

# Cardcaptor Sakura

## Volume Number 2

Lucy Robin

### Intro

Just when Sakura is getting the hang of things, a new challenger appears!

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

### Check-In

- Lucy can't say "glow", but we persevere.
- Yeah partway through recording last time my brain woke up and was like "...Isn't it Clough?? Not Cloww?" but it was too late. We'll course-correct!
- Also: thanks for the kindness about Office Max. Meet Ziggy and Stardust (Dusty) who are keeping Lurky (and myself) company!

### Background

- [Nothing, we'll skip ahead because everything I'd put here should be in the discussion instead!]
- This volume introduces so many new characters and concepts, let's get to them, Lucy!

### Summary

- Ok!
- It's Field Day at Tomoeda Elementary School, and Sakura is thrilled!
  - Touya and Yuki show up to support her. Her dad's not there yet, since he's still at work (he's an archeology professor), but he'll be joining them as soon as he can.
  - Yuki promises to take lots of pictures of Sakura at her events, and she whispers to Touya to take lots of pictures of Yuki.
    - I love that, even though she finds her brother annoying, she's actually comfortable asking him to do this. Like she's not trying to hide from him that she likes his friend. She trusts him T\_T
    - Yeah he's being a really good sport about it, too.
  - Tomoyo doesn't seem to be participating in events (based on her swimming ability from last volume, I gather she's not athletic), but she is MCing!
    - ...which mostly seems to amount to her going on and on about how CUTE Sakura is.
    - Tomoyo's mother is also not there yet, but will be here after her meeting. Sakura hasn't met her yet, but knows that she's the CEO of a large toy

company. She's never heard anything about Tomoyo's dad, who isn't really in the picture.

- After Sakura's event, she and Tomoyo join Touya and Yuki for a picnic lunch. As they eat the lunch box Touya and Yuki prepared, they watch gorgeous petals fall around them.
  - We discussed Yuki's eating habits in the previous volume, but now we see them in action: he eats *a lot*. The girls are both surprised, but when he apologizes for being the only one eating, Sakura tells him eating is a good thing.
- Before they can talk more about it, Sakura's father (Fujitaka) runs up, apologizing for being late. But Sakura isn't mad. She's touched that he came running for her.
- And, he brought puddings! They are so good that Sakura is happy to learn that there are still some at home--so Kero can try some later!
- Fujitaka and the boys go off to throw out trash, and while they're gone, Tomoyo's mom shows up!
- She looks like the epitome of a business woman, and she's flanked by her all-female team of bodyguards.
- Sakura thinks she's beautiful, but she seems a bit surprised by Sakura at first. She quickly shakes it off, and introduces herself: Sonomi Daidouji. She agrees with her daughter that Sakura is cute, but says Sakura reminds her of someone...
- Right on cue, Fujitaka returns, Sonomi screams, and well...things are about to get interesting.
  - Fujitaka didn't realize she was the same Sonomi, since she's not using her maiden name anymore, but these two definitely know each other.
    - Ok, so, some of this we get from the two of them talking, and some we get from Touya a few pages later, but here's the deal.
    - Apparently Sonomi and Sakura's mother, Nadeshiko, were cousins. Very close cousins, in fact. They grew up together, and Sonomi was very protective of Nadeshiko...and, shall we say "nonplussed," when her 16 year old cousin married her teacher.
      - Which...yeah, I get.
    - She's angry at him for stealing her cousin away, and even angrier that he quote "let her die at 27." Which seems like a pretty horrible thing to say to someone, but Fujitaka takes it in stride, since he knows she's going through it.
    - Apparently they were also both from a wealthy family, and marrying young caused Nadeshiko a lot of hardships with her family. It's implied she was financially cut off, since she worked part time as a model after she graduated.
    - Touya is quick to tell us that none of this led to her early death...but it's still a sore spot for Sonomi.

