

CCS Anime

Ep. 59 - 70

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Intro

No matter what happens, I know we'll meet again...we finished the Cardcaptor Sakura anime!

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

Check-In

- CLAMP ARE DOING THEIR OWN PODCAST AAAAA
- You can watch/listen on youtube with auto-subtitles and this is THE FUTURE and child me is losing her shit what an age we live in!
- WE LIVE IN A BEAUTIFUL TIME
- And in some quick life-updates...I survived two pirate-themed camping events, including one where we hosted a burlesque show one night and threw a whole ass party the other night, and spent basically every other moment either setting stuff up or tearing stuff down (aside from a quick dip in the river). I am very tired, but it was very fun.
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Background

- This is it! The last batch! These episodes concluded the series in March of 2000—though not for all viewers! There's an interesting story that I picked up from Youtuber Mercury Falcon about the original airing of the last episode of this series and fandom.
 - ONE THING TO KEEP IN MIND because the format of our podcast is what it is, the anime ended BEFORE THE MANGA...you know, just like with X BADUM-CHING
 - ANYWAY
 - That means that Sakura fans were so excited to see the final episode and find out what happens!
 - And because of kids' schedules, a lot of people couldn't watch it when it aired; instead they set their VCRs to record the episode from 6 to 6:30 pm.
- Basically a big sumo match between Takano Nami and Musashimaru (the Yokozuna at the time) preempted the show and pushed its air time back a little bit.

- Which meant...they recorded part of a sumo match, and then mooost of the Card Captor Sakura episode....and then it cut out RIGHT AT THE END because the recording stopped!
- IMAGINE THE FANDOM BLUE BALLS! And no youtube or twitter to go find someone else's uploads, you had to physically trade tapes (a HUGE part of fandoms back in the day) and if almost no one had a tape with the whole episode...where were you even gonna go?
 - The manga wouldn't wrap up for WEEKS!
 - Most fans just had to go on message boards and get written re-caps!!!
- His video "A Sumo Wrestler Ruined cardcaptor Sakura" is a fun watch and great resource, because he also disclosed that CCS was the most money/resources the NHK had dumped into an anime (that is, in 1998, not sure what has broken that record since!)
 - I know in the beginning we...discussed how big of a production this appeared to be, but having a little more info about that is great! Some information like this is like, exactly what I'm seeking most fervently when we write episodes but it's also hard to find because it's obscured under how much has been written for and by fans, promotional materials rather than like, straight up info. Some of the info isn't particularly public!
- Research is tricky and we literally can't do enough of it--both there's no time or resources for us to do a completely perfect job but also I'm never satisfied with what we can do--I always want to know more!
- But we're left trying to glean from translated interviews and opinion pieces a lot of the time, and it's just nice to have solid info to pull from and discuss.
- In many ways, the amount of money and marketing put into CCS doesn't matter--we're covering the work with an eye to what it's meant to us over the years and also some amount of training in literary analysis.
 - But...comics and cartoons don't exist in a vacuum. Understanding where this came from, why it is the way it is...that's helpful, too.
 - This anime is fantastic. It holds up and can still enchant a new audience. But much of what makes it special is the attention to detail, the vision and effort put into it--which not every production receives.
 - Many levels of industry from the creators to editors to publishers and animation studio heads, network TV folks--a lot of people wanted this to succeed...and they wanted it to make money, to be a flagship that would help their companies or divisions make money.
 - To this day, CCS sells merch. And books. And food at themed Ani-mate cafes. The new season of Clear Card anime is on its way to screens. This has had cultural impact and economic impact, whether anyone loves it or not.
 - It's kind of nice that it's actually so loveable. Not everything sold to kids has as much heart as this.
 - And I wanted to take a moment to reflect on that!

Summary

Alright, we're at the final stretch, lets go!

Episode 59

- **Tomoyo** helps little jockette Sakura stretch and observes that she's not as tired as she used to be when she first started changing Clow Cards into Sakura Cards—that means she's getting stronger!
 - Tomoyo also swoons over getting to capture Sakura's growing up and maturing on video—and reassures Sakura that a little danger means nothing when she gets to be at her side!
 - She lays it on a bit thick and makes Sakura blush, which makes Syaoran blush too. Eriol merely smiles as he observes.
- Next it's 1 on1 basketball time! Sakura is amazing of course but we're given a dramatic lead up to Eriol versus Syaoran!
 - Sakura..cheers them both on.
 - Despite saying 'please go easy on me' (in a rote kind of way) Eriol is in fact very good at Basketball because of course he's good at everything.
 - He also pulls a weirdo move by advising Syaoran on his 3-point shot, which he ends up making perfectly. "As long as you remain calm and don't lose yourself in the moment, you'll become stronger," Eriol says, walking off, leaving Syaoran to just deal with that.
- **Later**, a sleepy Yukito is helping maintain the baseball diamond when he walks up to the fence between their schools—only to see Eriol.
 - He transforms and Yue recognizes Eriol as Clow—but why is he here in this form?
 - Eriol puts him to sleep and holds him kind of tenderly. He says he's sorry but there's something he must do.
 - And he notes that Yue's power consumption is too much, and also that he has someone close to him who can help with that—but it's hard when his two forms are of two minds~
 - Eriol's having too much fun to stop what he's doing so he hopes Yue can figure out his shit soon. Then he transforms him back into Yukito in time for Touya to find him and admonish him for being incommunicado.
 - Touya....is very suspicious of Eriol's retreating form.
- Even later, we see Syaoran having tea with Tomoyo!
 - We love the amount of solidarity shown between these characters.
 - **Tomoyo** is counselling him through his crush saying that yeah, lots of people love Sakura because she's so nice and cute!
 - He knows and that's part of the problem.
 - They discuss Eriol, and Tomoyo says she doesn't think he's watching over her with the same love as Syaoran.
 - He realizes she is truly observant.
 - **Tomoyo** knows all!

- She tells him that Sakura will never know his feelings if he doesn't tell her.
- And then Sakura pops up in a cute new outfit she was trying on for Tomoyo!
 - Now Syaoran is put on the spot (Tomoyo even exits stage left to force the issue) but he's saved by the Clow!
 - They sense his presence nearby and set out for the school!
- Kero had to catch up since she was out with her friends already and he seems unhappy but it's just because he thinks they were having treats without him, which IS TRUE but Tomoyo brought him some so it's ALL OKAY.
 - Priorities, Kero (its okay those are my priorities too)
- Syaoran notices that Tomoyo always helps Sakura out, while he feels like he's done nothing, but Tomoyo reassures him that's not the case and urges him to stay cheerful and keep going!
- Sakura's a bit scared there might be ghosts but Syaoran gets to step up and reassure her that he doesn't sense any.
 - Also she's calling him Syaoran-kun not Li-kun now and everyone notices—since the elevator episode they're closer, she explains! Syaoran blushes.
- Then a basketball bounces at them—and leads them on a merry chase through the school with no-one apparently bouncing it
 - They track it into a classroom and then lose it there...but when they try to move on to another room the door they used seems to just lead to another classroom instead of the hall.
 - Every door they slide open leads to a room it didn't before, and they end up finding the basketball in the misplaced music room (Hello, piano-kun!)—but they lose Tomoyo on the way!
- They try to puzzle out how to get through these randomized rooms...but even the Through card wouldn't be able to help if the rooms aren't in any kind of normal order any more.
 - Syaoran has some magic that would work if they had something that belonged to the person they were trying to find...and they find Tomoyo's umbrella!
 - Tomoyo sings from somewhere and that bolsters Sakura's spirits (and reminds us of the last 2 times they've done this premise) but it also gives Sakura an idea.
 - She has them turn off all the lights (the circuit breaker is in that room) and she transforms the Shadow card (hearkening back to a first season episode!) and she has Shadow lead them to a person who would cast it—Tomoyo! I GUESS THIS WORKS!
 - They also follow her voice, and while Shadow covers Tomoyo with its disembodied floating cloak shape for a moment, nothing ominous happens because even that card is Sakura's friend!
- We get a little 'I need to be more careful' line from Eriol, who of course was watching.

- And at the end Sakura says she might have cried if not for Syaoran's support, and this is almost Syaoran's moment to confess to her but Kero crashes the moment asking her to pose for Tomoyo etc.
- Also this episode is called the ball trap. Do with that what you will.

