

CCS Volume 6

Episode 68

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Intro

We're almost out of cards, but what does that mean for the fate of the world? Will everything really be alright?

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

Check-In

- Everything is chaos but we're hanging in there!
- On a related note, we've decided to take May and June off from podcasting. We're gonna pause billing on our Patreon, and spend those two months finishing up a bunch of life stuff (moving, graduating, many conventions), and generally taking a chance to breathe a little.
- But, we'll be coming back strong in July as we continue our read of Cardcaptor Sakura! We thought breaking after volume 6 would make a lot of sense, which is why we also pushed our Anniversary episode to be later in the month (technically our anniversary is April 1st). The break between volume 6 and 7 is pretty clean--as we'll get into in a moment--so it seemed like a good opportunity.
- We're really excited to continue with CCS, but we also don't want to stress and rush through it...so this should help us give the rest of the series all the attention it deserves!

Background

- Not really anything new to add background-wise this volume, so lets just jump into it!

Summary

- Our last volume ended with Sakura, Syaoran, Kaho-sensei, and Yukito walking home after a pleasant afternoon at a cafe where Touya is working--when suddenly they were surrounded by fire!
- Well, this volume picks up right where that one left off.
 - Syaoran jumps in front of Sakura to protect her from the fire, and they both recognize this presence--it's a Clow Card!
 - And a strong one, at that
 - When another fireball comes flying at them, Yukito intercepts it with his coat.
 - Which was very nice of him, but unfortunately his presence (and Kaho's) means that Sakura can't use her magic, which is...less than ideal.

- Syaoran has a solution, however. With some words of apology, he punches Yukito in the gut, knocking him out.
 - Remember when that kept coming up in anime when we were kids? Maybe it still does. It–isn't a thing? Like, getting the wind knocked out of you doesn't make you go unconscious, there's actually no safe way to knock someone out like that by the way—but this may be a special Chinese Martial Arts thing, in-universe, so I will LET THIS GO
- As the fire keeps coming, Sakura uses the shield card to protect herself and the boys, but Kahou is on her own some distance away.
 - It's k, though, her bell is it's own kind of magic shit, and she's able to deflect the fire on her own.
 - Like a fucking boss!
- Sakura tries to use Windy to combat the fire, but it's not strong enough, and a very helpful Kero-chan shows up just in time for some needed exposition!
- Apparently, like Windy, this is one of the four elemental cards: Fiery. These cards are second in power only to the Light and Dark cards, so they are definitely not to be trifled with.
- Since Fiery is an attack card, Windy can't stand up against it, but Sakura has something that just might...Watery!
 - She summons watery, and we get multiple panels spread across multiple pages of incredibly drawn water and fire effects as the two card-beings battle.
- It's a good idea, but apparently the cards alone are evenly matched, so it'll come down to the power of the magica user...aka, Sakura.
- Ultimately, Fiery breaks through and Sakura is flung back. Kero jumps behind her, managing to cushion her blow into a wall, but ends up seriously injured in the process.
 - Before falling unconscious, he explains that Firey is one of the cards under him and his symbol, the sun. Maybe it's a good thing that he'll be down for the count.
 - But...he's also glad it's appeared now...because once she captures Fiery, there's just one card left.
 - Poor Kero!
- Sakura very tenderly hands Kero's limp, unconscious form to Kahou, entrusting her with his safety like handing a teacher a bird with a broken wing, and, inspired by Kero's sacrifice, faces Firey with new determination.
- She decides to use a combo attack: both Windy and Watery together.
- The two cards combine their powers into a kind of whirlpool in the air, surrounding and quenching Fiery!
 - Sakura is able to seize its moment of weakness, and seal the card away.
 - Phew!
- With the card in her hands, Kero is healed...and then begins to glow.
- A familiar magic circle appears below him, he is wrapped in wings, and emerges in his true form!