- Despite being slightly touched that Fujitaka is still clearly grieving his wife's death, Sonomi announces that she will never forgive him, and makes him promise to compete against her in the Field Day parent event happening soon.
- The, uh, flower petals are still falling, for the record. This will be important later!
- The parent event turns out to be a race, which apparently both Sonomi and Fujitaka are prepped for. Sonomi did track in high school, and apparently, Fujitaka is the most athletic of the Kinomoto household.
  - Which is saying something, since Sakura is supposedly the fastest kid in her class and Touya clearly bikes to school and stuff!
- The two parents take off, and are soon neck in neck.
- But...the flower petals are still coming down. At first it was beautiful, and just felt like a classic Shoujo manga motif, but...it's starting to get kind of ridiculous, as a blizzard of petals makes it difficult to see, and flurries of petals start to overtake the track.
- Fujitaka and Sonomi just keep on going though.
  - Sonomi even starts to kind of swim through the petals.
- Yep, you guessed it, this is the work of a Clow Card!
- Tomoyo points out that no one will see if Sakura uses magic right now, since the petals are falling too thickly, so they take off using FLY, and are quickly able to get above the school--and the petals.
  - They make a quick call to Kero, who tells them not to worry. If it's the card he thinks it is, she just likes to have fun.
  - They find a source of the petals on one of the roofs, and it's a cute girl with big curly hair. Sakura is able to quickly turn the girl back into a card. It turns out it's The Flower card (big surprise there).
  - Now that the danger has passed, Kero tells them more about the card. The Flower is attracted to big special events, and probably just wanted to join the celebration. Her power is to create flowers...and that's pretty much it.
- The danger is over, aside from now having to clean up gobs of petals, but Tomoyo is upset. She forgot to get Sakura on video!
- Everyone pitches in to help clean up the petals, but Sakura notices that her dad and Sonomi have disappeared. She goes to check on them, and sees them arguing again.
  - Sonomi is mad because she lost the race, but Fujitaka explains that he went all-out against her because he knew she would stand for nothing less. He wanted to be respectful to her, because he knows how much she cared about his wife.
  - Sonomi is still mad, remembering how Fujitaka and Nadeshiko lived in a small apartment, walking hand in hand to school.
  - Seeing them fighting, Tomoyo has an idea. At her suggestion, Sakura uses The Flower to make two sprigs float down to them: the flowers of Nadeshiko's namesake.
  - This breaks the tension, as they both remember the woman they loved.

- Sonomi voices that love, and Fujitaka says that Nadeshiko loved her, too. But Sonomi says that Nadeshiko didn't love her back in the same way.
    - Remembering how happy Nadeshiko was with Fujitaka, Sonomi breaks down, distraught at having lost her so early.
    - But, she's still mad that her beloved Nadeshiko spent so much of her last years with Fujitaka.
  - Walking back to the track field, Tomoyo and Sakura discuss their mothers. Apparently Sonomi has told Tomoyo a lot of stories about Nadeshiko, and even Tomoyo's long hairstyle is inspired by her.
    - Sakura acknowledges that her dad has gone through a lot, and, without judgment or bitterness, hopes that he'll tell her about that sometime.
      - It's a very sweet growing up moment, I think.
    - But, when it comes to the love Sonomi felt for Nadeshiko, Tomoyo seems to understand that a bit better than Sakura.
      - She tells Sakura she loves her a lot, herself, and Sakura says she loves Tomoyo a lot, too!
        - But, in a bit of an aside, Tomoyo says that she thinks they're talking about different kinds of love.
          - When Sakura asks what she said, Tomoyo says she'll tell her when she's older.
      - As they join the boys in cleanup, Tomoyo again blushes at seeing Touya, but this time we get more of her interiority.
        - She's blushing because she notices how Touya has the same ears as Sakura...so it's pretty clear what really makes her blush is Sakura.
    - Before this chapter ends, we get an ominous shot of a kid watching our group from one of the rooftops. They are holding a strange board that has a mix of Western and Eastern mystical symbols on it, and they say "I sense the Clow Cards."
      - GASP! A new challenger appears?
  - The next chapter begins with Sakura looking troubled, but it turns out she's just trying to figure out what to get Yuki for his birthday.
    - Tomoyo suggests talking to their friend Rika, who supposedly likes an older guy...maybe she'd have ideas?
    - Rika is happy to help, and suggests they go shopping, since she needs to get a christmas present for someone anyway.
      - Yuki's birthday is on December 25th...just, for the record.
    - Their conversation ends quickly as their teacher, Mr. Terada, comes in and calls the class to attention.
      - He and Rika share a look, and he looks away, flustered.
    - But there's no time to dwell on this because Mr Terada is introducing a new transfer student!
      - He's transferred from Hong Kong, his name is Shaoran Li, and...he's staring very intensely at Sakura.

