"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x07

What Makes Me Smile

By Alan Holman

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BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN November, 2008.

EXT. PATH IN TOWN-SIDE FOREST - NIGHT [DREAM]

BANANA (age 16) kicks pebbles as she walks on the path.

She looks at the sky, just in time to see a shooting star.

BANANA

I'd wish ...

RYONE'S VOICE

I love you.

BANANA

Don't talk to me, Ryone!

RYONE'S VOICE

I love you.

BANANA

LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!!!

CUT TO:

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL - MORNING

MR. ONO presides over the class -- he draws a Japanese character on the board.

MR. ONO

Hayao Miyazaki was seventeen when he saw Taiji Yabushita's colorful expression called "Legend of the White Serpent" in 1958; thus, from its humble beginnings, animé has always inspired its master film-maker, namely Miyazaki, whose first major motion picture, "Castle of Cagliostro", opened nation-wide twenty-one years later, in 1979.

He draws another Japanese character on the board.

MR. ONO

Where would you put the comma in this sentence? Banana Chan, are you sleeping?

BANANA wakes up, and screams ...

BANANA

LEAVE ME ...!

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - MORNING

Sunbeams slip between clouds, and shine atop birds.

A forest surrounds three sides of the square shaped coastal town of Rain, Japan. This small square-shaped town is a friendly crowd of residential zones, schools, parks, malls, hospitals, districts of small businesses, dojos, shrines, and an east-side sea-port on the coast, et cetera. And it's all sprinkled with fallen autumn leaves.

BANANA'S VOICE ... THE HELL ALONE!

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

RYONE'S VOICE

If I believed in destiny, I wouldn't be trying so damn hard.

WIPE TO:

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA stands outside her classroom, holding two buckets of water beside the door, as MR. ONO talks to her.

MR. ONO

Banana. You're lucky I don't expel you for sleeping in class all the time. Stay here.

MR. ONO re-enters the classroom, slamming the door behind him.

WIPE TO:

INT. ARCADE - AFTERNOON

BANANA plays Dance Dance Revolution.

MR. ONO enters the arcade, and stands beside her.

MR. ONO

Banana.

BANANA makes a startled noise, and almost falls.

WIPE TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

JAMES ALYN stands behind the counter.

BANANA enters.

JAMES

Hey there! How may I sweeten your day?

BANANA blushes, smiles, falls on the floor, stands up, wipes dust off herself, then she runs away, embarrassed.

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - DAWN

BANANA wakes as the morning's first sunbeam warms her pajamas.

BANANA smiles, stands, stretches, then walks within the sunbeam, and steps, through her open window, onto the rooftop outside.

WIPE TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

JAMES ALYN is behind the counter.

BANANA enters with flowers.

BANANA

That horrible gash reminds me of red Christmas lights. I like red Christmas lights!

JAMES

It's a scar, actually.

BANANA

How'd you get that horrible scar?

JAMES

It's a tattoo, actually.

BANANA

Yeah, I thought so.

BANANA gives the flowers to JAMES.

He takes the flowers, and puts them on a meter-high pile of flowers and cards.

JAMES

Thank you, sweetie.

He kisses her cheek.

She blushes, smiles, falls on the floor, stands up, wipes dust off herself, kisses him on the lips as hearts circle around their joined heads, then runs away embarrassed.

Then, she faints atop a large pile of fainted schoolgirls.

WIPE TO:

INT. PUBLIC REST-ROOM - AFTERNOON

BANANA holds a resumé, looks at her reflection in the mirror, and she practices for a conversation.

BANANA

Hey, James! Funny story: I haven't had any candy or chocolaty goodness since I first saw you at this town's only candy store, because thinking about you makes me weak in the knees ... and shy. So yeah, here's my

resumé, and show your manager, so he can hire me, and we can work together!

WIPE TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

JAMES ALYN stands behind the counter.

BANANA enters with a bouquet of flowers.

BANANA

What's your full name?

JAMES

James Alyn. Why do you ask?

BANANA

Because, James Alyn, you're very hot.

JAMES smiles, and makes a nervous noise -- almost a laugh.

BANANA

Here are some flowers.

He takes the flowers, sniffs them, then puts them on a large pile of flowers and cards.

JAMES

Thanks, girl. Y'know, for conversation sake, I actually have a favorite flower. Yeah, I know what you're thinking: what kind of guy likes flowers? Well, there's a story behind it, but my favorite flowers are Morning Glories ... not these cheap, fake flowers, that you've been giving me.

He kisses her cheek.

She blushes, smiles, falls on the floor, stands up, wipes dust off herself, kisses him on the lips as hearts circle around their joined heads, then she runs away, embarrassed.

Then, she faints atop a large pile of fainted schoolgirls.

A clock shows time drag for a few hours. All the stores in the mall close.

The girls stand up, brush dust off themselves, and all of them exit the mall in an orderly fashion.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SAKURA PARK - AFTERNOON

BANANA folds her resumé into a paper air-plane, and throws it into a garbage can.

WIPE TO:

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

The stars in the sky illuminate the sides of a nighttimerainbow which shines its colors upon BANANA's hair as she lays on her back, in the middle of the field.

BANANA

James Alyn is soooo HOT! I shall give him a nickname: Sweatpants Bandanna!

The moon begins to slowly reveal itself from behind the nighttime-rainbow.

THE MOON

You must not dream of him, Banana.

BANANA

The moon doesn't talk, so I must be sleeping.

THE MOON

I only talk when I have something important to say.

BANANA

Good plan.

