

# CCS Anime

## Episodes 21 - 32

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### Intro

Getting used to new faces, seeing some familiar ones show up, and even a little face-swap—it's a fun run of episodes this week!

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

### Check-In

- Happy New Year!...in February.
- Yeah, so, we accidentally took January off. We had the best of intentions. We got this chunk of episodes watched nice and early in the month, and even started the scripts, but then a few things happened.
  - I went to Hawaii for my godsister's wedding, which was delightful, but definitely threw off our schedule a bit.
  - ...and Robin had a book come out!
  - It's her debut picture book, and it's called *This Book is My Best Friend*
  - It's adorable and everyone should go buy it.
- So, we lost January, but we are excited for February...and we hope you are too!
- Before we launch into CCS, we actually have a quick correction of sorts that we'd like to make. This goes way way back to our early episodes, when we were discussing RG Veda.
  - We got a very nice email from someone...I'm going to keep them anonymous, but I do want to thank them for pointing this out.
  - When we were addressing cultural appropriation in RG Veda, we did not do a great job! We overstepped, conflating different cultures from South Asia and the subcontinent as if they're all the same, talking about immigrant experiences with no good references and as if they're all the same—basically it was an unscripted mess and we were not qualified to speak for anyone, and even when we tried to acknowledge that we just messed it up so bad! This is part of why we script so much more now, so we can make sure we're not overstepping so egregiously. It sucks to mess up, but it really sucks to hear someone mess up in such insulting ways about your own damn life experience and culture, and UGH so sorry. Not like I haven't experienced that myself and we still did it!

- We can only apologize for this, and do better in the future.
- But, I do want to again thank this person, and anyone else who has reached out with feedback. We know that takes a lot of time and energy on your part, and that it shows a certain level of trust in us to take that feedback and be willing to grow from it. We will try our best to live up to that trust.
- And as with stuff like this, we would love to hear your experiences with CLAMP, especially if you have a different experience for us, two queer white ladies in the US.

### Background

- So, onto CCS!
- No new background stuff, but we do have a few announcements about the next few episodes, since I actually had enough brain power to *plan ahead*.
- The remaining number of episodes divide nicely into 13-episode chunks, and I think we can do that many without *our* episodes getting *too long*, so that's what we're going to do.
- We're going to tackle the movies after the series. I know that the first one technically happens between seasons, but we're not too worried about it.
- And we fully intend to devote an episode to the Cardcaptors dub, so if you have fondness for this version, we'd love for you to send an email with your thoughts to [clampcastpod@gmail.com](mailto:clampcastpod@gmail.com) (or use the contact form on our website). We will have our Cardcaptors Correspondent, Caitlin, but since neither Robin nor I have much fondness for the Cardcaptors dub, we really want to hear from folks who do.
- Now, having said all that...I still cannot promise you exactly when these episodes will come out, because this series had proved much more time consuming to watch and script than we had expected. I think it's safe to assume at least one episode a month, and we'll aim for two, but...we'll see.
- Thank you so much for sticking with us through all these episodes! We love you all!
- And without further ado...lets get into it!

### Summary

#### **Episode 21**

- We start things off with another marathon!
- And the stakes are high this time...well, for some people, anyway. Meiling is convinced that she and Syoaran will take the first and second places, as they always used to do back in Hong Kong. But there are two things she hasn't considered.
- The first is Sakura's cheerful athleticism. But the second is that she, Meiling, has only ever run sprints before.
- This does lead to some cute moments--for instance, Yamazaki almost convinces her that people climb mountains to train for marathons. His lie is revealed, but Meiling does take the idea of training to heart, and later has a good scene with their butler Wei explains actual real things about long-distance training.
  - He admits that Syoaran told him to tell her these tips, which of course makes her happy.

- She fantasizes about winning the race at his side—so it looks like she really does have Big Feelings for him?
  - I feel like Meiling does not do anything half way..
  - That is a kind description of her!
- Marathon day rolls around, and it's set up for big fun.
  - Tomoyo is out of the race, literally, because she hurt her foot and has been told to take it easy...which means she can focus all her energy filming Sakura, which is of course her favorite thing in the world to do.
  - She even enlists Kero as her EYE IN THE SKY
- Touya and Yukito are even there, since they have a half day, and of course this just adds more motivation for Sakura and Syoaran.
- And this isn't a marathon where they, like, circle the track for an extra long time; this marathon is taking them through the neighborhood.
- Yuki and Touya, Tomoyo, and Kero are all waiting at certain points, but they notice something is weird....and our trio notice soon after—there's no one else running any more! Meiling thinks they're just too fast for everyone, but...
- Sakura's group is going in a loop that is NOT the same path (with a turn-around) that the others are in—since the others DO eventually pass our observers.
  - Meiling trips and falls over and Tomoyo comes up to help them out...and tells them that Naoko just ran by. By this point they've pretty consistently established that Naoko, bless her soul, is generally last at anything athletic...though it doesn't seem to deter her spirit any.
  - Even more concerning, Tomoyo reports that they were even passed by the teacher who was bringing up the rear. Obviously, a Clow Card must be bedeviling them...but where is it?
- Kero suggests Loop. He says they have to break the circuit to get it to reveal itself!
  - Luckily Shaoran brought his rashinban somehow. They get the general area, but now they have to locate something...weird. Like a bad edit!
  - And they find the place Meiling tripped because it trips Sakura, too—a glowing pink line shows where the neighborhood has been badly stitched together! A fun reference to animation loops btw.
  - Sakura transforms and releases Sword to cut through that pink line/bad edit, and a red band appears that she seals back into a card! On the card it's depicted as an infinity symbol.
- Meanwhile all the slowest kids finish the marathon, and Yukito and Touya are like WTF.
- But Meiling's hurt too badly to run, and won't accept any solutions since she wants to finish with Shaoran.
  - Shaoran carries her on his back, which is pretty kind of him, and he and Sakura finish at the same time. Meiling hugs him, making other students blush! She makes a bratty speech at Sakura, and we see her mild distress captured on Tomoyo's camcorder at the end.
  - Poor Sakura, just keep being your sweet self, and Meiling will come around eventually...maybe...