- He's...well, he's the winged lion creature that's on the front of the Clow Cards book, but it's still impressive, ok?
 - He still talks like little Kero, though, which is kind of delightful given how majestic he now looks.
 - He's also relieved to be in his true form...before they must face Yueh, that is.
 - Whose Yueh? There's no time to explain now, because suddenly the ground starts to shake!
 - They run to take shelter in Tsukimine shrine, while Kahou says with some delight that it's almost "her time."
 - As they're approaching the shrine, the ground splits beneath Sakura, and she almost falls in!
 - Fortunately, Syaoran manages to grab her hand before she falls, but now she's dangling by just one hand.
 - And his grip is slipping!
 - Just when it looks like Sakura has fallen to her death, ending the series prematurely...Kero catches her. Because, you know, he's a big flying lion now.
 - But more importantly...when Syaoran thought Sakura was going to die, he called her by her given name for the first time, instead of "Kinomoto"!
 - She's happy he did that, and asks if she can call him "Syaoran" too, instead of "Li."
 - But, as cute as all that is, there's no time to dwell on it...because as Kero explains, the last card is here to challenge them. Earthy.
 - The ground continues to shake, falling away, so that Sakura and Syaoran are stranded on separate pillars (chunks? sections?).
 - Of course, Sakura's first concern is for her friends, but fortunately (and curiously) the earth around Kahou and Yukito remains untouched.
 - Kero calls her to task, and, telling Syaoran to watch after the others, Sakura uses Fly and ascends on her staff to face the mound of rock summoned by Earthy.
 - As she flies away, Kahou says quietly that Sakura doesn't need to worry...everything will be alright.
 - An echo of Sakura's magic spell saying 'zettai daijoubu da yo' from last volume!
 - The earthquake isn't just affecting our heroes.
 - It can be felt at Tomoyo's house (though her mom says it isn't reaching her office) and so Tomoyo instantly guesses it's a Clow Card, and runs off to find her friends.
 - Not what we'd normally recommend you do in an Earthquake, btw, kids.
 - At his part time job, Touya also feels the earthquake...and seems to know that some shit is up.
 - In fact, as we see from a full page spread of Sakura on her fly-stick, overlooking the ground cracking the streets below her, the earthquake seems to be affecting the whole area!
 - If they don't do something, the whole city could be destroyed!

- **And yet**, when Sakura asks Kero if this is the foretold danger that could threaten the earth, he says nope...this is just the Earthy card.
 - So...yay?
- Sakura tries using Watery, and is able to chop down some of the big rock jutting up out of the ground—but it just grows right back.
- Her next logical choice is Firey, since it's an attack card, but Kero tries to stop her...and sure enough, it ends up adding to the danger, as there are now fiery boulders heading her way.
- Apparently both Firey *and* Earthy are cards under Kero, so they're stronger when he's around...especially now that he's in his full form.
- **Above** them, Earthy gathers into an impressive, dragon-like shape, and launches towards Sakura.
- Kero instructs her to use Firey on him, and he counters with a blast of fire breath. (like a kaiju, sakura says!)
 - It wasn't enough to defeat Earthy, but it does buy them a little time to take stock.
 - Sakura notices that the earth is full of cracks and fissures, but the trees of the city seem to be left unharmed...and this gives her an idea.
- She tells Kero (whom she's riding at this point) to get her close to Earthy. He warns her that if she uses the wrong card they could lose, but she's determined. After all, she's going to collect all the cards. This is something she has to do.
- As they round on the Earthy dragon, Sakura unleashes Wood.
- And in this incredible double-page spread, Wood's vines and branches EXPLODE out of the magic circle below them, wrapping and encircling the entire rocky length of the dragon-shape. Just like weeds growing up through cement, or a tree growing out of an abandoned building's rubble, the gentle Wood card that Kero was always telling Sakura not to bother using...well she was the right choice.
 - And Sakura is able to seal her last Clow Card!
 - Lucy did i...steal Earthy's drip for the Earth Queen in NORFTEF????
 - **Haha** possibly...see, there's more CLAMP influence in your work than you realize!
- **Kero** is impressed, and asks Sakura if she did this because she studied the five Chinese classical elements, in which the Earth element is controlled or constrained by the Wood element. But nope, she just observed what was happening (or not happening) to the trees, and made a guess.
 - Eastern magic is part of the Clow Cards, afterall, so the fact that Sakura was able to make this choice almost instinctively really impresses Kero. He definitely feels like he chose right when he picked Sakura to be the Cardcaptor.
 - **My** translation says 'advocate you'--just putting that out there~~
 - **I** think mine actually uses advocate a few times, too!
- **As they land**, the battle finally over, Syaorans runs up full of concern. He's very glad to see that Sakura is safe.

