

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x26

The Music

By Alan Holman

EXT. SPACE, FALLING TOWARD JUPITER'S RED STORMS

BUSTER plummets toward the red storms of JUPITER.

BANANA appears in a puff of smoke, grabs BUSTER, and they disappear in another puff of smoke.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER and BANANA appear in a puff of smoke.

It takes a few moments for BUSTER to catch his breath.

BUSTER

I see you found my note.

BANANA

Yup. And we time-traveled to before you and your mom moved out of this house, and into that apartment!

BUSTER

I miss this house, and I resent you for making us move.

BANANA

My future daughter creeps me out on so many levels that it's not even funny.

BUSTER

Yeah, but applying the "sanctuary rule" to family is hardly amusing!

BANANA

Yeah, but it gets the job done. It was written because of Reg.

BUSTER

You mean you knew all along, that Reg was planning to throw me into Jupiter?!

BANANA

No. Reg abused me and mom ... Plantane ...
when I was only a toddler. For one thing, he
stepped on me -- more like stomped --
repeatedly, and just because I was acting-up!
All toddlers act up!

Pause.

BUSTER

I had no idea.

BANANA

Plus, he arranged for ... never-mind. So,
what's next?

BUSTER

We cut a rock.

BANANA

Coolers.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND

BANANA and BUSTER sit on the rock and dip their toes into
the pond.

BANANA

Cut what you need out of Rocky.

BUSTER

When I get the equipment from the university,
I'll just take a slice off of the bottom.

BANANA

Coolers! Then I'll have a hidey-hole where I
can put snack-food!

BUSTER

Yeah, and I'll have a tablet on which to carve
what I wrote on the back of that note. Why do
you sit on ... Rocky ... each night, anyway?

BANANA

To think ... make lists and such.

(angry)
None of your business!

BUSTER
(laughs)
I can see why Plantane calls you a "silly
Banana."

BANANA
(slight blush)
No no, it's because of how I distract myself
with books and stuff to dampen my desire to
return to Boden in Tokyo, before he realizes to
mount his white horse, and come here to find
me and rescue me in my darkest hour.

BUSTER
Who's Boden?

BANANA
Absolute Zero is what we called our friendship,
because of how cool we were together. That's
why he's before number one on the only list
that counts. I never talk about him, and now
I'll time-travel so that we've never had this
conversation and you don't talk about him
either, because he's my secret ... my faith ...
my reason.

BANANA disappears in a puff of smoke.

BUSTER
Wow.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN
After some time-travel ...

WIPE TO:

EXT. EUROPEAN SURFACE - DAY

The Europa Observatory Complex is a mile-wide orb, with a
large telescope peeking from the rooftop; it's all icy-

white, just like the European crust on which it stands. Wearing a thin, radiation-resistant atmosphere-suit, BUSTER sits on the foot of of a large ice-sculpted Galileo, and looks thoughtfully toward a skating-rink called "The Moonwalk" upon which about twenty appropriately-suited folks indulge in carefree skating.

BUSTER'S THOUGHTS

I'm too bored to skate.

A skater jumps twenty-feet into the air, spinning wildly, until he lands and vomits in his suit, then people point at him, and laugh as he runs into the Complex.

BUSTER'S THOUGHTS

Europa scientists water-mine with hand-held spikes called "jabbers." It was boring when they made us do that yesterday. Had I read the sign-up sheet a little closer, I would have learned that the reason the trip was free was so they could get us to do jobs they didn't want to do -- to prepare this place for the paying tourists. Talk about a mood-kill. This whole place is a mood-kill. Tomorrow, we're putting on pressure-suits, and exploring an uncharted sub-surface ocean, but I don't care. No one really does.

Pause.

BUSTER'S THOUGHTS

Yesterday, when I wanted to get some exercise, they conveniently wanted to conserve electricity, so they dubbed me their telescope-rotator. It takes a lot of precision, and they said I was good at it, but it was REALLY BORING GRUNT WORK!

Pause.

BUSTER'S THOUGHTS

You can't see it, but the complex is atop a pile of dental-floss-like-stuff which protects it from daily "geological events." BUT I DON'T CARE! I WANNA GO HOME!!!

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE, SUBSURFACE OCEAN

Wearing acid-proof wet-suits and backpacks, BUSTER and CHIKAO explore this alien cave, propelled by short gas-emissions from all sides of their backpacks, which are controlled when metal electrodes (buttons) on their torsos come into contact with fingertip-electrodes; in other words, "belly-buttons" move them! -- well, anyway...

