

CCS Anime

Ep. 33 - 46

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Intro

[Aw Yue, why do you have to be so judgemental?

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

Check-In

- Life has been wild! I think summer might be more normal but since I'm about to be in rental-hunting and moving zone...man.
- I have just come to accept that there is no normal...wheeee.....

Background

- So we almost finished season 1 last time, and this time we'll cover the last episode or so of season 1 and all of season 2 somehow! Episodes 33-46 of the Card Captor Sakura anime, from late-late 1998 to early 1999.
 - Yes, we did say we'd stop at 44...but when we got to 44, we couldn't resist just finishing the damn season. So if you're watching along at home and you stopped at 44, pause this and go watch the big Judgement stuff, and then come back!
- Ok, so, the pacing for this part is a little wild...I looked it up, because season 1 ended without any sign of being at the Judgement part, and apparently I had gotten the number of seasons wrong. I thought there were 2, but there are in fact 3. Season 2 is just super short, ~~only like 11 episodes (it comes and goes in the sequence of episodes we're covering today).~~
- I don't know why this is, but I can guess it had something to do with the station it was running on...maybe they needed a short burst of a season to balance with something else in or around the timeslot? They certainly didn't *need* to add these episodes just for plot purposes (though I don't mind that they did).
- But, it's been awhile since we did a timeline check-in, so...
 - These episodes mostly came out in spring 1999
 - This is the same year that the Angelic Layer and Suki manga started, as well as the CLAMP School Paranormal Investigators light novels...all of which we'll discuss more soon...ish...

- The X manga was still going strong...
- And the Cardcaptor Sakura manga was still running as well, and wouldn't conclude until June 2000
 - I mention this mainly because, while we're still in territory covered by the manga, that will not be true for much longer.
- But that's a later problem! Now, on to episode 33-46!

Summary

Episode 33

- Sakura's class is going to be visiting an ice skating rink tomorrow, but the rink isn't the only thing that's icy!
 - Syaoran finds the randomly icy street outside the school suspicious, but Meiling hurries him home before he can actually do anything.
 - Poor Sakura slips and falls on the ice when she rollerblades across it. Fortunately the only thing broken is the ice itself, but Sakura's a little worried that this means she's going to struggle with the ice skating.
 - But Tomoyo reassures her, and they head home...not noticing that behind them, the crack in the ice gets bigger, and an ominous music sting plays.
- Sakura's delighted to find Yukito at her house for dinner, and that her dad made stew before he left for his business trip.
 - Yukito is even staying the night! Sakura plots how she can see him, and decides to make him and her brother a snack as an excuse to visit them in Touya's room.
 - Kero is a bit exasperated by this but whatever, this is what comes of choosing a preteen as your cardcaptor candidate, Kero-chan.
 - Sakura's clever plan is almost thwarted by Touya, who comes to get the tea himself, but she does get to see Yukito on her way back to her room, so that's a win for Sakura!
 - However, as she celebrates, we hear a cold wind blow overhead.
- Sakura has that dream again...you know, the one with all the cherry blossoms and Tokyo Tower. And the mysterious figure, who is now Kaho-shaped.
 - She falls out of bed in the morning, and remembers that she's had this dream before but it's getting clearer and clearer. The full moon is out, she tells Kero-chan, and there's someone with long hair.
 - HMMM
 - Sakura heads off to the promised trip to the skating rink, with a wonderful bento prepared by her brother and Yukito (it's impressive, but nothing compared to the truly ginormous bento they made for Yukito).
 - Kero-chan watches her leave, and takes a look at the Book of Clow, usually hidden in a drawer. "Yue..." he says.

- Meiling does NOT like the cold and neither does Syaoran, which the kids note is because it's warmer in Hong Kong. The cousins are bundled up in the bus on the way.
- We get the SECOND VERSE of the opening song as the kids take to the rink—Tomoyo is great, but Sakura and Syaoran are STRUGGLING—actually, so is Meiling, though Kaho gives her individual attention that is SO SWEET.
 - When Rika falls, Terada-sensei helps her up and gives her good skating advice, and then invites her to skate with him because that's here sigh.
 - Sakura is improving with Kaho's help, but Syaoran is REALLY struggling—he is determined and tries his hardest, but trips every time.
 - When they take a break, Meiling is back in her bundle of coats and is MISERABLE, refusing to eat lunch with everyone because where they're eating is too cold. They're sympathetic, but too excited to find a solution for her and end up eating where they can see Kaho skate beautifully.
- After lunch, Sakura's really getting the hang of it. But Meiling just HATES the cold. Terada-sensei is a little tougher on her, reminding her that she'll warm up if she moves around...but the thing is...it IS really cold.
 - Terada-sensei asks the staff about the heaters and supposedly they're working, but everyone's getting more bundled up.
 - In fact it's so cold that most of the kids are trying to find the warmer areas to hang out. But Syaoran is determined to get better and try to do turns and stops on his own.
 - Meiling just wants him to go inside the somewhat warmer inside area with her, but he's determined.
 - The other kids line up for hot drinks, and Syaoran goes to check on Meiling—but a layer of ice is starting to cover her!
 - The ice takes over their teacher, too—and then it gets Tomoyo!
 - The adults—even the ones holding hot drinks—and then the students are all encased in ice.
 - The eeriness of this is quite effective, turning a cute field trip into something sinister. The episode is slow and quiet, with eerie tense music, to reinforce the inexorable nature of the cold.
- Syaoran and Sakura are okay, though—and Syaoran says this is the Freeze card.
 - We see that Kaho is also unfrozen and is spying on them, just before the ice starts attacking Sakura, erupting in giant spiky crystals from the rink as she and Syaoran skate to avoid it!
 - Sakura is thrown, and Syaoran tries to attack an almost-dragon-shaped ice crystal that forms by kicking it with his skates.
 - Sakura uses the jump card to try to distract Freeze from Syaoran, but it hits her and she falls, getting half-covered in ice herself!
 - A sort of fish-shaped card sprite jumps out of its ice shield for a moment, and Syaoran gets an idea. He'll try to skate around and distract it while she times her attempt to seal it.

- This works, she smacks the air in front of it as it's slowly, eerily diving at her, and it even cracks a bit in mid-air as it is sealed into the Clow Card again.
 - And Syaoran gets the card.
- The ice melts away, the temperature returns to something bearable, and poor Meiling is now WAY too warm in her bundle of coats.
- The episode ends with Sakura skating around confidently, with a tray of drinks for everyone!

Episode 34

- At cheer leading practice, Chiharu tells Sakura about a scavenger hunt on Saturday!
 - It's a team thing, and Sakura gets distracted thinking about that and her baton hits her in the head again because we can't let good animation go to waste.
- The girls all want to enter the scavenger hunt, and Sakura wants to enter with Tomoyo but Tomoyo wants to film her—luckily Yukito walks by and volunteers! Touya will be at work, you see.
 - OH GOD EXISTENTIAL ANGST ABOUT HOW HE CEASES TO EXIST WHEN HE'S NOT AROUND A MAIN CHARACTER
 - Ok moving on...
- Kero-chan is still worrying about Yue that night as Sakura sleeps; he senses things are coming to a head.
- Saturday, Meiling boasts about what a great team she and Syaoran will be, but Syaoran is very distracted by Yukito showing up to be Sakura's team mate.
 - Yukito is nothing but nice to him, but he of course has to run off with embarrassment.
 - Tomoyo's bodyguards are lined up behind her as she prepares to film!
- Syaoran blushes looking at Yukito...and at Sakura. He's confused and that makes him grumpy, and Meiling clinging to him makes him grumpy too.
 - Such a mood, Syaoran
- SO this is some kind of local business association promotional event for the community. The goal is to answer riddles/solve puzzles at a station at each shop in the shopping area, getting a stamp of completion, and they'll find an area where they can search for a beautiful ceramic tile with a Nadeshiko flower on it, which is apparently the official flower of Tomoeda.
- Yukito is good at riddles—and while the first one stumps Sakura, he thinks he's got it! And the person operating the first station—is Touya!
 - They have to move matchsticks in a star pattern somehow, and Yukito solves it by creating the kanji for star
 - When Syaoran and Meiling try, she throws the matchsticks in the air to say that look, they became the stars that light the sky!
 - Its a good try but Touya says no.

