob to her room.

The telephone system being broken, maybe it's a coincidence or maybe it was purposefully done by the murderer to hinder communication around the island. The victims were all in the mansion, although in different rooms. Rudolf, Kyrie, Krauss and Rosa were with Eva and Hideyoshi in the dining area. Gohda was alone in the servant room and Shannon was patrolling the halls of the mansion. According to Eva and Hideyoshi, they went to bed earlier than the rest, who were still arguing over things.

It's certainly odd for one person to have killed six people on their own. It's not unlikely that more than one person is involved here. Oh lord, I just went to look at the family tree and the victims all have blood over their faces in their sprites. It also contains some new information which might be helpful though.

Ah, the blood actually tells me exactly how much of each person was disfigured. Shannon had the right part of her face smashed apart, while Krauss had his left part. The rest had their whole face ruined. This probably means something, but I doubt I'll figure it out yet. As for the descriptions, it's mostly trying to encourage me and tell me that they'll be revived again and that I'll see them again. Although it does mention that Gohda was supposed to be

on duty at the guesthouse, which is true until the shifts were changed and he had to be at the mansion

Was it happenchance that Gohda was one of the victims? It almost implies it, but even so I don't really know if I can trust it. Is it possible that Natsuhi was supposed to be a victim as well, considering her doorknob was stained? Well, that depends on whether the murderer drew the red magic circle before or after they committed the murders. Even so, staining the doorknob seems like it was done on purpose, too messy to leave such evidence behind on accident.

Need sleep, almost thankful that there weren't any gory images and just very disturbing descriptions instead. Though seeing the family tree is a bit unsettling at this point.

----Break/Play Session----

September 16th 2015

Blood was found in the dining area as well, which means that the three siblings and Kyrie were probably killed in that same place after Eva and Hideyoshi went to sleep. It is a bit suspicious that Eva is the only sibling still alive, but it'd also be pretty dumb of her to kill her siblings with the whole inheritance fiasco going on. That gives her the most motive.

The emergency radio also not working makes it all the more likely that the murderer was behind breaking the telephone system as well. "It's just the **** chosen by the ****", said Maria. I'm guessing it was her saying that they were the sacrifices chosen by the key. If that's true, then maybe it's possible to figure what the "key" is, what chose these six people to be sacrificed?

They just found out that Kinzo isn't in his study. Him disappearing just after a murder has been discovered is definitely odd, it also makes him a bit suspicious. However, he is an old man so it's a bit hard to imagine him taking out six people on his own. He was last seen in the morning by Natsuhi, and he was acting surprisingly nice, and least going by how Natsuhi felt afterwards. He also has no need to leave his study other than for a walk, as it has everything necessary for him.

I keep thinking that the reason for the smashed faces is to hide the real identities of the victims, and I thought that Kinzo might be one of them. Gohda and Rudolf were the two men who had their whole faces destroyed, Krauss still had half his face. But the fact that Kinzo was seen that same morning by Natsuhi means that it's highly unlikely if not impossible for this to be the case.

----Break/Play Session----

Eva suspects that one of the servants is the culprit. Her reasoning being that only someone experienced and knowledgeable of the servant room would know which key is to the storehouse. She also brings up the point that it's likely more than multiple culprits, since killing and carrying all six would be too much for one person.

Battler thinks that it couldn't be a servant, because then they'd be foolish to hide the bodies in a place that is tied to them. They'd make themselves a prime suspect, making it more likely that they'd be caught. However, that's if you believe that this is a normal murder case. The fact that a red magic circle was drawn over the shutter as well as the connection to the epitaph, the culprit(s) wanted the bodies to be found. Also, a Higurashi reference was thrown in there with his argument.

Alright Maria, don't creep me out like that.

Oh fuck, never mind I spoke a tiny bit too soon, now THAT is creepy. Humans are not supposed to be able to smile that wide. I am really glad I went to sleep yesterday before reaching this part.

According to Maria(or her terrifying split personality), the magic circle has the names of the four angels presiding over the four elements. The corners are the names of the four great kings. It's from the Psalms of the Old Testament, verse 16th and 17th of the 166th Psalm. I myself am not good with religious texts, so I may as well include this in case it matters.

