

CCS Volume 12

Episode 75

Lucy

Robin

Intro

Sakura Kinomoto may have passed all the magical trials to become master of the Clow Cards—but she still needs to master her own heart!

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

Check-In

- Slight tickly throat today, so apologies if my voice sounds weird. I've got tea on hand, though!
 - And don't worry, it's not covid, I checked
- But without further ado, take it away, Robin!

Background

- This is volume 12, the final one of the original run, which concluded in Nakayoshi in June of 2000 after 4 years, since it began May 1996.
- Card captor Sakura has sold millions of Volumes, has spun off TWICE, and spawned successful anime, movies, and merch sales to this day.
- It is highly recognizable as a face of this magical girl genre that may or may not actually exist, and especially influential on audiences from around the world who may have gotten their first taste of anime, of female super heroes, of magic, and of queerness from the series!
- And we're finally at the end of the manga, as bittersweet as that is!

Summary

- This last volume picks up right where the last one left off--after a mysterious voice speaks, Sakura turns to see Kahou standing there! She definitely hadn't expected to see her former teacher in Japan--let alone in Eriol/Clow's house!
 - Eriol, with his calm smile, does not look surprised at all.
 - In fact, Kahou compliments him. He's done excellent work.
 - And when he thanks her, there's something almost intimate between them...which Tomoyo of course picks up on.
 - Kahou explains that she met Eriol while abroad, and even though she wanted to tell Sakura the truth after receiving her letters, she was worried the truth would just interfere with Sakura's ability to do her best.

- Sakura agrees; as discussed in the previous volume, she wouldn't have been able to give her all if she hadn't thought the threat Eriol posed was real.
 - And besides--Kahou did help her try harder, through her supportive letters.
- Looking very unhappy to admit it, Kero says that it looks like everything went according to Clow's plan.
 - But Eriol contradicts him. In fact, there's something that even he in his full power couldn't predict...the human heart, especially in matters of love.
 - Ok yes this is a little sappy, but he says this while looking out the window at Yue, who's pouting and refusing to look at him.
 - Tomoyo has a different concern, though. If Sakura is more powerful than Clow Reed now, does that she will be able to predict the future as well?
 - Everyone looks pretty surprised at this idea, but Eriol and Kahou quickly reassure them. If Sakura could predict the future, Eriol couldn't have helped her.
 - But, she does have more power than even Clow himself, which does mean she will have powers he didn't. And the power to see the future could be open to her, but only if she wishes it. Otherwise, it will not activate.
 - So that's a relief to everyone.
- Eriol offers them all refreshments, and sends them off with Spinel and Ruby Moon to get things prepared, leaving him to approach Yue alone.
 - Eriol asks Yue to come inside, but Yue responds by bringing him back to their earlier conversation. Eriol never answered him: why didn't he tell him and Kero that he would be reborn?
 - He even went so far as to change their memories...why?
 - Eriol says that if he had, they would have continued to search for him, which Yue confirms in a heartbeat. Of course they would. Why make them choose a new master at all?
 - In response, Eriol clarifies something they've been dodging around a bit: he's Clow Reed's reincarnation, but he's not Clow Reed himself.
 - He may have Clow's memories, but there is no way to bring someone back from the dead, even Clow. Which why he left them in Sakura's care.
 - He asks Yue if he hates Sakura for her role in all this, and when Yue says he doesn't hate her, Eriol quips that coming from Yue, that likely means he likes her very much.
 - As he moves to go back inside, Eriol says that he's glad he came here. He got to meet Sakura, the cards, and Yue and Cerberus, and there are other things he had not foreseen.
 - For instance, Yukito. He had expected Yue's temporary form to fall in love with Sakura, since she is Yue's master, and had expected Sakura to stay in love with Yukito in turn. But he was wrong. As he suspects Yue knows better than anyone else.
 - Yukito chose Touya instead, and as for Sakura...she has a number one love that they will discover shortly.
- The next day, things seem like they are back to normal--Sakura leaves her house in a hurry, running late again.