- He also gets a little blushy when he congratulates her for capturing, at last, all the cards.
- But, they're not the only ones to show up! Tomoyo has also managed to find them, though she's very disappointed to hear that she missed Sakura's last adventure!
- Sakura promises to still wear the costume Tomoyo brought, however, which does cheer her up.
- Also Tomoyo is adorably polite about not recognizing our dear Kero-chan in his full Keroberos form, for a nice comedic beat.
- Sometime later (it's night now, anyway), they gather in front of Tsukimine shrine again.
 - Sakura has changed into the outfit Tomoyo made her, a kind of 'graduation' outfit to celebrate catching all the cards!
 - However, the mood is kind of serious. Kero does not seem happy, and poor Yukito is still unconscious.
 - Which...maybe someone should take him to a doctor?
 - Also, Sakura still needs to sign that last card—Tomoyo wants to get a picture of that! But Kero interjects—
 - Once Sakura signs the card, all the collecting will be done. She'll retire from being a Cardcaptor. (ONLY HALFWAY THROUGH THE SERIES??)
 - Sakura sees no gravity in this moment, she just cheerfully says ok, and puts her name on the last card.
 - But as she does, Kero solemnly says "are you ready?" and Kahou says "it's time...to be judged."
 - (how in trouble would we get for playing "The Final Countdown" here? XD)
- The Earthy card begins to glow, and the other Clow Cards follow suit, floating around Sakura, swirling with wispy bits of magic.
 - But something is also happening to Yukito.
 - Still unconscious, he's floating in the air, surrounded by wind and little sparkles. A magic circle appears before him, and things are looking pretty familiar as wings surround him...and a new form reemerges. This person looks vaguely like Yukito, but his white hair is long, he has huge angel wings, and his eyes are deadly serious.
- Sakura doesn't recognize this person at all, but Kero does...this is Yue, the other guardian of the Clow Cards
 - At first, Sakura is confused--where did Yukito go? But Kahou explains...Yukito was Yue, the twin guardian to Cerberus
 - Now Kero is connecting the dots. He never actually met Yukito, and the only time they were really in the same spot was at the school play. He could feel the power of the moon very strongly there, but he attributed it to Kahou.
 - Yue, of course, means moon in Chinese.
 - Kero rounds on Kahou, asking if she knew about this, since she asked him about Yue at the school play.
 - She says she did know...she's involved in this a bit, as well.

- Kero asks if she's in cahoots with Yue--looking pretty threatening as he does so--but Kahou says she's actually never met him until now.
- All of this is happening a bit too quickly and vaguely for Sakura, who asks them to explain just what is going on.
 - And Yue does. Until now, he didn't have enough power to return to his true form, so he stayed dormant, in a human form.
 - In a sense, this is the first time he is meeting her...the little girl who Kereboros chose to be the new Master of the Clow Cards.
 - Of course, as he says this (somewhat ominously tilting her chin up) Sakura just keeps thinking of Yukito.
 - And Kero is having none of this posturing. He intercepts them, pulling Sakura away, and tells Yue that Sakura will be able to get past him!
 - Yue says he's too soft, and Kero says he's too cynical, and Sakura demands (again) to know what they're talking about.
 - She thought that if she collected all the cards, she could prevent the Evil from befalling the world.
 - But Kero explains that for the person who collects all the cards, there is a Final Trial.
- Yue lifts into the air, landing on top of the shrine gate, silhouetted against the full moon...just like Sakura's dream!
 - Which was apparently *this morning*??? Man a lot has happened in not very much time...
 - Yue says an incantation, Sakura's staff begins to glow...and the Final Trials begin.
 - Apparently, Sakura must use the cards to seal away The Judge (that is, Yue) and become the new Master of the Clow Cards. Only a true Master will be able to defeat one of the Guardians of the Cards.
 - And with that, Yue attacks Sakura with a volley of (energy? diamonds? sharp light?).
 - Sakura uses Jump to gain distance, and her friends try to follow to help...but Kero stops them. Apparently, she will automatically lose if anyone helps her. She has to do this on her own.
 - As Sakura and Yue battle, everyone tries to wrap their heads around what is going on.
 - Tomoyo had no idea Yukito was connected to the cards, and even Syaoran couldn't sense anything. He always thought Touya was the more suspicious one.
 - But Kero points out that Yukito was Touya's friend all along, and Touya may not have Sakura's kind of power, but his power is still strong. Yue found the strongest person in the city, and bided his time by their side, waiting for Sakura to finish her task.
 - Shaoran assumes that was by design--But no, Kaho says it is all coincidence.

