

# CCS Volume 8

## Episode 71

Lucy

Robin

### Intro

Sakura keeps finding ways to make her everyday life a little more magical, even as she tries to stay ahead of her mysterious new foe!

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

### Check-In

- Man, I am having the hardest time getting back into the groove here! How did we used to do this twice a month? Or, i guess, three times a month if you count bonus episodes...and four a month before Write Place/Write time went on hiatus! Phew!
  - Other than that...I'm slowly adjusting back to a work schedule instead of a class schedule, I'm trying to teach myself piano, and I've become obsessed with loungefly bags that I can't afford. Please tweet your loungefly bags at me, I need to live vicariously.
- I'm prepping for two conventions and finished a comic script and am working on like, 2 picture books and I DON'T KNOW HOW I DO ANYTHING I just wanna sleep for weeks!
  - September should be less nuts for me. But at least Card Captor Sakura is here to be a joy to read!

### Background

- Today we're talking about Volume 8 of Cardcaptor Sakura, if you go by original Japanese release. If you're reading the old Tokyopop volumes like me, it's volume 2 of the second half.
- If you're reading the Dark Horse omnibuses like me, it's the middle of volume 3!
- Nothing new this week, onto the summary!

### Summary

- This volume opens with Sakura working on that teddybear kit she got in the previous volume. She's having trouble with it--no matter what she does, it looks more like Kero than a teddybear!
  - She's also writing another letter to Kahou, and, just like last time, Eriol pops up again!
  - She tells him about her former teacher, and Eriol says he wishes he could have met Kahou.

- He also asks about her half-finished teddybear, and when she confesses that she's stuck on it, he offers to take a look.
- Sakura hands the teddybear over, thinking how nice Eriol is...and is once again reminded of her father and Yukito. But what about them is so similar?
- With Eriol's help, Sakura is able to fix her bear's face, and get it finished.
- She thanks him, and asks if she can do anything to repay him. He knees down and kisses her hand, presumably as a form of payment, and tells her he's envious of whoever she gives that bear to.
- Speaking of teddybears, Chiharu is ready to give hers to Yamazaki. You'll remember, the lore here is that if you give someone you love a teddybear and they name it after you, your love will last forever.
  - Yamazaki instantly picks a name--"Suama", a Japanese sweet. Chiharu is not pleased.
    - Suama is like...mochi made with non glutinous rice flour so it isn't as springy and is rolled like sushi, usually part of it dyed red (well pink) for the celebratory Japanese red-and-white color scheme.
  - Their antics are being watched by Syoaran, who is holding a bear of his own. He made it himself, and when he looks at it, he thinks of Sakura.
  - Yukito pops up right then, carrying a comically large sandwich (as he does), and asks Syoaran if the bear is a gift for someone. Syoaran instantly thinks of Sakura again, and then freaks out because he's thinking of Sakura.
    - He's so stressed out that he runs off without the bear!
  - Our poor boy is having a hard time. Why does he keep thinking of Sakura when Yukito's the one that makes his heart pound and his cheeks turn red?
  - Naturally, he runs into Sakura while he's having this identity crisis, and although he doesn't stay around her for long, he realizes he is blushing and his heart is pounding. Could it really be the same as when he sees Yukito?
    - My translation actually makes this very cute, like he's used to having this attraction to a boy but not Sakura, very dumb bi kid energy that I related to ha ha ha
  - As if sensing his thoughts (which, maybe he does), Yue appears before Syoaran. He explains that Syoaran is reacting to the magic he senses from Yukito, which is confusing his feelings. It's confusing, and only with a clear mind will he be able to understand who he really cares for.
  - Syoaran does consider things, and a rush of memories of Sakura come flooding at him. It's pretty clear who he really likes.
  - Yue can see he's made the realization, and mumbles under his breath about how we wish Yukito would come to his senses as well. And then he turns back to Yukito...who is initially a little confused, but remembers that he needed to give the bear back to Syoaran.
  - As Syoaran receives the bear, he seems to measure his feelings for Yukito against his feelings for Sakura, and looks pretty determined to give this bear to the true object of his affection.
- But, we're not done with bear drama just yet, oh no!

