

CCS Anime

Episodes 9 - 20

Lucy

Robin

Intro

[Cardcaptor Sakura! And Cardcaptor Syaoran and Cardcaptor—who?]

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

Check-In

- Phew! We're in the thick of the holiday shopping chaos..how are you holding up, Robin, with your whole selling-things-for-a-living thing?
- Robin:
- I am also very tired, but my work is going to be closed for a few weeks, meaning I get a few weeks off! And for once I'm not spending this time walking a thousand miles around Disney World or moving into a new house or moving my boyfriend into a new house. My goals are like, sleep, and maybe Animal Crossing.

Background

- Not much new this week as far as Background stuff goes...so lets just get on to those episodes!

Summary

Episode 9

- It's the Sword episode! This is pretty similar to the manga, but it's got some good character-building, so we're going to dive in.
- This episode starts a bit slower-paced, with Sakura feeling a little down after the previous night when Syaoran was so mean to her at the battle with Thunder.
 - The thing is, even when her friends try to cheer her up, Sakura can't help but think that Syaoran wasn't totally wrong, and despite their harshness, his words ended up helping her, so she can't just ignore him.
- So she attempts to befriend Syaoran (complimenting his clothes, thanking him, etc)!
- He's NOT having it, but *is* interested when she mentions that she saw someone wearing his green outfit in one of her dreams.

- That outfit is ceremonial and unique to the Li family, so she couldn't have seen it anywhere else. That means she at least has enough magic to have prophetic dreams, which he grudgingly respects.
- We also get what I think is our first introduction to Yamazaki-kun! In typical Yamazaki fashion, he attempts to convince Syaoran that the classroom cleaning duties include singing and dancing, and, after his own fashion, Syaoran willingly believes him.
 - I still love this aspect of Syaoran's character. He acts so knowledgeable and hard-edged, but then he's a totally gullible kid at times, too.
 - This set of episodes REALLY humanizes Syaoran; he goes from being a heel to a protagonist...but I'm getting a little ahead of myself!
- Sakura has another dream (which has such pretty lighting, every time we see the Tokyo Tower dream part it is so nicely painted, so much glow in the city lights and high contrast on the characters—really nicely realized!)
 - But unfortunately for her she's having this dream in class...and Mr. Terada wakes her up and tells her to get more sleep.
 - Which honestly was a pretty nice way of handling the situation, instead of punishing her.
 - Poor thing was out late saving the world from Thunder or whatever, after all. He didn't know that, but maybe we adults can give kids more benefit of the doubt, we never know what kinds of adventures they're embroiled in after all!
 - Oh and we do also get Rika pining after her teacher, but, you know, moving along...
- Tomoyo invites Sakura to go shopping with her and Rika, and even though it's clearly an attempt to cheer Sakura up, she assures her that she really just wants to spend more time with her.
 - Lilies bloom on the screen and Sakura looks a bit embarrassed.
- The girls find a cute boutique, and they each decide to get a broach. Sakura falls in love with a little heart with wings on each side of it (very CLAMP), Tomoyo picks a decorative cross, and Rika picks one shaped like a sword. It also has little CLAMP-style wings on it, and gets an ominous extended shot!
 - the boxes for the broaches have a star of david on them lol
 - I mean we saw this in X, too, which is actually kind of a fun nod since the Sword card is like, crisscrossed with binding chains and looks very X!
- Later, they try their broaches on over tea at Sakura's house...but as soon as Rika puts hers on, her eyes lose their shine (gasp) and she attacks Sakura with a now-life-sized sword! Oh no!
 - This is very a Sailor Moon villain-of-the-week move.
 - Rika chases them outside, and the poor kids are still wearing their house slippers, since it all happened so fast!
- Kero hears the commotion, and although he's mostly annoyed that they had dessert without him, he does tell them that this is the Sword card (thanks, buddy).

- A moment to remember that these cards are named English words, and everyone is speaking Japanese...so it might actually be helpful that he gave them the name, even though it feels REAL OBVIOUS THANKS KERO.
- Anyway, Rika is fierce, possessed by Sword, which is a real problem because Sakura doesn't want to do anything to hurt Rika...but obviously possessed Rika does not share this limitation.
 - Shaoran shows up to save them, but Sakura won't let him attack her friend with a sword and uses Jump to get them both out of the way (so maybe he's not the one doing the saving after all)
 - Kero says that they need a reason for Rika to let go of the sword, and Sakura has the idea to use illusion to show Rika the one she loves most (here we see the silhouette of Terada-sensing, connecting some dots for us from earlier), and sure enough, she's distracted enough that Sakura is able to snatch the Sword from her and use her rod to seal it.
 - There's that very X sword-in-chains design!
 - You know, once again I'm surprised how much X there is in this very tonally-different series.
 - Kero points out that Sakura did just fine on her own, but Syaoran is very dismissive ("Sword is easy"), so Kero bites his finger again.
- It's at this moment that Yukito shows up, and Kero disappears just in time, but there's certainly a strange sight before him: Sakura's on the ground holding a clearly-unconscious Rika, and both Tomoyo and Syaoran look a bit stressed.
 - He notices the bite on Syaoran's finger and asks if he's ok...which of course is too much interaction for Syaoran's heart to take, and he blushes and runs off.
 - I like that Yukito spotted the tiny marks on his finger, instead of the passed-out child, but ok...
- Later, Sakura replaces Rika's "lost" broach with the one she purchased for herself since the Sword has changed back into a card and clearly can't be returned to Rika as a broach. She feels really awkward about it since she can't really explain what happened, but Rika picks up on her discomfort and breezes through it, asking no hard questions, and happily accepting the gift.
 - We also see her seeing Terada-sensei again, and yeah, the hand-waving here is that she's MATURE BEYOND HER YEARS, and we sigh, and move on
- Touya and Yukito are hanging out in a tree, as you do, and when Yukito says that he saw Syaoran at Touya's house, Touya is very Not Pleased. Yukito accuses him of having a sister complex for being so concerned, which only makes Touya look more disgruntled.
 - Yukito checks Touya's watch to see what time it is, which has a cute intimate feel!
 - But the moment doesn't last long, because Shaoran uses an ofuda to set Touya's sleeve on fire and bother him.
 - Which seems like a BIG SWING, Syaoran...you're just using magic on random people now?
 - I mean it's Touya, but Syaoran doesn't know he can see ghosts and shit.
 - Or maybe he does? Can he sense Touya's magic? Hmm...

