

CCS Volume 4

Episode 66

Lucy

Robin

Intro

If the kids can barely navigate the maze, how can they navigate their own feelings?

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

Check-In

- Shout-out to Ian, who we interviewed in the last episode. His book, CLAMPdown, reached full backing on Kickstarter! He's still got some stretch goals, though, so it's not too late to support this project (link in the show notes).
- Our lives continue to be nuts!
 - Emergency vet visits, house closings, homework, friends having surgery, it's a mess.
 - Also the world is scary and awful right now
 - So let's...go boost our spirits with some Cardcaptor Sakura so we can build up our resilience for whatever hell comes next.

Background

- This volume originally came out in Dec of 1997, so these chapters ran earlier that year.
- What a crazy good year for manga and anime! And for CLAMP, Clover came out in 1997 (excited to get to that after our wonderful time with CCS) and the CLAMP School Detectives we watched also came out!
 - Of course, modern classics like Neon Genesis Evangelion and Revolutionary Girl Utena also hit around this time, changing the landscape of the industry and fandom forever.
 - We're leaving the time of Sailor Moon being ground-breaking and getting into even darker and more seriously philosophical shows working their way into what anime fandom expected.
 - NOT that this has THAT much to do with Cardcaptor Sakura...yet!

Summary

- Our last episode, Chapter 3, ended when Sakura, Tomoyo, and Shaoran went to Tsukimine Shrine—and found themselves in a strange world with a giant maze stretching before them!

- Before they do anything rash, Shaoran stops Sakura to ask her if she can sense it, too
 - She can—this is the doing of a Clow Card!
 - And he already knows which one—the Maze card
 - (which I mean, would be a good guess, right?)
 - And he also knows the trick to this card—to capture it, you have to make your way to the exit.
 - My question is: is it a maze or a labyrinth? The difference being a maze has like, branching paths and different ways you can go, but a labyrinth is just one path that's all crazy twisty/turvy.
- But back to our Cardcaptor Comrades, they're trying to figure out how they're going to find this exit.
 - Tomoyo suggests just following one wall, but Sakura thinks that might not work for all mazes.
 - Sakura herself suggests using Shaoran's rashinban (that is, compass)
 - But he admits its a compass...for finding Clow Cards specifically, and since they're...in a Clow Card, it's not going to work.
 - Sakura has another great idea—just use the Fly Card!
 - But when she tries jumping on her broom-like transformed staff to fly up over the walls and scout for an exit, the walls simply GROW as tall as she can fly!
 - Wonderful visual, REALLY hits me in the Alice in WOnderland zone— using pretty much the full height of the page to make sure the growth has an impact.
- While they're stuck in the maze, Fujitaka has come home a bit early, and since he's his dad, he knows Touya is worrying even though he has a pretty stoic face.
 - And Touya admits its about Kaho being back, and says she's Sakura's math teacher.
 - And we get a little flashback to how they met—he's in a school uniform (I think a 2nd year uniform? Its somewhere between Jojo and X in terms of styling) and she's in a skirt suit, and they're both looking at a strange bright spot near the park.
 - She says it's okay, it's not a bad one, but he knew that. She also says they'll meet again and he can tell her his name then.
 - And they do meet again—when Kaho is his student teacher for math class.
 - After class, he asks if she knew she'd see him again because of the uniform, which would make sense, but she says no, it was just a feeling. When she says they'll become good friends, he asks if that's also a 'feeling' but she says actually there's some of her wishes in there, too.
 - Then the flashback—flashes forward? To a matsuri/festival like the one our heroes attended in a previous chapter.
 - They're having a lovely date together—
 - When she springs it on him that though they've been together for a year (since she stopped student teaching, she says—at least she wasn't...his teacher at the time? Even though he was a baby? And I guess he made the first move??? CLAMP!!!) their relationship needs to end because she's about to leave to study abroad.
 - He asks why she didn't tell him sooner, since she clearly knew (like, she had to apply to a program and stuff!)
 - And she says she just didn't want to ruin the time they had together.