- The staring continues as he's directed to the empty seat behind her, and she can feel his eyes on the back of her neck after he sits down.
  - When class ends, Shaoran puts his hand on Sakura's shoulder, and they go outside to talk.
    - He starts chanting, and pulls out that board we saw the ominous figure holding at the end of the previous chapter (which, yep, was Shaoran).
    - A line of lights points from the board to Sakura, and this seems to confirm his suspicions, because he tells her he knows she has the Clow Cards.
    - He calls the board a "Rashinban," (or 'compass') and tells her it was designed to find the Clow Cards.
    - And he demands she hand them over to him!
    - Sakura refuses, and tells him that she promised Kero that she'd find the cards herself!
    - After some jabs at Kero's name and current diminutive size, Shaoran asks how long she's been looking, and is very dismissive when he learns it's been 9 months.
      - I'm also kind of surprised to hear it's been nine months, but I guess it's good that she's able to mostly lead a normal life. It's important to have a good work/life balance.
      - Yeah she's gotta go to 4th grade, too! 4th grade is tough enough!
    - Shaoran refuses to tell Sakura why he knows about the Clow Cards, and he grabs her shoulder, looking like he's willing to take the cards from her by force...
    - Fortunately, a VERY ticked-off Touya intervenes, lifting Shaoran by the scruff of his uniform like he was a misbehaving kitten.
    - Sakura is ok, but Shaoran really is ready to fight. He attacks Touya with a skilled kick (which Touya blocks), and both of them assume fighting poses to square off...until Yuki shows up.
    - Oblivious to the situation--or at least acting like it--Yuki offers Shaoran a pork bun. Shaoran turns bright red, and runs off into the distance without another word.
  - After that very strange string of events, Sakura and Tomoyo continue with their plans to go shopping with Rika.
    - She takes them to a very cute boutique, and Sakura finds a pretty rice bowl that seems like the perfect thing for Yuki (he does like to eat, after all).
      - It has a rabbit and moon motif, hearkening to his name!
    - Rika also finds a brooch she likes. It looks like an ornate fencing sword, only in miniature, and she decides to buy it.
      - I'd 100% buy it too, it rules
      - Yeah, it gave me BIG Utena vibes, of course
  - When Sakura gets home, Touya asks if that kid gave her any more trouble. But she was fine, and Tomoyo was with her the whole time.

- Now that she's home, Sakura finally has a chance to talk to Kero about Shaoran.
- But he's asleep when she goes into her room, floating in the air. In his sleep, he says the name "Yue," and then seems to be arguing with someone, saying "no, you can't! The cards!"
- He's so upset he rams his head into a wall, waking himself up.
- Once she knows he's ok, Sakura immediately asks him about the new boy.
  - I would have asked about this mysterious Yue, but fine...
- Kero says that this kid must be from the Li family. Apparently Clow Reed, his former master and the magician who created the Clow Cards, had an English mother and a Chinese father, which is why Clow's magic is a mix of Eastern and Western styles.
  - In fact, the magic circle that appeared around Sakura when she made her pact with the cards used both English and Chinese characters, and this fits with the board Shaoran was using.
    - I'll point out that it doesn't exactly have, like, clear Hermetic symbols or anything, it's pretty made-up for this world with maaaybe some kanji/hanji that are readable?
    - So not as directly pulling from real-world stuff as X, for example.
- He explains that many people can learn to use magic, performing spells like following a recipe, but very few can create new forms of magic, the way Clow Reed did.
- Sakura says he was an impressive guy, but Kero says he had his share of issues.
- He further explains that the Li family was Clow's mother's side, and they were a big deal in China, with his mother being a powerful magic user herself.
- So Shaoran Li must be Clow's distant descendant.
- Sakura freaks out, worried that she should have given him the cards after all, if he's related to Clow.
- But Kero says that the cards are hers. She wouldn't have been able to open the book if she didn't have the magical powers to use them, and besides, her name is already on them. She's their real owner at this point.
- Sakura still wonders why Shaoran would be here. She remembers Kero telling her that releasing the seal on the cards can cause disaster to befall the world, and asks him what he meant by that.
  - She's worried it could be something really scary, like the earth splitting in half or something.
    - And we get a panel that is SO reminiscent of X, with the earth-shattering imagery

