

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x06

Resistance

By Alan Holman

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BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
2005.

EXT. OUTDOOR MALL, TOKYO - MORNING

BANANA (age 14) and RYONE (age 14) 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!

JUNE

Indeed. In my people's history, there was a storyteller named Fuji who ...

BANANA

Tell me about Fuji later! Tell me more about the tattoo!

JUNE

It's so refreshing to hear this from a mainlander!

BANANA

What do you mean "mainlander"?

JUNE

Most of Japan is this one island; however, there's a smaller island also -- that's where most of my people can be found.

BANANA

Cool. Less island, more tattoo. Tell me, tell me!

JUNE

Most modern Ainu women do not get the tattoos anymore because we're ridiculed on the mainland. There are actually laws in place now, which prevent underage girls from getting the tattoos. But these tattoos are a traditional rite of passage in my culture, and I love my culture. I love traditions. So I was stubborn,

and I broke the law by getting the tattoo when I was fourteen years old. And you know what: They're proud of me at home, and I'm proud to show off my tattoo, even when people laugh.

BANANA

Good for you! Yeah, a girl should have the freedom to choose how she observes her own culture's traditions.

JUNE

That's right. A lot of my friends didn't get the tattoos, and they never will. I get harassed by mainlanders ... but I didn't do it to be different than them. I did it to be true to myself.

BANANA

Okay. I understand that the tattoo is a rite of passage. But what's the point of a rite of passage anyway?

JUNE

In my culture, the tattoo announced that I was ready to be married.

BANANA

But you said that you got the tattoo when you were fourteen.

JUNE

That's right.

BANANA

No, it's wrong. It's way wrong. I'm fourteen, so I know that fourteen is way, way, way, way, way, too young to get married. That's just sick, gross, and totally perverted, and wrong. Way, way wrong.

JUNE

I disagree, but I'll forgive you. You're just ignorant.

BANANA

Hey!

JUNE

My wedding may not have been recognized by the government, but it was recognized and celebrated by everyone in my entire hometown, because it's our proudest tradition.

BANANA

You mean to tell me that you actually got married when you were my age?

JUNE

Yes.

BANANA gives her an odd glare, with one eyebrow raised, and one eyebrow lowered.

BANANA

But guys are ... lots of things.

JUNE

My husband is devoted to me, and I love him. Everything's alright.

BANANA

Well, that's just luck. I know I'm not ready for that sort of thing. Heck, I know of forty year-olds who are still too immature to be married.

JUNE

Well, what you've gotta realize is that everyone is different. And you've gotta learn to tolerate people for their differences.

BANANA

Let's talk about something else. This topic creeps me out.

JUNE

(laughs)

And you make me laugh. Hey, I've never told anyone about this, but my culture also has a tradition called a "promise belt" ...

BANANA

What?

JUNE

We weave bark into a ...

RYONE wakes up.

JUNE
(nervous suddenly)
Well, look at the time! I have an appointment!
I'm sorry, Banana. I can't tell you anything
right now. I'm in a hurry.

RYONE sits at his seat, and begins drinking his tea.

RYONE
(to JUNE)
Hello. I'm Ryone.

JUNE
I'm June.

RYONE and JUNE bow to each-other.

JUNE
Banana. Take this. It's a book of Ainu myths.

JUNE gives a book to BANANA.

BANANA
Thank you ... but why?

JUNE
Please read it, okay?

BANANA
I will. Myths are cool! Talk to you later!

JUNE smiles, waves, then runs away.

BANANA waves.

RYONE
What's with her?

BANANA
I don't know.

RYONE
Are you gonna read that book?

BANANA
Of course.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF PALETTE TOWN FERRIS WHEEL IN ODAIBA TOKYO - NIGHT

BANANA and RYONE sit on the top of this 115 meter tall ferris wheel, holding hands, and looking at the great view of Tokyo's Odaiba district.

RYONE leans toward BANANA for a kiss -- but she blocks him with her hand, and says ...

BANANA
Get your mind out of the gutter. This is a public place, Ryone -- it's inappropriate.

RYONE notices that all of the other people on the entire ride are young couples their age, who are kissing.

RYONE
But everyone's ...

BANANA's backpack starts moving.

RYONE
... everyone's ...
(confused)
What's up with your moving backpack, Banana?

