

Higurashi questions to consider before answer arcs

Important note: All of these questions were answered BEFORE I started my rewatch (up until after question 21, where I'll basically say those are my updated theories after a certain point). After I finish my rewatch I'm going to fill out a clean version of this document with all of my new theories.

Question 1: Who is Kantoku referring to (as in, just Irie? Is it also the construction foreman who was killed)? What is their role in the story?

Kantoku = Coach = Irie (after a brief rewatch of the chapter 1 finale to check some random detail it's incredibly obvious that Kantoku in chapter 1 refers to Irie, since they mention calling a doctor and kantoku, plus mention that kantoku would be happy Keichi took up baseball). Irie seems real sus to me, specifically the fact that he didn't seem to care about how odd the Toshiki Inukai house call was. I'm honestly not sure what he could really be doing currently that is legit bad though. I'm starting to think Irie showing up in chapter 1 would NOT have been a bad thing actually, and so I'm wondering if his sus tendencies are just him being willing to turn a blind eye to things within Hinamizawa, rather than him explicitly being involved in no good. It is also possible that he is somehow providing the medication in the mystery death syringe, but there is another notable medical worker who I'm already more suspicious of, so idk.

I don't think there is really any reason to believe that Irie is the construction foreman given that Akasaka explicitly sees both of those characters and they sound nothing alike. I'm not completely sure why he has the same title though, could legit just be a coincidence meant to confuse Keichi and the reader into thinking the foreman is still alive.

Question 2: What is the mystery syringe doing?

One of my original theories is that it was somehow intensifying emotional responses, which I think could make sense. In question 21 I mention that perhaps there is some kind of possession/entering someones mind happening, and perhaps intense emotional responses allow for this to happen, and the syringe is just a shortcut for it. I also mentioned that it wouldn't make sense for Rika to have this ability, and even suggested that perhaps the chapter 1 syringe (which does seem to be ultimately resulting in paranoia/death, perhaps by possession essentially) and the chapter 2 syringe that Rika have might be different substances.

Question 3: What are the similarities/differences between each chapter? Think big picture stuff, such as who dies and who acts in what ways.

In chapter 1 Tomitake, Mion, Rena, and Keichi are confirmed deaths. Takano goes missing and given her fate in other chapters is likely dead (or faking her death). This chapter is about Keichi learning things he probably shouldn't have about Hinamizawa, becoming paranoid about those things, and having to deal with his friends going crazy (possibly possessed). When Rena/Mion

call over "Kantoku" (probably Irie) he flips his shit due to them saying the drug they gave him would end for him the same way it did Tomitake, and he kills Rena/Mion (literal opening scene of the game shows this). This route seems to be showing people going crazy eyes (to a much larger scale in this route compared to others) as well as the syringe.

In chapter 2 Tomitake, Takano, Oryou, Kimiyoshi, Rika, Satoko, and Mion all die. This one really digs even further into the whole "Hinamizawa unity" and how they enter that weird trance state.

It shows Mion losing her cool due to Keichi's treatment of her, down to murdering Oryou, Kimiyoshi, and Rika. These are almost certainly separate from the Watanagashi killings since they are in the Sonozaki's underground well, while others killed during Watanagashi are not there. In this one Keichi is still trying to reach the truth of the killings. This is also the first chapter to show weird time shit going on with the time of death discrepancies.

In chapter 3 pretty much everyone dies Imao. Read question 17 for more info on who died when/probably why. Overall though this route shows Keichi becoming a part of Hinamizawa rather than being targeted by it. Notably it shows him snapping and entering what seems like that trance like state, so it's probably the key to that mystery. Also shows some weird stuff that I think is probably time related (Keichi killing Teppei, then learning that literally everyone else said he was at Watanagashi and Teppei lived).

Overall the main differences are Keichi's interactions with the village. Also each chapter can kind of highlight different mysteries. Chapter 1 seems to highlight a good chunk of them, but specifically the trance state and the syringe. Chapter 2 seems to highlight the syringe, weird mental states (some people hearing things that aren't there + Mion's mental break), the Sonozaki's, and the time discrepancies. Chapter 3 focuses mainly on time discrepancies plus a first person PoV of one of the mental breaks.

Question 4: Are the chapters explicitly connected within the story? Or are they completely unique scenarios?

I believe the chapters are all connected right now. It feels like a time loop story to me that keeps resetting to June 1983, with minor things bleeding over between some routes.

Question 5: What is Rika's role in the story?

I think Rika does legit have powers and is probably a central driving force of the plot because of it. I think there is a very real chance she is the one responsible for the scenario resets.

Question 6: What kind of abilities does Rika have? Is it just foresight? Why does she have them?

I think it's likely Rika has some sort of time loop ability. She seems to really want to survive with her friends, and every scenario either ends in her own death or the death of her friends. The scenario then resets to all of them alive earlier in June 1983. If I really think this game has time

loops (I do), then she's the most likely one behind them tbh.