CHIKAO

I feel like the trash they throw down here.

CHIKAO notices an odd rectangular object beside them; it's covered by mud, and embedded in the cave wall.

CHIKAO wipes away mud, revealing that the mysterious object is a plaque; on its top half, tiny words are written in alien letters; on its bottom half, tiny words are written in Japanese characters.

BUSTER

Find something?

CHIKAO

This is weird. It reminds me of this thing I read about -- the Rosetta stone.

BUSTER

Take a picture.

CHIKAO

The Japanese part repeats twenty words:
"Love, Family, Friends, Fertility, Trust,
Memory, Maturity, Change, Togetherness,
Self, Dignity, Sacrifice, Understanding,
Compromise, Peace, Sympathy, Acceptance,
Truth, Survival, Resolution."

BUSTER

We should take it with us.

CHIKAO

Yeah.

WIPE TO:

INT. BUSTER'S DORM, EUROPA OBSERVATORY COMPLEX

BUSTER sits around, with 937.

MAIKO enters, crying.

MAIKO
(crying)
I'm gonna explode if I don't tell you the truth!

BUSTER
What truth?

MAIKO
When you ditched after the trip was postponed, I went to your place to bring you back for the dance, but the lights weren't on, and I did something very wrong.

BUSTER
It's past curfew. You shouldn't be in my room.

MAIKO
I climbed into your room, through your open window, because I wanted to drag your ass back to the dance, so I tried to wake you, but you're a very heavy sleeper, Buster Chan.

BUSTER
How long were you in my room?

MAIKO
Long enough to ... be disgusting.

BUSTER
What!?

MAIKO
(crying loudly)
It was either curiosity or perversion, but ... I'm really really sorry, Buster!

BUSTER
I don't understand!

MAIKO
I'm a pervert! I ...

BUSTER
Are you saying ... ?

MAIKO
I'm sorry, Buster! I really am! But, long story
short, the launch was post-poned so I could
finish my abortion!

937 falls over, as BUSTER walks quickly, away.

MAIKO cries even louder.

BUSTER turns around, comes back, and screams...

BUSTER
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT!?!

MAIKO
(crying loudly)
No.

BUSTER
ALTHOUGH WE'RE WAY TOO YOUNG TO
BE PARENTS, IT WAS GONNA HAPPEN,
AND DAMN YOU FOR KILLING MY BABY!

MAIKO nods slowly.

BUSTER
(yelling loudly)
HOW COULD YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
ME LIKE THAT!?!

MAIKO
I...

BUSTER breaks a few things around the room, and screams...

BUSTER
(angry)
You are a bitch!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. MOONWALK SKATING RINK, EUROPA

Many happy people wearing radiation-resistant atmosphere-suits skate in Jupiter's shadow.

DOCTOR MELFIN skates with BUSTER.

BUSTER

I'm so depressed. I thought she cared for me.

A tone sounds in their suits.

BUSTER

I'm not going inside.

DOCTOR MELFIN

Buster, Europa's "daily geological events" are dangerous.

BUSTER points at Jupiter, and says..

BUSTER

Chikao said the Sawa-Sawa Flame transforms the evil energy of its target into a fireball! The bigger the evil, the bigger the fireball!

DOCTOR MELFIN

What are you talking about?

BUSTER

Megalith purchased inner-Jupiter's Deathstar.

BUSTER jumps, aims his hands at JUPITER, and screams...

BUSTER

SAWA-SAWA FLAME!!!

From BUSTER's hands, a thick pillar of light disintegrates JUPITER, and sends BUSTER flying, faster than the speed of light, into deep space.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE, THE END OF THE UNIVERSE

BUSTER stands before an illuminated, big red button, upon which big, bold letters scream: "DO NOT PUSH!"

BUSTER

So I'm at the button, but I can't make an informed decision. I need time to think.

LOUD VOICE

Your wish is my command.

A crack appears in the wall of the cave, visible because of light from the other end, which shines onto BUSTER's face. The crack in the wall expands until it is a doorway.

BUSTER notices something beside him in the cave (off-screen), and he turns his head to look at this object which WE DON'T SEE.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACE

A scepter flies through space; it looks like two golden snakes holding up a blue ball. BUSTER's face is in the ball.

BUSTER

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO, AND WHAT TO DO!

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

A FEW MONTHS LATER...

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW RAIN CITY - MORNING

THE ETERNAL OASIS enters the earth's atmosphere, and slips through heavy cloud-cover, into this clean, new bustling city, where every building is branded with an upper-case letter "M".

