

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x20

Planet X

By Alan Holman

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

In a room with pop-music posters over yellow, banana-style wallpaper, is a bed, set on lime green carpeting, and on the end of a bright yellow sunbeam that shines from even above a large crack between two clouds, all the way down beyond floor-to-roof curtains which separate the room from the roof, for Banana's window is a walk-out, sit-on-roof kind of set up. Banana sleeps under covers on a soft, silky sheet.

A side-to-side smile shines between her cheeks. Her smile widens as a clock-radio turns on, and music enters her life. She looks soothed by how the radio harmonizes with the rings of her phone.

BANANA -- wearing yellow pajamas -- wakes up, stands in a tall stretch. With her feet planted tip-toed on the ground, she brings her wrists and hands above her head, beside the potato-shaped light that hangs over-head. She stretches further as she yawns, then she bounds back to bed -- in a tightly curled bundle, under a cozy blanket, and she falls back asleep again, as her clock-radio continues playing music. Her phone stops ringing.

A small blue cat named 937, enters the room, and turns the radio off.

BANANA sits up, smiles at 937, and says...

BANANA
G'mornin!

The cat jumps into BANANA's chest, pushing her and cat down into the soft pillow. She yawns again, then the cat yawns, and the cat smiles a soft-faced smile at BANANA's smile. They snuggle their smiles together.

BANANA
Snugly soft! So fuzzy!

BANANA snuggles with 937 -- her baby-soft cheek snuggles with his much fuzzier cheek.

937

The name's Nine Thirty-Seven, not Snuggles!

MRS. CHAN -- wearing a bandage on her knee; otherwise, she's skirted -- enters, singing and smiling -- she takes a polaroid picture of BANANA and the cat named 937.

BANANA

Yee-Hee! Warm fuzzies!

BANANA picks up the cat, and sets him down beside the bed; he walks to the door, sticks his head out, looks back in, and returns.

BANANA

I was just thinking about the stuff we were talking about. If Roko falls out that window, then ...

MRS. CHAN

Don't worry about that story yet.

BUSTER enters the room.

BUSTER

Good morning, everyone!

BANANA

G'mornin!

MRS. CHAN

Good morning, Buster.

937

I want gum.

BANANA

I don't think so, catty. If I find out that four-legged critters have been stealing my gum, I'll stab you with something very sharp!

937

(to Buster)

What'd granny call you?

BUSTER

She called YOU a four-legged critter, and I think she's telling you that talking four-legged critters freak people out.

937

Buster, you're wrong. Four-legged critters don't freak people out.

BANANA

Okay, peoples ... popples ... purple-popple-people-eaters. I must change. Scat!

MRS. CHAN, BUSTER, and 937, exit.

CUT TO:

INT. BREAKFAST TABLE, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

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

BANANA

May I call you Bust?

BUSTER

No, you bonobo.

BANANA

The name's Banana.

MRS. CHAN

A bonobo is a type of monkey.

BUSTER

That's right!

BANANA

You callin' me a monkey!?

MRS. CHAN

You're my little monkey.

MRS. CHAN kisses the top of BANANA's head -- BANANA smiles.

BUSTER laughs a small bit.

MRS. CHAN starts pouring Kooky Loopy Brand Cereal into
bowls
for all of them.

BANANA
(conspicuous)
Mmm ... breakfast cereal!

MRS. CHAN finishes serving them their Kooky Loopy cereal.

BUSTER bites down on the cereal, and his eyes widen, and he
spits it out.

BANANA and MRS. CHAN laugh.

BUSTER
Water! It's too sour and bitter, hurry! Water!

MRS. CHAN fills a cup with water, gives it to BUSTER.

BUSTER drinks the water, then says ...

BUSTER
It's so bad.

937 enters, and says ...

937
Who peed in his cereal?

BANANA
(points at BUSTER, and laughs)
You've been ... HAZED!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN and BANANA eat pancakes.

