

# CCS Anime

## Episodes 1 - 8

Lucy

Robin

### Intro

Only someone with a tremendous amount of magical power can listen to this episode...that's right, we're back at the beginning again, with the CCS anime!

We're Lucy and Robin, and we'll be your guides through CLAMP's Wonderland!

### Check-In

- Hi folks! Sorry this episode is a little late...I think while we're doing the CCS anime, these episodes may be a bit sporadic. Meaning they just might not fit in our normal schedule, but they will still be coming fairly regularly.
  - Part of this is because of the holidays, but a big part is just due to the anime being long. We can't exactly marathon it all in one day like we've done with previous series.
  - In a perfect world would we have gotten ahead so that we could have watched the anime while the manga episodes were coming out? Yes, definitely, but we're in the world we're in, so we get to deal with it.
  - This will definitely be a good learning experience for other long series, though I think CCS may be the longest.
  - **ALSO** I need to derail this episode to complain about an Experience I had at a craft fair (the last of the year though woo!)

### Background

- The Cardcaptor Sakura anime was made by Madhouse starting in 1998, and ran through the year 2000 in three seasons for a total of 70 episodes which cover the entire manga's run, with unique additions!
- So recall that Card Captor Sakura followed Magic Knight Rayearth as basically a replacement for smash-hit, generation-defining manga Sailor Moon in the Shoujo magazine Nakayoshi.
  - Sailor Moon's anime was developed alongside the manga (well, after series creator Naoko Takeuchi retooled her Sailor V idea to be a more team-oriented titled.)
  - Rayearth was also developed as a manga KNOWING it was basically like, optioned for animation—and recently Hikaru Shidou on tumblr translated some

great resources that told us even more about CLAMP's work on developing the anime with the studio!

- CLAMP were also involved with this anime adaptation, though it didn't air until 2 years after the manga had started so there was like...a head start at least!
- Which I think speaks a lot to how strong the manga AND anime adaptation are.
  - Ohkawa is credited with the screenplay, and Mokona oversaw the outfit and card designs, which fucking slay.
  - I don't want to overstate their involvement or over-blow their role, but many mangaka have little to no say in what happens with an anime production of their work, so it is significant!
- But the rest of the production staff is venerable and interesting!
  - Madhouse made this anime, and boy did they knock it out of the park.
    - We've discussed them a bit before since they were behind the Tokyo Babylon OVA, X movie (and the X anime IN THE FUTURE)
  - Madhouse was founded in the early 70s-72 I believe, by some animators from Mushi-Pro who were kinda refugees as it was closing.
    - Now all of those animators have names folks might recognize but before I get to them, a word about Mushi Pro
      - That was the production company headed by Osamu Tezuka, the late and legendary god of manga, and which made pretty much all of his anime adaptations.
      - Due to some business bullshit Mushi Pro declared bankruptcy in '73 and was defunct for a few years though it did later re-form and is still active.
      - But it was having trouble in the early 70s even before then and four very famous animators broke off to form Madhouse:
        - Masao Maruyama
        - [Osamu Dezaki](#)
        - [Rintaro](#)
        - [Yoshiaki Kawajiri](#)
          - Rintaro directed the X movie, Kawajiri would go on to direct the X TV series, Dezaki was a big writer and director (who worked on Rose of Versailles but also Rainbow Brite lol) and Masao Maruyama has produced like...everything. Everything. And is now head of (and founder of) Mappa studios.
            - ANYWAY THESE ARE BIG NAMES
              - As a sideline here...a LOT of other animation studios were founded by ex-Mushi Pro folks, like Sunrise, Pierrot, Kyoto Animation!

- Another way that Tezuka's influence is still being felt.
  - Cardcaptor Sakura was directed by Morio Asaka, who Madhouse hired right out of college, and who stayed on as director for all subsequent Cardcaptor Sakura projects—as well as Chobits but shh that doesn't exist yet.
    - We heard from him before though—he directed CLAMP in Wonderland!
    - The music is by prolific composer Takayuki Negishi
    - And the funky, up-beat, catchy-as-hell Opening theme Catch You Catch Me was the first single for Megumi Hinata under her stage name Gumi.
      - It is the first of three OPs, we'll mention the others when we get to them!
      - The ending song is the VERY wild and maybe excessively up-beat GROOVY by the Winter Queen herself, Kohmi Hirose.
        - And i love this song but it starts with a wild whoop that can be VERY jarring if an episode ends on a somber note!
    - The voice cast is absolutely incredible in this show, they all bring so much life to the characters and fill in a lot of moments where there's kind of a gap between the manga's snappy pacing and the way that animation works—that is, sometimes to get a joke to land in manga there's the ~sense~ that someone is prattling on but no room for dialog, but in an anime you need to actually record a lot of prattle, for example.
- A few more notes about production:
  - There's a little sequence at the end of each episode called "Leave it to Kero-chan!" where Kero gives us a little profile on a detail from the show—tends to be pretty minimal in terms of content but is the talented voice actress Aya Hisakawa really having fun with her comedic Osaka-ben.
  - The animation is pre-computer ink&paint, it's all hand-drawn, and it is very well-planned so that we get moments where the action is very well-visualized and fluid (especially when in the manga you only had 3 panels and gestural drawings of some card-beast-or-babe and now you need minutes-long animation of a compelling fight scene) and then other moments where you get some breathing room with nice stills of airy, light-filled watercolory backgrounds or characters reacting.
  - This also means that the fact that Sakura has a new outfit every time she fights a card means that instead of simply re-using a transformation sequence as Sailor Moon so famously did, they

had to redraw Sakura's 'Release!' incantation to some extent each episode!