- Back in the present, it seems like Touya has just been remembering this and is wearing his emotions on his face.
 - When his dad asks what's wrong he replies "Just thinking how unfair it is that everything Kaho said came true."
 - He's drawn in a very simplified, cartoony mode here that makes it clear this is as much a comedic beat as it is a sad moment.
 - Then Touya sees the time! According to their little bulletin board family chore chart/ schedule, Sakura should be home by now!
- And our kids are also aware that it's well into dinnertime, they've been in this maze for ages!
 - Sakura knows her family will be worried about her, a keen motivator for catching this card post-haste!
 - Tomoyo says her mom is working late, but the staff would have dinner prepared for her by now.
 - When they ask Shaoran about his own family, he says he's actually living alone!
 - At home in Hong Kong he lives with his mom and FOUR SISTERS!
 - That's a matriarchal family for you, as Tomoyo says
 - IS IT, TOMOYO? IS THAT WHAT THAT MEANS?
 - Anyway he confirms that he does in fact do all the chores including cooking himself, and Sakura is very impressed—but asks if he ever gets lonely?
 - He blushes, and says 'not really' but before they can press him on that, her dinnerless stomach grumbles.
- So uh, her dad called the school, and she's not there. He'll stay behind while Touya goes off to look for her on his motorcycle (which we haven't seen in a while!)
 - I think the motorcycle was a combo of hand-drawn and photo technique, looks like there's hand drawing over a very manipulated b&w photo?
- Sakura and the others take a little break from the endless walking, when they hear footsteps and see the shadow of a figure rounding the next corner!
 - THAT IS PRETTY SPOOKY BUT
 - It's Kaho! She's holding aloft this crescent-shaped metal object with some long ribbon streamers attached.
 - She explains that she sensed there was something going on at the shrine—her family's shrine, she tells them, she's the Chief Priest's only child—she came down to check it out but alas ended up in the thick of it just like them.
 - She asks if they heard her bell—that's the object she is holding; it has the kanji for 'moon' etched on it, by the way.
 - And Sakura thinks maybe she did hear a chime, right when everything went nuts (at the end of the last chapter)
 - Then she politely, like a kindergarten teacher herding the cats that are small children, leans down and asks if they're lost and would like to leave now
 - And Shaoran is so mad—of course they would! They've been working hard to find the exit this whole time!
 - She is very patient and smiley about his outburst—and don't they know how to solve a maze from watching quiz shows?
 - They say that they tried holding out a hand to follow a wall and it didn't work.

- That is because it has to be the right hand, she says—before using her right hand (and her bell) to just PUNCH THROUGH THE WALL OF THE MAZE
 - I should be clear: she just casually knocks and it CRUMBLES.
 - And she forges ahead, crumbling walls as she goes
 - She is so awesome! (aside from the whole...dating a middle-schooler thing)
 - This is having some effect on the whole Clow Card situation, because Touya screeches to a halt outside the shrine at the sight of some eerie light.
 - We get a very funny panel where a big arrow clarifies that Kaho is bashing straight through the walls.
 - But Shaoran at least is taking this very seriously—he says she must be pretty powerful if she can affect a Clow Card like this!
 - As they find what appears to be an exit, a mystical effect warps the edges of this place, and Shaoran says they have to return it to card form before it forms a new maze
 - Which is no more cheating than bashing through the walls!
 - Kaho has a slightly blank expression as they talk about Clow Card Business, oops!
 - You don't need to worry about me! She says and just turns around to give them privacy for their magical girl business.
 - In many ways this lady is not a role model, but that's a thoughtful act.
 - I love how they've drawn this horrible maze rushing towards them like some kind of big flying enemy or a tarp being thrown at them—but Sakura is ready to take it on!
 - She says her card-return spell, swings her stick at the swirling magic effect—and ends up with a lovely new Clow Card featuring a maze!
 - Kaho asks if she's all done before turning back around, and Tomoyo comments that Sakura did say her incantation more quietly than usual.
 - Kaho and Sakura catch up a little bit in the aftermath—Kaho shows her the bell, and asks if she minds having such a weird teacher. Of course Sakura doesn't mind—she's weird herself and besides, Kaho makes her feel so floaty.
 - BUt they are interrupted by Touya rushing in to the rescue.
 - Sakura immediately launches into a de-Clow Card-ed version of the experience, but Touya isn't really in a state to notice how it doesn't add up—because of course we know about his history with Kaho now.
 - After sending Tomoyo home with her bodyguards, Shaoran warns Sakura that Kaho is more powerful than she has revealed so far, and she should be careful around her.
 - He doesn't elaborate, leaving Sakura to ponder this while Touya and Kaho talk a little bit on their own.
 - Kaho asks him if what she predicted when they broke up came true.
 - Which, we find out, was that the next time they met they'd both have someone new to love.
 - Since he clams up, she assumes she's right.