MRS. CHAN
You look tired.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA -- wearing a bunny costume -- dips her toes slowly into the pond, and points her nose at the stars, as a POLICE OFFICER taps her shoulder.

POLICE OFFICER
Go home. The curfew begins tonight.

BANANA
No.
(crying)
Why am I crying? Why should I go? I'm not hurting anybody!

POLICE OFFICER
New curfew. Kids your age have to be inside by eleven.

BANANA
(crying)
But night's when the breeze feels best by the pond!

The POLICE OFFICER pushes a button on a radio that's clipped to his breast-pocket, and he speaks into that radio...

POLICE OFFICER
(into radio)
Code four.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL - MORNING

MR. ONO presides over the class.

MR. ONO
The forest which surrounds three sides of our square-shaped town of Rain, Japan, is fertilized by fallen Feudal warriors, and their unnamed progeny.

BANANA enters late ... she looks very tired.

MR. ONO
(to Banana)
Hi Banana. You're late again? Well, take a

seat next to Rob -- he's the new boy.

MR. ONO points at ROB PISO.

ROB PISO (age 16) is very tall, at 6'8" -- beneath his short black hair, and brown eyes, this muscular guy, wears a tight black shirt, cargo pants, and expensive sport-shoes.

BANANA
(curious)
Rob's the name of the new boy?

ROB
Yes, hi!

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP, MORNING

BANANA and ROB sit across from each-other. She eats white ice-cream, and he eats BLACK ice-cream.

ROB
I hope you don't find me weird.

BANANA
(smiling)
Never know!

ROB
Okay. Tell me about your family.

BANANA
Why are you interested in that?

ROB
Chan is a cute surname. Chinese?

BANANA
Umm ... yeah. But we're more Russo-Japanese; it's complicated. Why do you care?

ROB
I love you, Banana.

He takes her hands, and looks into her eyes.

BANANA

Really?

ROB
Yes.

BANANA
(smiling, blushing)
Aww ...
(gently slaps his arm)
Well I sorta like you too.

ROB
Thank you.

EXT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

BANANA sits on her bed, chatting with MRS. CHAN.

MRS. CHAN
Banana, he's a nice guy, yet you treat him badly. Banana, he's in love with you.

BANANA
Ryone is in love "at" me. The word "with" makes it seem like we're both in on it. If things don't work out with James -- which is my worst fear -- then I'll settle for giving Rob a real shot, then Ryone! Ryone is THIRD on my list! But anyway ma, tell me about my ancestors!

MRS. CHAN
Your ancestors were practitioners of Sawamura-sensei's Five-Finger Soul Style of kung-fu. They overthrew this place when it was a feudal castle-town, and re-named it Rain, but please don't brag.

BANANA
Why not!?!

MRS. CHAN
Because Rain was attacked, and claimed by a rival clan, during the two night victory celebration. The defeat forced your ancestors to work as executioners for the prison system.

BANANA

Whoah. That was out of nowhere.

MRS. CHAN

Long story short, your grandfather, and his son Reg, got forged Japanese documents in Russia -- and replaced koseki -- thereby changing their surname to Chan.

BANANA

Hey, I thought our name was Chan because of that wedding in China!

MRS. CHAN

(nods)

Nope. That was the cover-story.

BANANA looks very angry.

BANANA

(screaming)

WHY DIDN'T YOU TRUST ME WITH THE TRUTH!?!

MRS. CHAN

You never asked.

BANANA

(blushing)

That's right. Oops. Must work on my temper.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAKURA PARK - AFTERNOON

BANANA and ROB, sitting in a tree ... k-i-s-s-i-n-g.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN-SIDE FOREST - AFTERNOON

BANANA and ROB hold hands while walking on a path in the forest. Binoculars hang from their necks, which they sometimes use for looking at birds.

BLANK SCREEN

DATE ON SCREEN: December, 2009.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - DAY

BANANA and BUSTER sit at the table, talking.

BUSTER is now 13 years old, and 5'4".

BANANA CHAN (age 17) is 5'8", with longer blonde hair (and equally longer orange roots) than she had when last we saw her.