## Episode 22

- We get a lot of Fujitaka in this episode, which is good fun, and an example of how the anime makes use of the extra adventures to build in good character development.
  - He's presenting a paper at an upcoming conference, and has been working very hard, staying up late and getting up early.
  - Both Touya and Sakura are helping out where they can by taking on all the chores for the rest of the week, and Sakura even made him lunch, with a sweet note of encouragement.
- Yukito is even doing his part--Sakura and Tomoyo run into him at the bookstore, picking up a book for Fujitaka since Touya has practice.
  - Yukito is just FULLY a member of this family now, huh
- Things get extreme enough that Fujitaka decides to spend the last couple days at the university where he works, sleeping in his office and getting as much done as he can.
  - He explains that he's not just working to share his paper with a few important people in his field, he's doing this because he wants to share this information with as many people as possible. So much is unknown about how people around the world have lived throughout history, especially outside your own country, and he wants to work hard and help increase that awareness.
  - Sakura decides to visit him at campus, and Kero says some adorably unhinged things about how lucky she is to get to go to a college. Don't they usually have to take really hard entrance exams for that? And she's just going to be able to go!
    - I love this very simplistic understanding of how college works, probably gleaned from watching tv dramas. Which, as someone who mostly knows things about Japanese culture from anime, I can relate.
    - Also, in an episode about anthropology...that feels kind of meta?
      - I took it as more like "I'm trying to make this seem even more cool than it is" from Kero-chan but yeah you took us to the meta-zone XD
- The next day, Sakura and Tomoyo have a hamper of snacks for her dad, but get a little lost on campus and run into some students of her dad's who think she's adorable (because she is). They not only help her find his building, they take her to see one of her dad's lectures!
  - The helpful students are his lab assistants actually, and think very highly of him. They help the kids get to her dad's office later, though we see a little wave of sparkles pass by outside—and then see it again in his office when he falls asleep suddenly!
  - Tomoyo suggests they get coffee to bring to dad and the students, but when they bring back her dad's gone—and the students suddenly fall asleep before they can drink their coffees! How suspicious!
- Obviously it's a Clow Card—and we see a little figure flitting around spreading the sparkles!
  - Sakura knows what to do about this. But the little card sprite is fast—and manages to put Kero-chan to sleep to stop their pursuit!

- Our heroine calls upon Windy to blow the sleep dust away and wrap up the little sprite in its currents—it works and she seals sleep—but she knocks over a stack of books that crush her dad’s chunky 90s laptop screen!
- The screen is cracked, and it looks pretty much toast. She tries every key but nothing turns it back on. Sakura despairs—only to be discovered by her dad and everyone else. She sobs an apology. He’s so gentle—we can’t fix what’s broken, he says. And then says he’ll have a sip of coffee and then they can go home together.
  - This really the sweetest, most genuine scene. She goes from being a magic girl on an adventure to having a very relatable melt-down. I think it’s one of moments where she’s felt the most authentically like a kid--helpless and feeling so bad for what happened. A problem even her magic couldn’t solve.
  - Really one of the biggest strengths of the anime—these added episodes really do provide character development and new ideas that enrich the existing story—because everything about this reinforces the themes or the manga: that Sakura’s strengths are both magical and real, that she is a little girl with a kind heart and that’s what all the magical beasties like about her! It uses the series premise, and details like her dad’s ACTUALLY INTERESTING JOB to give us something we could totally see happening in the manga.
- That night Sakura can’t sleep, and keeps remembering her dad saying he wants to learn and study... Despite how nice he’s been about everything, she still feels terrible about what happened.
- The next morning Dad’s up early cleaning his room, and Touya makes a breakfast that Sakura’s having a hard time eating.
  - Dad knocks over books and ends up on the floor himself! This just makes Sakura cry again—she’ll do anything to help!
  - Dad sits down and talks to her. He says that the paper’s still in his head and he thinks he can re-type it in time if she helps. So we get a montage of Sakura and Touya serving as his assistants, getting him books as he needs them, etc.
  - And in the morning he smiles into the sunshine—he’s finished!
- Sakura’s asleep finally. But she and Touya wake up to see their dad off. This time, he made her a lunch before he left, with his own note of encouragement.
- Such a good dad!
- Such a good family!

### Episode 23

- Despite the rather exciting news that Yukito will be spending the night at her house, Sakura quickly has reason for concern in this episode...because it’s another spooky episode!
- Specifically, there’s a rumor going around that there’s a ghost in the choir room. Multiple kids have reported hearing singing in the room, long after any elementary school kids would be gone.

- So, although everyone is excited about the upcoming recital, Sakura's kind of freaked out! She's excited to hear Tomoyo sing, though, since she'll have a prominent role--and she has such a lovely voice.
  - During this conversation Meiling insists she's also a good singer, but won't join the choir when Tomoyo offers, because she doesn't know any Japanese songs...so her talents remain to be seen.
- The kids do inspect the music room, and Syaoran says he senses something...but he can't tell if it's a Clow Card, or really a ghost. And naturally, this means they have to come back at night, to Sakura's distress.
- At home, Kero thinks this is just a 'seven wonders of the school' story but if it's a card she needs to investigate. Only Sakura refuses to go. Yes she was there when they caught Shadow but that was scary and that's why she doesn't want to go! Also...because she doesn't want to miss Yukito being over~
- Unfortunately Yuki and Touya also attest to the spooky voice singing at night in the music room! At 10 pm, they say. Yukito says that it's supposed to be a beautiful voice though and he'd like to hear it! And THAT motivates Sakura!
- She braves the school at night in a music-themed outfit (with matching hat for Kero-chan) and runs into Syaoran and Meiling, much to her embarrassment. Sakura wants to record the song for Yukito, you see, which she doesn't want to admit to them.
  - But the voice IS THERE and when they run into Tomoyo, they realize it sounds like the pretty song she was working on! Actually...it sounds like her voice, too!
  - Syaoran calls it—it's the Song Card. It copies the voice of the best singer it hears! Meiling says something about being a good singer, too, and Kero-chan roasts her a bit. They follow the voice all the way to the roof.
- Tomoyo admits that she can't get the high notes perfectly each time and is still practicing it, and it seems like the Song card is, too! That's why it's hanging around practicing and spooking people accidentally.
  - But they don't want people to inspect the "haunting" and find the card—so they need to convince it to stop.
  - Meiling thinks she can do that by singing in front of it and impressing it or whatever but Kero says they should table that.
  - Instead, Tomoyo needs to perform the song herself—with the confidence that she's perfected it so the card will be satisfied!
  - And they do this! Her voice actress sings very sweetly and the card, appearing as a white light with ripple-like rings around it, joins in with her—then is indeed satisfied and shows up as a lovely lady much like Tomoyo may grow up to be one day, and allows herself to be sealed!
- Oh no, Sakura forgot to record that lovely duet! Syaoran tells her to just write her name on the card then have the card come out and stage it again! Good plan!

## Episode 24

- Alice in Wonderland time! Oh yeah, Clamp's favorite and ours!