- Sakura runs up to give Yukito chocolate to thank him for helping them with poor unconscious Rika, and when Syaoran sees this, he desperately searched his pockets, hands Yukito a piece of chocolate with, like, the highest level of embarrassment, and runs off as soon as Yukito accepts it.
 - There is this long drawn out moment where Syaoran is just like DYING from the proximity, and Yuki is just smiling, and I was like “omg take the poor kid’s candy he’s going to have a heart attack”
- Of course, Tomoyo was recording all this (to make up for failing to record the previous day’s adventures, I guess), and informs Sakura that it looks like Syaoran is also interested in Yukito...he’s her rival in love as well as in the Clow Cards!
- Finally, the Leave it to Kero segment for this episode is hilarious, because it’s focused on Syaoran, but Kero hates him so much, so he rushes through it and has some pretty good lines when he’s describing the costume. I think he concluded with “aren’t I so nice to be talking about this brat’s outfit?” or something...

Episode 10

- Ok, to move us along here, this is the flower episode!
- Like the Sword episode, it follows pretty closely with the manga, so no real big changes here.
 - The only real difference is that this adventure happens later in the anime than in the manga, and didn’t original involve Syaoran at all (since he hadn’t been introduced yet).
 - They get around this by having him stuck in the medic room with Yamazaki when all the card stuff starts going down, and Yamazaki physically restrains him to keep him in the room. I mean, what if someone gets hurt? They can’t abandon their posts!
 - Yeah it’s a bit awkward here ha!
- Sakura is a jock kid, so of course she loves Sports Day.
 - Touya and Yukito are there to cheer her on since her dad has to work and won’t be able to be there until later (he’s trying to make it for the Dad race, though).
- There are a few events (Sakura has her cheerleading performance), but of course this is mostly building up to two things: Yukito’s appetite, and the confrontation between Fujitaka and Sonomi.
- This is where we learn that Tomoyo and Sakura are cousins (though no one ever says this, but they are, right? They’re second cousins since their moms were first cousins, right? I feel like this should be a bigger deal?)
- We get to see some fun parallels between Syaoran and Sakura competing, and later Sonomi and Fujitaka competing in the Dad race.
- Overall, it’s a very cute episode. As the family drama heats up, beautiful petals are falling from the sky.
- They find Flower on the roof, being her fun-loving self, and Sakura is easily able to seal her away...and even uses her flower-making ability to remind her dad and Sonomi of their shared love for Nadeshiko, by giving them her namesake flower.

- Of course, we also get Tomoyo explaining that Sonomi really loved Nadeshiko, and she really loves Sakura...and the episode ends with her gazing loving at Sakura.

Episode 11

- In the manga Shadow followed Flower. In the anime, Shadow was right at the beginning and they moved Flower later in the series, possibly so that it segues nicely into this episode...which takes place at the Daidouji mansion.
 - Sakura is actually quite surprised to discover Tomoyo lives in this fantastic mansion. It's her first time there, and she came because Tomoyo asked for her help with something.
- Again, this follows the manga pretty closely...Sakura is impressed at the house, and embarrassed at Tomoyo's impressive theater room devoted to watching footage of Sakura herself.
 - This time through I am really impressed by how Tomoyo is such a film junky. I mean she is in the manga, too, but it felt a bit more like film was just a means to be close to Sakura.
 - In the anime, she's legitimately a nerd about this stuff.
 - There was a moment I think we kind of skipped over in the Jump episode, where she had to distract the storekeeper while Sakura was investigating. She did that by just info-dumping about film editing and stuff (among other things).
 - Like, I hope she goes on to be a fabulous director.
- Anyway, we get a bit more backstory on Sonomi and Nadeshiko, since Sonomi is very excited when she hears Sakura is there.
 - Although she fought pretty relentlessly with Fujitaka in the previous episode, we do get to see a slightly more generous side to Sonomi now. She does realize how important he was to Nadeshiko, and can see he's done a great job raising Sakura, and keeping Nadeshiko's memory alive for her.
- After Sonomi gets called away by work, the girls bring cake to Kero in Tomoyo's room, and finally get to the heart of the matter: a box containing very precious items, which will no longer open, even with the key.
- Of course, it turns out to be Shield, instinctively protecting precious things. Sakura uses Sword to cut through it, and seals the card.
- Inside the box Sonomi is keeping Nadeshiko's wedding bouquet, which is clearly her precious item (and is surprisingly well-preserved).
 - I do think it's kind of weird that she kept a reminder of Nadeshiko's wedding, even though she was so against the marriage.
 - THAT'S OBSESSION FOR YOU
- Tomoyo also tells Kero what her precious item is: an eraser Sakura gave her the first day she met.

Episode 12

- Ok, we're moving along nicely! This episode is new to the anime!
- In this episode, Fujitaka is presenting for Sakura's class, explaining his job as an archaeologist.

- Adorably, Syaoran is SUPER into his presentation on ancient Egypt, giving a standing ovation, and peppering him with questions afterward.
- He's ecstatic when Fujitaka says he's welcome to come to their place and ask questions whenever he likes, but then all grumpy when Yamazaki reveals that Fujitaka is Sakura's dad.
 - You know, going by their magic-attracts-magic theory, it would make sense that Syaoran would be drawn to Fujitaka...did they ever interact in the manga? I can't remember...
- That night, Sakura brings Touya a snack to wish him well on his exams, and is surprised to find Yukito there as well! She's really flustered, to the point that she has trouble falling asleep, knowing that her crush is on the other side of the wall.
 - Kero does not share this hesitance; he's had a long day of video-gaming, and is excited to rest up so he can tackle the final boss in the morning.
- When the clock strikes midnight, we see the bell from Sakura's school chime, and they can hear it at their house. Sakura and Kero are surprised, and they can hear Touya and Yukito comment on it from the other room, too. Normally bell only rings at 5pm when the school lets out. How weird!
 - The chime is Westminster Quarters, for the record.
- In the morning, Sakura rushes off to school, nervous for her own exams--she has a recorder exam (or...recital? I guess?) that she does not feel prepared for.
 - And poor Kero discovers that all his game files from the previous day were lost! He has to play the whole game over from the beginning!
 - Sakura is so nervous for her exam/recital, and does screw up the high note (hey, it's tricky!).
 - Of course, Tomoyo is good at everything, including the recorder, but Syaoran also struggles at it. So much so that he keeps practicing after the class is over, and is almost hit by a soccer ball. Fortunately, he has cat-like reflexes, and deftly kicks it back to the players, scoring a goal and impressing everyone.
 - At home, Sakura's family toasts a successful (and more importantly, finished) day of exams. When Sakura says that she messed up on her recorder, her dad says that she shouldn't worry too much, but she should practice the parts she had trouble with, so she'll be better at them in the future.
 - HE'S SUCH A GOOD DAD
 - Sakura does just that, practicing her recorder until she manages to hit that high note.
 - Kero has also finally made it back to the last boss in his game, so they can both sleep easily now.
- But, again the school bells ring at midnight, and we can see that the clock on the tower is behaving weirdly...the face is turning counterclockwise!
- So, yep, we got some key details throughout the day because this is a Groundhog Day episode!
 - At first they don't notice any issue--except that poor Kero lost all his game data again. But when Sakura has to take her recorder exam again (she does wonderfully this time, having practiced so diligently the night before), she notices

that something is up. Everyone else acts as if the previous day didn't happen, except Syaoran.