BUSTER looks at the clock, sees that it's 5 P.M., and says.

BUSTER
(urgently)
We've got FIVE HOURS until the heat wave!

BANANA
Huh?

BUSTER
Today is in a history book I brought from the future!

BANANA
A future history book?

BUSTER
Yeah! Planet X causes a global heat wave tonight!

BANANA
Planet X? Global heat wave? What are you Talking about?

BUSTER
Aliens got mad at humanity for some reason, so they shot Planet X through our solar system. It happened quickly, but everyone who has air-conditioners survived.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA, and MRS. CHAN, are listening to the radio while eating breakfast.

VOICE ON RADIO
Casualties of last night's global heat wave will be used as compost.

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - AFTERNOON

BANANA and ALICIA window-shop.

ALICIA
I'll always be your friend, so let me give you some friendly advice.

BANANA
Okay.

ALICIA
Know yourself, and love yourself. And don't let anyone else define you. Don't let anyone else tell you who you are.

BANANA
I know that. And I also don't let anyone else tell me what to do, or what to believe ... and I especially don't let anyone tell me who to like.

ALICIA
Well, because of that "arrangement", you must at least try to give Ryone the benefit of the doubt.

BANANA
I just don't think that Ryone is the wisest choice. When Buster came from the future, he said I'd marry Rob.

ALICIA
(laughs)
Another "arrangement"?

BANANA
Yeah. But now I just wanna get rid of both

Ryone AND Rob, and live my life. I don't like it when things are predictable.

ALICIA laughs.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD, RAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Sitting at a picnic table in the middle of the football field, BUSTER CHAN and an evil looking boy named BOBBY DARK finish their game of SqueegiMon in front of a large audience.

PRINCIPAL NAKATASAKA inspects the cards on the table, and makes his judgment...

PRINCIPAL NAKATASAKA
TIE GAME!!!

Everyone in the audience looks at each-other in confusion, asking questions, such as: "What does this mean?"

PRINCIPAL NAKATASAKA
The All-World Contest between our school and Tokyo Middle School will be an unprecedented three-way-game, thus giving our school an unfair advantage!

Everyone cheers.

INT. LARGE STADIUM

Large crowds roar with excitement as BUSTER CHAN and BOBBY DARK play their SqueegiMon card game.

BUSTER CHAN
It's down to us, the best SqueegiMon players in the world!

PRINCIPAL NAKATASAKA approaches them.

PRINCIPAL NAKATASAKA
To make things more interesting, the winner gets a really ugly t-shirt!

BUSTER whispers to BOBBY.

BUSTER CHAN

(whispering)
I've got an idea. We'll play an honest game,
and the winner will graciously decline the
prize, and the loser will take it.

BOBBY DARK
(whispering)
You're on!

BOBBY flips over a card.

PRINCIPAL NAKATASAKA inspects the cards on the table.

PRINCIPAL NAKATASAKA
Our Champion is BOBBY DARK!

BOBBY DARK
I defer my prize to Buster.

BUSTER CHAN
(sarcastically)
Gee, thanks.

A girl named MAIKO PENK presents the shirt to BUSTER.

MAIKO PENK is a young and thin, 5'2", blue-eyed girl, whose wavy red hair flows to the middle of her back. She wears a cute pink cape over the back of her school uniform.

MAIKO
Here you go!

BUSTER is taken aback by MAIKO's beauty as he accepts the shirt.

MAIKO
(nervous)
You're welcome, but why are you staring at
my ...hair? Buster, my face is down here!

BUSTER
I ... love ... you.

MAIKO blushes.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER, BANANA, and MRS. CHAN are in this room.

BANANA

For the love of God, what's on TV?

MRS. CHAN turns on the TV. The NEWS is on, recapping a factory explosion.

NEWSCASTER

... and the arsonists got away.

BUSTER

Hey! I read about this arson in my history book from the future!

MRS. CHAN

Buster, give me your history book from the future.

BUSTER

Okay. Why?

