

# ***Kumashiro:*** ***Who she is, and Why Tenchi loves her:*** Part 1

**An Editorial by Robert Alderson**



**My god...**with all the stuff that I've already written about her, including my fan-fictions, impressions and other stuff, (Which have all graciously been hosted by Mishi, in her wonderful web-site; Sweet Sakuya Dreams) how am I going to be able to come up with anything new? Not the least of which, without sounding like a total ***Nut-case*** for spending so much time raving about a mere cartoon character as if she were a real person. I thought about that for awhile...The fact is, even though there are volumes of information written on the other girls in Tenchi's life; i.e. Ryoko, Ayeka, Washu, etc. There is decidedly a scant amount of information available on Sakuya, and due to countless misconceptions about her most of it is negative. Not only that, but the positive info is *really* hard to come by. I had to make it my full-time job for a while searching the internet to come up with as much positive information that I have. Because of this, her side of the story begs to be told.

Perhaps The biggest slap in the face for me is in visiting a lot of Tenchi web-sites and checking the character biography pages and seeing characters being featured like Mayuka and Nagi, both characters are cool but these pages almost ***always*** forget to even *mention* Sakuya, a character who has been in more episodes in Shin Tenchi than both of those others *combined* in *any* televised medium. The consensus seems to be that she isn't as well liked as the others so she gets less attention from fans. I've said it once before and I'll say it again...how ***sad***. Whether or not she is deserving of such treatment is definitely worth investigating, and I plan on addressing that issue sometime later in this editorial.

But first things first...

## ***Who is Sakuya Kumashiro?***

I will start off answering this question by displaying some of her physical stats in a chart, which more-or-less goes as follows:

<b><i>Real Name:</i></b>	<b>Sakuya Kumashiro</b> (Depending on how you look at it, some might even consider Yugi as being her true identity)
<b><i>Height:</i></b>	<b>Approximately 4' 7" to 5 ft tall.</b> Her exact height is not given (She stands at about half-a-head shorter than Tenchi, and he is described as being approximately 5' 3" / 160 cm, in height)
<b><i>Physical Age:</i></b>	<b>17</b> (Though considering she was presumably created roughly the same time Tenchi moved to Tokyo, her actual age is approximately 5 months, more-or-less. This figure is calculated based on the fact that Tenchi was in Tokyo for about 1

	semester of the school year. Presumably, Yugi created Sakuya shortly beforehand. Some folks have concluded that she is actually 17 years old in a literal sense, however, this cannot officially be proven due to the fact that an exact date has never been given of Sakuya's official time of inception.)
<b>Race:</b>	<b>Officially Japanese</b> (Though one might conjecture that this is in appearance only, since Sakuya is derived from the manifestation of Yugi's shadow. It has been well established and documented that Yugi is Juraian, so carrying on that same line of reasoning and logic; one might conclude that Sakuya is in actuality Juraian, especially since Yugi didn't utilize any item or element from the earth in the vicinity of Japan in which to create her. But opinions vary, and the best classification of her racial background can be given as being Japanese.)
<b>Blood Type:</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
<b>Weight:</b>	<b>About 90-100 lbs</b> (This is according to Mishi's calculations; with no other source of such information, it sounds good to me)
<b>Eyes:</b>	<b>Emerald green</b>
<b>Hair:</b>	<b>Black with a bluish reflective highlight</b> (Her hair varies from dark purple to black to sometimes even dark gray. Considering she's supposed to be Japanese I'll go out on a limb and say that it's most likely black...) Her hair style is usually kept extremely short in the back (like a "bob-hairstyle"). She has two long tresses of hair that run down the sides of her face. She most often wears a red headband or sunglasses to keep her hair in place.

Overall, one might conclude that, considering all of her attributes, Sakuya Kumashiro is a pretty darn attractive girl. (At the very least, most of the males in her school certainly thought so)

Now that her physical attributes have all been duly noted, lets move on to who this girl Sakuya Kumashiro actually is, and why it is that Tenchi Masaki loves her so much.