- Next stop is at Twin bells, the shop from the Jump episode! Our friend the shopkeeper gives them a question about turning ice to fire that is also kanji-based, you just erase one stroke from hi (fire) to make mizu (water).
 - Poor Meiling makes the constellation Orion next and I THINK SHE SHOULD GET IT but Touya's like no.
- Yukito is great at this—but Yamazaki's not bad either!
 - Sakura catches up to him and Chiharu at a station operated by Kaho, and she and Yukito exchange a look—well, there's a moment between them but they both just smile at each other.
 - This is the final riddle for Sakura and Yukito. There's a ball in a bottle and she has to remove it without using her hands.
 - And due to rock-paper-scissors, Sakura has to answer herself without Yukito's help!
 - While Sakura works out the puzzle, Yukito introduces himself to Kaho more formally and he tells her the same lies about his life as he tells everyone. She kinda sees through it but doesn't know what to say.
 - Sakura figures out the puzzle, stopping the awkwardness—she uses the water cooler to fill the bottle so the ball floats to the top! They're done!!!
- As they leave, Kaho tells Sakura to be careful—its a full moon today.
 - OMINOUS
- Tomoyo can't wait for Sakura to return triumphant, but Sakura looks kinda sad.
 - They're going to go find the tile that has been hidden in the park.
 - Sakura mostly knows the playground but there's a whole forested area behind it...and she and Yukito start exploring.
 - There's a big full moon in the sky, despite it being daytime (which is not THAT weird) but while it's beautiful, Sakura can't help but remember Kaho's words of caution, and her dream comes back to her....
 - Remember the cliff from the Mirror episode? Sakura swoons and falls off it—and Yukito grabs her to save her but also goes overboard!
 - They really need to stay away from cliffs.
- At home, Kero-chan knows something's up. And so does Kaho.
- Mostly what's up right now is that Yukito's got a big rip in his pants and a scrape on his leg. He did find the tile! But it's very dark now... Sakura's so worried about him, but he thinks he can walk with her help.
 - At the plaza, Meiling is still stuck on the first station.
 - Even though Chiharu and Yamazaki already officially won—there's even an extra prize of tickets to an amusement park—no one is resting easy.
- Then Skaura and Yukito show up, Sakura supporting him as best she can. She delivers him into Touya's arms—and Touya gives them both the mechanical pencils or pens or whatever that are prizes for the runners-up.
 - Touya helps support Yukito off screen and it ends with Skaura looking up at the sky.

- **ALSO NOTE** this is almost the end of the first season and Kero's little bonus segment has him sobbing about his hosting duties being over—but he reminds us the series isn't over.

Episode 35

- **This** is the end of season one...a x-mas episode!
- It begins with Sakura's dream again. Nothing new here.
- She's still trying to figure out who the person in her dream is when she wakes up—in class! To Kaho gently reminding her not to fall asleep. Sakura does start to put 2 and 2 together here.
- **Tomoyo** is concerned about her, she's been in a daze since the scavenger hunt.
 - Sakura says it's something about the full moon and needing to be careful—but they're distracted by cute x-mas decorations on someone's house on the walk home.
 - **They** discuss their presents for each other—and Sakura remembers that Yukito's birthday is also christmas day!
- **Later**, during PE, the girls all discuss x-mas presents.
 - Chiharu says Yamazaki's better than she is at all hand crafts so that's out. He shows off for her on the bars and the teacher has to hurry him offstage lol.
 - Rika gets dreamy thinking of what to get Terada-sense, of course.
 - **Sakura's** still in a daze. She knows what to get her family and Tomoyo, but not Yukito. Tomoyo suggests she ask someone else!
 - She approaches Meiling but Meiling DOES NOT trust her and thinks this is a kidnapping attempt or something—but Sakura sets things straight.
 - She asks what Meiling gives Syaoran for x-mas every year, and Meiling's like 'it can be anything! It's about the thought not what it IS.' and Sakura's delighted by this thoughtful answer—but when Meiling adds "and if they don't like you, it doesn't matter what it is anyway!" Sakura does a pratfall.
- **The night**, Kero gluts himself on cake while Sakura stares at her Daidouji-made cell phone, agonizing over whether to call Yukito or not.
 - It's her turn to take a bath, but she still can't bring herself to go. Kero's had enough of this and smacks redial, forcing the decision lol.
 - **We** all had *that* friend as tweens...
 - **Sakura** freaks out—but when Yukito actually picks up, she immediately starts talking to him. She's worried about him, but also the friends that won the hunt gave her the tickets for the amusement park—does he want to go?? He's always up for a good time and agrees!
- **So we're going to have a Christmas amusement park date.** Kero and Tomoyo wear dark glasses and spy on them so Tomoyo can film her—she does lament that she didn't design her outfit too~
 - **No** one notices a wreath just CATCH FIRE AND BURN in the background because Meiling and Syaoran are also here!
 - It's like a double date only not! Syaoran is so excited and stressed that he walks like a robot just to be close to Yukito.

- They have fun, not without tension, and then break for a lunch—and apparently Touya’s working here! I love how usually when Yukito goes on a ‘date’ with Sakura, it’s to a place Touya is working.
 - To be fair, usually when any of them go somewhere not on a “date” Touya is also working there...
 - But, it does make it feel especially like Yukito is just hanging out with his boyfriend’s little sister, and bringing her to see him...which is basically exactly what he is doing, but not from Sakura’s perspective.
 - GOD HER CRUSH ON HIM GIVES ME SO MANY PAINFUL MIDDLE SCHOOL FLASHBACKS
- Anyway, Yukito eats a lot at lunch of course...
- And...stuff starts catching FIRE.
 - Kero-chan senses a card, and Syaoran thinks fast, using the Time card to stop time, and then tells Sakura to put everyone to sleep!
 - But the time card uses his power up so now it's mostly up to her to stop this card.
 - She tries to use Windy, but it's not working, probably because air feeds flames with oxygen?
 - Syaoran and Kero work together with her to figure out that this is actually the Fiery card, and while Sakura thinks Watery should be good, Kero says Watery and Firey are the same level so it won't be enough—and she's not powerful enough to use windy and watery together, is she?
 - But she can't despair. She gives it a try! Syaoran is impressed that she pulls it off—and windy and watery wrap up the somewhat small and fierce-looking sprite that is Firey so she's able to seal it!
 - This is great, but Kero starts burnin'...only he isn't concerned—he's powered up because he's sun-related and so is Fiery!
 - He can't make it to his full form but he can make flames!
 - Kero boasts to Syaoran about how high ranking this card Sakura caught is, and Syaoran is unimpressed that he's still just a stuffed animal.
- Afterwards Tomoyo is sad that she missed the card fight again, but Kero says she might still get to see the best part.
- In a romantic ferris wheel ride, Syaoran blushes looking at Sakura and Yukito again, and Sakura gives Yukito a present—a little doll of him that she made!
 - He's delighted. And outside, sparkles fall instead of snow—it's Kero...dumping christmas sparks on them???
 - who knows.
 - The opening theme plays as we watch glowy bits fall on the theme park and everyone in it, including Tomoyo and Touya...
 - Up in the gondola, Yukito looks at his cute doll and then at Sakura and says “let's do this again next year!” to which she agrees, overwhelmed with how lovely everything is.
- END OF SEASON 1

Episode 36

- We made it to season 2! We will finish this show yet!
- We have a new opening theme! This song is called Tobira o Akete (Open the door) sung by ANZA.
- Once again, Sakura is dreaming.
 - Some of the sequence has new animation, however!
 - And this time she identifies the figure as her teacher...but before she does anything about that, she wakes up to her alarm.
 - Kero's grumpy that she's a fifth-grader and still can't get up in the morning.
 - Sakura does a new introduction for new viewers! Her brother calls her a kaiju because she can sleep through an alarm, and the family gathers for breakfast and greets the photo of her late mother.
 - Lots of parallels to the first episode, so it definitely feels like a fresh start...even if we are breathing down the neck of the midpoint climax. But whatever.
- It's the first day of school for both kids in a new grade level, but Sakura's still in the same class. She's worried Touya and Yukito won't be in the same class but luckily they will be so they can still all go to school together!
 - Yukito has a flat tire and his bike is in the shop, so he sends Touya on without him and walks with Sakura, who can skate slowly enough to keep pace.
 - It's spring and cherry blossoms are everywhere. And Yukito helps make her day even more by giving her a present for starting 5th grade!
- The girls are all happy to still be in the same class, but Rika's a little sad that Terada-sensei won't be their teacher.
 - Oh...oh no...whatever will we do...
- Shaoran and Meiling come in at the last second because Meiling overslept—she was having a nice dream about being on a date with Syaoran, who is not happy this is brought up at all.
 - Their new teacher is none other than Kaho Mitsuki-sensei! Which makes Sakura go all floaty and dreamy (as Tomoyo has to explain to a confused Meiling)—but Sakura's good mood is cooled a little by a weird feeling from her own dream.
- Kaho says they should all go play outside on such a nice day. They pick dodgeball and run outside—but Sakura's a bit slower, and Kaho says 'better hurry up before the pretty stuff falling outside piles up too much!' and as she watches, Sakura thinks she sees the petals become snow?
 - Nothing comes of this, at least not immediately.
- That evening Sakura opens the present from Yukito and it's a cute watch!
 - Kero is concerned about the snow which is definitely falling outside now, and wants Sakura to remember to stay warm, but she's in the throes of crush over the watch.

