

Shogun Episode Guide

Episodes 001-009

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Season One

Anjin

Season 1
Episode Number: 1
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Tuesday February 27, 2024
Writer: Rachel Kondo, Justin Marks
Director: Jonathan van Tulleken
Show Stars: Hiroyuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidō (Ochiba No Kata)
Guest Stars: Nestor Carbonell (Vasco Rodrigues), Tokuma Nishioka (Toda Hiro-matsu), Hiroto Kanai (Kashigi Omi), Yasunari Takeshima (Muraji), Moeka Hoshi (Usami Fuji), Yuki Kura (Yoshii Nagakado), Ako (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo), Ned Dennehy (Captain General), Hiromoto Ida (Lord Kiyama), Toshi Toda (Lord Sugiyama), Takeshi Kurokawa (Lord Ohno), Yuka Kouri (Kiku), Hiro Kanagawa (Igarashi Yoshitomo), Sen Mars (Nakamura Yaechiyo), Paul Moniz de Sa (Father Sebastio), Jared Ager-Foster (Peiterzoon), Kaiden Berge (Delirious Man), Dakota Daulby (Salamon), Seiji Fukumura (Sakichi), Manami Hara (Kashigi Saki), Shun Harada (Christian Peasant), Ryo Hayashida (Tough Green Samurai), Yayoi Hirano (Oba), Aoi Gushiken (Little Girl), Emi Kamito (Chiyo), Kashibe Yoshiaki (Young Gray), Ryuta Kato (Messenger Samurai), Yūki Kedōin (Takemaru), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu), Saeko Kimura (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2), Roger LeBlanc (Roper), Nelson Leis (Hendrik), Hikaru Morita (Young Green Samurai), Brandon Nomura (Masujiro), Nobuya Shimamoto (Nebara Jozen), Yutaka Takeuchi (Akechi Jinsai), Jodai Suzuki (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2), Junichi Tajiri (Uejirou)
Summary: Destinies converge in Japan after a barbarian ship washes ashore in a poor fishing village. Meanwhile, in Osaka, Lord Toranaga finds himself outplayed by his enemies.



In the episode we learn Shogun is set in the year 1600 in feudal Japan. Currently, the Portuguese have a monopoly over trade in the New World. Their influence extends through the church. However, their European Protestant counterparts are planning a move of their own. Locally, after the long-serving Taiko's death, Japan's five warrior lords are vying for political control. Various alliances have been forged that threaten to disturb the balance of power.

We are first introduced to John Blackthorne, who is piloting an English crew through the Magellan Pass in search of the Japanese shore. The Erasmus set sail with a host of other ships but only they remain. The crew is dwindling with only a dozen bodies left. Its captain has lost all hope. He commits suicide, choosing a death of his own choice. The rest face a bleak fate as starvation and other diseases await them. Cut to, the Erasmus hitting shore near the village of Ajiro.

Lord Yabushige's samurai inspect the ship, find the men, and take them hostage. They also confiscate the ship and await their lord's arrival. Lord Yoshii Toranaga arrives at the Osaka palace with his pupil. He is one of the five warrior lords vying for control of Japan. Toranaga is the Lord of the Kanto and has a sizeable "fief," i.e., land, under his control. He has been summoned under grave charges. The other four Regents are also assembled in this meeting. Together, they form the Council of Regents who share the power in the absence of a king. The late Taiko's heir, Yaechiyo, is too young to rule and will take over when he turns 16.

Lord Ishida, who is currently leading the scheming against Toranaga, explains that Yaechiyo's mother, Lady Ochiba, was taken to Toranaga's castle in Edo earlier in the day. It was done without any permission, which violates the local rules. Toranaga explains that his daughter-in-law is in labour. Ochiba is her sister and hence, on account of the impending birth, is visiting the castle. The Council is unconvinced. The plan is pre-meditated, leaving Toranaga no chance.

Ishida presents an order that penalizes Toranaga for impeachment. His fate rests with the Council's final decision, which will be taken in a few days. One of his pupils, Tadayoshi, reacts angrily. He abruptly gets up from his spot and takes a step into the meeting room. This is considered a fatal violation of law. Under the provision, Tadayoshi will now have to kill his newborn son since the bloodline is considered maimed.

Tadayoshi is Fuji's husband, who is Toda Hiromatsu's granddaughter. Fuji refuses to give up her child and wants to commit suicide before he can be killed. However, Mariko, Hiromatsu's daughter-in-law, intercedes and convinces Fuji to give him up. She encourages her to find purpose in life, as Mariko herself did after her father died. Hiromatsu is one of Toranaga's most trusted men. He sends Hiromatsu to Ajiro after receiving a secret note sent to him using a bird. John convinces his men that they have ended up in Japan. He is also confident that until the rutters with his private diary and royal decree are kept hidden in the captain's quarters, no one will know their identities. They will pretend to be English merchants who have lost their way.

However, things do not go according to plan. Yabushige's nephew, Omi, dismisses John's requests for mercy. The Japs think they are pirates and Omi is particularly unhappy with John's rudeness. In front of Yabushige, John tries to plead his case as a Portuguese priest is called to translate. However, the priest recognizes John's nationality and requests Yabushige to have him executed. The lord is intrigued after John crushes a cross under his feet.

He asks his men to choose another from the crew in John's place and house him for the night. Back at Osaka Castle, Lady Iyo encourages Toranaga to step up and channel his bloodline's warrior spirit. She calls for him to embrace his destiny with the title of Shogun. She knows Yaechiyo's life is in danger and it is up to Toranaga to protect him. Given the cargo found in Erasmus, Yabushige plans on keeping it a secret. He fears that after Toranaga and his clan are killed, war will ensue.

Ishida will find it hard to cope with the Church and their allied Christian Regents, Kiyama and Ohno. Yabushige's arsenal of weapons will make him a valuable ally to Ishida. The plan is solid but everything changes when Hiromatsu unexpectedly shows up. A spy warned Toranaga through the secret note well ahead of time. Hiromatsu seizes control of the ship and plans on taking it back to Osaka. As the cargo is being taken back, John's paths cross with that of Carlos Rodrigues, a Spanish pilot working for the Portuguese.

However, en route, the ship runs into a storm. John's skills and determination come in handy as they navigate it well enough. But Rodrigues is thrown overboard. When they reach calmer waters, he pleads with Yabushige and his men to save Rodrigues. They agree as the Spaniard is a skilled pilot. He is found at the bottom of a cliff by the rocks. Although John wants to go himself to save Rodrigues, Yabushige stops him. In a clever ploy, he challenges the lord in front of his men and Yabushige has no option but to accept.

Yabushige is badly injured in the ensuing climb down. However, as he is about to commit seppuku (suicide) his men throw him a rope. Yabushige saves Rodrigues from a certain death and wins John's respect. When he regains consciousness, Rodrigues reveals that he has found John's private diaries and the rutter he stole from a Spanish sailor. As soon as they hit the shore, he will give up John's secret to the Portuguese.

Toranaga prepares Mariko for John's arrival since she speaks fluent Portuguese. He trusts her and needs reliable people in these tumultuous times. He believes that the *anjin* can turn the tide in this tussle for power, perhaps even saving his clan from certain death. The final moments of the episode reveal that Toranaga's spy in Ajiro is Mujiro, whom we saw translating for John

before Yabushige's arrival.

Servants of Two Masters

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Tuesday February 27, 2024
Writer: Rachel Kondo, Justin Marks
Director: Jonathan van Tulleken
Show Stars: Hiroyuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidô (Ochiba no Kata)
Guest Stars: Nestor Carbonell (Vasco Rodrigues), Tokuma Nishioka (Toda Hiromatsu), Joaquim de Almeida (Father Domingo), Shinnosuke Abe (Buntaro), Ako (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo), Yuki Kura (Yoshii Nagakado), Louis Ferreira (Ferreira), Paulino Nunes (Father Dell'Aqua), Hiromoto Ida (Lord Kiyama), Takeshi Kurokawa (Lord Ohno), Toshi Toda (Lord Sugiyama), Yoriko Dôguchi (Kiri No Kata), Sen Mars (Nakamura Yaechiyo), Gerardo Barcala (Portuguese Priest (voice)), Mako Fujimoto (Shizu No Kata), Mark Fukuhara (Beggar), Tomio Fukumura (Red Samurai Captain), Jason Furukawa (Domingo's Prisoner Friend #2), Yûki Kedôin (Takemaru), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu), Yuua Yamana (Toda Ryuji), Kasey Ryne Mazak (Prison Guard), Akinori Nagai (Domingo's Prisoner Friend #1), Nobuya Shimamoto (Nebara Jozen), Paul Cheng (Prisoner), Kengo Hashimoto (Ishido's Gray Kosho), Jaden Konishi (Hiromatsu's Kosho), Jason Riki Kosuge (Brown Samurai), Eushin Lee (Yabushige's Kosho)
Summary: Blackthorne's arrival in Osaka stirs up a hornet's nest of rivalries. Mariko is trapped between her cause and her faith when she must translate for the barbarian in Lord Toranaga's custody.



