and this will be our bridal eve, but first I must go to him and do that which will free me from him, and make me completely thine". Then she took her hand from his, and told him to wait there for her, and he waited his face grown suddenly bright and happy.

Takahashi had been expecting his bride all day. He had prepared a great feast, and even invited some friends in, and they awaited her arrival with her nearest male relative; but no Yuko came, and he had risen and gone to her house to seek her, and force her to come. But there he was told already had she left. Then he was very wroth and swore at Nosse Onoto and Yuko, for he did not truly love her; but only desired her for his wife because she was beautiful and the daughter of a Samourai, and greatest of all for spite. Then he had returned to his house where he had drunk much wine and insulted to his friends the name of his wife; so that when Yuko meekly entered the house he slept from excess of drinking.

The guests were gone; the lights were out. Yuko glided softly from room to room, looking at everything in the house, and pushing aside the paper screens between the rooms. Then she came to where Takahashi had lain down in a deep drunken sleep. There was no light in the room, but the moon threw a straight ray across the sleeping man, and Yuko smiled as she looked on him. Then with a soft sweet cry she raises her hand; something flashes in the moonlight; a fearful cry of "HOTOGOROSHI!" (Murder!) from the startled man. Then all is still.

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