Everyone else is finally starting to consider whether these murders were a sacrifice. It most certainly looks that way to me at this point, but there are several things that I still question. How come Rudolf knew that he would die for example. Also, why smash the faces if not to conceal the real identity of the victims. It's odd that Krauss and Shannon got to keep half their face, and that it's one of each half.

----Break/Play Session----

Maria please. I know I complained about the Uu-uu-uu stuff, but that Maria is a lot less creepy than whatever she is now. She just told Battler that he was born with a mismatched wavelength, which is why he can't see, meet or talk to Beatrice.

The time is around *1.00 PM*, the servants were just talking to Battler about Beatrice, telling him that she exists but has no form. They mentioned the butterflies, and also a servant who had tried to follow them. Doing so will lead you to disaster however, as this servant quit after being greatly injured. I'm assuming that they're talking of the same servant that Shannon spoke of that time in the beach, the one who fell down the stairs.

According to Maria, Beatrice is a thousand year old witch who commands demons, she can also harness the power of alchemy to create the philosopher's stone and gold. She also just said that Battler was born without a sixth sense, so that's probably what she meant about the mismatched wavelength. She and the servants are really playing the paranoia angle on Battler, I love it.

Maria mentions that the charm that she gave to Battler and Jessica is a form of protection. This does kind of fit with why Natsuhi's room couldn't be entered, if we assume that it truly was Beatrice trying to enter. Natsuhi had hung that charm on her side of the door.

I looked at the epitaph just now to see whether I'd understand what the next step is. The next one is about how the remaining people will tear apart the two who are close. My first guess would be that this is referring to Eva and Hideyoshi, but it might be something else that I'm missing. I'm going with that for now though.

----Break/Play Session----

Lots of drama and accusations flying around the room- Eva reveals that she had placed a receipt at the door to Kinzo's study before they found the bodies, and that the receipt was still there when Natsuhi checked the room and was unable to find Kinzo. So she suspects that Natsuhi's first visit in the morning was a lie, that Kinzo was never in his study. How else would he suddenly be gone with the receipt still in its place?

It does make me wonder whether I should be weary of an unreliable narrator. The VN so far has been mostly from Battler's perspective, but there are times when it shows characters that are not in his vicinity. When Natsuhi met with Kinzo in the morning was such a time. Kinzo's behaviour was a little bit strange, even Natsuhi thought that he was acting uncharacteristically.

Battler even suggest Kinzo hiding in his study. It's certainly possible, I'm leaning more on either that or there being a second entrance. Despite what the servants say about there only being one entrance, they're not that trustworthy as they can easily be ordered to do whatever. I imagine that if Kinzo wants them to neglect or support the existence of something, they'd do it.

----Break/Play Session----

Natsuhi had earlier denied the existence of the gold, but she may just be the only one who has seen potential proof that it exists since Krauss showed her that gold ingot the night before.

Battler threw suspicion over Eva's way after she demanded that Natsuhi explain herself and prove that she's not guilty of Kinzo's disappearance. I still think it'd be too risky for Eva and Hideyoshi to be the culprits, they have both a strong motive and they were among the last people seen with the victims while alive. It'd be stupid to commit murder under such circumstances.

Jessica had an asthma attack, I was wondering when that would come into play since I've known about her condition for a long time now due to the family tree. Despite me not thinking that Eva is guilty of the crime, she's been way too antagonistic to Natsuhi. It makes me feel a bit sorry for her.

----Break/Play Session----

7.00 PM. Things are feeling tense after hearing Nanjo's talk with Genji, and his worry reflects mine as well. Since the boat is supposed to arrive tomorrow, no doubt something is going to happen tonight. I'm only one episode in after all, it's impossible for it to end so soon. Genji mentioned Kinzo, he thinks that "everything is as the Master hoped, as he arranged", but he doesn't seem to know any of the details himself.