- She shares a bag of chips with Kero who says that he's suspicious of her new teacher...there's someone around who has so much power that they are blocking his ability to properly sense cards...
- Later when Sakura is working on dinner, her brother yells for a towel—he's home, but it's snowing so badly that he's going to track it all over the house without tueling down.
 - The snow is...crazy. Like, piling and piling up in walls around everyone's houses—and it's APRIL!
 - We did just get a bunch of snow in freaking MARCH, so I sympathize.
 - Wait, do you think that was a Clow Card? How exciting. Thank you for saving us from the snow, Sakura-chan!
 - Thanks to Sakura-chan's efforts I had a wonderful ECCC!
- Tomoyo calls her about this OBVIOUS Clow card situation and Tomoyo says she has an outfit ready for her!
 - It's a cute red bunny coat, and the girls fly through the air over the park—where Meiling and Shoran have also gathered! They're using magic to stand on the snow and they suggest Sakura use the Float card (though she falls into the snow first.)
 - Syaoran thinks this has something to do with Kaho-sensei, though Sakura can't see how someone that wonderful would do this.
 - And then the snow picks up again in a little whirlwind harassing just the kids!
 - Syaoran and Sakura get away from their friends to protect them, and Syaoran blushes when Sakura offers her hand to him to get him on her wand for some Fly action.
 - They manage to fly ahead of the snowy blizzard, but it's definitely chasing them—and it's gaining!
 - Syaoran uses some magic, asking the god of fire for some heat, but the blizzard just intensifies and tries to engulf them.
 - They need something stronger. Worse yet—Yukito's watch has fallen off!
 - Syaoran is stricken that she got a watch from HIM, but she's not going to just go to pieces over this.
 - They land on a tori gate at the shrine and Sakura calls on Fiery, who obliges by flying in a kind of phoenix-form to sweep away/melt all the snow.
 - Kero describes this as a 'girls are scary when you make them mad' thing even though Fiery is pretty non gender specific compared to the tres femme yuki-onna-looking sprite that Fiery drives back at Sakura to seal—The Snow is now a card in her deck!
- But she's still missing the watch. She starts sobbing, and Syaoran is left with her, unsure of what to do.
 - Kero goes off to get the girls, so Syaoran has no backup and has to try to help Sakura with her feelings alone. His solution? To help her look for the watch!

- She's grateful and says he's so kind, which makes him go RED!
- But before they can start, Kaho shows up in her miko garb, holding the moon bell—and she found the watch!
- She knew it was Sakura's because of a hunch (using the language she's used before about knowing they'll meet again/knowing about Touya, etc.)
- Sakura is delighted, but Syaoran glares at her, untrusting. The moon is pretty full tonight, too, we see...

Episode 37

- The kids are having a picnic under the cherry blossoms (hanami) and doing karaoke.
 - Sakura is not terrible! Meiling thinks she's better.
 - The portable karaoke machine is Tomoyo's mom's company's unreleased new prototype.
 - Everyone is hype for Tomoyo to sing. And she's great! I mean, it's a baby voice and a little rough for me, but the show makes it clear this is sweet and enchanting as the kids gaze at the Sakura blossoms.
- That evening, holding up Sakura's blow dryer to help with her hair, Kero WHINES that he didn't get to go do hanami with everyone and eat snacks. Sakura asks if he could have gone in his true form but no, he says it would be worse. He says that form is TOO COOL FOR WORDS. But he looks a little troubled when she leaves.
- At school, the kids are excited for an upcoming strawberry picking field trip, but Tomoyo is troubled because she has a solo soon and if she messes up...well, she keeps her sweet smile on but she says it would be a disaster for her. Poor Tomoyo why so much pressure, girl??
 - Later, Kaho-sensei takes Sakura aside and says that Tomoyo might have a rough time and need some support. But how does she know??
- At cheerleading practice, the girls decide they might go listen to Tomoyo—when Yuki and Touya meet Sakura at the fence between their schools.
 - They're helping out the soccer team, you see. Yukito is great at soccer, as he's great at everything, but Sakura's so excited about his goal she throws her pom poms SO FAR—and that takes her closer to Tomoyo's practice.
 - The breeze ruffles the cherry blossoms as she listens—and she senses a card! There's a pink fwoosh—and Tomoyo has stopped singing.
 - Sakura is worried and runs to her side. In the music room, Tomoyo has collapsed!
 - She's moving her lips but no sound comes out. Has she lost her voice?
 - She nods yes.
 - The teacher and students help her get to the fancy car that picks her up early to get her to a dr.
- Sakura tries calling her that night but of course she couldn't answer (THIS IS PRE-TEXTING)
- Kero-chan knows this is a Clow card—the voice card, in fact.

- At home, Tomoyo clutches her song book sadly.
 - Her mom comes home, worried about her, and Tomoyo tries to act like she's fine, but Sonomi pulls her close and says she wants to baby her at a time like this—she is her mother! And Tomoyo closes her eyes and snuggles in. IT IS SO SWEET.
- She's not at school the next day, and Sakura is so sad. The petals fall and she waits alone.
 - Syaoran checks in on her, though he pretends it's about a Clow card, and they hang out on the swings and have a heart to heart.
 - Sakura is so worried about Tomoyo never getting her voice back.
 - Syaoran says crying won't help, he can help her figure out how to seal the card. Again he tries to cover up his concern with Card business, but he's blushing.
- They check in on Tomoyo first, who writes in her notebook to them 'cheer up Sakura seeing you sad makes me sad, too!'
- And Syaoran meets Sonomi! It goes just fine.
- Sakura wants to help serve everyone tea. In her sketchbook, Tomoyo writes to Syaoran "you're always watching Sakura huh?" and this flusters him, so Tomoyo gets SOME enjoyment during this tough time.
 - They all hang out for a while, Syaoran and Sakura getting tense about how little they have figured out about how to help.
 - They use the rashinban, and discuss what they know: the voice card takes away all the voices it likes and hides them away!
 - Tomoyo is mostly solemn, but gives them encouraging smiles and writes to them to cheer up!
 - Sakura knows Tomoyo has more reason to be sad than she does and hugs Tomoyo.
 - She mentions that this is the second time a card like this has targeted Tomoyo—and that gives Syaoran an idea—use the song card! Won't that draw the Voice card in?
- They summon the Song card and she sings some Las with Tomoyo's voice. A shimmering pink petal dances through the air as she sings, all the way to the park where a pink glowy thing in the tree they'd been sitting under at the beginning takes note and shoots across the city to Tomoyo's living room!
 - A flower-fairy-like sprite shows up, confused, and Sakura is able to seal it away! This returns Tomoyo's voice in the form of a little pink glow. Sakura and Tomoyo embrace.
- At the choir competition, our friends are all excited to hear Tomoyo (even self-declared rival Meiling who we still haven't heard sing), but Sakura wishes her luck backstage.
 - The Tomoeda elementary choir is next and she NAILS it! The song is about a friend whose smile never wavers and who bolsters everyone with their courage.
 - It definitely feels like Tomoyo is singing to Sakura, and they have a moment. It is VERY sweet.

Episode 38

- We were promised strawberry-picking in the last episode, and here we go!
- Sakura's class is taking a bus out to some greenhouses in the country to do you-pick strawberries!
 - They discuss how many they'll eat and how many they'll take home, and Sakura's dreamy about taking some to Yukito.
 - Syaoran tells her not to fuck around and get lost, and Yamazaki makes up an insane story about strawberries running around on legs before they bred non-running ones.
 - Phew, so glad they did that, it must have been really inconvenient...
- Back home, Kero-chan is jealous of this whole thing of course, and is desperate for Sakura to bring strawberries home.
- The kids are excited about their field trip—but guess who's working here? Touya and Yukito!
 - Of course Yukito loves a good strawberry dessert, and Sakura checks to make sure he'd eat something she made—of course he will Sakura he needs to eat to live. Like we all do only more so lol.
- Syaoran stops by a prep room that has bad vibes but Meiling and Yamazaki both pull him away before he can see the door look all warpy for the camera!
- Only the highest stakes in this show, guys—Sakura is paralyzed with indecision about which will be the most delicious strawberries.
 - Yukito advises her on how to get the best ones and how to pick properly, and Tomoyo records this.
 - Seconds later Syaoran tries to give Yukito all his strawberries, but Touya AND Kaho both get a little icy about this.
- At lunch, the kids discuss what to make with their strawberries.
 - Yamazaki negs Chiharu's cooking and gets Simpsons throttled over it, and Meiling tries to feed Syaoran, which he refuses. However, he is eating the lunch she made, which looks incredible!
 - Meiling even lets Sakura try some because she's so proud of it. And Sakura praises her so much she's chuffed and boasts she can cook anything (though we know she struggled with baking).
 - Sakura imagines making good stuff for Yukito...but there's bad news! The door to the prep room where they're supposed to process strawberries won't open!
- However, when Sakura goes to check on it, the door opens easily. It's all nice and set up inside for their class later, but Syaoran shows up to remind them that it feels WEIRD IN HERE.
 - And that's when the door slams on them.
- Meanwhile Yuki and Touya have a lunch break and Yuki brings up Kaho—didn't Touya know her? Or should he not ask.