- WILD!
- I know from an interview they said she had 300 outfits in the manga, I don't know if the anime added more?
- But that is a big commitment of labor to something that might seem indulgent or immaterial—but it really stands out and makes the world more real, the characters more alive and less theatrical—what a treat for us that they did that.
  - ...and maybe it sold some dolls XD

### Summary

- **Ok**, we're not going to do complete step-by-step summaries here, since for the most part the plot is the same (so far, anyway). But, this is the beginning of the series, so we do want to give some love to these early episodes...and of course, point out differences!
  - Overall, the episodes have an even more monster (or card) of the week feel than the manga does, which fits into established TV formats—if you only watch an episode per week as they come out, you need to reestablish info and not move things along too quickly for the audience. With manga you might be able to re-read, though even the manga has Sakura explaining who she is and what she does every volume or so. Serialization!
    - **But** like with the Sailor Moon anime that we constantly reference, the Sakura anime is longer than the manga with way more 'monsters of the week' that also give us more chances for character moments.
    - We talked about how we expected this to happen more with the Rayearth anime when it actually just added and subtracted characters and plot points—but Card Captor Sakura does deliver on this!

### Episode 1

- **Before** we can get to the actual episode we have to talk about the Opening.
  - It's legendary at this point, but I remember it feeling SO modern and fresh when I first saw it as a kid—and the song is so good!
    - Our friend Caitlin pointed out that the color palette is almost Sanrio-ish, and they are definitely going for a similar theme here. Lots of soft pinks and yellows, but not necessarily so soft that they are fully (or exclusively) pastels. There are a lot of vibrant colors here. It feels soft, but not *too* soft, in my opinion.
  - The animation itself has perfect timing with the song. It starts out with a funky, slice-of-life feel, and then launches into mystical dream space.
- **Right** off the bat, we get a big difference between the manga and anime.
  - In the manga, the very first scene is of Sakura capturing Jump, and then we get a kind of flashback where Sakura explains how she discovered the cards.

- The anime, however, starts before Sakura has discovered the cards, and it happens a bit differently!
- So we open on the familiar dream sequence from the beginning of the manga: Sakura is having an ominous dream.
  - She sees the open Book of Clow, and herself dressed in a strange outfit, wielding a staff, silhouetted in front of Tokyo Tower, with a strange yellow teddy-bear creature floating beside her, and cards falling all around her. She sees herself tip and fall off the building she was standing on...
- And then she wakes up...and things follow pretty close to the manga from there for a while:
  - She goes downstairs to squabble with Touya, who calls her a Kaiju.
    - They added extra stompy SFX to her steps for that scene too!
      - Her fantasy sequence--her as a giant, finally able to crush her annoying older brother--is added as a neatly spliced fantasy scene within the normal breakfast scene. It is a cute way to address the little side-panel illustrations that add so much comedy to the manga.
  - Touya leaves for soccer practice, and Sakura hurries to catch up so that she'll get to see Yukito (nothing new here).
    - This scene is a great example of how they're great at pulling back on animation when snappier actions/less movement adds to comedy, and then pushing the animation for full effect. They make her getting her rollerblading gear on and skating to school look as cute and dreamy as it should so you feel like you're there with her!
  - We get to meet Yukito--who is voiced by Megumi Ogata, which is just so good!
    - I, uh, had to explain to my fiance Happy why I now have a crush on this guy who would normally be too effeminate for me--my brain reads him as a sexy lesbian, thanks to the Sailor Uranus connection, and I just don't know what to do with that!
    - You're never too bi to discover new levels of bi confusion!
    - See I love lesbians and very effeminate men so I'm good either way here--never too pan to just dig everyone I guess XD
  - Speaking of lesbians we also get introduced to Tomoyo here, as well as her obsession with Sakura's cuteness (and her support of Sakura liking Yukito--he tosses Sakura a candy as he bikes away, and Tomoyo thinks it's a very smooth move).
    - There's a moment here where Tomoyo wanders off singing to herself that leaves Sakura kind of sweat-drop laughing like she thinks her friend is extra unhinged. Which by the end of the manga is so unlike how we saw her. It's hard to go back to the beginning sometimes!
  - Anyway, at practice later Sakura keeps thinking about the dream she had, and for a moment as she's tossing her baton, she sees it as the staff from

her dream instead. Unfortunately, this moment distracts her enough that the baton lands on her head, oh no!