- Sakura is enthralled by a TV program about a castle! But Touya says she's not very princess-like and cites her kicking him to prove it lol.
- **Next** day our actual princess Tomoyo wants to come over—she says she'll bring sweets!
  - Kero-chan is upstairs reading WISH like, for serious XD we paused on the screen to make sure.
  - **He's** of course happy to see Tomoyo, maker of desserts. She brought over a strawberry tart! But they are going to wait to eat it until Tomoyo's gotten to do what she came for—taking measurements since Sakura's having a growth spurt, etc.
  - Next scene, Sakura's in an Alice in Wonderland costume! Tomoyo is starry-eyed over how enchanting this is! But even a matching outfit doesn't distract Kero from how much he wants to eat that tart.
- **However**, they still can't eat it yet...because they feel the presence of a Clow Card!
  - Sakura transforms her key and stalks the house looking for the card, telling Tomoyo to wait with Kero-chan in her room.
  - There's a bit of tension as she checks rooms. A curtain billows in her dad's bedroom and she checks that—but there's a tiny bouncing light on her dad's bed suddenly! She tries to hunt that down but falls behind the bed and we see a flash of light--
- **Next** we see her, she's only a few inches tall and the key is about the same size as her, lying on the carpet! She's shrunk!
  - And then the breeze from the window blows her away!
- Kero and Tomoyo come looking for her and find only the key lying on the floor. Oh no!
- **We** see Sakura's been blown out the window and is on the roof of the car port or garage or something. A cat chases her and she falls into the primroses she planted with her dad! Her relief is short-lived, however, because she realizes she has no staff to perform magic.
  - A praying mantis chases her off and might have caught her except the cat pounces on it!
- **Poor** Tomoyo is alone in the house when Touya and Yukito come home. Touya wonders why she'd leave her friend there alone, and Tomoyo is left to make up some excuse but it is pretty awkward.
- **Meanwhile**, Sakura sees the card sprite—a little golden almost-beetle-like clown creature. She has to chase it, but it has jumped into a bath!
- **Back** home Yukito and Touya are serving Tomoyo tea—she fakes being faint in order to retrieve Kero-chan. They...are suspicious but whatever.
- Sakura manages to climb out of the bathtub—we thought it looked like she was getting smaller between scenes at this point but it is probably just animation continuity hell issues??--and chases down the sprite—into the kitchen now.
- **Like** the time episode, we get some playfulness when Touya shows up and his voice is modulated low and his footsteps are thunderous lol. But now she's got to wait for him to finish getting hot water for tea, etc, in the kitchen.
- She tries to warn him about the card sprite, and he thinks he heard her voice (we switch between her perspective and his here, VERY cute!)

- Kero-chan finally catches up to her, giant lion-sized now! He explains this is the Little card—if she can catch up to it and touch it, she'll size back up!
  - Sakura flies in on Kero-chan to warn Tomoyo against touching the Little card and manages to touch it herself, popping back to her original size and grabbing the key from her friend in the process!
  - She SMACKS that little sprite and seals it into a card—all while sitting on poor kero-chan, no longer bigger than her.
- We see the cat sleeping in the sun, and finally the tart is served! They all agree it's delicious—and Touya eats Kero's piece so all he gets is a tiny corner that Sakura spared from her own slice. The solution? Using the Little card on Kero-chan so he can enjoy a giant mountain of tart!
- And Sakura is no longer so into castles and big houses.

## Episode 25

- Sakura is out shopping in a cute bunny hat! But—why did she seem to double back again into the scene? We're back to manga continuity and a familiar scenario!
- She comes home to Yukito cutting Touya's hair—and he says he'll cut hers too! She insists she's happy to have him give her a trim rather than going to a salon, and of course she's in flowery paradise with that attention.
- Meiling walks by wedding dresses and gets gooey, but then a be-hatted Sakura runs into her and smirks as she keeps going, no apologies! Then Sakura wrecks things in a shop in front of her other friends, too. Oh no, what is going on!
- Back home, our Sakura admires her Yukito-given haircut, then runs downstairs to finish swiffering a bit as she promised to do. Yukito offers to make dinner in return for how much they treat him. Sakura wants to help and Touya makes fun of her for being messy and bad at cooking, which is a bit of an exaggeration but that's their dynamic and I guess we need to go over it again.
- Later, Tomoyo noticed Sakura's haircut even though Kero didn't (because of course she would) but her other friends are all a little upset with her for the bad behavior they saw.
  - Meiling comes on STRONG about that.
  - Sakura insists it wasn't her that did all that mean stuff, and she is distracted later when doing baton-twirling and gets hit on her head.
  - Naoko tells her about doppelgangers and freaks her out—if you see one you die, etc.
  - Just a side note here...I freaking love Naoko. She's so delightfully cheerful about all her spookiness. She always keeps going despite Sakura being freaked out, but it doesn't feel like she's oblivious or uncaring, but more like she could never conceive of this not being anything other than fascinating and exciting.
  - Future spooky goth girl, and I love it.
    - She reminds me of me! On a good day XD
- After school, the other Sakura continues her reign of very mild mischief, tearing up some topiaries and knocking over some little kids' sandcastles. When Sakura SEES this other self run by, she freaks out and hugs Tomoyo—and her friends catch up with her in time to understand it really COULDN'T have been her...

- At home, she explains things to Kero-chan. And he now shows her how to do a reading with Clow card!
  - This episode has creative framing and angles, showing Sakura's face in a mirror as she talks looking down at Kero, so we can see her and Kero front-on instead of side-on! Etc. Really fun stuff, the production team just lavishes love onto this series.
  - Anyway we see magic effects swirl around Sakura as she does her reading.
  - Kero says Windy indicates info spreading/communication—info about Sakura has made it to the cards! They know who she is.
  - She flips over the next 3—shadow, watery, illusion—the card will be associated with these.
  - And she flips one more card—Flower. A Flower...she thinks of the flower names in her family, and peach flowers--Touya!
- And indeed we see the Other Sakura luring Touya into the woods, deeper and deeper...
- Sakura tries to catch up with them but as she gets into the woods she senses...peoples' presences? Kero avoids saying ghosts just in time but...that's likely what it is.
- Sakura is scared and alone and feeling bad that she can't sense the card any more, at a moment when Touya is definitely in trouble.
  - But! Shaoran has also tracked the card to this clearing and Sakura asks him to help her find the card and her brother!
  - Shaoran uses his rashinban to set them on the right track...
- Cut to Touya clinging to a cliff and losing his grip while Other Sakura watches him fall!
- Touya is lying, injured, but still wants to help this stranger—who he assumes is a ghost in Sakura's form—find whatever she lost. He's very kind despite being in pain, and asks her to say hi to his mom for him.
- Sakura and company catch up to the Other Sakura and Kero says this is a special card—she has to say its name to catch it! Sakura confronts her other self, who says, in a spooky tone 'so you're his little sister.'
  - The sprite mimics her and that helps her figure out what watery, illusion, and shadow might mean—Mirror! And the sprite takes back its very ghostly form and kisses Touya's forehead in apology, before letting Sakura seal it.
- Sakura later admits to Kero that she thinks the card was trying to tell her its name.
- She brings Touya pancakes in bed, with Kero in her hood riding along.
  - Toya notices kero and she makes an excuse about it.
- Yukito comes over and he and Touya have a talk about ghosts in the forest. Touya feeds Yukito some of his pancakes, adorably.
- Having seen her brother in danger, Sakura remembers Kero's earlier warning with a new sense of urgency. Just WHAT catastrophe did he mean would befall the earth if she fails to catch the cards?
  - He reassures her it isn't going to be the world blowing up or anything, in fact to some it might not be a big deal at all...but when she leaves he admits that it might be WORSE than that for someone else.
- And the episode ends with a glimpse of Kaho! Since she didn't show up in the last batch, with the card we would have expected her to, we're really ON ALERT for her entrance!