- Touya says he'll talk about it later. Then they switch topics to the prep room with the funny door...and Yukito gets a feeling Sakura might need help.
- Back in the room, it's weird and warped inside, so when Meiling tries to kick the door open and hurts herself, Sakura and Syaoran have to figure out what's going on. Syaoran thinks it's the Lock card, and that it's a 'special' card that watery, windy, and fiery won't work on.
 - Okay.
- They try to call Kero but he's delving in the fridge and doesn't pick up.
- The other kids come to the door to try to help our heroes, and Meiling calls back—but Syaoran stops her—after all, they can't help from the outside, and besides they need to find a way out before anyone who shouldn't see them use magic (like Kaho) shows up.
- Tomoyo's like 'if it's a magic lock, is there a magic key?' But when they try to use the rashinban to help find such a thing, it's like when they were trapped in maze, when the rashinban couldn't locate anything because it's like they're IN a card.
 - But there IS something in there to look for, they're certain of it.
- The kids outside leave to go bother adults—or really, Yuki and Touya. The thing is, they couldn't find their teacher to tell her!
 - I do appreciate that they TRIED to tell a real adult before settling for teenagers.
- The kids trapped inside search everywhere for the key, including a ledge around the ceiling that Sakura almost falls off of—she ends up grabbing the window frame, only to see Kaho sitting in a tree just outside (CREEPY).
 - Kaho makes a gesture, pointing at herself, before Sakura is pulled up by Syaoran out of the field of view. That's when Sakura remembers—she has a magic key herself!
- Outside Touya has been trying keys that didn't work, but Kaho appears and tells him not to worry. Right now, the evil is...
- ...Well, it's wild inside since Sakura put her key in the lock of the door. Green swirls form into a little green and gold lock with wings, which pushes the key out and tries to get back into the door's lock—but Syaoran seals the lock with a, well, seal, and Sakura smacks the green lock with her stick, returning it to its form as the Lock card!
- Outside, Touya beats the door, calling for her—but she just opens the door and everything's fine! They don't offer much explanation but are just glad that the afternoon's plans are back on.
 - Only....the room is a mess! They have to all work together to pick up and put the chairs back up.
- Then we get an image song over scenes of the kids watching a video about strawberry desserts and making them themselves.
 - Later, they're tasting their confections but can't find Sakura.
- Touya and Yukito have canned coffee standing out by the truck, and Touya maybe almost says something important to Yuki, but buries it with his usual 'i'll tell you later.'

- That's when Sakura comes out to offer Yukoto a piece of strawberry cheesecake or something, aww.
- That night, Kero is upset to find out that Sakura gave all her treats to Yuki to eat and the music cuts for dramatic/comedic effect. He'll never forgive her for this! It's very cute.

Episode 39

- Sakura's in bed with a fever! And there's a pale, faintly glowing hand on her forehead...whose is it?
- It's a rainy day the next morning, and while Kero is still full of pep, Sakura's really out of it.
 - She doesn't want to stay home despite her fever because she has an assignment due that day.
 - Touya says the family's kaiju sure is weak to rain—but he notices she's actually sick. He says she should stay home, too, but this time Sakura refuses because she knows her dad will want to stay home and he's supposed to go to a dig somewhere where it's sunny, and he'll be gone for a while.
 - She fakes it till he leaves, and Touya insists she stay home, but she says she'll come straight home after class and go to bed if he'll just let her go to school and not be a burden on everyone.
 - On their way to school Yuki can also tell she's not great, though he also goes with her insistence that things are fine.
- Guess who else joins the stay home please Sakura club once she's at school? Obviously Tomoyo, but Syaoran also looks concerned.
 - But Sakura tries to tough it out in class. During a geometry lesson, the figures Kaho draws on the board confuse her and she starts to fall asleep. Kaho notices and has Tomoyo take her to the nurse's office, which Tomoyo is perfectly happy to do.
- Sakura's still worried about finishing the poster assignment despite being sick in bed in the nurse's office, but Syaoran and Meiling also show up to check on her and Meiling insists that since she's in the group they'll nail it, even without Sakura's help!
 - This is boastful but also pretty sweet of her. Meiling is coming around to the Sakura side of things!
 - Syaoran makes Sakura promise she'll go home.
- In the rain, at the fence between schools, Kaho approaches Touya. She called him there with her heart, apparently.
 - They're both concerned about Sakura. But also...he asks why she came back. She says there's a little something she needs to do, and walks off.
 - Touya picks up Sakura up from the nurses office (literally) and carries her home from school.
- He does notice there are...an awful lot of clouds.
- Kero tends to Sakura in bed later. She's having a rough time.

- Yukito has brought Touya's bag home for him. They have tea and Yukito brings up how interesting Kaho is, and how Touya could hear her from so far away...after all, it was about Sakura. Touya's lightly annoyed by this.
- But when Yukito goes home, he goes upstairs to check on her/take her temperature. Kero has to fake being a toy around him as usual, and we get an EXTENDED scene of him inspecting this so-called toy while he waits for the thermometer.
- He does eventually leave, and Kero can finally catch his breath, but he's worried Touya actually has caught on.
- Later, the rain finally lets up, but the clouds are a bit purple...and a bit...in a vortex over the city...
 - you know, a normal thing clouds do all the time nothing to worry about...
- Sakura senses a card and zombies over to the window. She's so sleepy and out of it that she almost just climbs out the window. This is the Cloud card, you see. And she does need to stop it from covering up the whole city or it'll get too big for her to seal it away.
 - In her dizzy, sick state, Sakura has an idea. She has to sneak out and her brother can't know. So she uses the mirror card to make a double to stay in bed.
 - This doesn't solve the sick-girl-going-card-capturing problem though, which is no good—Sakura can't even fly straight!
- Upstairs, Touya immediately notices it's not actually his sister in that bed. And remember, Mirror card has a crush on Touya, aftering having met him when she first appeared.
- Outside, Sakura falls off her staff, but luckily Syaoran uses wind magic to catch her. He and Meiling are here trying to deal with the Cloud card themselves!
 - Syaoran scolds her but he's also cuted out by how much she wants to help.
- Touya won't let Mirror Sakura take medicine since she's not actually sick. He tells her he has an idea of what Sakura is up to, but asks her not to tell Sakura he's onto her since she wants to keep it a secret, and pats her head, which makes her blush even more.
- Sakura is trying to seal the card, but Meiling literally has to assist her in lifting the staff and making the proper movements.
 - Which is very sweet, for the record...yay Meiling helping out!
 - The card goes to Syaoran, but he insists on giving it to Sakura, saying its just for now since they'll all be his in the end.
 - Yeah sure~~~
 - They get Sakura home and Mirror Sakura hugs her before returning to a card.
 - Kero has decided to go home with Syaoran and Meiling, since it'll be too hard to stay in stuffed-animal form with Touya checking on Sakura all night.
 - He and Meiling fight over nothing, but Syaoran is still worried about Sakura.

- **Speaking** of whom, she's upstairs suffering in bed. She calls out for Touya...who we see taking her temperature noting she overdid it.
 - He's about to call a doctor when he sees the spirit of their mother tend to Sakura, putting her cool hand on Sakura's forehead just like she had that morning.
 - Whether mom helped literally, or just helped make her daughter feel better emotionally, Sakura's much better when she wakes up!
 - **Sakura's** dad comes back late that night. He'd noticed how low energy Sakura was at breakfast (despite her best efforts to act like her usual peppy self). He's very happy and relieved when Touya tells him that Nadeshiko was watching over Sakura.
- **In the** morning, Sakura seems like she's back to normal. She thanks her mom's photo—and is happy to see her dad, who tells her he forgot a few things and had to come back.
- Touya goes back to teasing Sakura about being a kaiju, and all is well.

Episode 40

- **Tomoyo** and Sakura go shopping in Tokyo (Shibuya!).
 - Kero makes a women-be-shopping joke for some reason, but Tomoyo reminds him there's snacks and that's why he's been brought along. They go to meet Meiling and Syaoran and we see a butterfly on a sign behind them fly away!
- **Then** we get an image song (maybe by the original op singer?) over an adorable 90s shopping montage! SO CUTE
 - They do photo booths, pick out clothes, get into minor shenanigans, and Meiling sees wedding stuff that makes her goey.
 - In the big screen over the classic crosswalk in Shibuya we see butterflies again—and one just perched, like its watching?
 - **But** the kids are halted by Kero's demand to play an arcade game he's excited about! It's a high tech whack a mole and he wants Sakura to beat it for him (since he can't risk being seen...even if he is very tempted).
 - **Tomoyo** films this attempt, and Sakura is struggling at first—but Meiling joins her as backup! They're working together great, Tomoyo observes to Syaoran.
 - **Then...** Tomoyo has a moment thinking about Sakura, or more precisely, a whole room of Sakura's who are posing cutely in all her outfits...it's like she's just surrounding her with cuteness and Tomoyo loses her mind, running to film all these Sakuras!
 - Meiling bonks her with the plastic mallet to stop her from just running into the game.
 - Weird! The butterfly flies away...
 - **Probably** nothing!
 - This episode is very surreal, dreamlike, wonderfully directed and feels VERY different from every other episode. It is Shigehito

Takayanagi's first episode of the series though he goes on to do others later. He's primarily a storyboard artist and I think the strong visual-led story here (credited to Ohkawa herself) is very striking.