- Fortunately, Syaoran also knows where the issue is: the clock tower.
- So Sakura suits up in a cute fairy costume we saw Tomoyo working on in the previous episode, and she and Kero attempt to Fly to the clocktower...but it knows what they're up to, and warps time around itself, pushing them back to the beginning of the scene.
 - There's a pretty hilarious effect for this, with their voices pitched really low.
- Kero explains that the card is defending itself, but it can only fully reset time once a day, at midnight.
- That should be good news, but this time when they fly at the clocktower, it speeds up time...and sure enough, when the clock strikes midnight, everything resets.
- We get to jump ahead this time, so we're not fully reliving the day with them (though we do learn that Syaoran got smacked in the face with the ball this time...and still managed to score a goal with the rebound).
- Syaoran wants to just completely destroy the clocktower because he is always ready to choose violence, but Sakura insists that they have to find another way.
- Since flying at it clearly doesn't work, they decide to be sneakier, coming at it from inside the tower.
- They confront a hooded figure with an hourglass (very Father Time-esque), and it freezes Sakura when she gets too close...but she is able to use Shield to create a barrier.
- Syaoran uses his magic to help restrain the card, and Sakura is able to seal it...but since Syaoran was so intrinsic to its capture, the card flies to him instead of her!
- For the first time, Syaoran has caught a Clow Card!
- The next day, things are finally back to normal...but unfortunately, this means Sakura has a spelling test instead of the recorder exam she kept practicing for. Good luck, Sakura!

Episode 13

- This is the King Penguin episode! I just have to get that out of the way, because that adorable grumpy slide is just such an iconic Cardcaptor Sakura thing to me.
- Fujitaka makes fancy lunches for the family since Sakura will be going to the zoo on a field trip. Touya teases Sakura for actually being awake early, but also tells her to be careful today--it says on the news that the Penguin slide from the park was somehow flipped upside down!
- We get a lovely sequence of her suiting up in her rollerblade gear and skating to school.
 - My cohort thought the line quality was different for this episode, maybe a different lead animator? The lines seem darker?
- In addition to being a big day because of the zoo, it's also a special day because Sakura gets to go to school with just Yukito, since she's headed in early for the field trip and Touya's busy.

- They pass the penguin slide and see that the area is swarming with the reporting news team. Sakura does close her eyes to see if she can sense a Clow Card, but nothing pings.
- At the zoo, everyone is grouped up with lists of animals to research. Sakura is with her group of girlfriends, and of course, they are all abuzz about the penguin slide.
 - Naturally, Naoko hopes it was a scary ghost, and Sakura doesn't even want to think of such a possibility!
- Syaoran and Yamazaki are in an all-boy group. They...find the worst drawing of a sloth I've ever seen and float the idea that sloths are related to monkeys which is not the case (cue robin rant.) Yamazaki spins a yarn about how sloths can run 60 mph if they feel like it, and the other kids are like lol but Syaoran BUYS IT and his eyes shine with hope.
- The girls are at the elephants when they hear a really loud sound, like something heavy falling over.
 - As the girls take notes (apparently the elephants enjoy tug of wars), Sakura discovers Kero has stowed away in her bag. He's desperate for fresh air, so she and Tomoyo run off to give him a chance to get outside the bag.
- There's another loud crash, and it's becoming pretty clear that a card is afoot.
- Many animals are freaking out, but they can't see any danger--just big footprint craters left in the ground.
- But, something grabs an elephant, and tosses it into the air!
 - WE ARE ON HIGH ALERT HERE PEOPLE
- Fortunately so is Sakura, and she uses Windy to catch the elephant and land it safely. Phew!
- It turns out this card is Power, and in order to capture it, Sakura must first best it in a test of strength.
 - Remembering the earlier anecdote about elephants playing tug of war, she challenges it to a tug of war contest.
- A tiny, very cute, very pink sprite pops up to challenge her, stealing a rope from the handrails. It's excited to play, but also very strong.
 - Sakura is struggling, and with both hands on the rope, she can't exactly use a card.
 - The elephants see this familiar activity (and maybe their returning the favor, since she helped them earlier), and join her side of the rope! But, things are still not looking great.
 - That is, until Syaoran uses Time to...stop time, and cuts the rope, causing Power to lose.
 - Power looks confused, but Sakura is able to seal her (and keep the card this time).
- Syaoran runs off to see if the sloth is ready to do something cool yet (sorry buddy, it probably isn't)
- Tomoyo meanwhile convinces Sakura to pose for a picture. It's supposed to be kept secret, but Yukito ends up catching it when the wind blows it out of her hands...and it's a picture of Sakura putting King Penguin right-side up again.

- Of course, they tell him it was a composite (this was before photoshop was, like, so ubiquitous that it was verb).

Episode 14

- Oh no I like all these episodes and I don't want to rush through any of them!
- Anyway, this one is a school play episode...but not *that* school play episode.
- This one is the high schoolers performing Cinderella, not the elementary schoolers doing Sleeping Beauty.
- Yukito gives Sakura tickets to his school play, which of course delights her...but hmm, why didn't Touya give her one?
- We get to see Touya helping sew the costumes (this whole family just aces home ec, I love it), but no sign yet why he wouldn't have wanted his sister there...
- Sakura and Tomoyo attend the festival and get to see Yukito working at his class's old-fashioned wagashi-ya (that's like, a sweets shop, kind of?), wearing an adorable yukata.
 - Sakura is charmed, but she's not the only one! Syaoran is there also, and he's a bit grumpy about his private Yukito moment being spoiled.
 - He's surrounded by, like, a mountain of Ramune bottles, and even orders one more
 - Yukito offers to show the kids around, which delights both Syaoran and Sakura, of course.
- Backstage, Touya is being admired by a bunch of girls.
 - One girl, Yoko, is annoyed by this display, because she also likes Touya, and her friends encourage her to ask him out.
 - This is a risky idea, however, because apparently Touya has a reputation for rejecting everyone who asks him out.
 - Apparently, he and Yukito not having girlfriends is one of the seven wonders of the school.
 - HMMM I WONDER HOW THAT COULD BE
- On the tour, Yukito challenges the tall basketball star to a shoot off and easily wins, impressing his pint-sized admirers and the basketball team. The twink has mad ups! He wins a bunny with a flower (god's messenger from Wish) for Sakura, and then beats the challenger two more times to win bunnies for Tomoyo and Syaoran. Exhausting the team, who beg him to join lol.
 - But, he needs to get ready for the play. He's being a bit mysterious about it, but when they ask if he's in it, he says he's playing a can of mackerel
 - This is a setup for a pun let's see if I can manage it,..Saba-no-can-some?
- Finally, it's time for the play!
 - The curtain opens on Touya in a cinderella dress saying 'shiku shiku,' the onomatopoeia for crying.
 - Touya has no wig, he's just his grumpy self in a dress taking things deadly seriously. The girls scream, and Tomoyo's points out that he's very popular!