- Later, she's home alone when she hears mysterious sounds coming from her dad's library in the basement. Is it a burglar? She steels her nerves and goes to check, and discovers that one of the books is glowing.
  - The book unseals at her touch, and she opens it, picking up the top card, and tries to read its English name: Windy.
  - She's able to sound it out, but unfortunately, that triggers the card. A great wind whirls around her, and the rest of the cards in the book are scattered!
  - As Sakura is wondering what the hell just happened, the book begins to glow again, and Kero-chan floats up mysteriously from the cover---and then instantly breaks the tension with his cute animal voice in a brash Osaka accent.
    - It's very funny.
    - I imagine many tiny children immediately copied him.
    - He's voiced by Hisakawa Aya, who is Sailor Mercury, the new voice of Bulma from Dragon Ball, and a bajillion other characters you'd recognize, she's, uh, PROLIFIC and actually from Osaka so this is her own accent she's playing with!
    - Aww! Also, I didn't know she was the new Bulma! I failed epically at seeing the new Dragon Ball Super Movie. Like, i tried, but there were technical difficulties in the theater. Sigh.
    - BUT I DIGRESS.
  - Sakura explains what happened to the cards and he goes from laughing with her to being utterly distraught.
  - After Sakura eats an alarmingly hurried dinner, she escapes to her room so that Kero can finally explain what the hell is going on.
  - Try as he might he can't sense where the cards are...and he says that with the seal broken "a catastrophe will befall this world." He explains that cards have their own personalities, and can't be controlled by normal forces, so Clow placed him as a seal on the book...etc etc, we know this bit.
  - Anyway, he announces that they must get the cards back, and Sakura is going to help him!
    - He produces the key, says an incantation that transforms it into the bird-headed staff she saw in her dream, and bids her to pick it up--bestowing the role of Cardcaptor onto her!
      - While he munches on desserts, of course.
  - She's a bit peeved by this, since it was his 30-year sleep that allowed the seal to be broken in the first place, but they are distracted when a big bird (the Fly card) passes by her window.
- Fortunately it's night, so I guess not many people are looking outside, and Sakura is able to chase after it on her roller blades (still wearing her pjs, poor thing).

- Kero teaches her how to use the staff, and explains that Windy should be enough to capture the card, since Fly is nested under it.
- Sakura has to figure out what to DO though, other than skate away from it at top speed. She ends up overtaken by the bird and on its back, where she makes the magic circle appear and summons Windy's powers, which wrap like ribbons around the bird, grounding it and returning it to card form!
  - The baton-twirling is such a good aspect of the anime where we can see her baton-twirling skills translate to how she uses the staff to do magic; great visuals and great animation!
- With her new card, Sakura learns how to add Fly to her staff, and flies across the moon like a cute little witch!
  - And I'm feeling really dumb that I never thought of this as a witch story until like a year ago when we started rereading the manga...
- Since we touched on the opening, I think we should also discuss the ending here--it's very upbeat and cute, with a very stylized Kero running atop a spinning earth, as day and night cycle behind them. He almost looks like a picture book cut out. It reminds me of those very simple animations of picture books, where only the background is moving. Anyway, it's cute, and maybe a little ironically hyper.
- And after the ending theme we get 'Leave it to Kero-chan' a little bit where Kero-chan plays correspondent and highlights something from the show--frequently part of her outfit. In the first episode, he shows you her cute school uniform. It ends with him at a gentlemen's study desk with a bowtie and pipe bidding us farewell. What a classy gent!

## Episode 2

- This episode takes place the very next morning, which is instantly clear because Kero wakes Sakura up, and for a moment she can't remember who on earth this random floating plushy is.
  - We get a nice morning with Touya serving breakfast and Sakura stealing a cookie for kero-chan. So much fun with her and kero-chan, you really get the fun part of having a little magical mascot creature as well as the conflict between her duty and her school life (which was more gentle in the manga).
  - Sakura takes a detour to see Yukito on her way to school (early, for cleaning duty) and he gives her flowers (camelias?) for her classroom.
    - Sakura's voice actress really put a TON of energy into the characterization so you feel how she's a little awkward but very enthusiastic and emotional and active.
  - Later at school, Sakura finds out she has been caught--Tomoyo has footage of her flying in front of the moon (with a zoom to prove she knows without a doubt it is her).