Episode 60

- The kids are doing plein air sketching and of course Eriol is amazing at it.
 - Syaoran is full of FEELINGS when he watches Eriol and Sakura together and kind of mopes off.
 - But Tomoyo catches up with him—she noticed what happened last night and asks him when he's going to tell Sakura about how he feels.
 - He admits all he could think about last night was how much he needs to tell her—but before he can do that, he wants to do what's right and tell Meiling he's found someone.
 - He tried calling her, but Meiling wanted to have an important conversation in person—and they'll see each other for Winter break when he goes back to Hong Kong so he assumes that's when he can talk to her.
 - But, nope, she's here! Meiling pops up right in the middle of their conversation—she just hopped on a plane immediately after he called, apparently!
 - THE MOST EXTRA
- The other kids are so excited to see her—but apparently she can only stay until tomorrow, since she still has school and everything.
 - Sakura has no clue this is about her or anything so she just gets excited about hanging out with Meiling that day, and Meiling agrees to hang out though she...probably knows a little more about the situation.
- Sakura calls home to tell Kero, who is playing video games like its his job, about Meiling being in town.
 - She also tells him to get the rice started, which is adorable.
 - He loses the game right before he makes 4 million points, but maybe he'll remember the food.
 - And he had a message for Meiling—not to be surprised when he shows her his cool true form next time!
 - Wow, yeah...she's missed a lot!
- Back with Sakura, Eriol asks who Meiling is and so we're getting all our cast connected, even if just for a little while.
- Meiling walks home with the other kids, and she and Sakura have a good time with each other.
 - But Meiling accuses her of being dazed all the time, so its hard to tell if something weird is happening again...
 - They're excited to go see a new shop that just opened, but as they get to Penguin park they sense Clow's presence! Oh no!

- Small cute penguins start floating in a circle and then fly at the kids! It is a Sanrio nightmare!
 - As the kids battle these cute mascots, Sakura uses her cards, but she's not sure she has the power to use a heavy hitter.
 - It's a cold day and that's setting Meiling back—but that also reminds her of the Freeze card Sakura caught at the ice rink with her! That will stop all the penguins!
 - Sakura transforms that card and traps the small penguins with the big, animated penguin slide that was about to fuck their shit up (this poor slide).
 - And once they're in ice, Syaoran uses lightning magic to bust the little ones right up! Go team!
 - Sakura says Meiling saved her and they all check in with each other, but Tomoyo and Meiling share a look...because Syaoran asks after Sakura, not Meiling. And no matter how nice Sakura is to Meiling, it doesn't quite make up for that.
- Eriol releases his power over the park...and the kids hear someone coming!
 - After having messed up the park a bit, they don't wanna get caught so they run off...and think that huh, every time something has happened recently no one noticed.
 - Echoes of X's kekkais, hmmm?
 - Tomoyo catches Meiling for a moment and reminds her that she likes her very much, and she can think of her if something happens.
 - Meiling doesn't know what to say to that (DID SHIPS LAUNCH?? TELL US!) and the kids disperse after realizing that they can't all be there to see Meiling off in the morning. They say their goodbyes now, and Meiling reminds them that Hong Kong is nearby and she can see them again!
- Overall, Meiling seems like her usual energetic self. But at Syaoran's place, when he tries to tell her about his feelings for Sakura...she already knows.
 - She acts cheerful, saying of course it's Sakura, she could tell he really likes her. So the engagement is off.
 - But then she packs her suitcase, puts on her shoes, and goes to Tomoyo's all by herself, refusing Syaoran's help walking her over.
- And...she lets herself cry on Tomoyo over this.
 - She never loses to anyone, how can this happen? And worse...she still can't hate Sakura! She's so good...she knows Sakura and Syaoran will be happy together.
 - But it still hurts. So she'll cry it out until she'll never want to cry over Syaoran again, and Tomoyo is just kindly there for her as she loses it.
 - God, this is a good character moment for both of them...like Tomoyo is in a similar situation, but she has obviously already processed her unrequited-love-feelings for Sakura.
 - But, it makes me wonder what she went through before she got to that point, and if she's really as ok with it as she always acts.

- **MAYBE SOMEDAY WE'LL KNOW** or maybe she's just perfect? I would not count that out!
- **In** the morning, Syaoran does meet Meiling at the airport to say goodbye. And he's sad and confused but she's so tough about it and tells him that since he chose Skaura over cute little Meiling, he needs to catch up and actually tell her now!
 - Then says she'll see him over break and takes off.
 - Wei (the butler) says Meiling is actually very sweet isn't she, and Syaoran agrees.
- **At** school, Tomoyo and Sakura discuss the letters Meiling left for them.
 - Meiling apologized for "wetting Tomoyo's lap" which is awkward but funny, and reminded Sakura she needs to notice the things around her (with a small additional note in Chinese that she can't read).
 - Syaoran's note ends with the same phrase, which he translated for Sakura as Meiling calling him her dear friend (instead of something more romantic).

Episode 61

- **We open this episode finding out that Sakura** used the mirror card to make a duplicate to stay at home for her while she went out and did some card business (we hear she changed 4 whole cards) but now that she's back she dismisses the mirror real quick so her brother doesn't catch them.
 - Which is unfortunate, because it definitely seemed like Mirror wanted to tell her something. We even saw her communing with the other cards...what could they be up to?
 - Then we see Eriol's magic circle glow around the Mirror card as Sakura tries to get to sleep...and it seems like maybe he can see what's going on?
- **In** the morning Kero mentions Touya maaaaybe knowing too much.
 - Sakura says If he knew, he'd definitely make fun of her for it, so definitely he doesn't.
 - And downstairs he makes fun of how slow she was in the morning and how much she eats, which reinforces her belief he'd never let her live it down if he knew she was magic.
- **It's** Christmas time again and on her way to school, Sakura thinks about what to get for all her friends...though she seems to be forgetting someone?
 - Touya catches up on his bike and asks if she has a present for Dad yet. He suggests a wallet and when she says she doesn't have the allowance for that, he says they can go in on it together, like a nice big brother.
- **At** school, Touya finds Yuki asleep with his head down on the desk. He came to school early and slept there so he wouldn't be late again...but he just can't keep his eyes open.
 - Touya wants to have an important conversation with him about this situation but Ruby Moon shows up and hangs on him to mess that up (leaving Yuki to go back to sleep.)

- Sidenote: sometimes Happy (my fiance) will get up when I get up, and go down to his office to sleep on the futon we have in there, so he can jump awake and be at his computer like five minutes before he's on the clock. Same energy, I guess?
- At school Syaoran is also early.
 - He and Sakura are supposed to be early because they're doing the Daily Report together again, so he writes their names on the chalkboard...then leans his head forward to rest against her name with a sigh...he still hasn't confessed to her!
 - And then of course she shows up and he darts across the room cleaning out the erasers as though he hadn't been interacting with her name at all.
 - She's chipper as always and asks if they celebrate Christmas in Hong Kong. He says they do, and they do exchange gifts.
 - Sakura says she'll give him a gift even though she doesn't have much allowance, and then they both get blushy and quiet.
 - Good thing Yamazaki shows up to tell a tall tale about how Christmas trees used to be kept outside, and therefore the only food served on Christmas was frozen stuff like ice cream, just to ruin the moment.
- Later the bells ring and Eriol perches atop the belltower looking ominous because why not remind us he's here.
- Tomoyo has big Christmas present plans for Sakura and she wants to film it, so she pops in to discuss that and then pops out to keep preparing.
 - Sakura has so much to work on for presents that Syaoran volunteers to finish writing up the daily notes they have to give to the teacher, which gives her more time—but that sure isn't confessing to her, now is it? He's in despair.
- As Sakura leaves she runs into Eriol playing a hymn on the piano.
 - She stops by to praise his playing and he says he's playing for Mass, and explains what a hymn is (kind of.)
 - He highlights the feelings of gratitude they're meant to elicit, though cites gratitude to water and plants and wind, not just people, and she's moved by that.
- Touya holds the door open for the still-groggy Yukito, and he limps down the path. Again, Touya tries to confront him, but Ruby Moon jumps on him and Yuki walks off, tired and maybe a bit miserable.
 - Touya accuses Ruby Moon of doing this on purpose, and they just smirk.
- Sakura actually runs into Syaoran one more time and asks him about gratitude to plants and wind and stuff, but he's not sure what's she's talking about.
 - She tries to explain that she feels like there's someone she needs to do something for...but she doesn't know who?
- Before they can discuss this further, they sense something—he's willing to go check it out on his own but she insists on going with him.
 - Actually, she calls up Mirror and asks her for her help again—she needs to send her shopping with Touya as her double—and Mirror is happy to oblige because of her crush.