A flashback reveals a lot about the bond between Yoshii Toranaga and the erstwhile Taiko. On his deathbed a year ago, the ruler decreed that a political stalemate ensue until Yaechiyo turned sixteen. He made the five Regents share political power but was wary of inner schemings. Toranaga and the Taiko were close friends. It was only fate that prevented Toranaga from marrying Ochiba. The Taiko laments that he couldn't conquer Korea at his peak strength. In that case, he would have gifted Japan to

Toranaga. The Taiko requests Toranaga to watch over Yaechiyo as his life would be in danger once the tussle to acquire power began.

His prophecy turned out to be true in the present day. John is brought to Toranaga's court. Martin Alvita, the Portuguese *tsuji* or translator shortly arrives to assist the Regent. However, before that, he is instructed by Father Dell'Acqua, the leader of the Christian faction (called "Society of Jesus"), to protect their "mission." He mentions that John's private diaries talk about the Portuguese's secret base in Macao, which the Regents do not know about.

When he arrives at the court, we learn that Mariko is a former pupil of his. Although she isn't translating, Toranaga wants her by his side to ensure that Martin is doing a faithful job.

To his credit, Martin translates truthfully. Even though John feared he wouldn't, Martin is an honourable man. In a stylishly put-together montage of Toranaga and John's conversation, the *arjin* explains that he is from England. He also lays out the religious conflicts between the Protestants and Catholics vis-a-vis the war between England and Portugal.

John still maintains the garb of being a merchant, authorized by the Dutch Marquis to trade freely in the open seas. Toranaga is impressed by John's sincerity and feisty personality. However, before they can proceed further, Ishida joins the court. John's heretic status has already made the rounds. News travels fast but no one is able to predict exactly why Toranaga is interested in him.

In a meeting with his inner circle later that night, we learn about his plan. Kiyama and Ohno, the Christian Regents, owe their fidelity to the Portuguese. John's presence in Osaka is a dagger through their hearts. Before they can vote in unison against Toranaga, the Regents will demand that John be executed. This will divide the Regents and protect Toranaga. John is sentenced to die and until that happens, he must stay confined in prison.

He is confused about his current state until he meets Father Domingo, a fellow Protestant who came to Japan almost three decades ago. Toranaga is being sequestered in the castle awaiting his impeachment. The clever Regent is using the *arjin* to his own advantage. Domingo also tells John about Toranaga's bloodline of the Minowara, who carried a "divine mandate" to rule as "Shogun." It is yet unclear what his heart truly desires... but the events threaten to lead to this conclusion. Domingo also sheds light on the ongoing trade arrangements.

Since the Japanese and Chinese will not negotiate with one another, the Portuguese act as middlemen. Their Black Ship, stationed in Macao, carries the bulk of business earning heaps of profits. The late Taiko tried to put a stop to this arrangement but the Society of Jesus incited a rebellion to quell his efforts. The gunring was operated from their secret base in the region, where hundreds of converted Japanese soldiers ply as mercenaries on the Church's command.

The next morning, the Regents meet to discuss the matter. As Toranaga predicted, Kiyama and Ohno bring up John's execution. However, Ishida brushes aside their request, saying that the rules of the castle must be abided by. He is also critical of their association with the Portuguese for the sake of profiteering from their trade. They are at a stalemate, buying Toranaga valuable time. The pressure on Martin piles on as Captain Ferreira, who leads the Black Ship, demands that he secure the permit for the ship to leave Japanese shores.

Toranaga, as the President of Foreign Relations, is the one who has to grant this permit. Ishida visits Yabushige outside the castle. The Regent was Yabushige's former general in war and the two men share a meaningful camaraderie. This encourages the latter to speak more freely. He brings up the possibility of the Church and Christian Regents taking over once Toranaga is gone. Ishida would then be isolated and on the same footing as his rival. However, having John's weaponry and his loyalty could help him.

When Ishida reveals that he has already signed the execution order, Yabushige comes up with a plot to save John. He employs local bandits to kill the men taking John for execution and brings him to Toranaga. Mariko translates for John as he pleads his case. He explains that the Protestant Queen isn't an enemy of Japan. They have a common enemy in the form of the Portuguese. John begins to divulge all the secrets from his diaries to Toranaga.

He explains that the Spanish and Portuguese controlled the Magellan Pass, which allowed the Erasmus to come ashore. The two empires carved up the New World — of which Japan is a part — into two pieces for themselves. Their end goal is to displace non-Catholic rulers and install their own rule in the territories. Toranaga and the rest of the court are stunned. But the Regent already has a plan in mind. He instructs John to be placed in his quarters for the night.

It is a trap to bring out the spy in his ranks who works for the Church. The first step is denying the Black Ship to depart from the shores. It propels the Regents and the Church to dispatch their murderer in the palace. It is one of the maids, who wreaks havoc as Toranaga's samurai are slow to react. Toranaga is smarter to the situation and tactfully kills her but not before John tries to intervene and save his life. Toranaga reveals that the maid came to kill John and not him, making him an even more important pawn in this political game.

Tomorrow Is Tomorrow

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Tuesday March 05, 2024
Writer: Shannon Goss
Director: Charlotte Brändström
Show Stars: Hiroyuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidô (Ochiba no Kata)
Guest Stars: Nestor Carbonell (Vasco Rodrigues), Tokuma Nishioka (Toda Hiro-matsu), Shinnosuke Abe (Buntaro), Moeka Hoshi (Usami Fuji), Louis Ferreira (Ferreira), Yuki Kura (Yoshii Nagakado), Yoriko Dôguchi (Kiri No Kata), Paulino Nunes (Father Dell'Aqua), Hiromoto Ida (Lord Kiyama), Toshi Toda (Lord Sugiyama), Yasunari Takeshima (Mura-ji), Nobuya Shimamoto (Nebara Jozen), Mako Fujimoto (Shizu No Kata), Yuua Yamanaka (Toda Ryuji), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu), Philip Cabrita (Chief Gunner), Luis Seki Chi (Captain of the Guards), Kengo Hashimoto (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1), Saeko Kimura (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2), Erisa Ichikawa (Yayoi), Jaden Konishi (Hiromatsu's Brown Kosho), Eushin Lee (Yabushige's Green Kosho), Akira Murai (Osaka Castle Brown Bowsman), Nobuyuki Obikane (Jozen's Captain), Yutaro Oka (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1), Gabriel Prevost-Takahashi (Gray Guard), Soichi Sato (Elderly Doctor), Jodai Suzuki (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2), Jamie Tatemichi (Christian Samurai), Daiki Yoshizaki (Ishido's Gray Kosho #2), Charles Chi Soo Kim (Osaka Villager), Rex Pai (Sugiyama's Lifeguard)
Summary: After Blackthorne survives a brazen assassination attempt, Toranaga realizes he must ferry his allies out of Osaka or risk certain defeat.



The episode begins with a tense meeting between Yabushige and Toranaga. Remember, this is in the context of the assassination attempt on John from the previous episode.

Toranaga chillingly asks Yabushige about the "Society of the Amida." The slain maid is a member of this secretive organization, although Yabushige has no clue what it is. The Lord of the Kanto looks upon his lack of connection suspiciously. It is a despairing moment where Toranaga is desperately looking for an

ally when its figures are dwindling all around him.

Yabushige reveals Ishido offered him a seat on the Council if he sided with him against Toranaga. However, the two men reason out an exchange to remain allies for now. Yabushige gets a large province to increase his fief, while Toranaga gets Yabushige's fidelity and the promise that he will escort John and Lady Kiri to Ajiro.