- But this time, she sees her father and is reminded of his connection to Clow Reed--how he and Eriol are both reincarnations of Clow's split soul. He still seems like her same old dad, though.
- As Fujitaka watches Sakura leave, he's joined by a figure that has probably been by his side very frequently--his dead wife, Sakura's mother, Nadeshiko.
- We've seen her before because of Touya's (now absent) ability to see ghosts...but this is a first for Fujitaka.
- Shocked, he asks how he can see her...he doesn't have Touya's power. Nadeshiko says she'll explain later, but first, she's just so happy that they can be together again.
- Sakura makes it to school on time, but only barely--she did beat the teacher, but her friends congratulate her on possibly the fastest time from the gate to the classroom that they've ever seen.
 - She's not the last one there, though. Syaoran runs in behind her. He's normally not late like she is, but he explains that he had a telephone call from his mother this morning.
 - Sakura asks him about it, and he looks SO SAD, but before he can say what the call was about, the teacher arrives and calls the class to attention.
 - He has some sad news for everyone: Eriol will be leaving them and returning to England.
 - Oh...no...
 - Later, Sakura tells Eriol that she hasn't figured out a way to thank him yet, and he says he's the one who should be thanking her.
 - But, he has some last advice for her. He tells her to remember how it felt when she learned he was moving back to England. When the same thing happens again, he asks her to think about her feelings then, and how they're different from how she feels about Eriol leaving. If she does that, she'll understand who is truly important to her.
 - Sakura doesn't get it, but he says she will understand eventually.
- As school is letting out, Syaoran spots Sakura from a distance, and to his surprise, she senses he's there and turns around, excited to see him.
 - She says she just had a feeling it was him.
 - They walk (well, walk and skate--she's got her rollerblades) home together, and Sakura says it's sad that Eriol is going back to England.
 - Syaoran looks sad, too, but given how he reacted earlier about the call from his mom, I'm guessing it's not for the same reasons Sakura is sad.
 - But there's no time for that now, because Sakura remembers she has a question for him: what was it he was going to say her the other day, after Tokyo Tower?
 - Syaoran stands at a distance from her, taking a moment to gather himself. When he turns to look at her, he looks determined, and just says it: I love you.
 - She looks shocked, and he just repeats the sentiment: she's his only one. That's all he had to say. He tells her to be careful on her way home, and walks away.
- At the Kinomoto home, prepping food in the kitchen, Touya and Yukito have an adorably casual conversation about the very unusual recent events.

- Yukito says he heard Kaho was back, and Touya says she knows Eriol, apparently.
- Touya also comments on how much trouble Clow Reed caused, but I cannot emphasize enough how low-key this conversation is. “So Clow Reed, huh?”
 - I want that to be my new go-to small talk instead of the weather.
 - We can make that happen
- Yukito agrees that he caused a lot of trouble, but he’s grateful for Clow as well. If he hadn’t given Yukito this form, he would never have met Sakura...or Touya. And the two share a very sweet smile.
- He then asks about Sakura...apparently she’s been up in her room since she got home. Yukito wonders if something happened...but Touya *knows* something happened. It’s the thing he knew was going to happen--this, and what comes next, are the reason he never liked Syoaran.
- Upstairs, Kero tries to find out what’s wrong with Sakura--does her tummy hurt?--but she just stays under her covers, blushing, with Syoaran’s words echoing in her head: “you’re my number one.”
- How does she really feel about him? He’s a good friend, but is that all? Her memories of the time’s he’s saved her and supported her tell her that it’s more than just friendship, but it also feels different from what she felt for Yukito.
 - It sure is confusing, but don’t worry Sakura, everything will definitely be alright!
- In the next chapter, it’s time for everyone to say goodbye to Eriol before he returns to England. Sakura and Tomoyo meet him at his house--Clow’s house--and apologize that they can’t see him off at the airport. It is a school day, afterall.
 - But, Sakura knows she can still write to Kaho (who is apparently also going back), and asks if she can write Eriol letters as well.
 - He says he’ll look forward to it, and Sakura looks so happy---her smiling face takes up over half of a page, with accompanying shojo flowers to signify her mood.
 - Tomoyo promises to write as well (this is given much less importance on the page), and then Kahou remembers that she has something for Sakura.
 - She goes off to look for whatever it is, but shows a very forgetful side of herself that we haven’t seen yet--Kahou has always seemed so collected and together. Eriol gently reminds her that she’s looking for three packages, and he put them on the fireplace, so she’d be sure to see them.
 - It’s sweet, and very domestic, as Kahou gets the packages and Eriol extolls her forgetfulness to Sakura and Tomoyo. Apparently, she also loses her way frequently, and can never remember street signs.
 - Kahou returns with the packages, and while Sakura helps her keep from dropping them, Eriol looks on with a very kind smile...that Tomoyo instantly clocks.
 - Tomoyo sees all.
 - She tells Eriol he must be very fond of Kahou, and as has happened a few times before, Eriol remarks on how observant Tomoyo is.

