

# CCS Anime

## Ep. 47 - 58

Lucy

Robin

### Intro

The rest of the cast is revealed in anime-form as the final season of Card Captor Sakura begins!

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

### Check-In

- I'm hanging in there! Did a small convention last weekend, got mild food poisoning, now I'm here. Are you hanging in there?
- I am! Gearing up for my yearly pirate camping event (it's kind of like a ren faire, but no one goes home at the end of the day). Super excited for that.
- And also excited to talk about CCS again, so lets go!

### Background

- As we hinted in the opening this is the 3rd and final season of the anime (not counting Clear Card since that's an entirely different production) and it began airing in September of 1999—which I believe is also about the time in-universe, since it picks up the story at the end of the summer break?
  - A lot of anime try to time their seasons with the real seasons, which in the time of streaming and binge-watching may be kind of a lost art, but American (and I assume other) TV also did this, so you could have holiday stories take place when they feel most relevant, etc—especially for school stories it helps ground them for kids and maybe even add a little help to busy, confusing young lives...plus great for marketing x...x
- This season has a New opening song! I am a dreamer~ Beautiful Maaya Sakamoto song. She was pretty young when she recorded this song—her career in voice acting and as a pop star started VERY early for her, which isn't exactly unusual but still, DAMN. She's a venerable talent with number one pop hits, success on stage as well as screen, and is like, the official dubbed voice for Natalie Portman.
  - I adore Maaya Sakamoto, and so do CLAMP! They're on pretty friendly terms, but according to an interview from 2010 (thanks to Chibi Yuuto's blog) we know they didn't meet each other when she recorded this song

- for Sakura, since they never attended the industry parties (MAYBE BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO BUSY?) at the time—but her actual first recording for them was a song for the CLAMP School Detectives drama CD in 1997!
  - She's provided a lot of songs and voices for CLAMP projects—but she was like 16 when she did the CLAMP school CD.
- Speaking of repeat voices for CLAMP projects, Eriol's voice actor, Nozomu Sasaki, was also Clef but is probably much more famously Yuusuke Urameshi in Yuyu Hakusho!
  - Interesting to cast him with an adult man while Shaoran and Yukito are not! It does change how you view these characters, maybe? Shaoran sounds like an earnest kid, Yukito a dreamy unearthly creature (MAYBE THAT IS JUST ME AND MY MEGUMI OGATA OBSESSION SORRY) and Eriol sounds...older than he looks! And that is...appropriate.
- Lucy, get us started in on these episodes!

## Summary

### **Episode 47**

- Kero observes that summer is ending, and Sakura is enjoying her free time, writing a letter to Mizuki sensei.
- Kero admits, while eating her watermelon, that he's glad Sakura was chosen as his master because he'd never got along with Bratty Shaoran.
  - Speaking of whom, Shaoran apparently hasn't gone back to Hong Kong, at least not yet, even though the Clow Cards have definitely been claimed by their rightful master.
- But, relaxing summer times can't last forever, because Sakura realizes that she had so much free time because she stole it from her homework time, and is now stuck rushing her homework YET AGAIN.
  - While this very relatable panic is happening, we see strange butterfly-garbed figures gathering around Sakura's house, ending with a shot of someone mysterious standing there, smiling creepily!
  - I mean, mysterious to some, maybe, but it's obviously just Eriol.
- Anyway, Sakura has to go to the first day of school early, and Toya teases her about leaving too early to be able to see Yuki—but actually she does run into him! He's yawning and carrying some emergency groceries for breakfast, he says—he just can't seem to get enough to eat!
  - He does throw her a candy as a parting gift again ala the first episode~~~ cementing for her that while Yukito may be an aspect of Yue, he's still very much himself!
- Sakura walks in on Shaoran, who is early so he can take his turn to clean the classroom. Sakura doesn't see him (um, because he did not respond when she said hello to the room), and is cheerfully singing to herself.
  - Of course, this makes Shaoran incredibly embarrassed and blushy, and Sakura gets pretty blushy herself when she realizes she's been "caught" in such an unguarded moment. They push through it, though.

- She checks in later with Syoaran about his summer vacation, which he's not very forthcoming about. But he confirms that yes he does have to go back to Hong now that the Cardcaptor business has concluded. He blushes when he says "but it's not like we'll never see each other again!" And she's a little relieved (at what he says, not his blushing)
- Tomoyo is sad that Sakura isn't fighting cards anymore because she has so many more outfits she wants to make her wear—Sakura wearing her designs is the peak of her happiness, she repeats, despite Sakura's slight embarrassment.
- Their new teacher is—their old teacher, Mr Terada! This was a big reveal for some reason.
  - The bigger reveal of course is that they have another transfer student—this is Eriol, obviously, whose slightly creepy face Sakura describes as looking kind lol.
- He sneaks up on Sakura later when she's sitting outside, just thinking about how it feels like she's met him before...and when she shares that thought with him he says maybe they met before they were born~~
  - They introduce themselves again and shake hands, which Shaoran (spying on them with Tomoyo) does NOT APPROVE OF
  - He's also nonplussed about how Tomoyo describes it as a perfect romantic moment.
- Sakura sees him looking upset later and offers to help him—after all he helped her SO MUCH. But he won't tell her what's up, of course.
- He does say he's not leaving so soon after all!
  - Which I'm sure has absolutely nothing to do with Eriol.
- Sakura's pleased to hear this and gets them popsicles to celebrate, but Touya shows up to steal hers!
  - Yukito's there too which smooths things over...but Touya's being weird, looking around like he's on the run—they got a new transfer student, too—and here they are, a high school student in a girls' school uniform who JUMPS on Touya (which gives Yuki pause though he ends up thinking it's funny), and introduces himself as Nakuru (of course.)
  - They seem to be very attached to Touya, who is not into it.
  - They run off seconds later, followed by rain—which ruins the laundry that Touya and Sakura had put to dry. Touya has to run off for work, leaving Sakura to inform Kero-chan of the new Eriol info. Lots of joking about a very game-distracted Kero asking which Kanji Eriol uses to spell his name (when it's in Katakana because it isn't a Japanese word, not that you can't pick kanji for a non-Japanese name but, that's where the joke is here).
- So...the rain isn't going away. And the Book of Clow (which stores the cards, remember) is glowing! Sakura takes the book out of its drawer, and the dark room is filled with sparkles as she remembers Clow Reed telling her he may come back and make trouble for her someday—only she's not remembering, maybe she's hearing?
  - Yeah, I swear he specifically did not say that at the end of the previous episode, and we thought it was weird...maybe at that point they weren't quite sure if they'd get another season?
  - Or maybe this is a vision and not a memory?
- Well, now the book has SAKURA printed on it! What does it all mean?
- For now, it means Sakura is going to go and see if she can do something about this rain that is mysteriously falling only on Tomoeda. And that means a cute little Tomoyo-designed raincoat outfit!
- Kero senses great power and transforms, but a waterspout washes Sakura down the Penguin Slide before she has a chance to do much! Great use of the set.

