

CCS Volume 10

Episode 73

Lucy

Robin

Intro

How do you protect yourself from a broken heart if you're trying to protect someone else even more? Well...you might ask Tomoyo for a little insight with that.

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

Check-In

- Normal, what's normal?
 - Oh, I did realize I haven't announced this on the podcast yet...I'm engaged! So that's yet another wild, hectic part of my life, but it's very nice.

Background

- We're $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the card captor sakura manga! Right now our plan is to not cover Clear Card immediately after because we're treating it as a separate series and placing it chronologically—if people want to try to convince us otherwise we might hear them out at least.
- But this volume, volume 10 of 12, is bringing us in closer to a landing pattern for the original series.
 - It came out as a collected tankoubon in December of 1999, so the chapters probably ran in Nakayoshi earlier that year.
 - This is an interesting transitional time since it's the end of the 90s and going into the 2000s—but we'll explore that a little more with other series that started next chronologically!
 - X was still running at the time, despite its internal clock running into a paradox with the real world passage of time.
 - In CCS, though, everything is still light and pretty—well, almost everything...let's begin with the summary!

Summary

- This volume opens right where the previous one left off, in the Seiyu high school infirmary, where Touya is unconscious after having given his magic to Yue.
 - Sakura heard that Yukito collapsed, and came to make sure he was ok.
 - In tears, she apologizes to Yue. It's because of her lack of power that Yukito was going to disappear. It's her fault that Yue had to take power from Touya instead.

- But Yue tells her that it's only natural that she, a child, wouldn't have the same level of power as Clow Reed, who was an unparalleled magician.
- And besides, Touya would not want her to be sad. He made Yue promise to protect her.
- At Yue's words, Sakura wipes her tears away, and although Touya is unconscious, she tells him that she's sorry, and that if anything ever happens, she'll protect him.
- Yue looks touched by this pronouncement, and when she sees him watching her, Sakura tells him he's kind.
- "Kind" is not a word Yue is used to associating with himself, and he grumps that both her and her brother are saying strange things, like how he's kind, or how he somehow resembles Yukito.
- But Sakura agrees; he and Yukito are exactly the same!
 - Ha, she can see your soft, nougat center, Yue!
- But, this touching moment is interrupted by the presence of Clow Reed! They both feel it, but when they pull back the curtains to look outside, there's nothing there.
 - This is because Eriol is cleverly hiding in a tree, out of sight, but he says to himself that if Sakura's powers keep growing, hiding is going to be tricky. He better hurry...
- In class, everyone is finishing plans for the "Candy parlor"-themed cafe they'll be putting on tomorrow as part of the school festival, but Sakura is still distracted; lost in thought, not doubt worrying about her brother and Yukito.
 - Basically everyone important notices this: Eriol of course just has a knowing smile, Tomoyo is concerned, and Syaoran knows that something may have happened to Touya or Yukito since he was there when Sakura heard the scream from the high school.
 - Of course, that scream also interrupted him right as he was trying to confess his feelings to Sakura, so the poor kid also has a lot on his mind.
- When Sakura gets home, she quickly updates Kero on the situation: how it turns out Touya knew about him and the Clow Cards all along (though maybe not specifics), and how he gave up his magic so that Yue could survive.
 - She also asks if Kero knew about the problems Yue was having, and of course he did. He explains that he and Yue knew she would do whatever she could to try and save him, and they didn't want to endanger her or put that burden on her.
 - Sakura says that they are always protecting her, but Kero says its more than that. They're her friends; of course they want to protect her and see her happy. They love her.
 - It's all very sweet and sincere, especially coming from Kero's goofy teddy-bear form.
 - I TEARED UP OKAY
 - They also talk about how it's convenient that Touya's magic was compatible with Clow's (and thus, Yue's). But then again, Sakura's magical aura is also similar to Clow's.