I'm not completely sure on anything else. Technically she could be the one responsible for the creepy eyes stuff, since I think there is a non-zero chance that is some kind of possession. Not completely sold on this part though, because it feels like the creepy eyes are doing things that Rika explicitly doesn't want, so why in the world would she be in control of them. Might be the actual villain in control of that one.

Question 7: What is Rena's role in the story?

I'm honestly not convinced Rena's role in the stories mysteries is that important. Her main role in the plot so far seems to be interpersonal stuff and obviously her breakdown in chapter 1 (but I think any character could have taken that role for the most part, and Mion also enters that trance state in the very same chapter).

Question 8: What is Mion's role in the story?

I think Mion will have a bigger role in the story that is yet to come. So far she's obviously important as the heir to the Sonozaki family, and I feel that will continue to be relevant. I think there's a good chance she's more tied into the mysteries of Higurashi than one might think initially. Specifically, whatever the crazy eye shit is seems to have affected her in the past and is able to affect her again when she loses her cool in chapters 1 and 2. Also even if I don't think the Sonozaki's are like the MAIN villain, they are possibly assisting them in some way OR are basically a third party here.

Question 9: What is Satoko's role in the story?

I don't think Satoko is actually that important tbh. Maybe there is more to her than I think, but she almost felt like a plot device in chapter 3 to make Keichi go nuts and that is more or less the extent of her relevance.

Question 10: What is Keichi's role in the story?

Keichi's actual role in the story seems pretty self-explanatory. He basically just drives the plots of chapters 1-3, and the way his actions differ seems to be what affects the plot the most. He's kind of like the wild card if this is a time loop scenario. I'm not sure what relevance he could have going forward though.

It is actually worth noting that each scenario involves Keichi's death, so maybe this is somehow a catalyst for a loop? Some scenarios go for a bit even after Rika dies, and I'm not completely sure how a time loop would happen if that were the case.

Question 11: What is Shion's role in the story?

I think Shion is possibly more tied into the Sonozaki family than I suspected during my initial run through chapter 2. Maybe her and Mion have similar goals? Maybe Shion is actually the one who stabbed Keichi in chapter 2?

Question 12: What is Ooshi's role in the story? Is he a mole, or is he genuinely trying to solve the mysteries?

Maybe I've got too much faith in the guy but I currently believe he isn't a mole. The most suspicious things regarding Ooshi are the following: The people he interacts with are often demoned away (probably explained as people who know too much being killed), him giving some preposterous evidence like wrong time of deaths (but this seems accurate given chapter 3), and him knowing about stuff that was leaked to the Sonozaki's in chapter 1 (could have just been Rika that told them). If he was really a mole I feel like that loose end would have been tied up. Kind of begs the question though of why the Sonozaki's haven't already killed him if they think he knows too much (assuming ch.1 Keichi/Satoshi died because they learned too much from him).

The other big question with Ooshi is how is he alive after chapter 3? He went missing in 3, but in 4 he obviously isn't, and 4 seems directly connected. Obviously missing doesn't equal dead, but I'm not even sure him going missing was mentioned in chapter 4.

Question 13: What were the footsteps that are heard at least once in each chapter?

My current guess for the footsteps are that they are heard by someone after a time loop has directly involved them. Ex. I'm pretty sure Keichi in chapter 3 doesn't hear them until after he has killed Teppei, so perhaps it was undone and he heard essentially "echoes" of the Keichi from the other time loop.

The other people that seem to notice it are Tomitake and Shion though, and ~~I'm not really sure how this would apply to them actually~~ I think I know how it could apply to them actually.

Tomitake I was less sure of, but if Takano's time of death was wrong and we strongly believe she killed Tomitake... doesn't that mean that when her death is undone and happens earlier that Tomitake would ALSO need to die around then? This would make him a time loop victim.

Takano too, but maybe she just didn't mention anything? Shion could also have actually just been a little switcharoo with Mion tbh, who we have very good reason to believe was affected by the time loop OR who we think is Mion in the well is actually Shion?

It could also have something to do with my later discussed possession theory. Perhaps people who are possessed in some manner are able to hear these sounds. I'm not sure what exactly the sounds would be in this scenario, maybe just ways to keep the ones noticing them paranoid? If we assume that heightened emotions (such as paranoia) are what allows possession (big assumption) then this makes some sense.

This is one of the things I'm most unsure of.

Question 14: Who is the culprit behind the curse killings? Is it just the Sonozaki's, or someone else like Takano?