- It's time to take out the key and summon a Clow hard, but when Sakura shouts "release"...NOTHING HAPPENS.
- She repeats it over and over but the rain just keeps falling.
- Another waterspout comes at Sakura, but Kero blocks it. He tells Sakura that he needs to talk with Yue about wtf is happening so she should retreat and invite Yukito over.
- Pacing was a bit slow in this episode for me, but still the animation quality and shading and colors are top notch. Not a bad way to start the new season!

## Episode 48

- It is still raining in Tomoeda!
- Touya knows something is up that morning when Sakura doesn't joke back at him after he pokes fun at her for always sleeping in (this morning being an exception.)
  - She gets up the courage to ask Touya to bring Yukito over, and he says yeah if there's food he'll come.
  - Kero is still brooding over the presence he felt last night.
- At school, Yamazaki-kun tells us an insane story about penguins making rain but this is interrupted by Eriol giving Sakura a flower! Shoran does NOT APPROVE.
- Later he and Sakura discuss the presence, the powerful person who is sending this rain.
- In the high school across the field, Touya watches them with disapproval. But, more importantly, he wants to tell Yuki something serious—and Nakuru throws himself at him to interrupt!
  - Touya ignores Nakuru as usual and walks off to deliver some papers to a classroom, leaving them alone together. Nakuru is all like "you don't know yet? Then I'll snatch it up!" Leaving Yuki looking befuddled.
    - Poor Yuki, he must be having a very confusing time already...
- Sakura walks home alone in the rain, only to be joined by Eriol, who wants to check in with her. She can't be very forthcoming of course, but he says the flowers came from his house and invites her over to see them some time. They part ways and Sakura thinks about how nice he was.
- Back at the house, they finish up dinner and Touya has to leave for work early.
  - Yuki bids him a fond farewell and is immediately hijacked into Yue by Kero-chan.
  - Kero wants to talk to Yue alone so they kinda kick Sakura out for a tea refill.
  - After a very content-less back-and-forth, they agree to go try to investigate again, so we go back to Penguin Park! Even Tomoyo is there.
  - Sakura takes a moment to ask Yue about his whole being Yukito thing...Yuki doesn't remember anything Yue does, but Yue says actually he remembers everything that happens to Yukito. EMBARRASSING.
    - She just can't see them as the same person!
- Next, there's SO MUCH ACTION as waterspouts attack Sakura again but Yue, despite how standoffish and intimidating he's been, grabs Sakura and saves her from being blasted—even though he gets hurt himself!
  - Again, RELEASE! Doesn't work. And the guardians' powers aren't working either—in fact Kero can't even move!
  - A waterspout sucks Sakura up into a vortex in the sky while her friends watch helplessly.
  - Yue also senses something familiar in this power...
- More waterspouts suck up each of her friends, and Sakura, who can't breathe, knows that she has to do something or they'll all die!

- (The show doesn't say die btw, staying in a very safe zone language-wise by just trailing off)
- Sakura's determination resolves into a new power as she starts glowing and remembers (or hears?) Clow's voice reminding her that her staff has her own star's power not the sun and moon.
  - And she recites to the staff a new incantation about how SHE commands it—and the staff DOES transform from a key—but nothing happens with the card she chose! Why? What's going on?
- She realizes that with a new staff, she may need to also re-introduce herself to the cards too!
  - It works after she recites a command to the Fiery card and releases it to cancel out the water
    - I don't know why that's the choice but it seems to work so we won't question it I guess!
    - Yeah my pokemon brain was like THAT'S NOT HOW TYPE ADVANTAGE WORKS
  - Anyway, the commands she gave the staff and card included a reference to Stars (her own star!) and she thinks about how that works.
- Once the battle is over, she collapses and Yue picks her up, having a moment with his own difficulties he won't disclose to Kero-chan or even the audience.
- Meanwhile, 3 shadowy figures with some butterfly wings goin' on, observe the results of this evening's caper. WHO COULD THEY BE (we know who they are, we just read the comic.)

## Episode 49

- Sakura wakes up in bed with her dad and Touya standing over her. She insists she's fine, just tired, but they are still very concerned.
- They don't let her go to school, and Touya says he'll leave practice early so dad can do his own work without worrying.
  - As he leaves the room, Touya gives the toy-form Kero a glare as he leaves.
  - Poor Kero is stressed about this.
- At school Tomoyo offers to take Shaoran to check on Sakura, she's the GOAT.
- Also at school Touya tries to tell Yuki something important (as he chows down on multiple hoagies) but they're distracted by Nakuru being amazing at sports (and not joining any clubs, just like Yuki and Touya).
  - Touya tells Yuki that's not the only thing that reminds him of Yuki about them, though...
  - MYSTERIOUS
- Sakura wakes up at 3pm to the doorbell—it is Shaoran and Tomoyo with cupcakes! They have tea and cake in her room and Shaoran is delighted to be there but can't say so.
  - She fills them in on WHAT THE FUCK IS HAPPENING WITH THE CARDS AND STUFF.
  - Shaoran asks her more about the process and she shows them a card—which sends Tomoyo into ecstasies because it is a CUTE PINK SAKURA CARD.
    - Around this point I also freaked out about how pink they are, because in addition to being adorable, the addition of color makes it SO CLEAR they are new cards, whereas in the manga you kind of had to look close.



