

Banana Chan

32

by Alan Holman

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& B__

INT./EXT. BLACK LIMOUSINE / SPIRAL MOUNTAINSIDE ROAD -

MORNING

937 -- still wearing the bandage on one of his legs -- sits on AUBERY's shoulder, as AUBERY drives.

937

This road will take us directly back to town.

AUBERY

Thanks for the directions!

937

You're welcome.

AUBERY

So what about that favor?

937

Yes. I'll explain everything at Maison Chan. Not to imply that you're a mindless action hero, but I believe you'll understand it better if I explain it there, with proof.

AUBERY

Okay. And then will you help me return home, to New York City?

937

Of course!

Awkward pause.

937

So tell me: Is there a special girl in your life

who gives you a warm feeling whenever you think about her?

AUBERY reaches over, and turns on the radio.

RADIO GUY

And the ... the ... ne ... next tra ... track.
Hey, I've ... gotta ... I should do a ... contest.

937

No one ever listens to this freak, and I mean no one. We're probably the only people listening.

AUBERY

Let's see what it is. If we don't like it, we can switch the station.

RADIO GUY

Okay, I'm sorry about stuttering earlier. But I can't focus on this broadcasting job today. You see, there is no tragedy greater than unrequited love, and I'm suffering the worst case of unrequited love. And, because they say "whatever doesn't kill you can at least make you join a seminary or become a hermit", if anyone can stop me from crying for the rest of my life, you'll win these two plane tickets to Hawaii ... which I was going to surprise her with today, but she decided to be ... chilly. Oh, I'll just cut the transmitter now before I bore you to tears.

The radio station goes dead. No more sounds from the radio.

937

I know where that is. But let's go to my house. No one likes that freak anyway.

AUBERY

Your house it is.

937

It's in that residential area. Third ... no, usually second house from the corner.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA, IN FRONT OF MAISON CHAN -

NOON

The sun is in the middle of the sky.

The LIMO stops in front of MAISON CHAN, which is the second house from the corner. There is a radio tower at the other end of the block.

AUBERY and 937 exit the vehicle.

AUBERY
So this is the cat's house.

937
What?

AUBERY
This is your house?

937
One of them.

AUBERY
Oh, that's right, you're the town's secret talking cat. So I guess you've got a literal key to the city, huh?

937
Yes.

AUBERY
A lot of people feed you?

937
(laughs)
That's right. But my primary home is this one, Maison Chan, where I live with a family of animé background characters. They do all the real work in the show, to set up action-packed days like this, for girls like you.

AUBERY
Hey!

937
If it weren't for my daily exercise of being the brains behind the brawn for action heroes like yourself -- also known as the side-kick -- well, I

eat so much tuna and so many sparrows, that I'd be fatter than Garfield!

They enter the front yard, and 937 climbs through a small cat-door.

AUBERY stands in front of the front door.

A small BOY runs up to the door-step, from the sidewalk, and asks AUBERY ...

BOY
Hi! Play soccer with me!

A lunch-time siren rings in the distance, from the eastern seaport.

AUBERY
I'm supposed to be doing someone a favor kid. Um, here I'll kick it to you once, then I gotta go, kay?

BOY
Okay! But kick it to me after I kick it to you! I want to go first, then you kick it back to me! This'll be great!

With a large, innocent smile on the BOY's face, he carries the ball as he runs onto the road.

And a speeding car runs him over.

A PERSON gets out of the car, looks at the flat boy on the road, and looks at AUBERY, and says ...

PERSON
There was nothing you could have done.

PERSON scrapes the kid off the ground with a spatula, and says ...

PERSON
Chili meat! I've gotta bring this boy to Tom's hot dog stand! He'll dance all night! And so will I! This is how I get paid!

The PERSON finishes scraping the boy off the ground, and putting him in the trunk.

AUBERY

I think I'm gonna be sick.

AUBERY lowers his head, turns around, opens the door, and enters the house ...

INT. MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

As AUBERY enters, he looks at the floor. Through the open front door, we see the PERSON enter the fast car, and speed away.

AUBERY closes the door behind him, and looks in front of him, only to touch noses with the scary floaty demon head named BAKA, who shouts ...

BAKA

BOOOOOO!!!!

AUBERY falls over in surprise.

BAKA, laughs, burps, and disappears in a puff of smoke.

AUBERY

What the hell was that?!

937

(laughing)

Proof! Seeing is believing, so if you believe you saw that, then you'll believe anything!