- It turns out the packages--which are pretty small, for the record, about the size of paper lunch bags--are souvenirs from England. One for Sakura, one for Tomoyo...and one for Syoaran.
- Hearing his name makes Sakura's heart thump--but he's not here; Kahou says that Syoaran called her yesterday to say that he'd have an errand to run and wouldn't be able to stop by.
- Sakura takes the package for him, but thinking of him makes her blush. Looks like she's still working out her feelings for him.
- Well, all good things must end, and it's time for Eriol and Kahou to be off. Sakura thanks him again, and Eriol tells her not to forget what they talked about. When she learns someone else is going far away, if she notices how she feels differently than she does now, with them leaving, that will help her understand her feelings.
- They shake hands--which takes up a whole page in itself--and Eriol says that he looks forward to the day when they meet again.
- The girls leave, and Nakuru remarks that they're going to miss toying with Touya and Yukito. Spinel, of course, teases them.
 - Watching Nakuru and Spinel bicker, Kahou asks Eriol a question: why did he make those two?
 - His answer is two-fold, which Kahou seems to expect. Firstly, he knew that Yue and Cerberus would attack him, so he needed these two to oppose them.
 - But, they also complete him. If he didn't have them, Yue and Cerberus would continue to search for the Clow Reed within him. Especially Yue.
 - He says he's also fond of Ruby Moon and Spinel, in his own way.
 - And, echoing Eriol's comment to Yue earlier, Kahou says that coming from him, that must mean he likes them quite a lot.
 - She also says he's kind.
 - Apparently, she's the only one who says that (though, um, actually Eriol, I think Tomoyo said that a few volumes ago?). Most people just say he's impossible to understand.
 - But Kahou says that everyone she falls in love with is like that--actually kinder than anyone, but reluctant to show it.
 - And, somewhat shyly, she says that he must already know about her feelings. He knew she loved him.
 - Which Eriol does confirm. But he doesn't know how things will end.
 - Kahou says she doesn't know either, but if he feels the way she does, she's sure there will be a happy ending.
 - As they hold hands, and lean close together so they are eye to eye, Eriol says that he hopes Sakura will have a happy ending as well.
 - And Kahou says of course she'll be alright--she's *Sakura*, afterall.
- Speaking of Sakura, she looks deep in thought as she and Tomoyo walk off, ruminating on the gifts she's carrying--her's and Syoaran's.
 - Because Tomoyo sees all, she observes that Sakura was expecting to see Syoaran.