- Tomoyo tells them about the teddy bear's birthday idea—since you don't know precisely when a teddy bear you buy was made, you name it and wrap a ribbon around it and that's is birthday!
- They also talk about the tradition where you name a bear your own name and give it to someone you love
- They says this is a foreign tradition...my brief googling didn't bring anything up, but hey listeners, is this a thing in your country?
- Eriol is watching Shaoran who is watching the girls, and he says 'AWW girls talking about stuffed animals are sure cute.'
  - Shaoran ain't playin' though. Eriol still wants to be friendly, and he says 'hey I'm still new to Japan wanna help me out?' but when he says Shaoran's full name, the shinites go out of his eyes and he falls out of his sittin' tree into eriol's arms.
  - He wakes up immediately and runs off after politely apologizing, but, uh...that's unsettling.
  - Eriol continues to be a bit weird and creepy!
- As class lets out, Rika runs off from her friends to give Terada-sensei the bear.
  - Yamazaki tells Tomoyo and Sakura about how bears used to be some kind of sea cucumber, and Chiharu drags him away before Sakura buys it too hard.
- Eriol invites himself along with Sakura and Tomoyo to the craft store and of course Shaoran won't let them go alone!
  - BTW Terada-sensei accepts the teddy bear, which makes Rika so happy. It's fine! Don't worry about it!
- Sakura notices Shaoran is being weird at the store but he denies being angry or anything. He's just so irked by Eriol!
  - Tomoyo and Eriol know how to be fake ass customer service bitches with each other so they're fine.
  - I love it!
- Sakura finds the kit she wants (for Yuki of course) and this prompts a conversation with Tomoyo who isn't buying one, about how Tomoyo is okay if the person she loves is happy even if they're not with her...she'd love them to like her back but if they don't it okay.
  - Sakura doesn't understand this is about HER but does say she's sure whoever Tomoyo likes is happy and Tomoyo is at least somewhat satisfied with this.
  - Eriol says cryptic things about what string can be used for (TYING UP ROAST BEEF says Shaoran) but it doesn't go anywhere.
- Later that evening Sakura's working on her teddy bear, and it looks a lot like Kero since the eyes and nose are set almost on the same line together and the ears a big and low-set as well. But before she can fix it they sense A PRESENCE and the next thing we know she and Shaoran are out looking for it.
  - Suddenly Shaoran loses control of his own body and starts slashing at Sakura with his sword! He's cognizant enough to warn her to gtfo, but she's having a hard time adjusting to this crazy turn of events.
  - She does sense Clow's presence though and assumes this is related. Shaoran attacks Tomoyo and makes her drop her camera!
    - We erupted into NOOOOOES!
  - Sakura can't see anything that would explain what's going on, and Shaoran struggles against this magic by taking out a water tag and spraying water around, revealing these glowing strings manipulating him like a marionette!
  - Sakura releases the sword card and cuts the strings! Aaand again collapses (into Shaoran's arms again, tiny shippers must have been losing their minds).

- Eriol gives us a 'this is another use for string, Sakura' line and we see him at home with his friends!
  - Meaning we finally meet cute mascot form Spinel, and see Nakuru in school uniform (they again explain that while Spinel thinks they should wear the boys' uniform they prefer the girls' cuz its cuter and also gender doesn't matter.)
  - Eriol transforms/unseals them into their true forms and they discuss how Something Interesting Is About to Happen.)

## Episode 51

- This episode begins with Sakura writing to Mizuki-sensei again. She says she's carrying the cards around with her at all times in case something happens.
  - Eriol walks in on her looking at the cards and she has to talk fast to re-focus on the fact she's got a teacher penpal in England (instead of revealing the magic bullshit in her life.)
  - He wants to see the bear she made, but she's embarrassed by it.
  - He's good at crafts, maybe he can help! And he promises not to laugh at it. He gives her advice about how to de-Kero-ify it (ears smaller and higher up).
    - Obviously he does admit that it looks like Kero, but, I mean..
  - Eriol looks OMINOUS standing over the bear with scissors lol.
- She's delighted that the bear looks like a bear after his advice, and thanks him for his help.
  - He goes down on one knee and kisses her hand and says's he's a little jealous of whoever she's giving gifts to, which makes her go BOILING RED and then he WALKS OFF OMFG CLOW WTF.
- Chiharu gives Yamazaki a bear, which he uses as a launching pad for an insane tall tale about suama (a sweet) which prompts her to wreck him a bit since he's missing the romantic gesture of naming the bear after her lol.
- Bears are in the air, and Shaoran has one for Sakura, too, which he bought after the girls walked away from the display lol.
  - Yuki walks by and CLIMBS OVER THE FENCE (throwing his BAG OF HOAGIES) to Shaoran, inviting himself over to eat lunch with this poor blushing child.
  - He shares food with Shoaran despite being so hungry he's eating like, a whole carton of milk and massive hoagies etc.
  - He pauses his food intake to ask Shaoran if he's giving the bear to someone and Shaoran RUNS AWAY FROM HIS FEELINGS AGAIN because he's STRESSED THAT HE LIKES SAKURA NOW after ONLY LIKING YUKITO BEFORE bisexual ICON Shaoran!
  - Of course, he runs into Sakura in the flesh, standing with her bear, and the music drops and a breeze blows and they have a MOMENT but he runs away from his feelings AGAIN!
  - Why does it feel the same when he sees Sakura as when he sees Yukito?
    - Life is stressful, Syoaran, I'm sorry!
  - To round things out, he then runs smack into YUE. Who explains that he's just resonating with Yukito's moon power, he should search in himself and find who he actually likes—AND RETURNS HIS BEAR (important teddy bear business)
- Later Sakura is telling Tomoyo about Eriol kissing her hand, and tries to explain it away as an English custom. Tomoyo points out he acts very mature—so different from fellow overseas student Shaoran!



