

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 27

Cara's Ark

By Alan Holman

INT. UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL TRIBUNAL - MORNING

REG and ROKO stand before an old, ugly, female JUDGE.

JUDGE

(serious, stoic)

Without knowing anyone whom will be affected by my decision of their fate, I have found the defendants -- Reg Chan, and Roko Chan -- guilty.

REG

(to JUDGE)

FUCK YOU, BITCH!!! I SPENT ALMOST THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF MY LIFE, GOING ON SECRET MISSIONS FOR THIS COUNTRY, AND THEN, AFTER THAT, TO TOP IT ALL OFF, I HAD TO FAKE MY OWN DEATH IN 1993, TO BECOME A RESIDENT OF THE MOON BASE!!! AND THIS IS HOW MY COUNTRY REPAYS ME FOR A LIFE-TIME OF SERVICE!?!?

Pause.

JUDGE

One more outburst might affect your sentence.

REG

I'm sorry.

JUDGE

Apology accepted, and appreciated. Are you ready to receive your sentence?

REG

No.

JUDGE

That doesn't matter. The verdict has been reached, and the sentence has been decided. It is the decision of this court that, from this day forward, Reg Chan, and Roko Chan, are

hereby ...
(happy, cheerful)
...COMMISSIONED CO-CAPTAINS OF
SOUL, THE NEW SPACE ARK!
CONGRATULATIONS!

Colorful streamers fall, doves fly, and a large audience
applauds.

ROKO faints.

JUDGE
Let me explain.

REG
(confused)
What is going on!?!

The audience laughs.

JUDGE
Pluto Observatory has confirmed the discovery
of a planet that is suitable for human
colonization. The only problem: it'll take sixty
thousand years to get there. That's where you
come in!

REG
Isn't "Soul" Titan and Mercury's joint project?

JUDGE
Yes, it is. Your daughters have agreed to be
among the four-thousand-and-forty-four, first-
generation Ark passengers, under one
condition: yourself, and Roko Chan, must co-
captain the ship. So what do you say?

REG
I have a choice?

JUDGE
Yes. Of course. You're a famous space
tourist. You're the leader of The Eternal Oasis
mission. This court was a sham. No one
wants to see either yourself, or Roko, get
punished for violating that out-dated law.

ROKO sits up.

ROKO

That's a relief. By the way, I didn't really faint.
I faked it. I heard everything.

Everyone laughs.

REG

Tell me about the ship.

JUDGE

The Ark was built with plans for a safe sixty-thousand year voyage. Provisions were stocked as if the passenger list included a constant five hundred thousand names; despite this, there will only be four thousand and forty four names on the passenger list -- a mix of diverse Japanese families. And if you get eager to set foot on an alien world, there are five hundred thousand stasis chambers in which anyone can sleep, safely frozen and preserved, until the ship reaches its final destination.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

One year later...

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE, NEAR EARTH

A VERY LARGE space-ship, called THE SPACE ARK "SOUL",
launches from Earth.

THE SPACE ARK SOUL is an 800 mile cylindrical sphere with
hundreds of floors.

[NOTE: On every floor, living quarters are around enormous
40 mile circle parks. The parks have wildlife and plants,
especially fruit.]

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA, THE SPACE ARK "SOUL" - MORNING

BANANA (age 21) is 6'2", thinner, more muscular, with short, spiked hair that's randomly-patterned with a variety of watercolored dyes, and no eyebrows over her green eyes. She wears a black tank-top that doesn't cover her belly-button, orange cargo pants, and army boots.

She sits in this bustling cafeteria, with her five month old baby named CARA, who plays with a complicated shoelace-knot.

BANANA

Cara, you are my beloved daughter.

ROKO enters.

ROKO

How's my little half-sister?

BANANA

Cute, as always!

CARA smiles.

BANANA and ROKO smile.