- Maybe she could have talked her way out of that, but, sensing trouble, Kero pops out of her bag...and yeah, the jig is up.
    - Tomoyo quite politely asks to be introduced, and he's happy to do his full title for her. He convinces Sakura to show Tomoyo how her staff/power works since they're in a secluded little courtyard, and Tomoyo is so hype about picking her trademark magical girl pose etc. What a pal!
  - Meanwhile the kids playing at recess are going to have some shadow-themed trouble since we see one of their shadows detach! And more and more shadows join it, eerily moving across the floor with nothing to cast them~
    - We also see a statue in the courtyard very conspicuously cast a shadow, very nicely done, a Chekov's statue.
  - So when Skaura and Tomoyo try to go back to class everything's a consternation—the students are all freaking out about a phenomenon:
    - all the desks and chairs have been stacked into a massive pile on the school track!
    - And the kids had to clean that up themselves, we discover, when a very tired Sakura explains the situation to Kero after she gets home.
  - Kero theorizes that it must be the work of the Clow Card, and they have to go BACK after school to deal with it—with Tomoyo in tow, because Sakura was so freaked out about the idea of the school at night being full of ghosts.
    - Of course, she's also there to film her, which embarrasses Sakura so much she almost forgets to be scared. Almost.
  - This scene also gives us Tomoyo's shades-wearing lady bodyguards, and Sakura's first reluctant costume change.
    - Of course, Kero gets a matching bow, so he's all for it.
- Sakura hears a spooky noise, and Chekov's Statue is lifted off its pedestal by a shadow that has nothing to cast it!
  - So creepy and well-done.
- When the shadows create a menacing dome closing in on Sakura, she manages to use Windy to blow it away a little, but not enough to stop it, so she has to use Fly to get away!
  - Kero notices that the shadow card stole all the kids' shadows to bolster itself. And if they could get rid of those they could get at the real one that's the Clow card and seal it.
  - That gives Tomoyo the idea to lure the shadow to their track field with Fly, and then shine a big stadium light on it, banishing the other shadows, and allowing Sakura to deal directly with Shadow itself—an empty cloak with a human form.
  - Sakura is able to get Windy to turn to binding chains and subdues the Shadow so she can seal the card!



- Later, back at school the next day, Sakura wants to give Tomoyo a thank-you present but finds her obsessively watching the footage she captured from that night in the AV room. And now they're a team, the card captor and the wonderful friend who will outfit and document her!

### Episode 3

- This is the aquarium episode! For some reason, this one has just been burned into my memory. I love it!
  - I know, I love Sakura making a puffy cheek face at the puffer fish.
- The kids are visiting the aquarium, and Tomoyo is filming. Sakura's very hype about everything, but especially the penguins. So when a wisp of water drags the penguin trainer and the penguins underwater into a whirlpool, Sakura bangs on the glass screaming for the penguins, calling for help!
  - Help arrives in the form of Touya, at one of his part-time jobs, who jumps in and rescues them.
- Later, Sakura believes that it was the work of a Clow Card--she saw the swirling water that trapped the trainer's foot, and created the whirlpool.
  - She's hashing this out with Kero when Touya comes home, and almost catches him.
  - Fortunately, Kero escapes upstairs just in time, and Sakura's annoyance is quickly cooled when she realizes Yukito is also there. Despite her brother continuing to tease her, she ends up making them both pancakes.
  - Lillies bloom across the screen when she thinks about how nice he's been.
- Kero's not impressed by her swooning, and goes on to explain that this is serious--he's pretty sure Watery is behind this, and that card is not to be trifled with.
  - He gives us some insight into the four elemental cards and how water is an offensive spell.
  - They only have 3 cards, so they're going to have to figure out how to use them.
- At school, Tomoyo gives Sakura and Kero the latest futuristic technology from her mom's toy company....some very (at this point) dated-looking pink cellphones.
  - Sakura also runs into Yukito on her way home, and he offers to meet her at Penguin park the next day and take her to get a treat to thank her for the pancakes.
  - Of course, she and Tomoyo consider this a date, and Tomoyo ends up sneaking after them (with Kero in tow) so she can witness Sakura's "first date."
  - But the treat Yukito wants is at the aquarium, so we end up right back where we started!
  - There are some great moments here, like Yukito describing a sunfish (the biggest known boney fish today) as being just big enough to eat, Kero

intimidating a small child, and Touya's new job at a tea room—the very place Yukito has taken Sakura!

- HMMM exactly whose date is this lol
- The tea room ends up getting flooded, and Sakura is pulled underwater. She might have drowned if Yukito didn't pull a hero move and use an in-case-of-emergencies-ax to break down a door and release the water.
- That night, Sakura and Kero sneak back in, and Sakura manages to lure Watery into the freezer, where it solidifies, and she's able to capture it.
  - Very similar solution to what the manga does, but with a more interesting locale than the school!
  - Also in both, Sakura is inspired by something Yukito says to use the freezer to stop Watery.