So Hideyoshi has no close relatives, he lost them in "the war", which is why he was so willing to take on his wife's name. Damn though, the VN is really trying to make me dislike Eva more and more. So she was against George's relationship to Shannon because it would ruin his status. But Jessica is the successor anyway, so why should status even matter. Well, at least it looks like she has some remorse. The relationship between her and Hideyoshi does seem very genuine too, tender and sweet.

Oh, I just remembered. The second twilight is almost definitely concerning Eva and Hideyoshi at this point. Somehow the others are supposed to separate Eva and Hideyoshi, or maybe something else entirely, depends on what it means by "tear apart".

----Break/Play Session----

Kanon is just about to cut the chain to open the door to Eva and Hideyoshi's room. Yet another drawing of blood/red paint, this time on the door to their room. It wasn't there when Genji and Kanon tried to get in, however there was an envelope just like the one from the day before.

Yup, Eva is dead. Knife stuck to her forehead. The characters are dropping like flies at this point. Hideyoshi as well, same method of killing only he was in the shower. I freaking knew something would happen to them, but now the question is how and who did this? If it's the same person that drew on the door, then it couldn't have been Kanon or Kumasawa at least since I was following their perspective as they went to collect cutters.

I didn't even think of George until Natsuhi mentioned him. It must truly suck to be him, first his fiancée is brutally murdered and now both his parents are found dead. All the while the killer is somewhere close to him... unless he is the killer! Can't rule it out just yet, as unlikely as it seems at this point.

"hang in there". You're kidding me, the guy just lost three people he loved in the span of a day. He's allowed to lose his freaking mind over this but despite that, he's not even the craziest person there, at least not while Maria and her creepy smile remains. Battler gets it.

The murderer must've gotten in and out somehow, while leaving the chain set so that nobody else could enter without cutting it. A common possibility with these locked room

murders is that the murderer is still in the room when the people discover the body, only to then casually show up like they were never there. In this case however, I don't think that happened since everyone came in with at least one other person. Kanon and Kumasawa, Genji and Natsuhi, George and his cousins.

Maybe there's another way in/out of the room. I'd be surprised if the mansion doesn't have some hidden entrances. The room is on the second floor if I remember correctly, so going through the window is highly unlikely. Especially with Eva and Hideyoshi inside, the murderer must've caught them off-guard somehow.

There's also Kinzo who still hasn't showed up, and the idea that there is a 19th person on the island. But there's nothing to prove that, not yet anyway. I'm not even sure if the six bodies inside the storehouse are who everyone thinks they are. Destroying their faces just makes it possible to hide the true identity of at least one of them.

----Break/Play Session----

At the part where Kanon has just gone down to the basement/boiler room. Someone is/was down there. There's also a strange smell coming from there. Yo, Kanon is being kind of cool right now. What the hell? Kanon was killed by someone, or something. I heard a girl's laugh, presumably meant to be Beatrice's. Kanon isn't quite dead, but I don't think he'll survive. Battler and Natsuhi ran out to the courtyard to catch the culprit, but of course that person(or whatever) is gone.

I didn't call it out here, but I suspected that the stench was from a burning body. Of course, nothing about it can be identified. So now we have corpses with their faces smashed beyond recognition, and a body that can't be identified in any way. For once, I'm willing to say that the body is not Kinzo's. I'm sure they're trying to fool me into thinking that, but there's so many factors in play that it'd be the most "boring" conclusion. Wait a damn second, six toes. Shit.

So Kinzo had six toes on each foot. I retract my previous statement, now I'm not so willing to dismiss the idea that it is Kinzo. Still, it could be a trick, somehow... Natsuhi says that polydactyly is a common case within the Ushiromiya family. So, unless they're sure that neither Rudolf or Rosa suffered from this, it's still possible that this corpse belongs to one of them. Krauss had only half his face destroyed, so I don't think that there's a case of

mistaken identity there. The corpse also had one of those "demonic" icepick weapons stuck to its forehead.