- When the ugly stepsisters come on, it becomes clear that this is a full drag play--the sisters are played by boys in drag who are playing this a lot campier than Touya.
 - Translation note: the subtitles in Robin's version used "he" for Cinderella, but the original Japanese was not using pronouns, because that's much easier to do in Japanese, as we've discussed.
 - The version I watched used "she" in the subtitles, and in the recent dub.
- Then Yukito shows up...as a can of mackerel, just like he said he would be. He says he's a wizard, the can of mackerel gained power over time? Tomoyo says its to raise awareness of not wanting things we don't have?
 - It's *got* to be some kind of pun or reference, but we spent hours looking on the internet, and couldn't figure out why this weird thing happened.
 - If you know, please tweet at us or email us!
- Outside, an ominous green fog subsumes the school. Oh no! Could this be the work of a Clow Card? In this economy?
- On stage, our girl Yoko from earlier looks insanely hot in her Princess Sapphire getup as the prince, and she's impressed by Touya in drag enough that he has to remind her of her line. She's great at this, he sucks.
- Sakura and Shaoran think the play is weird but are huffy that they keep agreeing! They're rivals not friends, damnit!
- The prince begs cinderella to marry her but he has to go home and make ramen before midnight or he'll turn back—but the green fog breaks the balcony setpiece they are standing on so Touya has to hold up the prince by one strained arm as she dangles too many feet above the stage!
 - Sakura and Syoaran agree on something else--they've got to put a stop to this!
 - Sakura calls Kero, who informs them that it's the Mist card, the fog is corrosive, and they need to gather it up in order to stop it.
 - On stage, Touya refuses to let Yoko fall even though she's pretty sure she'll be ok...he's determined to keep her from getting hurt, even as the set piece is crumbling around him.
- Sakura has Shadow cover everything and bind up the fog, then seals it! That's great, but the set is still falling apart. Shaoran makes a wind ball to help cushion the prince and cinderella's fall. Yoko is so happy to be saved—but when Yukito calls out for Touya, he turns to him not her.
- Sakura thanks Shaoran and he blushes, and then blushes more when Yukito shows up, and he praises his performance.
- Meanwhile, Touya's been sidetracked hearing out Yoko on the roof. She confesses her feelings to him.
 - He's very gentle about letting her know he likes someone else. And she's not surprised. She wipes away her tears and smiles and asks for a favor—a dance?

- He smiles and they go down to do folk dances around the bonfire because that's the kind of school festival this is.
- Which means we are subjected to a string quartet playing Turkey in the Straw.
 - Ok, a moment of sympathy for me, because I had to watch this scene THREE TIMES because Happy had missed some important dialogue and thought Touya was into Yoko, instead of, like, the complete opposite. I SUFFERED
- He only dances with her then leaves when they're supposed to switch partners
 - which felt like kind of a dick move, honestly...but I guess he was making it special for her
- Yukito takes Sakura to join the dance, and Tomoyo films while Shaoran fumes with jealousy.
- And we're left with some puzzles...who does Touya like? Will Syaoran and Sakura ever get over their rivalry? We are on the edge of our seats here!

Episode 15

- In this episode, the tension between Sakura and Kero-chan boils over!
- It begins with Tomoyo filming a card capture—only Shaoran manages to get this one, The Storm.
 - Sakura is grumpy about this, and Kero-chan butts heads with her about how to stop 'The Brat' (Shaoran) and they end up yelling at each other.
 - Kero tries to make himself his own space by taking a bunch of her things to make a little room for himself in a desk drawer, and she's furious about this and wrecks it to put everything away.
 - While Sakura's out, Kero finds and spitefully eats a whole box of liquor-filled chocolates and later, angry to find the empty box that definitely was for her dad, Sakura finds only some Kero-sized chocolatey footprints leading out her window. Good riddance, she thinks!
 - For...like a few hours.
 - That night she goes to bed angry, and Kero-chan drunkenly sobs on a local shop's Alligator mascot statue, then crashes on a trashed old couch on the side of the road.
 - He wakes up in a toy baby carriage in a little girl's room—and when he accidentally says “chau chau!” (Osaka-ben for ‘chigau—it's all wrong!’) she mistakes that for a weird meow and dubs him Chau. He continues making this noise throughout the episode, in place of the classic Japanese cat-sound, nya.
 - Sakura wakes up and is distraught Kero's still gone. She even unloads on Touya accidentally and, seeing she's upset about something, he ruffles her hair and leaves her to it. He even takes over her chores while she sets out to go find him.
 - The little girl feeds Kero milk and bathes him in the sink. It comes out that her dad's dead and mother is working so hard to provide for her that's she's left home alone a lot.

- Kero-chan isn't loving the kitten treatment but feels protective of this little girl, so when she watches a TV show where a child is reunited with her father, Kero-chan steps on the remote control to change the channel and does a little dance to distract her.
- So this gets resolved by Kero-chan FAXING A NOTE TO SAKURA and Tomoyo using her computing skills with her laptop to find the address of the house from whence came said fax—but they arrive just in time to save kero-chan and the girl from a SITUATION.
- Because you see, a new anime-only Clow card showed up and made the girl float up into the sky after she talked about flying up to heaven to see daddy.
- Kero-chan isn't a strong enough flier to catch her and save her at any height, but he sure tries to!
- It's a good thing he sent that note and Sakura showed up when she did.
- She uses the Wood card to grow a nice tree to cushion their fall, and Sakura seals the Float card.
- Later, Sakura thanks the little girl for letting her take back her weird kitty.
- It turns out the mom found a new job that will let her stay at home with her daughter more, and they're moving away!
 - At home, kero's a bit salty about teh fight still, but sweetens up when he sees the little room Sakura built for him in one of her drawers—until he bounces too hard on the bed she made and breaks it!
 - Then the arguments begin again in force, and we're back where we started!