#### Episode 4

- Ok we truly will be on this series forever if we give highly detailed accounts of every episode, so we're going to breeze through a few of these!
  - Sakara gets stuck at home alone on a Sunday doing all the house chores, because she swapped tasks with Touya earlier in the week.
  - Kero does help her, which is very nice.
  - In the process of cleaning, Sakura discovers two Clow Cards! How lucky! But she gets distracted, and accidentally leaves them in her dad's library.
- While she's running an errand for her dad (and Kero's sleeping off too much laundry), the cards run amok and she comes back to a basement filled with branches.
  - Apparently, this happened because she didn't write her name on the cards before she left them alone, but Kero says it's unusual behavior for the Wood card (which this clearly is).
  - The house continues to fill with branches, and even when Tomoyo shows up (intending to help Sakura clean), they aren't sure how to handle it.
  - The branches make it out to the sunlight, and leaves pop out...but now the rest of the tree is even more determined to get out!
- Finally they are able to make it to the basement, and they discover standing water--apparently, the other card was Rain, and it's been making Wood grow like crazy.
  - Sakura uses Watery, at Kero's suggestion, and once Rain is sealed Wood returns to card form all on her own. Such a gentle soul.
  - Of course, now they have to clean the house all over again!
  - Ok, next!

#### Episode 5

- This episode is very adorable, and focuses on a new store that has opened--it sells plushes, and it is run by a nice, but very clumsy, woman.
  - Sakura passes the shop as it's opening for the first time, and helps the lady with a box of stuffed animals.

- She comes back later with her friends, and we get to really meet her little group of friends: her, Tomoyo, Rika, Naoko, and Chiharu.
- But, the store is still kind of a mess, so the girls offer to help set it up--and get an early look at all the stuffed animals.
- Apparently Chiharu is a plushy fiend, and finds a stuffed panda she just has to have.
  - However, the lady looks kind of disturbed at the sight of the panda.
  - Later at Chiharu's house, the girls get to see her collection of plushes. But when they all leave the room, the panda blushy disappears!
- The next day Tomoyo and Sakura gossip about it and here there's a toy industry rumor about a shop that's cursed so when you buy things from them bad things happen to you...
  - Sure enough, when they go back to the shop, the panda plush has returned, and the shopkeeper is very disturbed.
  - She says this is why she closed up shop in the last town and moved here, there were rumors she was the thief! She was married to a designer who died in an accident and this shop was his dream, so she won't quit. But she's falling apart.
- Kero doesn't think there's a Clow Card that could be responsible, but Tomoyo distracts the shopkeeper why Sakura investigates.
- To make a long story short, they discover that Jump has been possessing stuffed animals, and when Sakura chases it outside, it amasses a huge amount of stuffed animals, and turns into a huge kaiju.
  - Its howl is a silly boing sound effect, A++
- Sakura tries a few things to catch it, but ultimately Jump is no longer able to maintain it's kaiju form, and collapses into a rain of stuffed animals, giving Sakura the chance to catch it.
- They do have to clean up all the stuffed animals, but they are able to purchase some later from the shop, so...yay!

## Episode 6

- In this episode, Naoko (her glasses-wearing friend) says that she's seen a ghost on her walk home. Of course everyone is excited to check it out except Sakura.
  - As they walk, they discuss what to do for Chiharu's mom's birthday...which makes Sakura think about how her dead mother's birthday is that Sunday.
  - When they encounter the phenomenon, everyone sees something different. Sakura sees a figure with long hair...hmmm.
- Ok, so we know where this is going. In the manga they return to the area during a festival, but we don't get that here, so I'm guessing we may do the festival in a later episode...
- We do still get info about Sakura's mom, and about how Sakura's not bothered by magic, but ghosts terrify her.
- When she hears that the girls saw the ghost again, Sakura goes back to the cliff, and this time she recognizes what she's seeing--it's her mother.

- She's transfixed by it, and when Kero tries to help, he's repelled by some kind of force. Sakura is lured off the cliff!
- But, a hand catches Sakura before she can fall too far, and lowers her safely to the ground...where Yukito happens to be passing by.
- He takes her home, and a sleepy Sakura tells Yukito that she saw her mom...but Yukito asks if her mom would really put her in danger?
- Touya comes to pick her up, so we get to learn about how Touya's ability to see ghosts is the reason Sakura is so afraid of them--she can sense them, but not see them, and he used to point them out to her a lot.
  - He hasn't seen his mom since middle school, though.
- They end up going back to the woods again, and this time Tomoyo and Kero also see Sakura's mom. Sakura is once again transfixed, and Kero is repelled, but as Sakura falls she remembers Yukito's words, and recognizes that her mother would never do this.
- She uses Fly, and is able to seal the card--Illusion.
- This card shows people what they want to see--since Tomoyo and Kero expected to see Sakura's mom as well, they did. But apparently the force repelling Kero wasn't from the card--it was Sakura's own desire to be with her mother.
- Later Sakura is rushing off, and leaves a wrapped present offering in front of her mom's picture. Touya spots this, and sees an apparition of their mother next to Sakura. Nadeshiko tells him she was worried, and needed to make sure everything was alright.
  - The implication here is that she was the one that saved Sakura that first time, lowering her into Yukito's arms.
  - It's really very sweet.