I personally really think the one responsible for the curse killings is someone that we met early in the game. To be honest I'm most suspicious of Takano, since she is obviously really fucking sus, is linked to Hinamizawa lore in general (as in she fucking loves it, and has explicitly said "Oyashiro-Sama's curse is my life's work"), and is very obviously a killer in chapter 3. So she's sus and has the motive IMO. The biggest question remains how the fuck she is pulling it all off. Best guess is something medical given how a nurse would be able to, in theory, sneak everyone in the village that medicine in due time. Also explains the syringe, since a nurse having some kind of weird superdrug (whether it's causing suicide or allowing possession or whatever) makes more sense than anyone else really. It does beg the question as to why she dies though... but then again maybe she doesn't actually and it's a crazy fakeout? Who even confirmed those were her dental records? And if she's in league with the Sonozaki's then "proof" like that at local businesses literally is irrelevant.

It could also be Tomitake since I think he's going to have a more relevant role in the plot at some point, but idk not really sold on it given the way bro gets done in every chapter.

It could also be Irie since he is obviously suspicious in the first place and is mentioned as early as chapter 1. Beyond him being Kantoku and obviously being involved in shady shit I'm not sure what actually links him to the curse killings though, and I wonder if the suspicion of Kantoku is misplaced due to Keichi's chapter 1 paranoia?

Question 15: Which killings are curse killings, and which are just killings? What separates them?

Tomitake/honestly Rika seem to be the curse killings to me. Tomitake consistently dies on Watanagashi, so hard to say he's anything besides the curse killing. Rika is doomed to die a few days after Watanagashi, and the Onikakushi being a few days after the killing isn't exactly unprecedented (Satoshi was, for example).

Takano dies or disappears in every route, so this one also feels important. I lowkey think Rika might be the one who kills her. Maybe she knew what Takano was up to? It's also possible that, as I mentioned in the last question, Takano isn't actually dying in the first place. If she isn't actually dying though someone presumably is taking that spot in the barrel, and so unless it's an old skeleton then maybe whoever is in the barrel is a the second curse victim (could literally just be an irrelevant character).

Every other death is almost certainly not related to the curse. This includes Keichi (killed in all 3 chapters probably for knowing too much), Rena (killed by Keichi due to his paranoia, whether he was right or not), Mion (same as Rena), Satoko (honestly kind of just got unlucky that she was the only one who knew where Rika went), Oryou (possibly killed to off the old guard), Shion

(combo of killing someone else who has power/known too much), the police officer that was Ooshi's partner (knows too much), and Irie (knows too much).

Question 16: What happened with Teppei when he died and then just... wasn't dead? Is it linked to Mion/Takano having incorrect time of deaths?

My primary line of thinking right now is basically someone dies, but then time is rewinded and history changes so that they didn't die, but somehow physical evidence stays behind. This theory would cover Mion/Takano, but it doesn't really explain where Teppei's body went. Maybe Rika somehow moved the physical evidence that Teppei had been killed before it could be found? The problem with this though is that I don't know how (or why) Rika would have altered time and revived Mion after chapter 2 given that she was already dead.

Perhaps it's actually the exact opposite though? Mion/Takano lived initially and then a time rewind happens which leaves them dead (does this imply that Rika killed them?), but everyone who saw them still remembers it how they saw it before a rewind. It explains why the physical evidence of Teppei is gone much easier too since it doesn't involve Rika actually just moving it. I feel like this makes a bit more sense. I WAS going to say this doesn't make sense since Rika was also dead... but maybe she wasn't actually dead and was just missing (remember, we didn't find her until the end of the chapter) and had to rewind and cause her own death for some reason?

The major question with this theory IMO is whether Rika has the ability to actually control any potential time loops in the first place. Like is it just a thing where after she dies eventually there is a time loop, or is it something she has to do herself? If she can do it herself the second theory makes sense IMO, if she can't then I actually don't really have an explanation at all (unless the villain is somehow doing it. Or is maybe somehow using possession to make people think they saw one thing when in reality something else happened?)

Question 17: What exactly is the Great Hinamizawa Disaster? Who might be responsible/why did they do it?

I don't know that I really buy the idea that Keichi was using divine powers to smite everyone. I think it's more likely that with Rika and many others dead for various reasons someone decided to just basically block all access to Hinamizawa and kill any potential witnesses that they could. Or perhaps someone who DOES have divine powers heard the shit Keichi was saying and took care of it for them to throw anyone off of their trail.

Question 18: What is up with the creepy eyes? What does it actually mean? ON THE NEXT VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT EITHER ADD TO THIS QUESTION OR MAKE ANOTHER QUESTION SPECIFICALLY LOOKING AT WHO IS GOING CRAZY, WHEN, AND WHY.

The creepy eyes are difficult to say. Honestly it legit feels like possession to me, possibly

induced by strong emotional states (which somehow makes their mind weak to possessions/external suggestions or something). After an incredibly brief rewatch of chapter 1 and there is no fucking way that the sudden creepy eyes Mion/Rena are the normal Mion/Rena tbh. Mion not giving a shit about the club rules is a big tipoff, and also the fact that they called Irie (maybe to help Keichi?) and then go creepy eyes and decide to kill him BEFORE Irie arrives.