- Stuttering and very embarrassed, Sakura attempts to tell Tomoyo what Syaoran said, but Tomoyo makes it easy on her: he said he loved you, didn't he?
- Apparently, she could tell just by looking at Sakura.
- She can also tell Sakura hasn't given him an answer yet, and Sakura says she doesn't know. When she thinks about him, her chest gets tight, and when she wonders what he thinks of her, it gets even tighter, but she still has no idea what she feels. Even though it's her own heart.
 - Her inner turmoil about her feelings is given a lovely page, by the way, where they use that toner that looks like soft balls of light to kind of show Sakura's formless emotions.
- Naturally, Tomoyo comes in with some insights: people are their own worst judges, especially when it comes to their hearts. But Sakura is the only one can know what is truly in her own heart.
 - She doesn't need to worry. The answer is inside her, she just needs to give herself a chance to figure it out.
 - I...love bringing back the idea of judgement here since its a callback to Yue--this is such deceptively good insight from Tomoyo!
- As Sakura ponders Tomoyo's words, we shift over to Syaoran's apartment. He's on the phone, with his mother apparently...agreeing to return to Hong Kong.
 - Nooooo!
- In the next chapter, Sakura opens the present she got from Kahou, and discovers a cute little teddybear pin.
 - Kero's sad it's not something tasty, but it reminds Sakura of the teddybear she made for Yukito--but never gave to him.
 - She also has the teddybear Syaoran left with her, but now the memory of him makes her blush.
 - Kero asks why her face is red, and she stutters and announces that she has to go get more notebook paper, and runs off.
 - Kero considered Syaoran's teddybear, and says she always blushed when she looks at him. Does he think he's so masculine? Kero is a million times cooler!
 - I just really enjoy Kero's rivalry with this inanimate object that does, admittedly, look a bit like him.
 - Off to buy notebook paper, Sakura touches her teddybear pin and thinks of Syaoran's bear. She wonders if Syaoran already had feels for her when he said she should just keep the bear, and remembers their conversation.
 - Back then, he knew she still liked Yukito, but he sat there as she encouraged him to ask out his mysterious crush (of course without knowing *she* was he crush).
 - Of course, things are different now...
 - Her reverie is interrupted by a familiar voice; Chiharu and Yamazaki are out on a picnic, it seems.

- Yamazaki quickly makes himself scarce, sensing that Sakura could use a talk with Chiharu. This is very sweet, and surprises Sakura when Chiharu points it out.
 - Sakura's impressed that Chiharu and Yamazaki could almost communicate just by a look between them, and Chiharu says they've been together a long time.
 - But, Sakura could use someone to talk to. She asks Chiharu what she would do if she said something bad to Yamazaki.
 - After some gentle teasing. Chiharu simply says that she'd apologize. Like she said, they've been together a long time, and she's very out-spoken, so this is not just theoretical. She's definitely said things she regrets, and only realized it later, so when that happens, she apologizes. After all, she loves him, and she wants them to stay together, so she knows how to say she's sorry when she's said something that hurts him.
 - She also knows he'll say it's ok, because it's happened in the reverse as well, when he's said something bad, and she's the one to accept his apologies.
 - She tells Sakura that she's sure if *she* apologizes, whoever it is will forgive her.
 - Of course, this touching moment is interrupted by Yamazaki, back from buying juice. Apparently, he's good at picking up on signals, but still has the worse possible timing.
 - Just seeing them together seems to help Sakura as well, however.
 - As she continues on her way, she knows what she has to do. She has to apologize to Syaoran for taking so long to respond...but then she actually does need to give him an answer. And she still doesn't know how she feels.
 - She knows she likes him a lot, and that it's different from just friends...but what kind of like is it? Tomoyo says the answer is inside her, but she's still unsure.
 - She's bringing Syaoran his gift from Kahou, but worries he might have a cold, since he didn't come to school the day before. As she's trying to decide what to say to him, she spots a moving truck up ahead.
 - Syaoran's standing with the movers, and Sakura turns red and stammers just at seeing him. She gives him the gift from Kahou, and doesn't think much of the movers, until she asks him if someone is moving...and he says he is.
 - It takes her a moment to process this, and Syaoran clarifies: he's going back to Hong Kong.
- As Sakura is in a state of shock, Syaoran explains. He came to Japan to search for the Clow Cards, and although he decided to stay in Japan a bit longer because all the strange attacks were happening...that's over now.
 - After all, the cards are Sakura Cards now, because of her power.
 - Sakura counters that it wasn't just her power, it was because everyone helped her. And because he was there.
 - He says he's glad she thinks so, and Sakura asks if he really has to go back.
 - And yes, apparently he does...there's something he has to do in Hong Kong.