BANANA
Doggie was asleep in my backpack; he enjoys the view from high altitudes.

BANANA takes off her backpack, and begins opening it.

DOGGIE emerges from the backpack and licks BANANA's face.

RYONE
Banana. Please put him back into your bag. I don't want to pay another 900 yen.

DOGGIE notices RYONE.

DOGGIE bares his teeth at RYONE, growls, and leaps towards RYONE's face.

RYONE
DOWN, BOY!

RYONE dodges, and DOGGIE flies beside RYONE's face ... and falls.

BANANA
NO!!!
(screaming)
DOGGIE!!!

BANANA covers her eyes ... with RYONE's chest, as RYONE watches what WE DON'T SEE.

RYONE
Banana.

BANANA
Ryone, you're driving me crazy! And I can't start blaming myself for stuff ... so ... take the BLAME ... or I'll HATE you!

RYONE
Eep! Okay!
(raises three fingers)
I -- Ryone Hazuki -- take the blame. What now?

BANANA
Now ...
(crying)
... you have to leave me alone, Ryone. I want you out of my life. Don't call me, I'll call you.

RYONE
You will?

BANANA takes her head out of RYONE's chest.

BANANA
(raises three fingers up)
It's a promise. Besides, I know you saw an

angel rescue my dog.

RYONE

(nods)

He's signaling me to deny everything.

They laugh through their tears as they cry.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

MR. ONO presides over the class.

MR. ONO is a tall bald man who wears a ninja suit -- complete with black belt -- for some reason.

BANANA is a student.

MR. ONO

... and the author was so lazy that the title character had the same teacher when she was fourteen as when she was sixteen. And the author was also not good at math. For example: If she was fourteen in 2005, how could she be sixteen in 2008? Wait, maybe that does make sense if she alternates between different regional calendars.

BANANA raises her hand.

MR. ONO

What is it, Banana?

BANANA

Female hygiene.

MR. ONO

You're excused.

BANANA exits.

INT. LIBRARY, SCHOOL - MORNING

Many students sit at tables, reading books or doing activities.

Some students use internet terminals.

The girls have purses.

Most boys and girls have backpacks.

BANANA sits at a computer terminal, surfing the internet.
Her purse hangs on her chair.

BANANA
(thoughts, annoyed)
"If Ryone really loved me, why would he be
filling my e-mail box with so much crap? And
he probably wants me to read all of it too!"

MR. ONO enters the library and begins walking towards
BANANA.

MR. ONO -- now behind BANANA -- taps her shoulder. Her
back stiffens, and a fearful expression appears on her
face.

BANANA
Yikes!

MR. ONO
Turn around. Face me.

BANANA
The crap in my e-mail is no match for the crap
I'll get when I face you!

MR. ONO
Why didn't you return to the classroom?

BANANA
Too boring.

MR. ONO
You should pay attention to your teacher.
What are you looking for on the internet?

BANANA
Freedom from boredom.

MR. ONO
You're supposed to be in class, not playing on

the computer.

The intercom emits the PRINCIPAL'S VOICE.

PRINCIPAL'S VOICE

(from intercom)

To all staff and students. This is your principal speaking. We're always concerned for the safety of our students. And in the light of the recent school shootings in nearby towns, our school has just agreed to participate in a pilot project. So, within the next hour, ID badges will be handed out to every student. And effective immediately after you receive your badge, you will be required to wear your badge for the remainder of the school year.

BANANA

This is where the crap begins!

PRINCIPAL'S VOICE

(from intercom)

Also, as an added safety measure, all backpacks, fanny packs, purses, and bags of any sort, will be subject to random searches, and will only be allowed in the halls before the first class of the day, and after the last class of the day. So therefore, when you arrive at school in the morning, you must bring your bags directly to your locker. And when you leave school in the afternoon, you must bring your bag directly to the nearest exit. They will not be allowed in the hallway during the school day. And this is partly because of crowding.

BANANA

(screams)

Fuck me with teh sword of violation!

MR. ONO

Language!

BANANA

Fuck you, Mr. Ono! Your job is to educate, not over-protect!

MR. ONO

Actually, it's both.

