

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x24

The Eternal Oasis

By Alan Holman

EXT. BENCH, PARK - DAY

REG sits with ROKO.

REG

What's the deal with everyone's time-traveling?

ROKO

Okay. You're a scientist, so you should understand this explanation: life is but a dream!

REG

(laughs)

But who's the dreamer?

ROKO

Wow. You really were under a rock since the sixties!

REG

Not under a rock -- on one! But what do you mean?

ROKO

Megalith's the dreamer; they control everything. In the future from which I came, Megalith's unethical plots included: unprovoked battle-suit attacks, the invention of an immortality formula which they refused to share with anyone, the creation of artificial hurricanes which enforced unfair taxation, the extermination of cute little sentient robots, the cloning of Harry Truman, the...

REG

Wow! They really ARE evil!

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD, MAISON CHAN - NIGHT

MRS. CHAN and BANANA stargaze from their doorstep.

RYONE approaches quickly, from the sidewalk.

RYONE
Tons of tourists are taking pictures of that
large blanket of tarp that's covering the ship!

BANANA
Boy am I psyched about the trip!

RYONE
Ten months in a ship with you! Life is perfect!

RYONE laughs.

BANANA looks embarrassed, annoyed, and mad.

MRS. CHAN laughs and enters the house.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - NIGHT

Multitudes of Japanese tourists snap photos of a white tarp
which covers a 400' thirty-storey cube-shaped mystery.

A KID has a conversation with a GUARD.

KID
What's the ship look like?

GUARD
The tarp comes down tomorrow night, so
come back tomorrow night to see what the
ship looks like.

KID
Can I go inside?

GUARD
The ship is restricted.

KID
But I saw teenagers enter; why were they
allowed into the ship?

GUARD
They're on the passenger list. Members of the
passenger list are the only civilians who are

allowed inside.

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM, CHAN APARTMENT - NIGHT

An angel named AZRAEL appears in a flash of light which wakes up fourteen-year-old BUSTER.

AZRAEL is an 8'0" tall, mature -- but not old-looking -- female angel, who's scary and imposing regardless of her halo, robe, and angel-wings.

BUSTER CHAN
AN ANGEL!!!

AZRAEL
Yes, I'm Azrael! I'm an angel.

BUSTER CHAN
WOW!!!

AZRAEL
Buster, do you remember your first time-travel?

BUSTER CHAN
Yes -- I brought the bomb to the emptiest space I could find.

AZRAEL
I'm still cleaning up the mess.

BUSTER CHAN
Mess? What mess?

AZRAEL
Your time-bomb mixed atoms with matter and energy, precisely a week before Kami-sama was gonna do that.

BUSTER CHAN
In effect, you're saying I created the universe!?!

AZRAEL
Yes, and since mortals weren't meant to time-travel, Kami-sama is mad at you.

BUSTER CHAN

HOLY CRAP!!!

AZRAEL

To get on His good side again, you must destroy your creation, Buster. Destroy the entire universe.

BUSTER CHAN

WHAT!?!

AZRAEL

For heaven's sake, Buster, Kami-sama wasn't even making a universe!!! Kami-sama was making fries!

BUSTER CHAN

WHAT!?!

AZRAEL

He didn't pre-plan your free-will, because he didn't pre-plan YOU!

(sigh)

I stood on the bridge, and thought "cross-contamination", as your time-bomb fell into Kami-sama's vegetable oil.

BUSTER CHAN

What are you talking about, ma'am?

AZRAEL

Look, remember to push the big red button labeled "DO NOT PUSH."

BUSTER CHAN

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?!

AZRAEL

The big red button will destroy the universe.

BUSTER CHAN

No!!! My friends are in the universe, so I'll never destroy it!!!

AZRAEL

Look, Buster, you must. You're our only hope.

BUSTER CHAN

BUT...!!!

AZRAEL

No butts, Buster. Within your life, you will find the big red button that can destroy the universe. When you find it, PUSH IT!!!

AZRAEL disappears in a flash of light.

BUSTER looks sad.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

QUOTE ON SCREEN

"This is the way the world ends: not with a bang, but a whimper." -- T.S. Eliot.

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA and RYONE sit on the rock, dipping their sockless toes in the pond, as they chat.

BANANA

I've been coming out here every night since the night after Doggie fell from the top of that ride in Odaiba.

RYONE

I've known all along, but I'm glad you're finally opening up to me about it.

BANANA

Big surprise. You knew all along.

RYONE

Yes. But why are you finally telling me about it?