## Episode 26

- **Now** we're getting back on track with the manga! Here's Kaho's intro with the maze card.
- Sakura's late and this time she trips over a cat—only to be rescued by a mysterious lady in sunglasses! It's Kaho but that means nothing to this version of Sakura yet. She does give her an 'until later~' goodbye that makes her extra mysterious.
- **Oh**, and Touya is getting more suspicious of Kero-chan...
- **The** cycle of lateness continues as the next day Sakura rushes to catch up to the boys on their bikes—the whole class cheers when she gets to class seconds before her teacher. Terada-sensei explains their math teacher's going to be away for a bit and introduces Mizuki Kaho to us!
- **Later** Shaoran is like DID YOU SENSE HER?
  - Sakura didn't because she was so charmed by her—and Kaho pops up to say hello to Sakura and her friends.
  - This does not make Syaoran less suspicious, for the record.
- **During** school cleaning time, her friends discuss getting romance omori from the Tsukimine shrine, and Meiling perks right up at the mention of 'romance.'
  - The kids don't explain much more to her though because she's not exactly their friend, but she overheard enough that when Sakura and Tomoyo show up at the shrine, Meiling has dragged Shaoran along, too.
    - It occurs to me that Meiling really is an excellent plot device to get Syaoran to go somewhere...like he is pretty much only motivated by practicality (errands, maybe?) or actual Clow Card business, whereas Meiling is much more of a loose canon. And she has simple needs (like love charms) that overlap with the rest of Sakura's friends. It's a good use of this character! I appreciate her more and more!
  - **No** sooner are they all together than they feel something weird at the big Torii gate and—they find themselves in a very green-screen green maze!
    - **It's** an interesting color choice, it matches her eyes but also really does look like green screen.
  - **Meiling** wants Shaoran to hurry up and dispel the maze, but...he knows they need to find the exit to make this card return to its true form.
- **Like** in the manga, we see Tomoyo touching the right wall, as she knows that's a trick to get through a maze, but they're stuck going in loops somehow anyway.
  - Shaoran's rashinban won't work, either.
  - **They** need a good idea! Sakura has one—she can use fly to cheat! Only the maze won't let her, and it's fun to see that idea of the walls growing from the manga in action.
  - **Next** she has another idea—the sword card! She can just cut through the walls! It seems to work—but the cut reseals—and the maze doesn't seem to have liked that. It reacts violently, reforming itself into a more vertical and elaborate version of itself. Shaoran uses his magic to save Tomoyo, but now the maze is positively Escher-esque! And Meiling is on the ceiling somehow!

- At home, Fujitaka and Touya are worried about how late Sakura is. Fujitaka called the school, with no luck, and Touya's going to take to his bike to look around the neighborhoods.
- Poor Meiling is spooked by physics being so weird and being separated from the group, and wants Shaoran to save her. They're going to try to reach her through a tunnel but ask her to count loudly so they can follow her voice. They only get to nine before she's cut off though—and when they double back she's not where they left her!
- Luckily Meiling rounds a corner into view! She says she was saved—by Kaho, who follows her around that corner. She explains she's the daughter of the priest at the temple. And she rang her bell to warn them before the maze popped up, and rang it again to alert them that she was there.
  - She then asks if they know how to get out of mazes, and she uses the 'bell' to break down the walls like in the manga. It's a little less humorous here, though.
- Outside, Touya pulls up his bike to the shrine.
- Kaho finishes breaking through the maze, and it starts to warp. They tell Sakura to seal the card before it makes a new maze to trap them, and Kaho turns around to give them magic privacy lol.
- When Sakura seals it, it flies to Kaho, but she returns it to Sakura.
- Then Touya catches up with them. Sakura tries to explain everything, but he's distracted by Kaho, who comments on how he's grown.
  - Meiling interrupts this by noticing the shop is closed. But, Kaho gives them the charms they wanted, which she mysteriously knew.
- We see the shades-wearing bodyguards pick up Tomoyo, then Shaoran warns Sakura that Kaho's not a normal person, and Meiling runs off after Shaoran.
- Touya silently stares after Kaho and doesn't answer when his little sister asks if he knows her.

## Episode 27

- Once again, cherry petals blow past the Tokyo Tower and Sakura stands across from a shadowy figure—this one looks like Kaho, not Shaoran—and she asks who they are—but wakes up before they can answer
  - it is SO X BTW
- According to her clock, Sakura's actually up pretty early!
  - And we get a shot of Kero-chan in his bedroom she built in a drawer AW
- The whole morning has a leisurely, dreamy quality for Sakura. As she skates to school, she thinks about how nice being up early is, but how nice being in bed is, too!
  - I mean, big same, Sakura
    - Lucy you solve this by waking up early enough to have a long time to wake up, huh?
    - I...don't do that, I sleep as late as I can and then immediately roll into my home office and work XD
- Sakura remembers a certain recurring dream. She had it when Kero came, and then when Shaoran came...and now...

- As she remembers the suspiciously Kaho-shaped figure in her dream, she finds herself at the gates of Tsukimine shrine. Thinking about Kaho, she comments that she's a strange teacher—and naturally Kaho is right there in Miko garb, commenting on Sakura's little musing!
  - Sakura gets happy just watching her. She volunteers to help sweep up at the shrine grounds, and Yukito stops by and volunteers, too! Great luck! But Sakura does recall Shaoran's warning to be careful of her...
  - Kaho gives them a little gift of chestnuts in thanks for helping, and Yukito offers to take Sakura to school on his bike. As he rushes ahead, leaving Kaho and Sakura alone together, Kaho looks a little sad and considers telling Sakura something, but demurs, saying she thinks Sakura will figure it out herself.
- At school Tomoyo suspects Sakura's so happy because of Yukito, and Sakura says yes but also the chestnuts from Kaho—and Shaoran butts in to remind her he said to be careful of her!
  - Meiling, however, will happily show them how to open chestnuts (and eat a few.)
- At home, Sakura brings up Kaho, and her dad's like WAIT THAT KAHO—he remembers her from when she taught at Touya's middle school. Her dad is concerned about whether Touya knows she's back and Sakura says he does, but Dad won't spill too many of Touya's beans here.
- Later Sakura skates down the street with Kero, because he sensed a Clow card, and they wind up at Tsukimine shrine! Well that's where the last card was, too, hmmm...
  - Shaoran also shows up and says it feels powerful.
- There's a nice moment when Kero's mean about Meiling, who is absent because she's still doing her homework even though it's pretty late, and Sakura stands up for her—Japanese is her second language damnit!
  - Also Shaoran MAY NOT KNOW TOMOYO'S NAME or maybe just is trying to avoid getting close to them I dunno. But he is definitely like “where's your friend who is always filming stuff?”
  - For the record, Sakura didn't call her because it was so late.
- They wait around for the card...maybe it noticed them and is hiding? Shaoran explains that people with power are drawn to power etc, and Sakura is slow to understand that means her.
  - As Kero goes to get everyone juice (how generous of him...to use Sakura's money for this), Sakura and Syaoran are hanging out in a tree, and they finally get to have the heart-to-heart conversation that happened in the manga in the test-of-courage beach episode.
    - Yeah, I guess they needed Kaho in order to have this conversation in full.
  - She says that seeing Yukito and Mizuki-sensei puts her in a daze—and Shaoran admits he feels that way about Yukito, too.
  - Sakura says Yukito transferred to Touya's school during his 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of year 10, and he and Touya became friends day 1, so she's pretty much liked him since then.
  - Shaoran admits he's liked Yukito since he transferred himself.