- Again, she tries to tell Sakura something, but she can't get it out before Sakura and Syaoran rush off to the disturbance.
- Under a beautiful winter sunset, the kids see a railing from the nearby park come free of its moorings and fly up into the sky!
- Meanwhile, Touya catches up with Mirror—and instantly knows it's Mirror, not his sister, but still invites her shopping. He understands why Sakura would do this.
- The kids battle the railing a bit but it reforms itself no matter how they attack it.
 - Sakura invokes the Mist card, transforming it in the process, and uses it to make the railing rust away to nothing—harsh! These kids are rough on infrastructure!
 - This reminds Sakura of something so she rushes back to the school.
- Touya thanks Mirror for helping him go shopping with a trip to a cafe, and also has given her an early Christmas present of hair ribbons for the long hair she has in her true form! How thoughtful!
 - And as she treasures these things...he thanks her for everything she does for Sakura. It's painfully touching if a bit weird.
- Later that night, Sakura flies witch-like to her window and drops in to play the tape she recorded—its her playing Eriol's hymn!
 - She wanted to give the cards (especially Mirror, still present) a gift for all their help. And Mirror finally says what she's been trying to say—that on behalf of all the cards, they love her and are glad she's their master.
 - When she returns to her card, Sakura notices that Mirror has new ribbons in her hair.
- Sakura tells Kero that she had Eriol teach her the right hand part of the piece on the piano and he helped with the rest. So cute!
 - Ok but yeah, if she can pick that up that well, that quickly, someone get that girl more music lessons!

Episode 62

- The episode opens on Sakura putting on a cute kimono with long sleeves!
 - Kero says even she looks calm and soothing in a kimono and she says if he insults her he can't get any of the New Years treats!
 - So he lays on the compliments thicker and she relents, agreeing to bring him food later.
 - New years food (osechi ryori) are a really delicious tradition so no wonder he cares.
- Sakura expects her brother to be a jerk about her cute kimono too, but he surprisingly just says it looks good on her—for a monster!
 - Dad breaks up the siblings minor squabble by delivering their New Years cards.
 - Sakura has a dragon card from Naoko, a pretty flower from Rika, some cool lore about 'Gantan' from Meiling, simple but nice calligraphy from Syaoran...and Touya sniffs at that one, admitting he probably doesn't like Syaoran because he and Skaura are getting along so much better now.

- The family is all dressed up for their Shrine visit, and as they walk there they discuss their wishes. Sakura has a LOT (how big of an offering is she throwing in anyway, Touya asks)
 - They expect to meet Yukito there but he's late, so Touya tells them to go on without him while he check at Yukito's house.
 - They do run into Tomoyo and her mom, Sonomi, though! Sonomi is overjoyed to see Sakura and less so to see her dad, of course.
- At the shrine we see Sakura and Tomoyo pull the rope to clatter the bells, clap, all of that, and we cut to Tomoyo recording Sakura's reaction as she opens a gift.
 - This gives Fujitaka and Sonomi a moment to talk, and he thanks her for her help with Great-Grandfather, which she's annoyed he even knew about.
 - She photographs the girls together, and Tomoyo praises Sakura's cuteness again.
 - Sadly, Sonomi has to run off to a meeting but invites Sakura over again soon. Fujitaka says the new year's dishes are almost done so she can just go play with Tomoyo!
 - They go to pick up their fortunes...but why is Eriol the one handing them out? Well, Mizuki-sensei is abroad so he's helping out! They don't know the full extent to his connection and he doesn't tell them lol
 - But we know he's manipulating their fortunes somehow since he makes one light up red. See that's subtle storytelling with color and lighting—jk jk
- Tomoyo gets great luck and fantasizes about what outfits she'll get to put Sakura in (embarrassing) but Sakura's fortune doesn't tell her what her luck is, it just tells her that the first dream she has in the new year will be what reveals her truth.
 - Eriol says that's a "special fortune" for her.
 - Maybe we should take a quite break to mention that New Year's is a really important event in Japan! Hatsumode, the visit to a Shinto shrine to do sanpai (a prayer) and make an offering then receive a fortune, is a big deal. So big that noy everyone can make it to a shrine on the first, so lots fo people observe it just within the first week of the new year.
 - There's also a tradition that the first dream you have of the new year can prognosticate great luck—if you dream of eggplant or mt. Fuji!
 - So I think Eriol's words might be meant to evoke that?
- Over at Yukito's house, Touya finds Yuki (beautifully dressed) passed out on his floor and rushes to help him up. Yuki's like 'what are you doing here?' and Touya reminds him what's up and says they can still catch up—but Yuki just collapses..and Touya sees that he's fading. Like, literally disappearing.
 - He holds him tight.
- At Syaoran's house, we're met with traditional Chinese music and New Years' greetings, as he and Wei are making exquisite good-luck-peach-shaped sweets!

- Peaches are a very important, sacred symbol of longevity and the blossoms of growth, especially around new years—though the Lunar New Year is usually later in February rather than January first.
 - Japan switched to the Gregorian calendar that the West uses during the Meiji era, unlike...most east asian countries?
 - I'm not sure if CHinese ex-pats usually switch up their celebrations in Japan but these ones sure do!
- They're surprised to see Tomoyo and Sakura stop by—he's beet red that they're making him their first hello of the new year.
- They invite the girls in and they're happy to oblige—this was all Tomoyo's idea and he actually thanks her though she doesn't let on much. They have the peach buns and tea and praise Syaoran for his skills!
- Wei also notices that Sakura uses his first name not his last name now. Apparently she's the first non-family-member who Syaoran has invited to do that. Cue more blushing.
- At home, Kero pigs out on osechi ryori and the peach manju.
 - But Sakura is troubled that Yukito never made it to the shrine. They're going to visit with him tomorrow at least.
 - This definitely worries Kero, but he's also perturbed by the fortune she got.
 - Well, she needs to have a dream to see what's up with the fortune, so he puts her to bed lol.
- As she sleeps, the book of Clow glows, and a card floats over to her.
 - Everything goes dark except for a floating, sleeping Sakura and the glowing card. We see a sequence of her standing on a magic circle while Clow's voice calls her name.
 - The key floats before her and he tells her to go on.
 - She says the Release incantation and uses her staff on a card—the dream card!
- Then we're pulled way back into the sky, looking down over the city.
 - She's flying high above her neighborhood and sees so many familiar places while impressive but ominous music plays.
 - In the distance she sees Tsukimine shrine...then a darkness shoots up from it and obscures the sun and the whole sky!
 - Everything is night-dark, and see a familiar sight: two butterfly-winged figures on either side of a smaller figure with a large staff, perched on the Torii gate. The small figure is so familiar, and Clow's voice is calling...
- Kero wakes her up, worried about her.
 - But her staff and the dream card are in her hands in the bed! She did all this in her sleep for real!
 - She explains the dream to Kero. She's a bit distressed but Kero reminds her of her invincible spell, and that he's here for her.
 - But they agree that this dream is probably prophetic, she'll meet those figures at that shrine,