Even Battler started considering the possibility that one of the first six victims is actually not who they think it is. Maria says that Beatrice will revive very soon, but I do find that odd. Doesn't that imply that she's currently dead? Yet, Maria keeps saying that she's real and that she handed her the envelope. Didn't really pay attention to it until just now, but even Kinzo talked about Beatrice being resurrected way back when and the epitaph mentions it as well. Unless it's referring to her gaining a human form, but I thought she was capable of that already. How exactly did she hand the envelope to Maria.

Oh no, please don't darken Maria's face. It's only *8.00 PM* now, and Kanon did in fact die from his injury. As Battler said previously, the list of suspects is getting smaller. At the same time, it just makes me more suspicious of those who are "dead" rather than those who we know are alive. Maria is creepy as hell, for sure. But she couldn't possibly do all this alone if she is responsible, so either way there's someone else that's a culprit.

----Break/Play Session----

"It's alright, Jessica. You'll be able to meet Kanon again soon."

Is that a fucking threat? If I was there I would've locked Maria up without a doubt, I don't care if she's 9. The girl acts weird and knows way too much stuff. She knows psalms from the Old Testament by heart(or is that in her notebook?), and in Hebrew even. Like, what the hell is up with that?

I wonder though, is Jessica's reaction to Kanon's death just because she was there the moment he died, or a breaking point, or is this a situation similar to George and Shannon.

Maria mentions the Golden Land again, stating that her mother and father are there and that they're nice. I'm just waiting for them to read the envelope so that I can stop reading for today. It's really late already.

Interesting, so Kinzo's key to the study was on the burned body. That is if I can trust what Genji says, which I'm not completely sure of yet. So now they've decided to hole up in the study, as they have the only two keys that can open it. Battler is starting to question his chessboard thinking method, to be honest I was always feeling that it was bit lackluster. So

far, things are too dynamic to see it as a set of rules. Not enough is known to draw definite conclusions about the culprit, too many factors are at play. Anyway, I'll have to stop here and continue tomorrow.

----Break/Play Session----

September 17th 2015

They are just about to enter Kinzo's study. A detail I neglected to mention before is that all of the servants have master keys, meaning that the culprit could've taken it from one of the deceased servants, allowing them access to all the rooms.

Battler mentioned that a strong stench is coming out of Kinzo's study, it's a common smell though it seems, not something out of the ordinary in Kinzo's case. Maria on the other hand noticed the doorknob to the study, it has the same scorpion design as the charms. Just like with Natsuhi being protected by the charm(she also just realized that she may have been a target), this protects Kinzo's study from magic as well. It's the fifth magic circle of Mars according to Maria.

Seems kind of convenient when I think about it, because Battler had previously challenged the claim that Beatrice is an actual witch by saying that she should then be able to get into the study using her magic, as there's no other way to unlock the door from the outside. Now, you can just refute his challenge by blaming the doorknob rather than saying that Beatrice isn't real or a real witch.

Finally, Jessica mentions the letter found outside Eva and Hideyoshi's room.

opens letter

"There is one unpleasant sentence"

Persona 5 delayed until Summer 2016

Damnit

It actually says "Praise my name", which is from the third twilight. Those who remain shall praise her honorable name on high. Natsuhi asks Genji whether Beatrice was Kinzo's "concubine", which according to Google has a similar meaning to "mistress" I suppose. I do remember someone saying that Kinzo's wife had suspected him of adultery. It was probably Jessica who said it, as she's restating it now.

Possibly interesting detail, the mansion was completed back in 1952(Showa 27). Battler suggests the possibility of there being a relative or a hidden child seeking revenge, the hidden child part in particular would work with my idea that the Fukuin House took in an illegitimate child of Kinzo and his potential mistress. Genji confirms that Kinzo loved Beatrice, even more so than his wife.

However, Genji says that she passed away before the mansion was completed. Now, this I can understand the part about "resurrection" and her being revived. This is why Kinzo devoted himself to black magic and such. Kinzo's marriage was arranged, so his wife was chosen due to how she'd benefit the family rather than out of love.

So it's possible all the rumors about Beatrice being a witch and existing without a form, it might've been just to comfort Kinzo. Just like how the servants are ordered to do something, it's possible they were ordered to believe this and spread it around. As I said before, if Kinzo wants them to neglect or support the existence of something, they'd likely do it.