BANANA

Without purses, it becomes extremely obvious to everyone when a girl's ... it's embarrassing! And the breaks between classes are already too short for anything! Without my backpack or purse ... OH NOES! There won't be time for the washroom, communicating with friends! It's just directly to the locker between every class! School, thy leash has tightened! Why must we be imprisoned by your crappy new rules!? I never shot anyone, so don't imprison me! But if you imprison me with these unfair new rules, it will surely drive me to go on a fucking killing spree!

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

BANANA -- wearing a new ID card on a string that hangs from her neck -- stands in this hallway, holding two heavy buckets of water.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL, FRONT LAWN - MORNING

Many boys and girls walk towards the school, wearing new ID cards that hang from their necks on strings.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who isn't wearing her ID card.

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who has her backpack beside her desk.

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who is wearing a purse.

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who is wearing a fanny-pack.

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who sits at her desk with a big confident smile on her face.

MR. ONO enters the room, looks at BANANA in amazement.

BANANA

Although Ryone doesn't in any way deserve the hostile actions that are about to befall him, it'll sure test him!

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA -- with messy hair, and wearing pajamas -- lays on a couch, playing a video game.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN

Why aren't you at school?

BANANA

Jack expelled me again for another stupid thing.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN confronts MR. ONO in the classroom after school.

MRS. CHAN

What's your excuse this time, jerk!?

MR. ONO

Ko, it's been years. You're still ravishing.

MRS. CHAN

Why'd you expel Banana!?

MR. ONO

Please be my guest for a nice dinner -- I'll explain it to you.

MRS. CHAN's swift fist crushes MR. ONO's face.

As MR. ONO falls to the ground, he murmurs in pain ...

MR. ONO
I won't press charges.

MRS. CHAN
Wimp. Even my daughter was brave enough
to press charges on a guy who in no way deserves it.

WIPE TO:

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM, POLICE DEPARTMENT - AFTERNOON

RYONE is interrogated by a police officer named SGT. NOISE.

RYONE
Wait -- since when can a person get charged
for sending love letters? Isn't that inhumane?
Yes, it's cruel and unusual punishment!
Police brutality!

SGT. NOISE
I've seen how long some of the notes were. I
didn't read them, but I assume the worst. If
you persist in trying to communicate with her,
you'll be charged with harassment.

RYONE
Writing them was escape from an abusive family.

SGT. NOISE
It's still unwanted communication.

RYONE
You're harassing me. In fact, everyone except
her, interrupts my thoughts of her, and is
therefore guilty of harassment!

SGT. NOISE
Well, she complained. So it's up to me to
decide whether or not to lay charges. I don't
like to charge people. A criminal record can
wreck your future, and even restrict you from
travel. I believe in giving people a chance. So
I won't charge you, but you are to end all

unwanted communications with her, or I WILL charge you. The oness is on you.

RYONE

If I'm supposed to end all "unwanted communications" with her, then I'll just have to find out what a "wanted communication" with her is.

SGT. NOISE

I didn't make myself clear. If she reports ANY contact from you, you WILL be charged.

RYONE

But I love her, and I know that we'd be great together!

SGT. NOISE

And if she communicates with you, call me.

RYONE

Why?

SGT. NOISE

She threatened to charge you. It's only fair that you have that power.

RYONE

I'd never charge her. Hell, I'm not even mad at her for getting you to talk to me. She just did it because she's a dork. Hey, do you have a definition of harassment?

SGT. NOISE

Harassment is unwelcome behavior that degrades, demeans, humiliates, or embarrasses a person, and that a reasonable person should have known would be unwelcome.

RYONE

Well, she's not only a dork, but she's also a brat, and a flake. And if calling her a dork, a brat, and a flake, at times when she's being one or all of those things, degrades or demeans her, then what happened to freedom of speech?

SGT. NOISE

A reasonable person would have known that it would be unwelcome.

RYONE

By what "reasonable" methods can I introduce her to the "real me" and let her know how much I love her?

SGT. NOISE

Drop it.

RYONE

I can't. And you'll understand when you see the face which makes you a believer.

SGT. NOISE

You're just a dumb kid. And I had enough difficulties with my own dumb kids until I sent them to this one hard labor camp up north. In fact, that's your punishment. Hard labour up north, until November of 2008.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN, wearing pajamas, sit on the couch, playing video games, while a small radio in the room emits a news broadcast ...