Episode 63

- **Water Park Time!** If you want to be jealous of elementary schoolers going to a water park, this episode will bring you there. It's got landscaping with palm trees, and Tomoyo imagines it as a perfect backdrop for fancy swimwear she could make for Sakura.
 - It reminded me a lot of the waterpark episode of Ouran...
- **Syaoran** is just a blushing shy mess right now. But Sakura helps Rika learn to be a stronger swimmer...you'll remember, we found out she wasn't great at it during an earlier episode.
 - Everyone has cute swimsuits and often matching hair accessories which seems ridiculous to me, kids lose that shit all the time, but these are VERY good kids.
 - Eriol and Syaoran have a race, which it turns out is an escalation of a more friendly competition Yamazaki had invited Syaoran into—but Syaoran just can't stop challenging Eriol.
 - Yamazaki cuts the tension about this by starting a new tall tale, before Chiharu drags him off.
- **Anyway** Eriol smugly gives Syaoran advice again (we agreed we would have dunked him) but it's okay because Sakura stays to hang out with Syaoran even after the others leave and he's touched—until Tomoyo shows up with a camera and he trips back into the pool in shock.
- Anyway they all go get drinks (and Sakura says she needs to get a cream soda for Kero because he was mopey he wasn't allowed to come with her...they laugh about how maybe he tried to come along anyway—and we cut to a shadowy scene in her locker where Kero has red glowing eyes and laughs maniacally about how he has in fact successfully sneaked himself into her bag. A small child overhears him with a fair amount of distress.
 - Also, they keep saying "cream soda," but I'm pretty sure they mean "ice cream float"...anyway, moving along...
- **Guess** who is working here? Yukito and Touya—and Nakuru (the latter two are on skates).
 - The kids have barcodes on bracelets that Yuki scans to pay, very contemporary lol.
 - Eriol watches this ominously (and not because of the tech.)
 - Yukito brings them their drinks and he and Eriol say hi, so they have to explain that they know each other.
 - The kids are loving their sodas, and Touya is not loving Nakuru's presence...he sends them away to serve more sodas so he can check on Yukito, who is def still slowly disappearing.
 - Touya tells him he doesn't want him to ever disappear, and Yukito brushes it off. Touya tries to confront him about this but as usual Nakuru gets in the way.
- **Eriol** sees this and is smug about it, for fuck's sake Clow wtf!

- But Kero has emerged and is sneaking around on the floor...he flies up and secretly finishes up Sakura's soda! He creeps around stealing snacks until Sakura discovers him in a bush and yells at him—causing a scene! Everyone stares.
- Sakura hides Kero in Syaoran's shirt and they sneak past the other kids to get him out of the way. He has no shame about this even though he was a nuisance.
 - Sakura is going to cram him in a locker without any of the wave pool's famous apple pie but...they sense a Clow card's presence!
 - And a GIANT WAVE starts in the pool, threatening to break on all of the swimmers—including Rika who can't handle this at all yet!
- Yuki and Touya throw off their shoes and visors to jump into the pool to help some other adults save the remaining kids. Even Yamazaki wants to jump in to save Rika, but other adults won't let him.
 - Touya has a crying child but he wants to help Rika, too—the waves are too overwhelming though!
- Sakura has to use magic even though it will be hard to hide it in front of so many people.
 - She jumps into a HUGE WATER SLIDE and secretly releases the watery card from there so it can swoop around and turn the angry waves into gentle rain. Rika is saved and the Watery card is now a Sakura card!
- Nakuru confronts Eriol—he was going to intervene if Sakura didn't save Rika in time right? Why is he going so far? He says they'll see...
 - Eriol does check in with Rika, making sure she hasn't been turned off from swimming, but no she hasn't.
 - WELL THAT'S GOOD AT LEAST.

Episode 64

- Kero is left home alone so he's eating EVERY SNACK IN SIGHT including some shave ice left in the freezer for him.
- This is because Sakura's skiing, apparently!
 - We get some beautiful winter vistas and see the kids in snow suits.
 - Tomoyo is an expert already just like figure skating, but Sakura's still getting used to being on skis.
 - Guess who else is a super cool expert skier? Eriol of course! He does some SMOOTH MOVES before Yamazaki shows up to tell us a story about skiing on geta—and Eriol chimes in with even more details until the tall tale is up in the stratosphere.
 - The less gullible kids enjoy that these boys get along so well.
 - I do feel like Eriol has found a kindred spirit
 - Meanwhile Syaoran is NOT IN CONTROL ON HIS SKIIS AT ALL and nearly crashes into them as he careens down the mountain.
 - He almost crashes into a tree but Eriol saves him and gives him more smug advice that's way too knowing.

- Syaoran challenges him about this but the other kids show up to help (though Sakura shows up on her ass lol)
- That night the kids are gathered in the ski lodge because omfg this school and its trips. Apparently Naoko and Sakura improved a lot!
 - Rika helps fold fliers with Mr Terada and I guess that's great, she even told the other kids not to bother coming to help—but this is a great time for Naoko to tell scary stories!
 - She doesn't know any about ski resorts though. She asks them for stories but Yamazaki has only lies lol.
 - Naoko asks Eriol, since there are so many horror novels from England...and he has a story about a snowy mountain.
 - (I'm suddenly invested in this stupid ski episode)
- He describes the snow falling harder and harder on a mountain until the Yuki-Onna appears and causes an avalanche.
 - Yamazaki notices this is a Japanese tale! But, they can't finish the tale because it's bedtime.
 - Tomoyo tries to convince Sakura that the Yuki-Onna might be pretty not scary! But Eriol is sorry he told a scary story if she doesn't like them.
 - She says it's okay but is it? She can't sleep that night and gets up, definitely preoccupied with the Yuki-Onna.
- Syaoran is still up by the fire, thinking about HER.
 - When she shows up he's stricken with love but still clams up.
 - She notes he always says 'nothing' when she asks what's up, but it starts snowing and she wants to go out on the balcony.
 - He accompanies her and they see some bear statues with scarves—and this brings up Syaoran's handmade Teddybear.
 - She says she hopes Yukito accepted it when he gave it to him. But he says that what he feels for him is different from what he feels for someone else, now.
 - He was just drawn to the moon power (uh huh) but the person he really likes...
 - Of course she asks who it is, but then pulls back saying it was rude to pry and destroys his attempt to confess YET AGAIN because that's ALL THIS SHOW IS RIGHT NOW because IT IS DRAWN OUT A LITTLE TOO LONG.
 - Yeah...classic CLAMP; no one can finish a damn sentence.
- The next day Sakura is a much better skier! So is Syaoran, though maybe not at her level. They get to do some free skiing until lunch, and Sakura and Syaoran are cleared for the intermediate hill!
 - Sakura wants to go with him but he says he's good and just pushes away.
 - Sakura asks Tomoyo what's up with him and she tells her that the reason he just tripped was not because of his athleticism (he was watching Sakura over his shoulder.)
 - Of course, Sakura doesn't get it.

- **Snowflakes** drift down again and Tomoyo wants to record Sakura dancing in the snow. Sakura just wants to ski though!
 - They need to catch the ski lift up the hill anyway...and Sakura ends up riding with Eriol.
 - She remembers his words about the Yuki-Onna...and she thinks she sees one in the distance!
 - Eriol says it's a blizzard now and too dangerous so maybe they should just catch the lift going back downhill.
- **Back** at the lodge, the other kids also notice the weather is like Eriol's story...but Tomoyo notices Sakura and Eriol aren't there and gets worried.
- Sakura is so freaked out about a possible Yuki Onna sighting that she jumps when Eriol touches her when they're waiting for the ski lift.
 - Then an avalanche starts! It's heading for the lodge! Sakura has to ski away fast to use magic where Eriol can't see her (lol, lmfao)
 - She uses Time to stop everything, but she doesn't have the power to hold it long enough to figure out what to do next!
 - And she's overtaken by the snow, all hope is lost—until we see Eriol's sun staff swing and see him use Clow's magic to save her and stop the avalanche.
- **Next** thing we see is the sky having cleared up and Eriol helping Sakura ski back to join everyone.
 - He tells the camera he doesn't want to make her sad like this but has no other choice.

Episode 65

- **Sakura** walks home from the grocery store sneaking a bun she's not sharing with Kero...only to hear Touya talking to Yukito and grabbing his hand.
 - It looks like they're having a fight!
 - Sakura intervenes because it looks surprisingly mean—but she actually interrupts a little film the high schoolers are making!
 - That explains why the boys were in slightly old-fashioned outfits.
 - Nakuru's also there...and they invite Sakura to be in the film!
- **Tomoyo** is excited that Sakura will be in the movie, but she is very sad she can't do the costumes. Maybe she can do makeup?
 - It's a story about a detective finding a fugitive set in the Taisho era so it's a pretty complicated project (by Nakuru btw.)
 - Touya's the detective, Yukito is the fugitive, Sakura is fugitive's little sister!
- **They** discuss this at the Kinomoto house that evening, drinking a lot of tea (or maybe coffee) to keep Yukito awake.
 - Yet again, Touya tries to confront Yuki, but this time Sakura interrupts. She also notices he's fading away, though he's sweet and gentle as always.
- **Eriol** lets Nakuru film in his ridiculous mansion, and they explain that they're okay with being director instead of star because they can tell Touya what to do.