Episode 16

- Here's the meeting-great-grandpa episode! It is almost identical to the manga.
 - Opens with the whole family—Yukito included, though not Tomoyo not because, as we find out later, she has a choir concert—in the car driving through the countryside to a cabin.
 - The cabin belongs to someone from the school Fujitaka teaches at, who spends summers overseas—and he's actually sorry he can't take them overseas, but they're just happy to be here!
 - He does talk to Yukito a but about how he'd like to meet his family, and he thanks Yukito for taking such good care of Touya and while maybe you'd say that to someone your kids isn't dating, you definitely hear that line from nice fathers-in-law to their sons- or daughters-in-law. Just saying.
 - I think Fujitaka kinda knows Yukito's alone and has just already assumed he's a permanent family member <3
 - Just like in the manga, Sakura explores the countryside and finds a mansion and a sweet old man whose invitation to tea she just accepts,

and just like in the manga, her family's perfectly fine with this because it was probably all engineered by them anyway.

- She has beautiful European storybook dresses to perfectly suit the Secret Garden/A Little Princess/Heidi/Anne of Green Gables mashup story she's having.
- The old man shows her a room that clearly belonged to a little girl once, and explains it was his grand-daughters, but she's gone now.
- After a game of tennis, because she's a little jock and he's quite spry, she gives him some cookies her dad baked, and he almost allows himself to get upset about this—but after she gushes about her father, he tries one and has to admit its good.
- In the end, Sakura confides in him about her dead mother, saying both of their loved ones, who she doesn't know are the same person, must be in a beautiful place. And she asks him to watch the sky...
- And Sakura invokes the Rain card (not Watery, in this version) to create a rainbow for him, just like the one her mother painted for him so long ago.
- We the audience see Sonomi, Tomoyo's mother, join great-grandpa and say she had fun playing hide-and-seek, setting up the teas and everything for Sakura.

Episode 17

- This is the beach trip story where they have their test of courage!
- It's pretty darned close to the original—
 - School trip to the beach!
 - Actually it starts with a funny moment where, amidst the sound of summer cicadas, Kero complains about being left home alone in the heat, and Yukito and Touya, who are studying (???) in the next room are like '...what's the noise?'
 - Anyway the kids are having fun, Sakura loves swimming and beach volleyball and everything.
 - She does catch Shaoran staring at a spooky cave, but this is all forgotten when the kids get to use nets to haul up seafood for dinner!
 - Sakura and Shaoran both have impressive cooking skills, and Tomoyo maybe hypes up a little comparison between them to excite the other kids, but nothing much comes of this.
 - In the girl's cabin that night, Naoko tells her spooky story about kids disappearing while doing a test of courage in a cave, and Sakura's so scared she has to get up and take a walk to clear her head!
 - In the manga, she and Shaoran end up talking about how they both have crushes on Yukito here.
 - That's not what happens this time. They stare at the ocean and chat, and here's where we find out Shaoran didn't come with his family but is here alone with a family retainer named Wei.

- He doesn't want to get any more personal though and runs off as he is wont to do.
- Before she goes back to bed, Sakura sees some mist issuing from the cave?
- So she's not super excited about the test of courage when that scene starts up the next evening.
- Just like the manga, the kids are carrying candles, going in pairs, and Sakura is freaking out despite having Tomoyo with her.
 - And, like the manga, she can't take the mild frights engineered by the teachers in the cave...
 - But the really scary part is when they keep walking and nothing happens—no scares, no other kids, nothing!
- We find out kids are disappearing like in Naoko's story and that's really terrifying for Sakura, though the episode doesn't dwell on it quite as much as the manga does (how it's not just the ghost stories that bother Sakura, it's the trauma of losing her mother that means losing people is her biggest fear.)
- Shaoran does ask her to calm down and tells her that if she doesn't want anyone else to disappear she has to sense for cards—and then uses his rashinban (which he had...somewhere?) to pinpoint it!
 - They do use the float card to get over the burned bridge, justifying that anime-only card's existence.
 - Anyway I still love the Erase card's design, such a cute little jester girl, and Sakura seals her once she finds the card hiding in the shrine at the back of the cave.
 - Sakura offers Shaoran the card...but he insists she earned it, and the card seems to agree.
 - The episode ends with more beach volleyball, and a competition between Sakura and Shaoran spurred on by some Yamazaku-kun original about how whoever wins at the game will get their love wish to come true!

- **Episode 18**

- This episode is 'The Glow' and it's close to the manga with some BIG differences!
- Sakura has a lovely dream about being surrounded by floating lights. She reaches for one and says she knows what this is—
 - Then she wakes up to Kero's goofy face right smack in front of her eyes, the horror!
 - He chides her for sleeping away her summer vacation, but she tells him his waking her up like that made her forget her dream! And she's supposed to be remembering them because they're maybe prophetic and stuff!
 - Kero asks whether she's finished all her summer homework and she avoids that topic by busying herself with dinner plans—they're going to

have okonomiyaki, an Ohsaka specialty that immediately melts Kero's heart.

- That means she needs to go pick up fresh ingredients from the shop, and while watching we had a moment wondering if a big leek sticking out of a shopping bag is to Japanese visual shorthand as a baguette is for so much western/movie shorthand?
- Anyway on her way home she sees Yukito—sitting on the roof?
 - There's a meme I see a lot that is this image with 'Smoke Weed Every Day, Sakura-chan' on it and I couldn't not bring that up because it's now my association lol.
 - He says he's up there enjoying the weather???
 - And as I was watching this with friend-of-the-pod Caitlin Like we had this horrible thought that Yukito just...powers down like an unplugged robot when there's no one around.
 - So does that mean he just, like, randomly respawned on top of the roof???
 - Anyway he has her in for tea and claims his grandparents totally exist and they're just...on a vacation together! Sure! That's definitely real and happening!
 - He offers to walk her home, and as they run into Touya on the way he's just invited over for dinner as usual.
 - Which is especially good if you assume he just stops being a person when they're not around.
 - When Sakura says she and Tomoyo are going to a festival at Tsukimine shrine, Touya has a BIG reaction to the name of the place—but does not elaborate. Instead he and Yukito invite themselves along as chaperones.
 - Yukito roasts him for being overly protective again and like before, he's told to shut up, it's pretty cute.
- At the festival, Sakura wears a yukata her father made, but Tomoyo's nearly matches hers—they both have Sakura blossoms on them! Everyone's in cute yukata, boys and girls, and all the usual school friends are there playing traditional festival/carnival type games.
 - We're treated to some fabrications about water balloon yoyos from Yamazaki-kun, whose yukata I went nuts over because it's got alligators on it and I love that!
 - It was THE BEST
 - But we also run into Shaoran who is such a little sharpshooter with the pop-gun he's won a mountain of stuffed animals!
 - He is NOT wearing a yukata, for the record. He's wearing a kind of vaguely militaristic button up shirt? Idk, it stood out to Happy, especially since he was shooting things
 - Yukito makes the mistake of being impressed with him and Shaoran loses his mind and just offers him some of his prizes.
 - But when Shaoran sees that Yukito won Sakura a prize, he burns with jealousy!