EXT. SPACE, NEAR THE MOON

THE SPACE ARK "SOUL" passes the moon.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA, THE SPACE ARK "SOUL" - MORNING

Twenty-one year old BANANA still sits with her five month old baby CARA, who continues puzzling over her shoelace-knot.

BANANA

Can I untie it?

When BANANA touches the shoelace, CARA screams LOUDLY!

When BANANA lets go, CARA continues playing with the knot.

BANANA
I get it: "No touchy."

CARA
Dee.

BUSTER approaches.

BUSTER CHAN (age 17) is 5'10" with short orange hair, green eyes, and visibly more muscles than he had when last we saw him.

BANANA
It's Buster!

CARA
Goo!

BUSTER
I can't believe we're here, on Earth's first
Generational Ship: The Space Ark Soul!

CARA
Guber.

BUSTER
Soul of the Earth!

CARA
GOOBER!!!
(laughs)
GOOBER!!!

BANANA
Goober indeed! Buster, you're such a nerd!

BUSTER
Yeah, so!?! Ain't this super-awesome!!!

BANANA
Kinda.

ROKO approaches.

ROKO
Four thousand and forty four passengers, and

I'm ...
(sigh)
... I don't know what I am. What did I get
myself into?

BUSTER
You're the captain!

ROKO
No, I'm not. Computer programmers plotted
every aspect of this trip YEARS AGO! I'm not
an IMPORTANT decision maker -- I'm simply a
party planner.

BANANA
More like a party pooper.

BUSTER
Mom -- I didn't know you felt that way.

ROKO
I do.

BANANA
Hey Roko -- look on the bright side: Everyone
respects you!

ROKO
Everyone... yeah. The trip has barely begun,
and I already know everybody -- each and
every passenger -- all four thousand and forty
four of them -- have become familiar faces.

BANANA wipes her eye.

ROKO
I'm sorry for being such a complainer.

BUSTER
It's alright, mom. I understand.

BANANA
I do too.

ROKO
I can't foresee the end of this trip.

BUSTER

I loved the concept of this trip, until this very minute.

ROKO walks away, crying.

BANANA

You made your mommie cry.

BUSTER

Did I? That's terrible.

BANANA

You're right. And Roko's right. What were we thinking!?! We CAN'T spend our lives in this bucket of bolts!

BUSTER

I stand disillusioned.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

FOURTEEN YEARS LATER...

CUT TO:

EXT. EXTRA-SOLAR SPACE

A VERY LARGE space-ship, called THE SPACE ARK "SOUL", flies through empty space.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA, THE SPACE ARK "SOUL" - MORNING

Thirty-five year old BANANA is a thin, muscular woman, with long, blue hair; she sits in this bustling cafeteria, with her fourteen year old daughter CARA -- a short green-eyed girl whose orange hair flows down to her knees.

BANANA

Cara.

CARA

Yes, mom?

BANANA

Did I tell you about when I was twelve years old, and I named my panties "Spotty"?

CARA

(screaming)
SHUT UP!!!

CARA storms away.

BANANA

How embarrassing.
(laughs)
We've run out of talk.
(crying)
My daughter ran away.

INT. CARA'S BEDROOM, CHAN QUARTERS, ARK

In this windowless room, CARA looks -- through red, crying eyes -- into the mirror, at her flushed, tear-stained face.

She picks up a letter, from the top of her shelves.

She reads the letter, in a pained, shaky voice.

CARA

(reading)
"Dear Cara. You're the most beautiful girl I have ever met. You're fourteen and I'm eighteen, but according to the Chinese Zodiac, we were born in compatible years. You're an Ox, and I'm a Rooster. Please love me. Sincerely, Duane."

CARA sits on her bed, with her head down, and her hair covering her face, as she cries tears which soak her bed-sheets.

INT. COMPUTER ROOM, ARK UNIVERSITY

Many computers fill this windowless, sterile room. Eighteen year old DUANE works with 20 year old JOCK, typing frantically on their keyboards.