- Sakura also tells her about Shaoran running away from her. Tomoyo says she's sure clueless about some things, poor Shaoran. And asks if she has given her bear to Yuki yet—and since the answer is no she wants a favor...
- ...which is to dress Sakura up and film her giving the bear to Yukito! Because that's what Tomoyo likes.
  - And as embarrassed as Sakura is, she looks ADORABLE and Yukito does come to the door!
  - She gives him the bear, but as he's admiring it he faints and the BEAR GROWS TO MONSTROUS SIZE and starts smashing things!
    - So, if you've ever been embarrassed giving a gift to your crush...and least it didn't try to crush them and their house!
  - Yue has emerged and saves Sakura and shoots some—i dunno, pink crystals? at the bear.
    - They get away but the bear is just...big and there.
    - Our villainous trio watch from afar as Sakura thanks her guardians (Kero also showed up at some point in there) for their help, and transforms the key into a staff, ready to go up against the giant bear!
  - She transforms the Jump card into a Sakura card so she can use its power to, well, jump around like an X character while the bear destroys the town a wee bit.
  - She calls up the Sword card to round off against the bear, but she'd need the fly card to get closer and she can't have fly and sword going at the same time since they use her staff as a base—which gives her an idea.
  - She asks Fly to put the wings somewhere else so she can use sword, and after transforming the fly card she does indeed get her own wings!
  - Tomoyo looks ENRAPTURED.
    - As she SHOULD. That's the DREAM.
- Sakura defeats the bear and everyone's delighted, except Yue who has caught some sense of the villain trio nearby.
- Sakura cut off one of the bear's ears in the fight, and inside she finds a familiar magic circle on a slip of paper (that may be purple or may just be shadowy with night, hard to tell).
- What's going on?

## Episode 52

- A teacher is reading aloud to the class from a book about sheep and Sakura cannot stay awake, despite Tomoyo trying to help. Sakura swoons and Shaoran catches her again (he still sits behind her) and the teacher notices this and embarrasses both of them.
- At lunch, Sakura brings Shaoran up to speed on the bear incident. Why didn't she call for him?
  - Well, because it's the 90s and elementary school kids don't all have cell phone, but Tomoyo has a solution!
  - She gives them all adorable cell phones (even one for Kero) so they can get in touch immediately!
  - Meanwhile Shaoran is dying of embarrassment over the as-yet-ungifted-bear, but Sakura is too sleepy to notice it in his bag.
  - This sleepiness is really becoming a problem.
  - Tomoyo tries to pump her up with excitement about the Sakura cards, and how she needs to make up a cool new pose and everything to go with this new phase of her magic, but she's still sleepy.

- Eriol observes that Yukito is also sleepy.
  - Yukito himself is troubled by how he's always hungry, always sleepy, and missing chunks of memory.
  - He's stressed but also just...so tired.
    - I can relate
  - He falls asleep against a tree and Touya finds him that way. He's happy to see Touya, at least. We get the kabe-don with the tree scene here, a popular 'redraw this screencap in your own style' meme on the internet these days, as Touya gears up to tell him 'you think I don't know—or maybe you don't know yourself, but...i don't want you to disappear.'
  - These scenes are beautifully paced and drawn with a lot of lighting and shadow details—until Nakuru cartoonishly pops out of the tree to interrupt and tell Touya a teacher was calling for him.
  - Touya accuses them of doing this on purpose, which they brush off.
  - Once he's gone, Nakuru notes that Touya has figured things out—but observes to Yukito that HE HASN'T.
  - Of course Yukito remains clueless, and Nakura reminds him to not get in their way.
    - And they definitely mean *their* way, singular, not in the way of the grand Eriol plan or whatever...English is bad at this, sorry.
- Sakura is considering her new pose while making dinner, but she also remembers the paper with the magic circle on it.
  - She shows it to Kero again and he tries to pump her up and make her more cheerful!
  - Nobody likes to see Sakura unhappy or out of it!
- Yukito comes over to drop off a book of Touya's—only it's actually Yue using an excuse to get over so he can confer with Kero about his battery running down.
  - He knows Yukito is eating for two—to sustain Yue. But it isn't working.
  - And Sakura's tapped out just controlling the new cards.
  - Kero (also transformed) says that he's the sun, he can shine on his own. But the moon reflects light; Yue has to tap someone else's power.
  - And if he disappears, Yukito will, too, and that would make Sakura so sad.
  - They discuss current events (Clow's presence) and Yue brings up that there's someone else whose power he could tap, but Yukito wouldn't....
  - Well we don't know what Yukito wouldn't do because Sakura comes in with tea.
  - Yue runs away from the conversation by dumping Yukito into it, so he's just in her house being served tea after not remembering how he got inside.
    - POOR YUKITO, SERIOUSLY
- Later, Sakura and Shaoran are out being recorded by Tomoyo, looking for the mysterious Clow presence.
  - She says she sensed the presence most strongly near King Penguin (the slide) but when they get there—there's a BIG HOLE!
  - Tomoyo wants her to show off her new finishing pose which embarrasses her a bit but she pushes that aside and transforms the key into her staff and summons Fly, swooping into the hole.
  - But when Kero tries to follow he's like a bird smacking a window. And Shaoran's magic can't get through, either.
  - Kero transforms and blasts it with fire but nothing happens—this must be Clow's power, he says.
- Down in the hole, Sakura might have been spooked by the darkness except cute stuffed sheep just...fall all over her, subsuming her in fluff.

- Sakura defeats the sheep with the erase card, all by herself!
- Back above the hole, she makes the boys turn around when she uses the Power card to get strong enough to pick up the penguin slide and put it back over the hole FOR SOME REASON WHY IS THIS EMBARRASSING, she's always strong and athletic and why would that be a problem?
  - I dk I think she was embarrassed about it when she first got it too, but I don't know why??? She;s not even, like, wearing a skirt or something that could flip up if she bends over...she's wearing shorts and a cape.
  - I worried then and worry now its just...being big is embarrassing?? For some reason?? Let's....not instill that nonsense in our next generations okay folks?
- Anyway, after transforming yet another card, she passes out again.
- Eriol is enjoying watching this FOR SOME REASON.