Captain Ferreira is getting anxious with every passing day. Martin maintains that before Toranaga has the opportunity to review the rate of exchange, he will not allow the ship to set sail. However, Ferreira declares that he will do it anyway.

Buntaro, Marikoi's husband, is responsible for the security of the travellers. Despite his failings as a father and husband from a modern perspective, his skillset is the need of the hour. Buntaro is an "admired warrior," in the words of his own wife. As the party prepares to leave, Lady Kirino Kata announces her addition to the list. It is wholly unexpected but John senses a disguise. Lord Ishido arrives at the gate. According to protocol, when someone from the high society leaves the castle, a day's notice must be given to him.

He enforces this rule and asks Jozun, one of his loyal samurai from the clan, to inspect the carriages. John's sense of distraction is spot on as this is a shenanigan. Shizu, Kiri's daughter who is pregnant, moans in pain to fixate everyone's attention on her. This gives Toranaga and Kiri enough time to exchange their places. Only John and Mariko spot the trickery. Ishida is satisfied and instructs Jozun and the other clan members to join the travelling party.

Mariko explains to John that if Toranaga is found out, all the travelling members will be punished with death. They run into a problem at the gates when the keeper requires another round of search despite Ishido's go-ahead. John recognizes the urgency of the situation and in a bid to further alleviate his position in Toranaga's eyes, raises a clamour about "the privacy of women" to distract the keepers. Mariko joins in the facade and the danger is averted.

As expected, the party is attacked in the woods late at night by Kiyama's men. The Regent is himself present to ensure that John is killed. Amid a rain of arrows, both the carriages are set down on the ground as the men take cover behind trees. John runs to Toranaga's aid. The moment his presence comes to the knowledge of his men, there is a renewed sense of duty to protect him. An intense battle breaks out between the two factions.

Yabushige escorts Toranaga, John, and Mariko to the shore as Buntaro and other samurai stay back to hold off the enemies. John recognizes some of his former crew lingering around the shores. They help the remaining travellers to board the galley. All except Buntaro make it to the water. The warrior is chased by the entire village, who are hostile after they discover John's presence since they are all Christians. Even though they have time to turn back and John insists they do, Buntaro's life has to be sacrificed. He accepts it with honour and Toranaga responds with the same respect by standing up and acknowledging the act of valour.

Mariko is stunned into silence but there is very little she can do. However, the party turns into yet another trouble. And failure to overcome this could be decisive. Kiyama's mercenaries have created a blockade using boats. The galley will easily sink as they wait in anticipation of killing the heretic. John suggests that The Black Ship, which is setting sail with them despite Toranaga's order, will be able to sustain their attacks.

Toranaga boards the ship and offers a deal. Money, permission to trade, and most importantly, a church in Edo. Martin's ears stand up when he hears that and the Portuguese accept his deal. However, they do not allow John to come aboard, leaving him on the galley with a few others. But John is not someone to sit around and wait for his death. His persistence galvanizes the men as he screams at them to row furiously to match Black Ship's pace. To everyone's surprise, the galley almost gets parallel to the ship.

Rodrigues, who is piloting the ship, engages in friendly banter with John. But make no mistake, they remain on the opposite sides in this war. Although the threat of Kiyama's men is neutralized, the galley is heading straight for the rocks. Ferriera instructs Rodrigues to crash the galley. But the Spaniard decides not to and slows down, allowing the galley to barely escape with their lives.

He does so because John saved his life on the rocks. The debt is finally "settled." The ship parts ways with the galley as Toranaga and the rest return to it. Back at the Osaka Castle, the Regents are at odds. Ishida admonishes Kiyama for his impulsiveness. Since Toranaga was already to be executed in a few days, John would not have survived for long either. Now, they have managed to escape and there is no bringing them back. The telling blow to their hollow plan is delivered by Hiromatsu, who declares to the Council that Toranaga has resigned. And without his presence, the Council cannot take a vote.

All five must be voting for any decision to hold good. This masterstroke is a hallmark of Toranaga's wits and trickery. The next moves are testimony of his preparedness and Minowara bloodline. He instructs his son to train a new regiment in Ajiro and demands John that he teach a new faction his war tactics and use of Western weapons. John knows he has no experience in warfare but in order to survive, he agrees to do so. Toranaga rewards John's bravery by making him hatamoto, an honorary rank in the culture.

In a private moment, John confides in Mariko that he is running away from his responsibilities as a father and a husband. He hasn't seen his newborn daughter since her birth and doesn't serve a master either. He feels at home in the open seas with no concerns for the day to come. In a lighter and symbolic moment, John teaches Toranaga how to dive. The two men also race each other to Edo's shore as they go back home.

The Eightfold Fence

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Tuesday March 12, 2024
Writer: Nigel Williams, Emily Yoshida
Director: Frederick E.O. Toye
Show Stars: Hiroyuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidō (Ochiba no Kata)
Guest Stars: Hiroto Kanai (Kashigi Omi), Moeka Hoshi (Usami Fuji), Yasunari Takeshima (Muraji), Yuki Kura (Yoshii Nagakado), Yutaka Takeuchi (Akechi Jinsai), Yuka Kouri (Kiku), Nobuya Shimamoto (Nebara Jozen), Yūki Kedōin (Takemaru), Manami Hara (Kashigi Saki), Hiro Kanagawa (Igarashi Yoshitomo), Emi Kamito (Chiyo), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu), Saeko Kimura (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2), Yukari Komatsu (Housekeeper Yuki), Erisa Ichikawa (Yayoi), Eushin Lee (Yabushige's Green Kosho), Nobuyuki Obikane (Jozen's Captain), Yutaro Oka (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1), Jodai Suzuki (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2), Seiya Matsudo (Green Scout), Sora Miyamoto (Teruji), Kenji Sato (Green Samurai), Kenji Scott (Eager Green Samurai), Evan O'Dwyer Uyeda (Samurai Runner), Paul Cheng (Village Peasant)
Summary: Blackthorne and Mariko test their new alliance as they train Toranaga's gun regiment for war. Yabushige must navigate his past promises to Ishido when an old friend comes to the village.



The episode begins with a message delivered to Omi, Yabushige's nephew, in Ajiro. Omi is asked to prepare the village for Toranaga's arrival.

While the preparations are in full flow, Mariko navigates a difficult situation on the galley. Since John has been promoted to the rank of Hatamoto, he now needs a consort. That responsibility falls on Fuji's shoulders. She is vehemently opposed to assuming the charge but Mariko reminds her of the duty she owes to Toranaga. Because that's the only way forward... to continue the fight of her husbands and families.

When Yabushige learns about Toranaga's resignation from the Council, he is taken aback. Yabushige shows no hesitation in expressing his views. According to him, Toranaga has "signed off on his death" by making this decision.

The galley reaches Ajiro's shores as Yabushige's vast samurai army chants his name. However, his joy is short-lived as Toranaga begins speaking. His ferocious speech galvanizes the samurai, who begin chanting his name. Toranaga firmly believes that a war is in the offing and those who conspire against Japan must be dealt with appropriately.

In another shocking turn of events, Toranaga leaves Ajiro in a small boat, explaining that he has "urgent matters" to attend to. This leaves everyone in shock, most of all John. He goes

around the place looking for his crewmen. Since the villagers don't understand Portuguese, it is Mariko who clears the air after John is stopped from boarding his ship in the water. Mariko explains that both the crew and the ship now belong to Toranaga.

The crewmen have been placed in the city of Edo for their own safety. John is miffed but understands that he is powerless in this situation. His freedom is only farcical and at Toranaga's mercy. As Hatamoto, John is afforded the luxury of a big house, a generous salary, and Fuji as his consort. He is yet again frustrated as this essentially keeps him in Ajiro as a prisoner while Toranaga is away. He refuses to accept Fuji as his pseudo spouse but Mariko makes it clear that for the next six months, she will perform the marital duties regardless of how he feels.

During a meeting with Omi and his general, Yabushige discusses the matters ahead. The general believes that Toranaga has taken Yabushige for granted. Time and again, the Lord of the Kanto has insulted him, including this show in Ajiro. However, Yabushige remains composed. When he reprimands Omi for being unable to discern Toranaga's spy in the village, Omi comes up with a well-thought-out plan to support him.