JOCK

You've been acting overly ...happy today,
Duane.

DUANE's head rises from the depths of concentration, smiles
at his friend, then replies...

DUANE

It's Cara. She's the most beautiful creature on
God's Chrome Ark.

JOCK looks disgusted.

JOCK

Yuck!

DUANE

That's my chick you're yucking.

JOCK

But dude. She's too young!!!

DUANE

She's an innocent, and beautiful, person.

JOCK

But dude. She's fourteen.

DUANE

I love her.

JOCK

Maybe it's not love. Maybe it's
PERVERSION!

DUANE

Shut up. Ever hear of a thing called the
Chinese Zodiac?

JOCK

Don't tell me you believe in that junk!

DUANE

It's not junk! My year is compatible with her
year! And I love her, so therefore we were
meant to be together!

JOCK

Well, I'm not one to argue when there's work to be done. So good luck with your LITTLE girl-friend, Duane.

DUANE

Thanks.

INT. ARK KITCHEN #22

This windowless public kitchen is filled with well-dressed diners.

BANANA scrubs a table.

A thirteen year old, orange-haired boy named NATHAN enters, and approaches BANANA.

BANANA

This better be important, Nathan.

NATHAN

I want my own place.

BANANA

You wanna move out?

NATHAN

Yeah, Banana. Things were better before dad died. You can't control me any longer.

BANANA

You're staying with me, to take care of me, until I die of old age. I'll know that you don't love me if you don't stay that long.

NATHAN

Mom. I love you. But there comes a time when I've got to leave the nest, to live my own life.

BANANA

Yes, that's true, but now you're thirteen. Your life is mine. I went through all the trouble to bring you into this world, and this is how you repay me: by moving out?

NATHAN

Don't turn this into a guilt trip, momma. I'm getting my own living quarters, somewhere on the Ark that's away from you, and the rest of the family. Bye.

NATHAN begins to exit.

BANANA

Wait!

NATHAN

What now, mother?

BANANA

Why do you want to leave home?

NATHAN

I want a place. I need room for my own personal growth. I need to be myself. I need to move out. I especially need to quit living with a childish person who shrugs off so many types of things that most people don't avoid by watching animé all the time, and most people are brave enough to find ways to cope with those issues you shrug off. Only through facing challenges and coping with things can you grow. You don't grow by watching animé all the time! I'm much younger than you, and I understand the thing which you find most difficult to grasp. I can't take it anymore, and that's why I'm moving away from you.

BANANA

You don't love the family. You're abandoning us.

Pause.

NATHAN

I love the family, and I love you. But yeah, I'm moving out ... after dinner.

NATHAN exits.

INT. FOOD COURT, MALL, ARK

CARA eats a taco. DUANE approaches.

DUANE
May I sit here?

CARA
I don't know.

DUANE
How did you feel about my note?

CARA
I don't know.

DUANE
You're pretty stupid if you don't know anything.

CARA laughs.

DUANE
I'm sincerely glad that you understood that my
insulting comment was meant as a joke.

CARA
No worries.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHAN QUARTERS, ARK

CARA enters this windowless living room, with DUANE.
Photographs of CARA, NATHAN, and BANANA, are on the mantle.

CARA shoots an uncertain, shifty gaze at Duane.

CARA
Want some hot chocolate?

DUANE
Do you have coffee?

CARA wipes away a stray, nervous tear.

CARA
I think we might have some coffee, but I don't
know how to make it, especially because
coffee makes me gag.

Awkward pause.

CARA
So...?

DUANE
Hot chocolate's great, thank you.

CARA exits, into the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM

CARA enters, with two cups of hot chocolate, as DUANE looks at photos on the mantle.

They drink.

DUANE
It's awful quiet here.

CARA looks deep within her empty cup, mock sipping, kissing the cup. She talks into the cup.

CARA
Mom and Nate won't be getting back for an hour and a half.

DUANE clears his throat.