- And Kero's pretty sure Yukito was unaware of all this--he probably didn't even know he was Yue. He would have been too suspicious, otherwise, and they would have figured out that something was up.
- But Kahou points out that both Sakura and Syaoran were drawn to Yukito... "people with power are drawn to power," Syaoran remembers, from a talk he had with Sakura.
 - And from our talk about Jojo!
- Kahou explains that Syaoran has the blood of Clow Reed, and Sakura was chosen as the Master of the Clow Cards, so it's only natural that they'd feel an attraction to one of the Guardians of the Cards.
 - But then, what about how Syaoran and Kero never got along? Or how Sakura felt the same floaty feeling around Kahou but Syaoran, uh, didn't?
 - Well, that's because Kahou still has a part to play, as she says...apparently, she has something to give Sakura.
- The group of noncombatants reaches Sakura. She's on the ground, but she doesn't look injured, at least.
 - Yue taunts her, saying she can't keep running forever. Is she going to give up without a fight?
 - But Kero stands in front of her, telling Yue to wait.
 - To Sakura, he tells her to pull herself together, or disaster really will befall the world.
 - Sakura asks *what* kind of disaster?
 - And Yue answers..."we will forget."
 - This is the evil that Clow Reed created for the cards: if Kerberos' chosen advocate cannot defeat the Judge, then anyone who has any association with the Clow Cards will lose their memories of the one they love the most.
 - You see, for the Clow Cards, the person most important to them is the person whose name is written on their cards. To protect themselves, if that person is not worthy of being their Master, they forget all about them. And that forgetting transfers to anyone associated with the cards, as well.
 - The seal on the cards would be broken, and the cards would disperse again, waiting for their next Master.
 - Kero explains, it's not something that would move Heaven and Earth (X vibes omg), but depending on who's involved, it could be even worse than that.
 - Sakura gets it right away. She'd forget the person she loves most, but it wouldn't just be her. It'd be Tomoyo and Syaoran, Touya because of Yukito, and anyone who encountered the cards accidentally (her dad, Kahou, and really all of her friends, who each had an encounter of some kind).

- Since Flower tried to perk things up at Field Day, everyone at the school would also be impacted.
 - That is just too much for Sakura to allow.
- Newly determined, Sakura's will activates the cards, and they float around her.
 - But, she tells Kero that she doesn't want to attack Yue. He's still Yukito, after all, but more than that...he was born opposite Kero, like his brother! She wants to be his friend, too.
 - Kero insists that she won't be able to win if she doesn't attack him, and she has to be careful. If she uses a card under Yue, it will be neutralized at best, or may even rebound on her.
 - Sakura says she's not sure what she'll do, but she'll do her best...and she knows everything will be alright. (her spell again!)
- And so, the battle continues.
 - Sakura looks at the cards circling her, trying to decide what card to use.
 - She considers Windy, but Kero says that it's a card under Yue.
 - Plus, with the full moon up there, Yue's powers are at their strongest.
 - Yue shoots back that Kero isn't allowed to help her, and he won't allow any more interjections like that.
 - Kero tells Sakura he's sorry he can't help her anymore...but no matter what happens, he will never forget her, and neither will the cards. They all love her very much.
 - Sakura is touched, and encouraged.
 - She chooses Wood, and tells it to capture Yue...but Kero cries out too late that it's one of the cards under Yue, and sure enough, the vines turn on Sakura.
 - She is trapped in vines, and things are not looking good. Yue tells Kero that this is the end, and the disaster will befall them. But Sakura rallies, screaming "no," and throws off the vines through sheer force of will.
 - Yue says that she may be able to dispel magic used against her, but only Clow ever defeated the Judge.
 - He makes to attack her with...energy arrows? But The cards jump up, circling Sakura, protecting her.
- Now, it is Kahou's turn. She steps forward to present Sakura with her gift.
 - Yue warns that meddling could cost her her life, but Kahou says that she has the same power of the moon as him, and his magic can't hurt her.
 - She presents Sakura with her bell...a present from Clow Reed.
 - Apparently Clow passed away in Japan, and his death caused the cards to scatter and await the next Chosen One. However, since Clow could see the future, he knew when he'd die, and he knew who the next chosen one would be.
 - That's why all the cardcaptor stuff is cute and girly--he knew the next Chosen One would be a sweet girl in Tomoeda.
 - He also knew that she'd have to convince the Guardians of her worth, and that Yue would be particularly hard...so he left her a present. The bell.
 - He made it in Japan, and left it at the Tsukimine shrine, knowing someone like Kahou would be able to pass it on to the Chosen One.