Until Toranaga comes back, the ship and its cannon are Yabushige's. If he offers it to Ishida as a gift, Yabushige might be able to get his favour since Toranaga will be impeached once the fifth Council member is found. In a tender moment, Mariko explains to John why Fuji has been made his consort. The conversation also touches upon Japanese culture and customs. Mariko cites "the eightfold fence," a concept that she was taught as a child. It is like an internal retreat behind which one can find complete solace from everything around them.

The next morning brings another confrontation between John and Omi. The latter demands that John give up his guns for the day. However, John refuses to comply. The impasse is broken by Fuji's wit as she takes the guns from John and points them at Omi, asking him to leave the house. Omi has no option but to accept Fuji's demands due to her connection to Hiromatsu.

John and Mariko are summoned by Yabushige to a vast field. John is tasked with training a gun regiment for Toranaga's army... that was the deal that allowed him his life. But he comes up short when asked by Mariko to talk about a war that he was a part of. To turn the tide in his favour, John suggests an alternative. Since he has been a sea pilot all his life and the English cannons are unlike anything the world has seen, John offers to teach the regiment naval combat. He promises that the cannons can travel a great distance with utmost accuracy.

Upon demonstration, all the scepticism is drawn out and replaced by optimism. John begins training the regiment in this combat craft over the next few weeks. Mariko, who was given John's personal diaries by Toranaga before departing, reads them at night to increase her familiarity with him. During one of these sessions, a scout spots Jozun carrying Ishido's flag coming toward them. Nagakado, Toranaga's son, is on alert as Yabushige greets him. Jozun delivers a demand letter asking Yabushige to come back to Osaka and explain his "Treason." He maintains that he had no idea Toranaga was inside one of the carriages.

Yabushige insists Jozun stay back and witness the cannon's ability himself the next day. Since their rapport is quite good, Jozun agrees to the request. If he would have agreed to return, Yabushige would have had to commit suicide. But now that he has refused to go, he will be declared a fugitive. During dinner, John and Fuji exchange gifts. As a gesture of his gratitude, John gifts her one of the guns, and in return, Fuji gives her father's sword to John.

Kiku and Omi are having an affair. But there is enough hint in the episode that she might have ulterior motives. She is possibly a spy for the Christian Regents or the Portuguese. This will become clearer as we move forward. However, for now, Kiku hasn't acted out. To help out his uncle, Omi comes up with a plan to manipulate Nagakado by using Toranaga's influence against him. Nagakado has always felt that his father still thinks of him as a child and doesn't value his opinion. Omi is successful in luring Nagakado to potentially act rashly instead of asking Toranaga how to proceed.

In the best scene of the episode, John and Mariko share their feelings about themselves and the world near a hot spring geyser. They are very similar individuals in terms of their outlook and journeys in life. It is perhaps the spark that triggers what Mariko does next. While John is sleeping in his quarters, she quietly slips in, wakes him up, and they have sex. However, the next morning, she refuses to acknowledge it and Mariko instead claims it was a courtesan.

The episode ends on an explosive note. Instead of demonstrating how the cannons work, Nagakado surprises everyone by using them against Jozun and his men. They are absolutely obliterated by the attack and have no defence. Everyone is shocked, none more so than Mariko,

who begrudgingly exclaims, "It is war."

Broken to the Fist

Season 1

Episode Number: 5

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired:	Tuesday March 19, 2024
Writer:	Matt Lambert
Director:	Frederick E.O. Toye
Show Stars:	HiroYuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidô (Ochiba no Kata)
Guest Stars:	Hiroto Kanai (Kashigi Omi), Moeka Hoshi (Usami Fuji), Yasunari Takeshima (Muraji), Shinnosuke Abe (Buntaro), Yuki Kura (Yoshii Nagakado), Ako (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo), Hiromoto Ida (Lord Kiyama), Toshi Toda (Lord Sugiyama), Takeshi Kurokawa (Lord Ohno), Sen Mars (Yaechiyo Nakamura), Yûki Kedôin (Takemaru), Hiro Kanagawa (Igarashi Yoshitomo), Eushin Lee (Yabushige's Green Kosho), Junichi Tajiri (Uejirou), Emi Kamito (Blackthorne's Maid Chiyo), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu), Yukari Komatsu (Housekeeper Yuki), Erisa Ichikawa (Yayoi), Yutaro Oka (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1), Jodai Suzuki (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2), Kengo Hashimoto (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1), Daiki Yoshizaki (Ishido's Gray Kosho #2), Daiki Ishida (Gray Samurai Servant), Sora Miyamoto (Teruji), Kasumi Kanaya (Ajiro Samurai Wife), Rintaro Sawamoto (Male Cook), Kurtis Hori (Assistant Cook), Paul Cheng (Village Peasant)
Summary:	Blackthorne and Mariko struggle to contain the secret that could get them both killed. Yabushige searches for the spy who has betrayed his intentions to Lord Toranaga.



The episode begins with Toranaga's emphatic return back to Izu. The opening scene of the episode is beset with the brutal sight of decimated bodies from Ishida's camp. It is quite disturbing to see the remains of people splattered everywhere like this. However, the sight of Buntaro riding with Toranaga has a foreboding sense of dread for Mariko after her dalliances with John. Since he has no knowledge it was her, John is free of guilt — for the moment.

Toranaga explains that Buntaro was helped by the ronin in escaping Ajiro. The odds were stacked against him but the warrior managed to survive, showcasing his perseverance and determination. He is asked to stay at John's house, which he greatly dislikes.

Toranaga gifts John a pheasant to cook but the barbarian puts it out to rot, shocking Fuji and the other servant staff. It is one of the big markers of the cultural differences between the two countries.

In one of the most tense scenes of the season, we see Buntaro and John "go up against" each other. While it is not a traditional duel, the exchange is as ferocious. It involves a lot of sake for both men and eventually spitballs into an ego contest. Despite the sage counsel from Mariko and

Fuji, the two men continue to drink to an extent where they lose the direction of their senses. When John asks Buntaro to narrate the stories of his heroics, the samurai takes offence. "Stories are for children," he says, prompting John to give another challenge.

In his drunken state, Buntaro successfully shoots two arrows at the house's front gate that go inches away from Mariko's face, who remains unmoved. His vanity comes out when he spites Mariko's family, forcing her to narrate their "shameful" acts.

Mariko's father, Akicho Jensai, killed the erstwhile corrupt ruler of Japan. He was forced to kill every other member of his family and then commit suicide. However, since Mariko was married, she was forgiven... but it hasn't been the same for her. Mariko has struggled to come to terms with the shame and embarrassment, asking Buntaro at every opportunity to commit seppuku.

Later that night, John is woken up by the noises of Buntaro beating Mariko black and blue. He tries to intervene but by that time, the damage has already been done. Mariko blames herself — and John — for Buntaro's actions. John confronts his cowardly acts, prompting Buntaro to lay down his weapons since he is a houseguest.

John's misery is further compounded as Uejiro, his gardener, is killed when he touches the pheasant. It is unclear what caused his death but here is a gist of how it came to this. John put up the bird to rot, asking everyone to stay away. He said in broken Japanese, "Bird touch die." This forced everyone to stay away from it, despite the unbearable stench. However, Uejiro couldn't bear seeing everyone struggle with the smell and decided to intervene.

On the same tangent, Toranaga secretly instructed Mujiro, his spy in the village, to find a scapegoat. Yabushige and Omi were getting restless, forcing Toranaga to make the first move. So the makers haven't shown what happened to Uejiro but it is likely that Mujiro had something to do with it.

John is stunned into silence. He cannot believe that a man would lose his life for such an innocuous joke. Mariko doesn't share his sentiments and her feelings toward him will also change going forward. She puts it into perspective bluntly, "We live, and we die. We control nothing beyond that."

The biggest incident in the episode happens right at the end when Toranaga's fleet of soldiers is consumed by a massive earthquake that triggers a landslide. The lord is buried in the ensuing chaos. John and the others rush to his aide and get him out of the trenches.

It is indeed a huge hit to his chances of winning a war against Ishida, who receives Jozun's remains in a box. Lady Ochiba also makes a stunning comeback from the Edo castle, prepared to take on the challenge of ruling the country.