## Episode 7

- Ok, we're getting close here, we can do it!
- This episode is completely new for the anime, and is all about a creepy painting. Sakura's class attends an art museum, and it's going pretty well at first.
  - Touya had teased Sakura about getting kicked out for being so loud, and Sakura IS loud enough at the museum to get shushed, and is very embarrassed. Tomoyo is VERY good at drawing, because she is perfect and can do anything.
  - We skipped over her being an amazing singer in, I don't know, the plushy episode or something, but...you already knew that!
- Their trip gets interrupted by a kid who's trying to deface one of the paintings--he says his father did it and its supposed to be a painting of him, but now it clearly has a blue elf person with a cloak instead!
- The painting does a mysterious effect thing that stops the kid...and which alerts Sakura, who sees it move. She finds an address tag the child dropped... and she tells Tomoyo she thinks the painting is cursed! Tomoyo says she's sensitive to this stuff sure...but doesn't she think its a Clow card?
- They return at night to check it out.

- She actually gets caught sneaking out by Yukito, who says he'll keep her secret, she just shouldn't stay up too late. He's an understanding collaborator in the anime, huh!
- Tomoyo has Sakura get dressed up in a diamond-patterned "thief" outfit and hands her a patrol schedule for the guards lol she's a criminal mastermind in the making.
- Kero is pretty sure the Silent card is at work, but doesn't know much about it...because it's so silent.
- Once they're in, they realize someone else is there too! WHO COULD IT BE (its the child from earlier, obviously).
- They try to scare the kid off, but end up joining forces instead, since they all want to get to the bottom of this whole mysterious-lady-in-the-painting thing.
- But, they have a few dilemmas. First, Sakura doesn't want to use magic in front of the kid. They kind of solve this by realizing that the kid thinks the painting is haunted, so they can hand-wave any magic stuff, probably.
- But, their second problem is with Silent itself. It hates noise. If they so much as cough when they're in front of it, it punishes them by transporting them outside the building.
- After a few failed attempts to get close--even shushing each other proves too loud for Silent--Sakura realizes that she can use Shadow to approach the card from outside, silently.
  - The kid also manages to get chased by the guards, so at least she's able to do this without having to make up a ghostly explanation.
- Obviously the kid freaks out once she sees that the painting is back to normal, and there's a dumb reveal that the child is a girl with long hair not a boy with short hair (it was in her hat!), and everything's okay now!
- Or is it? From a rooftop, we can see someone watching them...to whom do these mysterious green shoes belong???
- We see Shaoran (eyes in shadow) using the rashinban to detect Clow Card energy and the episode ends!

## Episode 8

- Ok, last episode for today! You still with us?
- So we see the Tokyo tower imagery from the first ep again, Sakura's having the same dream...this time we see Shaoran there too, though she's seeing him for the first time.
- Kero wakes her up with a start and she tries to explain her dream to him, including the boy in Chinese style clothes. Touya comes in, wondering where the weird noises were coming from and Kero pretends to be a toy again.
  - Touya is suspicious of Kero lol.
- Once he's gone, Kero reminds her she has magic so that may not be a dream but an omen.
- She runs off to go to school with Touya and Yukito, and when she mentions her dream, Yuki also says her dream could be an omen.

- He also says he had a dream where he had fish for breakfast then that actually happened irl lol. Proof!
- We have a weird moment between Rika and Mr. Terada because its CCS and, yeah, that's coming, and then he introduces the new transfer student—Shaoran Li-kun!
  - He's staring daggers at Sakura and she's very stressed out. They just met, how can he already dislike her?
- He gets her to meet up with him after class, and uses the rashinban to determine she has Clow Cards. He demands she hand them over but no, she made a promise to kero!
  - He's upset Kero would let someone like her get the cards and she says Kero's not strong enough to do much without her actually?
  - He tries to get the cards out of her pocket like an asshole, and Touya vaults over the fence to save her.
  - Shaoran squares up to do some kung fu at him and Touya is 100% ready to throw down with a child.
  - But Yuki also vaults over with a bag of buns to share to disarm the situation, and Shaoran blushes and LOSES it, running away through the garden patch.
- Rika is going to buy a bday present for her SIGH "older boyfriend," so Sakura and Tomoyo discuss Shaoran on the way home...but lightning disrupts them and chases someone in the park oh no!
- At the house, Kero explains Clow's background and how he's east meets west, and related to the Li family. Sakura's like oh shit she really should have given the cards to Li-kun?
  - But Kero's says no, he picked her for a reason. Sakura has to have a lot of magic if she can open the book at all, and she's written her name on the cards. They're hers now!
- Of course, they are having more lightning trouble, so Sakura has to suit up and deal with it.
  - She's now outfitted in a rubber cat maid outfit that's not as sexy as it sounds because it's a fluffy little cupcake dress, and she has to go get the Thunder card!
  - Kero seems excited that shaoran might show up like he wants to see the horse he's backing win lol
  - Sakura uses Jump and Fly to get around and not get lightning-ed, but Shaoran does show up and uses his sword to meet lightning with his own!
  - He gets Thunder to show its true form, a kind of spikey Jolteon wolf thing.
  - Shaoran boy-splains things to Sakura that kero would have Kero-splained to her instead, like how Windy won't work against Thunder, etc., and Kero is NOT PLEASED. But Syaoran works with Sakura to get the beast in a position where she can use shadow to trap it/block its light, and she is able to seal it into card form!