937 leaps onto AUBERY while laughing, and that crazy kitty cat bounces on AUBERY's belly like it's a trampoline.

AUBERY

Seriously, cat -- what the HELL was that thing?!

937

Exactly, but we've got more important matters to discuss. Follow me to the basement.

937 walks toward the basement, but the little girl MANDY has shown up, and she's tugging on the back of AUBERY's shirt.

AUBERY tilts his head back, and notices MANDY.

MANDY

Have you seen kitty? I think it's time to take his bandage off. Do you know where he went?

AUBERY

Yeah. He went downstairs. Come on, I'll take you to him.

INT. BASEMENT REC-ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

AUBERY and MANDY enter the rec-room; it's a nice room with a lot of boxes, a few games, and a couch on which an orange-haired 28 year-old woman, named CARA, lays, drooling into a quarter-filled cup of drool, as she sleeps in front of a TV, which is tuned to a weird animé.

937 sits on top of CARA's stomach; it doesn't wake her up. As she sleeps, her breathing moves the cat up and down.

937

Oh, hi Mandy. Anyway Aubery, we've got a mission to discuss. Want to hear about it now?

AUBERY

Yeah. If it gets me home, I'm all for it.

937

I need you to rescue my friend who has been kidnapped by a few bullies. Trust me, this friend CAN and WILL get you home as a reward. The friend is a ...

MANDY starts playing with the bandage on 937's leg.

937

It's not time yet. Mandy, I'll phone you when you can take this bandage off.

MANDY smiles, and walks up the stairs.

937

Anyway, you've seen my friend; he's a Komodo dragon.

AUBERY

You mean that dragon who was at the dojo?

937

Yup. The Sawamura family dojo, where they teach the Five Finger Soul Style of Kung Fu to idiots who think it might work towards making a positive difference in the world. However, we saw how the Sawa-Sawa Flame caused a bit of an avalanche, so I guess that's worth looking into also; however, for now, we must rescue my friend Riton, the Komodo Dragon.

AUBERY

Tell me about him.

937

For complicated reasons that a big tough guy like you couldn't begin to understand, he happens to be the King of the Universe ... for the moment ... well, it's only a temporary gig until Kami-sama gets back from this one thing he decided to do ... long story. But long story short, the King is bound up literally, so he's in a bit of a bind right now, and the universe will go to Hell in a hand-basket if you don't rescue him before certain pure-hearted children -- who are on Santa's "nice list" -- pray for universal peace tonight! Any ideas?

AUBERY

A few. I still got some knives, so I can cut him free, and the kid shouldn't be too much trouble ... just his old man.

937

Good. Shall we go?

AUBERY

Sure! Lead the way!

INT. FRONT GATES AT MAISON SAWAMURA - AFTERNOON

AUBERY and 937 stand before a big gate.

During their chat, workers from the docks pass by them, carrying lunch-boxes.

937

We're here!

AUBERY

That's what Mikon Sawamura said earlier this morning. Then he pushed the intercom button on the gate, only something tells me we shouldn't announce ourselves this time.

937

I agree. For the brawn, you've actually got some brains!

AUBERY

His sister Koken -- who's around my age...

937

I know Koken. We fought her, remember?

AUBERY

How could I forget? Anyway, hers was the voice on the other end of the intercom. But now that she's working in that weird fortress on that mountain that popped out of the ground ...

The same siren from earlier rings, and the men in the background dash towards the sea-port.

937

Good point. We don't know who might answer if we push the intercom button. It could be bad news, worse news, or no news at all. Uncertainties frighten me. But I get adventurous when I'm frightened. So it's up to you. Shall we push the button or find another way through the gate?

AUBERY

Looks like the gate goes around the entire yard. But I live in New York where one thing I see all the time is ladders, and so I know that this gate is tall enough for the average ladder. I say we find a ladder. Do you know where a ladder is?

937

Yeah. Most sheds. Maybe this would be better at night time.

AUBERY

I meant -- is there one around here I can use to scale the gate? I want to get home as soon as possible.

937

Follow me!

937 runs towards a neighbor's back yard.

AUBERY follows the cat.

EXT. BACK YARD, MAISON ORBIE - AFTERNOON

This back yard has some shrubbery, a shed, a swing-set, a driveway -- no car -- a back-door, and a small koi pond where people can relax.

937 leads AUBERY into this yard. Then 937 runs toward the shed, where he looks at the handle on its door, then looks at AUBERY, stands perfectly still, and meows.