- **Cryptic** much?
 - It gets worse...he's leaving tomorrow. He had planned to stop by her place if he didn't see her today.
 - Sakura's definitely shocked and more than a little upset, but Syoaran says he's glad he came to Japan...and he's glad he met her.
 - **They're** interrupted by the movers, who ask Syoaran a question. When he turns back around, Sakura is gone.
 - She walks alone, processing this news, her feelings cascading down on her. It hurts a lot, and she thinks back to Eriol's words, about how he told her to compare her sadness at him leaving to the sadness she'd feel for someone else leaving later.
 - With Eriol, she felt bad about him leaving, hoped they'd meet again, and thought about ways to keep in touch.
 - But with Syoaran...she just doesn't want him to go.
- **Poor** Sakura is kind of having a meltdown alone, but who should walk up but Rika!
 - **You** remember Rika, she has a secret, uncomfy relationship with their teacher! Ehhh Rika...content warning, I guess?
 - **ANYWAY**, Rika asks Sakura if she hurt herself (since she's, you know, crying), and Sakura just kind of gives in and lets herself cry with her friend.
 - She feels better after crying, but Rika says she still looks like she's hurting.
 - Sakura worries she's keeping Rika from something...is she going to meet her boyfriend?
 - This makes Rika blush, and Sakura thinks that even though Rika seems so calm and grown up, she can still really blush when she thinks about the person she loves.
 - Sakura asks her, she's seeing someone older...are there times she can't see him? What that happens, does it make her sad? Does she feel like crying?
 - Rika asks if that's why Sakura was crying, and Sakura says that she won't be able to see her person *ever*.
 - Rika says her situation is a little different...it's not that she can't see him *ever*, but they can't talk or be around each other very often. Because of his work.
 - Sakura's surprised he works--which, yeah, would be weird to think about for a 5th grade. But Rika says there's more to it than that. She doesn't seem to want to elaborate, though.
 - Sakura just asks if she gets lonely, and Rika says yes, sometimes she is lonely, but in the end she loves him. She can't hate him just because she can't see him...does Sakura think she'll start to hate her special person if she can't see him?
 - She of course shakes her head no, and Rika says she should be alright then.
 - This does seem to comfort Sakura, and she thanks Rika, and then runs off, telling Rika she hopes she didn't make her late.
 - **Once** she's gone, Terada-sensei comes out from behind a tree. He was apparently giving them space, and wonders if Sakura will be ok. And Rika replies: of course she'll be alright, she's Sakura!

- With new determination, Sakura runs home, startling Kero as she digs out her sewing kit. She finally understands how she feels about Syoaran, and there's something she has to make before tomorrow.
- **Ok**, last chapter, lets go!
- Sakura stays up very late working on her project, even when Kero tells her to go to sleep. Seeing how determined she is, he asks if there's anything he can do to help.
 - But no, this is something she has to do herself.
 - **Kero** gives in and agrees to go to sleep and stay out of her way, but tells her to wake him up if there's anything he can do. He'll do anything he can to help.
 - **Touya** and Yukito are also still awake, and Yukito wonders if Sakura's still up--her light is on afterall.
 - But Touya knows she is, and he knows what she's making...it's one of *them*. And no, he will not elaborate.
 - **Yukito** decides he should make Sakura something warm for a snack, since she's probably hungry, and Touya offers to help...though not in so many words, since he's still a big shy boi who doesn't want to show that he cares for people.
 - **Yukito** delivers the snack--Touya made it, but was too modest to bring it, according to Yuki--and just in time, as Sakura's tummy grumbles.
 - He also recognizes what she's making, and asks if she's going to give it to someone. When she says yes, he asks if she's found her special person, the one she loves the most. She says yes to that, too, and confirms that it's someone he knows.
 - **Yukito**, ever supportive, says he hopes she reintroduces this person to him at some point, but that just makes Sakura look sad, and she explains that he's going far away.
 - But, it's not like they'll never see each other again. She believes that if they want to be together, they can always meet again, even if they're separated.
 - **Smiling**, Yukito says that she'll be ok.
 - It makes him think of his own situation. He's thought about things, and he thinks that if he'd known about his true identity, and know that his powers were fading and he and Yue both might disappear, he'd have done everything he could to try and fix things. Even if there wasn't anything he could have done, he would have tried anything, because it's horrible to think of not being able to see the people you love again.
 - Knowing that, he thinks that as long as she wants to see her person again, and they want to see her, they will be able to meet again. As long as they both feel the same way, he's sure they'll be alright.
- **Sakura** does manage to finish her project! And just in time, because she gets a call from Tomoyo. Apparently, Syoaran is leaving on a 10 o'clock flight! It's 9 now, so he's probably already at the airport.
 - This makes Sakura start to cry--she never got to give him her present, or tell him how she feels!
 - **But** Tomoyo is the GOAT, and gives her a pep talk. Sakura has to pull herself together; she'll make it in time. Afterall, she has her invincible spell.