- They're both blushy and Shaoran runs for it when Sakura gets too mushy—and THAT is when the tree they were sitting in—and Sakura is still sitting in—glows and traps her! Shaoran tries to use his sword to free her but the tree kinda swallows her up!
  - I should note the tree has a sash—the shimenawa that indicates a tree or stone etc is a kami or yorishiro that can house a kami, in Shinto practice—so maybe they should have been...a little more careful.
- Kero-chan comes back with juices from a vending machine and says this is the Return card!
- Sakura's now in a strange bluish-tinged version of the shrine grounds—and the tree is pink and eerie, blooming with sakura petals.
  - In fact, she sees Touya in his middle school uniform walk up and greet the tree. He says they just moved there. And Kaho walks up and acknowledges he can sense what dwells in the tree. He introduces himself and says he's in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She introduces herself and saying 'see you later' like she did to Sakura when they first met!
    - I HAD TOKYO BABYLON FLASHBACKS LUCY.
- In the real world Kero explains that this card takes you to the past—and it is probably using the tree's power—and the full moon's power—to be able to use enough magic to take Sakura away.
- In the past, Sakura sees Touya approach Kaho and Kaho says that like he can sense stuff, she can, too—like the fact they'd meet again. She says they'll be good friends and he asks if she senses that but she says it's more like a hunch.
- Meanwhile, Kero and Shoran discuss how to defeat this card and get Sakura back.
- Back in the past we see the scene where Mizuki-sensei tells Touya she's leaving soon, and she leans against him (he's super tall I guess) and says it's been a year since he said she liked her. She was happy since she liked him too! But now they have to say goodbye! Why?
  - Because next time they meet he'll have someone else he likes! And she stops him from replying, saying she'll definitely come back.
  - She says what a beautiful full moon, then “the time when catastrophe will befall this earth...I'm sure--” and that's it, light washes the scene away and we're back in the present, as Shaoran has done whatever it was he was supposed to do.
- Black effects swirl out of the tree and Sakura smacks it with her wand to seal it in card form, and this card goes to Shaoran (and does have a kind of hooded elfy figure on it)
- Shaoran looks ROUGH, he's exhausted. Apparently he had to use Time to stop time in order to get Sakura back, but using that card takes an immense amount of power.
  - And when Sakura hugs him to thank him he blushes so much he passes out lol.
- Kero -chan looks up at the moon and says “Yue”--is that the first time we've heard that name in the animated series?
  - I think it is!
- And of course, Kaho watches~~~

## Episode 28

- **It's** home ec class and they are making croquettes! Small children, hot oil, it's tense.
  - **Dude** this episode make me feel SO INADEQUATE. Like I'm not saying I couldn't learn how to make a croquette, but I certainly haven't yet, and here these kids are just making croquettes left and right.
  - But also, I did have to do something in hot oil in a cooking class in high school, and I also found it terrifying, Sakura, so you're not alone!
- **The** girls are gossiping about these "charm cards" they bought, and Meiling is LISTENING because one of them mentions buying a card for romance. And of course, if it's romance-related, Meiling is on board.
  - Not because her relationship with Syoaran isn't PERFECT, don't get it twisted. She's just, uh, being prudent...you can never be too careful, right? right?
- **Sakura** has to get her croquette into the oil without splattering and she panics lol.
  - The teacher scolds her about maybe letting the oil get too hot, and Meiling did help her by turning the burner off while Sakura was panicking and Tomoyo was coughing from the burning oil
  - **And** when Sakura thanks her, Meiling manages to ask her where the shop selling Charm Cards is (it's the shop from the jump card ep) and not rant at her or anything!
  - **Meiling** goes to the shop but is too nervous to ask the lady for the cards, so...we'll see where this goes!
- **At** home Sakura's too scared of the hot oil again and her dad demonstrates the proper frying of croquettes for her. Touya eats one right off the plate like an ogre lol.
- **At** school Sakura admits to Tomoyo that her deep frying practice isn't going great. And Naoko is sad because they're doing box jumping again today in gym or whatever, and she failed that last time.
  - **Of** course Sakura is great at it, and so is Meiling. But this time, Naoko, who has been practicing and HAS gotten a charm card—actually makes her jump! Everyone's so proud of her!
- **She** shows the "card" she got and it looks like a facsimile of the Jump card! All the Charm Cards do! Sakura offers some to Meiling but she changes the subject.
- **Tomoyo** says maybe Sakura should get a cooking card, but Sakura wants a romance card—and when they go to get some, Meiling has in fact already bought a card and admits it's a romance one even though she DOESN'T NEED IT because Shoran is HERS etc.
  - **She's** especially embarrassed when Shaoran finds hers.
- **That** evening Sakura tells Kero-chan all about the cards and he is SUSPICIOUS.
- **At** lunchtime the next day, poor Shaoran wanted to eat in the cafeteria but Meiling has a huge bento and grabs him.
  - **Sakura** and Tomoyo get to eat Tomoyo's also-very-big bento with Yukito and Touya though! It turns out Yukito loves croquettes so Sakura knows she has to work hard.

- The love quadrangle gets complicated when Meiling and Shaoran show up to picnic too, and Shaoran gets blushy over Yukito, but Meiling says Shaoran's her fiance and blows everyone's mind.
- Later, Sakura and Tomoyo go back to the shop...and Sakura's looking for a clow card now. None of the charm cards feel like a clow card, but she does feel the faint presence of one, like one is missing...and she asks what JUST sold.
  - Maki, the shopkeeper, tells her "Shot" was the card she last told. She can't remember who bought it, but it was someone from Sakura's class.
- Kero-chan loses in a video game in time to get a phone call from Sakura and he thinks Shot being the card in question's a big deal since it's an attack card.
- Tomoyo and Sakura run off to look for Chiharu and Naoko, one of whom must have purchased the card.
  - Sakura needs to use magic though obviously, and it's time to fly!
  - As dangerous as it is to do that in broad daylight, she and Tomoyo zoom off on her staff looking for the girls.
  - Kero meets up with them in time for them to track down Naoko. Sakura catches up with her (NOT on a flying staff, thankfully) and asks to see her cards—neither are Shot though. Naoko says Chiharu went straight home, so they zoom after her.
- They catch up with Chiharu and ask to see her cards this time—but none of them are Shot, either.
  - So who has it???
  - Well, Chiharu says Meiling went into the store after them. But before they can intercept her, they run into Shaoran and explain what's up—and he's worried, too!
  - This time Sakiura has a reluctant Shoran get onto the staff with her!
    - Side note, but them using Fly in daylight really does make this feel like the stakes are high—they are risking a lot here!
- Shaoran is annoyed when they find Meiling on the roof of the school. He's kinda hard on her.
  - Sakura tries to explain to her that its a real Clow Card, not just a charm card, but Meiling doesn't believe them and wants to keep it. She says she wants to aim a shot at shaoran's heart—which the card takes literally! It starts attacking Syoaran!
  - Shaoran dodges little blasts or projectiles with aplomb but he can't keep that up forever. Sakura pulls out Mirror, creating a reflection of Syoaran that draws Shot's attack, and bounces it back into the concrete wall. She used mirror to reflect shot!
    - We finally get to see what it looks like, and well, my cohort thought it was very sonic the hedgehog OC looking
    - I thought it looked like a reject from Tenchi, but yeah, same
- Tomoyo managed to capture all this on film and look after poor Meiling, who got injured by the card herself. Syoaran also got injured dodging Shot, but Meiling is maybe more dejected than anything.