RADIO

And now some news for local high school students. When a girl named Banana Chan got expelled for breaking the controversial new ID and bag rules, her bravery inspired spontaneous protests in the form of all the students arranging over a social networking site on the internet to skip school today in contention of the rule that got their comrade expelled. The protest was a success. There are absolutely no students in the halls today. And it forced the hand of the school board. An immediate vote by the board has lifted the bag ban and the ID rule. It has also been announced that Banana Chan's expulsion has been lifted and has been removed from her

permanent record along with all of her previous violations of school rules in recognition of her heroic protest. At a pep-rally, the school principal will appear with Banana this afternoon where he will formally beg her forgiveness for the school's inadequacies in this situation.

BANANA

Oh yeah, I was supposed to go to that pep rally, but I'd rather play video games. Can I stay home from school today?

MRS. CHAN

Yeah.

BANANA and MRS. CHAN break into spontaneous laughter.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

MR. ONO writes something on the board.

All of the students have bags, purses, and no IDs ... except BANANA; she wears her ID, and she does not have her purse, and she does not have her bag. She just has a big smile on her face while she says ...

BANANA

I want cheese!

All the students look at her.

MR. ONO

What?

BANANA starts laughing.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

DATE ON SCREEN

November, 2008.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAIN HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

The schoolyard is empty.

Through windows, we see silhouettes of classes that are already in session.

One girl - BANANA CHAN (age 16) - is late.

BANANA CHAN (age 16) is 5'6", with shoulder-length dyed-blond hair with orange roots. She's cute with orange eyebrows, big green eyes, and a tiny bit of freckles over the bright skin tone of her youthful face.

During the following monologue, we watch BANANA as she frantically runs across the schoolyard, towards the front doors.

BANANA'S VOICE

Hey! I'm Banana! I'm also awesome! I'm sixteen, and I go to Rain High School, on a regular basis, but I'm beyond help. I can only get bad marks. Aww, poor me! So I'm feeling kind of down. But don't feel too bad about me. I believe in destiny. When I was a little brat, I had a friend named Boden. We loved each-other, and believed it was our destiny to get married. But I had to move, and I've never seen Boden at all since then. It really bugs me. But with that being said, I still believe in destiny. I still believe we'll re-meet someday. At least, I hope so anyway.

Still running, BANANA enters the school by smashing through a closed door, leaving a hole that looks like her body.

CUT TO:

INT. RAIN HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

MR. ONO presides over the class.

BANANA sleeps on her desk.

The female students wear "sailor-scout" school-uniforms, and the male students wear "black-suit" school-uniforms. [The outdated uniforms are meant as homage to the animé "Sailor Moon".]

MR. ONO

The AIDS cure is an herb called Sutherlandia Frutescens. The cancer cure is a mix of baking soda and apricot kernels. But nutrition is key. Ninety percent of your diet must be vegetables. The other ten percent can include fruits and meat, and whatever else you like.

(pause)

Banana Chan. Are you listening? This is important!

BANANA CHAN wakes up, smiles at MR. ONO, and says ...

BANANA

Sorry. I was dreaming about ... goddamnit, you asshole, you made me forget my dream!

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA's class plays baseball.

BANANA sits on the bench with other girls ... she overhears a conversation between two girls, named KAGOME and SARENA.

KAGOME

I had a conversation with him, and he was really funny.

SARENA

Really? I like funny!

KAGOME

Yeah, really. Really funny.

SARENA

Well, he's also confident. I saw him give a speech in front of ...

KAGOME

Yeah, he is confident! I mean, just the way he
...

SARENA
He's working at the candy store today after
school.

KAGOME
Are you going?

SARENA
Can't. Baby-sitting.

KAGOME
I can't either. Shy.

They laugh.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS
(voice-over)
"A boy who works at the candy store, eh?
Well, I might as well go check him out."

CUT TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

BANANA brings a pile of candies to JAMES at the cash-
register.

JAMES ALYN (age 17) has short black hair with purple
highlights.

He wears ONLY tight black sweatpants, and a red bandanna.
He has a foot-long scar across his shirtless chest.

JAMES
Is this everything?

BANANA faints.