- She's sure Sakura will be alright.
- Encouraged, Sakura gathers her strength and takes off. She has to make it to the bus Syoaran is taking to the airport, and she's prepared to race on her skates to try and catch it, but why do that when your secretly-a-softy big brother has as a motorcycle?
 - Definitely Chekov's Motorcycle there, I love it
- On the bus, Syaoran thinks about his confession to Sakura...he never did get a response from her.
 - But, just then, Sakura calls out for him from the end of the block. She rushes to him, and when Syoaran's opens the bus' window, she shoves her gift at him: a teddybear.
 - She says she knows how she feels now: her number one, is him.
 - In romantic teddy bear tradition, Syoaran asks if he can name his bear "Sakura," and Sakura asks if she can name her bear "Syoaran." Supposedly this will mean that their love will last forever.
 - As the bus starts to pull away, Syoaran says that he will come back once the things he's doing in Hong Kong are done. It might take awhile, though...will she wait for him?
 - Crying, Sakura says yes, and as the bus disappears into the distance, she thinks to herself how she will wait forever, if she has to. After all, Syoaran is the one she loves the most.
- After a few pages of cherry blossoms, time passing with the beauty and impermanence of those spring flowers, we get a bit of an epilogue.
- Sakura, slightly taller and now in middle school, is running late, as usual.
 - But she's stopped by the sight of a familiar teddy bear...and a familiar boy holding it.
 - He's also a little taller and a little older, and he says that he finally finished the paperwork in Hong Kong...the paperwork to move here permanently, and live in Tomoeda.
 - They don't have to settle for phone calls or letters anymore.
 - Hugging him, tears in her eyes, Sakura says that they will be together forever.
 - And that's it! That's the end of Cardcaptor Sakura!

Discussion

- Ok, before we dive into discussion stuff, just a quick reminder that yes, Clear Card exists, but we won't be reading it until we've gotten through the other CLAMP works first. We just couldn't discuss it without acknowledging all those series that came in between...especially Tsubasa Reservoir Chronicle. And to avoid stargazing, that's all we're gonna say about that for now!
- I think it's REALLY INTERESTING that this entire volume was the fall-out from the big climax, and that its 100% focused on the characters' feelings.
 - Really reinforcing that difference between how a story like this would be handled in a Shounen magazine versus Shoujo magazine.