- Later, they see a movie. It is a romance! Tomoyo is swept away by it, saying "Isn't it great to spend forever with the one you love!" Sakura agrees, Kero's not so sure, Meiling is in TEARS, and Syaoran's too embarrassed to discuss this so he runs off to get a drink.
 - But the butterfly finds him too!
 - As he closes the theater door behind him, he doesn't see the hallway he expected, but instead looks up to see an empty theater.
 - On the screen is the romance scene from before, only it's him handing over all the Clow Cards to Sakura and embracing her!
 - Uh oh Syaoran, your fantasy is showing.
 - Then he falls on his face when the kids open the door and shake him from his butterfly-induced reverie.
- The kids get on a train, looking at the city go by...and the butterfly's out there~~
- Sakura is staring uncertainly at the Tokyo Tower, and when Syaoran asks her what's up, she tells him a bit about her dream, and how she had a similar one when he came to town.
 - She says her dream now has Kaho in it. He's blushy at this news, but also distressed.
 - The girls catch up to them...but so does the butterfly! We get an overlay of a card sprite whose eyes are obscured with a weird mask!
- The kids are in fact going to visit Tokyo Tower, impressed with its height and beauty!
 - JEALOUS
- Sakura has a weird moment in the entryway, which is carpeted with a large butterfly pattern, but it passes, and she runs after her friends to the observation deck.
- In the elevator, Meiling teases her for being so distracted today, and Tomoyo says she has been a bit fuzzy, but Syaoran stands up for her, saying she's actually pretty level-headed.
 - As they wander around the observation deck, Kero floats in public and they freak out but—there's no one else there somehow!
 - Sakura feels almost like she's in a dream. She's never been to the Tokyo Tower before but she recognizes it now that she's here.
 - The girls go off to get juice—and who is working the counter but Touya again! Sakura thought he was at soccer practice, though.
 - And Yukito is there all of the sudden, and he was supposed to be at practice too!
 - This is weird. She knows it's weird. Kero's being weird, Yukito is weird (he says "I have to be by your side Sakura"—which is true but HE doesn't know that!), even Touya is weird.
 - And then they tell her this is a dream.

- She's swept away by Sakura petals, and wakes up alone in the observation platform at night, and she can see herself out there—she's watching her dream in 3rd person!
- And she can see that the Kaho-figure has the bell. Finally she can clearly see that it is her.
- But she can also see herself outside! A tear falls down her cheek, her hands are on the window—when gloved hands meet hers.
- "It's okay! Everything will be okay!" says her own voice, as she gives herself the advice we know from the manga as her own personal spell.
- And we get a montage of scenes from the series, everyone who has supported her no matter what has happened, friends, family, even Clow Cards. "Everything will definitely be okay!"
- And she wakes up back in the entryway. Syaoran has stabbed the butterfly to keep it where it is—under her foot! So she can seal it. Which she does!
- The card seems to be staying with him, but he also collapses. They recover at a cafe and he has a towel on his face. She's sorry she didn't notice the butterfly earlier, and they explain that when they went into the Tokyo Tower entryway she collapsed and they couldn't rouse her. The card then comes to Sakura, finally—The Dream. And Kero-chan says her dreams have been omens!
- We get a passing glimpse of Kaho again and ooooh!

Episode 41

- There's going to be an arts festival at Sakura's school, and her homeroom will be doing something together, as well as some clubs!
- They're doing a play! GASP we know what this will be!
- Kaho thinks an overseas fairy tale will be fun since the 6th grade class is doing a Japanese folk tale. Sakura can't pay attention though because she's so troubled about her dream and Kaho—even though Kaho still makes her feel so dreamy!
- Kaho says they're doing Sleeping Beauty and they get roles through a random selection process. When Syaoran writes his name on the big sheet, Kaho's like "it's almost time!" and he's like SUSSS
 - But everyone else is just excited to get their roles.
 - Meiling dreams of being the princess and Syaoran being the prince who kisses her—but he doesn't WANT to be a prince.
 - Kaho announces who the prince and princess will be...only we don't hear what she says and find out along with Kero that evening—Sakura is the prince! And Syaoran is the princess.
 - Tomoyo is thrilled to be making costumes for them.
 - Kero thinks they should have gender separate roles, but Sakura's like nah she wanted it to be fair...
- Kero's suspicious of Kaho (not for gender reasons) and insists on going to the play to watch Sakura and keep an eye on Kaho (and of course to attend the festival lol)

- At school, Sakura is working on memorizing her lines.
 - She comes across Syaoran up in a tree also struggling with his lines, and he almost falls out of said tree when she catches him.
 - Sakura asks him if he did stuff like this in Hong Kong, and he says at his school thing he sang songs. But when she ask to hear them, he says he doesn't want to perform in front of her right now; he doesn't like singing in front of people!
 - He saved from this by Yukito showing up and offering to share his snacks with them—he's worried his huge bag won't be enough for them lol.
 - They are too shy to tell Yukito what roles they will be playing, but he says he'll wait and find out at the play. They are both nervous/excited to find out that their crush will be there, and afterwards Sakura asks Syaoran to practice with her. He blushinglly accepts.
 - Kaho watches this whole exchange ominously...or possibly sweetly?
 - Idk they are really pushing her being ominous, and it is hard for me to buy because WE KNOW TOO MUCH
- The next morning Sakura's woken up by a series of clocks that all go off one by one. She's groggy, but it does work. Turns out she borrowed Touya's and her dad's because she didn't want to be late! She has practice, after all.
 - Imagine not having your alarm clock be your phone?
- Touya is also up early and made pancakes for her though he claims he just happened to wake up early. He almost confronts her about what happened when she was sick the other day, but since she plays dumb about it, he just uses that as a segue into telling her not to overdo it.
 - On the way to school she wonders if he knows what she's up to...but thinks nah, if he knew he'd be making fun of her for it.
- When she passes Kaho's family's shrine, she feels weird though, thinking about her dreams and Kaho. And..as she skates away...a little mote of sand fwooshes through the air.
- Sakura's early, but Syaoran's even earlier. They're going outside to practice, and the sand fwooshes through the locker area—but just out of Syaoran's sight.
- Shaoran does a pretty good job of his lines and Sakura gives him encouragement and stag direction.
 - Then skips ahead to her lines, where she makes a speech and has to stage kiss him, which he is very nervous about, though she's very serious about it.
 - But the sand-thing shows up and starts escalating into a full on sand storm, trying to smother them!
 - It swirls around chasing them through the school yard, and Sakura and Syaoran take to her staff to fly out of its grasp.
 - It decides to make the whole ground into a vortex of quicksand, and then send spouts up to mess with them!
 - Syaoran has figured out this is the Sand Card, just in time to be knocked off Sakura's staff by it.

- As he's stuck in the sand vortex, he tells her to dump Watery into the sand! And she manages to call upon Watery, who you would think would just make things worse—but Syaoran has a plan—now that the sand is mixed with water, his Freeze card can freeze it in place!
- And Sakura seals it back into a card.
- The card flies between them and their hands touch as they both reach for it at the same time. Sakura takes it at first, but then she offers it to Syaoran. She feels like it was his idea that worked.
- He reminds her they're competing, but she insists. He wonders if the card actually picked a time when it was just the two of them, and then walks away saying maybe he's overthinking it.
- Kaho watches them, saying 'soon,' and we're shown the crescent moon on her bell, with the character for moon

Episode 42

- It's the play!!!! I love that they made this into a two-parter!
- Sakura helps adjust her girl squad's wings (they're the fairies) while they wait for Tomoyo to bring her and Syaoran's costumes, which Tomoyo went ALL OUT on.
 - She has to drag Syaoran to the dressing room tho
- Without further ado, the audience is gathered for the play!
 - Yukito and Touya discuss how Fujitaka is gone, so Touya's supposed to take copious pictures. Touya is reminded of the Cinderella play they did and Yuki gleefully tells him the photography clubs' best selling photos were of Touya in the dress, which Touya does not love.
- Sakura's outfit reveal gets gasps and oos and aaws! Kaho says "good, its easy to move around in no matter what happens" NOT OMINOUS AT ALL
- But Syaoran is bitching and moaning about the big dress and curls he's been crammed into. Tomoyo convinces him to behave by reminding him that Yukito is watching, and if he refuses there will be no play for Yukito to watch! Plus Sakura reminds them of how hard they have practiced.
- Up in the control room, Tomoyo works the sound board and Kero joins her for his spying.
- Tomoyo announces the beginning! And narrates.
 - Yukito notices its her voice aww
- In the anime, Yamazaki is sleeping beauty's mother not the evil queen, sigh. Because Meiling hams it the fuck up as the evil queen herself. She's...very good. They note that despite not wanting to be the villain she really got into it.
 - Yamazaki is also getting into being the good queen lol.
 - Naoko is the fairy that gives her the final life-saving blessing.
- Kero thinks this is great but can't wait for Sakura and Syaoran to come on.
- Touya is a bit thrown by Syaoran, and frankly he's terrible, yelling his lines and stomping around the stage.
 - Kero says miscast.