Question 19: Some people escaped the tragedy or weren't ever found OR were killed/went missing before it. Who were they and why do we think they were exceptions?

The ones who died before the disaster are Tomitake (killed on Watanagashi), Takano (killed on Watanagashi), Ooshi (went missing day after Watanagashi), Kumatani (same as Ooshi), Irie ("suicide" 2 days after Watanagashi), and Rika (killed 2 days after Watanagashi). All of them except Rika (I think? Maybe he wished death on Oyashiro-Sama and I missed that?) had their death wished by Keichi.

Satoko/Teppey both went missing, Chie Rumiko (the teacher)/Kameda (the baseball player, thanks for the reminder Nitrome) died trying to escape. These ones are really strange to me.

Maybe Rika somehow warned them? But I don't really know how that is possible. Shion "committed suicide" at the victims hospital 2 months after the incident. I don't buy it personally.

Question 20: Is chapter 3 canon to chapter 4? If so, what makes this the one time chapters are directly connected like that?

Based on a quick understanding it seems more or less canon... although Ooshi goes missing in chapter 3 so maybe not? I think it could be explained away as he went missing but was actually just retired. *Investigate Ooshi's disappearance in 3/what he says happened in 1983 during chapter 4 to see if chapter 3 could fit in 4 or if it is another reset that is just really similar.*

Question 21: Given that it is pretty much confirmed that Rika has some kind of supernatural powers, to what extent do we think others supernatural powers might be at play?

I think there is likely some other supernatural power at play, although I'm not 100% sure who controls it. I think there is some kind of either possession/internal suggestion going on. I think that this is potentially the explanation for the crazy eyes shit.

However, I do NOT believe this is done by Rika if it is correct, because I'm not completely sure why Rika would have people doing the shit that was done by crazy eyes mf's. Her motives seem to be surviving with her friends, so why in the world would she turn Rena/Mion against Keichi in chapter 1? Why would Mion kill Rika and Satoko in 2?

I'm kind of thinking that the party responsible for any potential possessions is explicitly NOT

Rika (and is perhaps the villain, so currently I'd assume Takano), which maybe means the syringe Rika had is NOT inducing that state of mind (perhaps it does the exact opposite and Rika was trying to rescue Mion?). Maybe the chapter 1 syringe and chapter 2 syringe aren't the same thing? Or even worse, maybe Rika got her own mind jacked in chapter 2, which is why she had the syringe?

~~This could be the syringe that allows for possession shit, or it could be that people who are in a super vulnerable state of mind are somehow able to be affected by this. It could also be the latter, but the syringe directly creates a state of mind that allows it.~~ Upon further thought I don't think the syringe has anything to do with possession. Explaining the chapter 1 and 2 syringes as different seems like a copout to me. I'm not 100% sure on how it works but I think it might very well just be a suicide drug and Rika was in fact trying to kill Mion in chapter 2.

So what do I feel confident in/not confident in?

Confident: The story is a time loop centered on Rika, who is doing this in an attempt to save herself and her friend somehow.

I think I'm on the right track, missing details for sure though: The identity of the villain (I think it's Takano, but I'm not 100% sure how Takano is doing the shit the villain is doing). Also possession/getting in someone's head in general seems correct to me, but I'm not completely sure on how it's happening (emotional state theory makes sense but not 100% sold that is all there is yet).

Not confident: I don't know what the fuck the syringe is. I'm not really sure on what is going on with the footsteps.

Major theory changes after the chapter 1 rewatch

1: For a while I thought that Rena/Mion when they were going crazy were possessed, but I don't really believe that anymore. This would kind of imply the entire town got possessed, which just seems wild to me. Honestly I think it was KEICHI that got possessed. There are a few instances of his own thoughts that felt really weird (such as those thoughts trying to convince him that Ooshi/Tomitake are outsiders and should just die) or where I think the actions he's seeing don't line up with reality (he was super convinced Rena/Mion were trying to kill him... but they could have done it while he was slumt? Instead they nursed him back to health and called a doctor).

The big problem with this theory is them saying what's going to happen to him is the same as what happened to Tomitake, which would legit indicate ill will, but I think there is a real chance that he hallucinated that shit. Another major thing that I think possibly points to possession is that it would be a PERFECT explanation for the mysterious footsteps that he hears in this route (in the doorway, in a memory of Keichi's about shopping in which there is no way he heard that shit and it was even moving after he stopped, plus obviously right at the end), Rena heard in her

backstory before going fucking dicko mode with a baseball bat, that Shion (?) and Tomitake hear in the storehouse in the second route, and that he again hears in 3. I think those are the most likely characters to just be possessed in the first place (2 commit suicide in similar ways, and 3 actually go sicko mode). The reason I mention him hearing those footsteps as a possible sign of possession is that it shows that they hear shit that isn't there, and could make it not so crazy to believe that he "heard" things that weren't said. The idea that he straight up hallucinated the most damning line from them is arguably a major copout which is why I'm a bit worried about this theory, but I don't think it's THAT much of a stretch, and this makes a lot of other things line up better IMO (If Keichi is possessed in this chapter it suggests other characters in other routes are possessed, explains the sound, and gives me a direction to theorize regarding the syringe since I no longer think that shit is super nefarious).