- Suppi points out that Sakura might figure out Eriol's connection to Naukuru—and Touya almost certainly will.
- Eriol says that's part of why he agreed to this—to get Touya and Yukito over to his place.
- Turns out Tomoyo insisted on Syaoran coming to watch the filming. She is a very good wingman!
 - Tomoyo is Sakura's stylist and all the high schoolers adore how cute Sakura is in her Taisho-era outfit.
 - Syaoran is also a Sakura's-cuteness-enjoyer so he's very blushy about this whole thing.
- Eriol is mysterious about his connection to this filming location but does hang around being Eriol-ish, which Touya notices and is annoyed by.
- Inside, Sakura is nervous about learning her lines.
 - Eriol tells her to sit down in his big, impressive chair, so Tomoyo can do touch-ups. As soon as she sits down, Sakura senses Clow's presence...but just for a second, and of course she can't quite place it.
 - But, the show must go on!
 - At first Sakura's stiff and stressed, moving robotically like Syaoran did back in their own play.
 - Touya can tell she's nervous, but he's way more concerned about Yukito, who is still sleepy despite having slept the entire previous day.
 - Good thing Eriol is just smugly watching all of this not helping anyone in any way!
- Turns out Sakura's doing just fine on her scenes. She doesn't think so, but the high schoolers do. And Tomoyo is filming a making-of video!
 - There's one more scene on the veranda, where Yukito shakes off Touya as the detective, before he reveals the true culprit!
 - Nakuru hangs on Touya a bit but things are going pretty well.
- The kids keep quiet and Eriol sneaks away to "make tea" while the high schoolers do the scene.
- As Touya delivers his lines (which are basically what he's been trying to say to Yukito anyway) Yukito passes out and falls over the balcony! Oh no!
 - Touya catches him by the wrist but that's not going to be enough, so Sakura (in her cute outfit!) releases Windy to help cushion Yuki's inevitable fall.
 - That's great and he's not a broken wreck but he is...quite transparent.
- Eriol offers the two boys a room where Yuki can convalesce.
 - Yuki wakes up shortly, and apologizes for being so much trouble.
 - But Touya's just worried he'll disappear. He finally says he knows what Yukito is—JK Nakuru interrupts this again, too. They want to film right away!
- This is it. Touya pushes Naukuru out saying he has to talk to Yuki. FINALLY.

- **Outside**, Suppi tells Ruby Moon to DEAL and Ruby Moon says they don't want Touya's "special thing" to be taken away because THEY want it.
 - But, it'll also mean that Sakura's team will be more powerful than theirs...
- **Inside**, Touya puts a hand on Yuki's face and says he KNOWS he's not human and it's okay.
 - Yukito transforms into Yue, and Touya asks his name now that he's finally met him.
 - Yue says Yukito didn't want Touya to know he wasn't a real person. But Touya says that he understands what's at stake here.
 - He doesn't want Yukito to disappear, and he'll sacrifice his power to stop it.
 - He won't be able to see his mom again...but it wasn't fair that only he could see her anyway.
 - It'll be much harder not being able to use his power to protect Sakura. He needs Yue to promise to protect her.
 - **This** annoys Yue—that's his *job*! He'd sacrifice himself to protect Sakura!
 - And Touya says that's the problem—if he sacrifices himself, Yukito will disappear also, and Touya can't have that.
 - So Yue needs to promise to take care of himself and Sakura. Yue is moved, and agrees, taking Touya into an embrace.
 - A magic circle flares up, and he takes Touya's power.
 - Touya collapses onto the bed himself this time.
- **Sakura** bursts in crying. She heard everything. And she and Yue have a good little conversation. Then she tells the still-unconscious Touya that she'll protect HIM. She'll rush to his side if he's ever in danger. SO GOOD.
 - Sakura catches a sense of Clow again—and Eriol (who was, of course, watching) rushes away, realizing she's so powerful now she's bound to catch him.
- **That** night, everyone goes home, and Tomoyo and Syaoran share a sad look with each other as they bid farewell to Sakura.
- She tells Kero that Touya already knew about her—and knew about Yukito and Yue. This causes Kero to crash his car in his racing game aaaaw.
 - **Sakura** is so sad that her brother had to give up his power, but Kero says he knew that would happen. He didn't tell her because he didn't want her to be sad and blame herself.
 - And he says that they love and care about her so much because she's their friend, not just master, and they want to do whatever they can for her. She accept this.
- **She** also thinks about how sad she would have been if Yukito disappeared—if anyone she loves disappears, of course, but Yukito especially.
 - Since she doesn't know if she can promise to prevent anything sad happening in the future, she needs to tell Yukito how she feels
- **GASP** BUT Syaoran NEEDS TO TELL HER HOW HE FEELS, SO NO!

Episode 66

- We start this episode by seeing some of the film that Nakuru directed!
 - Sakura's embarrassed, but Tomoyo is enchanted. Touya and Yuki look so dramatic in their outfits! And their dialog REALLY mirrors the truth—Yukito having an alter ego, etc.
- Yukito is sad about this, though, because...its news to him that he's not human and his backstory is a lie...but Touya reminds him that everything that has happened since they met is real, right? He doesn't care if he isn't human.
 - Yukito is touched and thanks him.
- Eriol praises Sakura's performance, too. Tomoyo says she'll make a copy of the tape into a family heirloom!
- The older kids are losing it over the boys of course, but Touya is too tired after giving up his powers to really respond to the adulation. Sakura notices this, and knows it was his choice.
 - Now Yukito has to support Touya!
- But Yukito is also delighted to see Sakura and the kids, so he invites them for tea.
 - This movie was part of another school festival thing so there are booths,
- Touya is a bit cold to Syaoran and Eriol as usual, but it doesn't dampen the mood. He's mostly his old self but has to go take a nap in the music room, which makes Yukito look sad and wistful.
- Eriol also takes his leave (though he gives Syaoran another smug 'do your best~~~' which sets him off, of course.)
- Syaoran, Tomoyo, Sakura, and Yukito have fun at the school festival.
 - We get a lot of Sakura's dreamy gaze on Yukito, who is very dreamy in his shy nerd way.
- As the kids want to try the starry corridor attraction (it's a tunnel of love type thing) Nakuru accosts them—but of course, Touya has already gone to nap.
 - HA the plot has advanced too far for your interruptions, Nakuru!
 - They tell them where he is, and Nakuru lets Yukito and Sakura into the starry corridor together.
- As per the manga, it is the perfect place to have a love confession because it is so pretty and romantic, with curtains and hanging star lights, constellations on the ceiling...Sakura is enchanted. She remembers looking up at the stars and deciding to tell him her true feelings.
 - So in a very sweet sequence, she does.
 - He's very gentle about listening to her and taking her seriously, a child watching for the first time might actually think he could return her feelings, he's very sincere when he looks down at her.
 - And he says he likes her too—but the person she likes most isn't him.
 - He goes on to explain—she really likes her father, too, right? Are the feelings she has for him and her dad the same?
 - Sakura thinks about it. Her face is troubled. They're similar, she says.

- And Yukito says well he does look a lot like her dad. He's not trying to dismiss her feelings or anything. He acts if he already knew.
- And he says he's so happy he's a part of her family.
- And Sakura's like...you know about my feelings because you care that much for someone else huh. And she guesses it's her brother.
- She talks him up (and Yukito admits he wouldn't even be there without him.)
- **Yuki** says Touya's his number one but he's not sure how Touya feels.
- Sakura says she's okay with this, but if Touya's ever mean to him she'll come beat him up for Yuki.
- And Yukito extends the same courtesy to her—she has someone she like most, too, and if that person makes her cry he'll give them a piece of his mind, too!
- **This** is all perfect BUT then a bunch of the star lights shatter over them!
- Outside, Tomoyo and Syaoran notice it's taking a while, and Syaoran wants to go in after them, so he takes off into the darkness!
- Yue has protected Sakura with his wings, but he says he definitely senses Clow.
 - Sakura hears someone coming so she gets out the Maze card and the Illusion card to protect their privacy by sending the other kids through a starry endless maze lol.
 - But that also messes up Syaoran's attempt to help her! He gets out his sword to try to cut through the celestial Esher-like space.
- **Meanwhile** Sakura and Yue are chasing Clow's presence. Sakura gets separated, and Yue and Syaoran meet up instead. Yue is impressed Syaoran broke through the maze, so he helps take him to Sakura.
- Speaking of...Sakura has found Eriol, who has his staff out.
 - Eriol puts her to sleep, catching her, and, well, it looks like he's been found out.
 - She changed two cards at once and also tracked him down—she's much more powerful now.
 - There's just a little bit to go. He bids her do her best...then everything returns to normal.
- **Sakura** is unconscious, which is why the cards' powers fade, returning the other students to the normal attraction.
 - When she wakes up in Syaoran's care, she explains what she saw before she passed out.
- **Nakuru** asks Eriol why he asked them to set any of this up, and is it okay??? And he blows them off vaguely.
 - **God** Eriol would be a frustrating boss.
- Sakura tells Yukito she's actually okay, and the kids walk home together. She's only a little bit somber, and Syaoran does notice.
 - Tomoyo checks in on her, telling her to go to bed early and get rest, then she leaves them together alone.
- Sakura thanks Syaoran for being there for her, and he bursts out that he'll walk her home.