CARA takes her head out of her cup.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. KITCHEN, DINNER TABLE

DUANE and CARA's faces are flushed, radiating with glowing blushes, and intense smiles.

NATHAN and BANANA wear polite smiles.

BANANA
So, Duane. How long have you known my daughter?

DUANE
Cara and I have known for about three months.

CARA

I think we just sorta clicked.

BANANA smiles. NATHAN stands up, angrily.

NATHAN

Mom! You're helping Cara with her relationship. Yet you tell me not to have a girlfriend. You sexist bitch!

NATHAN stomps out of the room.

BANANA

He's just acting up; a stupid drama queen. He's over-reacting. Things aren't as he makes them seem. Want more milk, Duane?

DUANE

Yes, please.

BANANA pours milk into DUANE's glass.

WIPE TO:

INT. NATHAN'S STUDY

NATHAN writes a note. The sound of BANANA laughing, at an animé TV show, interrupts NATHAN's work.

NATHAN

Turn that down a notch!

BANANA

No.

NATHAN

I hate you.

BANANA

I love you.

NATHAN gets a vial of pills from a shelf -- he drinks the entire vial, then falls to the floor.

His phone rings.

BANANA

Get that, will you?

The phone rings a few more times. The phone stops ringing.

INT. FUNERAL CHAPEL

Four thousand people show up at Nathan's funeral. Cara weeps onto Duane's chest. BANANA weeps over her son's open casket.

INT. FUNERAL RECEPTION

CARA drags BANANA to a corner. DUANE follows.

CARA

Mom. Me and Duane will stay with you until you die of old age, just like Nate would have.

CARA and BANANA hug. After a slight pause, DUANE hugs them both.

INT. CARA'S BEDROOM

CARA stands sideways, looking into the mirror.

INT. HALLWAY, HIGH-SCHOOL

The hallway is empty.

CARA enters, turns a corner, and notices DUANE standing before her. He is struggling to breathe, pale, and sweating buckets.

CARA

What happened to you?

DUANE falls into her arms.

DUANE

Cara ... it hurts so much.

CARA

What does?

DUANE

When I spend an entire day without giving you at least one hug or kiss.

CARA kisses him.

INT. BREAKFAST TABLE

CARA eats breakfast with BANANA.

CARA

Mom. I don't like the way you treated Nate,
when he was alive.

BANANA

What do you mean?

CARA

You shrugged him off all the time. You gave
me preferential treatment. You acted like
guys don't have emotions.

BANANA

I admit, I've been cold. And now Nate's gone. I
understand why I should warm up, and why I
should have always been warm -- to everyone,
regardless of circumstance. But what
compelled you to mention this stuff just now?

CARA

I love you, mom.

BANANA bursts into tears.

CARA bursts into tears.

They hug.

WIPE TO:

INT. ARK TOWN HALL MEETING

Five thousand Japanese people of all ages sit in an oval-
shaped gallery, viewing thirty-one year old BUSTER CHAN,
who addresses the citizenry of the Ark, from a stage.

[*Maiko is nowhere to be seen.*]

BUSTER

Good day. Two of our University students --
Jock Stanton and Duane Oak -- have

discovered something that concerns us all.

JOCK and DUANE take the stage.

JOCK

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We've discovered, and then investigated, a redundant program that a creator of this Ark has hidden deeply within every computer on this entire Ark.

A collective gasp.

JOCK

The program hid radio telescope data about an anomaly that is between earth and our destination. I know how crazy this sounds, but the anomaly is a time-warp. We're set to go through the time-warp, and return to Earth. But here's the interesting part: thanks to the time-warp, we're returning to Earth THIRTY YEARS BEFORE WE LEFT!

Another gasp.

JOCK

Because we were never actually going to our destination, and because we have finally fixed the glitch with the stasis chambers, we have unlocked the stasis chambers. I strongly suggest that everybody enters a stasis chamber as soon as possible, so that we can plan for our return home, to Earth.

