

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x13

Trappings

By Alan Holman

EXT. TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - DAWN

Sunbeams slip between clouds, and shine atop birds that fly over the coastal town of Rain, Japan.

BANANA'S VOICE

Hey! I'm Lacy, but I'm always called Banana.

(giggle)

Our surname is Chan -- like the honorific -- because of a Chinese branch on our family tree.

(giggle)

I've been an anti-social cartoon-addict since Doggie died.

(sigh)

During a party at Alicia's house, I formed some great new friendships. Despite that, I don't need anyone else but myself in order to be happy. By that, I mean who needs people when I've got so many good videos and video games, right?!

(laugh)

We live in Rain, Japan -- a small sea-side town where weird things happen all the time! For example, around four months ago, we got a talking cat!

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN: November, 2008.

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - AFTERNOON

BANANA and MRS. CHAN sit on a bench.

A small, blue cat, named 937, jumps onto BANANA's lap.

937

Hiya!

BANANA and MRS. CHAN fall over.

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - DAWN

BANANA climbs from her open window, onto the roof-top, where she sits, and watches the sun find a place among the shape-shifting clouds in the sky.

The small blue cat, named 937, joins her.

BANANA'S VOICE

The cat's name is Nine Thirty Seven, but I call him Catty.

937

You'll be sleepy in school again.

BANANA

So what?

937

The sun wrecks your eyes if you stare directly at it.

BANANA

Not mine.

937

May I join you?

BANANA

I guess so.

937 sits on her lap.

She pets the cat.

937

You need to get your sleep.

BANANA

Sleep is heavenly.

(nods)

Yeah.

937 gets distracted, and he pounces from the roof-top, to the lawn, and eats a bird.

BANANA laughs.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

R.I.P. Tweeters. 2005-2008.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN eat ramen noodles.

MRS. CHAN

You look sleepy. Were you sitting on the roof again?

BANANA

Yes.

MRS. CHAN

What about the pond? Did you go last night?

BANANA

Yes.

MRS. CHAN

I know I tell you to be your own person, and I give you certain freedoms, but ...

BANANA

Blah, blah. What's the point?

MRS. CHAN

You're wasting your day!

BANANA

I'm EMBRACING my day! You're just trying to get out of paying me my allowance again!

MRS. CHAN

I'm going to hold onto it until you get home

from school.

BANANA

Why? So you can give it to the poor again?
Well, I'm poor! I depend on you for money!

MRS. CHAN

Well, you're old enough for a job!

BANANA

Hey! Don't use the "j" word!

MRS. CHAN

Don't fall asleep in class again!

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

DATE ON SCREEN

March, 2009.

WIPE TO:

INT. ARCADE - DAY

BANANA CHAN, in a crowded arcade, wearing her school uniform, plays a game about chopping heads off of politicians, called FUN FUN HAPPY JOY SIMULATION GAME.

BANANA CHAN

Why do I feel...chafed?

She puts her hand on the front of her skirt.

BANANA CHAN

OH MY GOD!

Her face turns beet-red with rage.

BANANA CHAN

I've got the maleness! How did I get a ... you know!?! If anyone finds out about this, my life is ruined!

RYONE enters.

RYONE
Banana Chan! Why do you look upset? It is
I: Ryone! I'm back from the store! Here's your
candy!

RYONE gives some candy to BANANA. She eats it.

RYONE
Why do you look so sad, Banana? Don't you
see that I, Ryone, have returned to you, so
that we may attempt a relationship?

BANANA still holds the front of her dress, looking shocked.

Her eyes glaze over a bit...

BUSTER enters.

BUSTER
I couldn't help but overhear what you had to
say, Ryone, and I think I know why Banana
was shocked when you wanted to attempt a
relationship.

BANANA faints.

RYONE
My dear fainted; she's glad to see me. She's
so glad, and her gladness to see me is what
made her faint!

BUSTER
I think she fainted because she can't possibly
attempt a relationship with you, Ryone.

Angrily, RYONE shouts ...

RYONE
BANANA CHAN IS GLAD TO SEE ME!! SHE
IS OVERWHELMED, BOY, AND THAT IS
WHY SHE FAINTED!!!

BUSTER
Apologize for shouting at me, Ryone, for I am
your God-son!

Shocked, RYONE asks...

RYONE
Since when do I have a God-son?

BUSTER
You don't yet; you see, I'm from the future.

RYONE hugs BUSTER apologetically.

RYONE
Oh, I'm so sorry, God-son. But why did you say that Banana's fainting did not have to do with her immense joy from seeing me again, after all this time?