- Tomoyo has dressed Sakura up in one of her outfits, but it's not to do battle. She's going to present her teddybear to Yukito! And naturally Tomoyo is going to be there to film it all.
- And because such a moment couldn't possibly get more awkward for Sakura, Kero is also there! He claims it's to visit Yukito, but he says under his brief that he's not sure how much longer Yukito can hold out. Which is...totally not unsettling...
- Of course, Yukito is perfectly charming when he opens the door (after Kero rings the doorbell and then hides with Tomoyo, of course).
- He's also so sweet when Sakura presents him with his present, and eagerly opens it. He's also very impressed that Sakura made it himself.
- Hidden out of sight as they watch this exchange, Tomoyo asks Kero about something Kahou told them (and Yue brought up just a scene ago). If Syoaran and Sakura are drawn to Yukito because of Yue's power, does that mean Sakura only likes him because of his connection to Clow Reed?
  - But no, Kero is pretty sure her feelings are genuine. Her behavior hasn't changed since she met Yue and became Master of the Clow, after all.
  - That's why he's extra worried about Yue. If they don't find more magic for him soon, something bad could happen to both him *and* Yukito.
- And, right on cue, Sakura suddenly senses the presence of Clow Reed.
- And she's not alone. Kero also senses it, and Yue takes his true form, right as the bear Sakura gave Yukito starts to glow, and grows to be a giant, towering teddybear.
- Yue grabs Sakura and tries to fly her to safety, but he's too weak, and they end up falling down to earth. Sakura is ok, but Yue is not looking great.
  - And of course, our villainous trio watches from the shadows, unseen by the other characters. Ruby Moon mocks Yue for being weak--after all, the moon has to draw its power from an outside source, and Sakura can't hope to maintain it alone for long.
  - Once Sakura confirms that Yue is alright, she's ready for the fight. She tells Kero to watch over Yue and Tomoyo, and summons her powers, transforming the Jump card into a Sakura Card.
    - Yay! So that's another one down!
  - Now Sakura is able to avoid the giant bear's mighty paws, but things are not looking great for Yukito's house, as roof tiles go flying~
    - Yue tells them the bear is being controlled by magic, so she just needs to find the source of the power.
  - With Kero's guidance, Sakura is able to concentrate and locate the source of power: the bear's ear!
    - Which...was touched by Eriol-kun, I might remind you all~
  - She can use Sword to attack it, but she can't get up to the ear using Jump alone. She would normally use Fly, but she can't ride on her rod while it's transformed into a sword (and how would she use it, anyway?).

- The bear's attacks continue, and things are getting so dangerous that Kero transforms into his true form so he can use his wings to shield Tomoyo and Yue. Sakura has no choice: she must use Fly. When she transforms the card, she asks it to take a form she can use along with Sword.
- Instead of adding wings to her rod, Fly generates wings on Sakura's back, so she can gracefully fly herself up.
  - God, the DREAM!
  - This is a sequence spread over two pages, by the way—the whole story slows down to make sure this has impact: Over a stark black background, Sakura rises up and takes flight frame by frame, with translucent ethereal wings now sprouting from her back! It is so beautiful.
- Now she's able to use sword to cut the bear's ear off, and it transforms back into its small, inanimate self.
- When Sakura lands, a folded piece of paper floats down to her, and it's got Clow's magic circle on it.
- And far off, where only we can see, Eriol says "well played, Sakura."
- Later, Sakura catches Syoaran up on the events of the evening. He's a little annoyed that she didn't call him, but she didn't really have a chance.
  - But, Tomoyo gave her some new items from her mom's toy company--cell phones! Now she, Syoaran, and Kero can keep in touch when things like this happen. She promises she'll call him next time, with a pinky swear that makes Syoaran blush.
  - He asks her why she still has the bear, if she went to Yukito's to give it to him, and Sakura explains that she has to fix the ear that got damaged by Sword. Then she apologizes for talking about it, since she knows Syoaran likes Yukito also.
  - But no, Syoaran says he's actually realized he actually likes someone else. Sakura asks who, and it looks like he's about to say her name (gasp), but she interrupts him, apologizing profusely for prying into his personal life like that.
    - In true CLAMP  
interruption-of-important-speech-for-continued-tension-fashion
  - Before he can continue, she asks him what's in the mysterious bag he's holding...and this pushes him (somewhat comedically) over his comfort level, and he runs off, like he has done before when presenting Yukito with a gift, etc.
  - But he leaves the bag behind, and a teddybear peaks out.
- Meanwhile, poor Yukito is leaning against a tree having a moment alone to contemplate how things seem...a little off. He's lightheated, he's constantly hungry, and he's getting more and more forgetful.
  - I mean, he woke up to find that his roof had been destroyed! And the teddybear's ear was ripped off! And he didn't remember anything!
  - And he's just so, so sleepy...
  - He nods off, supported by the tree, but Touya walks up and wakes him up. Touya leans over him, and tells Yukito that there's something he's been meaning to tell him for a long time. He says Yukito may think he doesn't know, and may not even know himself, but...well, Touya doesn't want to lose him.