### Episode 53

- Sakura is at home sweeping up, sleepily.
  - Eriol shows up to help out because he's a perfect child who isn't suspicious at all!
  - He does something VERY suspicious to Touya's bike which she almost notices but not quite.
  - Dad calls Sakura in and ends up meeting Eriol! He's invited in for dinner but he demurs, saying he has to go home and make dinner himself. And as Eriol walks off he grins, saying she's surely going to have a tough time later that day.
    - NO ONE COMMENTED ON HOW MUCH ERIOL AND FUJITAKA LOOK ALIKE, I JUST FEEL I HAVE TO POINT THIS OUT...
    - I think it would feel weirder in the anime? Because of color/character design being even less similar? Or maybe this came out before the manga and CLAMP wanted to hammer home the family resemblance/reincarnation connection more in the manga after it...well, we'll see how much it comes up in the anime.
- Sakura of course doesn't have any worries about how ominous Eriol was, and instead just enjoys the delicious dinner her dad made.
  - She almost nods off at the table while talking about how great she thinks Eriol is, in fact. Her dad is concerned, but she blows him off as cheerfully as possible.
  - Touya pops in to grab something he left behind and he notices something is off about his bike. He asks Sakura if she touched it, and she remembers something could have happened while she was doing yard work.
  - He forbids her to ride it, which she mistakes as mean big bro behavior, so he doubles down on that by stealing her last fried shrimp!
- Kero inquires about any dessert she might have brought him and is delighted to receive a pudding from her, but she's just SO TIRED.
  - Aya Hisakawa as Kero hams it up about how great the pudding is for a while (and the animators go crazy on it)--so many episodes in, they're still just lavishing love on this series!
- Sakura notices that the cards she hasn't converted yet are cold to the touch rather than warm like how they used to be.
  - Kero explains how her magic is like food for the cards, and the unconverted ones are asleep, not feeding, and if this goes on long enough they might just revert into regular cards with no magic at all.
    - Wait but how long were they waiting for a new Master of the Clow? I guess Clow's latent power was still sustaining them...but it can't now that

they have a new master...even though they haven't been transformed yet? DONT WORRY ABOUT IT I GUESS

- Anyway Sakura's SO UPSET because she just made friends with them and doesn't want to lose them!
- She shocks Kero by summoning her staff and trying to convert all the cards right then and there! She goes through so many before she collapses, and they float around her—but Dash starts glowing. It was the little Eevee-like one---Peewee--and it's out of control!
- It corporealizes and hops out the windows to possess Touya's bike!
- Kero says it's panicking—her level of power isn't enough for her to just use it like that without specific purpose and focus, she really overdid it.
  - It was a tidy way to speed through some anime-only cards, though
- She tries to use Windy to catch up to the bike but it's too fast!
  - And as she rollerblades after it she tries calling Tomoyo (after Kero reprimands her lollll), but she doesn't pick up, so Sakura calls Shaoran.
  - He's blushy when he picks up her call because omfg his crush but alas its an absurd magic problem and he tries to drag himself up to speed with whatever the fuck is happening.
  - He manages to get there just in time to help cushion one of her falls as she tries to follow the bike vertically up a wall.
  - Shaoran uses magic against it to some extent, but she doesn't want him to go too far because the card will be scared and panic even more.
  - This is a scared animal they're cornering, basically.
- Kero thinks maybe they should cut off its escape routes...and Sakura thinks of Loop! But she'll have to convert another card, using up even more energy.
  - Kero toughens up and encourages her, saying he'll catch her if she falls.
  - She converts Loop and makes a looping area to trap the Dash-possessed bike, then catches it herself.
  - She comforts dash until it relaxes and consents to turning back into a card.
  - Sakura makes a bit of a speech about how she's going to do her best even though everything is confusing, then collapses—just as poor Tomoyo shows up!
    - Aw, she's so sad, she brought an outfit and everything! Well at least she can record cute sleeping Sakura.
    - Her batteries die but she perseveres and Kero begs to be filmed himself~~

## Episode 54

- Sakura is making pancakes for breakfast!
- She finds an old calender of her mom's, filled with hand-written notes on special dates, and this gives Sakura a sweet connection to the late Nadeshiko.
  - She finds her brother's birthday on the calendar (it's feb 29<sup>th</sup> so its only there on leap years) and her own birthday too.
- Later at school, discussing the calendar at school triggers an unstoppable Yamazaki lie cutscene.
  - Eriol joins in on the tall tale even though the kids expect him to be too mature and serious and the boys play off each other (because Clow is a bullshit artist who loves lying to people!)
  - The boys shake hands, becoming good friends instantly lol.
  - Sakura and Shaoran are naive and believe them though lol.

- Meanwhile at the high school, Touya remembers playing the organ (??? piano???) with his mom (in a maid outfit???) This is a confusing memory!
  - Anyway he plays a little piano now, wistfully, because a true CLAMP man plays piano.
  - It is a song his mom WROTE and Yukito stops by to enjoy the wistful moment, too. This does give Touya another chance to try and talk to him, and again, Nakuru interrupts—this time telling Yukito some teacher's looking for him, so he abandons Touya to Nakuru lol.
- Sakura looks through the calendar more and sees Sonomi's birthday and Great-Grandfather's birthday.
  - She still doesn't know the nice old man she met before was her great-grandpa, a fact that is a bit distressing
- Sakura brings up this birthday to her very patient dad and while they prep peas for dinner together they discuss how her mom, who wasn't great at crafts, cooking, or sewing, still did her best on a present for her grandfather.
  - Dad admits he only met the man once because to him, Fujitaka was a bad guy who took Nadeshiko away. Sakura insists her dad isn't a bad guy, which he appreciates. She wants to get a gift to him somehow and Fujitaka says he can get that taken care of.
- So she gets some crafting help from her very-good-at-sewing Dad and makes him something that evening—but the flower shop is closed so she can't add Nadeshiko flowers with the gift!
  - Sakura wants her brother to play the song her mom wrote so she can record it to send along.
- Sakura runs upstairs to confer with Kero-chan, setting up a cute gag where she surprises him and his head gets stuck in the VCR so it appears on the TV screen?
  - So cute, good job animators.
- Kero thinks she's good to use the Flower card for this, reassuring her that its not too frivolous.
  - Sakura wants this gift to convey her feelings: that they're all happy, and her dad wasn't a bad guy.
- Sonomi is going to be the messenger here, ONLY because Sakura made it, and she's mad at Fujitaka but she'll deal.
- Later Fujitaka gets a call from grandpa, who actually wants to see him now, finally.
  - They meet in the Penguin Park and catch up in a very stilted old man kind of way.
  - Great-grandpa admits that he got a letter from Nadeshiko about how happy she was being married (since he didn't observe it first hand, he was so mad) and now he has gifts for Sakura and Touya.
  - With tears in his eyes, he apologizes to Fujitaka and thanks him. He admits he knew that since he was Nadeshiko's choice, of course he'd make her happy.
  - And Fujitaka says he knows it was a stressful situation—Nadeshiko was so young, he was so new to teaching...but grandpa admits he was just being stubborn and now he can't tell her she made a good choice that would bring her happiness.
  - But Fujitaka reassures him that he knows she can hear him. And we see a vision (or apparition?) of her watching over them.
- Sakura comes home to see the gifts from great-grandpa. She wants to see him, but she's just glad he liked the gift (which was a...hand sewn pink...harmonica holster???)
- The gift from grandpa is a cute doll-like old-fashioned drop-waist dress awww
  - what did Touya get, I wonder?? I'm glad he got included this time, though...he missed out on secret grandpa vacation home.