BUSTER
Her fainting was, in fact, because she saw you, but not because she's glad.

RYONE
Huh?

BUSTER
It's because she's already married.

RYONE faints.

BUSTER
(laughs)
Just kidding. She's not married.

INT. DOCTOR EGG-ROLL'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. EGG-ROLL is a tall young doctor who wears glasses.

BANANA lays on the examination table.

DR. EGG-ROLL
There's a perfectly logical explanation, and I know what it is.

BANANA CHAN
Okay, then tell me, Dr. Egg-Roll: why did I faint?

DR. EGG-ROLL
Well, usually, your fainting spells are because

of panic attacks, or low blood pressure, and this time it was low blood pressure, and not panic attacks, because you've followed my advice and drank less milk and ate more sugar like a person who has panic attacks should. Anyway, it was low blood pressure this time because your new extremity filled with blood.

BANANA takes quick breaths, grabs her chest, turns blue, and faints.

DR. EGG-ROLL
That was a panic attack.

INT. KITCHEN, CHAN FAMILY HOUSEHOLD - EVENING

MRS. CHAN washes the dishes as DR. EGG ROLL enters the room, carrying BANANA CHAN who is sleeping.

DR. EGG-ROLL
I'll just put her down right here, if that's alright.

MRS. CHAN
Sure.

DR. EGG ROLL raises BANANA far above his head, in an amazing feat of strength; and then, he pile-drives the girl, head first, into the floor.

MRS. CHAN
Was that really necessary?

DR. EGG-ROLL
I don't know. I'm a quack!

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

BANANA lays on a hospital bed with a cast on her head, and a neck-brace.

RYONE sits on a chair beside the bed.

BANANA
Mom and Buster didn't drop anything to come

and visit me. Neither have any of my friends. But you came, and you've been sitting with me, talking with me, and bringing me anything, no matter what I've asked for.

RYONE

I can't imagine being anywhere else.

BANANA

Ryone. You're too thoughtful. Don't be.

RYONE

I have to.

BANANA

But I'm always so ... frostic ... to you.

RYONE

No worries.

BANANA

Ryone, I know it was you who shoveled my walkway that morning after the big blizzard.

RYONE

I couldn't imagine you catching a cold.

BANANA

You didn't have to. Mom or Buster would have shoveled it.

RYONE

Well they might have caught a cold, and those germs might have spread to you.

BANANA

You walked all the way across town, in the freezwind, just to shovel my walkway. Mom and Buster still don't know who did it. As I was watching you through the window, I didn't know whether to call the police or give you a kiss.

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA CHAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BANANA CHAN wakes up on her bed, with a bump on her head.

BANANA CHAN
I hope it was all just a bad dream.

BANANA CHAN looks under her covers, at herself.

BANANA CHAN
Darn.

MRS. CHAN enters the room, giggling merrily.

BANANA CHAN
Why are you giggling?

MRS. CHAN
After I saw it for myself, I couldn't stop giggling!

MRS. CHAN giggles.

BANANA CHAN
Did the Doctor tell you how I can be cured?

Giggling merrily, MRS. CHAN reveals a large knife.

BANANA CHAN
AHHH!!!

BANANA jumps out her bedroom window.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN hands a bowl of spaghetti to BANANA.

BANANA begins eating the spaghetti.

BANANA CHAN
Yuck! These noodles are cold!

MRS. CHAN
Sorry. All I could think of this morning were noodles, and I couldn't stop giggling in time to warm the meal up for you.

BANANA CHAN
Darn.

BANANA exits, angrily.

INT. DOCTOR EGG-ROLL'S OFFICE

BANANA consults DR. EGG ROLL.

DR. EGG-ROLL

So you want me to do something about that new extremity, right?

BANANA CHAN

Right. By the way, why did it appear on me?

DR. EGG-ROLL

Well, I've narrowed it down to one possibility: a curse.

BANANA CHAN

A curse?

DR. EGG-ROLL

Yes. Tell me, Banana Chan -- do you have any enemies?

BANANA CHAN

Well, I did punch Eggbert, but he's just a nerd so he's used to it.

DR. EGG-ROLL

Oh, I know him; he's weird. It must have been Eggbert who cursed you.

BANANA CHAN

How did he get the ability to put curses on people?

DR. EGG-ROLL

Like I said: he's weird.

BANANA CHAN

Oh. Okay. How do I reverse the curse?

CUT TO:

INT. BANANA CHAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

BANANA wakes up.

BANANA CHAN
It was all just a dream.

BUSTER enters.

BUSTER
No, it wasn't.

BANANA CHAN
Why are you in my room?