- It brings the personal part of the story into such high importance, and in a lot of ways that's more honest, I think?
 - Like, we're not all going to inherit and perfect magic powers, but we're all going to have to learn to understand our own feelings to some degree.
 - Because this is for such a young audience, I think it's really thoughtful to emphasize the part that is more grounded this way!
- **God** how does this comic for elementary school children have such good advice about recognizing your feelings and being kind to yourself and letting your heart come to its own conclusions?
 - Yukito thinking about how horrible it would be to not see your loved ones again is an interesting contrast to Yue's curse or whatever...if Sakura had lost, all her loved ones would forget about her, so she'd be in that situation, basically.
 - **Oh** you're right! We saw that from a couple different angles there, huh? That may influence how I think of Yue, even—his curse was basically putting his worst fear on someone else—and on some level that worst fear actually did happen to him, since Clow changed their parting memories!
- Back to what you said about kids having advice about recognizing your feelings...
 - **I like** this gentle way of helping kids identify their feelings by having them focus on how they react differently to different people.
 - **That's** an element they've been playing with all along, isn't it? Comparing and contrasting feelings, which are so hard to define, to help each other understand the difference between crushes, 'magic Jojo attraction,' friendship, and this 'love' business.
 - And it kinda hits me in my queer heart, you know?
 - Because if you are a cis straight person and you are attracted to a cis person of the opposite gender and they return your feelings—you have a lot of cultural messaging about that being normal, so you might not have any encouragement to consider what your feelings really are beyond 'liking them.'
 - But for the rest of us, who may have been told certain kinds of attraction, or lack of attraction, are bad and wrong, it's hard to even know how to recognize the feelings we do have, and so we need a different rubric from "well you are legally allowed to get married and encouraged to procreate so it must be the thing you're here for, go for it!"
 - And I say this because honestly, those cis straight kids actually deserve more nuanced ideas about love and attraction, too! More help determining what their feelings are and how to tell and what to do with them, instead of just trying to follow outside clues as to what's expected.
 - There's a lot of personal misery that could be smoothed out with a little more complexity and help here, even for kids who may never have romantic or sexual feelings to be actively thinking about how they feel about other people.

- The fact that we don't always do that, that powerful feelings overwhelm us and sometimes when we don't know what to do with them, we act out in weird and dangerous ways, can really hurt people.
- And maybe that was touched upon a little bit with some of the Clow cards' misbehavior?
- It certainly came out in some of Shaoran's brattiness at the beginning, and Sakura's accidental oblique disregard for his feelings, and maybe even just like, Touya's whole personality ha!
 - Tomoyo, the wise and emotional mature little girl, observes people so closely she can tell when they change their behavior around others and what that might mean, even when they're oblivious to it.
 - I wonder if she'd been written as a brat to everyone but Sakura if that theme/trait might have come through more strongly?
 - But it would also have made her a hard character to like, and maybe played off the whole thing as comedic, instead of taken seriously.
 - Yeah, and it isn't just Tomoyo, there's also Eriol.
 - I love how this cryptic who-knows-how-old dude in a child body is really respecting the feelings Sakura and Syaoran are dealing with.
 - Like as full-ass adults, it feels kind of silly (realistically, you don't expect kids this age to meet their forever partners, even if it does occasionally happen), but it really shows how the series puts prime importance on the relationships between characters, and fully respects the importance those feelings carry for the kids having them.
- Which maybe brings me to something less fun to talk about. The teacher-student relationships which this just...goes hard on.
- So...Kahou and Eriol. It...feels icky. But is it? I mean, he's as old as Sakura's father, with the memories of Clow Reed, who was god-knows-how-old.
 - If anything, *he's* the cradle robber.
 - But yeah, if this makes you uncomfortable that's perfectly understandable. Oh, Clamp.
 - Yeah Kaho is maybe the most uncomfortable part of this whole comic for me, but it is still handled in a very chill way that doesn't actually feel like its encouraging teachers to prey on their students.
 - In an ideal world, it wouldn't matter who you fell in love with but like...we do not live in that world and so its way more complicated for us.