- Yukito, in fact, does not know, and Touya is just saying “Yuki, I always...”
- ...when Nakuru pops down from a tree to interrupt them, of course.
  - **Double-CLAMPED** in as many scenes.
- They tell Touya he better get off to class before the teacher gets mad, and Touya accuses them of doing this on purpose...but he leaves anyway.
- Once he’s gone, Nakuru turns to Yukito, saying Touya has them figured out, but Yukito doesn’t have a clue.
- They then say that they shouldn’t be surprised that the “older models” are slower than them. They also say that they’ll be taking Touya now, and tell Yukito not to get in their way.
- They leave poor bewildered Yukito, and got to meet Supi, whose waiting for them up in the branches. Apparently he brought them the lunch they left at home, but he asks if Touya is the “snack” they’ve been looking forward to.
- Supi implies that his power might be a problem, but Nakuru is unphased. It’s what you’d expect from a family member of the Master of the Clow, and anyway, if things go the way they are, the problem might take care of itself soon.
- Meanwhile, left alone, definitely without a clue, and more than a little confused, poor Yukito looks SO SAD.
- In the next chapter, Sakura is once again dreaming about a mysterious figure that is obviously--to us anyway--Eriol.
  - Unfortunately, she can never remember the dream once she wakes up, so even if her waking mind might recognize him, she doesn’t get a chance.
  - She does manage to remember that Clow Reed’s magic circle was in the dream--the same magic circle that’s on the folded paper she received after the last battle.
  - Poor Sakura isn’t just drowsy and forgetful this morning; Kero quickly notices that she’s red, and seems like she has a fever.
    - **Last** time we were in this scenario it was her magic being drained, but this time it seems to be an actual virus, poor thing.
  - **When** she goes downstairs, Touya is also onto her, but she tells him not to mention it. Their dad starts an archeological dig today, and she knows he’ll stay home if he realizes she’s sick.
  - Their dad leaves for his dig, but not before Sakura is again reminded of Yukito and Eriol.
  - Touya tries to get her to stay home, but she refuses, and heads to school despite feeling kind of out of it.
  - At school, Sakura’s friends are also concerned about her fever, but she claims to be alright, and she tells Syoaran that she still has his teddybear from when he ran off without it the other day.
  - He tells her to keep it, and Sakura looks surprised...but doesn’t really get *the implications*.
  - Apparently Sakura’s not the only one under the weather, it turns out a lot of kids are out today...including Eriol.