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
I sent him to wake you up. Then I decided to
wake you up. Wake up.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA and BUSTER have a chat.

BUSTER
Listen, I'm serious. Whenever I'm unable to
speak my feelings, I can write them easily.

BANANA
That's odd.

BUSTER
I think writing comes from the heart, whereas
speech comes from the vocal chord.

BANANA
That's dumb.

BUSTER
Perhaps the pen bypasses something that
usually prevents a man from speaking his
emotional weaknesses.

BANANA
That's crazy.

BUSTER

I don't think so. In person, Ryone seemed like a strong person. And your body language seemed attracted to his strength. Tell me, Banana: do his notes make him seem weak -- is that why you don't like him?

BANANA

That makes sense. His notes do make him seem so weak I gotta gag.

BUSTER

But yet, when he carried himself with a strong posture today, you couldn't stop smiling at him.

BANANA

Yeah, but he's usually nervous as all hell around me, and that usually creeps me out.

BUSTER

I'll bet he's only nervous because he's deeply puzzled by the fact that he can't express with speech those feelings he can only express when he writes. Banana, if you spend more time with the actual person, than with the written version of Ryone, I bet you'll think he's cooler.

BANANA

That doesn't make much sense to me, because, when I write a note, I use the same words as when I talk.

BUSTER

I don't. Ryone doesn't either. Guys are different. Maybe something between guy heart and guy vocal chord blocks guys from speaking our true emotions, so therefore we can only write them!

BANANA

Well, if that's true, then why does he even try to say them?

BUSTER

Hubris.

BANANA

What?

BUSTER

Ego. A guy is stubborn. He thinks he can do anything. So he doesn't expect that he'll trip over his own words. And when he trips over the first one, he gets nervous. And you react to his nervousness with suspicion about his motives. His motivation to speak with you could be because he loves you and wants to care for you, but his inability to bluntly say such a great thing can cause a nervousness that makes you think that he wants to attack you or something. It's tragic! He's trying to be honest to you. He's trying to say what he can only say in notes. He can't say it out loud because something between the heart and the vocal chord prevents emotional weaknesses from being said. I'm twelve, and I only began noticing it last year. It's male strength. It's pride.

BANANA

That's so dumb.

BUSTER wipes a tear from his eye.

BUSTER

It's so true.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN wash the dishes together.

BUSTER

I've noticed that males -- myself included -- have difficulties with expressing our deeper emotions.

MRS. CHAN

No, that's just an excuse for being dishonest.

BUSTER

No, I started noticing this last year, and it gets harder to speak my heart's words with each day, and it scares me.

MRS. CHAN
Why?

BUSTER
Because if I liked a girl, I'd want to be honest with her. But seeing how Ryone's honesty is scaring Banana away, I don't know what to do. He's being honest about his feelings. I know that if I liked a girl, I'd want to be honest with her also, but I'm afraid that girls might be afraid of honesty if the topic is love. If the only way to be honest with a girl, about my feelings for her, is to write them, then it's scary such writing might scare girls away.

MRS. CHAN
I hope you've told this to Banana.

BUSTER
I have. What Ryone writes to her seems like what I'd want to write to a girl if I liked a girl. He's being honest.

MRS. CHAN
There's nothing wrong with honesty, but such constant persistence makes him seem needy, and that's a no-no. Ryone's first note should have instructed her to meet him for a talk about it. She liked him as a friend then, so she would have shown up. All he'd have had to do is be strong, confident, and funny, and he'd have had a girlfriend, but he messed up his chances right at the start.

WIPE TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

SqueegiMon posters are all over the bedroom wall.

BUSTER wakes up screaming.

BUSTER

Ahhhh!!!!

BANANA runs into the room.

BANANA

It sounds like you had a nightmare, Buster.
Are you alright?

BUSTER

I'm a little shaken up; otherwise, I'm fine.

BANANA

What did you dream about?

Awkward pause.

BANANA

Well, hurry up. Tell me, Buster. What did
you dream about?

BUSTER looks embarrassed as an icon resembling a drop of
sweat appears above his head. His hand covers the forehead
over his blushing face, and he says...

BUSTER

Well, ah...you see... uhm...err...kinda...

BANANA

Come to think of it: I don't really give a care
about what you were dreaming about.

BANANA exits.

BANANA re-enters, looking frustrated.

BANANA

Buster. Something's been bothering me.
Please please please, Buster, please tell me
that you're not really from the future, you little
scampi shrimp!

BUSTER

Uhm... I am from the future.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN

Banana. Are you torturing our guest from the future?