I don't even know how to feel about this. It's quite a heartwarming and tragic tale, but at the same time people are being murdered and it's somehow related to this Beatrice, regardless of whether she was just a former love, a witch or someone/something else entirely.

----Break/Play Session----

Jessica is about to talk about the Fukuin house, something about a rumor. The rumor is about Kinzo taking people from the orphanage and using them as sacrifices for his black magic. Finally, Battler realizes how everything that has happened is connected to the riddle on the epitaph.

I still wonder though what the "key" is that chose the people who would die. It might be connected with Rudolf knowing that he would die. I'm still waiting for Battler to remember that detail. The epitaph says the person who has the "key" shall "travel under the rules" referring to the twilights. Maybe that means that whoever has the "key" is also the one doing all the killings?

Natsuhi brings up a good point regarding the scorpion charm. In the event that there is no witch or magic, how they did know to stop trying to enter Natsuhi's room? The charm was on the other side, so either it is magic that detected it, or the one responsible knew that Natsuhi had the charm. Jessica was the one who handed her the charm, but it's possible someone else knew about it.

Hmm, it seems that they're thinking of the burned body as the fourth twilight and Kanon's death as the fifth. I didn't even think that they had gotten past the third twilight yet, at least not at that point when they found the burned body.

Another envelope is discovered right in the room they're in, but nobody knows who put it there. What's up with this music track though, I heard lyrics like someone was whispering in English, something about someone who "doesn't understand".

Natsuhi is suspecting that it must've been either Kumasawa, Genji, Nanjo or Maria. The other cousins are starting to suspect the servants. Jessica in particular thinks that Kumasawa could've killed Kanon. If I dismiss the possibility of an unreliable narrator, then I know that Kanon and Kumasawa were together when they went to get a cutter. During that time, someone drew the magic "circle" on the door to Eva and Hideyoshi's room. So that couldn't have been Kumasawa. Unless there are multiple culprits, which is still possible.

Suddenly, the icons and menus are red. Something bad is about to happen, I can feel it. Nevermind, I expected the gun to go off but instead they all accepted leaving the study. Battler also gave his charm, that he hadn't actually lost, to Maria. Now that there's four people outside the study, I suspect that the remaining twilights will be fulfilled.

----Break/Play Session----

11:30 PM, it turns out that Jessica did like Kanon. So that explains her strong reaction to his death. There was also a second sheet of paper in the third envelope, another magic circle. I

suspect that since they have power(according to Maria), it's probably a bad thing to keep that in the room. But Battler wants to figure out what it means. The third envelope was just a message warning them that when time runs out, they'll lose. So when the typhoon ends, everyone should already be dead.

Getting some backstory on Maria and Rosa. Maria's father abandoned them, but Rosa tries to conceal that by saying that he's on a foreign business trip. Rosa and Maria's relationship is complicated because Maria is a hindrance to Rosa, it makes her unable to marry someone new so she ends up alone with Maria. Due to feeling neglected, Maria takes on the whole occult hobby as a way to escape. I do wonder if Kinzo is responsible for her becoming interested in the occult of all things.

Battler found a book that can explain what the magic circle on that sheet of paper means. It's the third magic circle of Mars, containing the 13th verse of Psalms 77. Ha, the power was to create internal fighting within a group. Well, it doesn't matter if they keep it or not since it already fulfilled its goal. If this isn't magic, then someone has incredible amounts of foresight and wicked skills in manipulation.

The phone is suddenly working. Sounds like a child singing, possibly Maria? Bad move leaving the study though. George suggests that the "demonic icepicks" had to have been shoot or somehow pounded in, at least to produce the strength necessary to impale them through the forehead of Eva and Hideyoshi. This would also make sense in Kanon's case, because he swung right in front of him but was still impaled by such a small weapon. The culprit couldn't have been close to him, or else they should've gotten hit.

There's blood. Maria...