- This isn't really strange in and of itself--after all, she is the new Master of the Clow--but Kero does think it's odd that her aura is closer to Clow's than Syaoran's is, considering he's a direct descendent of Clow.
- But, before they can puzzled that out any further, they're interrupted, because Yukito and Touya are home.
- Well, more precisely, Yuito has carried an unconscious Touya home.
 - In my book he literally said "Touya wouldn't wake up, so I brought him home." And like, I know we know that it's a victim of magical bullshit not, like, head trauma or something, but I'm surprised no one sent him to, like, a hospital.
 - Maybe Yue charmed the nurse, or something. Does his magic work that way? No idea.
- Yukito is feeling a lot better now, though (he's not sleepy anymore, for some reason...hm...), and since Touya mentioned a job he couldn't get out of, Yukito's going to go cover for him.
 - But before he goes, Sakura asks Yukito if he'll come to her school festival tomorrow. Yukito says he'll be there, and Sakura has a genuine smile for the first time since learning about her brother.
- **Fast-forward to the festival.** The kids have gone all out with their "candy parlor," and it looks very fun. The girls are all wearing aprons and ruffled headpieces; it's very French Maid, but not, like, sexy French Maid.
 - The boys are dressed like waiters; very dapper in black vests and white aprons.
 - Apparently, Tomoyo designed the outfits, so it's no surprise they're adorable.
 - When Yukito shows up, Tomoyo encourages Sakura to show him around the festival, so the two head off, with Syaoran watching them a little wistfully (and Eriol a little mischievously).
 - They end up in the gymnasium, which is set up as a "road of stars." It's all dark, with glowing stars hanging from the ceiling.
 - It's all very beautiful, and well, romantic, and when Sakura sees how sad Yukito looks when he asks about her brother (condition unchanged), she confesses her feelings to him.
 - She tells Yukito she loves him, and he responds that he loves her too...but he's not the one she loves *most*, right? She loves her dad, also, doesn't she? Isn't the love she feels for dad kind of like the love she feels for him?
 - Sakura considers this, and it does seem to ring true, at least a bit, because she says yes, that is how she feels.
 - Yukito says that this makes sense, since he does look a little like her father (that's going around, apparently), and assures her he's not trying to talk her out of her feelings. Even though she's a child, he knows she can think for herself.
 - When Sakura asks, he says he's always known that she loved him like *family*, and it made him really happy.
 - But, Sakura adds that he knew how she felt because he *does* have someone he loves the most. He looks shocked, but when she asks if it's her brother, he says yes.

- They bond a bit about how Touya likes to tease and pick on people, but he's actually a sweetie. He's not good about expressing his feelings, though.
- Yukito's not sure how Touya feels about him, but Sakura is: she's sure that Yukito is the person he loves the most, also.
 - She knows this partially because Touya gave his magic to Yue, but she says that part under her breath.
- She tells Yukito to let him know if Touya ever picks on him, and she will punish him!
- And Yukito says that he knows she'll find her "number one" someday, too, and if they ever make her cry, he'll make *them* cry (ok, my words, but he totally will).
- Everything is looking nice and friendly, with gratitude and understanding on both sides...and that's when the stars around them start shattering!
 - It's so bad that Yue actually takes form, protecting Sakura with his wings.
 - Up in the cafe, Syaoran senses a disturbance in the force, and runs to help.
 - With this much power, Yue is in no doubt that they are in the presence of Clow Reed, no matter how impossible that sounds.
 - The next group of people is getting ready to enter the gymnasium, and they certainly can't have that what with the exploding-stars and all, so Sakura uses The Illusion and The Maze to create a fake Road to the Stars--transforming two cards at once!
 - She concentrates, determining where the power is coming from, and then runs to it.
 - "It," of course, being Eriol, holding a large staff with a sunburst at the top--Clow's staff. He smiles at her, but just as Sakura recognizes him, his staff begins to glow, and she collapses.
 - He's impressed that she found him, and even more impressed that she was able to transform two cards at once. She really has gotten stronger.
 - Meanwhile, Syaoran makes it to Yue, breaking through Maze and Illusion to find Sakura. But just as Yue is remarking on this, the two cards turn back into cards, the illusion broken.
 - This means Sakura's power has been cut off. Which is...not great.
- Speaking of Sakura, she's having a dream...or is it a vision?
 - She sees a European-style house. Yue and Kero are there, in their true forms, and they are standing before a man: Clow Reed.
 - He tells them, smiling, that today, he will die.
 - They're both upset to hear this; Yue most of all. But when they ask him if it's just a joke, Clow simply says that it's his time. He's lived hundred of years without his magic weakening, but all living things must come to an end.
 - But first, he has preparations to make for their next master.
 - Yue insists that he doesn't want another master, so Clow says that he will be the one to decide if that person is worthy. And to make things fair, Kero will get to choose the candidate, so both get to pick their new master, in a way.