- She asks if they can stop at the park and he agrees. Under The watchful eye of the King Penguin slide, the kids sit on swings and Sakura tells Syaoran about how confessing to Yukito went.
- She admits that she doesn't feel exactly the same for Yukito and her dad, but she understood she'd be happy if Yukito were with the one he likes most, just like how Tomoyo's said she just wants the person she likes to be happy.
- If Yukito is happy, she knows she'll be happy. But...there are tears in her eyes still. She feels like crying. She just doesn't want Yukito to see her being upset.
- And as she cries, Syaoran gives her a handkerchief and smiles at her, saying he totally understands what she's saying. And she walks up and cries on his chest a little.
- She says that Yukito said she'll find a number one love who will love her the most, too. And Syaoran just hugs her and says yeah, she'll find him. The music swells, the sun sets.
 - OH KIDS IT'S GOING TO BE OK

Episode 67

- The next morning, we see that Syaoran's handkerchief is folded neatly on Sakura's desk.
 - She wakes up and is able to kind of smile for Kero's small sleeping form...and even a smile for herself in the mirror. She's relieved that she's more herself now. And she knows she has Syaoran to thank for that.
- Her dad is also glad she's feeling better—even though she covered things up well he's her dad and could tell she was sad. He serves her pancakes, and tells her Touya is sleeping in since he's not feeling well.
- Sakura hasn't seen Yukito for a while, too. As she skates to school she thinks about him, but also Syaoran.
 - There's about to be a festival at Tsukimine shrine and she wants to invite Syaoran (even though he doesn't like the cold). She has him pinky-promise to meet her there on Sunday.
 - Eriol sneaks into frame also to tell Syaoran she's happy again because of him, and Syaoran tries to wrap his head around that.
- The week passes and Sakura is more and more tired each day. When Friday rolls around she's falling asleep at her desk. They have some amount of class on Saturday apparently and she wakes up at the end of the lesson.
 - Syaoran asks her what's up, but Tomoyo bustles her out before she has to explain herself to him.
 - She and Tomoyo discuss something slightly mysterious on the way home, and Tomoyo continues to be supernaturally sweet and okay with things bless you Tomoyo please be okay.

- In the next scene, at home, Sakura collapses—she’s finally finished with whatever she’s been doing that’s making her so tired! She stayed up all night maybe? Poor kid!
 - And Just in time—Syaoran showed up! He was supposed to be at the shrine but he was worried about her so he went to her house first.
 - He’s beet red when she notices he did this for her, but she appreciates it. Kero stays home to nap (he helped her with her mysterious project aww) and she says she’ll bring him back snacks.
- The twilight background for their walk is SO pretty—the backgrounds for this show are so lovely guys.
 - Sakura gives Syaoran back his handkerchief—and the scarf she’s been knitting for gim, too! Surprise!
 - He’s taken aback and almost doesn’t respond before she worries she messed up—but he puts it on reverently and thanks her. She says she’s feeling much better about Yukito now, so its okay they’re all meeting up.
- Cut to Yuki and Touya. Yuki admits he knew Sakura like him but he needs to not have her hung up on him and missing her own number one. He’s worried she’ll be sad to see him again, but Touya thinks it’ll be fine.
- Tomoyo checks in with Syaoran, who says he hasn’t told Sakura about his feelings yet because of what she just went through with Yukito. She’ll think about how upset he’d be if she turned him down and that’ll make things too hard.
 - Tomoyo doesn't have time to respond because Touya has to buy them all treats.
 - Yukito asks him why he’s so grumpy about paying for Syaoran’s, and Touya says its because he’s going to take something precious from him soon.
 - But Sakura asks for juice too and that buys Touya and Yukito more time alone as they go grab more treats for everyone.
- Yukito says he noticed Touya can’t sense Sakura anymore (she managed to sneak up on him) and he regrets taking his power. But Touya says that all he did was what Yukito would have done—if he had a lunch and Touya was starving he would have given it to him, and that’s what this is.
- The kids get to the beautiful moon reflecting pool with nothing living in it, and gaze at the moon—but Eriol’s reflection/shadow interrupts and before Sakura can understand what’s up, a horse painted on the shrine’s sign comes to life as a spectral steed and attacks them, leaping into the air.
 - Our heroes have to try and stop it, and Sakura has an idea but needs Syaoran’s help.
 - He uses wind magic to tornado the horse into the pond, and she uses the Thunder card to zap it! This works for some reason! And Tomoyo got it all on tape.
 - Touya and Yukito catch up, but the whole shrine grounds have gone dark as the electricity went dark.

- Sakura can help with that! She got the Glow card at the shrine original, and now she uses it again to light everything up so the festival won't have to be called off.
- Syaoran catches some little glowy bits and Tomoyo tells him that even if he did make Sakura sad, it wouldn't weigh on her forever. She'll accept his real feelings and respond with her own real feelings, whatever those are, so he can't use the Yukito rejection as an excuse lol (my words not hers.)
- Sakura stands alone under a snow of little glowies as the music trills and the episode ends.

Episode 68

- Suppi calls Eriol in for dinner. Suppi has noticed he's made a decision...and he's sealing up a letter, saying it's almost over.
 - He looks out at the moonlit night saying that Sakura's gotten very powerful. Nakuru pops in to call him in to dinner too (since they made it).
 - They're all taken with a sudden flurry of snow that falls, and Eriol even thinks of Yue.
- SO LATER there's snow trouble at the school and snowmen are attacking—full form Keroberos is stuck in a big snowman and Yue is annoyed with how tough this is.
 - Sakura is fighting back but it's a supernatural snowball fight and she's struggling, getting turned into a snowman herself as Eriol and crew watch from the shadows.
 - Sakura is DONE WITH THIS and transforms another card—Snow! Her own pretty Yuki-Onna gives the snowmen a taste of their own medicine, and our butterfly-winged antagonists just lounge around watching.
- Tomoyo and Syaoran catch up to her. Kero-chan says she's getting so strong she might surpass Clow one day! But Yue kills the mood by saying she has a long way to go to even be Clow's equal.
- That night Sakura can't sleep, and she asks Kero what kind of person Clow actually was. And Kero says that Yue has a higher opinion of Clow than he does for REASONS.
 - Kero also cared about Clow but that was the past, he has Sakura now.
 - Sakura knows she's struggling with magic though, and questions if she's really worthy.
 - Kero says they're different people, no comparison, and puts her to bed.
- But Kero watches the snow and says this reminds him of when Clow died. It was snowy and he just told them out of the blue his lifespan had ended. He was so selfish that Kero half expects he's still alive and just messing this them.
 - That freaks out Sakura (who has been listening). Maybe that's what's going on?
- The next day she tells Syaoran and Tomoyo she wants to use the Return card to go back to the past and see what really happened with Clow, and get to

understand him better. Behind a snowman, Eriol listens to this with his enigmatic smile.