BANANA

Well, we're both on The Eternal Oasis' passenger list, so I won't be able to evade you for the next ten months ...

RYONE

I hate how you evade people.

BANANA

Only you, Ryone.

RYONE

I've done nothing to deserve that kind of treatment.

BANANA

I could argue that, but I won't, because you'll be around me for the next ten months, and I want to be your friend during that time, so that things are peaceful.

RYONE

Your mom's "Sanctuary House Rule" is finally irrelevant since we'll pretty-much be in the same house for the next ten months anyway.

BANANA

How did you know about the pond?

RYONE

My family lives in the lighthouse, and I've been sitting on the rooftop to ponder and reflect almost every night since Doggie's fall. I can see this pond from up there, just as you could see me up there from here, but you never look. And yes, I see the crazy transpirings you often get up to when you think you're alone over here. I often do the same thing at the same time up there, and I hope for a day when we do it together somewhere.

BANANA

It's not the same thing. Mine's an inny, yours is an outty.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHAN APARTMENT - MORNING

Two fourteen year old boys, BUSTER CHAN and CHIKAO SAWAMURA, watch TV whilst drinking chai-tea.

CHIKAO

Tomorrow night, we'll be famous "space tourists" with no worries, because nothing can

go wrong with The Eternal Oasis!

BUSTER

Don't say that. Actually, yeah...yeah, say that!

(sarcastic)

Yeah, you're right. Nothing can go wrong. We won't crash and/or burn, and/or emerge from a deep sleep with a desire to burn planets via apocalyptic powers.

CHIKAO

Huh?

BUSTER

(playfully insane)

We won't encounter aliens galore. When all is said and done, we'll return to earth -- not "scorched earth" -- with our core values intact. Our futures have unlimited possibilities, but our trip doesn't -- nothing bad will happen.

CHIKAO

(nervous)

I'm not sure anymore.

BUSTER

(insane laughter)

We won't meet cute critters. We won't greet intergalactic heroes. Our wildest fantasies won't come true. WE WON'T SAVE THE UNIVERSE!!! The trip's pointless!

CHIKAO

(defensive)

It'll be educational. Buster, why are you talking weird?

BUSTER

(sudden scream)

BECAUSE WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE, AND IT'S DRIVING ME MAD!!!

(maniacal laugh)

MWAH HAH HAH!!!

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - AFTERNOON

BANANA and RYONE play catch while chatting.

RYONE

Banana. During that weird time when I stayed over at your place for a while ...

BANANA

Were me and the fam too weird for ya?

RYONE

A bit.

BANANA laughs.

RYONE

But during that time, your mom treated me as if ...

BANANA

She's my sister from an alternate future timeline.

RYONE

I thought it was just a joke. I mean, isn't it? You took the news so lightly.

BANANA

I took the news lightly because she knew that I knew that she wasn't my real mother.

RYONE

I'm confused.

BANANA

I only knew that she wasn't my real mother. I didn't know her real identity until now.

RYONE

I'm still confused.

BANANA

Well, long story short, I still want to call her my mother. She is, in fact, my legal guardian, and I love her.

RYONE

Okay. Well anyway, when I was staying over

with you and ... your mother. Your mother treated me as if I was a member of the family.

BANANA
She likes you.

RYONE
She told me all the house rules. In fact, she encouraged me to use her "Sanctuary Rule" against Dorian.

BANANA
I know. Why didn't you?

RYONE
I thought you'd get mad at me.

BANANA
You're an idiot, Ryone. Using that rule against Dorian is EXACTLY what I wanted you to do.

RYONE
You did? That makes no sense. Why would you want me to be impolite to both you and your guest?

BANANA
It's in the past. Drop it.

RYONE
I think that a big part of the reason why I'm so attracted to you, Banana Chan, is because I like a good puzzle, and you confuse the hell out of me.

BANANA laughs.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHAN APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

REG and BUSTER chat.

REG
Ships used-to explode upon impact with the light barrier, until the renaissance of non-reflective surfaces, because human survival in light speed requires darkness.

BUSTER
Sensory deprivation?

REG
No. When you travel faster than the light that would bounce off your non-reflective ship, you perceive outer-space in amazing ways.

BUSTER
Can The Eternal Oasis surpass light-speed?

REG
No. Our rockets, which multi-task between conventional thrust and ion propulsion, cannot reach light-speed.

BUSTER
A multi-tasking rocket would explain the solar panels.

REG
Yup. Once at a certain space-pace, the flames of rocketry will be replaced by the expulsion -- at speeds to begin at roughly 1000mph -- of solar-powered xenon nuclei; these positive ions explain all the solar panels.