- Touya doesn't like how much Shaoran's on everyone's case and gets a little too invested in a weird competition where he and the kid compete at ring toss to win a stuffed rabbit both Sakura and Yukito like—who is trying to win the thing for whom, here? It's a mess!
 - Tomoyo plays wingman for Sakura, babysitting the boys and their ring toss so Sakura can take a walk with Yukito ~alone~
 - And here's where they run into the glowing lights!
 - Yukito agrees its beautiful, lights falling like snow (like his namesake) and he's very gentle and patient as Sakura tries to confess her love to him—but CLAMPishly doesn't manage to say much before Touya and Shaoran burst through the bushes at them, proffering the stuffed rabbits.
 - Tomoyo explains the person operating the game just gave them each a rabbit to get them to leave lol.
 - Shaoran offers one to Yukito, Touya dumps his on his sister, who apparently he feels he needs to protect from Syaoran or something, it's a bit messy and unclear.
 - Adorably, Yukito offers to take Shaoran over to buy him shaved ice to pay him back, and he asks Touya to come, too—
 - Leaving Tomoyo to hang out with Sakura while she investigates this glowing light a bit more.
 - With little further to-do, Sakura seals the card which she hadn't even really sensed—neither did Shaoran, they were so distracted!
 - But the card brought her happiness anyway~
 - And that's the end? Other than Touya like, dropping his kitchen knife when they mentioned Tsukimine Jinja, there wasn't a whiff of Kaho in this episode, and she played a pretty big part in the manga version of this story! When will she show up? Only time will tell!

Episode 19

- GUESS WHO DIDN'T DO HER HOMEWORK UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!
 - Yeah, it's Sakura. She has her daily journal to do, math worksheets, and a craft project, plus a book report—and one day to do them all!
 - This, like, gave me hives lol
 - Kero says he'll help with the math homework in exchange for a treat, and Touya and Yukito take over her birdhouse crafting in exchange for Touya roasting her for doing this every year (this scene did imply Yukito had no idea and didn't know them this time last year, by the way)—but she still has to fill in the weather for every day of her journal, and has to do that book report!

- Her dad has SOME 90S TECH PDA THING that has a month's worth of weather data backed up in it, or newspapers or SOMETHING (he says its for research) and so that fixes that–
 - Happy got nerdy about this thing...he says they're still around, you can set them to monitor the weather, like, in your specific property.
 - Idk but he wants on lol
- Tomoyo is willing to go to the library with Sakura to check over their homework and find a book for a book report. She even has a suggestion—a book about a piglet that's pretty short and easy to tackle in one day!
 - Once the girls meet up, however, they discover that Kero's answers on the math homework are unusable, basically a comedy routine—for 'how much would you pay for 2 400 yen apples' he wrote down a '1000 yen bill' because he'd get change, etc—and so he gets NO TREATS and they have to correct the whole thing together.
 - What good is a magical girl mascot character who can't help you with your homework!
 - Still probably less upsetting than what Kyubei would answer.
 - I love the library in this episode, it's big and spacious and full of light, very nostalgic for what places like this would look like in the 70s-2000s, really.
 - The library's great but all 4 copies of that piglet book are out...
 - And one of them is on Shaoran's possession! As Kero discovers while poking around...he actually makes fun of him about how he needs a dictionary to get through it but he's being an asshole because, as Shaoran reminds us, hanzi and kanji aren't 1-to-1! He KNOWS this stuff in Chinese, it's just a little off now!
 - Kero actually tones the roast down when he hears this btw.
 - But he does report back to the girls that Shaoran has their book!
 - Only...he doesn't! The book has disappeared!
 - We get a sequence of the kids, at first apart and then working together, trying to hunt down this book, but it keeps disappearing, and we see a kind of red transparent wing effect on it.
- Kero figures out that this is the Move card, a useless anime-only addition (he says useless I added the rest) that can only move lightweight things short distances and is just an annoyance!
 - For a brief moment, Tomoyo freaks out and we're worried she has some extra insight into this—but no, she just forgot her camcorder and can't capture them sealing the card!

- Which they're having trouble doing because its just so erratic. It leads them on a chase through a courtyard.
- This becomes an interesting learning moment however—Kero-chan has Sakura close her eyes and focus on sensing it instead of seeing it—where WILL it be?
- And there's a cool sequence of darkness and the sounds she's hearing represented as a monochromatic image on top of that stark background—kids playing, a love confession, the wind—and the telltale sound of the move card!
 - She smacks it with her staff—but she was leaning right over the pond at the time so she tumbles after the book and teh card, trying to save them from the water. Tomoyo ends up saving the paper items but Shaoran tries to save Sakura and they both go into the drink.
- Now they're wet, and they still need to do a book report. This could be pretty rotten, but instead it turns sweet—Shaoran unexpectedly invites them over to his house, which we have never really seen!
 - The girls accept the invitation and next we see them, they're in his fairly large (though not Tomoyo-level mansion) place being attended by Wei, an older gentleman with a monocle who is kind of SHaoran's butler/caretaker. The Alfred Pennyworth to his Batman, if you will.
 - Shaoran says his dad died when he was young so his mom has had Wei taking care of him.
 - This character didn't exist at all in the manga, Shaoran did EVERYTHING for himself, just like Yukito—but this feels a little less forlorn, right?
 - I think it also makes Yukito's situation more significant.
 - Anyway Sakura's been dressed in a kind of sporty new shirt and just as she's thanking Shaoran (and asking whether he picked this out himself) a new character enters the scene—via cab, I believe—and she's got a kinda of Tang-suit-esque outfit, twin ponytails with buns, and a WHOLE lot of attitude!
 - She jumps on Shaoran and also immediately accuses him of cheating on her!
 - RUH ROH

Episode 20

- So after 12 episodes of getting to know Shaoran, things are getting more complicated!
 - It's the first day back at school after summer vacation (this would probably be the first week of September)
 - Sakura's honestly excited to see her friends (and Yukito on her way to school every day.)