A big WHITE LIMO pulls up in the drive-way.

AUBERY scoops up 937 in one arm, opens the shed with the other arm, and he bounds -- with the cat in his arm -- into the shed.

INT. ORBIE SHED - AFTERNOON

It's dark, but enough light seeps in from cracks, that AUBERY can see that he's kneeling beside a ladder which is leaning on a full-sized X-WING fighter-craft, exactly like the ones in the STAR WARS films.

937

Holy crow! I didn't know Alicia's family had an X-Wing! You could probably just fly this home ... but PLEASE rescue my friend.

AUBERY

I already told you I'd help your friend, didn't I? Come on, let's get this ladder, and go save the dragon.

AUBERY peeks out to see if it's clear.

The red-haired woman -- WANDA ORBIE -- who the police showed AUBERY a photograph of in the previous episode, gets out of the WHITE LIMO, walks down the driveway, enters her house, and closes the door behind her.

AUBERY

Wasn't she ... ? Whatever.

937

She's our mayor.

AUBERY

Yeah, but she's ... either dead or missing ... or something.

937

WHAT!?

AUBERY

I mean ... a cop showed me her photo this morning. But it seems like so long ago, and this town is so confusing that maybe they were also confused.

937

It's not THAT confusing.

AUBERY

Whatever.

AUBERY carries the ladder out of the shed.

An 18 y/o girl named ALICIA ORBIE sneaks up on them, out of nowhere.

ALICIA

Who the hell are you? And what the hell are you doing with our ladder?

937

Oh, hello Alicia. It's just me, and a friend of mine. We need to borrow your ladder.

ALICIA

Oh. Umm ... you didn't -- by chance -- see something else in there ... did you?

937

No. It was dark. We only saw the ladder.

ALICIA

Okay then. Bring it back when you can. But leave it outside the shed this time. Anywhere in the yard would be okay. Perhaps lean it against the swing-set, please. Just don't enter our shed without permission again, okay?

937

Okay.

ALICIA skips away.

EXT. BACK FENCE, BEHIND THE SAWAMURA RESIDENCE -

AFTERNOON

AUBERY sets the ladder up to lean against the fence. Then 937 climbs onto AUBERY's shoulder, as AUBERY climbs the ladder, and they peek their heads over the fence, and they see no one in the back yard -- just the white cherry tree -- the MENSHU TREE -- glowing brightly beside the dojo.

We can now hear, emitting from the dojo, the sobbing sounds of RITON's sad cries.

937 springs from AUBERY's shoulder, into the yard. AUBERY leaps over the fence, into the yard.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EXT. BACK YARD, SAWAMURA RESIDENCE - AFTERNOON

The sky is now a nice, bright blue.

AUBERY and 937 get closer to the MENSHU TREE.

AUBERY

It's like a warm fuzzy feeling. It draws me closer to it. It feels good, but freaky because of all the uncertainties.

937

Like love.

The sound of RITON's weeping continues to emit from the dojo, and it turns into really pitiful sobbing.

AUBERY

We'd better avoid this freaky tree.

937

But it loves you. It only wants to be there for you, and give you extra strength ... and what's wrong with that?

AUBERY

It's trying too hard. It's too overbearing. Too pushy. Too much, too soon. It way beyond creeps me out.

937

Maybe it has just as little experience with this sort of thing as you do, and it doesn't know any better. Give it a chance.

AUBERY

Maybe. Maybe not. The only thing I know for sure is that now's not the time.

AUBERY heads toward the dojo.

INT. THE SAWAMURA DOJO - AFTERNOON

RITON is still chained to the middle of the room ... like in the previous episode ... but he's no longer running around in circles; he just lays flat on his belly, sobbing pitifully.

AUBERY

Whoah. That tree stole my ability to focus. I mean, I'll go through the motion of saving this dragon, but I can really only think about that tree now ... and how it makes me know that I'm slightly more powerful now ... with extra strength. There's nothing we ... I mean I ... can't handle!

937

Don't you mean we?

AUBERY

Oh, sure. Of course.

AUBERY

I might be able to break his leash with my bare hands!

937, AUBERY, and RITON, get distracted by a large plasma TV screen, which descends from a compartment in the ceiling, and covers the wall in the front of the room.

KOKEN SAWAMURA's face appears on the plasma screen, and she says ...

KOKEN

Do not rescue that dragon, or I'll kill her.