BUSTER
What about rocket fuel?

REG
Instead of launching at four times the speed of sound, our comfortable ascent will burn more than half of our rocket fuel. We'll re-fill at Europa.

BUSTER
Amazing!

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - LATE AFTERNOON

BANANA talks on the phone with REG.

REG'S VOICE
How was your day?

BANANA
I played baseball with Ryone!

REG'S VOICE
I met your mother on a baseball team!

BANANA
YOU played baseball!?!

REG'S VOICE
Ko did.

BANANA
Did you play ANY sports ... ever?

REG'S VOICE
I rode a bike!

BANANA
I said sports.

REG'S VOICE
Uh ... yeah ... hey ... By the way, I have some important news for you about that arrangement.

BANANA
I actually spewed about this last night.

REG'S VOICE
Really?

BANANA
Yeah. Make it go away.

REG'S VOICE
The contract was quite binding in its time.

BANANA
I'm glad you said "in it's time".

REG'S VOICE
Yeah. A lot of people are against arranged marriages nowadays, especially when one member of the couple doesn't like the other.

BANANA
And I DON'T like Ryone.

REG'S VOICE
Really?

BANANA
Really.

REG'S VOICE
You're so nice to him, it seems.

BANANA
I'm a nice person.

REG'S VOICE
I see.

BANANA
I'm only tolerating him during the trip, because we're both on the passenger list. After the trip, I never want to see him again.

REG'S VOICE
(sighs)
Umm... I should continue planning events for tonight. I'll call you later.

BANANA
Later, later, alligator?

REG'S VOICE
After a while, crocodile!

BANANA
(laughs)
See ya 'round, if I don't see ya square!

They laugh.

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

A lonely truck rides upon this forest-side highway.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. TRUCK/ROAD - LATE AFTERNOON

RYONE (18) drives, and BUSTER (14) is the passenger.

RYONE
Bust! Thanks for completing Sentimental
Dreamworld!

BUSTER
Huh?

COMMERCIAL BREAK

RYONE
My song. The one I wrote for Banana.

BUSTER
You wrote that for Banana?

RYONE
Yeah, and now that it's out of my head, there's
only one final piece left to set in place, in order
to complete the puzzle!

BUSTER
Oh really, what's that?

RYONE
Well ... Banana's name, of course! At the
start!

BUSTER
She'll find it -- as girls say -- "creepy."

RYONE
I know. Isn't that ironic? All I want to do is
shout her name from roof-tops, but she'd
probably find that creepy also. Go figure! I'll
never understand chicks.

BUSTER
Yeah. It's TOO unfair!

The car goes over a big bump.

RYONE
I'm fighting for a chance to just ... to just relax
and be myself around her. She's the most

amazing female I've ever met!

(sigh)

I'm afraid of ending up with a girl who is even one tiny bit less interesting to me than Banana is.

BUSTER

Well, you'll be on this big trip with her -- don't waste it!

RYONE

I sure as all-hell won't! Hey, were you ever gonna tell me that you found one of my countless drafts of Sentimental Dreamworld?

BUSTER

I ... it was called Lonely Sky.

RYONE

Regardless, I'm thrilled you completed it, and I'm grateful that you put it to good use.

BUSTER

Thanks!

RYONE

Yeah. Hey, please continue to pretend that you wrote that song, and not me, because I assume Banana'd be creeped out if she knew she inspired an entire song.

BUSTER

Of course.

BUSTER and RYONE heave individual, synchronous sighs.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

The truck turns around.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. TRUCK/ROAD - LATE AFTERNOON

...same as before.

RYONE

Buster, I was just thinking: You've changed the time-line A LOT. You've changed it so much that you may have prevented, or postponed, the Armageddon from which Baka rescued you. In other words, a different apocalypse is possible.

BUSTER

Yeah. What's your point?

RYONE

No one knows how the universe will end!

BUSTER

I'll push the button...

RYONE

What button?

BUSTER

I'm joking.

(laughs)

Reg has an interesting theory, however. Reg thinks the universe gets thinner as it expands; he thinks it'll conclude in a super-contained atomic blast called "The Thin Flash."

RYONE

Interesting theory, but is that what YOU think?

BUSTER

I don't know. Besides, no matter how you quest for penultimate knowledge, only God can know the aftereffect of the final aftereffect.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, ALICIA'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

MAIKO, KOKEN, BANANA, and ALICIA, sit around a table, drinking tea.