Ladies of the Willow World

Season 1

Episode Number: 6

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Tuesday March 26, 2024
Writer: Maegan Houang
Director: Hiromi Kamata
Show Stars: Hiroyuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidô (Ochiba no Kata)
Guest Stars: Tokuma Nishioka (Toda Hiromatsu), Hiroto Kanai (Kashigi Omi), Yûko Miyamoto (Gin), Yoriko Dôguchi (Kiri No Kata), Shinnosuke Abe (Buntaro), Moeka Hoshi (Usami Fuji), Yuki Kura (Yoshii Nagakado), Yuka Kouri (Kiku), Ako (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo), Yukijirô Hōtaru (Nakamura Hidetoshi), Paulino Nunes (Father Dell'Aqua), Yutaka Takeuchi (Akechi Jinsai), Eijiro Ozaki (Kuroda Nobuhisa), Hiromoto Ida (Lord Kiyama), Toshi Toda (Lord Sugiyama), Takeshi Kurokawa (Lord Ohno), Sen Mars (Yaechiyo Nakamura), Mako Fujimoto (Shizu No Kata), Emi Kamito (Blackthorne's Maid Chiyo), Mila Miyagawa (Young Ruri), Mana Nakamura (Young Mariko), Yutaro Oka (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1), Jodai Suzuki (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu / Noh Performer 'Ochiba'), Saeko Kimura (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2), Erisa Ichikawa (Yayoi), Jaden Konishi (Hiromatsu's Brown Kosho), Kengo Hashimoto (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1), Daiki Yoshizaki (Ishido's Gray Kosho #2), Yûki Kedôin (Takemaru), Eushin Lee (Yabushige's Green Kosho), Hinano Kuzukawa (Yuka), Ayumi Morita (Hana), Masaru Morita (Japanese Peasant Follower #1), Peter Kawasaki (Japanese Peasant Follower #2), Maki Sumitani (Naginata Competitor), Kazuma Tatsumi (Noh Performer 'Akechi'), Toshimasa Ito (Noh Musician #1 — Flute), Sean Hara (Noh Musician #2), Mas Morimoto (Noh Musician #3), Sana Matsuda (Ruri's Lady in Waiting), Rex Pai (Lord Sugiyama's Lifeguard)
Summary: Lady Ochiba returns to Osaka in order to accelerate the Regents' campaign against Toranaga. In Ajiro, Toranaga tests Mariko's loyalty to his cause.



The episode delves deeper into Lady Ochiba's past which includes a loving friendship with Mariko. The two were introduced as girls at Azubchi Castle almost 22 years before the present-day events. However, their bond was broken after Ochiba's father was murdered by Akechi, Mariko's father. They were separated from one another as part of Akechi's plan to protect her. Mariko was married off to Buntaro, a decision she laments to date.

Ochiba's gaze is firmly settled on Toranaga, as she explains to Ishido the source of her hatred. She says that although Akechi

killed him, it was Toranaga's plan all along. That has fueled this animosity in her heart, although it is also suggested that Ochiba might have had romantic sparks for Mariko.

In the flashbacks, it is shown that Ochiba was recruited as a consort to the then Taiko of Japan to bear an heir. Hundreds of other women tried and failed but Ochiba succeeded, making her the "special one." However, this distinguishment came at a dear cost considering what Ochiba had to go through in the process.

In the present day, Toranaga and his clan rebuild in the aftermath of the tectonic earthquake. Although it has left destruction in its wake, Toranaga tries to inspire the spirit and morale of his men. He knows this is a crucial time in the history of Japan as a plan against him unfolds in Osaka. Mariko and John's relationship has also been affected. After the incident with Buntaro, she swore to restrict their interactions to the translation practice.

The rumour mill has been rife with news about the duo. The news has even reached Toranaga's ears, making Mariko even more guarded in her actions. As a gesture of goodwill and grace for his courageous acts, Toranaga gifts John even more fief and a grander title. John is confused and bemused by these restorations but has little choice in what he does with them.

John communicates his wishes to leave Japan and go back to sea with his crew. But Toranaga expects him to fulfil a larger role in his grand vision. The Lord honours John with even more laurels, including making him the general of the cannon regime. Omi and Nagakado are even more upset with these decisions. They cannot understand Toranaga's fascination and liking for John, making them question his intentions.

In Osaka, Ochiba has ensured that Ishido acts rashly to completely isolate Toranaga. Her words of poison have convinced Ishido to hold hostage the families of Lords Kiyama and Sugiyama in the castle. He wants to force a vote against Toranaga and moves to propose the name of Lord Ito as the fifth member of the council.

Ochiba is once again involved in trying to get Ishido to nominate Ito as a member, although her latent intent isn't very established. Meanwhile, the Portuguese also remain undecided in their alliance. Earlier, we saw Toranaga deciding against moving to hurt the Portuguese and their Black Ship when John proposed the scheme. He knows that his allies are dwindling and the Christians have given him no reason to rebel.

Keeping this in mind, Martin proposes that the Portuguese move away from the Regents and make Toranaga an ally in the impending war. However, his advice isn't listened to.

Hinomatsu delivers the message of these new developments to Toranaga. We learn about the plan titled "Crimson Sky" that seeks to establish Toranaga as the Shogun of Japan, tumbling the existing leadership held with the Regent Council. However, Toranaga is against the plan and beseeches his advisors to come up with a different one.

Mariko and Fuji get busy trying to negotiate a price with Gin. She is the owner of the most lavish brothel in town, the Tea House. Upon Toranaga's instructions, Mariko must set up John with Lady Kiku, Omi's lover, to "ease him up." The negotiations are long drawn but they manage to settle on a hefty price. Although the expectation is physical pleasure, we end up learning the real reason why Kiku's appeal is so high.

In an elaborate conversation with John and Mariko where the former is mostly silent, Kiku explains the importance of her company.

The Willow World comes up in her dissection of why people visit the Tea Garden, encapsulating their feelings of loneliness and suffering. Mariko is asked to leave the duo to retire to Kiku's private room, from which they only emerge the next morning.

During the vote to induct Ito into the council, Sugiyama stands against Ishido's wishes. This prompts Ishido to murder Sugiyama and his clan, further intensifying Ochiba's resolve to move against Toranaga. The episode ends with Toranaga approving Crimson Sky with no other options left.

A Stick of Time

Season 1

Episode Number: 7

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Tuesday April 02, 2024
Writer: Matt Lambert
Director: Takeshi Fukunaga
Show Stars: Hiroyuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidô (Ochiba no Kata)
Guest Stars: Tokuma Nishioka (Toda Hiromatsu), Yuki Kura (Yoshii Nagakado), Yûko Miyamoto (Gin), Moeka Hoshi (Usami Fuji), Yasunari Takeshima (Muraji), Shinnosuke Abe (Buntaro), Hiroto Kanai (Kashigi Omi), Yuka Kouri (Kiku), Eita Okuno (Saeki Nobutatsu), Kai Coulter (Young Toranaga (12 years old)), Ryo Hayashida (Tough Green Samurai), Kristopher Horii (Young Hiromatsu (20 years old)), Masaru Hirakawa (Messenger Samurai), Kurtis Horii (Assistant Cook), Erisa Ichikawa (Yayoi), Emi Kamito (Blackthorne's Maid Chiyo), Yûki Kedôin (Take-maru), Saeko Kimura (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu), Yukari Komatsu (Housekeeper Yuki), Jaden Konishi (Hiromatsu's Brown Kosho), Eushin Lee (Yabushige's Green Kosho #2), Yutaro Oka (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1), Rintaro Sawamoto (Male Cook), Jodai Suzuki (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2)
Summary: Outplayed by new alliances in Osaka, Toranaga is forced to carve out a new deal with a long lost family member.



In a flashback to Toronaga's first battle 46 years ago, a man runs through the battlefield screaming "the war is over!" and that Lord Toronaga has won. Mizoguchi formally surrenders and complements Toronaga on his win. Mizoguchi stabs himself and Toronaga delivers the final blow.

In present, Lord Toronaga and his followers wait for the arrival of his brother. Toronaga introduces him to the Anjin. Later, he hires Kiku to be with his brother for a week. Omi later confronts Gin about

her allowing the Anjin to bed with Kiku, declaring that the tea house is now ruined. She suggests he find another courtesan to keep company and also implies that John's mind was on someone else when he was with Kiku.

John asks about his role during the Crimson Sky, specifically wondering if he'll have maritime command. Toronaga hasn't decided yet and Mariko tells him to let it go until he decides.