- So hopefully her other prediction is coming true, as well—that they'll become very close friends when they meet again.
 - He says that the fact everything she says comes true is why he didn't want to see her again.
 - He did say this with a comically grumpy face, and she thinks it's very funny, giving him a pat on the head for being a good boy.
 - It's a cute exchange, and definitely helps set the tone for the reader—he may have a grumpy, stern face but people who know him can handle him well.
 - And speaking of her predictions, Yukito shows up to help—much to Sakura's blushing delight!
 - And Kaho gives Yukito one look and then gives Touya a knowing look, saying he hasn't changed a bit.
- The chapter ends with Sakura contemplating what Shaoran said about watching out for Kaho.
- In our next chapter, Sakura's class at Tomoeda Elementary is taking a field trip to the beach!
 - Her friends all admire her strong swimming skills but they call her over to play some beach volleyball
 - Does Yamazaki have a crazy story about the origin of beach volleyball?
 - Of course he does!
 - Its about it being played in Hawaii with coconuts, which are heavy so people would always get injured.
 - Before they get started, they notice how long Shaoran has been just like, swimming laps out there. They ask him to play, but since Kaho has decided to join (despite being like, 5 feet taller than the kids) he just swims out to sea instead, reminding Sakura of his warning.
 - Despite that, Sakura just feels so nice and floaty when she's around her beautiful and mysterious substitute teacher.
 - They never do get to play volleyball, because the free time ends before they get started. Aw!
 - They do notice that CHiharu, the pig tailed friend, is great at managing Yamazaki, since they've been together since Kindergarten. And we're reminded of Rika and Terada-Sensei's TOTALLY OKAY RELATIONSHIP THAT DOESN'T MAKE US FEEL WEIRD AT ALL.
- By the way, poor Kero-chan had to stay home, and he's not pleased. But while he's flailing around frustrated by his predicament, he knocks over a bunch of books!
 - Which Touya and Yukito hear, but disregard.
 - Yukito thanks Touya for telling him about Kaho.
 - Touya looks like he's about to tell Yukito something more, something important, but he chickens out and lets Yukito play the serious moment off as a joke.
- In the other room, Kero-chan digs himself out of the pile of school books, only to have a moment to regard the (now slightly less empty) book of the Clow.
 - He says 'Yue' wistfully, or maybe worriedly.
- Back at the beach, the teachers (mostly Kaho) are overseeing the kids working on dinner—rice and curry, a very classic camping meal in Japan.
 - We see them using an aluminum mess tin to make rice outside, even!
 - And find that Sakura and Shaoran can even get competitive over how good they are at peeling potatoes.