MRS. CHAN

So I can give it to the authorities. We don't need the burden of that responsibility.

BUSTER

Won't that alter the future so that I'm never born?

MRS. CHAN

No. Your mass will transfer from one time-line to another. You'll continue living here, happily, with us, I guess.

BUSTER

COOL!

BAKA appears in a puff of smoke.

BAKA

Your time travel ability won't work any-more.

BUSTER

Why not?

BAKA
There's something wrong with it.

BAKA vanishes.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

BUSTER skateboards down a sidewalk, until ASHANA NIKO sticks her arm out from a lawn, purposely knocking BUSTER off of his skateboard.

ASHANA NIKO (age 15) is athletic, 5'3", with short black hair, and brown eyes. She wears a karate outfit with a black belt.

BUSTER lands, on his feet, in a martial-arts stance.

BUSTER
I coulda got hurt!

ASHANA NIKO
I know.

BUSTER's confused.

BUSTER
Who are you?

ASHANA gets mad...

ASHANA NIKO
Your enemy!

BUSTER
I don't understand.

ASHANA NIKO
MAYBE THIS'LL MAKE YOU
UNDERSTAND!!!

ASHANA throws a punch at BUSTER -- he flips backwards to dodge, and he kicks her chin. She falls backwards, onto the ground, and begins nursing her broken chin with a hand.

ASHANA NIKO
GO AWAY, YOU BRUTE!!!

Pause.

BUSTER
You confuse me.

ASHANA NIKO
GO AWAY!!!

BUSTER gets onto his skateboard, and rides away.

INT. DOCTOR MELFIN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

BUSTER speaks with his psychiatrist DR. MELFIN.

DOCTOR MELFIN (age 36) is 7'4"; she wears glasses and has short black hair; she usually wears brown business outfits. She sits on a big black chair.

BUSTER
...so I kicked her jaw. But I still don't even know why she attacked me.

DR. MELFIN
How does this make you feel?

BUSTER
Bad. I don't want my violence to escalate.

DR. MELFIN
Your consciousness of the problem might be the key to solving it. Your violence might not escalate.

BUSTER
Those NINjAs forced me to murder countless vagrants during my training. That time-line will always haunt my memories.

DR. MELFIN
I want you to close your eyes.

BUSTER
Okay.

BUSTER closes his eyes.

DR. MELFIN

Visualize an ocean wherein the waves are your turbulent emotions and stressful feelings.

BUSTER

I see a lot of waves. Mostly small, but some are huge.

DR. MELFIN

Calm the waves thereby calming yourself.

BUSTER opens his eyes, and mutters ...

BUSTER

Calm blue ocean. Calm blue ocean.

BUSTER smiles.

BUSTER

It worked! But we learned that meditation in the NINJA academy, so it was easy. However, I've not done that recently because it reminds me of them.

DR. MELFIN

Good information can come from an evil teacher.

WIPE TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER'S BEDROOM (which used-to be the SECOND-FLOOR GUEST ROOM) includes a closet with a large pad-lock, a desk/drawer set with a lot of notepads and pens, and a CD player, and a CD shelf with about thirty CDs. No computer of any sort.

BUSTER lays on his bed, reading a notebook.

BUSTER

(reading)

"They say I always get my way/ If in my next life, wishes still come true, as they always do/

Call me a crime against nature/ It's worse than
you think, to vacation in dreams/ It's not funny
to have a secret/ I'm none of your business
when you knock on my door/ but I'll let you in/
And if you want more, I'll tell you my secrets,
because no one likes closed doors."

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
Breakfast's ready. What are you reading?

BUSTER
Untitled anonymous poetry from the future.
They made us memorize these poems in the
orphanage.

MRS. CHAN
How do you make toddlers memorize
anything?

BUSTER
That's beside the point.

MRS. CHAN
What's the point?

BUSTER
Should I rescue these poems? The time-line
has changed, so unless I publish these
poems, they'll never exist. Would selling them
be rude since they're not my words, even if
those words won't be written otherwise?