That slow movement of the camera. Oh no, please. Their faces are disfigured, and they have wounds just like those in the epitaph. I figured Maria would mention the charm as the reason why she was left alive. George just noticed that Natsuhi isn't the room with them.

What? The butterflies are actually transforming into a person. Wait, Natsuhi shot herself? Was it a hallucination, maybe. Natsuhi shooting herself doesn't make sense, I expected her to have one of those icepicks sticking out of her.

Well, it's over. I don't even know what to say about that. So in the end, the cousins all disappeared and the police found Maria's notebook from which they deduced this story? I should probably go back and read that final part. They also found Maria's jaw, which is really strange. I also have a "Tea party" option on the main menu...

Episode 1 Tea Party

Purgatorio? So it's purgatory, which is them breaking the fourth wall. Alright, let's see if I learn something from this. They're trying to convince me that there is a 19th person. Not sure whether I should believe them or not. Now they're trying to convince me that it was a witch.

It does ask some questions that may be of interest though. My main thought is how the sacrifices/victims were chosen. I don't think it was all random chance, mainly because of Rudolf knowing he'd die. Of course, the second twilight was Eva and Hideyoshi, but I do wonder if that could've been interchangeable. Rudolf and Kyrie, Krauss and Natsuhi, George and Shannon, Jessica and Kanon, maybe these "couples" could've been chosen for the second twilight as well.

Alright, now I'm not sure if they're trying to convince me that it was a witch, or if they're trying to be obviously misleading so I don't think it's a witch. Battler has been arguing against the rest for quite a while now, denying the existence of a 19th person and a witch.

Beatrice actually just showed up. Unless it's one of the women in disguise. According to the family tree, in which she now has an entry, she likes black tea and ice cream. Hates boredom and people who deny her existence. Everyone else also has updated entries, I forgot to check them as they were killed. A lot of it is just explaining how they died, but the cousins have references to the Golden Land and how Battler's denial of Beatrice made all the magic disappear.

Beatrice just demonstrated how she could've killed Eva and Hideyoshi through the door. It played that laughing sound that I remember hearing a long time ago(can't remember exactly), not sure if that's important.

Everyone is suddenly dying in front of Battler, what the hell is this? Despite them initially wanting him to believe in the witch, while dying Jessica actually tells him to not believe in

her so that she gets erased. They all die, and it ends. I'm really confused about all of this, but I guess that was the "Golden Land". It still feels like it's separate from the actual episode, with how self-aware it was and the fourth wall breaks. Now I have a ??? option in the main menu, the ride never ends.

Episode 1 ????

Is that Rika from Higurashi? Lady Bernkastel, is Beatrice referring to the Rika look-a-like? The Great Witch, Lady Lambdadelata(really? λΔ) was dethroned by her. Ah, the family tree is completely different in this part. It only shows Beatrice and this Bernkastel. So Bernkastel is the "Witch of the Fragments". Wait, I clicked "Execute" by accident and her portrait turned red. I'm so freaking lost right now. It's cool, I can resurrect her. Phew.

Anyway, in her world concepts like fate and possibility can be visualized. Sure, whatever you say. It also says that she observes the fate of humans, now that's interesting. I wonder if that's her involvement in the actual Episodes. It says that she is "both you and also your closest friend". To me that implies that it's her perspective that I'm following. Sometimes she's Battler, and other times she's one of the other characters when they're not in Battler's close vicinity and I'm still able to see what they're doing.

Executing her changes the description into, something I don't fully understand. If she continues to think, she'll live for all eternity. If she stops thinking, she'll die. If she thinks again, she'll revive. It's almost meta in a sense, as if she's describing the process of running the actual visual novel through an allegory.

Beatrice has the same description as in the Tea Party section. Executing her just changes the text into something that's mocking me for being unable to kill her. Again though, it's meta by telling me that I grasp the method of killing her in my hand. So turning the visual novel off? Maybe it's something else, too ambiguous.