937

Her?

RITON

I'm a guy.

AUBERY

Who?

The face of a teenage girl named KARA -- who has a family resemblance with AUBERY -- appears on the screen.

KARA

Aubery, help me!

937

Who's that?

AUBERY

That's my sister! Let her go!

KOKEN

I'm at the tower atop that winding mountain-side road. Come alone tomorrow morning, and we'll discuss a peaceful solution. If you come any earlier, or rescue that dragon, she will die!

937

D'oh!

RITON continues weeping.

The TV screen turns off, and slides up the side of the wall, and slips into its compartment.

MIKON SAWAMURA runs into the room, and shouts ...

MIKON

They've got Sawamura-sensei too! They said I must take the dragon there, or they'll kill him! But if I don't take the dragon there, they won't release him! And if they release him, they'll kill that little girl! I'm so confused!

MIKON sits beside RITON -- both cry.

The cat shakes his head in extreme confusion.

AUBERY

Why is Koken doing this?

MIKON

Koken's note, which I ripped up in anger, and flushed, said that she's doing this because her boss's mobsters kidnapped the wrong orange-eyed tall boy. The boy they wanted wears orange contact-lenses. The boy they got -- you -- has orange eyes. And they made a mix-up, and they want to cover their mistakes, so that their head boss guy doesn't find out.

AUBERY

(nods)

But why didn't they just send me home ... instead of bringing my sister into this?

MIKON

They've bribed the police, and the Mayor is a reptilian shape-shifter. I know it because it was all conveniently located in that note I found, and that note was written in a context that actually makes this plot make sense ... somewhat. Anyway, they brought her into it because they think they can make you look like the boy they mistook you for, and they can turn you -- and your sister -- into early prototype super-soldiers for their evil geneticky project. I wish I hadn't have flushed that note. It could be so useful.
(hits his own head)

I'm so stupid!

AUBERY

There's nothing we can do about it now, so don't hit your head. Right now, we need to find a way to save my sis, and your old-man.

MIKON

I can train you to use the Sawa-Sawa-Flame! It turns your enemy's evil against them! So, that way, you'll always have an advantage if the person you're fighting is evil! But to be honest, it rarely works because people are more often misunderstood than actually evil. If you just say "hello" to them, it can really brighten almost anyone's day. But regardless, I think they're actually evil over there, so can I teach it to you? There's only one catch -- only good people can use Sawa-Style effectively.

AUBERY

I'm not sure I count as good, kid. I'm a street punk, one of New York's lowest scum.

937 runs out of the room, and re-enters using his curled tail to drag the handle of a large Samurai Sword called SAWA-STEEL.

AUBERY

What's up, kitty?

937

I saw this earlier. This sword. It's pretty. Their family must have been Samurai in the Feudal Era; that would explain the shape of the sword. And by the way, as I was getting the sword, I noticed that the tree is glowing and pulsating even brighter and whiter than before.

AUBERY

That tree gave me strength. I must admit -- it could actually become useful.

937

Be sure to take time out later on, to tell the tree that you appreciate its help. I'm sure it'd like that a lot.

RITON cries himself to sleep, and begins snoring.

AUBERY

(to Mikon)

Hey kid! What's up with the glowing tree of freaky nature?

MIKON

It's the Menshu Tree. Menshu were an ancient warrior family who died here, and put their fighting spirit in the tree. We protect it, and use its energy to do all sorts of things we want. For example, Koken uses its power for evil. I use its power for ... well, I think I'm good, but there are so many shades of gray that it's hard to keep up with what anyone does in this town.

937 shakes his head, and says ...

937

Fighting spirit is still part of someone's spirit. It's part of a ghost, and I don't think you should drain a ghost of energy. I just think it's probably rude and immoral to do stuff like that. So perhaps you should use the sword instead; it's shiny and curvy and sharp!

MIKON

He can use both maybe.

AUBERY

Yeah! Hey, I got it! What if I put the power of the tree into the sword -- would that work?!

MIKON

COOL IDEA! Don't cut the tree -- just put the sword near it.

We barely hear a phone ring.

MIKON

The phone! It's in the main house -- I should get it!

MIKON exits the dojo, and heads towards the house.

AUBERY holds the sword for a few moments, then he brings it outside ...

EXT. BACK YARD, SAWAMURA RESIDENCE - AFTERNOON

937 follows, as AUBERY brings the sword -- SAWA-STEEL -- toward the MENSHU TREE.