- Shaoran is impressed with the staff but not with her skills. He's also taken aback that Kero-chan is the powerful Kerberos, and Kero fucking bites his finger he's so mad at being called a stuffed animal.
  - I love Syoaran...but it's a beautiful moment.
- Syoaran's mad and stalks off, insulting Sakura's power as he goes. When Tomoyo asks Sakura if she's hurt anywhere, it's clear only her feelings have been hurt.
- Don't doubt yourself now, Sakura, everything will be alright!

### Discussion

- Ok so big differences...
  - obviously, starting before she's discovered the cards, so we can experience it with her. I think that was a nice change.
    - But they also changed how it happened! WHICH is interesting. In the manga the escape had already happened when she shows up, in this—she releases them!
    - By making it (at least partially) Sakura's fault, it gives her more of a reason to take on the responsibility without knowing what the hell is going on.
    - In general the manga is way more gentle, which may have been because CLAMP was, in their own words (paraphrased and translated so not exactly their own words okay) trying to see how shoujo they could make this comic.
    - But the anime is going for a slightly broader audience and serves as another chance for Ohkawa and everyone else on the project to envision this story—this version is snappy!
      - The scene is presented more like she's the catalyst for the escape rather than just clumsy I think? But it is a big departure from the manga.
  - Jump also got way more screen time, though it was maybe my least favorite of these episodes. It was fun, but...Why can Jump possess stuffed animals? I mean I get that it's jumping between them, but...huh?
    - Yeah the shopkeeper's sob story reminded me of a Princess Tutu character or something lol.
    - I loved all the plushies in that episode and how it gave CHiharu a feature though!
    - Why can Jump possess stuffed animals? I mean I get that it's jumping between them, but...huh?
      - BECAUSE IT IS LIKE A BIG PLUSHY ITSELF LUCY. It feels a kinship to them XD
- On a note about mascot characters, since obviously this gets compared to Sailor Moon sometimes, I have to say that Kero is like the complete opposite of Luna. Luna is always on them to be more responsible, and Kero is straight up like "yes, please use magic at school! Magic is cool!"

- That is SO much fun, I agree! He also has an ego but consistently messes up, unlike Luna who is totally focused on the goal and almost never gets a character moment.
- There's a sense that kero-chan strong-armed her into something she didn't agree to in the anime, and they have a little more conflict in their friendship even though they clearly get along as well.
  - Yeah, there's tension between them. In general Kero-chan causes tension (trying to pretend to be a stuffed animal around Touya, for example) rather than just being an exposition beast.
- And a reminder! The sequence where Sakura summons a card and bids it to take action is the same every ep—except since her outfit changes they had to re-animate it and all the intense lighting every time! Wow!
- The school at night (catching Shadow) gave me big Haunted Junction flashbacks.
  - Haunted Junction never for one moment looked that good XD
- So where does Yukito get his allowance? How long has he existed? When did he get unsealed??
  - These were questions we discussed with friend-of-the-pod Caitlin as well. We couldn't stop thinking about how wacky his timeline is!
  - We know that his being Yue was something Ohkawa had planned from the beginning since she says so, but there are no big hints that he isn't a Real Boy so far.
    - Like...he has false memories of having grandparents and stuff, but he does seem to actually live in a house and buy food.
    - Unless Touya's jobs are partially to pay for his food?
      - There's a headcanon for you!
- The basement library gets way more play in the anime!
  - Yeah and it's so cool! In general the anime staff had to plan out the house, school, and park very carefully and we see them all as pretty damn consistent places.
  - I feel like I could trace Sakura's path to school (but only if I had rollerblades and was listening to Catch You Catch Me!)
- The art museum really reminded me of art class, Robin! Not the plot, really, but the part where they were sitting and drawing together. I miss that!
  - Also, the way Sakura reacted when she saw the masterful piece Tomoyo was working on is a lot like what it's like to watch Robin draw. So much talent!
    - TT\_\_TT that's so sweet—let's fucking sit around and draw some time in January! I miss it too!
- I feel like Yukito is a lot more active in the anime? At least in this part? I remember him being around about the same amount in the manga, but like we didn't get to know him as well?
  - I think he gets a few more lines—but since I adore him I also noticed his presence in the manga a lot and he's very involved. Like...he may believe he has grandparents but he'd be lonely if he actually stayed home.