EXT. SPACE

Jupiter's ex-moons Europa and Titan have recently been moved into orbits which neighbor that of the Earth; many ships travel between these "triple-planets," and towards other solar-system destinations.

BUSTER'S VOICE

I thought evil's prize, for winning the final Armageddon-battle, in the last time-line standing, was the extinction of every being -- spectral, organic, and otherwise -- in the entire universe; that's why I assumed Banana Chan -- the only time-traveler I knew -- had to re-populate the post-Armageddon future, with selected people and spirits, or else all life in the universe would be forever destroyed.

(pause)

But now -- regardless of whether I'm wrong or right -- I don't give a damn.

EXT. SPACE, DISTANT GALAXY

Sceptered-BUSTER flies beside a jet-suit-wearing Komodo Dragon, named RITON.

RITON

It was hard to find you.

BUSTER

Find me?

RITON

Yes. I'm the LOUD VOICE from the cave.

BUSTER

Oh.

RITON

The light which revealed the scepter, was from the break-room door. I wanted you to deliberate in the break-room.

BUSTER

Oh, sorry. I thought the scepter was for me.

RITON

It's alright. I shouldn't have left it lying around. I'll hang-out with you, until you can give it back. Hello, I'm Riton.

BUSTER

(afraid)

RITON!?!

RITON

Don't be afraid of me. I'm not evil ... at the moment.

BUSTER

That's hard to believe. You've been in so many nightmares.

RITON

Your nightmares stopped when I finished that job.

BUSTER

Why'd you give me so many nightmares?

RITON

I'm a free agent in the universe. I do odd jobs for both sides, if the price is right. I've always been reliable, and I've never gotten backed-up on my workload until recently, when I met a drunken demon who got me hooked on alcohol and crazy stories.

BUSTER

Was his name Baka?

RITON

Yes. So when distractions from Baka backed-up my work-load, I started following up on work-orders, out of order, but I'm only now learning that there was a reason why I was supposed to do my jobs in order. So in other words, Baka made me scatter the pieces of the biggest puzzle in the universe: the universe itself. So I'm trying to do my jobs, but I need to do them in a different order now.

BUSTER

Get to the point.

RITON

One of my jobs was to prevent your natural dreams from revealing the truth about your soul.

BUSTER
What truth?

RITON
Your natural dreams would have revealed the truth. You weren't ready for it.

BUSTER
What truth?

RITON
You're Kami-sama. You wanted to know what it was like to be human. So I put you in a very human situation.

BUSTER
I'll say.

RITON
You were two years old when evil ordered me to design that artificial implant which removed your soul from subsequent dreams. Now that the implant has been removed, your angels can do what you ordered them to do before you were even born; they can enter your natural dreams, and guide you back toward your Heavenly Throne.

BUSTER
Does the devil have a human form?

RITON
Yes. And when I found out, I gave him an implant, and conquered Heaven and Hell.

BUSTER
You what!?!?

RITON
Yes. It's true. I ran the whole shebang. I was the King of the Universe... until ten months ago, when evil incarnate died, and re-claimed his throne.

BUSTER
Who was evil incarnate?

RITON
Rob Piso.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. BANANA'S STUDIO APARTMENT, TOKYO - AFTERNOON

BANANA, who now lives in this 24th floor apartment, sits on a love-seat, sipping frappucino, and talking on the phone, to MRS. CHAN's voice.

MRS. CHAN'S VOICE
Hey, what's up?

BANANA
Catching up on a few Z's. Other than that,
jack- all.

BAKA appears in a puff of smoke.

BAKA
(very happy)
My friend Azrael -- a time-traveling angel --
said the big heat-wave's casualties trumped
evil! The good guys won this time-line's
Armageddon!

BANANA puts the phone down, and says...

BANANA
(to BAKA)
Boo-Freaking-Yah!

BAKA
Not quite.

BANANA
Boo-Yah?

BAKA
Our time-traveling caused a quickening of
things; it pulled Armageddon to December
12th, 2012.

BANANA
Well that's a total bust.

RYONE
I will ... on one condition.

BANANA
Anything!

RYONE
If it doesn't work out, can I be your second husband?

BANANA
I don't see why not! Two diamond rings is a sweet deal!

She accepts RYONE's ring, and puts it on the same hand as a ring that has a diamond and an inscription that reads: "Dorian's Babe."

RYONE
You plan to wear both?