## Episode 55 is another Alice in Wonderland EPisode, our bread-and-butter!

- Sakura reads Alice in Wonderland (kind of...it's not exactly the text) and recalls how being tiny before (in the last Alice-tinged episode) sucked.
  - But this is a good excuse for Eriol to show up and talk about England!
  - He describes it as looking like the illustrations in her Alice book and she says she wishes she could go!
  - He says something about her visiting Alice's Kingdom and Eriol gives her a golden leaf-shaped book mark (that might just be a leaf.)
  - Shaoran and Tomoyo are also watching this and Shaoran is not pleased
    - Tomoyo is just fangirling about how cute they look together and making Shaoran squirm
- They are doing book reports! Sakura is doing Alice, Naoko has a WHOLE STACK of books, and Tomoyo has a difficult book of classic Japanese literature.
  - Rika picked a book Terada sensei says he loved, too, and he's looking forward to her book report~
- They go to the library, inviting Eriol with them, which induces Shaoran to speed ahead of them.
  - At the library, Yamazaki is reading a book about cats being alien invaders and Naoko gets involved in his tall tale about how 2/3s of cats are all aliens by now, etc... (Eriol is an alien in disguise isn;t he?)
  - Shaoran needs a dictionary to read kanji still, but Eriol doesn't, which makes him squirm more, but he can't explain any of why he can do this
    - "my past is complicated" he says
- Eriol walks away—and while everyone watches him, Sakura is just straight up sucked into her Alice book!
- She wakes up in a field, wearing a cute heart-card themed outfit with a frilly pinafore! The backgrounds look very Winne-the-pooh watercolory, and she runs into Eriol as Chesshire Cat in a tree!
  - He is unhelpful, says he has a mischievous personality and it's hard to stay quiet about how slow she and Shaoran are—which makes her grumpy but what can she do.
  - He explains that she has people she can be her true self around who he can't reveal himself to yet, refuses to elaborate, and leaves.
  - Saying she should have fun in Alice's Kingdom!
- Next a white-rabbit themed Yukito jogs up, looking very dapper and fretting about being late. Sakura runs after him. He transforms into Yue, picks her up and flies off (much quicker this way he says)!
  - Then he...drops her!
- So back in the library, the Alice book won't open and Shaoran is using his sword to try to do magic to unseal it but no dice—plus he has to hide the sword when anyone comes by!
- In bookland, Sakura-as-Alice has fallen to the tea table where her brother is cast as the Mad Hatter. She loves the tea she drinks, but he informs her, smirking, that she just drank the shrinking potion!
  - Shaoran picks her up and places her on a daisy—only there are TWO SHAORANS (tweedledee and tweedledum, in penguin outfits)
  - (STAR GAZING alert atar gazing alert wihjorwknlwvknlvw)

- ANYWAY the Shaorans say they'll quiz her and help her if she gets it right—he likes someone/he doesn't like someone.
  - Sakura knows he likes Yukito, so she says he does and passes.
  - Next question: is that person is taller than him or not? Well Yukito is taller than him so that's what she picks...but she's wrong! (And shorter than him by like, a hair, but she doesn't notice this.)
- Losing the game means she has to fix this herself. Luckily she has her key! Once it is in staff form again, she transforms the Big card to help her grow again! She gets taller, then shrinks a bit till she's the same size as Humpty Dumpty (Tomoyo.)
- Finding a chessboard, she doesn't feel as properly-sized any more because Kero-chan is the Queen of Hearts, chasing her with fire, whining about why she never listens to him.
- Eriol as a floating Chesshire Cat head is unhelpful until she finds the leaf bookmark again and ascends through it (TEARS OF THE KINGDOM STYLE) and pops out of the book! THE END?
- What an episode! Sakura has maybe learned that Shaoran likes someone other than Yukito and that Eriol is not what he seems and has to hide who he truly is around her? How will this effect future events???

## Episode 56

- Kero-chan is playing video games while Sakura struggles to get into an outfit she sewed!
  - She fixes it up and explains that she made it for a school event using Tomoyo's pattern—and since there will be sweets at this school bazaar, Kero insists on going!
- At Maison Eriol, he's also sewing his outfit! And Nakuru introduces the nickname Supie for Spiniel, which he hates.
  - He also says he hates sweets so he's like dark Kero-chan.
- At school Tomoyo is filming Skaura, embarrassing her a bit but Sakura confides that she's making Kero wait outside—she bought him off with a HAMPER of sweets.
- The girls are delighted at the turnout, and Yamazaki makes up a crazy story about Bazaars coming from echos at Niagara falls or something before being hustled out by Chiharu.
  - Rika serves snacks to terada-sensei and he compliments her hard work.
  - Shaoran gets flustered by Sakura while Eriol watches, but Sakura's called out to serve an order to Yukito! Aaand her brother, who is less than polite.
  - She's delighted that Yukito enjoys the snacks, and calls her cute!
  - Touya tries to ruin it, but Yuki is too cheerful.
  - Then Touya senses a presence—and we pull back to see Eriol, who knows he's been noticed and has to keep a lower profile oops.
- Nakuru approaches where Kero is hiding with his food orgy hamper singing about sweets. Nakuru teases Supie about not wanting any sweets.
  - Supie flies off to hide while Nakuru involves themself in school shenanigans—and runs into Kero!
  - HATE AT FIRST SIGHT.
  - Supie knows who Kero is, but Kero may not know who Supie is other than an obvious rival—who he says has a big head, causing a prat fall.
  - Supie won't point out they have the same proportions because that would give it all away—but he also insists he's not a toy when Kero assumes.
  - Kero destroys him by almost guessing what he is...but guessing he's a youkai, which he finds VERY insulting as he thinks he's more like a yousei.