- Sakura uses the card at the tree at the shrine and, in one of my fave outfits ever, pinky-promises with Syaoran that she'll come back to the right time safe and sound.
- She asks the tree to take her back to a time before Clow passed away.
- And she opens her eyes in a warm sunny garden. In the distance she sees Kero in his full form, and Yue flies down to him.
 - Kero sees a bare tree that hasn't bloomed yet. Yue says it'll bloom soon and Kero asks when is "soon."
 - As she's eavesdropping, Clow himself comes up from behind her and seems to know she's there, saying "they're waiting."
 - And he walks out and uses the flower card to make that bare tree bloom beautifully with cherry blossoms. Kero thinks that was a bit flashy but Yue seems to think it was wonderful.
- Later she wakes up, but she's still in the past--she napped with this Kero-chan! In fact, they're all napping under the tree and only she and Clow are awake.
 - He knows she's from the future and asks her what she wanted to know from him.
 - She says strange things are happening and she feels his presence each time. He says if she thinks he's going to he is, and if not..he isn't. Wtf?
 - She notices they all get along so well, and she's sad they're not together. But he asks if she likes them (Yue and Kero) and yes she does!
 - He gets up and says summer will end soon—and now it is in fact the end of summer, even fall. He says he's the same as a falling leaf at the changing of the seasons and he knows how lonely it is.
 - She chases after him but he's disappearing into a forest of red leaves—that becomes the inside of his home, the one Eriol now lives in.
 - Clow is sitting in what is now Eriol's chair to tell Yue and Kero he's dying that day. We've seen this scene but now we see more.
 - The guardians are upset, they think he's joking—or at least someone as powerful as him should be able to stop this!
 - He says the fact he's so powerful is why he can prepare for the person they'll cherish after him someday.
 - And Yue's reaction to this is why he'll be the judge, but Kero will pick the candidate. He wants them to be with someone they can be happy with.
 - Its natural for people to pass the torch on to someone new, and he explains this to Sakura, assuring her she's worthy and doing a good job with them.
 - But she won't let him go yet because she doesn't feel like she can replace him! She loves the guardians but she's not him!
 - And he says, yeah, that's the point. She needs to live her life to the fullest, with the future always in front of her.

- Now the winter is almost over, and we see snowdrops opening. A song plays with sprightly lyrics as spring flowers open all around them and Sakura watches, understanding blooming inside of her, too.
- She smiles, finally—but Clow is gone.
- His last words... “It’s okay that I’m me and you are you. You have a future only you can create...” she remembers these when she returns to her own time and her relieved friends.
- She says she wasn’t able to ask him what the fuck was going on, but she did see him at Eriol’s house with Kero and Yue and Kero realizes he didn’t know where Clow died after all. His memory of that was erased!
- And Eriol stands atop the Torii saying “It was Clow Reed’s doing” and finally says that yeah, they know him as Eriol but he was once called Clow Reed.
- GASP

Episode 69

- Our antagonists finally reveal themselves!
 - Eriol uses his sunburst staff to transform Suppi and Nakuru into their true forms—the ones Sakura saw in her dream!
- Kero yells at him—why did he trouble her so much! But Eriol bangs his staff down and says “Let’s begin”--and causes an eclipse!
 - Tomoyo collapses—and we see Touya collapse, too, on the way to the shrine with Yukito. Yue has to catch Touya...and he knows this is Clow’s doing.
- Everyone in the town falls asleep and we see many beloved characters slumped at their desks and on their couches, etc.
- Eriol meant to put Sakura’s crew to sleep too but she and Syaoran are too strong.
 - He says if they don’t fix this before daybreak it’ll be dark forever! She needs to use her magic to dispel his darkness. And time is ticking!
 - But Sakura doesn’t think she can attack Eriol! So he attacks her—and Kero transforms to protect her.
 - Of course Suppi is having none of that, and Kero faces off against him with some beams and fire. It’s a whole effects battle and Kero doesn’t come out on top—he falls from the sky in a crumpled mess!
- Yue shows up and helps out with his magic—while holding onto Touya’s body!
 - He confronts Eriol, knowing now that he’d been transformed against his will when he caught him the other day.
 - But he can’t fully get into it with Eriol, because Ruby Moon wants to fight him. They’re doing well against Yue and taunt him—even after taking Touya’s power he can’t win.
 - ~Must be the difference between their masters~
 - Oo burn!
 - The guardians are ready for another showdown but Sakura screams at everyone to stop.

- She tells Syaoran to protect Tomoyo and her brother and he accepts. Then she confronts Eriol herself. Why would he do this?
- He says she has to do fight him, she won't just let everyone sleep in darkness forever, will she? She uses Shield to protect herself from a beam and jump to try and get closer to him.
- The guardians fight each other while she tries and fails to attack him. Syaoran uses his wind spell to cushion her fall, too. But now he's used too much power to stay awake. Again, Eriol tells her to break his spell if she ever wants Syaoran to wake up.
- Sakura tries to send the same set of cards after him as she used against Yue, but that won't work. He even burns up the wings on her boots from Jump!
 - This REALLY pisses off Kero and Yue who redouble their efforts against their opponents and make some headway this time--their opponents say it must be their belief in their master.
- This time Sakura is protected by the cards themselves, which swirl around her. But there are still 8 left that need to be transformed! Maybe she has a card left that can defeat Eriol's magic.
 - She throws up the last eight and transforms them all at once! A risky move! But she pulls it off—only not all of them managed to change. The Dark and the Light are still untransformed. Why???
- Well, they are the cards most attuned to Kero and Yue. Sakura thinks about how dark is night when things go to sleep. Maybe she can erase the darkness with light? She calls on the Light card specifically but she just can't get it to respond!
- Kero and Yue come up to her. Kero hands her the card again with his teeth.
 - They explain that Light and Dark are always together. So maybe the guardians can help.
 - She needs to use her staff to transform the cards...but if she absorbs Kero and Yue into her staff first, their magic can help her.
 - If she can dispel the darkness it'll be all okay, they'll return to their former selves. But if not... She cries at the thought and they embrace her.
 - But Yue says its not just them, its everyone that will be a victim if they don't pull this off.
 - Kero reminds her of her invincible spell. She says "I'll definitely be all right" and follows through, absorbing them both into her staff as they disincorporate into yellow and blue light.
 - And she throws The Light and Dark cards back up into the air and tries again to transform them. She almost loses faith in herself and loses the cards entirely, until Syaoran comes up to grab the staff with her and offer his power, too. And he says he believes in her, he knows she can do it.
 - Together, with one more repetition of her invincible spell, they manage it and the cards transform! Light shoots up onto the sky and dispels the darkness. We see splatters of light pour down over familiar locations (like the Penguin slide) and the background is overtaken by brightness.
- When they finish, the sky returns to normal and so do all her friends. Yue and Kero look just fine!

- Tomoyo wakes up with no clue what happened, but Touya is still asleep.
- Yue says not to worry—and then Sakura’s attention is taken as Eriol and his goons land before them.
- He says it's over, he won't pose any threat to her now.
- The cards circle around Sakura, all mastered by her now, and collect back into their deck in her hands.
- She hugs them tightly and Eriol smiles at the sight.
- **Everyone** else watches for a moment, then Kero speaks for all of us and demands an explanation from Eriol—only he's gone!
- Sakura helps Syaoran, who is exhausted now, and he finally spits it out—he likes her! The episode ends on her staring at him in disbelief.
- **WOAH THAT WAS A WHOLE LOT FOR ONE EPISODE**
 - **But** remember how much of the manga there was left after basically this part? And only one anime episode to wrap it up!

Episode 70

- **IT'S THE LAST EPISODE OMG**
- The episode opens on normal school chatter that is lost on Sakura as she sits at her desk, thinking about what Syaoran sprung on her. She's in a daze!
 - Tomoyo waves a hand in front of her face but it takes her a while to respond.
 - Syaoran has also arrived in the classroom and he says good morning to her but she barely responds to him either.
- **Mr.** Terada informs them that, unfortunately, Eriol's going back to England tomorrow (big surprise) and Syaoran and Sakura agree they need to talk to him.
- So they do.
 - His big wrought iron gate opens for them by itself and they make their way up the path to his big empty mansion.
 - It's like no one was ever here, but the lights come on by themselves and Sakura senses Clow's presence.
 - Kero is starting to remember everything, the spell on him is breaking.
- **Sakura** wonders what Eriol meant by 'its all over.' A door opens by itself beaoning them in and Sakura wants Tomoyo to stay away, but she insists on filming this!
 - We even get her camera's perspective as she walks into the room—only to have party poppers go off and a tea table spread with a feast served by Nakuru!
 - **It's** a tea party! So Alice in Wonderland~
 - Eriol says they've been waiting for them, and Kero's so mad this is **JUST** like Clow!
- **The** kids sit down and he (FINALLY) explains.
 - His mischief is over.