- X would be in volume 8 or 9 by this point, by the way! So that's up to the point where Kamui chooses a side and Fuuma gets full-time pushed into the other side!
    - Anyway, Kero-chan he says it's not something like that. It all depends on the person. It could be nothing...or it could be something more painful than the earth splitting in half.
    - Great. Just great.
    - Sakura maybe doesn't hear this last part, though, because she runs to answer her door.
- It's Rika!
  - But...she's acting weird. Her eyes are distant, and when Sakura addresses her, she attacks her with a sword!
  - Kero flies down to see what's going on, as Sakura barely avoids getting impaled by the sword as Rika chases her outside. There are magic effects swirling around, too, so yeah, something is definitely up.
    - Also her sword looks just like the brooch she bought...hmmm...
  - Kero confirms that it is the SWORD card. Apparently Rika's consciousness has been overtaken by the sword, but Sakura better watch out, because SWORD can be as powerful as the one controlling it desires.
  - OH MY GOD LUCY SHE USES THE FLOWER CARD
  - She uses it to blast petals into Rika's face and confuse her!
  - Giving her a chance to use the JUMP card to avoid Rika!
  - But after that, she doesn't know what to do. Rika's clearly dangerous like this, but Sakura can't bear to attack her.
  - She also can't just run off and leave Rika there.
  - Rika rounds on Sakura, bringing the sword down for what will almost surely be a bad end...but the sword is stopped right before it hits Sakura!
  - Shaoran is there, with a sword of his own!
  - He's also wearing very chinese-inspired robes that nonetheless look very magical, and probably have to do with his family.
    - His outfit is so adorable and drawn SO beautifully—but the best part is his little hat. Like...this 4th-grader stops to put on his special hat before he goes out to swordfight a child. Amazing.
  - He tells Sakura she's weak, and then goes to face off against Rika, but of course Sakura doesn't want him to attack her friend. She grabs his arm to stop him, and uses JUMP to propel them both out of danger into a tree.
  - She's saved Rika from Shaoran's over-zealous swordplay for now, but she has to come up with a way to get that sword out of Rika's hands!
  - And luckily, she has an idea!
  - She jumps down, and uses ILLUSION to distract Rika with a vision of the person she likes.
    - We can't really see who it is...but we can see that whoever he is, he's definitely adult-sized.

- Sakura knocks the sword out of her hands while Rika is distracted, and seals it back into its card.
  - Rika's unconscious, but thankfully seems unharmed.
  - Shaoran says that Sakura is too weak to keep the cards, but Kero comes to her defense.
  - Seeing his small, cute form, Shaoran is not impressed. When he calls Kero a stuffed animal, Kero bites his finger, and hangs on until they hear someone coming.
  - Kero flies off just in time to avoid being seen by Yuki, who's come to visit Toya.
  - Yuki doesn't comment on the unconscious Rika.
  - He does notice that Shaoran's finger is hurt, however, and asks if he's ok.
  - Once again, Shaoran turns bright red, and completely runs away.
- The next day in school, Rika apologizes for the night before, although she has no memory of why she was at Sakura's house.
  - Sakura doesn't have a way to explain, but she did bring Rika a gift. Sakura feels bad, since Rika no longer has the brooch she bought (on account of it being a Clow Card and all). She doesn't have a reason for the present, but when Rika sees that she's flustered, she doesn't press her for a reason, and just opens the present.
    - Sakura has given her one of her own favorite broaches. How sweet!
  - Sakura admires how mature Rika is, sensing her discomfort and deftly changing the subject. She wonders if this maturing could be the influence of an older boyfriend...
  - Speaking of which...Mr. Terada comes into the classroom, and Sakura runs off, leaving him and Rika alone.
    - He gives Rika a gift. It's an engagement ring, and he tells her not to lose it until it becomes a wedding ring.
    - So that's a lot, and we'll unpack that in the discussion section, don't worry!
- Elsewhere, Touya is very annoyed when Yuki tells him that Shaoran was hanging around his house last night, but Yuki says that he left right away.
  - He also comments on how protective Touya is of Sakura.
  - Speaking of whom, she's late. She had Touya arrange a meeting with Yuki, since she apparently has something for him.
  - Touya's dusting some leaves off Yuki's jacket, when an ofuda hits him in the arm and bursts into flame! Sure enough, it came from Shaoran, who's standing on top of a fence, glaring daggers at him.
  - Touya's climbing a tree to go after him, but fortunately Sakura shows up. She runs up to Yuki and gives him her present, telling him happy birthday.
  - Shaoran is surprised to hear it's Yuki's birthday, and runs over as well.
  - Very stiffly, he presents Yuki with a present. He's also bright red, and as soon as Yuki accepts the gift (which was chocolate), he runs off.