- In the end, Sakura's dad helps her fry her croquette, and Sakura wonders if its all because of the charm card? Kero's like no you just tried your best!
- At lunch the next day, Meiling is tending to the injured Shaoran who wishes she wouldn't—but when he leaves, Meiling gives Sakura a card! She says she's giving her the card this time, but next time they will win.
- Of course, it's not actually a Clow Card--its the Cooking charm card! AW!
  - Tomoyo points out that Sakura doesn't need it anymore, and Sakura says she'd love to be better at cooking--and besides, it was something Meiling gave her!
  - See, we're winning her over, one delightful Sakura moment at a time.

## Episode 29

- It's another baking episode!
- Sakura and her dad make a cake, as a way to practice for home ec.
- They make a layer cake with strawberries and cream in the middle, frosted in white with strawberries on top! Classic christmas cake/strawberry shortcake lol.
- Fujitaka says she can share with her friends at school, and that Yukito would like some.
  - Sakura hopes she can make a cake by herself that's as good, and Fujitaka suggests thinking of someone she likes while she bakes—which makes her all silly.
- At school the girls discuss how good sakura's cake is and how worried they are about what amounts to their cake final!
  - CAKE FINAL
  - Shaoron wants to do a custard cake since it looks easy, but Meiling wants a wedding cake and hums the wedding march lol.
    - It's like very aggressive and I LOVED IT
- Kaho-sensei checks in on Sakura, motivating her and making Shaoran more suspicious.
- After school Sakura spies Shaoran watching through a bakery window—studying baking! Yukito walks out with a huge box of cakes and they explain they're BAKING cakes, not buying them and he's so delighted.
  - Of course, they ask what kind of cake he likes best.
  - His list goes on—does he like chocolate cake (sakura) and custard cream? (Shaoran)--of course he does! In unison the kids ask if he'll have some of theirs and of course he will.
- Later, Meiling has made their whole kitchen a disaster with her baking—and she's so tired of waiting that she turns the heat on the oven way up and burns the fuck out of her poor cake.
  - Shoaran comes home to this disaster and is not tactful...especially when she runs off for more ingredients, leaving him to clean up.
- Next day is the cake final! We watch the kids bake until lunch when their cakes will cool down enough to be decorated.
  - We find out Rika's dad works overseas and Mr Terada reminds her of her dad. Her dad loves strawberry shortcake...

- Also, wow, just *layering* on the daddy issues here...see what I did there? Layers? Cake? Ok, I'm done...
- Tomoyo and Sakura's chocolate cake looks great! But when everyone tries their cakes...no one likes any of them—they are WAY too sweet (a thing american baking doesn't know about lol)
  - Sakura's upset that evening—they measured carefully, it can't be too much sugar! Everyone failed so the teacher's letting them try again next week.
  - Sakura knows hers will turn out great because she's thinking of Yukito and Mizuki-sensei!
  - Meiling says she's perfect at making Chinese food but not baking! Why? She's studying!
- They're back to watching the bakery, trying to pick up tips.
  - Sakura and Shaoran discuss the too-sweet cakes—Shaoran is surprised she didn't sense anything! But Kaho shows up to disrupt this. She encourages them but Shaoran just glares.
- The other class that just did the same home ec test ALSO ended up with too-sweet cakes. HMMM could it be a card?
  - The kids are baking again but they're all a little worried—carefully measuring ingredients...
  - And Kaho watches them looking a little sinister...
- Kero-chan looking at sweets in a magazine (he does this a lot and I can relate) has a realization—and calls Sakura.
  - It's the Sweet card! A 'misfit that sweetens everything edible.' Kero says it's not a big deal but to Sakura it is!
  - There's a quiet moment where Sakura and Shaoran try to sense the card in the room—and catch a tiny poofy fairy dousing cakes in ovens with a sweetness wand! What a jerk!
  - Shaoran ends up covered in powdered sugar and the black board is turned into chocolate, equipment into cakes and cookies!
  - Shaoran wants to use one of the cakes as bait but that'll mess up their cooking project and Sakura FORBIDS it—instead she starts throwing salt at the sprite, like one might do to evil spirits in another anime lol.
  - They finally stop her by dumping a bowl of salt on her, and Sakura can seal her back into card form!
- Everything turns back to normal and it's time for the cakes to come out of the oven!
  - Later when the kids try their cakes, they're great!
  - But Meiling's cake is TOUGH because she stirred too much oh no!
- Rika brings strawberry shortcake to Terada-sensei, who praises her.
- Touya and Yukito gets to try Sakura's, and Yukito loves it (touya's a jerk but likes it too)
- Shaoran's behind the fence watching this, yearning, and has no time for Meiling, who comes up behind him. She talks his ear off but he looks sad.

## Episode 30

- We begin in media res as sakura in a green and orange jester outfit chases down the Dash card!
  - She tries to get Windy to bind it but it escapes—and then they have to hide because a local lady has a cop looking for a ‘girl in a strange outfit hanging around the park!’ They run off, but they didn’t get Dash.
- A kid named Rei finds a very Espeon-looking creature in her backyard who has knocked over a flowerpot and seems to be injured. She takes good care of it and it likes being tended to!
- The next day Tomoyo has Sakura dress up in a pink baseball uniform to go looking for the card—she throws an errant baseball into Rei’s yard to chase it, looking for the card...but Rei says baseball’s not allowed there and escorts her out lol.
- Later at school, they see that kid running a race for gym! They introduce themselves to her but don’t get very far before she has to run the next race for class, and she’s WAY faster this time! But we watched her glow a little so we suspect we know what’s up.
  - Kero informs us a card must be affecting her, if we hadn’t figured it out.
- Sakura and Tomoyo end up walking home with Rei, and when her mom intercepts them Tomoyo and Sakura are invited over to her house!
  - She says her luck is all thanks to “Peewee,” the injured animal she treated. They’re very nice about it and Kero-chan has to pretend to be a stuffed animal so it’s awkward but Sakura gets them out of there before “Peewee” sees her and she has to try to seal a card in front of a normo!
- Sakura feels very conflicted. Rei is having a nice time with Peewee, and the next day she runs even faster! Sakura’s sad that she won’t be so fast next week at the track meet, since she’ll have to catch the card before then. Sakura will be at the meet with the cheer kids, and she’s so sad thinking about it.
  - We don’t even get a full Yamazaki tall tale because she walks off into the swelling sad piano music.
- Sakura thinks they should wait until after the track meet to seal it away so she won’t ruin everything for Rei, but Kero argues that Dash will be healed and difficult to catch by then! Kero says nothing good comes of that kid using magic to run faster. Sakura understands, but...she’s still sad.
- But, if she waits too long, the decision might be out of her hands. At the next practice, Shaoran senses something’s up.
- That evening, “Peewee” is all better! It seems so loving with Rei TT\_\_TT
  - But Sakura and Tomoyo see Shaoran walking towards Rei’s house—he’s noticed Dash now!
  - Dash/Peewee is very cute and peppy with Rei, but it starts doing jumps no animal should be able to do. When Shaoran approaches, it dashes off!
  - Shaoran chases it into the forested part of the park and uses his thunder magic against it and Kero urges Sakura to seal it NOW—would she want Rei to win because of magic instead of her own power?