BANANA

I'm sorry. It's just difficult to wrap my mind around sometimes.

BUSTER

I don't know what else to tell you, Banana. I really am from the future.

BANANA

And rabies have pets.

BUSTER

I've gotta go to the bathroom.

BUSTER exits.

BANANA

There is something profoundly wrong with my world.

BANANA gives MRS. CHAN a hug.

MRS. CHAN

I think we all need some extra relaxation. Let's go camping!

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. MINIVAN/HIGHWAY - MORNING

MRS. CHAN drives a black minivan beside a large forest.

BUSTER rides "shotgun" as 937 sits on his lap.

BANANA sits in the back.

MRS. CHAN slams her foot on the brakes -- stopping the minivan abruptly; preventing it from crashing into a monstrous BIGFOOT who runs across the road, and into the forest.

Startled, 937 digs his claws into BUSTER's legs.

BUSTER

OUCH!

BUSTER puts 937 onto the dashboard.

BUSTER
(to 937)
Never seen a bigfoot before?

937 shakes his head, then jumps out, diving into the forest.

BUSTER
NO!!!

BUSTER gets out, and follows his cat into the forest.

MRS. CHAN
(annoyed)
What now?

EXT. THICK FOREST - MORNING

937 runs.

937
Was that REALLY bigfoot!?! -- I've gotta find
out if he's real!

BUSTER enters the area.

BUSTER
There you are!

EXT. THICK FOREST - MORNING

MRS. CHAN and BANANA find BUSTER and 937.

MRS. CHAN
937. If curiosity doesn't kill you, I will! Why'd
you chase that monkey?

937
It was bigfoot!!!

MRS. CHAN
It was a monkey. Let's go back.

EXT. HILLSIDE - FOREST - AFTERNOON

Sweaty and tired, BUSTER, BANANA, 937, and MRS. CHAN, walk beside a hill-side.

937

It's strange that we're lost, especially because I have a very good memory.

They stop in front of the mouth of a cave.

MRS. CHAN enters the cave.

BANANA enters the cave.

BUSTER enters the cave.

937 enters the cave.

EXT. WINDSWEPT PLAIN - DAY

Confused, the CHAN family stand in the middle of nowhere.

MRS. CHAN

The cave disappeared!

Suddenly, a DIAMOND PALACE appears on the horizon. And behind them, a fast-food restaurant, called TRAPPINGS RESTAURANT, appears.

BANANA

I smell food!

They turn around, and notice the restaurant.

INT. TRAPPINGS RESTAURANT - DAY

BANANA, BUSTER, and MRS. CHAN, sit around the table.

937 sits on the table.

This restaurant PROPRIETOR enters.

PROPRIETOR

Because you're our first customers, you win free hot-dogs!

BANANA

This is ... odd.

The PROPRIETOR exits to the kitchen.

937 licks his lips.

The PROPRIETOR enters, and gives them HotDogs.

PROPRIETOR

Enjoy!

BUSTER, MRS. CHAN, and BANANA shrug, then bite their HotDogs at the same time.

BUSTER turns into a German Shepard.

MRS. CHAN turns into a Saint Bernard.

BANANA turns into a Poodle.

937

OH NO!!!

All the dogs look at 937, and BARK!!!

In mortal terror, 937 leaps out a small window. The German Shepard and Saint Bernard can't fit through the window -- and the poodle falls asleep.

EXT. PLAIN - AFTERNOON

937 runs away from the restaurant, in the direction of the far horizon, toward the DIAMOND PALACE.

A purple-haired teenage boy named KAI lands his yellow hang-glider quietly, behind 937.

937 slowly turns around, notices KAI, and says...

937

Boo!

KAI laughs, and starts petting 937.

KAI

Yay! A talking cat!

937

What is ... this place?

KAI

This place is "The Other Side of the Cave."
Why so sad?

937

My humans transformed into dogs.

KAI

Oh -- they must have ordered the Hot Dogs.

937

No. The Hot Dogs were complimentary.

KAI

Don't worry; they'll be fine -- you'll save them!

937

What? How?

KAI

Stomp your feet.

937

Alright, but I don't see what...

937 stomps his feet, and the ground opens up beneath him --
he falls in.

KAI laughs.

KAI stomps his feet, and the ground opens up beneath him --
he falls in.

INT. LIVING ROOM, UNDERGROUND HOUSE

The living room contains a couch, coffee-table, TV, lamp,
telephone, doors, and a hatch in the roof which opens up...

937 and KAI enter, falling in from the hatch -- then, the
hatch closes.

Both land safely.

937

Is this your house?