- I'm sensing a pattern here...
    - Apparently Tomoyo has been filming all this, and she's on to Shaoran's game. She tells Sakura he *likes* Yuki. Now he's her rival for love, as well as for the Clow Cards!
- The last chapter opens with Sakura mid-battle, fighting a card that is definitely an electric-type pokemon. She manages to capture it, and sure enough, it's the THUNDER card.
  - We pull back to see that this is a video playback of a recent escapade that she, Tomoyo, and Kero are watching. Once again, Tomoyo managed to capture one of her battles on film.
  - Of course Kero loves watching himself, and Tomoyo is impressed with how skilled (and cute) Sakura is, but Sakura says that they still need to catch way more cards.
  - Apparently, Shaoran has been getting to her. Kero is still dismissive of him (not a fan of being called a stuffed animal by some punk kid), and tells Sakura not to worry, because her powers have already grown.
  - They turn in for the night. Apparently Tomoyo is spending the night since they're going shopping for Valentine's Day tomorrow.
    - I just can't get over how cute their sleep-over is. They look so snuggly in the big plush bed, I wanna go to bed now x...x
    - Yeah, for real. We're recording this kind of late at night--well, late for me anyway--and I would love to crawl into a big plush bed right now.
  - As they fall asleep, Kero looks over the Book of the Clow, and says to himself that Sakura just might have what it takes to handle the disaster...
  - The next day the two girls go to a chocolate shop. It is apparently the most popular shop ever, because they not only run into Touya, who apparently works there, but they also run into their friends Rika and Chiharu.
    - Rika's wearing the brooch Sakura gave her...apparently she wears it all the time!
    - Sakura still wonders who Rika's mystery boyfriend is, but doesn't want to push her to talk until she's ready.
    - As they're walking around the store, Sakura notices something odd...the shadows are not behaving normally. In fact, shadows rise up behind a pair of young women, looming over them and jostling the bookcase next to them.
    - Sakura warns them to get out of the way, and Touya is able to keep the girls from being crushed--but the contents of the bookcase are not so lucky.
    - Sakura's wondering what could be up, when lo and behold...Shaoran appears!
      - See, this really is the most popular chocolate shop.
      - Of course, he knows right away that it's a Clow Card.
  - At dinner that night, Touya and Sakura tell their dad about what happened at the store, and Touya says he felt like something eerie was in the air.

- Fujitaka says that Touya has always had a sense for those things...much like his mother.
  - He's always oblivious to stuff like that, naturally.
  - He asks Sakura if she can sense things, and she just says that it's all way too creepy for her.
- Later, probably that night, Sakura, Tomoyo, and Kero go to deal with the Clow Card.
  - Since it's Valentine's day, Tomoyo has created a heart-themed costume.
  - You know, we really are not doing these costumes justice. Sakura is almost always wearing an amazing costume designed by Tomoyo, but it doesn't factor into the, like, *plot* much, so we don't always mention it.
  - Which is why you should definitely read the books! Support the official release!
  - Also Tomoyo made a little heart collar for Kero and he just digs the hell out of it because he's a fancy lad.
  - Like...imagine being this powerful (he says) magical beast who's supposed to guard the cards and like...now you get to eat sweets and play video games and hang out with a nice kid and her best friend makes you dapper accessories. Living large, Kero-chan!
- Kero coaches Sakura to use her powers to sense the Clow Card, and she is able to find it. Again, shadows raise up towards her.
- She uses Fly to avoid the shadow's attack, and Kero explains that it's the Shadow card.
  - Which, ok, I know these seem really obvious sometimes, but remember that they're speaking Japanese, but the card names are in English...so it's not all that strange that she always needs to be told the name of the card.
  - Anyway, moving on!
- Sakura is having a hard time with this one. It's very hard to land an attack on Shadow without passing through it. Even when Shaoran shows up and postures, he's not able to land an attack, either.
  - But, he does jump in front of Sakura when it's about to attack her, and uses some of his magic to cast a spell that shoots lightning around.
  - Kero's impressed that he caught on that Shadow disappears in light. Shadow is very fast and can control other shadows. Light can vanquish it, but they need a *lot* of light, otherwise they will just be creating more shadows.
- Fortunately, Sakura has an idea. She uses the Thunder card to light up all the streetlights around the area, surrounding them (and the Shadow) in light.
- As the Shadow shrinks down to a cloaked figure, Sakura uses the Sword card to pin it in place. Since the Sword card is as powerful as it's owner desires, it's able to touch the Shadow, and Sakura is able to seal the card.