- Yue--who is acting probably the most emotional we've ever seen him--says that he'd rather sleep forever than have a new master. But Clow says that he's poured all his heart and power into making the two of them, and he asks only that they live in happiness with their new master.
 - He seals Yue in the book, and addresses Kero, who tells him he has such a bad personality for being a magician...he lives such a whimsical lifestyle. But he's been a good master.
 - Clow thanks him, and seals him away as well, using the last of his powers to...well...it's not clear exactly what he does, but, standing on his magic circle, his form starts to glow. And then, in the place of his tall adult form, we see two smaller child forms.
 - Sakura wakes up with Syaoran leaning over her, and Yue close by. She's propped up against a tree, with the Illusion and Maze cards in her hand.
 - She tells them she had a dream, and, unseen by them, Eriol is impressed that with just a touch of Clow's magic, she saw a vision of his past.
 - It won't be much longer now.
- When Sakura (accompanied by Syaoran and Tomoyo) recounts the vision to Kero, he confirms that the house she saw, and the chair Clow was sitting in, all match up with Clow's real past. But he doesn't remember that conversation with Clow. In his memory, he and Yue nursed Clow until he died.
 - Sakura wonders if the dream she saw was wrong, but Kero has a different concern: maybe Clow changed their memories.
 - He says he needs to talk to Yue, and Sakura says that Yukito is here, but he's with her brother. She asks that he waits until Touya wakes up.
 - And speaking of which, Touya does seem to be waking up!
 - When he sees Yukito, at his bedside, he gently touches his face, relieved to see that he's here. He didn't disappear.
 - Yukito says that it turns out that he's not human after all. He doesn't have grandparents, he's not really a transfer student, and the reason he kept losing time was because he was becoming someone else. All his memories are lies.
 - But, Touya points out that everything that happened since they met is real. It doesn't matter what Yukito is, Touya just wants him always by his side, smiling.
- Tomoyo and Syaoran accompany Sakura on some errands, but when they're done, Tomoyo heads home (insisting that Sakura get plenty of sleep that night), leaving Sakura and Syaoran alone.
 - Syaoransays he'll walk Sakura home, even though Sakura points out that it's out of his way, but he's insistent.
 - In that case, she asks if they can stop by the park.
 - As they sit on the swings, with cherry blossoms billowing around them, Sakura tells Syaoran that she confessed her feelings to Yukito.
 - She tells him how Yukito said he wasn't the one she loved most, and asked if she loved him the way she loved her father.
 - Sakura says he was right; she does love him like a member of her family...but she also loved him in a different way. But, when Yukito said that he had someone

