

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x05

The Walk

By Alan Holman

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
2005.

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

RYONE (age 14) rings the doorbell.

BANANA (age 14) answers the door.

BANANA
Hi?

RYONE
Hello! How are you today?

BANANA
Listen Ryone, your notes have gotta stop.

RYONE
I thought you'd love them, I'm sorry. What's
wrong with them in specific?

BANANA
Everything!

RYONE
I didn't realize.

BANANA
It's really bothering me a lot. I don't mean to
sound rude, but I don't want to see you again
... EVER!

RYONE
Listen Banana, I can't just turn my emotions
off like a switch. I love you a lot, and I really
didn't know that my notes were bothering you
as much as you say they are. I'll definitely
stop sending them, since the last thing I want
to do is make you uncomfortable. Listen, I
don't want to make you more uncomfortable

than any situation demands. I'd much rather commit to making your life beautiful.

BANANA

What you want is satisfaction.

RYONE

I'll only be satisfied when I know that you've had a happy, healthy, full life.

BANANA

Go.

RYONE

Banana -- don't break my heart. I love you.

BANANA

You barely know me. And I barely know you.

RYONE

But everything I know about you, I love.

BANANA

Your definition of love is something I don't understand. It seems to be controlling you a lot, and the idea of being controlled is too scary for me.

RYONE

I don't want to control you. But being controlled by love is the exact opposite of scary, believe me.

BANANA

No, Ryone. Just no. Things could get out of hand. Bad things could happen. There's too many uncertainties.

RYONE

A boy that loves a girl makes sure that nothing uncertain happens. A boy that loves a girl makes sure everything is safe and secure.

BANANA

We don't know each-other enough for you to be saying stuff like this to me.

RYONE

Then let's talk -- anywhere, while doing anything ... like a date.

BANANA

What if one day, I don't look how you want me to look?

RYONE

It doesn't matter to me if you become fatter, skinnier, mediumer, taller, smaller, or differenter in any way, like different hair color, different eye color, different skin color, different personality, different anything -- I don't care. I just want you to be comfortable with me -- but mostly, with yourself. I'm attracted to the life within you, and also the really cute shell holding it.

(sigh)

If physical traits matter to you, I'll work out however much, or little is required. I'll even dye my hair or get colored contact lenses or something ... whatever. Anything you ask. The only thing I'll ask for in return is appreciation for my efforts. And someday that appreciation will develop into the feeling I have for you, which is very special, and I want you to understand it. I want to teach it to you. I love you so much that I want to do everything I can to make sure that you know what it's like to feel like that for a person. I want that person to be me, but if it's not, trust me - you'll love our future children!

BANANA

You sound FAR TOO obsessed, Ryone. Especially because we barely know each-other. Why do you love me?

RYONE

Why is the only thing I can't explain.

BANANA

Then that's why I believe you're lying.

RYONE

I wish I could make you trust me.

BANANA

No one can make me do anything that I don't want to do, especially trust someone, especially if that someone is a person who is creeping me out. And you're creeping me out, Ryone. On top of that, you're very annoying.

RYONE

Don't be annoyed. I care about you. I want to know what you care about. I want to learn to care about those things. I'll never ask you to change your name unless you want to. I'll never ask you to cook unless you want to. The ONLY THING IN THE WORLD I'll ask you to do is believe that I love you, and try to appreciate me.

BANANA

Let's talk about this later, okay?

RYONE

Of course! We must! But when?

BANANA

I'll give you a chance to continue to be MY FRIEND, Ryone. We still haven't walked in the park like I said we'd do. I keep my word, and I'll keep my word about that. When we walk in the park, DO NOT tell me that you love me.

RYONE

But ...

BANANA

Just go. I'll call you for that walk.

BANANA slams the door.

RYONE

Bye. I'll be waiting for your call. I love you, Banana Chan.

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

The Next Day.

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA lays on the rooftop.

BANANA

I don't need to go anywhere to enjoy the spring air; there's enough of it on the roof-top!

A bird takes a poop on her forehead.

BANANA

Them's the breaks, I guess.

(wide smile)

But at least I didn't get one of those annoying notes from Ryone today!

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

The Next Day.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA and MRS. CHAN play a game of Chinese Chess.