2: So I mentioned that I don't think that Rena/Mion were actually trying to kill Keichi, but that doesn't explain them trying to inject him with a mysterious syringe. First of all the key operative is TRIED. It explicitly says that "they were about to inject me with whatever caused the same symptoms as Tomitake-san", and then "but right before that happened... I fought back". So he never got injected by that thing but still committed suicide. This suggests the suicide is caused by something else (I'm thinking possession obviously, but it could be something else), and that means the syringe likely is NOT a murder drug despite Keichi being convinced. It's also worth noting that Rika was bringing it when she confronted chapter 2 Mion, and I really don't think she'd resort to murdering Mion tbh. Maybe I have too much faith in Rika but I'm currently not 100% sold that she has it in her to murder one of her friends given that her whole goal is to live a happy life with her friends. Honestly I think the drug is either just a sedative or it somehow breaks the possession. If it's just a sedative I'm not 100% sure why someone felt the need to remove it from the note, but it would kind of make sense to remove it if it reverses possession (reversing it implies that people in Hinamizawa are getting possessed in the first place, which I can imagine some would want to keep secret).

3: I thought about it, and while I still believe the main story is a time loop, I don't know that I believe that Rika is using those to actively go kill people. A big part of this is that if she could just casually rewind time AT WILL... why has she apparently only done it these few times? It doesn't really make sense to me honestly. And if she does have that power why is she using it to murder people apparently? And how in the world would Rika have strangled Takano? Too many things just don't make sense for me to really believe that she can just do this at will like that. This means I think there is a different explanation for the weird time shit going on with Takano/Mion's deaths. This also applies to Teppei's death getting straight up undone, although I suppose there is a non-zero chance that Rika actually did undo that one since it was one of her friends committing murder (This is currently a copout explanation while I think of a better one. Teppei is what could cause me to reverse this whole theory). Since I don't think that the time shenanigans apply to Mion/Takano's death I need another explanation.

For Mions time of death being inaccurate I think the explanation is pretty simple: It just isn't actually. I think she and Shion just pulled a switcharoo. Frankly I wouldn't be shocked if the switcharoo was much more prevalent than I realized. I think there is a non-zero chance that it was literally just Shion going crazy the whole time actually given that there is evidence that she was possessed if I believe the footsteps theory. Also I'm suddenly thinking that it would honestly make more sense for Shion to be willing to kill Rika/Satoko, but I do think Mion could do that still tbh. I do remember "Shion" begging for Keichi's life in the murder dungeon, and while Shion COULD do that I don't think it'd be that crazy to think that was Mion giving that she clearly cared for Keichi. I will say this one is probably easy to change my mind on if I watch the chapter 2 finale and don't actually see the signs of that switcharoo that I think may have happened. In all fairness it could also just mean that Shion pushed Mion into the well (after a clothes switch I guess) even if no switcheroo, but I think a switcheroo would make more sense in the long-term.

Regarding Takano this theory is a little out there, but honestly it makes a lot of sense to me. It's pretty simple too. Miyo Takano isn't Miyo Takano. She's Risa (last name unknown). While thinking about me not liking the time loop explanation I looked up the name "Risa" (cautiously) and learned that it's a FEMALE name. We heard Irie say something along the lines of "they even got Risa???" after the Watanagashi killings and I initially thought that was Tomitake (since his name is almost certainly not actually Tomitake given that there are 0 records of him), but Takano died the exact same night and given that she works at the Irie clinic she'd obviously be closer to him.

So she maybe isn't actually Takano, why in the world does that matter? It's the fact that Miya Takano (whoever that is) was the one in the barrel the whole time, and that Risa is alive. This is a MUCH simpler explanation for why Takano is "dead" but is obviously not actually dead, and given that I already suspect her as a/the villain I think it's worth noting that in this scenario she is presumed dead and gets to do whatever the fuck she wants. Hell, it also explains why despite Tomitake presumably having killed himself she clearly had a body in her car in chapter 3: It was the real Takano that she was transporting to the mountains to burn (and had been strangled the day prior). Hell it even explains why the burn barrel is found: She wanted it to be found to draw attention away from her.