- At school, Sakura shows up like a beam of sunshine. Rika shows her a flier for a teddy bear exhibit which they want to go to, and Eriol invites himself along, which drives Shaoran mad so he stomps over (making Tomoyo ohohoho graphically in the background) and he gets invited, too.
  - Tomoyo really is the ultimate fangirl, her OTP just happens to be irl, and she enjoys every dramatic twist thrown their way
- The soundtrack gifts us with a contemplative guitar solo while Shaoran thinks about his encounters with Sakura that day, and looks up from his pond-side reverie to hear Sakura getting excited about the exhibit which is giving away free bears to attendees.
  - Eriol catches him, says Sakura sure is cute, and causes him to run the fuck away from his feelings again. Eriol smirks about this.
  - Shaoran runs headlong into Yukito! And they have another moment together, walking home.
  - Yukito notices he's sullen and asks what's up. Shaoran isn't forthcoming. But Yukito suggests eating, because that's what he needs to do.
  - He takes them to a shop where he wants to buy cookie cutters to make cookies as a thank you for all the dinners the Kinomoto family invite him to.
  - Shaoran picks out one shaped like a bear and Yukito picks a comically huge sun and moon.
  - Shaoran reassures him that Sakura will like anything he makes, and ends up going on about how great Sakura is, and Yukito notices he likes her, and Shaoran RUNS AWAY AGAIN.
    - I feel like Shaoran's running away quota has gone up since the first season...which is saying a lot considering it was mostly what he did for his first few episodes.
- He's starting to accept he really does like her, and at home finds he has a message from Sakura telling him what time they're going to go to the exhibit.
  - Well it's two messages...the second one is where she gives him the info because the first one was interrupted by tripping on kero's game console.
- Shaoran sees the bear he made again and contemplates what to do with it. He chooses to toss it away from him and re-listens to Sakura's messages while lying sadly on his bed, because this is what love will do to you.
  - We get a nice funky insert song sung by Shaoran's VA with cute leaf overlays and cut-aways as we see the kids go to the teddy bear exhibit together and watch him watch her as he comes to terms with his feelings more.
  - There's lovely animation of a ginkgo leaf for Shaoran and a cherry leaf for Sakura!
- The song ends and the kids discuss the cute bears at a cafe. Well, Tomoyo discusses how cute Sakura was.
  - Sakura is sad, thinking her bear would have turned out better if she saw the exhibit first.
  - Eriol needles Shaoran (innocently?) about the bear he hasn't given away yet, and Shaoran gets stiff and says they need to go home before the sun sets.
  - Sad violin plays as he runs to the elevator.
  - Sakura catches up with him, but Eriol does some magic BS to mess up the elevator before he and Tomoyo can get on, trapping Sakura and Shaoran in an elevator episode! He's very smug about this. Guess he's also a shipper?
- The kids can't call out and don't know what to do. Shaoran knows their friends would get them help so they should just wait, but the waiting...takes a long, long time, and Sakura starts crying because it's so dark and lonely and stressful.
  - He uses a tag to light a small flame to illuminate things for her, and she unfolds a towel for him to sit on.

- He's very nervous about it, but when he allows himself to come over, she gives him some of the cookies Yuikto made (Kero ate most of them off camera btw.)
- They break the bear cookie that's left in half and share it, and he has FEELINGS when she praises Yukito's cookies.
  - Outside in the hall, Eriol uses a giant staff to do magic ass magic that complicates their situation more—there's kind of a weird artifacting effect like Sakura's being pulled away into darkness.
  - Shaoran runs after her, but can only watch as she falls into what seems to be a bottomless pit with jagged edges.
  - He calls out for her, bereft, and she...floats up on the float card because of course a pit can't defeat her!
  - He's so relieved he hugs her.
    - This was reminiscent of Sakura being trapped in the darkness during the school play that helped her discover the Light and Dark cards!
- Eriol is proud of Shaoran for expressing his feelings.
- Back at home Sakura calls Shoaran to thank him, and says she appreciated that he was concerned for her in the elevator—she thinks they've become really good friends, does he think so too?
  - He agrees, stumbling over his words a bit, and feels better when she hangs up.
- A cherry leaf blows past him at the end of the episode. SYMBOLISM.

## Episode 58

- The kids are gathered in the park looking for the source of the Clow presence again, and getting nowhere when it starts to rain and they tap out.
  - Yue ALMOST sees Eriol and company.
  - His henchpeople are like 'are you just going to let them go? Are you planning something?' and he smirks.
  - I love how really no one knows what Eriol is up to except Eriol.
- At the house, Yue announces he's detransforming but Kero reminds him he needs to go first so Yukito doesn't see his true form.
  - Sakura is concerned for Yue standing in the rain, but he says he doesn't catch colds, so it's no biggie—but then they sense Clow's presence acutely and all of a sudden Yue and Kero can't change forms at all!
  - Eriol smirks down at them.
  - Sakura has to sneak around to make sure no one sees full-form Keroberos and Yue sneak into her room.
  - Kero gets stuck in the window until Yue suggests putting his wings away.
  - Sakura throws Yue a towel, and they discuss what's going on. It sure is inconvenient. They can't think of anything to do about this and they still can't detransform!
- Touya hears Kero's man voice from the room and is suspicious, but Sakura covers up the fact she has a lion and a man in her room
  - they just...stand ion her bed to hide lol
- Touya is suspicious, but just tells her to go to bed.
- Sakura sits on the floor hugging a pillow as they all try to figure out what to do about this miserable situation.
  - They're getting tired...maybe they'll be okay in the morning?
  - Sakura offers her bed to Yue, but he's fine propped up against her shelves.