Hiromatsu visits Fuji and speaks to her about her late husband and child. She declares that she will kill herself after her service is over, and he asks her why not choose to live in honor of their memory.

Saeki eats dinner with Toronaga, Nagakado, Buntaro, the Anjin, and others- telling stories of a young Toronaga in battle and as a hostage. He remarks how great it would be to become the Lord of Izu and admits he received another offer already. All of a sudden, men come running

declaring that Saeki's men have blocked off every road out of Izu. A man delivers papers and Hiromatsu reads them aloud- the Council of Regents request Lord Toronaga's presence in Osaka to answer for his treachery. They ask he deliver his response to Saeki. Lord Toronaga realizes Ishido filled his seat in the Council of Regents. Saeki then tells Nagakado he has an order to commit seppuku for murdering Jozen. Lord Toronaga tells Saeki he will consider this and answer by sunset tomorrow.

Mariko explains to John what this means — certain death for Lord Toronaga and that the rest of them will be forced to grovel at Lord Ishido's feet. John brainstorms ways to get them out of this mess while Lord Toronaga thinks about his past and contemplates the decision. Gin approaches him and asks him to consider her idea for a section of teahouses in Edo, but he tells her he can't help as his future is short. She subtly implies there might be another way to help with his problem.

Meanwhile, Saeki delivers Yabushige the head of one of his generals. Yabushige later goes to the hot springs. Nagakado and Omi go separately and reminisce about the old peaceful life. Saeki confronts them after overhearing their conversation. Saeki tells Nagakado to think about his future.

Yabushige looks out at the water with the Anjin and tries to teach him how to use his sword. Buntaro watches from afar but approaches with his sword drawn, seemingly ready to kill John, however he refrains.

Lord Toronaga has his will written, leaving his lands to his grandchildren when they come of age. He also writes that Gin should have a section of land in Edo to use as she wishes. Buntaro approaches and asks for permission to take the barbarian's head before he dies, claiming he doesn't like the way he looks at Mariko. Lord Toronaga asks Buntaro if he believes Mariko is encouraging it and if so he'd need to take her head and the Anjin's but Buntaro does not accuse his wife. Toronaga tells him therefore he cannot accuse the Anjin. Buntaro leaves and Lord Toronaga asks Mariko where her real loyalties lie.

Later, Lord Toronaga tells Saeki he will go to Osaka to answer to the Council of Regents. He admits Crimson Sky was a mistake and his men are shocked. John jumps up in disagreement and walks away. Saeki informs him that he will escort him to Osaka the next day.

Saeki sleeps with Kiku and tells her he will bring her to Edo with him to be his seventh consort. She asks Saeki if she can elevate their play and he agrees. She leaves and Nagakado arrives, first killing one of Saeki's guards. He then lunges to kill Saeki but slips and cracks his head open. Saeki lives and Nagakado dies.

The Abyss of Life

Season 1

Episode Number: 8

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Tuesday April 09, 2024
Writer: Shannon Goss
Director: Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour
Show Stars: Hiroyuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidō (Ochiba no Kata)
Guest Stars: Tokuma Nishioka (Toda Hiromatsu), Hiroto Kanai (Kashigi Omi), Yūko Miyamoto (Gin), Shinnosuke Abe (Buntaro), Yuki Kura (Yoshii Nagakado), Ako (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo), Yuka Kouri (Kiku), Yoshi Amao (Sera), Hitoshi Masaki (Tomono), Tatsuya Aoki (Regal Buddhist Priest #1), Dakota Daulby (Salamon), Mako Fujimoto (Shizu No Kata), Kengo Hashimoto (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1), June Fukumura (Daiyoin's Lady in Waiting #1), Takahiro Inoue (Numata), Isao Ishigaki (Doctor), Shintaro Kanaoya (Christian Acolyte), Yūki Kedōin (Takemaru), Saeko Kimura (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2), Tamara Kiyama (Young Maid), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu), Jaden Konishi (Hiromatsu's Brown Kosho), Eushin Lee (Yabushige's Green Kosho #2), Ayumi Morita (Hana), Hanna Matsumoto (Young Consort), Richard Ogawa (Young Peasant), Yutaro Ryan Oka (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1), Shō Oyamada (Yoshifusa), Kenji Sato (Yoshinao), Jodai Suzuki (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2), Kei Senda (Old Maid), Mei Uritani (Japanese Prostitute), Hisa Watanabe (Regal Buddhist Priest #2), Masayuki Watanabe (Regal Buddhist Priest #3), Daiki Yoshizaki (Ishido's Gray Kosho #2)
Summary: Toranaga's defeated clan moves to Edo; Blackthorne must decide who he fights for.



The episode brings more deliberation and weight to its exploration of characters and story. After the previous episode's tragic death, Toranaga will be allowed a customary mourning period. Saeki's army will sit on Edo's boundary for 49 days, giving Toranaga some valuable time to think.

John is set free by Toranaga. The Englishman finally has his wish — he can gather his crew from Edo, take the ship, and go back home.

Back at the Osaka Castle, Ishido excitedly tells Lady Ochiba that her plan is a success. He is soon to become the most powerful leader in Japan as Toranaga fails at the prospect of making a comeback. However, Ochiba will only breathe a sigh of relief when Toranaga's head is firmly pressed to the ground in submission. She feels this mourning period allows him more time to rethink his strategy. Looking to consolidate his position at the top, Ishido offers marriage to Ochiba, who is dreadingly enthused by listening to the proposal.

At a dinner celebrating Nagakado's life, there are different views on Toranaga's decision. While Buntaro and Hiromatsu do not say much and swear to follow Toranaga in death, Omi thinks

differently. He speaks out against the lord and his cowardly decision to condemn the clan to death. Many of Toranaga's close advisors and military generals decide to protest against the decision.

Surprisingly, Toranaga is not present at Nagakado's funeral while the rest of the city marches. Hiromatsu informs Yabushige that he will take the guns and cannons that belong to Toranaga to Osaka and offer Ishido.

John is caught in a precarious situation as he is taken to his drunk sailors. One of them Salomon, rightly points out that it was John's ego and vile ambition that took them to Japan. They could have just as easily turned back toward England as they came to these foreign lands.

Despite spending so much time in the country, John only poses as an impersonator, claiming to be one among them. However, neither can he speak their language, nor is he fully tuned to their customs. He is trapped in no-man's land.

During an uninspired meeting with Father Martin, Mariko, and Hiromatsu, Toranaga once again reiterates his decision to fully surrender. His defeatist attitude is again shocking and puzzles those in the audience. Martin suggests that by aligning himself with Ochiba, Toranaga can successfully defeat Ishido and his vested interests. But Toranaga is in no mood to create that perception.

Hiromatsu is still convinced that Toranaga intends to fight and everything is a ruse. His persistent cough and illness are probably feigned to make him look even more weak. Toranaga is beseeched by Martin to hold his promise of giving the Christians land in Edo to build a church. But Toranaga still has the last laugh as he only gives the land next to Gin's ambitious Tea Houses.

Yabushige is still aligned with Toranaga when John approaches him to sail under Yabushige's banner. The Lord of Izu still believes that his alliance with and loyalty to Toranaga is unquestioned in his eyes. Going against him would be treachery and he isn't ready to allow John to join him.

Mariko and Buntaro have a breakdown in their marriage after the latter suggests that they commit suicide together as a romantic gesture in the face of Toranaga's surrender.

In the climactic ordeal, Toranaga's vassals gather on a rainy day in Edo. He wants everyone who is loyal to him to sign their death warrants and agree to commit suicide. Although the signatures start with Yabushige and Omi, Toranaga's loyal vassals raise their voices.

They are not prepared to silently watch as Toranaga gives away everything they have fought for over the years. The lord insists that they listen to him and he has no trickery under his sleeve. But it is Hiromatsu's declaration of seppuku that brings things to a grinding halt.

Everyone is stunned and there is palpable tension in the air as the two best friends face off. Toranaga, although daunted, does not back down... and neither does Hiromatsu. He enlists Buntaro's help to "Second" his seppuku in a bid to stop Toranaga. However, he does not back down and Hiromatsu commits suicide as Buntaro cuts off his head to end his suffering.

During a conversation with Mariko later that night, Toranaga reveals that Hiromatsu was in on his plan. To give the appearance that he is completely defeated, Toranaga required the life of his valued friend. His sacrifice is part of his duty that will help Toranaga and his clan emerge victorious against the evil plan unfolding in Osaka.