- But Syaoran has lots of energy and is giving it his all! He is also kind of flustered by Yukito's presence in the audience.
- He trips (maybe for real?) and stabs himself on the spinning wheel. Yamazaki as good queen means he goobers over Syaoran which is very cute.
- Kaho watches this with her ominously/placid smile.
- Tomoyo sets up a recorder for Sakura's entrance!
 - And Touya and Yukito are very impressed by her.
 - Yukito waves which makes her blush winsomely. Yukito and Touya agree that Sakura looks very cool in her prince outfit.
- Sakura's confrontation with evil queen Meiling includes imps sword fighting with her which is very cute, and Meiling has a very dramatic death.
- Then the moment of truth.
 - Syaoran has to not freak out while Sakura leans in to kiss him, Meiling now wishes she were the PRINCE not princess, Kaho watches, and Touya's a bit iffy on it...but before anything can happen kiss-wise, Kero and Syaoran notice there's a STRONG presence, and darkness overtakes the room! Including Syaoran.
 - Sakura runs around the dark void calling for her friends, but no one responds. She calls out for ANYONE, but still, nothing! She trips and falls to her knees, sobbing, wondering if she's been left all alone.
- From his own corner of the void, Kero wishes her encouragement, but she has to do this alone.
- Sakura knows crying won't solve anything, like Syaoran has said before. And she knows this must be a Clow card. So she invokes her key—or tries to. But it won't release! She can't use magic?
 - If only she knew which card it was.
 - She works out that it must be Dark, but while the void reacts to that, guessing its name is not enough (like it was for mirror.) She thinks about what to do about darkness...and realizes that while everything else is pitch black, she can see herself! That's when the darkness starts to creep up.
- But, Sakura remembers her special spell that she told herself in the Dream episode: Everything will definitely be all right. And she starts glowing!
 - Because what do you use to banish the dark? The light!
 - And the light card appears in humanoid form before her—she's been waiting inside Sakura all this time, and now that Sakura found her inner light and didn't give up, she can come out!
 - Sakura calls upon her power and Dark also forms into a humanoid form, the babes are facing each other and clasping hands.
 - They're happy that Sakura has solved this problem, and Dark isn't scary or mean at all, she's encouraging as they bid Sakura to try sealing them away into cards.
 - The card babes say 'we really do want you to be our master, but the final judgment rests with Yue, so good luck!'

- Yue? They say Yue's nearby her already, but don't worry, she has her invincible spell: that everything will definitely be all right.
- And the darkness lifts in time for Meiling to push Sakura away from Syaoran to stop the kiss. Chaos ensues.
- Up in the control booth, Kero realizes Tomoyo didn't know anything happened at all, but he knows that Yue's time is coming.
- And the episode wraps up with Kaho smiling ominously and repeating Sakura's spell with a bit of a question mark.
 - No mention of whether or not Yukito noticed a weird period of darkness this time...

Episode 43

- At the Li house, Syaoran is doing sword practice while Meiling attempts a cake yet again—only to scream in dismay that it is also burned again! This makes Syaoran slip and cut himself, oh no.
 - Wei tries to reassure Meiling that if she calms down she will be able to bake. But the kitchen is a disaster zone and Syaoran looks upset by this.
 - Wei bids him consider Meiling's feelings...but there's a phone call and it's Meiling's mom.
 - Wei and Syaoran have a bit of a heart to heart where Wei says he shouldn't be a jerk about all the sweet things Meiling does but Syaoran doesn't WANT these things like, for instance, when she pounces on him—which she does right then.
 - Only...she's crying. She doesn't want to go home!
- At school the next day, Sakura and Tomoyo are looking through pictures from the play, but Meiling is too sad to look at them.
 - She tells them she's going back to Hong Kong next week.
 - Syaoran catches up to her and asks if she's told the teacher or started her paperwork...and she asks if he cares at all?
 - He says it can't be helped. And she asks if she's just in his way?
 - He doesn't answer satisfactorily and she runs off crying.
 - Sakura is also sad about this, though Syaoran is stoic.
- In class, Kaho tells the students about Meiling's plan to move, and they're all dismayed.
 - After school, Meiling is cold to Syaoran when he reaches out, and Sakura tries to mend things by inviting her over for a sleepover!
 - There's a cake her dad baked and Sakura makes up wanting to have a nice long talk with her.
 - And Meiling says ok she'll come over *that* night, which was not exactly what Sakura planned.
 - Syaoran asks why she did that and Sakura says she DOES want to talk to Meiling—and she wants her and Syaoran to make up before she goes away.

- Yukito has also been invited over because he basically just lives there now, and Touya and Yukito are surprised that it's Meiling that is invited not Tomoyo!
 - Kero is spending the night at Tomoyo's to give the girls space, too.
- Meiling does bring up dieting while eating the sweets that Sakura's dad made for them, I'm sorry 5th graders, but Sakura brings up Syaoran to try to get back on track—and Meiling just gets sad. Yeah, she knows how great Syaoran is. She hasn't forgotten that.
- Outside, a pair of clownish little card imps meet up—and then a random town girl discovers twin post office boxes!
- Back in Sakura's room, there's time for some girltalk. Meiling asks Sakura when she started liking Yukito, and she says it was when her brother brought him home for the first time.
 - How about Meiling?
 - She says it wasn't love at first sight for her. She and Syaoran were being taught martial arts by Wei. Syaoran never smiled or talked—worse than now!
 - She didn't really like him since he never seemed to be having any fun. But one day, her pet bird flew away and she cried so much.
 - Syaoran gave her his hanky to wipe her tears and then ran away. He didn't come back for ages—out looking for her bird in the rain!
 - So dramatic. Another CLAMP childhood about birds.
 - And he did return with the bird! She sobbed and threw herself at him and he was her hero from then on.
 - But she knows that he doesn't feel the same way...even though he promised...
- But who knows what he promised, because a Clow Card is happening!
 - Tomoyo and Kero meet up with Sakura, and Sakura drags Meiling along, yay!
 - But the card...or, cards? two in one?...have been doubling everything—sculptures at the museum, even Syaoran's apartment complex! Two identical Weis beg him to be careful.
 - Syaoran and Sakura try to use Windy to seal the card, but it only wraps one clown so it doesn't work. The clowns join up again to cause more mischief.
 - Kero tells her what we already suspect—she has to get both at the same time! Syaoran and Sakura team up, his thunder magic and her thunder card, to zap each of them, but it doesn't work because they weren't perfectly in sync.
 - Then Sakura thinks about how Syaoran and Meiling have been doing martial arts together for so long—and Meiling has been watching Syaoran so closely—so they can probably do it without using a cue that would alert the clowns!
 - And they start kicking and flipping in sync, it's very cute, very wire-fu—but they also wipe out at the same time. Luckily Windy rescues them so they can come at the clowns again.

- This time the clowns are intimidated by their ferocity and get clobbered. Sakura seals them up!
- Syaoran reassures Meiling that he never thought she was in the way, and Meiling is touched.
- Later, the same group is bidding Meiling farewell at the airport. Even Kero thinks that as annoying as she is, he'll miss her.
- She asks Syaoran if he remembers his promise...and we finally get to find out what that is.
 - When they were kids she declared she'd be his bride because he's the one she likes the most.
 - She'll give up if he finds someone he likes more, but until then this is the plan. And he said okay...do what you want.
 - Meiling still holds onto this idea...even though her expression makes it seem like maybe she knows he has already moved on.
 - She says she'll definitely come back to his side, and rushes off to catch her flight.
- Sad to see Meiling go, but this is a good sign that we are approaching critical plot! We love you Meiling, but I can understand not wanting to write an entire new character into the Judgement stuff...