- Sure enough, as soon as Kahou touched the bell, she knew the role she was destined to play.
 - She tells Sakura to raise her staff, and repeat after her.
 - Together they say an incantation that accepts the new power of the moon, and releases the seal...and Sakura's staff transforms. It gives up its bird-like head for a star encased in a circle, with little wings on each side (so very CLAMP). Sakura's new staff.
 - Kahou tells Sakura that she'll be able to use the cards with her new staff...all the cards, even the the ones under Yue, and she'll be able to use them without attacking, as was her wish.
 - Sakura chooses to use Windy, and it's able to surround Yue, without being repelled this time.
 - Yue kneels before her. He says that he's not a very good judge...after all, Clow knew from the beginning how everything would work out. He knew disaster would never actually befall the world.
 - But, Kero says that's just how Clow was. They both know that better than anyone.
 - It wasn't just coincidence that Kero slept for years in Sakura's basement, or that Yue was also by Sakura's side in the form of Yukito. It was all as Clow Reed had planned.
 - (something something hitsuzen something something)
- Looking at Yueh, Sakura says that he must have liked Clow a lot.
 - She knows she's still a kid, her magic isn't very strong, and she's always sleeping in and doing poorly in math...but she really likes all the cards and Kero. And she knows she's going to like him as well.
 - Scratch that...she already likes him a lot.
 - She tells him she doesn't want to be his master...she wants to be his friend.
- In response, Yue stands up, and tells her to close her eyes. He announces that the Trial has ended. As the Judge, he recognizes Sakura as the new Master of the Clow Cards.
- The cards float around Sakura, and she sees...Clow Reed.
 - He's dressed all in ornate robes, and has long dark hair pulled into a ponytail. He looks kind, if a little aloof.
 - He tells her to take care of Kerberos, Yue, and the cards. He also says that her staff has a new power now. It's not of the sun or the moon, but of her own star. The light may be small now, but it burns with the strength of her heart.
 - He also says "I fear 'I' will cause you some trouble soon...but Sakura, 'everything will be alright.'"
 - Echoes of her own spell <3
- When Sakura opens her eyes, the cards stack themselves in her hand, and she is brought back down to earth.
 - Yue and Kero tell her that even though she's the master of the cards, she still doesn't have the power to control the guardians yet.
 - They're going to go back into power-saver mode until she's in trouble.
 - This sounds wonderful to Sakura, and means we get cute Kero and Yukito back!