In order for Osaka and the Council to believe that Toranaga's defeat is legitimate, they also have to believe that his closest allies are divided — and there's no more convincing way to do that than for one of them to take his own life.

Mariko joins Yabushige and John's voyage to Osaka with a special revenge mission on her mind. Ochiba accepts Ishido's proposal for marriage, making it a promising showdown between the parties.

Crimson Sky

Season 1

Episode Number: 9

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Tuesday April 16, 2024
Writer: Rachel Kondo, Caillin Puente
Director: Frederick E.O. Toye
Show Stars: Hiroyuki Sanada (Lord Yoshii Toranaga), Cosmo Jarvis (Pilot Major John Blackthorne), Anna Sawai (Toda Mariko), Tadanobu Asano (Kashigi Yabushige), Takehiro Hira (Ishido Kazunari), Tommy Bastow (Father Martin Alvito), Fumi Nikaidô (Ochiba no Kata)
Guest Stars: Yoriko Dôguchi (Kiri No Kata), Eisuke Sasai (Lord Ito), Eita Okuno (Saeki Nobutatsu), Louis Ferreira (Ferreira), Paulino Nunes (Father Dell'Aqua), Hiromoto Ida (Lord Kiyama), Takeshi Kurokawa (Lord Ohno), Sen Mars (Nakamura Yaechiyo), Mako Fujimoto (Shizu No Kata), Yuua Yamanaka (Toda Ryuji), Norihiko Akagi (Dancing Samurai Busho), Lin Flora (Woman #1), Kengo Hashimoto (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1), Daiki Ishida (Gray Samurai Servant), Kashibe Yoshiaki (Young Gray), Ryuta Kato (Sumiyoshi Tabito), Yûki Kedôin (Takemaru), Akiko Kobayashi (Setsu), Saeko Kimura (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2), Eushin Lee (Yabushige's Green Kosho #2), Hiroo Minami (Miyai), Yuki Morita (Aki No Kata), Haruno Niiyama (Natsu No Kata), Nobuyuki Obikane (Japanese Captain), Sayo Onishi (Woman #2), Kenji Sato (Yoshinao), Yuta Takenaka (Northern Samurai), Naoki Tasaki (Taki-gawa Gray Guard), Daiki Yoshizaki (Ishido's Gray Kosho #2), Rex Pai (Kashigi Omi's Horse Handler)
Summary: Mariko arrives in Osaka for the fight of her life. Blackthorne and Yabushige scramble to save their own heads as their options dwindle.



Mariko arrives in Osaka for the fight of her life. Blackthorne and Yabushige scramble to save their own heads as their options dwindle.

Actor Appearances

A

Shinnosuke Abe.....	6
0102 (Buntaro); 0103 (Buntaro); 0105 (Buntaro); 0106 (Buntaro); 0107 (Buntaro); 0108 (Bun- taro)	
Jared Ager-Foster.....	1
0101 (Peiterzoon)	
Norihiko Akagi.....	1
0109 (Dancing Samurai Busho)	
Ako.....	5
0101 (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo); 0102 (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo); 0105 (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo); 0106 (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo); 0108 (Daiyoin / Lady Iyo)	
Joaquim de Almeida.....	1
0102 (Father Domingo)	
Yoshi Amao.....	1
0108 (Sera)	
Tatsuya Aoki.....	1
0108 (Regal Buddhist Priest #1)	

B

Gerardo Barcala.....	1
0102 (Portuguese Priest (voice))	
Kaiden Berge.....	1
0101 (Delirious Man)	

C

Philip Cabrita.....	1
0103 (Chief Gunner)	
Nestor Carbonell.....	3
0101 (Vasco Rodrigues); 0102 (Vasco Rodrigues); 0103 (Vasco Rodrigues)	
Paul Cheng.....	3
0102 (Prisoner); 0104 (Village Peasant); 0105 (Vil- lage Peasant)	
Luis Seki Chi.....	1
0103 (Captain of the Guards)	
Kai Coulter.....	1
0107 (Young Toranaga (12 years old))	

D

Yoriko Dōguchi.....	4
0102 (Kiri No Kata); 0103 (Kiri No Kata); 0106 (Kiri No Kata); 0109 (Kiri No Kata)	
Dakota Daulby.....	2
0101 (Salamon); 0108 (Salamon)	
Ned Dennehy.....	1
0101 (Captain General)	

F

Louis Ferreira.....	3
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0102 (Ferreira); 0103 (Ferreira); 0109 (Ferreira)	
Lin Flora.....	1
0109 (Woman #1)	
Mako Fujimoto.....	5
0102 (Shizu No Kata); 0103 (Shizu No Kata); 0106 (Shizu No Kata); 0108 (Shizu No Kata); 0109 (Shizu No Kata)	
Mark Fukuhara.....	1
0102 (Beggart)	
June Fukumura.....	1
0108 (Daiyoin's Lady in Waiting #1)	
Seiji Fukumura.....	1
0101 (Sakichi)	
Tomio Fukumura.....	1
0102 (Red Samurai Captain)	
Jason Furukawa.....	1
0102 (Domingo's Prisoner Friend #2)	

G

Aoi Gushiken.....	1
0101 (Little Girl)	

H

Manami Hara.....	2
0101 (Kashigi Saki); 0104 (Kashigi Saki)	
Sean Hara.....	1
0106 (Noh Musician #2)	
Shun Harada.....	1
0101 (Christian Peasant)	
Kengo Hashimoto.....	6
0102 (Ishido's Gray Kosho); 0103 (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1); 0105 (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1); 0106 (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1); 0108 (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1); 0109 (Ishido's Gray Kosho #1)	
Ryo Hayashida.....	2
0101 (Tough Green Samurai); 0107 (Tough Green Samurai)	
Masaru Hirakawa.....	1
0107 (Messenger Samurai)	
Yayoi Hirano.....	1
0101 (Oba)	
Kristopher Hori.....	1
0107 (Young Hiromatsu (20 years old))	
Kurtis Hori.....	2
0105 (Assistant Cook); 0107 (Assistant Cook)	
Moeka Hoshi.....	6
0101 (Usami Fuji); 0103 (Usami Fuji); 0104 (Usami Fuji); 0105 (Usami Fuji); 0106 (Usami Fuji); 0107 (Usami Fuji)	
Yukijirō Hotaru.....	1
0106 (Nakamura Hidetoshi)	

I

Erisa Ichikawa.....	5
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0103 (Yayoi); 0104 (Yayoi); 0105 (Yayoi); 0106 (Yayoi);
0107 (Yayoi)

Hiramoto Ida 6
0101 (Lord Kiyama); 0102 (Lord Kiyama); 0103 (Lord
Kiyama); 0105 (Lord Kiyama); 0106 (Lord Kiyama);
0109 (Lord Kiyama)

Takahiro Inoue 1
0108 (Numata)

Daiki Ishida 2
0105 (Gray Samurai Servant); 0109 (Gray Samurai
Servant)

Isao Ishigaki 1
0108 (Doctor)

Toshimasa Ito 1
0106 (Noh Musician #1 — Flute)

K

Emi Kamito 5
0101 (Chiyo); 0104 (Chiyo); 0105 (Blackthorne's
Maid Chiyo); 0106 (Blackthorne's Maid Chiyo);
0107 (Blackthorne's Maid Chiyo)

Hiro Kanagawa 3
0101 (Igarashi Yoshitomo); 0104 (Igarashi Yoshit-
omo); 0105 (Igarashi Yoshitomo)

Hiroto Kanai 6
0101 (Kashigi Omi); 0104 (Kashigi Omi); 0105 (Kashigi
Omi); 0106 (Kashigi Omi); 0107 (Kashigi Omi);
0108 (Kashigi Omi)

Shintaro Kanaoya 1
0108 (Christian Acolyte)

Kasumi Kanaya 1
0105 (Ajiro Samurai Wife)

Ryuta Kato 2
0101 (Messenger Samurai); 0109 (Sumiyoshi Tabito)

Peter Kawasaki 1
0106 (Japanese Peasant Follower #2)

Yūki Kedōin 8
0101 (Takemaru); 0102 (Takemaru); 0104 (Take-
maru); 0105 (Takemaru); 0106 (Takemaru);
0107 (Takemaru); 0108 (Takemaru); 0109 (Take-
maru)