### ***Why does Tenchi love Sakuya?***

The answer to this "ages-old" question is very simple...Tenchi loves her **not** because of **what** she is...but rather because of **who** she is. So...what do I mean by this obviously very vague declaration? Actually this statement covers a *lot* of territory. So I'll start from the very beginning and take the time to explain my argument once and for all, from beginning to end.

*In the beginning...*Just after Tenchi enrolled into his new school and was inexplicably forced to sit next to (the young woman who he was destined to fall in love with) Sakuya in his first day of class, Sakuya took an immediate liking to the unassuming young man. If you know anything about the core-storyline already, then you already know that it wouldn't be so great a stretch to theorize that it probably had something to do with the fact that she was most likely pre-programmed to have some sort of pre-ordained feelings and/or emotions toward Tenchi, given her by her creator Yugi.

Yugi was an *extremely* clever little girl. Despite her exceptionally young age, she knew enough to have already either pre-programmed memories of Sakuya within everyone else's mind that went to that school, or to have merely aided her by creating her early enough so that she would have extra time to get to know her friends in Tokyo first, before he showed up. Maybe she did a mixture of the two. Whatever the case, Sakuya had an already reasonably comprehensive and extensive past in that school by the time Tenchi was enrolled there. Evidence of this, was constantly being

revealed by the numerous seemingly insignificant clues that we were being shown little by little ***all*** throughout the series' airing.

We learned in the first episode, that Sakuya was the most popular girl in the school, and that all the guys who went there would love to be simply ***noticed*** by her. We also learn that she already has three friends with whom she is quite close; Sugano, Matsuno, and Yoshinaga. Later, when Tenchi and Sakuya's friends were planning a group-trip during the summer, they quoted that they wanted to let ***Tenchi*** decide which destination that they should go to because ***he*** was new to the city and they wanted to make sure that he saw whatever it was in Tokyo that he may have arbitrarily missed during the normal school year. No such statement was ever made of Sakuya, so it's fairly safe to assume that she was already *well* established within the school by then. All of this advance and extensive planning from a girl (Yugi) that was less than 8 years old (from a certain point of view) is *very* impressive.

But what of Sakuya...were her feelings for Tenchi ***real***, or were they ***imagined?*** Simply stated, they were real. Very real. In fact, by the end of the series it became quite clear that Yugi did not intentionally plan for Sakuya to fall *head-over-heels* for Tenchi in the way that she eventually did. (Here's a thought that only recently came to me while I was watching a few of my favorite episodes. I have since re-watched the entire series from beginning to end, and ***cannot*** find any statement that Yugi made that would confirm or corroborate the fact that she created Sakuya to fall in love with Tenchi.) In fact in this case, it would seem to be the exact opposite. I believe that Yugi's intention was for Sakuya to behave in much the same manner, as did Hotsuma when he was out in space with Ryoko. Yugi's initial plan was for *Tenchi* to fall in love with Sakuya, not necessarily the other way around. Her falling in love with him was an exceptional bonus, but ***far*** from her original plan. Its also interesting to note that Yugi never intended for *any* of her creations to actually fall in love. However it ultimately proved to be an interesting side-effect that she was certainly willing to take advantage of and exploit. Especially since it helped her out in her own nefarious schemes in the long run.

Later while leaving a message on Tenchi's answering machine, Sakuya ***did*** make the comment that she thought she was born to fall in love with him, however, I believe that when taken in correct context, she was actually saying what many of us say when we've found our soul-mate...(if you believe in such a thing) that they were made for each other.

Here's a point that not a lot of people seem to think about, but when she first met Tenchi, she came off as being extremely bold, almost literally throwing herself at him at every opportunity. (in fact, this is behavior that eerily mirrors that of Ryoko and the other girls) Tenchi, being accustomed to this sort of treatment since he already receives it quite often back at home, simply shrugs it off. Truthfully, these types of audacious actions seemingly drive him away since he apparently finds them unpleasant in the first place. Not just from the girls, but from everyone in general. In fact, I believe that had Sakuya not discontinued her obviously ineffective tactics in aggressively pursuing Tenchi in a pushy manner, she would have eventually driven him away, like the other girls did from the start of the series.