MRS. CHAN

Another day, another lack-of-note from Ryone. I thought -- and actually kind of hoped -- that finding a note from Ryone for you in the mailbox would become a daily ritual.

BANANA

Don't say that. And don't mention that boy's name in this house.

MRS. CHAN

I like him.

BANANA

I know you do. But I don't, and that's the only thing that matters.

MRS. CHAN

As much as I hate to admit it, you do have a good point. So how did you let him down?

Why isn't he sending notes anymore?

BANANA

I told him that one day I'll call him and we'll go for a walk.

MRS. CHAN

Will you call him for that walk?

BANANA

No.

MRS. CHAN

So why did you lie to him?

BANANA

To shut him up.

MRS. CHAN

You can never shut up love. He'll express it in one way or another.

BANANA

Yeah, well at least I can take a break from those damn annoying notes!

MRS. CHAN

Okay. I can tell this is a sensitive subject for you ...

BANANA

YOU THINK!?!

MRS. CHAN

... so I'll help by not mentioning it.

The door-bell rings.

BANANA runs up-stairs.

MRS. CHAN opens the door, revealing RYONE, who is standing on the door-step, saying ...

RYONE

(eyes closed)

Banana. I love you. Come to dinner. Meet my family.

MRS. CHAN
Hold that pose. I'll get a picture. You're so
cute!

RYONE opens his eyes ...

RYONE
(embarrassed)
Oops! You're not Banana! Sorry!

MRS. CHAN
(welcoming smile)
Won't you come in? Stay a while. Make
yourself comfortable. Tell me about yourself.

RYONE
(smiles)
Okay!

RYONE enters.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

RYONE chats with MRS. CHAN.

RYONE
You sure Banana won't mind if I chat with
you?

MRS. CHAN
I don't know.

RYONE
I don't want it to seem like I'm trying to get to
her through you.

MRS. CHAN
Give it your best shot.

RYONE
I can try to get to her through you?

MRS. CHAN
Well, I don't know, but never hide your

intentions. Besides, as her guardian, I should meet guys who are interested in her. So tell me about yourself.

RYONE

I'd rather tell Banana ... but she never listens ...

MRS. CHAN laughs.

RYONE

... so okay, I'll tell you. But where should I begin?

MRS. CHAN

With your intentions. What sort of relationship do you intend to have with her?

RYONE

Whatever she allows.

MRS. CHAN

But what do YOU want?

RYONE

I want to marry your daughter and have kids.

MRS. CHAN

You ARE a kid.

RYONE

Well, I mean when we're old enough and mature. I can't imagine spending such a large amount of time with, and taking care of babies with, and going to work to provide for, anyone else but her. And while we're still kids, I want to be bratty with her!

MRS. CHAN

Your family is poor. You should provide for them.

RYONE

They're mean to me.

MRS. CHAN

Banana's mean to you.

RYONE

It's different because I love her.

MRS. CHAN

You don't love your family?

RYONE

I do, but if my dad loved my mom a quarter of how strongly I love Banana, he wouldn't be so lazy and so angry all the time. My feelings towards Banana compel me to not only want to provide for her, but to NEED TO provide for her. It's hard to explain, but I can't do anything if I'm not with her.

MRS. CHAN

I wish someone would have had those feelings towards me when I was younger ... and I had those feelings towards someone.

RYONE

So you'll help me?

MRS. CHAN

My hands are tied. She's chosen to ignore you, and she has that right. And because a home is a sanctuary, I must now respect her rights by kicking you out. Ryone, I'm sorry. I like you, and it DOES break my heart to do this, but I have to restrict you from coming into this house unless she invites you in. It'd be different if you were a friend or family member, but because you're someone who actually loves her, I'm sorry, but you have to leave until she accepts your love and invites you in ... if that ever happens at all. And if it doesn't happen, don't keep pining over the same person, as I'm still hoping for a certain someone to return to my life, and he hasn't come back yet. Good luck, my friend.

RYONE nods, and exits.

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

RYONE stands on the doorstep, and says ...

RYONE

Banana Chan. I've met tons of people. You're the only one whose smile and laugh makes me forget about all my problems, and takes away every shred of any pain I've got. It is a miracle that I've met the one girl who has that power to make me happy just by being happy herself. I must somehow ensure that you are always happy enough to smile ... because I need to know that I may see your smile once in a while ... or I'll surely lose hope and die. That is why I'm going to marry you someday, and I don't care how long it takes, or what I have to do. I'm going to marry you, and make you smile every day, no matter what.