- Sakura's sad but smacks the critter with her wand and seals it into card form—though it goes to Shaoran. He's confused—why did she wait so long for this card!
- **Poor** Rei is in the woods looking for her pet, and Sakura looks so sad. Maybe Shaoran starts to understand.
- **At** the track meet, Rei actually does great—she's going to the finals! But she's sad. She practiced so much, but...
  - **The** final match is the 100-meter dash. She's so sad—but then she AND Sakura think they see Peewee on the track for a moment! And Sakura cheers her on!
  - We see that Shaoran did in fact send the card out to encourage this kid. And the kid does in fact do great!
- **Sakura** asks Shaoran what he did, and he's like "I didn't do anything, she won under her own power--" but shows her that he DID bring the card along~~~~ WHAT A SOFTY!
  - So...did he do that because he felt sorry, for because he noticed Sakura was sad? I mean it can be both, but either way, we're seeing progress!
  - **Yeah** at this point we like him a lot and Meiling is the heel lol

### Episode 31

- **In** this episode, we get some fun callbacks to the teasing about Sakura as a kaiju way back in the first episode.
- **Touya** calls her a monster fattening up for winter, and she fantasizes about being big enough to squish him (again).
- **Then** there's a fantasy landscape and a fat dragon roars—ah, it's an illustration in a book Naoko is reading "Dragon Mountain." Sakura invites her to eat with them and she talks about the book. Meiling jumps in to talk about Chinese dragon lore a bit, but runs off to find Shaoran pretty quickly.
  - **Have** I mentioned recently that I love Naoko?
  - **I know**, she really is the best huh?
  - **Shaoran** is on the roof glaring at the city—he felt a presence! Meiling bullies this info out of him lol.
- **On** the way home, the girls all decide to check out a used book store. Sakura, however, senses a card.
  - It's too crowded for her to feel comfortable doing anything about it at the moment and Tomoyo is excited that they can plan a cardcaptor outing with a new outfit later!
  - **In** the book store, Naoko finds a book with no words at the end—midway through there's a quill and a message: "write the rest of the story!"
    - Getting some Princess Tutu flashbacks now...
    - **And** don't you have an edition of Rayearth that has a book like that? Not to mention Rayearth ending with asking you to name the country.
- **Later**, Tomoyo gets some stills of Sakura in her very Saint Seiya-esque costume—and Meiling and Shaoran show up.

- They sass each other a bit since Meiling and Kero-chan are competitive on the same petty level, and it makes Sakura and Shaoran embarrassed—but they both point in the same direction for where a card has gone...
- And the cat from the Alice episode shows up GIANT SIZED strolling down the street!
  - It gives chase and Sakura uses Fly to get herself and Tomoyo out of the way, but Meiling trips and the cat catches her!
  - Shaoran faces off with a sword, but it just licks his face and rubs against him lol.
  - This is the Big card!
  - The card moves on to make some weeds and a fountain koi big, too—and the card itself is QUITE tall, but not difficult to capture. Sakura seals it and everything goes back to normal (they even rescue the fish) and the cat endures a scolding from Meiling.
- Later that evening, Naoko has been reading, and winds up at the back section! She considers what to write and then gets to it!
- Meanwhile Meiling is petty about Sakura getting the card and Kero shows off—but a ghostly figure in a dress floats by, interrupting this!
  - Shaoran makes Sakura feel better by explaining that since Meiling saw it too, it can't be a ghost—Meiling has no Reikan at all! (Meiling does not love this)
  - Next a goofy flying panther shows up, and a flying hippo, horse...they float around aimlessly. We see that Naoko is writing about all this. She's having a great time—she writes that all the animals even the fish grew wings!
  - Kero says this must be the Create card! Shaoran knows that one makes anything you write become real!
  - Next a strong wind blows all the animals away!
  - Naoko writes that the big king of all the flying animals shows up—we see a dragon, like the one we saw when she was reading earlier!
  - The kids scream KAIJUU! Bringing us back to Touya's accusations from the beginning.
- It is Kaijuu-like, it's big enough it could stomp around and ruin the town! They need to stop it!
  - Kero insists Sakura use the Big card to become big and fight it and she REFUSES but she can't ignore her duty as a cardcaptor!
  - Tomoyo passionately encourages her to do it—after all, she'll get such great footage! This earns a pratfall from Sakura, but she goes through with it.
- She's very embarrassed about being so big, but she runs off after it and wrestles it into submission like an episode of Ultraman. Only...it can shoot flames at her and she can't do that back!
  - Now she's running from it as Meiling demands she use a beam or cutter weapon lol.
  - Only...it stops and fades away when Naoko closes the book to go to bed.
  - Kero says Sakura should seal it before it fades completely, and we see the book in Naoko's room turn into a light effect and swoop through the air to merge with the remnants of the dragon and get sealed into a card!
- Sakura's still so embarrassed about being big. Sigh.

- Too bad that she's internalized that big is bad, but she's just shy enough that maybe it's just that.
- **Naoko** wakes up to see the book is gone—but instead of being sad, she's excited she had a paranormal experience!
- At breakfast Touya taunts Sakura again and she turns the other cheek—after all, she says, she can squish him any time she wants! He's like huh? And she imagines squishing him again lol.
  - **So** maybe being big isn't so bad after all~

## Episode 32

- **Last** episode for today, let's go!
- **Sakura** and Shaoran are fighting over who gets to catch this card—it's a Vaporeon-looking spiky thing and Shaoran and Kero tackle it so Sakura can seal it.
  - They light up with energy for a moment...and then we're in a body-swap episode.
  - Shaoran and Kero have been switched!
  - This is the Change card!
- **Why** would such a card be made? Well, Clow's a weirdo~~~
- The two do not get along and Sakura can't hide that she thinks it's funny.
  - Kero admits he forgot what the card did when he grabbed for it. And he says the card's powers will be weakened after one day and Sakura can change them back. But they have to hug each other to change back and they do NOT want to do that at all.
  - The bigger problem is that they have to pretend to be the right people for a day. And that means fooling Meiling since no one wants to explain to her.
- **So now** Kero in Shaoran's body has to make soup for dinner and he's clueless. But determined!
  - **And** Shaoran in Kero's body has to sleep in Sakura's room, which makes him blush and lose it, so he decides to sleep in the tree outside—but he's afraid of heights!
  - And then when he finally does try to fly he falls!
  - But Yukito retrieves him, making him a blushing mess while pretending to be a stuffed animal.
- **Yukito** even notices that he's red, and Sakura says she'll clean the paint off of him back in her room lol. But she has to go down and help make dinner herself.
  - **Shaoran** listens to her hanging out with Yukito and is....well, he has ~thoughts~ about this.
- **Meanwhile** Meiling has to pretend to like the soup Kero-as-Shaoran made. She also notices he's talking funny.
  - He says he picked it up from Kero. But he calls him the beast of the seal not 'that stuffed animal,' so she knows something's up. Also the soup is so bad lol.
- **Later** Shaoran-as-Kero tries to climb a drain pipe to get down and watch Yukito like a creep, but Sakura doesn't notice he's suffering.