What about Tenchi, How could he love someone pushy?

I've read character biographies on Tenchi all over the Internet, and the main thread I've read that's been written about him seems to be that he's basically a *good guy*, sometimes a little *too* good, putting him dangerously close to, if not ***in*** the "*dorky*" category, but good none-the-less. I suppose that's ***not*** a bad thing, but when you're as aggressive as Sakuya was when she *first* met him, that can tend to drive guys like that away. That being said, Sakuya did the wise thing in backing off, allowing him to get to know her personally, and like her as a *friend* first, before any such further relationship would become possible.

Sakuya sought an ongoing relationship with Tenchi, but never gave in to her own base animal desires. What do I mean by this? Simple. Unlike Ryoko or any of the other girls at the Masaki residence who always seemed to **ooze** sexuality, Sakuya was always kind, sweet, cheerful, outgoing, and displayed a certain child-like innocence that before long, Tenchi found himself *craving* to be around. Even when she was being *less-than* perfect, she **always** had a very credible, and thus reasonable motive for being so.

In fact one such instance immediately comes to mind, i.e. the situation when Tenchi was told by Washu that his family was in trouble, and that he needed to return back home with her to provide for them some much needed moral support. (A side note: A lot of people are quick to point to this instance as a reason why Tenchi made a mistake in choosing to be with her. They say that her self-absorbed attitude considering the circumstances was egregiously unforgivable. Honestly, to a certain degree I'd have to concur that she was being a little selfish in this situation regarding Tenchi going back to be with his "family". However if you recall, she was in the middle of hysterics brought about by the specifics of her own personal tribulations. Notably, her own inability to recall any information regarding her past, or even **her** personal family members. She was *terrified*. Tenchi had just made a promise that he would stay with her during the summer, a fact with which I'm sure provided her some measure comfort during her obviously difficult emotional trials. I'm certain that if the situation were different, she would've most assuredly acted in a more appropriate manner. Remember...she loved Tenchi with all her heart, and would've gladly sacrificed anything she had to make him happy...even her own personal time with him if she had to. And his leaving to be with his family at that time definitely would've made him happy. So please people, nobody's perfect...cut the girl some slack.)

I guess the turning point in Tenchi's relationship with Sakuya would be when he thought he'd lost her in episode 10. Before that episode, I don't recall seeing him actively mourning over the loss of being with or without her. He seemed to me to be more indifferent than anything else. Maybe he expressed an interest in her because of her beauty, but up until that point, he never really outwardly showed any emotional attachment to her one way or the other. After that episode however, Tenchi was genuinely depressed over not being able to enjoy her company anymore, and her being absent from school after that for several days, definitely drew those pint up feelings for her out of him.

Personally, I've found Sakuya to be a very refreshing character in that, she is one of the kindest, most sincerely humble individuals within the Shin Tenchi Muyo universe. Think about it...even though she was **the** most popular girl at school, she never let that popularity status mold her personality into becoming a snobbishly hard to get along with girl who is harsh, rude, or stuck-up. She never hesitated to apologize for anything wrong that she had done, or for any misunderstandings that she may have even been a part of, guilty or not. She's the *antithesis* of being stuck-up; in fact, people seem to be drawn to her in much the same way as they are with Tenchi (Of course this does not include Ryoko or any of the other girls, although I firmly believe that if given different circumstances, the girls would've all probably liked her quite a bit, a fact of which I even incorporated into my fan-fiction.) She's a very likable person, very polite and always extremely forgiving.

That pretty much explains her personality in a nutshell.

And here is where I will stop for today. Tomorrow I will return to discuss the highpoints of their relationship, as well as why people who hate her should give her a second chance.

Until next time, faithful reader...

To quote the "*Great*" Stan Lee...

-Excelsior