The door opens, and BANANA appears.

BANANA

Come on. My mom's crazy. She said it's bad karma to break promises, and I did promise to go on a walk with you, so let's go.

RYONE

Awesome!

BANANA

But it's not a "date".

RYONE

I see.

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - AFTERNOON

BANANA and RYONE sit at home-plate, chatting.

RYONE

Banana, I love you.

BANANA

Okay pal, back off. And remember, Ryone: this isn't a date, so don't get anymore weird ideas.

RYONE

It's not just the fact that you were so cute I

just had to poke you to see if you were real.
But it's also the fact that when I poked you, I
found out that you're TICKLISH!

RYONE begins tickling her.

BANANA
(laughing)
I don't want to have to hurt you, Ryone.

RYONE
I'll be there for you if you ask for help with
anything. No friend has ever gone that far for
me, but I'd sacrifice more than that for you.

BANANA
(laughing)
Wha!? But we barely know each-other,
Ryone!

RYONE
Well I love you, Banana.

She gently stops him from tickling her, then she stops
laughing.

BANANA
Talk is cheap.

RYONE
Talk IS NOT cheap.

BANANA
You just want to use me.

RYONE
You make me feel good about myself.

BANANA
You just want to use me to feel good about
yourself.

RYONE
I feel good about you too.

BANANA
I've enjoyed being your friend, but now you're

scaring me, Ryone. Mom's almost forty, and she's not married -- you know why? Because guys can't be trusted.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

RYONE
Don't reject me.

BANANA
You're rubbing me the wrong way.

RYONE
How can you tell?

BANANA
For one thing: You're not tickling me anymore. For another thing: We barely know each-other.

RYONE
But everything I know about you, I love.

BANANA
Stop it. You're scaring me.

RYONE
Love is the exact opposite of scary, believe me.

BANANA
No Ryone. Why do you love me?

RYONE
I can't explain it.

BANANA
Ah, so you're a liar!

RYONE
No, I'm not! Trust me!

BANANA
No. You're really starting to creep me out.

RYONE
Please believe me!

BANANA

Let's talk about this when we're not
FOURTEEN! Ryone -- you're stupid to talk
about this when we're so young!

RYONE

Okay, maybe you're right. But when?

BANANA

Don't call me. I'll call you.
(thoughts)
"... a creep."

RYONE

Awesome! I'll be waiting! We're in the same
prefecture, so it's free!

EXT. SAKURA PARK - NIGHT

BANANA and her small black dog (breed: Chow Chow / age: 2)
sit under a cherry tree and gaze at the crescent moon.

RYONE approaches, and sits with them.

RYONE

When you said, "Don't call me. I'll call you." --
I feared you'd never call. But you did call, and
... why'd you call?

BANANA

You talk too much.

RYONE

Maybe.
(blush)
Banana, I'll talk as much or as little as you
want me to.

BANANA

Hey, sometimes it's not the best idea to go
after what you want, you know?

RYONE

(embarrassed)
I'm sorry. I'm so stupid. I apologize for all of
this inconvenience. You probably want me to

go.

Pause.

RYONE
Sure you'll be safe?

Pause.

RYONE
I'll keep a safe distance, but I've gotta make
sure you get home safely.

BANANA laughs at RYONE.

RYONE looks confused.

BANANA
You just got here.

RYONE
I'm sorry -- and yeah, it's for the best that I
stay near you, and protect you, to make sure
you're safe ... and your dog.

BANANA rolls her eyes.

BANANA
(rolls her eyes, and smiles)
We don't want your protection. Oh, and by
the way, Ryone, don't you dare call this a
date.

RYONE
Banana, you'd have to win the annual All
Division Fighting Tournament at Shikigami
Falls before I ... hell, even I need a walk home,
and I'm practically fearless! -- well, except for
bees. They scare me.

BANANA
(laughs)
I can give you a new fear.

RYONE
I'll bet you can.

BANANA
Meet Wu.

RYONE
The dog?

BANANA
Well, mommie calls him Wu, but his name's
Doggie.

DOGGIE barks.

RYONE
I would have asked for the mutt's name earlier,
but we started talking.