Charles Chi Soo Kim 1
0103 (Osaka Villager)

Saeko Kimura 7
0101 (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2); 0103 (Mariko's
Lady in Waiting #2); 0104 (Mariko's Lady in Waiting
#2); 0106 (Mariko's Lady in Waiting
#2); 0107 (Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2); 0108
(Mariko's Lady in Waiting #2); 0109 (Mariko's
Lady in Waiting #2)

Tamara Kiyama 1
0108 (Young Maid)

Akiko Kobayashi 9
0101 (Setsu); 0102 (Setsu); 0103 (Setsu); 0104 (Setsu);
0105 (Setsu); 0106 (Setsu / Noh Performer
'Ochiba'); 0107 (Setsu); 0108 (Setsu); 0109 (Setsu)

Yukari Komatsu 3
0104 (Housekeeper Yuki); 0105 (Housekeeper Yuki);
0107 (Housekeeper Yuki)

Jaden Konishi 5
0102 (Hiromatsu's Koshō); 0103 (Hiromatsu's Brown
Koshō); 0106 (Hiromatsu's Brown Koshō); 0107
(Hiromatsu's Brown Koshō); 0108 (Hiromatsu's
Brown Koshō)

Jason Riki Kosuge 1
0102 (Brown Samurai)

Yuka Kouri 5
0101 (Kiku); 0104 (Kiku); 0106 (Kiku); 0107 (Kiku);
0108 (Kiku)

Yuki Kura 8

0101 (Yoshii Nagakado); 0102 (Yoshii Nagakado);
0103 (Yoshii Nagakado); 0104 (Yoshii Nagakado);
0105 (Yoshii Nagakado); 0106 (Yoshii Nagakado);
0107 (Yoshii Nagakado); 0108 (Yoshii Nagakado)

Takeshi Kurokawa 5
0101 (Lord Ohno); 0102 (Lord Ohno); 0105 (Lord
Ohno); 0106 (Lord Ohno); 0109 (Lord Ohno)

Hinano Kuzukawa 1
0106 (Yuka)

L

Roger LeBlanc 1
0101 (Roper)

Eushin Lee 8
0102 (Yabushige's Koshō); 0103 (Yabushige's Green
Koshō); 0104 (Yabushige's Green Koshō); 0105
(Yabushige's Green Koshō); 0106 (Yabushige's
Green Koshō); 0107 (Yabushige's Green Koshō
#2); 0108 (Yabushige's Green Koshō #2); 0109
(Yabushige's Green Koshō #2)

Nelson Leis 1
0101 (Hendrik)

M

Sen Mars 5
0101 (Nakamura Yaechiyo); 0102 (Nakamura Yaechiyo);
0105 (Yaechiyo Nakamura); 0106 (Yaechiyo Naka-
mura); 0109 (Nakamura Yaechiyo)

Hitoshi Masaki 1
0108 (Tomono)

Sana Matsuda 1
0106 (Ruri's Lady in Waiting)

Seiya Matsudo 1
0104 (Green Scout)

Hanna Matsumoto 1
0108 (Young Consort)

Kasey Ryne Mazak 1
0102 (Prison Guard)

Hiroo Minami 1
0109 (Miyai)

Mila Miyagawa 1
0106 (Young Ruri)

Sora Miyamoto 2
0104 (Teruji); 0105 (Teruji)

Yūko Miyamoto 3
0106 (Gin); 0107 (Gin); 0108 (Gin)

Mas Morimoto 1
0106 (Noh Musician #3)

Ayumi Morita 2
0106 (Hana); 0108 (Hana)

Hikaru Morita 1
0101 (Young Green Samurai)

Masaru Morita 1
0106 (Japanese Peasant Follower #1)

Yuki Morita 1
0109 (Aki No Kata)

Akira Murai 1
0103 (Osaka Castle Brown Bowsman)

N

Akinori Nagai 1
0102 (Domingo's Prisoner Friend #1)

Mana Nakamura 1
0106 (Young Mariko)

Haruno Niiyama 1
0109 (Natsu No Kata)

Tokuma Nishioka 6

0101 (Toda Hiromatsu); 0102 (Toda Hiromatsu);
0103 (Toda Hiromatsu); 0106 (Toda Hiromatsu);
0107 (Toda Hiromatsu); 0108 (Toda Hiromatsu)

Brandon Nomura 1
0101 (Masujiro)

Paulino Nunes 4
0102 (Father Dell'Aqua); 0103 (Father Dell'Aqua);
0106 (Father Dell'Aqua); 0109 (Father Dell'Aqua)

O

Nobuyuki Obikane 3
0103 (Jozen's Captain); 0104 (Jozen's Captain); 0109
(Japanese Captain)

Richard Ogawa 1
0108 (Young Peasant)

Yutaro Oka 5
0103 (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1); 0104 (Toranaga's
Brown Kosho #1); 0105 (Toranaga's Brown Kosho
#1); 0106 (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1); 0107
(Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1)

Yutaro Ryan Oka 1
0108 (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #1)

Eita Okuno 2
0107 (Saeki Nobutatsu); 0109 (Saeki Nobutatsu)

Sayo Onishi 1
0109 (Woman #2)

Shō Oyamada 1
0108 (Yoshifusa)

Eijiro Ozaki 1
0106 (Kuroda Nobuhisa)

P

Rex Pai 3
0103 (Sugiyama's Lifeguard); 0106 (Lord Sugiyama's
Lifeguard); 0109 (Kashigi Omi's Horse Hand-
dler)

Gabriel Prevost-Takahashi 1
0103 (Gray Guard)

S

Paul Moniz de Sa 1
0101 (Father Sebastio)

Eisuke Sasai 1
0109 (Lord Ito)

Kenji Sato 3
0104 (Green Samurai); 0108 (Yoshinao); 0109 (Yoshi-
nao)

Soichi Sato 1
0103 (Elderly Doctor)

Rintaro Sawamoto 2
0105 (Male Cook); 0107 (Male Cook)

Kenji Scott 1
0104 (Eager Green Samurai)

Kei Senda 1
0108 (Old Maid)

Nobuya Shimamoto 4
0101 (Nebara Jozen); 0102 (Nebara Jozen); 0103
(Nebara Jozen); 0104 (Nebara Jozen)

Maki Sumitani 1
0106 (Naginata Competitor)

Jodai Suzuki 7
0101 (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2); 0103 (Toranaga's
Brown Kosho #2); 0104 (Toranaga's Brown Kosho
#2); 0105 (Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2); 0106
(Toranaga's Brown Kosho #2); 0107 (Toranaga's
Brown Kosho #2); 0108 (Toranaga's Brown Kosho
#2)

T

Junichi Tajiri 2
0101 (Uejirou); 0105 (Uejirou)

Yuta Takenaka 1
0109 (Northern Samurai)

Yasunari Takeshima 5
0101 (Muraji); 0103 (Muraji); 0104 (Muraji); 0105
(Muraji); 0107 (Muraji)

Yutaka Takeuchi 3
0101 (Akechi Jinsai); 0104 (Akechi Jinsai); 0106
(Akechi Jinsai)

Naoki Tasaki 1
0109 (Takigawa Gray Guard)

Jamie Tatemichi 1
0103 (Christian Samurai)

Kazuma Tatsumi 1
0106 (Noh Performer 'Akechi')

Toshi Toda 5
0101 (Lord Sugiyama); 0102 (Lord Sugiyama); 0103
(Lord Sugiyama); 0105 (Lord Sugiyama); 0106
(Lord Sugiyama)

U

Mei Uritani 1
0108 (Japanese Prostitute)

Evan O'Dwyer Uyeda 1
0104 (Samurai Runner)

W

Hisa Watanabe 1
0108 (Regal Buddhist Priest #2)

Masayuki Watanabe 1
0108 (Regal Buddhist Priest #3)

Y

Yuua Yamanaka 3
0102 (Toda Ryuji); 0103 (Toda Ryuji); 0109 (Toda
Ryuji)

Kashibe Yoshiaki 2
0101 (Young Gray); 0109 (Young Gray)

Daiki Yoshizaki 5
0103 (Ishido's Gray Kosho #2); 0105 (Ishido's Gray
Kosho #2); 0106 (Ishido's Gray Kosho #2); 0108
(Ishido's Gray Kosho #2); 0109 (Ishido's Gray
Kosho #2)