KAI
(looks at his watch; it's 6:00P.M.)
Yes.

937
(shakes head)
We can't be here. We must save the Chan family!

KAI
It's too late to save them tonight.

937
Says who!?!

937 runs defiantly through a door.

INT. KITCHEN, UNDERGROUND HOUSE

937 enters, finds a large slingshot in the middle of the room, uses it to fly out a hole in the roof...

CUT TO:

EXT. PLAIN - EVENING

937 is shot out from a hole in the ground, and lands a few meters away from it, then starts running in the direction of the DIAMOND PALACE which looms on the far horizon.

937
Gotta get away from that kid...

Behind 937, KAI is shot out from the hole in the ground, wearing a back-pack. At the highest point of his flight, KAI's backpack becomes his yellow hang-glider, and he quickly flies toward 937, then lands in front of 937.

937
(disappointed)
You again?

KAI
It's not safe to be out this late!

937
(doubting)
Why not?

As the sun sets, thousands of WRAITHS (flying dead people) surround them, approaching in a shrinking circle.

KAI
IF THEY TOUCH YOU, YOU DIE!!!

937's jaw drops.

937
WHAT WILL WE DO!?!

KAI picks up 937, stomps the ground; it opens up, and they fall to the safety of KAI's underground home.

INT. LIVING ROOM, UNDERGROUND HOUSE

KAI and 937 enter, falling in from the hatch in the roof which closes above them.

KAI
My home is safe.

937
What about the Chan family?

KAI
They're in cages at Trappings Restaurant -- it's the oldest trick in the cook-book. Customers are rare, so they'll be safe for the night. We'll rescue them first thing in the morning. For the time being, why not tell me about your humans?

937
Sure. There's Buster; he likes running, playing the drums ... but anyway, do you even know how we can turn them back into humans?

KAI
Yes. The diamond palace -- simply touching it ends a curse! Any curse, one-by-one, with no limit. If you're out of curses, it recites your

fortune.

937

Corny.

Pause.

KAI

I'm Kai -- I've lived here all my life.

937

I'm a cat.

EXT. PLAIN - DAWN

Nighttime becomes daytime as the sun rises. Thousands of WRAITHS yawn, fall asleep, and disappear.

937 and KAI shoot into the air from a hole in the ground, and land on their feet, running toward TRAPPINGS RESTAURANT.

KAI

I'll convince the proprietor to sell his dogs to me -- I've got lots of money.

937

You must be rich.

KAI nods.

CUT TO:

EXT. DIAMOND PALACE - AFTERNOON

937 stands a safe distance away from KAI who walks the dogs.

KAI

I'm going to touch their paws to the side of the palace; that's how they'll turn back into their original, human selves.

937

Okay.

KAI takes some cookies out of his pocket, throws them against the palace.

The dogs fetch the cookies, touch the palace, and turn into BANANA, BUSTER, and MRS. CHAN who are now very confused.

MRS. CHAN
Who are you?

BANANA touches the palace again.

BANANA
It's so warm!

KAI
That's weird. It should have recited your fortune.

BANANA
Huh?

KAI
Touch the palace again.

BANANA touches the palace again.

BANANA
Why's it so warm?

KAI
It should have recited your fortune. Try again.

BANANA touches the palace again. The PALACE starts to talk
...

PALACE
Three curses were on you, Banana Chan.
Now with no curses on you, your fortune is in your hands. Your future is what you make of it.

KAI
(points at nothing)
Look over there!

The CHAN family looks over there...

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER, BANANA, 937, and MRS. CHAN, sit around the table, still very confused.

BANANA
How'd we get back home?

WIPE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA, SCHOOL - NOON

A bald girl named VIKKI eats lunch with ALICIA.

ALICIA
Something's missing.

VIKKI
The girl who always steals our food?

ALICIA
Yeah.

BANANA enters.

BANANA
Back from camping!

VIKKI
There she is, right on cue.

BANANA steals VIKKI's food, and eats it.

VIKKI
Gah! Naughty girl! You stole my food!

INT. MR ONO'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

BANANA sleeps at her desk, as MR. ONO gives a lecture.

MR. ONO
Banana Chan!

BANANA wakes up.

BANANA
That's true.

MR. ONO
That's true?

BANANA
That's true.

MR. ONO
Our school has a strict rule against after-school jobs. If you're moonlighting, you have to tell me.

BANANA
Moonlight. I see a lot of that, yeah.

MR. ONO
Now you're patronizing me.

BANANA
(drools)
Mmm ... pasta.

The students laugh.

BANANA falls asleep again.

END OF EPISODE