KOKEN SAWAMURA (age 17) is thin, 5'10", with blue eyebrows, blue eyes, and long black hair that flows down to her knees.

KOKEN

I'm still VERY excited that we were asked to sing at the "unveiling ceremony"!

ALICIA

We're all overwhelmed, Koken.

BANANA

(enthusiastic)

I'm almost done memorizing Buster's lyrics! I just have to sing the bastard now!

MAIKO

Buster is an AMAZING lyricist!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - EVENING

At the foot of a thirty-story cube of tarp, is the stage from which REG addresses a large audience.

REG

Good evening, and thanks for attending THE ETERNAL OASIS' "Unveiling Ceremony". I'm its designer: Reggie Chan, but my friends call me Reg.

The audience applauds.

REG

Humanity's first large group of civilian space-explorers signed-up themselves, and their immediate families, on a list of EXACTLY fifty names. I'll unveil the ship first, then I'll introduce its passengers. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you: THE ETERNAL OASIS.

The tarp is removed, revealing THE ETERNAL OASIS; it's a big, shiny, black cube, about the size and width of a thirty-story office building. The hull is completely plated with solar panels. The solar panels are why the ship is black. Five rockets are on the bottom: one for each corner, pointing outward, and one on the bottom, pointing down.

In awe and adoration, the audience walks, in a clockwise circle, around THE ETERNAL OASIS, as REG speaks ...

REG

The solar panels which plate the thick, radiation-proof hull, would be too reflective for a daytime "unveiling ceremony." Take a good look at this space-ship, because the exclusive guest-list for tomorrow evening's "Launching Ceremony" includes only the passengers, the press, and specific political dignitaries. As you see, the entrance hatches, which utilize state-of-the-art "rope-ladders", are on the bottom, and you've probably noticed the lack of windows, huh? Well, window-resembling holographic monitors display computer-assessed views from each "window seat." If you're interested, technical specifics continue to be published in the finest newspapers. The passengers include the all-girl music group SENTIMENTAL DREAMWORLD! Here they are to perform their first single from their self-titled debut album!

MAIKO, KOKEN, and ALICIA, enter the stage, wearing tiny microphones.

Music plays, and ALICIA says ...

ALICIA

Our lead singer -- Reg's daughter -- has the best voice we've ever heard, so we made this band in her honor, because the world deserves to know how great it feels to love her, and she deserves your love. But she got really, really shy at the last minute. We're not mad at her. We love her. But we're sorry that we can't perform today.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

BUSTER and MAIKO lay under a cloudless sky, admiring the stars.

BUSTER

The sky is amazing! Just think: We're almost closer to a hundred-billion of the most colorful stars in our galaxy! Fifty billion galaxies, and

you've popped into mine, Maiko. I love you.

MAIKO
I love you too.

BUSTER
Galaxies fall apart, and fade, but we'll stay together, and shine! Cosmos freeze and vanish, but we'll be ...uhh...

MAIKO
(giggling)
Hot, and visible?

BUSTER
(laughs)
Yeah! Until the end of the universe, right Maiko?

MAIKO
(giggling)
Sure!

BUSTER
Sixteen and a half BILLION years ago, the universe was born, but fourteen and a half YEARS ago, we were born!

MAIKO
(giggling)
You're comparing US to the UNIVERSE!?!

BUSTER
Yes, and WE WIN!!!

MAIKO
You say that with such conviction!

BUSTER
Think about it: The universe holds many secrets, while our only secret is that we're here!

MAIKO
Hmm. My parents think I'm having pizza with SENTIMENTAL DREAMWORLD.

BUSTER

Your parents are over-protective, huh?

MAIKO

Yeah. But they'd trust you ... if they knew you. I trust you.

BUSTER kisses MAIKO.

INT. BUS DECK, THE ETERNAL OASIS - DAWN

REG enters from an elevator, into a bright and happy little lobby -- he walks beyond the little couch, then looks at the well of descending stairs beside the pair of elevators.

He shakes his head, then walks forward from the tiny lobby, past a hallway with four non-gender-specific bathrooms (two on each side), then he walks into a luxurious bus-like space! -- a space-bus with plenty legroom, where letters designate twenty-six left-side seat-pairs, and numbers designate twenty-five right-side seat-pairs; for example, the back window-seats are ZW and 25W, while the front aisle-seats are AA and 1A.

Each seat is within its own makeshift-cubic-bedroom -- walls can be summoned from overhead-compartments (there's also overhead space for carry-on luggage), and seats can retract into beds!

In the front is a door to the cockpit.

REG sits in ZW, and looks out the window.