The elephant in the room is Teppei and all the deaths that Keichi wished for shortly after that actually happen. This is all guesswork right now, but honestly I think there is a decent chance that Keichi actually hallucinated a large chunk of specifically that day (god this feels like such a copout). It would explain why he couldn't find the bat (it was under the forklift thing since he HAD placed it already, and he ONLY checked the locker, which he would've already removed it from). It would explain why he was at Watanagashi and couldn't remember it. Hell, if he's being possessed and he's actually wishing death on people then maybe whoever is doing the possessing was like "fuck it, I'll kill them to keep up the act for now". One big thing that him being possessed for most of this time would actually legit solve though is how HE survived the disaster. He was close af to ground zero and apparently there is no way he should have lived, yet he did anyways, and if he wasn't actually at ground zero but just couldn't remember that it

would explain things. Hell, I don't think it's impossible that Keichi was the one who set off the disaster (or possibly even some of the other deaths). Idk this is still the most suspect thing for me honestly, and I'll need to rewatch chapter 3 to iron this out, but it kind of makes enough sense that I'm not willing to pitch what I've got yet.

Biggest Remaining Holes/Things that need verified a bit more

The line about Keichi getting done like Tomitake in chapter 1. Whether Mion/Shion did a gigantic switcheroo in chapter 2. How Teppei didn't die. Why the people Keichi wished death on did die.

What this helps explain: The footsteps. The syringe. Time of death discrepancies. Takano supposedly being the villain while she's apparently fucking dead.

It's worth noting that half of the holes remain holes under my current theories (besides Teppei and Mion/Shion switcheroo), so overall this feels like a better explanation than what I've got. I think at the very least it's satisfactory enough to move on once I type up some more detail on what I think happened in chapter 1 tomorrow.

Major theory changes after the chapter 2 rewatch

Honestly there isn't much that has changed in my eyes after chapter 2, but that in and of itself is pretty notable, because some of my theory changes from before feel more likely to me.

After chapter 2 one of the big changes to my theory was that I thought that Takano/Mion's time of deaths actually do line up and AREN'T wrong and one of the major things with that theory is that it kind of required at least one Mion/Shion swap to happen, and possibly end with Mion dead. Oddly enough I do think there is very clear evidence that it was actually Shion that was going sicko mode the whole time, but I'm not 100% sure if it was actually Mion that dies at the end honestly. It mentions that "Shion" was rescued, and I'm not sure if she was still in the cell when rescued (which means there was obviously no switch) or if they could have even had the time to switch. Honestly guessing that they swapped kind of feels like a gamble to me, but then again this current theory requires that Shion was misidentified as Mion during her autopsy (I suppose they probably wouldn't feel the need to check which twin it was given the context so I can kind of see it tbh). I think it's more likely that Shion was just misidentified personally, but without more info it's hard to say 100%.

One of the other major things this might help confirm is the possession theory. Specifically, if we think the "demon" means they're being possessed then the footsteps being a sign of possession lines up practically perfectly with what I was thinking after chapter 1. I will admit part of me is

wondering if the “demon” is literally just a personality split, but I can’t help but still think it’s possession due to things like the sounds theory, hearing Mion say she “couldn’t hold out much longer” (which tbf works for both), explicitly being told Mions body would be controlled by a demon (which again arguably works for both), saying that saving Shion is long done for and the demon will kill her (this actually might be literal now that I look at it lmao), and Shion saying that the demon came to her long ago and it was gnawing at her heart trying to spur her to violence (kind of reminds me of chapter 1 Keichi having conversations in his own head that felt like they were spurring him to turn against his own friends).

That being said one possible MAJOR revision to my theories is I’m not actually 100% sold that what is happening is proper possession, and I’m not sure I ever was actually ever since I was of the opinion that it wasn’t the whole town in chapter 1 that was crazy (which kind of would have suggested legit possession on a mass scale). I’ve mentioned this possibility a few times (not as many as possession, but a few) but I think it’s something closer to telepathy used as internal suggestion/modifying the targets senses, and that it probably requires the target to be in a weak emotional state for it to actually work (or maybe it always works and people in their right mind just kind of ignore the shit being said in their heads so Takano/whoever is doing it doesn’t bother). Honestly I think it actually just being Takano picking at the vulnerabilities of whoever she’s in the head of arguably just makes more sense (for chapter 1 Keichi/arguably Shion/maybe Tomitake it’s paranoia, so just keep convincing them that they’re going to die unless they do certain things that Takano wants. For chapter 2 Mion/Chapter 3 Keichi it’s anger, so she encourages them to kill people that Takano maybe wants dead?). This actually kind of combines the possession/mental break creating alternate personalities theory. Basically Takano just drives them fucking nuts until they snap. ~~Off topic but it would be really funny at this point if the villain WASN’T Takano given how many times I’ve written her name as the standin for “whoever has telepathy/possession/whatever I’m calling that supernatural power”.~~