MRS. CHAN
For some reason, you've just reminded me of
Ryone.

BUSTER
Well, I did read Ryone's journal in the future.

MRS. CHAN
Does he end-up with Banana?

BUSTER
No, but she would have been happier with him.

MRS. CHAN

Banana never gives him a fair amount of time to prove himself.

BUSTER

He's too nervous when he's around her. He needs space to be "himself" around her long enough that she can judge him fairly.

MRS. CHAN

I know, but she's always rude by "shrugging him off" every time he invites her to anything.

BUSTER

Exactly. So that's why I want to put my NINJA skills to good use for a change. I will be an invisible NINJA who works on the side-lines, to make damn sure that Banana gives Ryone the fair shake he deserves.

MRS. CHAN

Banana marries Rob, you said.

BUSTER

(nods)

Yeah. I can tell 'cause I don't have wings. If Banana breaks-up with Rob, I become an angel, as default 'cause I'd otherwise not exist.

MRS. CHAN

Cool! But anyway, show me more future stuff!

BUSTER points at a padlocked closet.

MRS. CHAN

Why's it locked?

BUSTER

I'm a bit paranoid.

MRS. CHAN

I'm not a thief.

BUSTER

My problem's not with you; it's me.

MRS. CHAN
There's a lot about me you don't know.

BUSTER
I know that you're my great-aunt, Banana's long-lost sister -- her real mother died in a car accident, and you came from the future to impersonate Banana's mother.

Pause.

MRS. CHAN
Yeah, you got me pegged.

The small, blue cat, named 937, enters, and rubs his furry back against MRS. CHAN's leg -- she smiles.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN talk over breakfast.

BUSTER
I'm too good at SqueeGiMon. I've no longer got any decent competitors -- except Bobby Dark -- so I'm training Maiko -- she's getting good at the game.

MRS. CHAN
I'd like to meet Maiko -- she's your girlfriend, right?

BUSTER nods.

MRS. CHAN
Invite her over, for dinner!

BUSTER
Okay!

INT. SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS, RAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

BUSTER is one of the many students who sit in this classroom. MAIKO sits behind him.

The teacher is MR. TANEESHI.

MR. TANEESHI (age 44) is a 6'9", very thin, wired, frazzled coffee-hound of a teacher.

MR. TANEESHI

Today's mock-teacher is Buster Chan.

BUSTER arrogantly goes to the front of the class -- MAIKO looks proud of him. The students pay attention.

BUSTER takes a deep breath, looks at the class, which is full of his peers, and says ...

BUSTER

Today's topic: "The Importance of Giving-in to Peer Pressure at Least Once Per Week" Also known as "TIGPLOP...umm...W"

The class begin taking notes...

BUSTER

I want you to open your textbooks to page...

MAIKO

You'd better not give much notes or I'll beat you up!

BUSTER

(blushing)

I'd like that. Besides, proper grammar is "MANY" notes, not "much notes!"

(pause)

Don't worry. There will be two paragraphs at most.

BUSTER writes the words "SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION" on the chalk board.

BUSTER

Each of our popular fads, such as trying to touch your tongue to your eye, playing with your ears -- in private, of course. Eating bugs, voting, or even figuring out what's the furriest: a southern yak or an arctic peach! All of these fads have one thing in common: their origins were blatant acts of social experimentation.

MR. TANEESHI writes something in a notebook.

BUSTER

A commercial social experiment, or a CSE, is when you sell things in a non-market environment, such as a classroom.

BUSTER reveals a stack of small books from his backpack.

BUSTER

Who wants to buy poems at fifty yen per book?

A few people raise their hands.

MAIKO puts her hand on her belly-button, looks down, and says...

MAIKO

Teacher, may I be excused from class?

BUSTER

Why?

MAIKO

Girl reasons.

BUSTER nods.

BUSTER

I'll go too!

MAIKO

Why?

BUSTER

Boy reasons!

Everyone laughs.