- Yukito, of course, has no idea what's going on or why he's standing in front of Tsukimine shrine. He's a little faint, and starts to fall...but Touya appears and catches him!
- He asks what they're all doing out here so late...and Sakura frantically attempts to explain away her weird outfit.
- A few days later, they gather to say goodbye to Kahou. Apparently she was just there covering a teacher's maternity leave, so it's time for her to finish her studies overseas. Besides, her work here is done.
 - However, Tomoyo asks for some clarification. Why did Syaoran have such different reactions to Kahou and Kero than Sakura did, and yet they reacted the same to Yukito?
 - Apparently, Syaoran reacted to Yukito the way he did because most of Syaoran's magic uses the power of the moon. Sakura however uses a balance of Moon and Sun, so she'd get along with both Kero and Yukito.
 - And Kero adds that Syaoran was adverse to Kahou because *her* power of the moon was different from the power of the cards...and probably because she held the power to defeating Yue.
 - As a descendant of Clow and the one who uses the power of the moon, he couldn't like her
 - Sakura, however, subconsciously could tell that Kahou would end up helping her, and so felt drawn to her.
 - She felt floaty around Yukito and Kahou because they both held power that she would gain.
 - And naturally she has to get along with both the guardians of the Clow!
 - In conclusion...there was never any doubt that Sakura would be the Master of the Clow, according to Kero.
 - Sakura blushes, and looks at Syaoran, who also blushes (I would blush too if everyone was just nonchalantly psychoanalyzing my crushes).
 - But Syaoran says he's glad Sakura was able to collect all the cards.
- Of course, the most surprising thing of all was Yukito's involvement! And he still has no idea that anything happened, poor sap.
- However...Kahou points out to Touya that he arrived in his work clothes...which means he must have been hanging out for a whiiiiile .
 - Apparently he didn't intervene because she was there, and because he heard Sakura say everything would be alright.
 - But, he admits that he knew Yukito was not human from the beginning.
 - Kahou says he hasn't changed--he's still kind to everything, even if they're not human. But, he really should tell Yukito that thing he's been meaning to tell him...
- As Sakura waves at Kahou's retreating car, she thinks about Clow Reed. Was that really him that she saw? And what did he mean "I fear 'i' may cause you some trouble soon." It's all very ominous!
- And it will be continued in Volume 7!

Discussion

- **AND NOW WE CAN BE A BIT LESS STRESSED ABOUT STARGAZING** since the 'who is Yue' stuff has been put to bed!
 - I don't think there was a time I didn't somehow know they were the same character so like, I don't remember this having a big shock/impact? But I think Yue/the Judge is so beautifully/coldly drawn here that we actually get a sense of tension.
 - Like, Lucy, did you FEEL like we'd met a villain? When we faced him in this read-through?
 - Yeah, kinda of? It's hard to separate my knowledge of the character from the text, but he does come off as really removed and almost evil, especially when he first appears.
 - Even rereading it, I couldn't remember how evil he was actually going to be. Once again, very happy with how they handled things.
 - **Related question**—did this feel like a big mid-season climax? Like, was the test BIG enough for you? I think there have been read-throughs where I felt a bit let down by this, and other where I felt like it worked really well. This time the tension worked pretty well for me, but some of their explanations afterward felt a liiiiittle slapdash. Like, why like Yukito and not Kaho? Its not perfect—and of course some of it is just like, he's attracted to the cute nice boy and not the slightly creepy teacher I guess?
 - Ugh yeah, that whole explanation really bugs me. I get that they're saying that power is attracted to power, and more broadly that crushes are sometimes not about, like, sexual attraction, but instead about wanting to be like someone, or just really admiring them...
 - And that's all well and good, and *true*, but it's always felt a little like "don't worry, you're not gay, it was just the *magic*" to me. And that naturally rubs me the wrong way.
 - I don't think they were saying that at all, actually, I think they were just discussing why he liked one and not the other—like, why was he drawn by one and repelled by the other.
 - Especially since they REALLY put effort into comparing Sakura and Shaoran's feelings for Yukito, and they never say 'eh you just liked him because magic'—like, they're talking about these uncontrollable forces of destiny, not the part where they have a crush. It was 'why did Sakura feel she could TRUST Kaho and Shaoran didn't'?
 - **The explanation for the 'disaster'/'evil' to befall the world**—that worked well for me this time. It also set off Stargazing bells in my head like CRAZY but I resisted!
 - It worked well with the cryptic crap Kero-chan was saying VOLUMES ago when he was like 'it isn't going to break the earth in two but for the person it happens to, it'll be worse than that'—it is something that once it

happens, you might not know it ever happened (i mean, that's what forgetting means) but the idea of it happening is devastating.