Episode 44

- It's Sakura's dream again—but now there are two figures...one is Kaho, but the other is still unclear...wings take over the screen, and then Sakura wakes up.
- Sakura is so sleepy she tries to turn off her doll instead of her alarm.
 - Kero inspects the doll—Sakura says she's had it since a week before he awakened because Tomoyo gave it to her when she started school.
 - What about the outfit, Kero asks? Oh yeah even before the cards Tomoyo made her outfits...Sakura then realizes the doll is wearing the outfit from her dream—and she remembers her dream this time, in full! Including the wings and the new person with silvery hair...
- When she rushes downstairs to help her dad, Kero levitates the book up and looks at the blank space on the back cover, saying “Yue” again.
- Today Yukito has an archery tournament (he helps out the archery club or whatever too, I guess?) and so Sakura is making a TON of onigiri and other fun bento sides to feed him (he gets 2!) but also Syaoran and Tomoyo and Touya and herself...she made too many! Her dad laughs—Yukito will eat them all.
- Tomoyo and Syaoran help her pick up the bentos to go to the tournament. Kero has sneaked into her bag to come along for the lunch...and maybe because of the cards.
 - On the train, Kero says that he wants to stay close to Sakura, because it's almost the end. Sakura's excited because that means she's almost collected all the cards!
 - But as they pass the Tokyo tower, the show goes silent and Sakura stares, remembering her dream.

- But she's okay, and they all go back to being cheerful.
- Syaoran tries to carry all the bento himself because he is such a big strong man I guess and the girls are like srsly bro.
- Turns out the tournament is happening at a temple! Yukito says that some rituals include shooting a sacred arrow, so it makes sense to have a target range at a temple like this.
- He looks nice in his kyuudo outfit, both Sakura and Syaoran have the same dumb expression looking at him as he walks away, and Sakura even brings that up which just makes Syaoran blush. It's adorable.
- Kero senses danger, though.
- One of Yukito's fellow challengers is actually Kaho! She's very good, but why is she here??? In fact, she and Yukito are up against each other in the final round. She wishes him luck and she's very nice about it.
 - They each are hitting the center with every shot—until one of hers goes wide and hits the stone wall under the targets.
 - Syaoran says he thinks she got distracted by something...and we got a dramatic shot of Kero glaring at her right before she got distracted, so we think we know what's up.
 - They congratulate Yukito and it seems he might have some reservations about the win, but he pushes that aside to dig into the food! Yay! Its great, Skaura did a good job. They're going to pour some tea but—where's Kero-chan?
- Kaho is sitting alone, maybe even meditating...when Kero shows up.
 - She say it's nice to meet him in this form...he was in Syaoran's body when they accidentally met before.
 - Kero says he sense strong moon power. Clow made an opposite from him, associated with the Moon—Yue, named after the chinese word for moon.
 - Kero asks if Kaho has told Sakura anything about what's about to happen, and she says no, but she thinks Sakura can handle it.
 - Sakura shows up shocked that her tecaher and Kero have been chatting! Which...can you blame here?
 - Kero was sitting on the fence with his arms crossed looking very serious
 - Poor dude, he tries so hard to be cool and serious, but he still just looks like a stuffed anime...for now, anyway!
- Cut to the kids walking away with Kero bundled back into her bag. Yukito and Kaho trail the kids.
 - Sakura looks up to see the Tokyo Tower in the distance, remembering the silvery haired figure we know is Yue.
- On their way out of the temple, someone in a bear mascot costume gives Sakura a balloon and starts ruffling up Sakura's hair—they're horrified until they figure out its Touya.
 - They joke that its such a coincidence he is always working where they go and he says 'there's no such thing as coincidence!'

- LIKE XXXHOLIC DANGIT.
- Anyway he walks off, waving to them.
- They almost leave but Sakura's missing her hat, and goes back to look for it.
- That leaves Yuki and Kaho a chance to talk—he asked if she was distracted by something during their competition. She says she felt like someone was watching her.
 - And she almost tells Yukito something about himself, but a kind of earthquake rocks the temple grounds!
- Aaaaand its a two parter!

Episode 45

- Small mountains are erupting from the ground! Sakura lets go of her balloon and runs to help Tomoyo. It's rough out there!
 - Kero declares this is the Earthy card.
 - Kaho seems fine, no earthquakes are endangering her. But spires of rock and earthquakes are happening in the surrounding neighborhoods!
 - Yukito is trying to protect Tomoyo but what can anyone do without magic?
 - Sakura sends sleep to knock everyone out (though it works on Yukito and not Kaho) so she can do magic without anyone seeing them.
 - Sakura flies high above the scene and Kero explains that Earthy was the last card to escape.
 - He's a bit more ominous than usual, saying that the catastrophe might happen. But he says the earthquakes aren't it—this is just the card!
 - Sakura has to find the main body of the card to seal it. she runs across the kind of rock dragon emanation Earthy is X-ing around in, and uses Watery to melt it a bit—only it erupts more volcanically at her because the combo of attack cards was too volatile, I think.
 - Kero tells her to think for herself like she did with the Light and Dark cards, and Sakura concentrates, looking around her.
 - She notices that nothing is happening around Kaho...and also that the trees aren't falling over, they've stayed upright.
- Sakura has a plan. Kero warns her not to use the wrong card, but Sakura is certain she can do this. Kero promises to stick with her...she summons the Wood card which binds the earth dragon in roots and branches, stopping it from moving just long enough for Sakura to try to seal the card.--and it works! She now has the earthy card!
- Then Kero starts glowing and magic circles form around him—he's wrapped in wings and transforms into his true self, a big silly lion thing that is very He-man I should mention. He also gets a new voice actor in full-size!
 - This actor is Masaya ONOSAKA, who has been many characters in many things, among them Jadeite in Sailor Moon, Ichiro Mihara in Angelic Layer, Takeo Takakura in Magic Users Club, and Vash the Stampede in Trigun.

- He also played minor characters in personal shonen faves DBZ (as Barta) and Jojo's Bizarre Adventure (as Alessi).
- Sakura is overjoyed to meet cool new Kero, but he's sorry that he so useless in his tiny form. If earthy hadn't been the last card he could have been of more help earlier.
- All that's left, Kero says, is *him*.
 - *Him?*
 - Yue, of course.
- Tomoyo's van full of clothes has pulled up to the curb and Syaoran and Sakura get changed so Tomoyo can videotape them in their full glory for this final battle. She even had them stop by Syaoran's house to get his outfit.
 - Sakura's outfit is the one from her dream! Tomoyo is SO HAPPY but Kero...isn't.
- Sakura asks Syaoran if he knows who Yue is. Syaoran says he's the other guardian, the Judge, who represents the moon. Clow Reed made them to guard the cards. But there are no details about Yue in the books the Li family has from Clow.
 - HASRH, YUE.
- Yue is supposed to be on the back cover of the book—but Sakura says there's no moon on the back of the book. This means he took physical form, Kero.
 - The shows pans to Kaho...could it be her???
 - I mean, no, but thanks for trying show
- Sakura writes her name on the last card for Tomoyo's footage, and Kero warns her that it'll be the end of her captor-ing days when she does.
 - Tomoyo's like "wait Syaoran has some of the cards, what'll happen??" And Kero's like GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT.
- Then.....the moon rises, the sky grows dark...and Yukito starts glowing and levitating. Wings sprout from him and envelope him over a magic circle just like Kero-chan and then, in front of a bright light background, Yue is revealed in Yukito's place.
- Sakura remembers the light and dark cards mentioning Yue as he introduces himself—and she remembers they said he was close to her. But where did Yukito go?
 - Kaho explains that Yue IS Yukito.
 - Kero says he must have been fooled by Kaho's powers; he should have noticed how close he was this whole time.
 - Yue explains he couldn't assume his true form without power, either. And he's Not impressed with Sakura.
 - He points out that she doesn't even have all the cards herself. The Final Judgment is pointless for someone who can't collect cards on her own.
- Kero says she can handle it, Yue accuses him of being soft, and Kero accuses him of being mean!
- We get some creepy close-ups of Yue eyes and the Final Judgement begins—well, actually, first he has to deal with Syaoran.

- Yue draws Syaoran up to the roof and beats him up a little. Yue negs him about his magic, and Syaoran uses his sword to activate some cards...or try to, anyway. He tries to use his most powerful card, Time—but Yue comes up behind him—Time is subordinate under HIM!
- Syaoran screams, but he comes down from the roof in pretty okay condition. He warns Sakura that he lost and Yue is NO JOKE.
- Then...its the scene from her dream: cheery blossoms, Tokyo Tower alight in the distance, she's revealed in her costume and Yue's revealed with his wings wide and his pretty face stoney. Yue calls upon the cards, making his speech from the comic—and the episode ends.