BUSTER

CLASS DISMISSED!

All of the students file out of class, leaving MR. TANEESHI alone, confused.

MR. TANEESHI

What just happened?

(pause)
This is the last time I assign students to be
mock-teachers!

INT. HALLWAY, RAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

BUSTER approaches MAIKO at her locker.

MAIKO
Oh hello, Buster!

BUSTER
Maiko.

BUSTER grabs her by the shoulders, and gives her a kiss on
the lips.

MAIKO
BUSTER!

BUSTER
You're my ... aren't we?

Pause.

MAIKO
If you thought...

BUSTER screams, in a mad rage.

BUSTER
DAMN BITCH!!!

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BUSTER lays on his bed, crying into his pillow.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
I guess she's not coming over, eh?

BUSTER
CALM BLUE OCEAN! CALM BLUE OCEAN!

INT. HALLWAY, RAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL - NOON

BUSTER and MAIKO sit at their lockers, eating sandwiches.

BUSTER
I'm sorry for accidentally calling you a bitch.

MAIKO
Are you sure it was an accident?

BUSTER
Yeah. I'm not sure what came over me.

MAIKO
It takes more than an apology.

BUSTER lowers his head, and wipes a tear from his eye with a sleeve.

BUSTER
Really!?!

MAIKO
Well, yeah.

BUSTER wipes a tear from his eye.

BUSTER
Okay. What does it take?

MAIKO smiles.

MAIKO
I'm not sure!

BUSTER
Damn! How will we ever find out?

MAIKO
Honesty, because lies make life redundant.
So tell me, Buster -- do you have any secrets?

BUSTER takes a deep breath, then laughs, and says ...

BUSTER
Dozens!

MAIKO looks shocked.

MAIKO

Either clear the air now, or I won't be your girlfriend!

EXT. TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - MORNING

Sunbeams slip between clouds, and shine atop birds that fly over the coastal town of Rain, Japan, which is surrounded otherwise by forest. Flying with a butterfly's perspective, we see residential zones, schools, Sakura Park, a sea-port, and a district of small businesses, such as a movie theater, Fast Eddie's Coffee Shop, and Rainbow Foods.

BAKA'S VOICE

Hi my name's Baka. I'm a Demon, and this is the story so far, so listen. I enlisted an evil Doctor, and his brainwashed army of orphans, in my plot to take over the spectral realm, then I accidentally spilled rice wine upon that napkin where I'd scrawled my plot. So I changed my mind, ditched the Doctor, grew a heart, and gave my half-nephew Buster -- one of the brainwashed orphans -- the ability to travel through time. And then a bunch of other stuff happened. But long story short, let's see if Buster can explain anything to the girl he likes!

WIPE TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - NOON

937 sleeps beside a CD-shelf.

BUSTER and MAIKO enter.

MAIKO

Why are we in your bedroom?

937 wakes up.

MAIKO

What a cute cat!

MAIKO begins petting 937.

937
Hiya!

MAIKO
A TALKING CAT!!!

MAIKO runs away.

937 laughs hysterically.

BUSTER
I hope she comes back.

937
You like her?

BUSTER
I love her.

937
She'll be back.

BUSTER
Ya' think?

937
I know.

BUSTER
Ya' sure?

937
Positive. Now anyway, Banana's out burning
stuff, and she told me to tell you that she
wants you to keep her company, so go watch
stuff burn!

BUSTER
Yeah!

INT. DOCTOR MELFIN'S OFFICE - DAY

937 consults DR. MELFIN.

937
My half-father is my master's mother's half-

brother... a demon named Baka.

DR. MELFIN

Tell me about him.

937

He suffers a lot of prejudice, because he's not evil.

DR. MELFIN

Do the evil demons pressure Baka to be evil?

937

Yes.

DR. MELFIN

Interesting.

937

Baka created myself, and my nine-hundred-and-ninety-nine siblings, for the purpose of deprogramming children from a NINJA cult. But that's all ancient history ... I mean ... whatever.

END OF EPISODE