- Sakura still tries to participate in gym class, but she ends up collapsing--and right when there's a ball headed her way, oh no!
- Fortunately Syoaran is able to intercept it, but he scolds her for going to gym in her condition.
  - In a very cute, concerned way. Poor boy has it bad. The love, that is, not the fever.
- Anyway, everyone agrees that Sakura should head home and rest, and Syoaran agrees to take over her classroom duties, what a relief!
- As she's leaving school, who does she run into but Touya and Yukito!
- Apparently Touya's been worrying about her, so they came to check on her.
  - However, they may have bigger things to worry about, as an ominous fog rolls in...
- They get Sakura home ok, and Yukito looks a little sad and thoughtful as he leaves, but when Touya asks him what's up, he just says "next time."
  - Oh my god boys, please just talk to each other! Also--this is the first time Yukito has been the one who is instigating any kind of conversation instead of just ambling through his nice little fake life, so it actually feels like a turning point. This volume has been giving us full panels of Yukito having his own emotions, rather than just featuring him from the point-of-view of characters who idealize him. Really helping cement the idea that he's weakening and that's more than just a magic problem for the magic side of the plot, it's...a tragedy for a person who believes he's real..
- Kero is watching Sakura in bed, telling her to take it easy, when suddenly she sits bolt upright. She senses Clow Reed!
  - And, even though she is clearly still feverish and kind of out of it, she seems determined to deal with it.
    - This feels so relatable IMO, I feel like I'm always impulsively trying to do things when I'm sick. I infamously once decided to put together a loft bed while feverish. I probably would have been buried alive if our friend Dui hadn't come over to help.
    - BUT I DIGRESS
  - Even sick, Sakura can tell that the mist is no ordinary mist. When Kero tries to convince her to stay by telling her that Touya will be suspicious if she's gone, she just uses the Mirror card to create a duplicate of herself to stay behind.
    - HOW CLEVER!
  - So Sakura heads out!
    - There is a very cute side exchange where Kero is like "are you alright...you're voluntarily wearing a Tomoyo's outfit?" And Sakura explains that it's because it was cold out. It's a big coat with cat-eared headgear, very cute and very cozy.

- She also remembers to call Syaoran this time, but he doesn't answer. She leaves a message, but it looks like she's going to be doing this one solo for now.
- Back in Sakura's room, Touya brings a snack and medicine...and pretty much instantly knows that this is not his sister. But more on that in a minute...
  - Sakura uses fly to survey the area, but gets dizzy again and ends up falling towards earth (she's been doing a lot of that in this volume).
    - Fortunately Syaoran shows up in the nick of time and uses a wind spell to break her fall.
    - But just as he's checking on her, the mist swallows her up...and he's alone.
  - Sakura is also alone now in a dark void space, but she can still feel Clow's presence. She knows she's supposed to be doing *something*, but she just can't think straight.
    - Fortunately, a voice tells her to use Windy to blow away the mist. And the voice...sounded like Clow.
    - Sakura transforms Windy into a Sakura Card, and sure enough, it is able to clear away the mist.
    - Kero and Syaoran can see her floating in the air, but Eriol gets to her first, catching her in his arms where he's perched on a roof top.
      - I love how baddies always go for the high ground.
    - He sees that she has a fever, and apologizes for bringing her out like this. He didn't realize.
    - He cools her fever, and wishes her good luck.
    - She's unconscious for all of this, of course.
    - When Syaoran finds her, she has a coat laid over her to keep her warm. But at least she's safe!
- Back home, Touya recognizes Mirror from when he met her before--remember, she was in that haunted forest being mistaken for a ghost--and he's happy to see her again.
  - He's a little annoyed that Sakura ran off, but he says he has a good idea what she's up to. He doesn't want her to know that he knows, though, since she's been trying to hide it.
    - WHAT A GOOD BIG BROTHER
  - When he's gone, Sakura sneaks back in, thanking Mirror for covering for her. Mirror just says it was nice to see Touya again.
    - Awww
  - Kero and Syaoran watch from outside, glad to see that Sakura has gotten inside alright. Kero decides to follow Syaoran home, since he suspects Touya will be checking in on Sakura a lot, and he doesn't want to have to pretend to be a stuffed animal all night.
  - Speaking of which, when Touya brings Sakura the meal and medicine that she missed earlier, she's happy to announce that her fever is gone! And she's looking much better, too, back to her normal energetic self.
    - She still wants the warm milk and honey he brought, though.