I think Ri... Bernkastel is trying to genuinely help me out. She says that she's not compatible with Beatrice, something about Beatrice being "zero". Anyway, she just said that Beatrice is not necessarily "one individual woman". Instead, her existence is the personification of the rules of that world. Expose the rules and unravel them, that's how you beat her. She mentions a spoon, that reminds me of way back when I think Eva asked for a silver spoon

to detect potential poison in her tea. Not sure if that's what Bernkastel is hinting at though. She calls Beatrice "Beato" for whatever reason

So now Episode 2 has finally been unlocked. However, I don't think that this document will do. It is way too long at this point, so the best course would be to start writing on a new one. Going change the structure a bit. Have the table of contents be for each calendar date I played. Also have to gather all my thoughts, figure out what the biggest hints are and so on.

Episode 1 Overview

My Thoughts

As an introduction, I thought that this first episode did a great job setting everything up. Not just with the characters, but also with the different mysteries that no doubt will still be important even in the upcoming episodes. When I said that I was unsure whether this had supernatural/fantasy aspects, I didn't actually think that that question would be one of the main mysteries of the visual novel. With the "Tea Party" and "???" however, I think it's certainly there in some way, I just don't quite understand whether it influences the "main story" or if it just exists in these separate sort of epilogues to the episode. For example, I get that Bernkastel is in a way the "narrator" or the one whose perspective I follow. I don't know if I should take that into consideration while reading through the main story. It felt like it was more of a fourth-wall break, or the VN being meta and trying to help me out a bit. Same goes for all the magic that happened in the "Tea Party" portion. Beatrice proved that she could kill through doors, but I don't think that it's how the actual murder happened in the episode. I'll still keep it in mind though.

The characters in this are a lot of fun. As much as I seemed to complain about Maria, she was one of the best sources of entertainment and just overall creepiness, which I loved. I also enjoyed how towards the end, the human relationships between the characters came to light. Such as when Eva and Hideyoshi were talking about their marriage just before they were murdered, the backstory of Kinzo and his mistress Beatrice, or the bad mother-daughter relationship between Rosa and Maria. It gave the characters a bit more depth, made them more than just their outward personality.

The atmosphere was so good, especially when it gets creepy. One of my favorite moments was the one where Battler is in the kitchen talking to the servants about Beatrice, Maria shows up and also argues that Beatrice exists. Battler notices that Maria and the servants are looking at his direction, but not at him, rather they're looking at something behind him. The VN really nailed at conveying that sense of paranoia, which is further helped by how complicated the mysteries are.

Pretty much every clue can be interpreted in a way that proves the existence of magic, but it also makes you question whether that's the point or not. Maybe the point is to make the magic seem real, but it's actually not. I'm more leaning towards the side that there is no magic involved, especially with how the message at the end of "Tea Party" was to not believe or else it'll become the truth. But at the same time, it's hard to deny the strange events and circumstances as something normal/natural. Even the concept of "if you believe, it becomes true" sounds like magic to me. If everyone believes that I can fly just by flapping my arms, it doesn't become true.

Anyway, great start and I look forward to seeing how Episode 2 is going to turn out. Taking into account the fourth-wall breaking in "Tea Party", I guess Episode 2 is going to focus on solving the riddle.

Remaining Mysteries

Speaking of solving the riddle, there's a lot of details both big and small that are very mysterious. Therefore, I should gather the ones that "bother" me the most here.

First, there's Rudolf and the fact that he knew his death was coming. This seems like a big hint to me, but unfortunately Battler never seemed to remember it. If I also look at the epitaph, the line about the six sacrifices mentions that they were "chosen by the key". I don't know how exactly Rudolf knew he'd die, but "the key" might be what made him realize it.

Another thing about "the key" is the fact that it might contradict another detail, that being Natsuhi's door and the scribbles on it. If "the key" had chosen the six sacrifices, then why am I supposed to believe that Beatrice tried to kill Natsuhi. It's a weak lead, but I figured I should mention it anyway. If Natsuhi was chosen as a sacrifice, then wouldn't it break the rules of the epitaph to let her live just because the charm protected her? Shouldn't Beatrice

do something to get her out just like what happened in the study when there were 8 remaining. On the other hand, if Natsuhi was never chosen as a sacrifice, then why does it look like Beatrice tried to get into her room?