BANANA
No, you started talking, Ryone. And then you
wouldn't shut up, you idiot.

RYONE
Well I need you. I'm sick of taking things into
my own hands.

BANANA
What is that supposed to mean?

RYONE
Never-mind. It came out wrong. I'm nervous.
Banana, you're ... my new fear.

BANANA
I can also make you afraid of Doggie.

RYONE
Nah. I love dogs.

DOGGIE bites RYONE in the mid-section.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA sits on a rock, watching as an ice-machine fills the
pond with ice -- her buddy RYONE sits in that icy pond.

RYONE

Your ... MUTT ... dishonored me!

BANANA

What's the dealio? No one will ever see your slimy, gross, bite-marks, because of where they are! It's not like a haircut.

RYONE

(yelling)
CUT YOUR HAIR!!!

BANANA

Don't yell at me; it's disrespectful!

RYONE

(imitating her, mockingly)
"What's the dealio?"
(shouting)
CUT YOUR HAIR!

BANANA gives him an odd look.

BANANA

People see my hair. I won't cut it!

RYONE

You owe me.

BANANA

You're making me uncomfortable, you creep.
Has anyone ever told you that you suck, you idiot?

RYONE

CUT YOUR HAIR!

BANANA

You're such a loser.

RYONE

(yelling)
YOU'RE INSANE!

BANANA

No, you're the insane one, you yeller!
Sheesh.

RYONE
Good point.

BANANA
(rolls her eyes)
You're such an idiot.

RYONE
I know.
(crying)
I know how much I suck.

BANANA
No, you don't.

RYONE
(crying)
That's right.
(crying louder)
I have no idea how much I suck.

BANANA
Aww, you don't suck too much, Ryone.
You're ... pretty good ...
(rolls her eyes)
... sorta. Not good enough for this to be a
date, though.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

BANANA, now with CHIN-LENGTH orange hair, is crying.

RYONE walks beside her.

RYONE
I'm sorry.

BANANA
(crying)
What'll I tell people!?!
What'll I tell people!?!

RYONE
I dunno ... who cares anyway?

RYONE

PEOPLE!!!

RYONE

Say it was getting in your jeans, I dunno.

BANANA

That's stupid!

RYONE

Had I known your long hair was that important to you, I'd have still cut it, because Banana -- now we're even.

BANANA

Ryone! You said you love me!

RYONE

And I do.

BANANA

If your definition of love includes getting even, I want out!

RYONE

We're already out.

BANANA laughs.

RYONE

I'm glad you found that funny.

BANANA

Just unexpected. But before you get any bright ideas, Ryone, this isn't a date, okay?

Pause.

BANANA

Okay?

They stop, and look into each-other's eyes -- then both of them turn away nervously, blush, and laugh.

RYONE

See, you're laughing.

Then they set their solid gazes into each-other's eyes again -- this time, without looking away.

RYONE
Life is such a fantastic animé.

BANANA
All guys are the same.

RYONE
And you're different.

RYONE takes her hand.

RYONE
Shall we dance?

BANANA
Sure.

RYONE
I'm full of good ideas tonight.

They laugh.

RYONE puts his hand on her waist, and she slaps him.

BANANA
I'm not that kind of girl!

RYONE
Yes, you are.

RYONE puts his hand on her waist again, and his other hand in her other hand, and they dance.

RYONE
You're the dancing kind.

BANANA
I am.

RYONE
I am too.

BANANA
(laughs)

Oh, that's just stupid.

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA sits on the pond-side rock.

RYONE lays on the rock, with his head on BANANA's lap.

BANANA

This isn't a date, Ryone. And kids our age could get into trouble, outside this late.

RYONE

We're not kids.

BANANA

We're fourteen. We should have a curfew.

RYONE

You don't actually believe that, do you?

BANANA

No.

RYONE

But there's a lot of creepy people outside this late; take me for example!

BANANA

Yeah. You ARE pretty creepy, Ryone.

RYONE

I'm also needy and clingy -- but only to you, Banana, and can you blame a guy for wanting to be happy? Be my ... girl-friend.

BANANA

You can't "make me" like you.

RYONE

I just suddenly loved you one day, completely. So I have to at least try.

BANANA

Try what?

RYONE

I don't know ... something. Please allow me to kiss you.

Pause.