- Why didn't she offer the end to kero?
  - She doesn't wanna, because she says he's a fucking lion and he's fine lol
    - Also like...I feel like Yue feels more like a guest in her room, whereas Kero always lives there...albeit usually much smaller.
- Anyway, she gets to use her bed after all. They all seem to fall asleep, though she thinks about how she just can't see Yukito and Yue as the same person, and...she doesn't want to think about how she may never see Yukito again.
- Sadly she wakes up to Kero failing to detransform again. No luck for Yue either.
- Sakura tries to act like things are normal again at breakfast, but she's relieved when her dad and brother head out.
  - Upstairs, Kero spears cookies on his claws and happily munches to take his mind off things.
  - Sakura thinks he's way too casual about this, and Kero thinks she has too much to do to just fret over him. She needs to make dinner and stuff to keep her brother off her back after all.
  - She puts Kero to work and he says it isn't fair if Yue doesn't help too, but she's a bit intimidated by Yue, so she just invites him to take a rest, which prompts Kero to tear up the living room in fury at this double standard!
- Eriol and company are like, scrying in one this and Nakuru laughs at the idea of Yue doing chores.
  - Supie must do all the chores in their home because he says he wishes Nakuru would do some, and Nakuru says they don't have to because they are cute~~~
  - Lol can I get away with that excuse?
- Back at home, Sakura needs her dad's Kanji signature chop to sign for a package and kero hands it to her from off frame, but the delivery guy sees a lion's paw and is like WHAT.
  - Next Kero is doing laundry, and has learned from laundry mishaps in the past and puts in a more reasonable amount of soap this time.
  - While Sakura cooks, she again hasn't asked Yue to do anything, and Kero's grumpy.
    - He says she and Clow both spoil Yue, and then Kero throws the bag of flour at Yue, which dusts Kero in white and ruins her cooking.
    - Kero cracks up, but it's a tired laugh. Sakura has to wash *him* now.
    - He reminds her of the bubble card, but says she has to seriously focus on washing him when she releases the card or else it will go out of control.
      - Turns out that Clow used this card to wash Keroberos all the time!
    - He also used it to do dishes and landry, which Kero found insensitive.
    - He gets het up thinking about all the annoying things Clow did, and Sakura backs away.
  - When she comes back to the kitchen, its spotless—Yue cleaned up after all!
    - She thanks him, but he barely acknowledges this. She brings up the bubble card being used to wash Kero, but Yue doesn't laugh about it at all.
    - She realizes Yue really still loves Clow because of the serene expression he has on his face when he talks about him, just like the one her dad has when he talks about loving her mom and how he'd fall in love with her again if she were reincarnated.
      - Yue's quiet about this but doesn't deny it.
- Sakura opens up the package she received earlier—fresh crab! This gives her an idea because crabs have a shell that protects them...

- she uses shield, since it cuts out magic attacks, and it cancels out the magic blocking them from transforming!
- And that means poor Yukito just wakes up in her house, confused.
- Eriol says the shield card gets more powerful the more you hold something dear, the more you want to protect with it. Good job, Sakura.
- Yukito's apparently having dinner with them now, which obviously neither Sakura nor Touya object to.
  - She's fed her crab croquette to Kero, who enjoys it but kinda knows ONLY Clow could have perpetuated that mischief on them...wtf??

## Discussion

- I wasn't sure how they were going to draw this part out but I do think this is working and the tension is holding—we know Eriol's deal and the audience would definitely have suspicions, but it isn't all completely transparent at this point. Plus, so many characters have feelings that need to be explored.
- Also interesting because while the manga kind of just veers away from her using Clow cards by the end, they feel much more alive in her world in the anime, like she'll keep using them after the story is done. Not that we're quite to that point yet.
- So, I don't know if it's just because I know what's coming, and don't actually remember a time when I didn't know Eriol's whole deal, but he's giving me BIG gay-best-friend energy.
  - Like, he never feels like a love interest to Sakura, even though his actions do position him as that (and Syaoran certainly sees him as a threat). And he is so happy to do all sorts of quote-unquote “girly” things with them, like making teddy bears.
  - I just have a hard time seeing him threatening in any way!
- However, Happy has no idea about any of this, and has had MANY theories as we watch this. The leading one is that they are evil clow cards.
  - Man, some CLAMP series have big twists and some have little ones and CCS def has little ones, sorry Happy XD
  - He also has special nicknames for some of the characters...
    - Supi is “Zero” (so we have Kero and Zero)
    - Likewise, he has dubbed Yue and Nakuru “Moon Rocks” and “Mars Rocks”...I'm not entirely sure why.
  - And of course, he's sure that Eriol is the BBEG
    - which, uh, means “big bag evil guy”...not sure how much this term is used outside specific video game fandoms, since I hadn't heard it
    - I still just call them Big Bads, I'm sorry, I ingested too much Buffy as a young adult (and really I apologize for nothing)
- Poor Syaoran had some big emotions in this chunk of episodes!
  - Also for some reason this gave me more middle-and-high-school-crush flashbacks than when I read this section of the manga.
  - Poor Syaoran; everything will definitely be alright!

- Yeah I've never loved Shaoran as much as I do on this watch-through, he's a delight. And there's a lot of time given SEEING him struggle here. I know he had a lot of fans of every gender when the show aired—interesting how the Cardcaptors dub famously tried to retool the show to centralize him more, but frankly he's already a main character with a lot of emotional development and camera-time as-is, and male viewers did connect with him and his feelings about Sakura (and possibly also Yukito I'd imagine) just fine without things being re-cut!
  - But Robin, you don't meet him for, like, 12 episodes or something THINK OF THE BOYS
  - Also, my apologies to Cardcaptors fans. We do still intend to do an episode on the dubbed versions, so don't worry! Your time is coming!
- I swear like 99% of the reason Nakuru exists is to cockblock Touya long enough that his relationship with Yukito can't develop faster than the rest of the plot.
- Big love for whiny full-form Kero in that last episode. We're used to seeing him so dignified in that form, but yup, he is just the same person all the time.
- YEAH not a recipe to make a popular character, though I'm sure Ruby Moon's impish personality gets them a lot of love to make up for it! I think they're a fun contrast to Yue who is the least fun person in the whole show.
  - And this batch of episodes had some good insight into Yue, while still leaving things in an appropriate-for-elementary-school-girls zone.
  - CLAMP nailed the multi-level story in CCS I think. If you are Sakura's age and focus on her and Shaoran and Tomoyo, it's a great story. If you're older and see it from Touya/Yukito/ or ever the parents' generation's POV, it is also very interesting and definitely sadder. So as a kid, you get all of this but the older perspectives are pushed to the background where they should be and that feels like their own life experience—things happening to you, as a 4-th grader, are more real and important than family tragedies and teen romances that are influencing your life from above.
    - We might elaborate on that even more in the final wrap-up but it really hit me here.

## Outro

In our next episode, we'll be discussing the last half of the last season of Cardcaptor Sakura!

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

You can support us on Patreon, by making purchases through our Bookshop.org store, or just by writing a review or sharing this podcast with your friends. Reviews in Apple Podcasts are especially helpful.

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!