- But as she skates to keep up with Touya and Yukito, Touya asks her if she saw the news from last night—a strangely-dressed little girl seems to have beaten up a blackbelt in karate!
 - He teases her about being the culprit, but she can let it go when Yukito laughs about it.
- At school, Shaoran hasn't made it to his seat behind Sakura's yet.
 - We get a peek at what we missed between episodes—that new girl pretty much threw Sakura and Tomoyo out!
 - Sakura has the shirt to return to Shaoran and hopes to get a chance to do that...
 - But when he does show up he looks pretty brow-beaten and exhausted, without any energy to respond to her.
- Terada sensei begins class by introducing a new student, also from Hong Kong—Shaoran's cousin Meiling Li!
 - And no sooner has she been introduced than she lays into Shaoran for neglecting to walk her to school—and then moves onto Sakura who she accuses of trying to steal her fiance!
 - Well this is lots of news to lots of people!
 - Sakura's like FOR REALSIES
 - Meiling's like YEAH FOR REALSIES
 - Shaoran's just too tired to say much of anything.
- Of course this must be discussed, and Sakura and her little girl gang do just that over lunch. Yamazaki tries to escort Shaoran over to explain (is anything more real than elementary school students having a friend as a protective escort???) but Meiling drags him away before he can get much out.
 - As she's doing this, he begs her not to be, like, weird at school?
 - Just go back to Hong Kong!
 - But she wants to stay here to back him up so Sakura won't beat him to all the cards!
 - She garnishes this with a classic ojo-sama 'Oh ho ho ho ho!' laugh like the evil little princess she is.
- So the competition is on! That means dumb shit like when Meiling gets praise for her wonderful cartwheels in gym class, then Sakura ALSO gets praise for hers, Meiling looks daggers at her. A grudge is building!
 - They're both called upon to do little exhibition routines for the class since they're so talented at gymnastics and again, they both receive praise and again, Meiling's grudge builds!
 - What I love in this scene is Meiling is going SO HARD trying to show that she's better than Sakura, and Sakura is pretty oblivious. She's just having fun doing the thing she's good at, and doesn't understand why this girl keeps glaring daggers at her for it.
- Sakura's not going to let this completely ruin her evening though, since Yukito came over for dinner and dinner is steak! A whole feast for back-to-school.
 - There's more news though—another martial artist beaten up by a little girl!

- The family teases Touya about how he needs to watch his back, since he's a black-belt too, but he's not a very high-level blackbelt so he figures no one would single him out to challenge or whatever anime nonsense is going on.
 - Sakura, however, doesn't think this is funny. She has some ideas about what might be happening and none of them are good...
- If this were made for American TV it would be a very special episode about not racistly deciding the girl from Hong Kong is naturally the villain beating up local blackbelts.
 - And it's not...not that.
 - Because that night Sakura, Tomoyo, and Kero-chan roam the neighborhood in costume, of course, looking for Clow cards and other magical activity...
 - And right when Kero senses a card nearby, poised as they are on a wooden bridge over some body of water or another, Meiling shows up!
 - She has her own little magical outfit on, and she's here to find the card on behalf of Shaoran!
 - She also expresses disbelief that Kero-chan is who he says he is.
 - And this is when the Clow card shows up. She's a strangely-dressed little girl who does look a bit like Meiling (with pigtails and buns) but like most of the spirits of the cards, she's got a kind of jewel-tone look that no live human would just be born with.
 - This Card wants to fight—but not Sakura—she wants to fight Meiling!
 - Who kicks the shit out of her!
 - But as Meiling gloats, the card gets back up and easily subdues her this time, oh no!
 - Shaoran shows up in time to stop it from doing like, a pile-driver or something on her, and manages to kick the card girl off the bridge into the water.
 - And we get a little insight—Meiling has NO magic of her own—she even had to ask Wei, Shaoran's Alfred, to use the rashinban *for her* to point her in the direction of a card.
 - Shaoran is actually pretty upset that she's putting her non-magical self in danger this way, and this cool, protective side of Shaoran piques Tomoyo's interest—but he doesn't get a chance to reinforce or ruin the impression because the card comes back to kick the crap outta him!
 - Meiling's upset he was hurt on her behalf and joins in the fray.
 - There's some very nice fluid animation and pretty fun choreography in this next sequence, but the characters can't enjoy that of course; Sakura's informed that to catch this card she'll have to defeat it in combat!

- Reminiscent of the Power card (from the elephant episode) which is not lost on Sakura, who invokes that card to power herself up!
- She's...not a martial artist though, so instead of sophisticated combat, she just whacks the card girl with her staff!
- Meiling is so let down by this turn of events that Sakura tries to cheer her up by claiming she was only able to capture it because Meiling wore it out first...but Sakura does get to keep the card,
- And the episode ends with Tomoyo observing that our relationship flowchart is getting complicated!

Discussion

- **Progress!** I think by this point we're through the first omnibus of CCS, the first quarter—and already have so many anime-only cards and additional moments.
- Unlike Rayearth, we've actually gotten more character development, more moments to really revel in this world.
- It helps of course that it's ostensibly the real world with some kind of focused magical elements on top—some time is taken up doing normal daily chores, school activities, seasonal touchstones that are made more interesting with a touch of trouble from Clow cards.
 - **Like**, to add character moments to a script set in a fantasy world you have to add more detail to that world and might break it if it's as brittle and plot-specific as Cephira in Rayearth for example.
 - In this there are holidays and homework and chores just built right in!
- **So** I think the anime-only episodes were pretty strong this time—Time was a very cool episode that FEELS right with the series, though they had to be pretty specific about its abilities and handwave how much someone else could abuse them just by like...not mentioning it! Since Sakura doesn't get that devious with her cards.
 - I think Float was a good episode for the character stuff between Sakura and Kero-chan, and Move for Sakura and Shaoran (though the card seemed pretty useless.) Fight and Power really highlighted the more action-oriented storytelling of the anime, and tied into each other nicely!
- These changes are pretty apparent, but there's so much that's pretty much identical.
- Still, some of the characters are a little different! Last episode we talked about how there's more conflict/tension with Kero-chan and we saw a lot of that in this chunk of episodes.