RYONE enters.

RYONE

You wanted to talk with me?

REG

Yes. It's about your father.

RYONE

I know. I've known all along.

REG

So you know?

RYONE
Yes, I know that Goro isn't my real father.

REG
Do you know who your real father is?

RYONE
No. Who?

REG
He runs a top secret construction company.

RYONE
Cool! Wait a minute! No, that's what you do!
If you're telling me that you're my father, then
that would mean that ... NO!

REG
(laughs)
I'm not your father.

RYONE
I know.

Awkward pause.

REG
Your real father runs another construction
company. We want our two companies to
merge. However, the merger would be A LOT
easier if a certain condition were met.

RYONE
What condition?

REG gives a small box to RYONE.

RYONE
Is this what I think it is?

***** REG
RYONE
Yes. The purpose of this trip is so that you
can get close to Banana. Hopefully, before the
end of the trip, you'll both be good and ready.
Ryone, in the final month of this trip, you
MUST ask Banana to marry you. And she
MUST say yes.

CUT TO:

EXT. PICNIC TABLE, SAKURA PARK - MORNING

BUSTER and MAIKO eat hamburgers in the sunlight of a nice morning in the park.

BUSTER

As an orphan, I wished upon an "Armageddon Sky" of shooting stars. I wished to meet AT LEAST ONE member of my family. Then one night, my wish came true. I met my half-uncle Baka. He emerged from the coolest of hell's pits, and saved me from Armageddon.

MAIKO

Cool story.

BUSTER

Yes, it is.

INT. NEWSPAPER OFFICE

A newspaper REPORTER -- who wears a pin on his chest that says "Section D" -- interviews REG.

REG

Penguins send one of their members into the icy water first. If that one doesn't return, then the other penguins know that the water isn't safe, so they find other water, or they wait to try again later; likewise, America has a policy ... they establish an appearance of superiority and dominance by appearing to attempt to do the coolest things first -- like Armstrong's moon mission in 1969 -- when actually they first hired other countries to be the penguins for them. Armstrong didn't even know about this, to my knowledge, until now. Well, so -- in other words -- the purpose of my secret Japanese 1967 mission to the moon, was to make sure that 1960s technology was safe enough for sending humans to the moon.

REPORTER

Why did they pick Japan?

REG

They picked Japan because of some flawed, grudge-based logic, with regards to kamikaze pilots. However, the kamikaze pilots were already long-dead, and Japan decided that super-smart teens would be a better choice for the 1967 moon project, than trained test-pilots, because of two reasons: Because we understood the science. And because we were more excited about throwing caution to the wind than slightly more mature people are.

REPORTER

Why did you keep silent for so long?

REG

We were paid royally to keep our mouths shut. Plus, an important part of the secret moon missions was to construct an underground moon-base which is still operational. In fact, I have kids there.

REPORTER

Who paid for all of this?

REG

America calls it their Black Budget.

REPORTER

Wow.

REG

You see, even the bravest superpower takes precautions. Nowadays, I over-think a lot of conversations before I enter into them -- the more important the conversation, the harder it is to throw caution to the wind and go for it, so I stop before I even start talking. But penguins pick a patsy. The penguin patsy is the penguin who is the penguin who is the most likely penguin to throw caution to the wind, and that penguin is brave enough to take the plunge spontaneously, for better or for worse. And you know, that's a good analogy for life, because when you think about it, is any human -- or any individual creature -- not the

result of throwing caution to the wind, and just going for it? -- know what I mean?

REPORTER
(chuckles)
Yeah, I know exactly what you mean.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - MORNING

BUSTER talks to DOCTOR MELFIN.

BUSTER
What should I do?

DR. MELFIN
Find the answer within yourself.

BUSTER
I usually don't make any decisions unless an adult gives me their approval.

DR. MELFIN
Most people your age are rebellious against the adults in their lives.

BUSTER
I don't have anyone to be rebellious against.

DR. MELFIN
Usually, the adolescent male directs hostility towards his father, or a father-figure, as he tries to find his own path.

BUSTER
I've never met my father.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

REG talks to MRS. CHAN.

REG
...and the "teaser" was to gauge how secretive they...

BANANA enters.

BANANA

(interrupting)
Good morning, peoples! I can't wait! We
leave today!

MRS. CHAN
(to BANANA)
You got home late. I hope you didn't have
TOO MUCH fun last night.

BANANA
I got totally out of control ... Not! Me and the
girls were just razzing each-other. Today's
gonna be the sweetest day ever!

END OF EPISODE