- The cards needed to be reborn under a new master's power if they were to survive, and Sakura needed a good reason to gain enough power to be able to change them herself.
- This is the "trouble" Clow said he'd cause Sakura after Yue's judgment.
- And she needed to believe it was real trouble or she wouldn't try hard enough.
- Sakura admits that's probably true.
- Meanwhile, Kero and Suppi are still not getting along...it allows for comedic beats between all the more-serious stuff.
- And Eriol admits he didn't actually have everything planned out. Some unexpected things happened!
 - What were they? He says he'll keep that a secret, glancing in Syaoran's direction.
 - ...While Kero shoves cookies into Suppi's mouth and wrestles him
- Eriol says they have a special guest, someone they all know well—and he opens a door for Mizuki-sensei to step through!
 - She explains a bit more about how in cahoots she and Eriol were (though not as, uh, intimately as the manga would go on to elucidate.)
- Kero and Suppi decide to binge treats for this party, while everyone catches up a bit, but Eriol checks in on Yue who is not in a party mood.
 - He's got some legitimate complaints: if Clow wasn't really dead, why did he abandon them to a new master?
 - Well...Eriol explains that he's not actually Clow Reed. They needed someone new, since he's not the same person.
 - This does not seem to comfort Yue. He would have waited for him! He does love their new master, but...he loved Clow, we know, though he won't say it.
 - Eriol says he does have Clow's memories so they can talk freely. And he says he's glad he did this and met everyone.
 - He admits one of the unexpected things was that he expected Yukito to love Sakura, but he fell for Touya instead. And Sakura wasn't expected to fall for Syaoran, either.
 - Back in the other room, we see Sakura chatting amiably with everyone...but when she looks at Syaoran, she blushes and looks uncomfortable.
- Later that night, Syaoran gets a call from his mom, who he treats with extreme respect. I'm sure this is nothing to worry about...
- At school the next day, Sakura is still in a daze.
 - Everything is blue, the background is sketchy, she's not her normal cheerful self, she's not engaged with the world—even Tomoyo is faded from her perspective.
 - She walks home alone and runs into Syaoran, who wants to talk to her.
 - They stop on a bridge (the one from the first OP) and he tells her he had a call from his mom last night...he explained how everything was over, and the strange occurrences wouldn't be happening again.

- He also says he's glad he got to meet Sakura. When he came to Japan he was only thinking of himself and getting more powerful. But Sakura was considerate of others and had so much he didn't have.
- Sakura contradicts him--when he first came, he was serious and a hard worker...he had things *she* didn't have. She trails off, still collecting her thoughts...
- But before she can continue, Syaoran, turned away from her, thanks her. He just wanted to tell her all that.
- And he runs away from his feelings like the child he was in the first season.
- Left alone, Sakura wonders how she really feels about him.
- **At home**, Touya says Mizuki told him everything earlier, and man, Clow Reed's a dick, huh.
 - And Yukito's like, yeah, but I owe him everything. It's a sweet moment...but Sakura comes home despondent. She lies down on her bed and even Kero notices she's still weird.
- She's thinking about Syaoran and his feelings...and hers. She knows she likes him as not just a friend, and the feeling isn't the same as what she felt for Yukito.
- Meanwhile, Meiling yells at Syaoran over the phone about how unresolved his situation is, and he hangs up on her, sad but calm. He's all packed and ready to go—but the bear still sits there, ungifted,
- Sakura comes down the stairs in the morning still subdued. Her dad notices, but the phone rings, and it's Tomoyo with some important (and dire!) news.
 - Terada-sensei said at choir that Syaoran wasn't going to come to school any more!
 - Hearing this, Sakura's tears fall as she thinks about not seeing Syaoran any more. A magic circle opens below her, and a card appears in her hands, pink and Sakura-ified—she smiles when she sees it and holds it tight.
- **At the airport**, Syaoran thinks how Sakura might be mad at him for not telling her he was leaving...but Sakura is already running through the airport to say goodbye!
 - She calls to him and they both face each other—but don't know what to say.
 - It's almost time to board. Sakura has to say something. She asks for the bear he has.
 - And he smiles, blushing, and hands it over so, so gently.
 - **The** opening theme plays as they smile at each other, and the ending this final time is clips of them getting closer throughout the whole series...then a final scene where she's alone in the airport knowing they'll meet again—and the card has a heart with wings on it, but no name.
- Then there's a NOTE FROM SAKURA! And a cute moment where Kero and the other characters thank the audience for being there with them, as filmed by Tomoyo.

Discussion

- WE DID IT! Now we need a tea party!
- We did! Of course, we still have more to go on our CCS anime journey...but more on that later.
- This was a good chunk of episodes, and a satisfying end to the series, so...let's discuss!
- I know people have a lot of mixed (and legitimate) feelings about Meiling, but I really appreciate that they came back to her character for an episode this season. They could have just dropped her completely, but they took the time to have some closure for her.
 - Like, this is a good example of how an anime-only character can be incorporated into the plot. They kept her out of the big plot beats so they didn't have to rewrite that (and potentially change another character's role), but they still remember her and allow her character to show how the other characters are growing and changing.
 - Yeah I love her now. And I love how she rounds out the girl squad!
 - Yeah, she manages to be a good foil for Sakura, Tomoyo, and even Syoaran! Both in how she fights, and how she communicates with others.
- We talked about this next point when we discussed the manga, but really I was struck again by how they chose to tell us who Eriol was early-on, and leave the other characters in the dark, so we had that dramatic irony for most of the season.
 - I mean, we don't know *everything*, but we know from the go that he's this season's big plot stuff, and we pretty quickly figure out he's Clow's reincarnation or something.
 - It lets stuff just hit differently, you know. Like the Christmas episode...we can tell he's guiding her to appreciate the cards, and to look inside herself, and I don't know if that would have come through if we thought he was just another classmate.
 - But, maybe some of that is the perspective we bring...because as we've said before, we can't un-know what we know.
 - I agree that it's an interesting decision. I just read Dune for the first time (what a treat I gave myself!) and it has a similar strong storytelling decision where there's a character you know dies—and you know who kills them!--way ahead of time so you have chapters of dramatic irony. And it works!
 - It does soften some of the conflict (in the manga moreso, in the anime he bedevils them for a lot longer and the music stings and such make him feel more sinister maybe?) but that might be good for this story, too.
- So this keeps pretty close to the original manga, especially compared to how Rayearth ended...but there are some changes between the versions that stood out to us!
 - The Eriol/Mizuki-sensei relationship is not mentioned, which...I get lol
 - Yeah, I know I'd straight-up cut Mizuki-sensei from both if I were a magical time-traveling editor. Not so much because of iffy relationships but because I think she's boring and everything she does would have been interesting for another character to do! And I don't think she pays off well?

- Oh no, I like her! But yeah, she does take away some of the kid agency...imagine if Syaoran had been the one to give Sakura the bell? Or even Kero? She works best as a red-herring, so she doesn't really have much to give on a second read/watch.
 - Of course, Sakura's dad is not the other half of Clow's reincarnation...which is a little sad, but lol, I get it. It was kind of convoluted.
 - This does mean she's not, like, kind of Clow's daughter, which does sort of give more meaning to her own star's magic, or whatever. It's not hereditary; she's just powerful in her own right.
 - Yeah! And she's less related to Syaoran (though they weren't ever that closely related anyway.)
 - I feel like this works perfectly well to be honest; I missed it at first but as I sat with it I was like "...she didn't need to be related to Clow."
 - Yeah, I am fine with it only being in the manga...it's kind of a fun piece to the Clow Reed puzzle, because he's so mysterious and I get the feeling they kind of love him...but it didn't really need to be there for the overall story.
 - And speaking of the end, although Sakura says she knows they'll meet again, we don't get that jump at the very end to show Syaoran coming back with his new visa or whatever.
 - I WONDER IF THIS COULD HAVE AN AFFECT ON FUTURE EVENTS
 - And of course, there is a new card...mysterious! What could it mean???
 - We'll wrap up even more of our feelings in the next episode, but for now...wow it's been a long time focusing on just this anime, and while it's been a great watch—truly no matter how beloved this show is, it isn't enough, it's so beautiful and heartfelt and fun—I'm ready to focus on reading again instead!

Outro (edit for flavor)

Alright, I said our journey isn't over, and In our next episode we'll be discussing the two Cardcaptor Sakura movies! So look forward to that! (and don't worry, we will still discuss the dubs)

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!