BUSTER takes the microphone.

BUSTER

Umm... to clarify: The computer malfunction -- the "corrosion" of sorts -- was planned, for unknown reasons and purposes, by a designer of this ship. The malfunction set our course through the time-warp, and plotted our final destination as Mars; however, because of certain, reasonable suspicions, we've hacked into the navigation system, and re-set our course. We're going to Earth. We're going home.

The audience applauds.

BUSTER

Because our arrival will have been thirty years BEFORE our departure, we're landing on a remote northern island in Canada, where we'll form a commune. Eventually, we'll find, and blend in with, the natives. It won't be easy. As for the Ark, it'll be dismantled, salvaged, and even buried. Most importantly: we must stay out of history's way for thirty years.

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN

2012

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW RAIN CITY - DAWN

In the first light of the New Age of Western Sunrise, frantic citizens scream, and run, in fear, under a blood-spilling mix of SAMURAI ANGELS and NINJA DEMONS, whose fierce, complex, out-of-control battle, for the fate of the universe, blankets the entire sky over New Rain City.

In one part of the sky, BAKA leads a troupe of SAMURAI ANGELS, against a cadre of NINJA DEMONS, who are lead by a levitating, sixteen-year-old version of BANANA.

BAKA

(screaming)

MOM!?! I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THIS MUST BE A TRICK!

BANANA

A trick, yess. It's a trick!

(cackling)

Groooooooooo-hoo-hoo-hah-hah!

The fighting surrounds BAKA and BANANA -- protecting them like a wall -- as they get closer, and talk.

BAKA

Mom...?

BANANA
(nods, smiling)
I AM Banana, your mother.

BAKA
You can't be! She's safe, in the future, on that
Space Ark!

BANANA
Yes, I remember the Space Ark Soul. I
stayed there and preferred cartoons over
social contact until I was a crabby old coot.
But guess what: I'm back!

BAKA
How!?!

BANANA
Rob! He returned my life, my youth, and a
vigor like nothing I've felt before!

BAKA
I warned you about him, but ...
(very angry)
... YOU DIDN'T LISTEN!!!

BANANA
(laughs)
I love him. I'll always love him.

BAKA
HE'S SATAN!!! WHAT ABOUT RYONE!?!

BANANA
Ryone died.
(very happy)
But luckily, I re-met Rob.

BAKA
This is a TRICK!

BANANA
Yes, it is! And speaking of tricks, watch this!

BAKA
Watch what?

BANANA
(screaming)
ROB, HONEY!!! ASSUME HUMAN FORM,
AND LET'S HAVE FUN!!!

ROB appears in a puff of smoke.

ROB
Yes, dear -- what do you want?

BANANA handcuffs ROB, puts a pillowcase on his head, and
kicks his groin.

BANANA
BAKA! NOW!

BAKA swallows ROB's entire body.

All demons -- except BAKA -- disappear in a mushroom cloud,
leaving BANANA, BAKA, and the SAMURAI ANGELS, to celebrate!

BANANA
(giddy)
YEE-HEE!

BAKA
(proud)
I'm a good actor!

BANANA
(laughing)
BEST TWO OUT OF THREE!!! WE WIN!!!
MY PLAN WORKED!

An alien dragon named RITON appears in a bolt of lightning.

RITON
Yes, Banana! You win!

BANANA
Who are you?

RITON
I'm Riton! I'm a free agent in the Universe! It's
a long story, but the point is: as your prize for
defeating that jerk, and his army of darkness, I
will grant you THREE MORE WISHES!

BANANA

That's awesome, but what do you mean
MORE!?!

RITON

Don't you remember?

BANANA

No. What are you talking about?

RITON

I'm talking about when you threw a tire at
Buster, thus preventing him from time-traveling
too often, and thus causing vital damage to
the structural integrity of the time-line.