Anyways the reason I think this fits better is I can’t actually think of a single instance where we 100% see the possession/telepathy/whatever genuinely makes someone do things that they genuinely didn’t want to do... which is kind of a key part of possession. What we DO see several time are like whispers within Keichi’s head that seem to spur him towards certain directions, and Shion basically reports the same symptom in chapter 2 (“It was gnawing at my heart, trying to spur me to violence, but... I suppressed it with my reason. ...That settled the demon down), and I think this is more in line with the idea of internal suggestion/telepathy. It’s kind of like soft possession. I feel like the only times we’ve arguably seen REAL possession are the end of chapter 1 when Mion/Rena are acting wildly out of character (but this can also be explained by whatever telepathy is happening making Keichi hear things that aren’t there, which we already think is a thing Takano can do) and whatever the fuck was happening at the end of chapter 3 (real possession could maybe explain how Keichi lived the disaster despite basically being at ground zero. Also it could maybe explain how people he wishes are dying: He’s just killing them. This could maybe throw a wrench in things, but I’ll revisit after watching 3).

Overall I don’t think my theories actually changed much, rather I mostly agree with my post-chapter 1 takes (with the caveat that Mion might actually have lived and Shion died) and have reworded “possession” to something more akin to “telepathy/internal suggestion” (which

fits the details better IMO). To be honest none of the holes with my prior theories have really been fully patched, although I do generally have less reservations with the Rena/Mion at the end being out of character being Keichi hearing shit, and I definitely think Mion/Shion switched around (although oddly enough it actually might not be Mion dead in the well lol). The chapter 3 stuff obviously won't be modified much until, well, I review chapter 3.

Question 22: What do I think happened in chapter 1

Okay so this question technically wasn't here at the start but it's my document and I'll put my thoughts where I want. Some of the thoughts in here kind of contradict the rest of the doc because I've changed them a bit, but this is the most recent in terms of my thoughts.

Okay so on to what I actually think is happening in chapter 1. The basic summary is that after the Watanagashi killing Keichi got involved with Ooshi, who is convinced that the killings are connected (and he tells Keichi as much) and is trying to get info from Keichi and/or use him as bait. Folklore says you shouldn't try to interfere with the demons hunt, and that is exactly what Keichi was doing, so in the event that things really are linked to one group (it likely is IMO) then it obviously makes sense why they'd end up targeting him. During the beginning of his cooperation a lot of weird shit happens regarding Rena and Mion, who have sudden personality shifts following some kind of emotional turmoil (they REALLY don't seem to like Keichi lying to them, which is a bit hypocritical ngl). After the needle in the mochi incident (which Mion later claims was a prank she was responsible for) Keichi is convinced they are trying to kill him, and is very visibly paranoid. Things get DRAMATICALLY worse for Keichi in the finale when he straight up tells Mion the police are on to them, and it ultimately results in him being chased by some people in the junkyard, brought back home by Rena, having Kantoku called, him freaking out over the syringe and murdering Rena/Mion.

I mentioned this earlier but I don't actually think they were trying to kill Keichi, rather he was freaking out still and was taking things the wrong way. I do generally think that Rena/Mion realized something was up with Keichi and perhaps told Irie, who was planning to capture him, which explains the dam scene where he's being chased, and then probably give him some medical treatment. However Keichi did NOT see this as an attempt at medical treatment, and suddenly hears Rena/Mion saying some shit that is essentially "don't act like you don't know what's happening this late in the game, you're gonna die like Tomitake". However, I don't actually think this was said by them, rather whatever telepathy I think is going on was used to make Keichi hear that, which freaks him out and he murders them. Part of the reason I think this is because during specifically this section they felt out of character and were contradicting their own actions from like 30 minutes earlier. For example, if they wanted to kill Keichi they could have done that earlier instead of nursing him back to health, and again he did NOT take the syringe and still ended up that way. Also, saying "this late in the game" feels fucking META, and I don't know if it actually is, but it kind of doesn't read like something that makes sense for them to say.

All of the following is crossed out because I wrote it prior to the changes I made above this, and I don't feel like rewriting all of that to match my current theories, but it's still a start point on how to add detail so I wanted to leave it there. It's safe to ignore for now. I actually disagree with A LOT of these takes now and am mostly leaving them because seeing wrong theories is still fun (it would be really funny if they were right and I've gone back on them).

~~In terms of everyone going crazy I honestly think most of it was Keichi misconstruing his friends coming from a place of concern, and then those friends getting really overwhelmed (over several factors, such as Keichi blatantly lying to them or realizing that Keichi is going down the same path as Satoshi which obviously didn't end well for Satoshi) and snapping. They mentioned this idea of multiple personalities in some people as a stress response, and those multiple personalities occurring as a result of genetic factors (I don't think this applies to anyone, but maybe Hinamizawans all typically have these genetic factors. Perhaps these genetic factors resulting in people snapping so often are why they're called demons) or abnormal mental development that can be caused by things such as childhood abuse. Childhood abuse obviously applies to Rena (and Satoko even though I don't think we've ever seen her go crazy eyes mode), and abnormal mental development clearly applies to Rena (and Rika too, although we haven't seen her go crazy besides sort of in chapter 4). That tip could have just been a red herring, but nearly every incident of our friends going crazy in chapter 1 directly ties in with them getting crazy emotional over something, and so I think it just being a defense mechanism make sense.~~