- else he loved most, and that someone was a person she also cared for, she decided that it was ok that Yukito didn't return her feelings in the same way.
- As long as Yukito can be with the one he loves most, that's ok with her.
 - She also remembers when Tomoyo told her that she loved someone, but she didn't need to be with them, she just wanted them to be happy.
 - And Sakura agrees. She thinks she's happiest when Yukito is happy.
 - But...she still felt like crying.
 - And now, she does cry, finally letting go of all these emotions, which she held in because she didn't want Yukito to be sad. She's surprised, since she really does want Yukito to be happy, but Syaoran says that he understands. He knows what she means.
 - He gives her a handkerchief, and Sakura cries on his shoulder, saying that Yukito said she'd find another person to love, and that person would love her most of all. She hopes he's right. Syaoran says not to worry; he's sure she'll find someone.
 - And, smiling, Sakura agrees.
- The next chapter opens with an important sequence that is understated enough that you might miss it. Sakura wakes up as the sun hits her upstairs bedroom. She looks...maybe a little sad, but she's careful not to wake up Kero-chan as she gets out of bed and gets dressed. Then there are a couple panels where she checks herself in the mirror...then smiles at her reflection, realizing "I'm okay now!"
 - She's so happy that everything seems to be back to normal—and thinks about how that's because of Syaoran's kindness, talking her through the rejection.
 - Downstairs, her dad is so happy she's feeling better—she didn't even realize anyone could tell she was down, but he's her dad so of course he noticed.
 - They're about to have a nice family breakfast, when Touya comes downstairs, still pretty zombified.
 - Sakura's a little worried about him but Kero-chan says that it's like giving blood.
 - Sakura's not completely sure that giving up his magic permanently is quite the same, but she's touched by his choice.
 - Over pancakes, the topic of Eriol comes up, and Touya realizes he's met him—but their dad wants Sakura to invite him over some time!
 - On her way to school, Sakura thinks about how she hasn't seen Yukito since everything happened. She thinks that she'll still feel all floaty when she sees him, but thanks to Syaoran, it won't be the same old way.
 - She also sees a little flier for another festival at Tsukimine shrine coming up—that would be a great way to thank Syaoran for his help!
 - She runs ahead to find him and invite him, and he's characteristically overwhelmed by her exuberance.
 - She makes him pinky-swear he'll come to her house on Sunday so they can go together, and she runs off.
 - Later, Syaoran is surrounded by flowers as he thinks about Sakura...when Eriol comes up behind him, thanking him for bringing back her old smile.
 - It's only a little creepy.

- So as the week goes on, Syaoran notices that Sakura's fingers get more and more bandaged. By the time Saturday rolls around, he really wants to know what dangerous thing she's been up to, but she won't tell him.
 - She will tell Tomoyo thank you for all her help, though, and reminds her she'll help her with anything she needs.
 - And Tomoyo replies that as long as Sakura's happy, that's all she needs.
- Syaoran shows up at Sakura's house at 6pm on the dot—only to find her all dolled up in a cute little yukata with a big bold sakura pattern!
 - And—she gives him a nice striped boy-approved yukata that she made herself—hence the bandaged fingers (she's no sewing ace like Tomoyo or her dad or Eriol)
 - It's her dad that explains this as he helps Syaoran get his yukata figured out. And Syaoran has a weird moment where he also is struck by how much Fujitaka, Sakura's dad, reminds him of Eriol.
 - If you say so, book!
 - Sakura is chuffed to see how great Shaoran looks in the yukata she made, and they're off!
 - On the way, he thanks her for the yukata, but no, she says, looking a little bashful actually, she should thank him for listening.
 - That takes up quite a lot of space on the page, a very solid beat where they both share a moment, even if he hasn't confessed and she doesn't have feelings for him...it's important.
 - They're going to meet up with Yukito, Touya, and Tomoyo at the shrine. Shaoran seems a bit worried when she mentions Yukito but she tells him not to—she really DOES only see Yukito as family, now.
 - At the shrine. Yukito admits to Touya that he knows Sakura liked him in a different way than how she liked her dad. He knew he was going to make her sad, but he hoped the way he said it helped her figure out what to do with her feelings, so she wouldn't be too hung up on him to actually develop feelings for someone else.
 - This is a LOT of thought to put into your boyfriend's little sister's crush on you, but that's why we love him—he's very, very sweet and thoughtful.
 - He's actually really upset that Sakura won't be happy to see him—but Touya pats his head and reassures him that Sakura invited him because she was feeling up to seeing him again.
 - Of course Tomoyo wants to film as much of yukata Sakura as possible, and she's DELIGHTED to see the craftsmanship of the yukata Shaoran is wearing (we said Sakura was chuffed before but she's really pleased now.)
 - Then they rush to meet up with the big boys.
- Perched in a tree as usual, Eriol and his goons are observing the festivities.