- Touya kinda does hear him, and he has to hide from him! Also the cat shows back up. Sakura finally does notice him but doesn't manage to help him before he falls again!
- Later she's got Shaoran-as-Kero in the "bedroom" in her desk drawer, and he's resigned to it. But he says he insists on going to school the next day to watch out for his body.
- At least now Shaoran says he understands why she's always arriving at the last second. He just hopes Kero-Shaoran will be chill.
  - He is in fact not chill; he's doing video game fighting moves to impress the kids and is in general a big show-off blow-hard.
  - Between classes Kero and Shaoran grump at each other and Tomoyo shows up to complicate things. She notices something's off and when Shoran poses like Kero, she figures it out and thinks it's VERY FUNNY because of course it is. She says they're a perfect comedy duo—which they are, Shaoran as the straight man, Kero as the joker.
- They don't want anyone else to know so they decide to keep a low profile, but Kero-Shaoran is a disaster at sports and even runs on all-fours and tries to use his face to hit the ball too much. Shaoran-Kero watches in horror, but a teacher comes by and he pretends to be a stuffed animal—and is taken away!
- The kids don't notice, they think he's just being quiet. But Meling shows up and is NOT QUIET AT ALL. Kero-Shaoran tries to be cool and act like the right Shoran but just delivers some TV romantic lead dialog at her—and then crouches and cleans his face like an animal.
- Shaoran-Kero now has a Kiki's Delivery Service-plot where he's mistaken for a stuffed animal that Terada-sensei bought for his niece.
  - Meanwhile Sakura et al find the TOY and think its Shoaran-Kero and yell at it until they realize it's just a toy that looks like him lol.
    - Like, this took them a surprisiungly long time... Tomoyo had to point out that he didn't have wings.
- They run into Mizuki-sensei and she tells them where Terada-sensei went! He exchanged the toy at the toy store! They are told he's now in the UFO-catcher machine.
  - And Kero-Shaoran is GOOD AT GAMES, or so he says so he gives it a try—but the shop owner walks by so Shaoran-Kero can't help grab the catcher from inside! And Kero-Shaoran is now OBSESSED.
- They do eventually get him out, and finally it's time to undo the card's spell. They spar a bit again, but they HAVE TO HUG to be turned back. It's..very cute and stupid.
- Shaoran wakes up from a dream where kero and sakura swapped and he and meiling swapped, and is so relieved to be himself! Until Meiling throws herself at him lol.

### Discussion

- I'm actually much more ok with the whole Syoaran-gets-cards thing now that a card tried to go to Kaho in the Maze episode. At least this new mechanic is being utilized fully, it's not something added *just* for Syoaran.

- I also kind of retroactively appreciate that they gave Syoaran Time, which means that if it's abilities would be too OP, they can just not have Syoaran around for that plotline.
  - HA HA HA
- I was yelling at the tv when Sakura didn't use Time to reverse the damage to her dad's laptop, and then remembered it was because she didn't have the card, and I felt like a jerk.
- I still think that hard drive might have been fine, though, it just looked like the screen was cracked, not the body...but whatever.
  - It can be hard to recover stuff off a laptop hard drive, you'd still have to take it somewhere—I get that they didn't have time for it (but it does play into the lay-person misconception that a computer, like a TV, is all about the screen XD)
- I am very mad that the highly uncomfortable nature of Kaho/Touya could have been easily solved by her having been just a few grades ahead of him, instead of a student teacher, and now, at Sakura's school, THIS could be when she is a student teacher. It would change nothing of the actual plot. But I guess the forbiddenness is kind of the point of it, and just...big sigh...
  - Yeah, I mean, they love student-teacher relationships. Not to do TOO MUCH ARMCHAIR PSYCHOANALYSIS but like, it seems to be something they default to, maybe have emotional ties to—and again, it stays within the kids-with-a-crush-on-their-teachers realm in CCS.
- Touya sensing something in the cherry tree gave me big Tokyo Babylon flashbacks...and hey, another age gap relationship!
  - Interesting that the anime added the cherry tree dimension to it, I wonder if that was actually Ookawa's idea or someone else's?
  - It, uh, also gave me big Tenchi vibes...
- Ok, I really enjoy Meiling. I see why she annoyed me as a kid, but now I think she's great, and super relatable.
  - Like, I do not commonly find elementary school students who are betrothed, but the whole way she treats her and Syoaran's relationship has just the feeling of being late elementary school.
  - Like, you kind of know romance exists, and you've maybe started having feelings for people, but you're still fully in the make-believe age range. So even if you do decide you have a relationship, it's really just a big version of playing house.
  - And that's SO Meiling. She's trying to go through all these domestic things with Syoaran, but they haven't actually had the important do-we-like-each-other conversations.
  - She's also a total brat about her own skills...but she's usually right. Like she did actually have fighting skills, she *is* a fast runner when it comes to the thing she knows, sprints, and she does actually seem to be decent at cooking.
  - It just makes me think about how girls are mostly taught to play down their skills, and while Meiling could definitely learn some humility, and learn to appreciate other people's skills and be less defensive...I kind of hope she doesn't lose this

self confidence. Even if some of it is over compensating for what is actually low confidence.

- I don't know, I can just see her growing up into a cool woman.
  - Yeah I know that she falls into a bossy Chinese girl stereotype in anime (like Shampoo in Ranma, with whom she shares a LOT) and that has always made me uncomfortable, but take the character outside of that context and like you said, she's actually got a lot of depth and is really interesting.
- So Syoaran is frequently shown out on his own tracking down Clow Cards (always intercepted by Sakura), but, like, what is his end game here? He can't capture cards, right? He would need Sakura's staff...right? So like, is he just doing reconnaissance? How do he and Meiling think they can "win" if they still need Sakura to capture the cards?
  - I'm not sure if Syoaran even cares at this point, which is another benefit of Meiling...just keeping that rivalry alive as long as possible.
  - I'm not sure that he thinks he doesn't need Sakura, more like he isn't going to wait for her? Maybe in the anime canon he has some method in mind he never gets a chance to use? We'll have to see if that gets addressed!
- My headcanon is that the Charm Cards are a merchandising venture by Eriol. But, would that technically make them Clow Cards?
  - HA HA HA
- They are very lucky that people in Tomoeda apparently never look up. Flying around in broad daylight, battling Kaiju...they've had some very conspicuous adventures!
  - Yeah they care about being noticed in public only when it's helpful for the episode's conflict XD
- We had some cool character development in these episodes!
  - Syoaran has started getting blushy around Sakura, and I think there was a moment in the Shot episode where Sakura senses Syoaran before she saw him.
  - Oho!
- I think Change was my least favorite episode...like it had funny moments, but the premise felt so thin to me. Like the logical thing would have been to tell Meiling, and have Kero-Shoaran stay home from school, so all complications were completely of their own making. I just wish there was more of a reason that they had to be in front of people...like maybe Shoaran had big school responsibilities, or did want to disappoint Yukito for something...I don't know, it just felt a little flat for me.
  - Their dynamic was super fun, though.
  - Yeah the comedy was great but agreed, THIN and FLIMSY—but body-swap episodes so often are! It's such a genre TV stand-by because it's fun for actors and cute for fans, but this didn't add much.

Outro (edit for flavor)

In our next episode, we'll be discussing episodes 32-44! It feels nice to say that with confidence for once. We have a plan!

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!