BANANA
Yeah! And if Dorian don't understand, well I've known you longer anyway, Ryone -- so me and you can be the ones who live happily ever after "the end", if that's okay with you of course.

Pause.

RYONE
Damn right it's okay!

They kiss.

INT. CAVE, THE END OF THE UNIVERSE

BUSTER stands before an illuminated, big red button, upon which bold letters scream: "DO NOT PUSH!"

LOUD VOICE
Now that you've toured the universe, and had time to think about your decision, you must finally put an end to the universe. Push the button that will cause the destruction of the universe!

BUSTER

No.

LOUD VOICE

If you destroy this universe, you'll be saving multiple universes.

BUSTER

Can it, liar!

LOUD VOICE

But Kami-sama!

BUSTER

Don't lie to me! I'm not Kami-sama! I'm just one life in a universe of finite lives.

LOUD VOICE

No, Buster! You don't understand! You became Kami-sama, when your time-bomb caused the Big Bang!

BUSTER

(crying)

Well if I'm Kami-Sama, then I made the button, so I can choose not to push it if I don't want to!

LOUD VOICE

Exactly!

BUSTER

Huh?

LOUD VOICE

I know your dreams and nightmares, but only you know your heart.

BUSTER

You know my dreams and nightmares?

LOUD VOICE

By entering almost a quarter of your night-terrors, I thought I could lead you to certain events. And I was successful -- you were always very naive ... until now.

Congratulations. The music is finally you.

BUSTER

Take me home.

LOUD VOICE

You can go home when-ever you want.

BUSTER

This is pointless. I'm leaving.

LOUD VOICE

Before you go, I must impart some wisdom.

BUSTER

Wisdom?

LOUD VOICE

Yes, Buster. Always remember this ancient wisdom: "Don't settle for someone who hurts you, treats you badly, or makes you feel badly about yourself, to your face, no matter how great they look. You deserve the best. Go for what you want. Try your best. Don't get walked on. Be a beautiful person on the inside. If it hurts to say, "I love you", say it anyway. Unrequited love is still love, and any love always ends up appreciated in the long run. If the person you love has a significant other, never let jealousy turn you into a monster. If you can't be with the woman you love, list everything else you want to accomplish in your life, and strive for those things ... because those achievements just might attract her to you. If you say you'll do something, do it, then people will know you're reliable. Reliable people get more opportunities in the long run. When a woman you love says "just friends," be her friend. She's more likely to marry her friend than the jerk she's dating. If they get engaged, tell her your feelings A.S.A.P. Believe in yourself. Be confident. They who see you respect yourself, will respect you too. You deserve to be respected, Buster Chan."

BUSTER

I know all that stuff already.

RITON
Exactly.

BUSTER
Thank you.

LOUD VOICE
Also, Baka's accidental time-travel invention proved that souls are beyond useless battles like Armageddon.

BUSTER
Profound thought.

LOUD VOICE
Yes, it is.

LOUD VOICE
My scepter gave you time to think about what Maiko did to you -- and how angry it makes you, and how mad at the universe it makes you. But still, your heart prevailed.

BUSTER
Riton, you're coming with me!

LOUD VOICE
I am?

BUSTER
Yes. So put down that microphone, and c'mere!

LOUD VOICE
Just a sec.

RITON appears in a bolt of lightning.

BUSTER
My heart says we're friends!

RITON
Yeah! Sure! When two people enjoy spending time together, it shouldn't matter who they are, or how different their individual

reasons are for enjoying each-other's
company. Life is too short for nonsense!

BUSTER
Agreed!

INT. BANANA'S STUDIO APARTMENT, NEW RAIN CITY - AFTERNOON

BANANA looks out a window.

BUSTER enters.

BUSTER
Hey, Banana.

BANANA
(happy)
BUSTER!?!

BUSTER
Yeah, it's me!

BANANA
I can't believe my eyes! Oh my God, WE
THOUGHT YOU DIED!!!

BUSTER
I know. I'm sorry.

BANANA
You'd better be sorry! Everyone cried so
much! Oh my God, YOU MUST TELL YOUR
MOM THAT YOU'RE BACK, AND THAT
YOU'RE NOT DEAD, AND THAT YOU'RE
OKAY!!!

BUSTER
(to BANANA)
Okay, but where's my mom?

BANANA
Oh she's on the moon.

BUSTER
Oh wow, really?

BANANA

Yeah. Reg gave her permission to build internally- piloted fighter-robots, called "Battlesuits", in a workshop on his moon-base!