- She thanks Shaoran for giving her the idea with his thunder spell, and he looks kind of surprised at her kindness...but still says she doesn't have what it takes, and runs off.
- Sakura douses the lamp posts with Watery, and they run off before anyone can come and pin this whole disaster on her.
- At school the next day, all the girls are giving the boys chocolate.
  - In Japan, that's the tradition, and then there's a day in March called White Day when the boys reciprocate with gifts.
  - Her friend Chiharu is giving chocolates to what seems to be her long-time boyfriend (his name is Yamazaki, and he's great, but I don't think it's actually come up at all yet).
    - Oh man, in a comic full of best boys, he's one of the bestest boys.
  - He tells them he just saw Shaoran, and he's off to a field to give someone something.
  - Yamazaki-kun told him that Valentine's Day is a time when you give chocolates to the one you like, so he assumes that's what Shaoran is doing.
    - He didn't mention that it's usually something girls do.
    - Did he mean to cause trouble or was it just Shaoran being too hasty to hear the whole story? We'll have to find out!
  - Tomoyo theorizes that he's giving chocolate to Yuki, and urges Sakura to beat him to it
- Sure enough, Shaoran has called Yuki out to meet him. Touya has tagged along, even though Yuki insists he'll be fine alone, because he doesn't know what Shaoran is capable of.
- As he's grumbling about how Shaoran won't leave Sakura alone, Yuki asks him why he's allowed to talk to Sakura, when Touya doesn't let anyone else near.
  - Which seems a little silly to me, since Touya did literally catch Shaoran trying to *beat up his sister*, so I don't know if this is a typical case...
- Anyway, Touya puts his hand on Yuki's face, and everything gets very soft and shojo-y as he says "Because..."
  - But the stampeding force of Sakura and Shaoran trying to beat each other to Yuki ruins the moment. Sorry guys.
  - They both present their chocolate to Yuki, and he accepts them, as both kids blush.
- Tomoyo's watching from the sidelines, filming (of course), with chocolates for Sakura.
- But she's not the only one watching...outside the school, a long-haired figure all bundled up in a big jacket, scarf, and sunglasses, says ominously "Here it is."

### Discussion

- Age gaps and new characters and love triangles, oh my!
  - Who's this new person? We'll have to wait for the next volume!