~~HOWEVER, this doesn't really explain the end of the chapter in my opinion. Hell, even Keichi seems to note in the finale of chapter 1 that Rena (when she was following him with the hatchet) felt different than she had before. Before even while she was acting kind of crazy she'd usually be at least somewhat timid and mostly in character, whereas that Rena felt completely different. This was also the point where Keichi runs into some random Hinamizawans who seemed to be pursuing him (and even straight up slumpt bro and left him there presumably until Rena arrived. She didn't want to talk about them so I'm 100% sure she ran into them). Also maybe I'm reading too much into this, but when they have him at the house and talk about doing a punishment game and show the creepy eyes honestly that did NOT feel like Rena and Mion to me. Specifically things like Mion not caring about club rules anymore all of a sudden (???) and them explicitly mentioning something along the lines of "needing to do this before the director arrives" when telling Keichi that he's about to meet the same fate as Tomitake despite the fact that Rena was literally the one who called him. If they were straight up going to do him like Tomitake but don't want the director to know why would they call the director.~~

~~So my crazy take is that at this point the villain (who I think is Takano now more than I did before. I'll explain in a different paragraph) didn't want Keichi continuing to cooperate with the police and it reached a point where he needed to be dealt with, and so they were straight up possessing villagers to deal with him. I'm not completely sold on this but I can kind of buy it though. The counter is that honestly there is a real chance that most of the shit that seemed really sus actually wasn't and Keichi was just overreacting due to his extreme paranoia. But the counter to that counter is Keichi nearly getting fucking smoked by that van (the SAME ONE that~~

he saw later), which I feel like doesn't really have an explanation other than "a group of Hinamizawans is straight up trying to kill bro". Even if villagers weren't being possessed I think a group that is at least somewhat associated with Irie (although IMO not fully so, or again why Rena/Mion say they need to do this before Irie shows up) is trying to deal with Keichi in some way. Maybe I'm reading too much into the "do this before the director shows up" and they are legit just doing some random punishment game, but what fucking punishment game involves using a syringe??? Honestly I kind of think Irie isn't trying to straight up kill Keichi. I'm not completely sure what his goal is honestly, but it might be just sedating Keichi and/or trying to convince him (or make him) forget what he has seen.

Next question is what exactly the syringe is. Honestly... still not 100% sure. That being said I'm pretty confident now that it is NOT a suicide causing drug. Keichi was NOT injected in chapter 1, and we don't actually know that Tomitake was injected with something (the police just suspect it). If Keichi killed himself anyways why would they need a syringe for that? I think there is a decent chance the syringe is just sedatives. They're actually possibly intended to do the exact OPPOSITE of suicide: preventing it! One tip mentions bipolar disorder and how moving from depression to mania can leave that depressed desire for suicide, and how sedatives are used to prevent this from happening. They also mention that in these cases the person with bipolar disorder typically doesn't resort to such extreme suicide methods

Question 23: What do I think happened in chapter 2?

Okay so to be completely honest I don't really feel like writing all of this out right now, but in my thoughts/theories doc I wrote a basic summary that makes sense to me and I'm going to leave it here with minor revisions.

Perhaps it was something along the lines of Keichi doesn't give Mion doll -> she big sad and does the Shion impression -> he meets the real Shion, possibly because she heard about Mion acting as her and was interested in what had her acting like that -> Shion/Keichi get a bit closer and they end up sneaking in to the storehouse -> Keichi lies to Mion about this -> Now Mion is BIG mad and possibly has her demon awakened -> Shion learns about this and, perhaps for her own sake (maybe Mion had a plan to demon away Shion/Keichi? Perhaps Mion straight up tries to kill Shion that night?), her inner demon is awakened and she fights off Mion and brings her to murder dungeon -> Shion tries to cover her tracks by killing Oryou (who could probably tell that Mion was missing/Shion was in her shoes) and then Kimiyoshi (who might also be able to tell it was Shion), who also conveniently happen to be Hinamizawan leaders (who she probably doesn't like given her disdain for the place) AND are close to Mion. Also could be that she feels 2 people have to be demoned away since 2 people died on Watanagashi -> Shion kills Rika because she might have known it was Shion and was trying to do something about it, which also forces her to kill Satoko -> Keichi realizes it was "Mion" on the phone, and Shion probably lures him in so she can kill him in front of Mion (probably as an act of revenge for being the heir/possibly trying to kill her?) -> Shion dies while trying to escape (suicide?) and Mion is rescued -> Mion continues faking as Shion for a while, then fakes the death of Shion and tries to kill Keichi the same night