BANANA
(thoughts, voice over)
"Damn it, Ryone! Your dumb over-politeness just wrecked your perfect chance to kiss me!"
(stoic, speaking)
This conversation is over.

INT. FOOD COURT, MALL - AFTERNOON

BANANA sits alone, eating Chinese food.

RYONE approaches.

RYONE
Hey. May I sit down?

BANANA
I guess so. Just don't call this a date.

RYONE
Your dog left quite a mark the other day.

BANANA
Then you cut my hair as revenge, you jerk!

RYONE
I'm sorry about that. Besides, you let me. And hey, your dog did far worse.

BANANA
That's because Doggie's my good little self-defense.

RYONE
There should be a law against going for the family jewels.

BANANA
No. Self defense teachers tell you to strike that weak spot. It gets the job done.

RYONE
It's totally immoral to strike that weak spot.

BANANA

It's totally immoral to attack someone.

RYONE

Hey, let's go on an actual date.

BANANA

Until I finish my Chinese food, I'm all yours.

RYONE

No, I mean a date. A calendar date. Let's set aside a date for us. That's a date.

BANANA

I don't like you in that way, Ryone. I've told you this before. Keep this up, and you won't even be a friend.

RYONE

Banana. People date people they don't like all the time. That's because no one knows until they try, and it's only fair to try people who think you're worth a try. Otherwise, they'll never learn if you weren't worth the try, and -- if they're smart -- they'll keep trying to get the try.

BANANA

You're incorrigible, Ryone.

RYONE

I don't even know what that means.

BANANA

Yeah right.

RYONE

It's true. Other words I don't understand include: dais, pavilion, trellis, and terrarium.

BANANA

I know those ones.

RYONE

Let's take each-other to where-ever our whims

take us for an entire day. An entire calendar date. That's why normal people call it a date, and that's because they know that there is no other way to know.

BANANA

Who needs normal?

RYONE

Banana. An entire lifetime of memories can be packed into one day if you try. That's why a day is a date, and a proper date is a day. People preview potential lives by dating, and they date and date and date so they can make the right choice. It's the only way to decide. Aren't you the least bit curious to find out what I see in you that makes me know that you're worth trying entire lifetimes for a date with you?

BANANA

Can't say I'm too interested, buddy.

RYONE falls over.

WIPE TO:

EXT. OUTDOOR MALL, TOKYO - MORNING

BANANA and RYONE sit at a table, making small people out of colorful clay.

RYONE

... and compliment number one thousand is that I love your eyes.

BANANA

Flattery will get you ...

BANANA gets distracted by the blue, diamond-shaped tattoo, which is worn over the lips of an AINU WOMAN who passes them.

BANANA

... whoah.

The AINU WOMAN stops in her tracks, and says ...

BANANA
(to AINU WOMAN)
That's a cool tattoo!

AINU WOMAN
Thanks! You're polite compared to the people
who say I look like a clown. I've been walking
all day -- may I sit with you?

BANANA
Sure. I'm Banana.

AINU WOMAN
I'm June.

RYONE
I'm Ryone.

They bow to each-other.

BANANA
Ryone's my boyfriend.

RYONE faints.

JUNE
I don't think he's used to being called a
boyfriend.

BANANA
Yeah, we're on a date, and it's the first time I
called him my boyfriend. I don't see why he
fainted -- it's just a word.

JUNE
Looks like it's more than that for him.

BANANA
Naw. He's just an idiot. Hey, that's a really
cute tattoo on your lips? Where'd you get it?

JUNE
Oh, this little thing that made me get kicked
out at the hot springs? This blue, diamond-
shaped tattoo, is a traditional rite of passage
for Ainu girls when they enter womanhood.

BANANA

What's an Ainu?

JUNE

I am, hi!

(laughs)

The Ainu are the oldest culture in all of Japan. Ainu are the original Japanese people. We're referred to as Aboriginal.

BANANA

So, how old is your culture?

JUNE

Very old. In fact, the first Ainu came to earth individually, in cradles which descended from the sky. And that was a very long time ago.

BANANA

That's really cool!

JUNE

Yes, but not unique. There are Native Africans, Native Americans, Arabs, and Australians, who also tell legends about people who descended from the sky ... and even beings who displaced rulers by interbreeding with select bloodlines.

BANANA

History is cool!

END OF EPISODE