BANANA

(laughs)
But that was a mistake! Did I make any
wishes?

RITON

Your only wish was to be a wisher.

BANANA

Umm ... what?

RITON

It just means that you've got five wishes left!

BANANA

(giddy)
YEE-HEE!

RITON

Well, it's been nice! I've gotta go now! My
bakery's catering the after-party!

BANANA

Oh, but we just met. I wish you could stay a
bit longer!

RITON

Really?

BANANA

Of course!

RITON
(smiles)
I guess I can. I am a time-traveler.
Regardless, they can hold down the fort for a
while without me anyway, I guess.

BAKA
Can we get ice-cream?

RITON
Sure!

BANANA
Yeah -- I wish we had ice-cream!

ICE-CREAM appears in their hands -- they start eating it.

BAKA
This is good.

BANANA
(nods)
Yes, it's yummy.

RITON
I love it. Well, it's been swell. But I had really
best be on my way now.

BANANA
Okay! See ya!

RITON
Oh! Before I go, I almost forgot! You two are
the guests of honor at the after-party! Your
chariot will arrive shortly!

RITON disappears in a bolt of lightning.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE HALL

Every character who has ever shown up in this series (so
far) -- except JAMES, DORIAN, ROB, and RYONE -- are here,

dancing energetically, to punky music! -- except BANANA ... she's working the coat-check.

BANANA working at the coat-check ...

BANANA

I don't know how they suckered me into volunteering to work the coat-check for the entire party. And then my boys went home because I'm working the coat-check. Oh, and in case you're wondering who I call "my boys" -- well, that's my pet-name for James, Dorian, Rob, and Ryone.

(laugh)

Well, I hope this party's not too long.

BUSTER and MAIKO dance together.

BUSTER

I can't believe these between life-time cast-parties go on for forty-nine days!

MAIKO

Yeah, it's somethin' -- ain't it?

REG dances with that old female JUDGE from earlier in this episode.

REG

Can I tell you about what scientists like me call the Van Allen Belt?

JUDGE

Sure! I love when you talk about science!

REG

(blushing)

Well, it's a thin layer of radiation at the edge of the earth's atmosphere. Turns out there was a flaw in the ship's hull, and some radiation seeped in, and that's what ...

JUDGE

Just shut up, and kiss me, you stallion!

REG kisses JUDGE.

EXT. SPACE, ABOVE EARTH

BANANA'S VOICE

My first wish, because it must be granted, is: I wish for a zillion more wishes. And I've given A LOT of thought to my second wish. And so, here's my second wish: I wish to rewind this time-line, so that I can re-write this time-line, by re-living my entire life, from the moment Buster moved into Maison Chan. Which brings me to my third wish: I wish for myself, Buster, Baka, Riton, 937, and of course: the woman I used to call mommie, to be the only ones in the entire universe, who still remember this version of the time-line. I'll make more wishes later. Thankies!

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN: 2008

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

Twelve year old BUSTER talks with MRS. CHAN.

BUSTER

My name's Buster! I trained with evil NINJA warriors from the End Times for about six years. Then, I was rescued by a cybernetic deprogrammer cat named 937, a fluffy feline companion who my half-uncle, a demon named Baka, sent to help me overcome my brainwashing, and to ultimately rescue me from the NINJA cult! 937 helped me remember I could time-travel, then I escaped from that evil cult, with him! Then Baka apologized for letting me join the NINJAs -- he had no idea they were evil. He sent me there by accident, when he believed their pamphlet, which was full of lies about a top-notch NINJA-run boarding-school. Also, I enjoy SqueeJiMon!

Pause.

BUSTER
Can I stay?

MRS. CHAN
Yeah. Of course. The talking cat was here earlier, and he already explained everything to me. But you'll have to tell your story again, for Banana's sake.

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN grab their heads, and fall over.

BUSTER
Whoah! What a trip!

BANANA (age 16) enters, points at them, and laughs.

END OF EPISODE