- I guess for these characters it is that world and like...you either accept this part of the story (this and Rika-chan's romance) as sweet, safe wish-fulfillment or it just creeps you out.
 - As we've said before, Rika-chan and Terada-sensei, which in real life would be so illegal and such a big scary deal here in the US, feel firmly in the child's wish-fulfillment zone in the comic—he's waiting for her, there's no sense that he's preying on her more than like, she's just an adult in a child's body, which is iffy but true at least to a child's feelings. And the Eriol/Kaho thing feels so much the same.
 - But doing that twice is still a bit much for me and I wish it were not here!
 - But we're adults now, not kids with crushes on our teachers, and it feels REALLY DIFFERENT. Nowhere in CCS did we see adults actively pursuing children and then, like, the comic saying 'this is good and kids, you should go for it!'--instead we saw like, totally unrealistic scenarios where the relationship is happening on a child's fantasy level.
 - I think that's as much defending it as I can possibly do, because again, not a fan!
 - But there's so much else I was a fan of here.
- How about how they all kind of react as if the power to see the future would be more of a curse than a blessing?
 - Yeah that was left very open, but as a contrast with X and RG Veda in particular, CLAMP fans can breathe a sigh of relief that Sakura-chan might be okay!
- This volume is full of other people using Sakura's spell on her. So supportive!
 - It also really brings home how important Sakura's friends are to her. They all help her in this last volume (even Yamazaki), with more or less the same advice: you know your own heart, and if you follow it, everything will be alright.
 - Like, I love that earlier, when Tomoyo was encouraging Syaoran to confess his feelings to Sakura, she wasn't telling him that Sakura would definitely return those feelings--she just told him that Sakura would be able to handle this news, process it, give her true answer, and do all of that without completely ruining their relationship.
 - And she tells Sakura a similar thing here.
 - All her friends are just so kind, and so confident in her own abilities. Their support and confidence helps her live up to those expectations, which we see time and time again throughout the series.
 - So maybe her spell is "everything will definitely be alright"...but really that's more about the love and support she has, not *just* her own raw abilities or magic or whatever.
- Ok, changing gears a bit...I am very happy for Fujitaka and his ghost wife, but I'm not sure that's a healthy way to move on with your life...
- I wonder why Nadeshiko is a ghost instead of being reincarnated...can you do both? Can your soul be reincarnated while your consciousness lives on as a ghost? Does she have unfinished business in the form of her family?? Am I overthinking this too much???

- No I thought it was weird, too, because they're maybe a little contradictory? Eriol is WAY too literally a reincarnation of Clow to also say that people don't come back from the dead. Effectively, between being reborn with your past memories and being a ghost, being dead doesn't mean thaaaaat much in this universe. Not as much loss and finality as we deal with in the real one. And that's NICE but also feels a little false and unhelpful to me.
- Plus, like...maybe if you think people have only one possible perfect soul mate, then you emotionally require ghost lovers to make them feel complete, but woof.
- That may have just been a goodbye, or like, showing that he gets a benefit from his powers now or something.
- It was very...tidy. Like the Eriol-Kaho thing--wrapping up loose ends.
- Which leads me to wanting to discuss the Teddy bears.
 - They did a great job of weaving that element in from fairly early on and then having it really come through at the end.
 - But.
 - Why was it here instead of using one of the other elements they had at their disposal?
 - I wish the cards were involved, or doing tarot-like readings of the cards, or some other aspect of Sakura's magic maybe. Even if they all made stuffed animals that looked like Kero-chan and Suppi or something? Like, you have mascots they compare to stuffed toys all the time, I wish the teddy bears had been connected more concretely to that.
 - To me it feels like almost a distraction from all the other core elements I'm more interested in, even though having these physical manifestations of feelings, these concrete objects that represent their connections with each other, are great.
 - Like, I think it's a solid storytelling element, and well executed, but I wish they had integrated it into the cards or the mascot characters more.
 - Yeah, I mean, I think on the one hand CLAMP just loves pulling in more cute mascot characters (we'll see more teddy bears in another series very soon..).
 - But, while I do kind of agree that there's a missed opportunity here...I kind of like that this *isn't* about their real magical life. I mean, literal magic is very real. But this is just regular-human superstition, or magical thinking, or make-believe, or whatever.
 - The teddy bear thing kind of ties their feelings and their relationship back to their mundane lives--it was a whole thing all the kids were into, after all. So I kind of like that this image that they use to connect them comes from their real-life friendship, not their magical night-job.
- Phew! Ok, that was a lot! But we did it. We finished the Cardcaptor Sakura manga! I'm both sad to see it go and excited for what's next, because...

Outro

In our next episode, we'll be starting on the anime! We need to figure out how many episodes to cover per CLAMPcast, but it will not be all of them in one go, I can promise you that. We'd die! If you want to plan ahead, after CCS we will be talking about Clover...but I doubt that will happen before the end of the year.

Until we bring that animated goodness to the airwaves, 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 definitely be alright—

—and try not to lose an eye!