- Sakura takes a moment to ask how Kaho knows her big brother, and is satisfied for now with just that she'd been a student teacher at the time—she almost says something more, but just leaves Sakura to figure it out.
 - That's becoming a theme in this volume huh?
- Later, the kids discuss how good their curry was thanks to Rika-chan, who will make a great wife someday because good curry is the number one prerequisite for that, as well all know.
- When they turn out the lights, however, they mention that the next day they'll be having a test of courage in the cave in the cliffside.
 - A 'test of courage' is a pretty self-explanatory translation of 'kimodameshi' and you'll see it come up in Japanese pop culture (and like, actual student life since it's a thing kids really do for fun/to prove themselves. Often something like what you'll see happen next, or just going to a known 'ghost spot' [like, a place people believe is haunted] and seeing how long they can endure staying, how deep they can explore, or achieving a goal to prove they've been to some creepy or dangerous spot.
 - Clearly it's Naoko's time to shine now! My fave of the girls, she's a goth after my own heart.
 - She has a spooky legend about that cave, where other students had a test of courage long ago.
 - Apparently there's a lake deep in that cave, and on the other side of the water there's a shrine. The test of courage for these kids was to go in pairs across a rickety bridge and leave a candle at the shrine.
 - Simple enough...but none of them ever returned.
 - Even their teachers couldn't find them!
 - Naoko has a last tidbit about what was really in that cave, but before she can tell them, they see a light beaming at their window from outside!
 - It's just Terada, checking on all the little cabins to make sure the kids are asleep.
 - And in fact they do settle down to get some sleep...
 - But of course poor Sakura can't deal with creepy things and she's WIDE AWAKE.
 - In fact she's so freaked out she decides to go bug the teachers, even if she's worried they'll think she's silly.
 - She making a MAD DASH for their cabin when a quiet 'hey' and tap on her back makes her SCREAM.
 - It's just Shaoran, and as scared as she was, she freaked him out too!
 - He's not out because he's scared, though—he sensed a Clow Card
 - The two trace this feeling to the freaky cave from Naoko's incomplete story, of course!
 - Sakura is just glad it's not a ghost, a word she can't even get out of her mouth.
 - For his part, Shaoran had thought maybe it was scheming from Kaho.

- Sakura says all she feels when she's around her is floaty~
- And Shaoran says she feels different from other people, right? That's probably because people with powers are drawn to each other.
 - A big plot principle of Jojo's Bizarre Adventure by the way.
- When Sakura asks for a little clarification for 'people with powers' he grudgingly indicates she's one of them since she can use Clow Cards (even if she isn't very good at it, he negs her.)
 - But Sakura says she feels good when she's around Kaho, she doesn't feel scared.
 - Shaoran makes a short but impassioned speech about how bad things don't always feel scary, you can't believe it's so easy to always know what's good and bad.
 - But Sakura compares the floatiness she feels around Kaho to how she feels around Yukito...
 - And of course Shaoran, also blushing now, admits he feels that way around Yukito, too.
 - They share a moment. And while Shaoran doesn't elaborate when Sakura asks him if he really likes Yukito, he does eventually hazard to ask her a little bit about how long she's known him.
 - This is very cute very blushy, very halting, as these two kids try to communicate about a very dear topic.
 - Sakura says she's liked Yukito since he first transferred to Touya's school in the 3rd quarter.
 - He came over to hang out with Touya and it was love at first sight.
 - Shaoran first saw Yukito carrying those pork buns on his own first day of school at Tomoeda—and in a very cute panel where both kids are blushing madly and barely able to look at each other, we get the line 'it was love at first sight, too' as Sakura understands that yeah, even though they're much younger than him, they really do like the same boy.
 - That's about as much bonding as Shaoran can take, and he decides to march back to his cabin for bed.
 - Sakura sticks close behind him for safety's sake.
 - And before we leave this scene we see two things the kids did not:

- That Kaho was perched in the tree watching them (not....as sinister as that might sound)
 - And that the cave in the cliff...wavered like a mirage (exactly as sinister as that sounds.)
- The next morning, Sakura and the girls are washing up at a big trough of outdoor water faucets, and when Tomoyo hears how spooked she was last night, she says she could have just woken her up!
 - But Sakura tells her a little about her nice beachside conversation with Shaoran...
 - Then she sees—or thinks she sees—that wavering effect on the cave in the cliff—the one from Naoko’s story.
 - Tomoyo seems a bit gleeful when she points out they’re going to have their test of courage there, and Sakura does fall into her arms in terror—but its not as much of a boyfriend-at-a-horror-movie move at it sounds.
 - OR IS IT? (It’s very cute either way.)
 - As much as Sakura dreads this, Naoko is delighted.
- That night, when a teacher describes their test of courage to them, it's basically what Naoko had said: cross a bridge over a lake in pairs, place a candle at the shrine, and return.
 - Tomoyo is smiley and calm as Sakura grabs her hand to pair up, desperate for her protection.
 - As Sakura panics in line, Tomoyo reminds her that the only thing trying to scare them in there will likely be teachers, who are organizing this whole thing, remember.
 - And the first ‘ghost’ she and Tomoyo see is indeed Mr Terada wearing a sheet.
 - He pokes a little gentle fun at how reactive Sakura was, but then he’s just...gone.
 - Perhaps off to scare more students, Tomoyo suggests?
 - They press on.
- Shaoran and Yamazaki have been paired up, and are bringing up the rear.
 - Shaoran glares at Kaho as she hands them their candle and encourages them sweetly.
 - But as soon as they’re inside, Shaoran knows something is up.
- Sakura and Tomoyo are starting to figure that out as well...Tomoyo notices that they haven’t really been scared by any more teachers after Mr Terada...and they haven’t passed anyone coming back, either.
 - As they start down the bridge, they hear Chiharu scream! They’re gone, she says.
 - On the little island with the shrine of the other side, a couple of the girls are huddled on their knees.
 - As soon as Sakura and Tomoyo make it over to ask who’s gone, the answer is EVERYONE
 - And to punctuate that terrifying response, Naoko just—disappears!

- Then Rika and Chiharu are gone before Sakura could even think of doing anything.
- She grabs Tomoyo's hand and they agree they need to get out and find some ADULTS—
- But they don't make it all the way across the bridge before Tomoyo disappears, too.
- Leaving Sakura all alone in the spooky haunted cave, without her best friend to help her. It's her worst nightmare, something she desperately hoped wouldn't happen.
 - The candle Tomoyo was carrying did not disappear, however. It falls out of the air and sets the wooden bridge alight!
- Shaoran sees the firelight and runs straight ahead—right into and understandably sobbing Sakura.
- He already knows what's up, because Yamazaki just disappeared, too.
 - And Shaoran is kind of a rock for her in this moment, staying pretty calm, not insulting her for being upset, when she asks if its a ghost, he insists she calm down—because then she'll know what's going on.
 - He puts his hands reassuringly on her shoulders, and she takes a little strength from him, calms herself, closes her eyes...
 - And that's when she can finally cut through all the ghost fears to sense that of course this is a Clow Card!
 - And unbeknownst to them, outside, Kaho smiles as she watches the entrance to the cave have that wavey mirage effect.
 - Shaoran's face-turn continues, as he hands Sakura his handkerchief.
 - She tells him he's nice, but he replied he's just 'soft on crybabies'
 - Then we get to see him use the rashinban/compass board! It sends out a beam they can follow to the card.
 - But it isn't bright enough to really SEE by, and while Sakura has a leftover candle, she doesn't have anything to light it—not even a Clow card related to fire.
 - Luckily Shaoran has a little spell tag that emits fire!
 - And while he huffily tells her that if she had a DECENT number of cards she could do that, too, she just takes the opportunity to tell him she's impressed with all the things he can do—magic, yes, but also cooking and cleaning!
 - This embarrasses him enough that he wants to just skip ahead to the card-finding.
 - A little while later, she asks him why he's trying to collect the cards himself.
 - And he says to stop the disaster that will befall the world.
 - And while that's not news, he does have some for us—his family has a bunch of Clow Reed's old writings, and he described that 'disaster' as an 'evil' that he hoped wouldn't ever happen.