- Which, same!
  - When he goes back downstairs, Touya discovers that their dad is back, too! He did notice how Sakura was acting that morning, and he just couldn't stay away without checking up on her.
    - She's just got the best little family!
    - And, it looks like whatever Eriol did worked...
- The next chapter starts with Tomoyo helping Kero and Sakura make chocolate. Yep, you guessed it--it's Valentine's Day!
  - Sakura is making lots of chocolates, but she's making a special one for Yukito, of course. It's shaped like a heart.
  - The ones that are shaped like stars are for her father, Kero, and Touya...but she made an extra one by accident. Oh well!
  - She gives one to Touya as he's leaving, and asks if he can ask Yukito to stop by the house on his way home, which he agrees to do.
  - When she gives her dad a chocolate, he explains that Touya was leaving early to get to work--he already bought his motorcycle, but apparently he wants to pay for college himself.
    - This explains why we constantly see him at different part-time jobs.
  - Her dad loves the chocolate, of course, but asks who the heart shaped one was for. He saw which molds she used, after all.
  - He doesn't press her to answer, though. He just says he hopes whoever-he-is likes the chocolate a lot.
- At school, all the kids are jazzed about it being Valentine's Day, and Chiharu is already giving Yamazaki his chocolate.
  - Of course, he has a fantastical story about chocolate--you see, chocolate used to contain a powerful narcotic and be very dangerous, so kids weren't allowed to eat it!
  - He ropes Eriol in to back him up, and Eriol runs with it, saying that there was a law in Europe that forbid people under the age of 20 from eating chocolate. He's surprised Yamazaki knew about it! It was the Chocolate Prohibition.
  - And thus, a beautiful friendship is born.
    - I could really listen to these kids bullshit all day long!
  - Also cute is how both Sakura and Syoaran are taken in by their story, even though pretty much everyone else knows it's bullshit.
- Over at the high school, Touya has the misfortune of being pounced on by Nakuru. They do give him chocolate, which is something.
  - They say it's because they like him...but also because they are about to take the thing he holds most dear.
  - It looks like they're gonna kiss him, but Touya pushes them away, and says "I'll decide who gets that."
  - As he's leaving, he tells them he does like someone...just not them.
    - So...we're making slow progress towards communication, at least.
  - Nakuru is super impressed by how cool he is, but wonders to himself--with a sly smile--how Touya's going to do that if that person doesn't even have a clue.

- Meanwhile, Sakura may have given out all her chocolate (except for Yukito's...and presumably the extra one), but it's time for her to get some chocolate herself! From Tomoyo, of course.
  - Syoaran is also acting weird, and gives her a kind of blushy goodbye. When he's gone, Tomoyo asks him why he didn't give Sakura his chocolate. Tomoyo sees all.
  - He didn't want to slow her down, since she seemed like she was in a hurry. And besides, he's got things to do, too!
  - More specifically, he's going to do something with that mysterious coat that was left covering Sakura in the previous chapter.
- And speak of the devil, Eriol arrives home, and Supi instantly points out that he's got a spell around him. Apparently he's shielding himself from the tracking spell Syoaran is using on his coat.
  - He's not at all bothered, of course, and when Supi asks if he's having fun, he says he is...and it's going to get even better.
- Back at the Kinomoto house, Yukito arrives as requested, and Sakura gives him his chocolate.
  - He loves it, of course, and she is over the moon at his compliments.
  - But, she still has that extra piece of chocolate left!
  - She asks her dad if her mom used to give him chocolate, and yes, apparently despite being a horrible cook, Nadeshiko would always make chocolates for the people she loved.
    - That is, Fujitaka, of course, and Touya, Sonomi, and her beloved grandfather.
    - When Sakura asks, he explains that he only actually met this grandfather once, since he was like Sonomi and did not approve of Nadeshiko and Fujitaka's marriage.
    - Sakura doesn't understand; her parents always look so happy in pictures, and besides, if they weren't together, she wouldn't be here!
    - But, being the adorable, sweet girl that she is, she's not mad at her great-grandfather...she just wants to show him he's wrong about her dad.
    - She decides to send him the extra chocolate star she made! It might be hard since it's so late in the day...but her dad has an idea.
    - Sakura tries to recreate what her mother would always do, according to her dad: include a card and a Nadeshiko flower.
    - Of course, that flower is a problem...until she remembers a certain card!
    - She uses the Flower card, transforming it in the process, to produce a nadeshiko flower for her great-grandfather.
    - Sonomi shows up to make the delivery. She's not wild that Fujitaka called her, but she can't turn down the request, especially considering what Sakura wants.
    - As Sakura watches Sonomi leave, Kero points out that her powers must be growing if she was able to foresee the need for an extra chocolate!