- But we have PLENTY of new faces to deal with here!
- Yay for Shaoran Li! WHat a cutie, what a pain in the ass! He changes the whole dynamic, doesn't he?
- We're really starting to get a sense of urgency here, though nothing so definite that we feel too stressed when the kids focus on Valentine's Day instead of cards.
- Does the DH version call Sakura a cheerleader?
  - Yes! She's doing baton-twirling and stuff.
- So...about Li's name...
  - Ok...I remember always calling Shaoran Li by his surname, Li, when I was into Carcaptor Sakura and general CLAMP as a teen.
    - But...at some point the fandom shifted to calling him Shaoran, and this really threw me off at first. I never really realized *why* until now.
    - See, the Tokyopop translated decided to flip his names. And I don't mean they just anglosized them so that his given name came before his surname (like we've been doing...sorry, it's ingrained). I mean they actually decided his given name was Li and his surname was Shaoran.
    - They are explicitly clear about this in this volume. When Sakura asks Kero who this kid could be, he says, and I quote "he must be from the Shaoran family," and continues to refer to Clow's mother's family as "Shaoran."
    - The Darkhorse version does *not* do this. His surname is definitely Li, from the Li family.
    - I can imagine a couple reasons they may have done this, chiefly that Li is much easier for a US audience to remember and pronounce, and by making it his first name, they avoided having to explain why everyone was calling him by his "last" name, which is not as common of a thing the US.
    - But like...it definitely threw me off *for years*.
      - And I know the fandom flipped on this as though it had never happened by the time Tsubasa took over as the primary CLAMP fandom pipeline.
      - But still...
  - The characters for his name translate to Little Wolf, and the Li part is Plum, so he's a blossom like Sakura and Touya in his own way!
  - Also it does kind of make sense for Shaoran's family to have left mainland CHina for Hong Kong, if they're magic users. We don't know Clow's timeline at this point but like, they'd probably want to avoid the Cultural Revolution if they were rich and into magic stuff. Not to get into politics here but like, I buy this, is all I'm saying.
- Good golly, this was gayer from go than I remembered!
  - Yeah! We are here for it!!
  - I love how clear they made it that Tomoyo has romantic (for a 9-year-old) feelings for Sakura and doesn't seem to have any confusion or self-hate about it. She

also gets that it isn't mutual and thus far hasn't made a big deal about it. She's her number 1 fan and is proud of it!

- In fact, there's a moment during field day when there are boys talking about how fast and cute Sakura is and Tomoyo just joins in and almost overpowers them with the intensity of her Sakura-appreciation and its adorable.
- But with her mother's unresolved issues about her OWN romantic feelings towards her cousin...we'll see how Tomoyo handles this going forward!
- By the way, in interviews Mokona jokes about how she actually didn't know what Ohkawa had planned for Tomoyo, so she drew her sighing over Touya because that's how she interpreted the script—and that's why they had to throw in the 'ears' thing to clarify!
- Ha! I was wondering about that. When she was blushy about him in the first volume I was like, "hmm, this seems off..."
- Being a gay disaster makes Shaoran SO MUCH MORE LIKABLE.
- The fact that he's her rival in magic and love is a dimension that like...
- I dunno, as someone who grew up a queer kid in a group of other queer kids, it actually rings SO TRUE FOR ME.
  - It also softens him by giving him a weakness, and connects them since it's the same weakness Sakura has!
  - And I say weakness, because he def has other flaws.
  - Like, he comes on really strong, and is very combative.
    - But that...works. He's a kid! He's confused and focused on the cards for some reason and we'll have to find out more about his motivation, whether he's really a good guy or a bad guy, but it does read pretty well as a fish out of water who would like to use his skills to be the BIG fish in this little pond, instead of just another small fry.
    - But also...just...yes, Shaoran, Yukito is that great and I get it, you just can't deal with this.
    - Yes, I really like this dimension of his character. I was not much of a Shaoran fan when I first read this, but his liking Yuki definitely improved him in my mind. And it really does help him be more than just a generic-rival-character.
- So Yuki and Touya REALLY act like a couple. Just the way they interact, the way Yuki recognizes Nadeshiko's maiden name, and the way he gently asks about Sonomi without pushing. It's just very cute. That is all.
  - Yeah, I mean, Touya has that one moment that's very romantic, but even before then, you're right—they're such a pair and have a lot of comfort with each other and emotional intimacy.
  - Touya comes across as more mature and experienced, but Yukito has his own weird kind of wisdom, too?