- And Shaoran says that since it was pretty hard to freak out Clow, he took that seriously, and that's why he knew that he had to come to Japan to try and stop it.
- Sakura recalls however that Kero-chan told her not everyone might see this 'disaster' as evil though!
 - Shaoran points out that means some of everyone would see it as evil, right?
 - They're both left kind of flustered by this conversation, which, fair, they don't have much to go on!
- So there's a problem. The bridge has burned the heck down.
- Sakura wants to use the Fly card to get across, but Shaoran says they need something quieter, and immediately uses another tag to cast a spell that lets them take floating steps across the surface of the water.
- Shaoran starts to give her some advice about figuring out where a tricky card IS first, but they don't make it to the shrine before he starts to disappear himself, despite all his magic!
 - Before he goes away (and we see an effect here like the one on the mouth of the cave) he reminds her to stay calm and concentrate on tracing the card unless she wants everyone to disappear forever!
 - And she does indeed stop freaking out long enough to figure out that the little shrine was also vibin' with the same effect as Shaoran did before he rippled out of existence.
- So she runs up, whacks it with her staff, says the incantation—and the sprightliest harlequin design ever pops out, before she returns as commanded to a Clow Card—the Erase card.
- Everyone is returned, Shaoran first. He's relieved she figured it out, and she's willing to give him the card, but he refuses and runs away to avoid dealing with any more feelings.
- Outside, Kaho seems pleased, too, that she figured it out.
- So the next day, the other kids are disappointed that they just can't remember how the test of courage went.
 - Yamazaki is about to form a whole conspiracy theory about it probably, but Shaoran knows that Erase just...erased their memories of it.
 - Oh yeah, and Naoko finishes her story!
 - Which is that there was just a second exit in the cave, behind the shrine. No ghost after all. She'd just been hoping they could find it!
 - Finally, Sakura thanks Shaoran for all his help. He reminds her, cattily, that this doesn't mean he's accepted her as Cardcaptor, but she takes that in stride, saying she knows—she just wanted to thank him.
- The last story in this volume opens with Sakura in an ambiguous space, enchanted by glowing lights.
 - It's a dream, and she wakes up to a giant closeup panel of Kero-chan's face.
 - Actually when he hears she had a dream and can't really remember it any more, he tells her she should try to remember them—she's had precognitive dreams

before, like with the Fly card back in the first volume, and she might have one again.

- But he gets off her case when she says she's planning to make okonomiyaki that day, and will happily make modan-yaki for him (with soba noodles, a carb-tastic version of the dish.)
- As she rollerblades off to the store like a fucking LEGEND, she spies a flier for another festival—this one will be at Tsukimine shrine (maze-less this time) on October 3rd.
 - She realizes this would be a great chance to pick up that charm she never did get, and decides to invite Tomoyo.
 - With the love charm on her mind again, she visits Yukito on the way home.
 - He's doing some LIGHT ROOFING ALL BY HIMSELF WITH NO ADULT HELP
 - He invites her over for tea, making her whole day.
 - Over steaming cups, he explains that his grandparents are always going off on trips together (aw) and leaving him alone (awww.)
 - Just like when Shaoran said he lived alone, Sakura immediately worries that he might be lonely, and invites him over for dinner, which of course he is ALL OVER.
 - He even walks home with her, and they discuss FOOD because that is a perfectly good shared interest.
 - As she admits she ate alllll the jello in the fridge, they run into Touya, whose jello portions were among the casualties, and who is grumpy as usual.
 - But when they're all cooking together and she brings up going to the festival with Tomoyo, he immediately decides he's going, too.
 - And Yukito knows its to keep an eye on her, which makes him a very nice big brother, not that Touya would admit it.
 - Of course Yukito will go, too.
 - Touya is less enthused when he finds out it is at Tsukimine shrine, because Kaho is his ex and woof.
- This time they do not go in yukata, since its a cool October night and also this manga takes any excuse for a costume change (which is a lot of work but VERY fun to look at!)
 - Tomoyo even brought a camcorder since she's missed filming so many recent exploits!
 - The first thing she films is Yukito winning Sakura a prize in a balloon-fishing game.
 - Then Chiharu and Yamazaki show up!
 - Shaoran is here, too, winning a MOUNTAIN of prizes at the shooting gallery.
 - When he sees Yukito, he blushes and presents him with a box of snacks.
 - Yukito thanks him and we get a full panel of lilies and sparkles as Shaoran basks in the moment.
 - Yamazaki tries to interrupt with another wild lie, but Chiharu diverts him into trying to win a prize for her instead, showing off her Yamazaki-wrangling skills.
 - There's a whole joke about how she'll bake him cookies if he does, and he says he'll pray—not to hit the target but to survive her baking.