Annoyed, JAMES sweeps her onto a pile of fainted girls.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

In the moon-light, surrounded by forest, with a light-house sticking up in the backdrop, BANANA sits on a rock, dips her toes into the pond, and ponders.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

(voice-over)

"I've been coming to this pond, on a regular basis, ever since my dog died, two years ago. I come here to think and meditate. I'm weird that way. This place has special meaning to my mom, so she lets me come here in the middle of the night, even though it makes me need to sleep on my desk in school."

CUT TO:

DESCRIPTION OF MAISON CHAN:

MAISON CHAN, the dwelling of BANANA CHAN and MRS. CHAN, has a BASEMENT, a MAIN FLOOR, and a SECOND FLOOR.

The BASEMENT includes a REC-ROOM, and proper toilet and shower facilities. The BASEMENT REC-ROOM is called a rec-room, simply because it contains an extra TV. The couch facing the TV has a fold-out double-bed. However, the so-called REC-ROOM is only used to store boxes that are filled with a variety of odds-and-ends.

The MAIN FLOOR has a LAUNDRY ROOM, an EMPTY ROOM, a KITCHEN, a LIVING-ROOM, proper toilet and shower facilities, and a BUDDHIST ALTAR ROOM. In the KITCHEN, a small ten-inch TV/radio hangs at eye-level above the sink, so that TV can be watched during dish-washing. The LIVING-ROOM features a couch, lamp, coffee-table, and TV. In the middle of the BUDDHIST ALTAR ROOM is a long, low table, upon which is set a TV and many video game consoles. The TV faces the altar, so that the altar is behind players' backs. The altar itself has been cleared-off for a perfectly clean DDR mat; otherwise, there are coffee-stains, and remnants of snacks, around the mat on the altar. Board game pieces, magazines, and snack remnants, are strewn about the floor.

The SECOND FLOOR has proper toilet and shower facilities, Mrs. Chan's MASTER-BEDROOM, a GUEST ROOM, a STORAGE

ROOM, and BANANA'S BEDROOM. Mrs. Chan's MASTER-BEDROOM is fully-equipped, including an awesome computer, a balcony, and a LARGE hot-tub. Boy-band posters, dating back to 1997, tile the yellow, banana-patterned wallpaper in BANANA'S BEDROOM. She has a lime-green carpet, and a closet that's always open, overflowing with sweaters, jeans, and shoes, et cetera. Barely any dresses, and the dresses she has, have very long skirts. Her "sailor scout" school uniform is hung neatly on a hanger, that's held in place by a nail, on the wall beside her bed.

She has desk with a mirror, and a set of dresser-drawers. She has a walkman, a Discman, an MP3 player, and about fifty tapes, fifteen CDs, and a dozen memory cards, all piled beside the head of her bed. She doesn't have her own computer of any sort. She has a large window which she can open and climb onto the roof-top. The SECOND-FLOOR GUEST ROOM is empty except for a bed, a desk/drawer set, and a closet.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN eat their breakfast-cereal.

MRS. CHAN, (age 38) is a normal, average-looking woman. She's 6'4", with black hair, and orange eyebrows over her bright green eyes.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

(voice-over)

"I just got home from the pond, and it's time for breakfast. Then I'll go to school, and get my sleep. I also nap after school because those pesky teachers wake me up sometimes."

MRS. CHAN

Ryone called yesterday.

BANANA gets an annoyed expression on her face ... at which MRS. CHAN laughs.

Freeze-frame.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

"Here's where my life gets complicated. Just like how I believe I'm destined to end up with

Boden, Ryone believes he's destined to end up with me. To make matters worse, my mom likes Ryone. To make matters much worse, I'm arranged to marry Ryone. It's true, and top-secret. Ryone doesn't know about the arrangement. And he won't know until we're both eighteen. So who's behind the arrangement? The government. The government is the bane of my existence. More specifically, two companies that do contracts for the government. My dad works for one of those companies, and Ryone's dad works for the other of those companies. At least, that's what I've been led to believe. But anyway, I know about the arrangement because my mom doesn't like to keep secrets. And she's not really my mom. As I said: complicated. But you'll catch on soon enough."

Unfreeze-frame.

BANANA

What did you tell him?

MRS. CHAN

I told him to call back.

BANANA

What a kick to the head.

END OF EPISODE.