- Speaking of conflict...I absolutely adore every time Kero bites Syoaran. Like nothing against Syoaran, but he is being kind of a brat, and anyway, the idea that this mighty Guardian of the Clow is this little fluffball furiously latched onto Syoaran's finger is just SO GOOD.
 - It is adorable. WAY more violent/slapstick/conflict than the manga, but I don't hate it; shoujo manga can have a slight insubstantiality to it that I definitely value but can also mean it feels like its pulling its punches.
 - CLAMP titles rarely feel like that to me (outside of a light touch on romance maybe?) but since they were going as SHOUJO AS SHOUJO CAN BE—there was room to change things for the anime.
- We have been introduced to Meiling! Only a taste of her, so next episode we'll say a lot more I'm sure because she's sure a lot!
 - So I used to hate Meiling, I think just because she was an anime-only character and thus didn't fit my ridiculous rule of "the manga is canon, all else is inferior." But I actually kind of love her now.
 - Like, she's ANNOYING, but you can really see that her haughtiness comes from some deep insecurities. And she's pretty badass.
 - She also brings out an interesting side of Syoaran--she's a reason for his bitchy exterior to break a little.
- Yeah! Structurally, her introduction comes at a time when Sakura and Shaoran are getting closer, finding more to relate to in each other, softening—and since the anime is going to run longer than the manga, adding a new conflict that lets Sakura and Shaoran's relationship change but maintains tension was a pretty good idea.
- Is she kind of a Chinese stereotype character? Probably! She's pushy and stuck-up and good at martial arts and says she's betrothed to Shaoran.
 - She's kind of a Ranma ½ character lol
 - This can definitely rub some folks the wrong way
 - But she is more complex than those superficial qualities, as we already glimpsed in episode 20.
 - So hopefully that makes up for at least some of it?
 - Any time a character is introduced to keep a conflict up, it's bad news for that character.
 - Sometimes they can transcend it but often...she's literally thrown in as a new heel to cause problems! It's easy to hate her, and easy to see her qualities as intended to be hatable...
 - But CLAMP works usually don't have anyone like that!

- Even Kamui, as much of a bitch as he was, mostly surprises the reader by his selfish retorts and violent reactions to things, rather than being set up inherently as an annoying person.
 - So this character is maybe a little jarring, maybe a little out-of-place—or even a little refreshing since she’s less sweet than everyone else!
- So I’m trying to withhold judgment for now, but growing up I was big mad that Syoaran got cards.
 - And like...it still kind of bugs me, especially knowing everything that happens later (at least in the manga). It feels like if some of them are his cards, how can they all be Sakura Cards later?
 - I think the fact that he gets cards in the anime was part of why I used to dislike Syoaran. I think I was also first introduced to him via the anime, not the manga (at least in any meaningful way), so this impression really colored how I felt about the character for a long time.
 - But, like I said, I’m trying to just let it play out, and reserve judgment until later. I can see it being a really sweet way of showing how they work together.
 - It is an element that adds more competition/conflict, and I think it works great to keep tension up for the episode count—but is a tense, anxiety-inducing, almost unfair element? I do get a Bad Feel when he gets a card, because we see how it makes Sakura feel like she’s failing.
 - I personally like more conflict in a story EVEN if it Feels Bad, because I like to have a lot of feelings and see growth and change, but I know this series is also SO comfy and cozy it sucks when anything is bad for OUR BELOVED CHILDREN.
- So, to quickly mention that school play episode...I would be more annoyed about it (especially since it comes before the other one, and thus, I think, steals some of it’s thunder), but Yoko is kind of adorable? She’s so spunky and confident and has very cute hair T_T
 - Yeah she’s hot, I love her.
 - Also Touya’s bad acting kind of reminded me of Haruhi from Ouran? Like I think they would be kindred spirits, kind of stoically going on with the craziness their friends create
 - I dig this so much! I think the friend-group-dynamics in both shows are really fun and they do kind of link thematically in my brain...

- Yeah, I think the friend-group thing is kind of what I liked about this episode...I mean, it was a drag retelling of Cinderella, which just felt so much like something we might have done as teens.
- Ok, so, before we wrap this up, I have a quick report on Happy's reactions to this show!
 - It's very interesting watching it with him since he hasn't seen it, and also has very limited knowledge of CLAMP, and so does not pick up on things as quickly as I might expect.
 - He's also kind of notoriously distractable, so he has more trouble with subs than dubs, but I refused to watch 70 episodes of this dubbed...sorry dub fans.
 - It's taken him longer to catch on to some of the crushes happening here, but once he did he was, like, mapping out the love-quadrhedron (he was very excited when Tomoyo mentioned the relationship chart at the end).
 - He was very perplexed by the idea that Touya liked someone that wasn't this rambunctious cute girl (which, fair, she was adorable), and it took some heavy hinting from me for him to put two and two together.
 - Like I said, we had to rewatch part of this episode, because he described her as "that girl he wants to bang" at the end, and I was like "...um we're going back."
 - He also did not clock Sonomi's feelings as being romantic (he interpreted her and Fujitaka as having kind of an enemies-to-lovers potential, and I was like, no, she's very gay)
 - It also took him a long time to realize Syoaran was also crushing on Yukito (though I think he just missed some key dialogue there, because the characters are straight up talking about it)
 - What did he think was happening with Syoaran and Yukito?
 - You know, I asked him, and even he isn't sure what he thought was happening. I think he just thought Syoaran was being wuper weird around the teen characters?
 - Oh oh he's also totally thrown by Yukito being voiced by a woman! I take this to mean they don't do that in the US dubs much.
 - I have the reverse problem of this when we're watching the Utena dub (which is not the one I grew up with, and is pretty decent). Whenever Miki talks I'm like "why does he sound like a dude???"
 - And finally, Happy pretty consistently says "Clow" like "cow", instead of "Clow" like "glow," so that pronunciation runs deep. I'm curious to see if they say it that way in the Cardcaptors dub, because it really does not seem like the natural way to say that word when you first see it, and they

- are definitely saying “kurou” not “kurai” or something in the Japanese (I even looked up the way they write Clow Reed’s name, just to make sure).
- Will has probably edited this out, but pretty much once an episode one or the other of us has stumbled over this. We usually have even said it correctly, but we doubt ourselves and have to do a retake.
 - And to be clear, there’s not necessarily one correct and one incorrect way here (especially if they say it that way in the dub versions), but we like to be consistent in how we’re saying it.
 - Anyway, he reports that he’s overall really enjoying the show, and is pretty delighted about the overt-and-less-overt stuff once he’s aware of it.

Outro (edit for flavor)

In our next episode, we’ll be discussing...

Until then, you can follow us on twitter, Tumblr, and Instagram @Clampcastpod, on Facebook as Clampcast in Wonderland, and on our website clampcastinwonderland.com.

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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!