

Would you like to know more about the historical background and connections in UNDO - Cherry Blossom Festival? Below are details for all of your decision options for each of the Story cards in the case.

A Reminder: What Truly Happened

The parents of the deceased Taro Totomi died during the atomic bombing of Hiroshima when he was 10 years old. He survived because his parents sent him to his grandmother a few days earlier. The last memory he had of his parents was dropping a vase and getting reprimanded by his father.

When the boy was 15 years old, he left the village to go to a major city. His grandmother gifted him a blue suit that she originally sewed for his father.

He met his wife, who was suffering from a terminal disease. But together, they still had a daughter and then a son. The children grew up with the conviction that their father had cheated on his terminally ill wife and took the children to live with his new wife while their mother died in solitude.

In truth, it was the sick wife who asked her husband to marry a friend of hers because she didn't want her children to live through her agonizing death and then grow up without a mother. They decided together, for reasons of tradition and the current events, to keep this secret from their children.

On the day of his death, the man planned to fly to meet with his daughter and tell her the truth as she had left all of his letters unanswered over the years. Sadly, he missed his flight. When he returned home, he found his second wife in tears because she has received a letter alleging that he'd had an affair. Neither she nor her husband knew that this letter was his disappointed daughter's revenge.







- experience. However, the image of a harmonious marriage was slightly cracked. (0)
- B: Taro calling for his mother would have interrupted her assignation. The sight of her child would have given her a guilty conscience and might have given her pause to rethink. Taro would probably have forgotten about the voice from the next room. (+1)
- C: If Taro had burst in on the assignation, that would surely have been a disturbing experience for a boy his age. His belief in a functional family life would have been shaken for a long time, if not forever. (-1)

2: Hiroshima, Japan, August 3, 1945, late afternoon

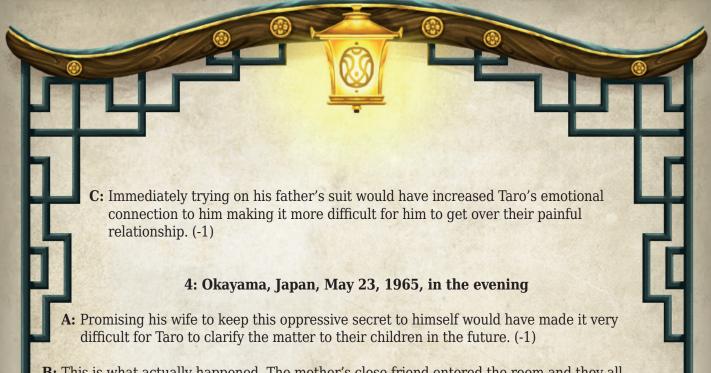
- A: Giving strict obedience to his father's demand would have made dealing with their problematic relationship even more difficult in the future. (-1)
- B: This is what actually happened. Taro was torn between obedience and resistance, so he decided to take the middle ground. (0)
- C: Taro's insubordination to his father would have been liberating. It would have made it easier for him to break away from his father's strict upbringing and to deal more easily with their difficult relationship in the future. (+1)

3: Akiota, Japan, June 12, 1950, early morning

- A: This is what actually happened. By accepting the suit and keeping it all his life, Taro was constantly reminded of his father, which made it difficult for Taro to get over his strained relationship with him. (0)
- B: If Taro had rejected the bundle with his father's suit, he would have broken with his father's memory going forward and would have been able to begin recovering from their painful past. (+1)







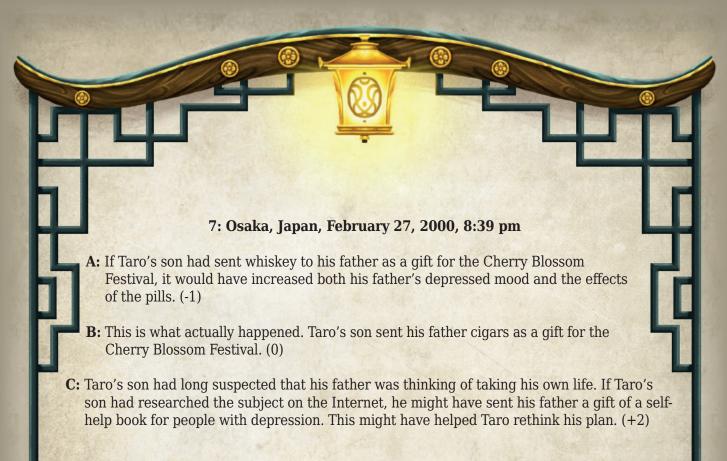
- **B:** This is what actually happened. The mother's close friend entered the room and they all decided to tell the children that leaving the mother for this other woman was the cause of separation. (0)
- **C:** If Taro had left the room to think, he would have seen his children and perhaps would have included them in the decision, or he may have decided to raise them by himself. (+1)