- Sakura and Tomoyo notice that the lights are attracted to her key—and she returns the lights to their proper form, a Clow Card whose human face is a girl with cute glowy puffs on her outfit.
- Apparently neither she nor Shaoran sensed the subtle, gentle card's presence at all—if not for her dream, she might have missed it!
- Tomoyo didn't miss anything--she got the whole thing on tape this time!
- Sakura realizes she had a lovely night because of that card, and thanks her—AW! What a sweetie!
- And before the chapter closes, Yukito delivers the very charm she'd wanted, telling her that he hopes her wish comes true—almost certainly unaware that her wish is about him!

Discussion

- **Lucy** I think Erase is my fave Card Girl design so far. So elegant! So lithe! So...eerie!
 - In someone else's hands, that power alone is Jojo main villain-level threatening.
 - Is there a card we've gotten that's more terrible than that one so far, do you think? Shadow was pretty ominous...
 - **Yeah**, this one was pretty intense!
 - **And Maze** didn't have a humanoid or creaturey form, either...which made it even spookier! I think Erase having a hot clown girl form helped me be less upset about it ha ha ha
 - But Sakura-chan having erase seems like a good plan, of all the people who might wield it badly...
- **What** do you think of our messy little love polygon?
 - Shaoran has been VERY CUTE—and it feels like maybe he's catching some feelings for Sakura as well? They certainly bonded.
 - **Yeah**, I love the dynamic that's developing between them. It's also a good example of how to write characters that have knowledge or skills your main character doesn't, without actually destroying all your main character's agency.
 - And Shaoran does get his chances to shine, but I loved how in this volume he really was treating Sakura like an equal—even if he was still teasing her--and really trying to support her. He may not be able to admit it yet, but he is definitely aware of her abilities, and he's trying to help her see them, as well.
 - **Shaoran's** been really fun in this volume, lots of running away from feelings and throwing himself into dumb shit because of other feelings.
 - He also REALLY helped Sakura without just taking over OR being a huge ass. Like, he seemed to understand that he needed to assist her, not just replace her—like you said, great example.
- **It** was great to hang out with the gang more, too. I love all the girls, and as I've said before, having SHAoran and Yamazaki there makes it feel so much more relatable to me. Chiharu, the pigtailed girl who's with Yamazaki, is very fun in this volume especially. I...feel a kinship with her.

- Hm, I think Kero-chan took a bit of a backseat in this volume. Which is a nice contrast to 3, where I think he did a lot and had a lot of screen time. There was more conversation between Sakura and Shaoran instead of Sakura and Kero, maybe?
 - Yeah, it's hard when they have these adventures that involve so many other people (most of whom don't and shouldn't know about Kero). It's a hard balance, but this volume did let the human characters develop a little more, and that was nice, even if I missed my main man Kero.
- What do you think about how independent the kids are in this? Both Yuki and Shaora live alone, and Sakura thinks they might be lonely—maybe because losing her mom means she knows a bit about loneliness, despite how seemingly idyllic her family life is?
 - This comic is so warm, so inviting, but it has its pangs, too.
 - Yeah, it really does allow for that independence factor that really helps in a story like this, and gives us one less set of parents to try and get out of the picture so the kids can do stuff.
 - I mean, Sakura's dad is great and very present in his kids' lives, but also works a lot; Tomoyo's mom is rich and busy; and Shaoran conveniently lives alone. So really, it's relatively easy for these kids to have crazy adventures after school. So convenient!
 - So our card count is now 15:
 - Windy
 - Watery
 - Wood
 - Jump
 - Fly
 - Illusion
 - Flower
 - Thunder
 - Sword
 - Shadow
 - Mirror
 - Shield
 - Maze
 - Erase
 - Glow
 - We're still missing Firey and...Earthy? And of course a whole bunch more that we don't even know yet.

Outro

In our next episode, we'll be discussing volume 5!

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

You can support us on Patreon, by making purchases through our Bookshop.org store, or just by writing a review or sharing this podcast with your friends.

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!