- He's interesting in this volume because his own priorities are a bit goofy, and really helps orient this as FOR KIDS:
  - For example, when they're running the race in a flower monsoon, he tells (not helps) the girls who were holding the finish line (a ribbon) to get to higher ground—and he and Touya heroically hold the finish line for them (since they're taller and can hold it over the flower wave.)
    - Like...saving the kids might be more important but to the kids, the concern is the race and that's what Yukito focuses on, too!
    - And don't forget that he was worried about SHaoran's Kero-bite, but ignored the unconscious Rika-chan! Ridiculous, but also on-point for like, what was important to the other kids in that moment.
    - When he first meets Shaoran, he assumes he's just hangry because that's what makes sense to him, and offers him a pork bao, which is also very at-child-level I think? He isn't taking him TOO seriously, but also not ignoring him.
    - And then how sweet he is about the birthday presents and Valentine's chocolate...he's incredibly patient but also very much in that child world of the moment really matters. He's so respectful of their feelings without trespassing on them.
      - Be a Yukito not a Mr. Terada okay?
- Yeah, speaking of him, so far we have two teacher/student relationships in this series. We already knew from volume one that Sakura's parents had this dynamic, but we learned more about them in this volume. And yeah, it is a little sus to marry your student *while they are still your student*, so I see where Sonomi is coming from...
  - Yeah I wouldn't write this. Or Rika and Mr Terada. And I am not going to defend it BUT I do feel like the way it's all done in this is, again, from a kid's point of view, not an adult's.
  - So far, that doesn't look like typical narratives that are excusing evil behavior from an adult—we don't see Mr. Terada DOING anything, just...he gave Rika an engagement ring and we are given the impression he's waiting for her to grow up.
    - WHICH I DO NOT LIKE
    - But that's way more the little girl with a crush on her teacher's fantasy
    - NOT the adult's fantasy.
    - And so many kids have crushes on family members or teachers because who else do they meet? These are (USUALLY OH GOD) safe people to experience feelings for because they are off-limits but do interact with you, so like...you can go through all the stages of dealing with crushes and yearning and accepting their lack of reciprocity safely.
      - So we'll see how it goes, but to me it feels like its so from the kid' POV, where Ohkawa is respecting kids' feelings by letting them have their wishes, but in a safe way, that I'm not as skeeved as I would normally be.

- With Sakura's parents, you really just run into the 'well, they made it work I guess' and shrug, because some people do!
- The interconnectedness of Sonomi, Nadeshiko, and Fujitaka is interesting and makes you want to see more of their youth.
  - Even if it bothers me just as much as the 16-25 pairing that is Subaru and Seishirou.
    - Though I maintain that with Seishiro, the age difference ended up being really the least of their problems...
  - I wouldn't, but this is handled with some delicacy.
    - Where like...if people were guaranteed to be as pure and kind as Fujitaka and Mr. Terada seem to be, it would be fine.
    - This is coming from a culture where arranged marriages still exist, and while it's usually just rich/aristocratic families that still bother with that stuff, it isn't totally out of cultural memory to be betrothed to someone for political/business/family alliance reasons with that much of an age gap anyway.
      - As long as no one is actively being abused, it's just...showing us a romanticized, unrealistic fantasy.
  - Interesting to have these to compare Sakura and Shaoran's crushes on Yukito to, though! He's so hands-off about it in a really refreshing way!
  - We'll talk more about the relationships in CCS and what CLAMP said about them as we get a little further, because I can't get into that without spoilers, but they were conscious of what they were doing and it seems to all come out of a genuinely good place that has more to do with taking kids' feelings seriously from their point of view than like, teaching kids to date their teachers.
    - Just...the power dynamics are SO BAD.
- ANYWAY, that doesn't even take up that much real estate in this comic. There's so much cute action and nicely thought-out card-catching! I loved seeing Sakura actually use Flower!
  - Wasn't that adorable? She does really use the cards, and is very creative about how she does—I feel like I'd use them even more, but maybe that's part of what makes her so great? She's not just obsessively using magic to solve every possible problem? Focusing on using magic to solve magic problems?
- SO! Sakura has 9 cards as of this volume—Windy, Watery, Wood, Jump, Fly, Illusion, Flower, Thunder, and Shadow. What's next for our heroine? What does Shaoran really want? Can these kids handle whatever calamity will befall the earth, or will they just avert it by collecting all the cards in time?

Outro (edit for flavor)

In our next episode, we'll be discussing Cardcaptor Sakura volume 3. I believe this is the last volume in the first omnibus, so if you're reading the Dark Horse version, it's almost time to get the next book.

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, where we'll probably be discussing other magical girls for...awhile. Or by making purchases through our Bookshop.org store. Of course, if you can leave a review or rating on your app of choice, or share this podcast with your friends, that helps us get to new listeners!

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

Until next time, remember that everything will be alright—

—and try not to lose an eye!