5: Okayama, Japan, February 4, 2000, 3:08 pm

- **A:** Taking sleeping pills instead of antidepressants would have significantly reduced Taro's chances of survival after taking the pills. (-2)
- **B:** This is what actually happened. Taro's wife was given antidepressant pills, which later led to Taro's death by overdose. (0)
- C: Vitamin pills instead of antidepressants would not have been useful to Taro. The chances would have increased significantly that Taro wouldn't decide to take his own life or perhaps he would not even have thought of it. (+2)

6: Tokyo, Japan, February 23, 2000, 11:18 pm

- **A:** Taro's wife would not have rejected him, and he wouldn't have had a reason to end his life if his daughter hadn't been inspired to write the fake letter. (+1)
- **B:** If Taro's daughter had opened and read her father's letter, she would have realized that she had misjudged her father and had wrongfully rejected him. This could have led to a reconciliation and Taro would no longer have a reason to end his life. (+2)
- **C:** This is what actually happened. Taro's daughter took revenge on her father by writing a fake letter to Taro's wife to make it look as if Taro was having an affair. (0)



8: Okayama, Japan, March 1, 2000, 7:12 am

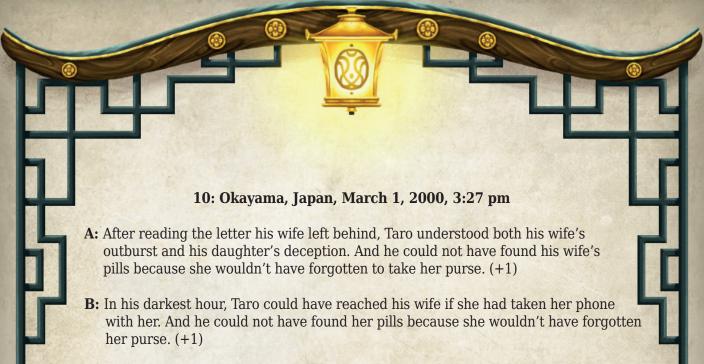
- **A:** As long as he didn't choose his father's suit, it didn't matter which one he selected as either would have made it easier for him to leave the past behind and make a fresh start with his daughter. (+1)
- B: This is what actually happened. Once again, Taro put on the suit meant for his father. (0)
- C: See A above. (+1)

9: Takamatsu, Japan, March 1, 2000, 9:55 am

- **A:** This is what actually happened. Since his letters always went unanswered, Taro decided to take a plane to see his daughter in Tokyo. However, he was already late and due to the mishap with the man in uniform he missed his flight. (0)
- **B:** Taro might have made his flight if the man in uniform had helped him. By visiting his daughter, he might have reconciled with her. (+1)
- C: Taro's disappointment from missing his flight would have been strengthened by the mishap with the cleaning cart and the shout of "Watch out!" as this was the same way his father scolded him on their last day together. (-1)







C: This is what actually happened. Taro's wife forgot her purse and shortly after Taro was able to find the pills that he knew his wife kept there. (0)

11: Okayama, Japan, March 1, 2000, 5:57 pm

- A: Perhaps Taro would have noticed if the messenger had left the package in front of the door.

 Then he would have received his son's gift and would have been reminded that there were still people who loved and needed him. (+1)
- **B:** This is what actually happened. Taro did not receive his son's gift because the messenger didn't leave the package. (0)
- **C:** After a second ring, Taro would probably have opened the door and received the package. His son's gift would have reminded him there were still people who loved and needed him. (+2)

Credits

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