BUSTER

Wow! That's amazing! She's on the moon?

BANANA

No, wait! -- they WERE there. I just remembered that they're coming back today; it completely slipped my mind! Hey, this is perfect! You're back, and they'll be back! Today is special! I must order lots and lots of take-out!

BUSTER

Yummy! So anyway, my mom was actually on the moon?

BANANA

Yeah! I mean ... no.

BUSTER

What?

BANANA

They weren't ON the moon; they were IN the moon. Still, they'll be back soon. That reminds me: I've gotta tell Maiko that you're back! Please wait for us, right here, Buster.

BUSTER

(sad sigh)

I don't think she wants to see me.

BANANA exits.

Buster's mother -- ROKO CHAN -- enters.

BUSTER

(happy)

MOM!

ROKO

(crying happily)

BUSTER!!! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!!!

BUSTER
(crying)
I know... But I'm alright.

BUSTER and ROKO hug.

ROKO
You scared me so much that I almost couldn't
go on!

BUSTER
(crying)
I'm sorry.

They hug.

ROKO
Apology accepted.

BANANA enters.

BANANA
(to Roko)
Hey there! Long time no see ya!

ROKO
Likewise, Banana! My son's back too!

BANANA
I know. Hey Buster -- you were wrong. Maiko
wants to sort things out with you.

BUSTER
Really? That's great! When?

BANANA
She said she'll call you.

BUSTER
That's great! I'll be waiting!

BANANA
Anyway, ROKO! What's up!?!

ROKO shows a paper to BUSTER and BANANA, and says...

ROKO
This.

BUSTER
What's this?

BUSTER takes the paper.

ROKO
Reg let me use his hangar, and...

BUSTER
(reading the paper)
"Summons and warrant of committal." Mom?
What's this about?

ROKO
It's illegal to build battlesuits on the moon.
(laughs)
I'm so stupid.

BUSTER
Don't call yourself stupid.
(continues reading)
"Miss. Roko Chan, and Mr. Reginald Chan."
Reg too?

ROKO
He's an accessory ... or an enabler ... or
something.

BANANA
Why?

ROKO
He gave me the work-space: his hangar.

BUSTER
(continues reading)
"You are in direct violation of Article 4 of the
Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of
States in the Exploration and Use of Outer
Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial
Bodies, 610 U.N.T.S. 205, entered into force,
by authority of all States Party to the Treaty,
on the tenth day of October, in the year
nineteen-hundred and sixty-seven."

ROKO
It's not a good thing.

BUSTER
(continues reading)
"Therefore, the Secretary General of the United Nations hereby ORDERS you, Miss. Roko Chan, and Mr. Reginald Chan, to cease ALL production of battlesuits, and to cease ALL production of battlesuit-producing-equipment; ALSO, you are ORDERED to submit and commit YOUR PERSONS, into the custody of a prison, within the jurisdiction of a State Party to the Treaty, where you will await prosecution by special U.N. tribunal."
(crying)
Mom... why ...?

ROKO hugs BUSTER.

ROKO
It's okay.

BUSTER
No, it's not.
(crying louder)
I spent most of my life without a mom.
(screaming)
YOU CAN'T GO TO JAIL!!!

BUSTER drops the paper.

ROKO
Look. I don't like it either. But I'm ahead of my time. The world doesn't need giant human-piloted fighter-robots called "Battlesuits" yet, and I sincerely hope it never will. But I made them because the artistic drive to design battlesuits is who I am. I see beauty in a properly crafted death machine, even though I'm totally against the idea of anyone ever actually using them. I'll bet ... I mean, I hope you'll find gun-makers who can tell you the same thing. It's not what the object can do, but it's the beauty of the object itself; that's what drives people to create -- the beauty of

what they create. Artists, writers, battlesuit mechanics, gun-makers, those who arrange flowers, and every parent in the world -- we're all the same. We create what nature compels us to create, and we have unconditional love for our creations. If any of my battlesuits are used, I hope it's in a war that I agree with politically -- even though I don't agree with the idea of war. But I'd be proud that my baby's potential was realized, and I'd also be proud of my baby if his or her potential is never realized either. It's called unconditional love. Any good parent or artist knows exactly what I'm talking about.

BANANA picks up the paper.

BANANA

(reading the paper)

"All battlesuits, and equipment required for the production of battlesuits, will be seized, and used as evidence at the tribunal, and then said items will be scheduled for destruction."

ROKO

It's gotten so that a girl can't have hobbies anymore.

END OF EPISODE