- Especially for a little girl who already lost her mother.
 - THAT REALLY works for me. Another little kid might not have any experience that would help that mean anything to them. But Sakura does. She knows what forgetting and loss and love mean already, and that's enough to make her fight hard!
 - Yeah, I could see it feeling a little anti-climactic if you were expecting, like, X-level world destruction, but I think it works perfectly for the characters. And with Sakura's background, you're really able to feel the true horror of what they're describing, so it still lands really well. In my opinion, of course.
- So much action! This was a real change of pace—even the big 'set pieces' like the Maze card wrapped up pretty quickly, but the fight with Firey took entire chapters of all action.
 - Actually very unusual for shoujo manga, by the way—though not unprecedented.
 - Rayearth had some long fx-laden action scenes, too, and Sailor Moon had some, etc
 - But man. Other volumes of CCS might have like, capturing multiple cards or many days/weeks passing—and this was all one day, just a few hours really, of non-stop magic action!
 - The magic effects are so beautifully drawn in CCS—like, JUST as nice as n X, only way lighter and just, dang. The long elegant lines, the high-energy frenetic shapes...it's a sight to behold with how well they evoke water, wind, light, etc.
- I think describing Cerberus and Yue as 'twins'/'brothers' is something my edition (the Dark Horse translation) went hard on that I hadn't encountered before and i think its really cute.
 - Yeah, I think mine wasn't too strong about it...like it was there, but it didn't jump out at me.
- So...I don't think they were telling us that Clow's death is what made the cards scatter at the beginning of this series. But it kinda sounded like that? It was a bit confusing—they went on to describe what seemed like a lot of time passing between his death/the cards scattering...and then finally the book ending up in Tomoeda?
 - What did you think when you read that?
 - Yeah, I'm a little confused. I could swear we were told the card scattered when Sakura encountered the book...but maybe I'm just remembering wrong?
 - We were definitely told that (and the anime makes that VERY visually clear)
 - But I'm pretty positive Clow did not die, like, a year ago or whatever. I mean he's big magic shit, but they definitely talked like the book was wandering around for awhile. I mean, we know Kero picked up his Osaka accent because the book was in Osaka for awhile.

- I guess the cards had been lying in wait in various spots for however many decades it's been? And maybe Kero waking up or whatever triggered them to start causing mischief?
 - Yeah I think maybe the implication is that the cards have been gathered and dispersed many times over the years...AND THAT IS INTERESTING TO CONSIDER SINCE HER DAD HAD IT--did he get it from her mom? Did he catch cards himself??? AAAA
- This really is like, a mid-season finale you know? Sakura passed this big test, she caught all the cards! And now...what's next for her?
 - Interesting for them to move on from the monster (well card) of the week formula SO quickly, huh? Or at least, it seems like that's what they're doing.
 - Also interesting to have these questions of fate versus coincidence going on...
 - Really different from the discussion of Fate in RG Veda or X
 - In this story, for kids, there's more of a 'someone who can predict things could set up a Rube Goldberg machine of situations to control events in the future'--is he seeing a possible future he'd like to make come to pass with said Rube Goldberg machinations? Or is he just trying to have influence in the future he has seen come to pass by setting things up to operate in that situation?
 - And for a dead guy, he sure is chatty...
 - Yeah, and I gotta say...it has, like, nothing to do with anything, but he's always kind of reminded me of Rezo the Red Priest from Slayers? Except less possessed by an evil god, or whatever.
- We're halfway through! What else will happen?
 - It's cool to think of this story having SO much time for her to, say, USE these cards she now has mastered
 - Like, she got a graduation! She's left cardcaptor status and moved up to cardmaster!
 - This isn't really set up like a super hero story where she's solving problems/fighting monsters each week with the cards as her tools.
 - So far she's mostly been collecting the cards to A. stop them from being a hassle and B. Stop this nebulous 'disaster'--which turned out to be not an X-style evil happening to the world as like, a consequence of messing up her role and then having her own little world come to an end.
 - But there's more room now to see what else she can do--or to see her try to live a normal life!
 - I just can't imagine Clow Reed is going to let that happen, dead or not...

Outro

In our next episode, we'll be discussing...well, a lot of random stuff probably, because it'll be our anniversary episode!

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 definitely will be alright—

—and try not to lose an eye!