- But Sakura just hopes her great-grandfather likes the gift...since it's from her and her mom.

## Discussion

- So, this volume had the part I don't love where they tell us Syoaran just liked Yukito because of his magic aura or whatever.
  - I don't *hate* it, especially since no one is saying, like, "you can't possibly like a boy so it must be magic aura confusion!" They approach it more as a reason for them to be self-critical. Which is fair. There are many kinds of love, and I totally believe in platonic crushes.
  - But...I don't love it. It feels like an excuse. I wish they'd just addressed the fact that sometimes you have a crush, and then that crush goes away or lessens, and you like someone else more.
  - They at least addressed that it was possible for Sakura to have experienced the same thing with Yukito, and quickly pivot to discussing Yukito's feelings for Touya, so it definitely could be worse! And I don't think it's *meant* to imply anything negative. It just rubs me the wrong way.
    - Yeah, the more recent translation is a little more "oh Shaoran is confused about his feelings because of teh magic stuff" not the "his sexuality is being confused by gay magic that's getting in the way of his straightness"--but because of, uh, basically those kinds of accusations, it does rub us the wrong way.
- I do quite enjoy Yue being bored and cynical at having to be trapped in all this elementary school and high school drama. He seems very over it.
  - Yeah he has way bigger problems, like...ceasing to exist? Losing his alter ego? He doesn't have a lot of influence over his other aspect, which is tragic and interesting. And probably good since he's kind of a grouch who wouldn't be very helpful to Sakura if his personality was intact in human form!
- Giant Teddybear was giving me Ghostbuster flashbacks. Who you gonna call? Sakura. Call Sakura.
  - I love it. This was a really fun way for them to use the dang bears in the magic side of the plot--to make sure that the Cardcaptor and the Sakura stories are thoroughly intertwined, rather than feeling like a super hero story plunked down on top of a school story. Which I don't think it ever actually does, by the way, despite how i keep misleadingly saying 'magic side' and 'school side' of the plot--there is humor in both, characterizations are consistent, etc.
- Also, not sure if this is just unique to my version, but now when she calls cards and stuff it's in rhyme. I don't think it was like that in the first half of the series.
  - That's not present in my translation, I wonder whose idea that was or whether it is actually reflecting something in the original?
- Once again, I'd forgotten how present the Yukito and Touya relationship is. I'd kind of thought it was just background, but it's legitimately part of the plot, since it's so tied up with Ruby Moon. Like this is NOT SUBTLE, it is not just subtext, they are actually

building this into the story in a real way, and it gets almost as much screen time as Sakura's relationships.

- Especially since Sakura has such a big crush on Yukito herself, and he's actually one of her guardians in disguise, it's all very interconnected and as we've said before and will say again, more relatable to our queer childhoods than most kids-comic/book narratives we had back in the 90s!
- I can't remember if we mentioned it last time when we were listing ways this half of the series reminds us of *Wish*, but Touya constantly getting interrupted whenever he's trying to tell Yukito something really brought that back to me. I mean, in this case it's very obviously Nakuru doing it intentionally, but it's just as frustrating!

## Outro

In our next episode, we'll be discussing volume 9!

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

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

Until next time, remember that everything will definitely be alright—

—and try not to lose an eye!