Episode 46

- The episode opens with a reminder of Yukito's transformation into Yue, so we're aware of how much this is affecting Sakura as the moment of Final Judgement begins.
- Tomoyo asks if Yukito knew what Syaoran was doing...but no, Kero says that Yue was sealed away so that he would stay out of things till he was needed, just like how Kero was unsealed when he was needed.
 - Kero says there's no such thing as coincidence—someone might have arranged things to be this way.
- Yue demands, in a quiet, almost lazy way, that Sakura defeat him. She resists--she can't fight him!--and Yue's eyes glow ominously.
 - Sakura's eyes also glow, her face going slack, and she says "jump." She automatically invokes the Jump card and starts jumping towards him. She intones "Yukito..." and Kero calls her name, but she doesn't respond.
 - Once Sakura is at the Tokyo Tower, Yue releases his control over her. She has to fight him herself.
 - She protests, but he attacks anyway.
 - Syaoran wants to help but Kero stops him, saying if anyone intervenes she will automatically lose.
- Sakura isn't fighting back and Yue knows it. He says she'll lose if she doesn't.
 - She wants to use a card that won't hurt him. So she thinks of Wood, which could bind him without causing harm. But when she uses Wood, he easily sends the vines back at her.
 - Apparently, Wood is under the power of the moon...aka, Yue.
 - Is Wood under Moon in some chinese sceme I don't know? Makes no sense.
 - Yue reminds her that if she fails, the cards will escape again and catastrophe will befall. She asks what this catastrophe will be, and he says that she'll forget.
 - In fact, everyone who had any contact with the cards will forget the one they love the most.
 - This is of course devastating, and she's so upset she almost manages to undo the reversed magic, but he doesn't want to lose to her. He says the only master he'll accept is Clow Reed.

- SIGH SORRY YUE.
- The vines wrapped around Sakura are tightening, and she thinks about how everyone will forget the people she cares the most about...and then she wakes up! Back in her bed!
 - Was this all a dream?
 - She goes downstairs and everything's....normal? But her mom's photo isn't at the table. And on her way to school, Yukito isn't there. She knows something is missing.
 - At school, Tomoyo barely acknowledges her, merely polite. Like they are just classmates, not dear friends.
 - None of her friends seem to have their usual connections...Yamazaki-kun doesn't even call Chihiru by her first name anymore.
 - Even Syaoran is different. He's cold to Sakura...even colder than Tomoyo was.
 - SIGH Rika doesn't care much about Terada-sensei, who doesn't regard her much either.
 - Sakura draws a Kero in her notebook, but there's no real Kero-chan to be seen.
 - At lunch, she feels alone even though she's hanging out with some of the girls. She does all the usual things but there's sad music and her face is so bereft.
 - After school she sees Touya and runs from him because she knows something's wrong, but he doesn't seem to notice anything being off.
 - And she walks by herself, looking for what has been lost.
 - She's all alone in the bamboo forest crying. But she hears the voices of people she loves calling her name—and the Song card manifests and sings in Tomoyo's voice.
 - We get a 360 degree turnaround of Sakura as the shapes of her friends and loved ones start to fill the space behind her, and the scene transforms. We see cherry blossoms and Yukito, behind a tree, facing away from the camera.
 - And just like that, Sakura remembers who he is! The person missing from her life, the one she likes the most!
 - There's a clang of Kaho's bell, and Sakura runs to Yukito—and the spell is broken!
 - Kaho is up on the tower with her, and her bell disappears—it was a little extra thing Clow left for help, but that's the only second chance she gets. Sakura has to finish this herself!
 - Newly determined, having seen how empty the world could be with everyone's memories altered, Sakura draws on her inner strength.
 - She says her spell, and uses her staff to release a new power!

- Little stars streak through the sky and her staff transforms into the star staff! She picks Windy and bids her ensnare Yue.
 - Windy is under Yue—but this time that doesn't help him at all. Windy obeys Sakura, not him!
- Sakura says “I'm sure you loved Clow, so you should know forgetting the one you love is the worst thing. I may not be as powerful as Clow yet because I'm just a kid, but I'll give it my best shot!”
 - And she lets Yue go, saying she wants to be his friend, not his master. He tells her to close her eyes—he's impatient—and says the ceremonial words.
 - He acknowledges her as his new master, and she floats a bit—when she opens her eyes, she sees Clow Reed himself, in a starry background.
 - He says he placed inevitabilities that looked like coincidences around her and is glad they led to a happy ending. The staff is made by her own magic, neither the sun nor moon but the light of her own star.
 - He bids her good luck with her own magic, and the cards, which he thinks she'll take good care of for him.
- And she's down on the temple grounds again in the company of her friends! Syaoran runs to her and she swings him around lol. Very cute.
- Watching this, Kaho and Touya chat a little. Kaho says he's always been nearby. And Touya had...an inkling about Yukito.
- Kero and Yue hang out a little.
 - Kero's like 'the cards have a new master now' and Yue's dismissive of this. They fly off...but after a brief montage of scenes from the series....Sakura runs up to find that Yue's been transformed back to Yukito, who just looks mildly bewildered!
- **AND THAT'S THE END OF THE SEASON**

Discussion

- Yay plot! We're more in sync with the manga—and it makes sense that Meiling has to exit. They could have found her more of a role in the next chunk but...that's a LOT of characters to juggle and someone would likely lose out.
- I REALLY noticed in these episodes that the show has so much continuity in cute ways, like introducing a field trip an episode early, or having the last episode be going to the amusement park with tickets from a previous one. Really makes the world feel real and grounded. I'm not sure it NEEDS this but I think it benefits from it!
 - Just like how it didn't need all of these extra cards and characters, but it works great with it instead of just feeling drawn out or even contradicted.
 - Though some of the new cards have all kinds of special rules that don't suuuper track...oh well!

- Yeah, I like how even characters that are mostly (or only) in the anime have been given a chance to become part of the world (I'm thinking specifically of the shopkeeper from the Jump episode, which we've now seen a couple other times.
- It occurs to me that this series also allows for more time with Sakura's non-magic friends, which I feel is not the case in most magical girl shows, but I have no actual data for this.
 - Definitely one of the strengths of CCS even if it isn't a weakness of other stuff—I love Usagi's friends in Sailor Moon!
- I also much prefer how the anime is handling Rika and Mr. Terada, at least so far. It really just seems like she has a crush on her teacher, who is at worst humoring her (and possibly completely oblivious). It could still take a turn, but it's far less uncomfortable like this.
- I felt like there were so many pokemon-esque cards in this series...did we talk about Pokemon in relation to this series overall? Like I imagine it influenced it as well, not just Sailor Moon.
 - I feel like this was frequently described as “pokemon with boobs” when we were in high school, which is just kind of awful in hindsight, but...that was kind of the impression, I think?
 - I think WE (or well, I) called it that, but actually I think we called Angelic Layer that XD
 - The pokemon game came out in 1996 when the manga debuted, I'm not sure it could have influenced it but maybe it's just that the time was right for some cute, pared-down animal designs?
- New opening theme! I kind of completely forgot about it, but I do also love it. Not quite as much as Catch me Catch Me, but it's still great.
- While watching them talk about Yue not being on a cover of the book, I had a fun memory!
 - I actually had a copy of The Clow book with the cards inside, definitely merchandise from the anime, before I'd actually finished the manga. Or even gotten to the Kero reveal. So I remember looking at my book, and being like “I wonder if this lion thing is Kero?” and “why doesn't the book in the show have this moon on it?”
 - I do still have the book, btw. I'm looking at it on my shelf right now!
 - It's also the reason I get, like, a weird shot of nostalgia whenever they show the anime-only cards in card-form. I definitely looked through these cards a lot, being excited to encounter them in the show.
- So, my subtitles have been translating “hitsuzen” as “necessity”...which I find weird. It's “destiny,” right? Do we have to wait years until we can actually talk about this? We probably do, huh...
 - Hitsuzen mean like, inevitability. It's inevitable. So necessary as in, this was preordained and BOUND to happen, not so much as in prophesied? I think?
- How did the bell not count as cheating? Didn't Sakura use it in the manga, instead of Kaho...something about moon magic?
 - One benefit of scripting our episodes is that I was able to easily go back and see what we wrote about this in the manga episodes...and yeah, it was different.

- In the manga, Kaho gave the bell to Sakura, and it allowed her to access moon magic and transform her staff.
- (this is also when they explain that Clow made everything cute because he knew a young girl would be the next master)
- So yeah, I guess they changed it because it gave her less agency...in the anime, it acts as kind of an un-do button (or wakes her up from her vision of a possible future, or something), and then her new determination allows her to transform her staff all on her own.
- The manga way feels less like cheating, since she's literally using the bell herself...but also makes it feel more like Clow's magic was still involved in her staff's transformation, since the bell was a gift from Clow.
- I don't know, I like the added agency, but I wish they'd done it slightly differently so it wasn't like "no one can help her or she'll automatically lose...except Kaho, for some reason."
- No ominous warning about Clow making trouble for her in the future
- But, X and Tokyo Babylon have ruined me for cherry blossoms, they just always feel ominous now...I know they are Sakura's flower, and they are supposed to be reassuring, but my brain is always like DEATH AND BLOOD COME NEXT.
 - But, I guess we'll find out next time...

Outro

In our next episode, we'll be discussing episode 47-58...or roughly there about, assuming we don't cut in the middle of a two-parter or something.

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!