- Ruby Moon is rocking a girl's yukata that Eriol sewed for them, and Spinel is a bit sassy about it as usual.
 - Eriol, for his part, says he wishes he didn't have to bother Sakura that night...but he has no choice.
 - What does THAT mean? I mean—we know he'll bother her, he's been doing that this whole second arc—but why doesn't he have a choice?
- We don't get an answer. We get a chapter break, and pick back up with Sakura greeting Yukito, who was still a bit worried until he saw her big smile.
 - Sakura insists her big brother pay them back for worrying them (for sleeping so long) by getting them ALL so many snacks from the food vendors. He's not sure he follows the logic but he's too tired to resist.
 - He's especially grumpy about treating Syaoran.
 - As Sakura grabs Yukito's hand, Tomoyo and Syaoran share a moment—Tomoyo noticing that Sakura's in floaty mode, but not quite the same way, and Syaoran noticing that Tomoyo notices everything—well, of course she does, it's Sakura!
 - And unspoken moment where they bond over both loving this girl.
 - But...Tomoyo has also noticed he still hasn't told her how he feels.
 - And he admits he's decided not to tell her. He doesn't want her to have to do for him what Yukito did for her, basically—not just because he's scared of rejection—actually he doesn't mention that at all—but because he doesn't want her to worry about hurting him.
 - Before they can discuss this further, Sakura pulls them back into her orbit, excited about getting some apricots.
 - Which, fair, I always want to eat apricots, too.
 - While the kids enjoy the treats, Touya fumes about Syaoran—who has been such a gentleman Yukito has no clue what could be objectionable about him, unless it was just how he was mean to Sakura in the very beginning.
 - They're friends now so shouldn't it be okay?
 - But no—its not something he did...its that Touya does not like what he thinks he's gonna do in the future: take something he really cares about.
 - Well, whatever, he has more important things to do than brood—like be a living drink caddy for his little sister and her friends! The kids are going to go sit by the pond. He can't carry 4 drinks at a time (i guess this is before starbucks-style drink holders were ubiquitous, or maybe its just that the food vendor is a local who doesn't run a

business full-time with all the bells and whistles) so he takes Yukito with him as an additional beast or burden.

- As is one of the many jobs of older siblings.
- The thing is...when Sakura came up to demand drinks, she kinda startled Touya—and Yukito noticed because Touya used to know when she was there even with his eyes closed.
- And...Yukito knows this is because Touya gave up his magic for him.
- This is really troubling Yukito, this and how tired he is...
 - But Touya shrugs it off—if Touya was starving and Yukito had a bento, what would he do?
 - Yukito cries that he'd give Touya the whole thing!
 - And Touya pinches his cheeks saying that's all he did, so Yukito should stop worrying.
 - And this makes Yukito smile, finally.
- So, the pond the kids are hanging out by is for "Moon Reading" according to Sakura, who says Mitsuki-sensei told her all about it. It's not the koi pond, which is a little ways away—there's nothing living in it. Its bordered by big stones, and there's a nice wooden bridge across it with a stone horse statue like a guardian on one side. The crescent moon is reflected in the water due to very nice use of toner and either the scratch-out effect or white-out/opaque white of some kind.
 - Nicely done, ladies.
- Tomoyo wants Sakura to try moon reading, since Mistuki did teach her something about it, and while Sakura doesn't make any guarantees it will work, she poses as if in prayer (I mean, she probably is) and says, eyes closed, 'If there's something I need to know...please show me.'
 - The moon's reflection wavers as if wind is blowing across the surface of the pond (again, nice technique.)
 - Then Sakura opens her eyes—she sees or maybe senses an image of Clow (well, we know it to be Eriol in his silly little hat)
 - She definitely senses Clow's presence—and sure enough, something weird happens—the horse statue leaps from its post on the bridge, animated and charging them!
 - But Sakura is quick on the draw and release the Wood card to entangle the horse's legs in branches.
 - For a moment it seems like this is going to work, but the horse is too strong and bursts free!
 - In its rampage it yanks down the string lights, and the power goes out all throughout the festival grounds.

not wanting to make Sakura sad, as per their earlier conversation...

- But Sakura doesn't hold onto sadness forever. She should be given the chance to respond to Syaoran's feelings however she's going to, and he doesn't need to be afraid of that.
 - And of course all Sakura can think about is how she hopes everyone can feel as happy as she did when she captured glow for the first time.
- And nearby but concealed, Ruby Moon hopes Eriol is done for the night so they can go bother Touya—
 - And we're left with a slightly ominous full page spread of Eriol saying "Soon, Sakura..." over an image of her just being delighted with her little glowy lights.