- It...feels like Touya has kind of adopted him into his family which kind of reminds me of what Will and I did with Nate when he moved out here so far from home. GETTING PERSONAL.
- Not really a universal thing, but these early episodes are just so packed with nostalgia, and for me it's wrapped up with learning Japanese. Like there are so many words I picked up *from watching this show*. Like in this first episode, when Kero first learns what has happened to the cards, he does this exaggerated "nani???" and his face gets super close to the camera. And I remember being so proud that I knew that he was saying the word "what?" even without the subtitles.
  - ADORABLE
  - Yeah, because it's a show for kids, it has a lot of straightforward language and a lot of very clear characterizations and even like, a number of very polite characters, so it has a lot of language to listen for.
  - I think we owned a VHS tape with the first 3 episodes subtitled and obsessively watched it so I am also incredibly familiar with them (and a few more that were from the Cardcaptors run) and less so with the rest, so it's a great re-watch for me right now too.
  - It Holds Up Well.
- Card Capture Order
  - Manga: Windy, Wood, Jump, Fly (summed up in the first episode), then Watery, Illusion, Flower, Sword, Thunder, Shadow, Mirror...
  - Anime: Windy, Fly, Shadow, Watery, Rain, Illusion, Silent, Thunder
  - I think Rain is our first anime-only card? Is Silent, also? How do we feel about them?
    - Silent is def anime-only. Rain was cute but feels really superfluous with Watery. Silent is eerie and reminds me of classic D&D spells!
- I'm watching this series with my fiance, Happy, who has never seen the series or read the manga. So while I can't make predictions or have first reactions to it, I will be conveying some of his!
  - He keeps being scandalized by how much skin Sakura shows. I don't think it's sexual, but he's mostly watched more modern stuff, and it does make me think about changes in art styles...and the prevalence of sexy loli stuff, I guess? He fully admits to watching lots of trashy harem anime.
  - He, much like Ian Wolf, pointed out the Rubber Cat Girl outfit as being a step too far. This had never occurred to me before. But, there you go!
    - We discussed this when you brought it up and my boys were kind of confused—like, she's wearing stuff that covers more than a kid would wear at the beach or public pool, so it just feels like she's an athletic kid to me.
      - Y'all are wrong about the rubber dress, it isn't shown as kinky in any way, it's not shiny or skintight, it's a detail they tell you so you know it's insulated against electricity lol!
        - Remember that maid outfits and catgirls are things that were fetishized, not things that started out as sexual????

- Kids like to pretend to be cats! It isn't sexy.
  - Maid is an (often deeply exploited and classist) job, not inherently a sex fantasy.
- Obviously its valid to have whatever reaction you have but might be worthwhile for folks to consider why super feminine stuff for little girls feels sexualized to them sometimes:
  - Do they only engage with stuff like that when it's been re-tooled as a sex fantasy aimed at adult men?
  - Do they not have any personal connection to "girly" things that means it all feels kind of alien and uncomfortable?
  - Has the 'perversion of purity' type fetishization of this stuff supplanted the original forms of it so completely?
    - I need to find my source but when I was researching CCS originally I found a short interview where some rando asked the director how intentional the "loli stuff" in CCS was and he shut it down with "This is a show we made for elementary school girls and their moms, so none."
      - Sometimes you bring it with you, folks!
- He is totally enjoying it, though! I think he feels a great kinship with Kero.
  - Nate also adored Kero and had some "It Me" moments. I think it's so nice because Kero is a big brotherly friend to Sakura, protective but also not above her at all, which is really nice to show with a little girl: not just an annoyance, an idealized symbol of gross purity, or a liability to be protected, but a goddamn friend! Maybe good stuff for future dads to think about, too...
- The main thing he keeps asking for is a card that Sakura can't defeat without finding another card--like maybe she even just has to live with the fact that she can't defeat this one yet. I don't honestly remember all the twists and turns of the anime, so we'll see!
  - There are a lot of things they could do with a slightly different audience in mind--and I know as a super-hero loving small child I would have enjoyed that concept myself!
- AWKWARD PAUSE FOR MAYBE HAPPY???
- The elephant in the room for English-speakers here is the Cardcaptors dub. When CCS was licensed for TV in the US, they made some...decisions...about what to keep and how to cut it and what they wanted it to be. I think I want to leave that for a separate episode, what do you think, Lucy?
  - Yes, I think we should totally an episode to it. We've had at least one listener request it (thank you!), and while it's not beloved to either of us, we have some friends who did actually watch (and love) Cardcaptors, so I think we can get enough content for a full episode. I'm kind of excited to track it down and try watching it again.

## Outro (edit)

In our next episode, we'll be covering more of the anime...

Until we bring that animated goodness to the airwaves, you can follow us on twitter, Tumblr, and Instagram @Clampcastpod, on Facebook as Clampcast in Wonderland, and on our website clampcastinwonderland.com.

You can support us on Patreon, by making purchases through our Bookshop.org store, or just by writing a review or sharing this podcast with your friends.

Thanks for coming with us on our journey through CLAMP's Wonderland!

Until next time, remember that everything will definitely be alright—

—and try not to lose an eye!