AUBERY

The sword felt very heavy when I picked it up. But the closer I get to the tree, the lighter it gets. It's actually now even lighter than a feather, now that I'm so close to the Menshu Tree!

The bright white light from the tree, transfers into the sword.

The tree turns brown, the leaves turn green, and the cherries turn red.

MIKON approaches from the house.

MIKON

I didn't understand the phone message. It was for Koken. Apparently, her replacement guards get there in the morning. What replacement guards? I thought she had seven, and seven seemed like enough. Something about knives in their eyes -- I don't get it.

AUBERY grins sheepishly.

937 walks beside AUBERY, then springs onto AUBERY's shoulder, and says ...

937

So that's why she said we should come tomorrow, rather than today. She doesn't have any protection if we attack her now. I suggest we go.

AUBERY nods in agreement.

AUBERY

(to Mikon)

How do we get to where Koken is keeping Kara?

MIKON

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO TO MY FAMILY'S PRICELESS
MENSHU TREE?!

AUBERY

Accepted its ...

MIKON

Whatever ... you take the car out of town, past the
forest, then back up the hill, then up that long
winding mountain. You can't miss the place where
my sister is keeping your sister.

AUBERY

Umm ... the sword ... look at the sword.

MIKON

What about the sword? WHOAH! I can feel the
fighting spirit resonating from it! It is your
destiny! Haha! It is your destiny!

AUBERY

So's rescuing my sister -- how will we get there?

MIKON

Heck, I'm small but dad's taught me to drive -- I
could take you there! But let's not go now. Want
to come inside and see some cool things?

AUBERY

What things? Aren't you worried about your dad?

MIKON

Sorry, ADHD. Yeah, I'm worried. Koken's my
sister, and she's been odd ever since that snake
demon took over her ... but that was years ago, at
her friend Vikki's thirteenth birthday party, and
I've just sorta learned to accept having snake
demon in a sister who's always been a bitch
anyway. But she's still my sister, and I don't
want her to harm her own father. I have faith that
she probably won't harm him, though, but not enough
faith ... what with the snake demon having killed
many people in the past when it's active; however,
it's not active all the time ... just sometimes.

937

We could take their car, or we could take that

X-Wing we saw. That'd surprise them. There are many other options also.

AUBERY

I'm leaning towards the X-wing ... but what other options?

937

There were motorcycles in town. Bikes, scooters, and taxis ... all sorts of things, really. There's even a bus route that goes just past that winding road. Or we could go to my place, and use my family's minivan.

MIKON laughs, dances, and runs around in circles, while repeatedly cheering the phrase: "The Sword is your destiny!"

AUBERY

You ... are one strange kid. Did you know that?

MIKON blinks his eyes, shakes his blue hair, and says ...

MIKON

Yeah.

AUBERY

Kay. Just makin' sure. Cat, did you say motorbike?

937

Yeah. There's a motorbike at my friend's house. He'd let us use it.

AUBERY

Cool! I'll use that. I don't have time to learn how to fly an X-Wing.

MIKON

The tree gave power for the Sawamura Five-Finger Soul Style. You can probably do a Mega-Sawa-Flame with that sword, because swords are much better than hands! Can I teach you how to do a Mega-Sawa-Flame with the sword?

AUBERY

Sure! Why not?

MIKON

See how the moon hangs small in the afternoon sky?
Point the sword at the moon, and shout Mega-Sawa!
I saw this move on one of our dojo's scrolls! But
we've never had a sword with so much fighting
spirit!

AUBERY points the sword -- SAWA-STEEL -- at the moon, and
asks ...

AUBERY

Are you sure this will work? And you're not just
trying to make me look like an idiot?

MIKON

I'm sure it'll work! It has got to work! This is
the movie that changed history, literally. Long
story. Never-mind. My point is: just try it!

AUBERY

Okay. You're nuts, but okay!

Still pointing the sword -- SAWA-STEEL -- at the moon,
AUBERY shouts ...

AUBERY

MEGA-SAWA!

The sword is suddenly engulfed in beautiful indigo flames.

MIKON

Now! If you scream "FLAME!" it'll shoot, and the
shot will ... hurt ... the moon. You can use it
multiple times, but I suggest you save it for
battle!

AUBERY

(nods)
Good idea. Umm ...
(shaking the sword)
... how do I turn it off?

MIKON

I don't know!

Freeze-frame.

END OF EPISODE.