Discussion

- This volume did a lot to resolve the emotional turmoil of these kids' little love lives—or well, its leading up to that—but only hinted at the bigger plot stuff.
 - Yeah, I kind of love that! It shows again how the character relationships really are just as integral to the story as the action part.
- Let's start with Yukito and Sakura!
- Yukito's gentle let down is SO SWEET.
 - It could have easily been really condescending, but I think he does it in a respectful way, and the book itself is clear that neither of them is fully buying this "she loves him the same way she loves her dad" thing. It's an easy way to have a conversation they've been needing to have, without things getting messy. The story itself really respects Sakura's feelings.
 - Yeah they make it clear that BOTH characters know that what he said wasn't quite true...but they both accepted it as what to aim for, like a common goal?
 - I'm not sure I would recommend anyone do that necessarily, but it worked for those two—perhaps partially because they're kinda on the same wavelength.
 - Yukito and Touya are less similar, but they still communicate really well. Whereas Sakura and Syaoran are also very contrasting in personality, but are learning to communicate.
 - It's subtle but I think it helps these character relationships feel pretty natural, despite how abstracted and idealized many aspects of CCS are.
 - As we went through it this time, I also realized that despite their age difference, Sakura and Yukito are kind of on equal footing in that scene, because they each know something the other isn't expecting: Yukito

knows about Sakura's feelings for him, and Sakura knows about *his* feelings for Touya. So it's not a one-sided conversation; they're being sweet and considerate to *each other*.

- Does Touya skateboard? He's wearing a Thrasher shirt (from a skateboarding magazine)
 - Or is this just the 90s so skater culture was like, ubiquitous? Remember when every boy wore skate-related shirts, Lucy?
 - Yes, yes I do. I remember it being such a thing, I think I even had a skateboard? I could never ride it, though. I know friend-of-the-pod Tori did, and I think she *could* ride.
 - But, I also wouldn't put it past Touya to have a skateboard. I mean, he has a motorcycle, so he's clearly into cool modes of transportation.
- Also RIP that horse statue, sorry priests at Tsukimine.
- So we got a glimpse of plot here with a question about Clow's backstory—we see how he left things with the guardians, or did we? Which memory, the one Sakura saw or the one Kero-chan has, is false?
 - And the body language between Clow and Yue REALLY seemed like Yue's attachments are romantic and obsessive, not just some kind of filial loyalty.
 - It adds some depth to why he's so bitchy and judgy and unhappy—he's heartbroken and stubborn. That's a ROUGH COMBO HUH
 - Yeah, it definitely read as romantic (at least on Yue's side), both reading it now and in my memory. It definitely adds some depth to his character. Not only do we have a reason for his bitchy stoicism, we also because we get to actually see him having emotions, which makes him feel a lot more human. Even if he isn't.
- But man...we got some weird "I have to do this" line from Eriol here and that's interesting, isn't it? Because he's definitely a creep for coming back from the dead with new assistants after dying on the old ones, one of which was maybe in love with him??? And not telling anyone??? And pestering a small child? While being a small child???? Like...what is this plan, dude???
- We don't have much reason to like Clow. Like, we see his personality through the cards he created, and they're all very pretty and either sweet or mischievous and straight up feral—it feels like we're just seeing how much he likes to be amused by surprises, so he creates things that will cause chaos just to have something to do.
- Yeah, I think he seems likeable for the same reasons Eriol does: he smiles a lot, and he seems to know what's going on. But he also has moments of showing us that he does care. I mean, this whole selection and trial process that the New Master of the Clow goes through seems like it was just him reacting to Kero and Yue's feelings about his death (whether he had planned it already or not). And Eriol has been gentle with Sakura when she was sick, and seems to want her to succeed more than he wants to succeed himself.
- Clow's an interesting guy.

- Plus he's hot? Am I the only one who thinks Clow Reed is hot? Is this a further progression of my switch to liking Glasses Type guys???
- Putting that aside, if that memory was right...what was up with the two child forms on Clow's magic circle? One has got to be Eriol, right, but who's the other kid?

Outro

In our next episode, we'll be discussing Cardcaptor Sakura volume 11.

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!