Maybe I'm putting too much emphasis on "the key", so I'll move on instead.

Another very suspicious detail was the smashing of the heads. Why do it, and why did Shannon and Krauss only have half their face disfigured. My first thought was to hide the identity. It's not the best way of doing it(I'll get to that soon), but it seemed like most of the first six victims were identified by their clothing. I don't know if I suspect one of them being a fake body, but I do think it's possible that one of them wasn't actually a corpse in that storehouse.

This ties into the burned body in the boiler. Why burn the body? There only reason I can think of is to hide the identity. Of course, the characters mentioned that the body had six toes on each foot, meaning that it's Kinzo but I don't know. At this point it's pretty clear that the culprit wants them to find all the bodies, the culprit makes them see what he/she wants them to see. If they wanted to hide the identity, they would've done something about the toes. That's why I think that it's a "fake-out". I think that the culprit is making them think that the plan to hide the identity failed, only to further ensure that they think the body belongs to Kinzo.

If the body was fully burned and the toes cut off, they wouldn't be able to come to a conclusion as to whether it's Kinzo or someone else. But with the toes, that's enough of a clue to convince them while also making it look like an oversight by the culprit rather than a deliberate set up. I get that by describing this theory, I'm slightly contradicting that last sentence, but go with it for now.

Maria is by far the strangest character, even surpassing Kinzo himself. If she's acting, then I'm mad impressed because the things she saw would scar anyone. But just suspecting her of a split personality or some other mental disorder seems like the easy way out. I want to group her together with Kinzo, as I think he has some influence on her interest of the occult. Particularly her notebook, which has drawings and information about magic circles, strikes me as odd. I'm completely assuming here, but when I try to think of how Maria got ahold of that information in the first place, I don't think it's from her or her mother's book collection. Meaning, a lot of the stuff in the notebook takes effort to find. A lot of it can also

be found in Kinzo's study. While it's possible she found the information on her own by going to libraries and what not, I find the Kinzo theory a bit more appealing/likely.

The idea that Kinzo had an illegitimate child whom he sent to the orphanage is kind of weak at this point. If we go by what Genji told everyone about Kinzo's love for Beatrice, that was back in 50s' and before. He said that she had died before the construction of the mansion was complete, which was done in 1952. I don't think that the orphanage existed at that point, but it's possible. Still, the child would have to be 30+ years old in the 80s' in that case. Gohda is the only one near that age, I think. Yet at this point I think it's a bit farfetched to assume such a thing. If he had been hired by Kinzo, maybe. But it was Krauss and ~~Eva~~ Natsuhi that hired him. I do think that there's probably something fishy about Gohda, but he died too early on so I don't know much. It was strange though how the night he was killed, he was slacking off big time and having Shannon do the work. I thought that he disliked Kanon and Shannon for their lack of experience and skill, so seeing him like that made him out to be a hypocrite.

Something else that was slightly confusing me is what Beatrice is before she's "resurrected". What exactly does it mean for Beatrice to be revived? Many characters said that she has no form or that she takes on the form of butterflies, but if we are to believe that she was able to physically interact with things, how can she have no form. It might just be semantics, but it's strange that Beatrice was able to hand Maria an umbrella and letter in the first place. That means that she has human form, no? But then what does being revived mean, is it referring to the "real Beatrice" that Kinzo loved? Bernkastel did say that I should consider her a personification of the rules in that world, but I don't get it. At least not yet.

Lastly, I skimmed through parts of my document to remind myself of some tiny details that are "unsolved". Such as, what ever happened to that unhealthy rose in the garden? I guess I could just blame Beatrice and be done with it, but still. Not that I think it's relevant, but I still don't know who or what "Ange-chan" is to Kyrie (and possibly Rudolf). I think I've milked as much info as I possibly can out of this, may as well move on as soon as I look at the new tips that showed up in the main menu.

If you enjoyed this, I'm very flattered. Even if you just skimmed through it, since a lot is me repeating what the VN told me. Hopefully the next one won't be as long.

[Link to Episode 2](#)