THE MOON

Sweatpants is not your destiny; it's just a crush.

She laughs, shaking her head twitchily with her laughter.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN uses her pinky finger to curl her hair across her cheeks.

She watches a television, that is above the sink, while she washes the dishes.

NEWSCASTER

Thousands of people, hemisphere-wide, switched, from wearing sweatpants, to dressing in more-fashionable cargo-pants, jeans, party-pants, or dress-pants, as the moon, which has, until now, been long believed an inanimate asteroid, made a cryptic decree against the likes of sweatpants.

BANANA enters the room, laughing, and kisses her mother.

MRS. CHAN turns the television off.

MRS. CHAN

Where were you last night?

BANANA

I fell asleep in the middle of a field.

MRS. CHAN

You could catch a cold.

BANANA

Yeah. I won't go to the pond tonight. I'll just sleep at a normal time.

MRS. CHAN

Do as you will.

WIPE TO:

INT. WEDDING CHAPEL - DAY [DREAM]

BANANA -- wearing a wedding dress -- and RYONE -- wearing a tuxedo -- stand before a PRIEST.

PRIEST

You may now kiss the bride.

BANANA runs away.

RYONE chases her.

RYONE

Banana!

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - DAWN

BANANA wakes up.

BANANA

I wonder why I have dreams like that. I know they can't really mean anything. I'm not hallucinating, am I? I don't know what anymore. I've gotta get over this Ryone crisis, before it drives me totally crazy.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN

Banana. Are you finally up? Do you feel better? Darling let me feel your forehead.

BANANA

Oh mom, I'm fine.

MRS. CHAN

Fine?

MRS. CHAN feels BANANA's forehead.

MRS. CHAN

You're burning up. You're not going anywhere. Especially if you want to go to the mall tomorrow.

BANANA

But mom! I wanna see my friends! I was supposed to go over to Alicia's house! They're waiting for me. We were gonna go to the mall.

MRS. CHAN

Well Alicia and Vikki can come over here, and you can play by the koi pond, alright?

BANANA

Mom. In case you haven't noticed, I've grown up. We don't play anymore.

MRS. CHAN

Well, do whatever you do then. Probably talk about boys, right?

BANANA

Most of the guys I know act pretty dorky.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - DAWN

BANANA chats on the phone with her friend VIKKI.

VIKKI'S VOICE

What's the matter, kiddo?

BANANA

Oh, it's nothing. Mom's just makin' a fuss 'cause I guess I got a little fever.

VIKKI'S VOICE

Banana. It's freakin' dawn. Don't call me this early unless it's an emergency.

BANANA

Oops. I'm sorry, Vikki. I'm too distracted lately.

VIKKI'S VOICE

Ryone?

BANANA

Yeah.

VIKKI'S VOICE

I understand. It's okay, Banana. Call me whenever you want, even at three in the morning. I love you, my friend.

BANANA

Thanks. I love you too, my friend.

VIKKI'S VOICE

Go outside, and find something to make you

smile.

BANANA

Good advice. Thanks.

WIPE TO:

EXT. CAT SHRINE - DAWN

The Buddhist "Cat Shrine" is between two houses, in a small residential neighborhood.

The shrine consists of two statues of actual-sized cats, on either side of an altar with ornaments which honor the cat spirit, and before the altar is a spot for kneeling, and a platform where one may make offerings to the cat spirit. Jars of cat food fill the platform.

Beside the shrine, BANANA CHAN plays with a small blue cat named 937. She shakes his paw. He rolls around as she rubs his belly. She dangles a string in front of him, which he plays with.

BANANA

I figured out what makes me smile!

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN sits on the couch, eating a banana.

BANANA enters, with 937 sitting on her shoulder.

BANANA

Meet my kitty minion!

MRS. CHAN

You can't keep him.

BANANA

Yes I can!

MRS. CHAN

Don't you remember what happened to Doggie?

BANANA

Mom ... Catty won't suffer a tragic fate like Doggie's fall two years ago.

937

(thoughts, voice-over)
"Tragic fate?"

MRS. CHAN

Okay, keep him.

BANANA

(exuberant)

Boo-Yah!

937 looks nervous.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. CAR/ROAD - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN drives. BANANA is the passenger.

MRS. CHAN

Ryone called.

BANANA

Dang.

MRS. CHAN

I said "hello", but he thought I was you, so he said some very interesting things.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN [FLASHBACK]

MRS. CHAN answers the phone.

MRS. CHAN

Hello?

RYONE'S VOICE

I still love you since the first time I saw you, years ago! I love you, so it's dishonorable for me to pursue other girls until those feelings get resolved by dating or at least spending

ANY time together, or SOMETHING! So -- it's unfair, damn it! -- that you get to -- as you said -- "enjoy the freedom of being single" -- while I have to rot in the prison of being single! What you've called my obsession, I KNOW as my devotion, my moral conviction, my HONOR! I'd give anything to do anything with you! -- watch clouds, hang out at the arcade! It's no obstacle to your freedom to be with me! I idolize you! I want to ENABLE your whims! For as long as we've been apart, I've been falling apart, and ... (meek)

... you're Banana's mom, aren't you?

MRS. CHAN

Ryone?

RYONE'S VOICE (nervous)
Oops. Sorry. Uhh ...

RYONE hangs up on MRS. CHAN.

MRS. CHAN laughs.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

RYONE'S VOICE

After years of not seeing her at all anywhere, I had finally worked up the courage to call her on the telephone. And when I called, my hands shook more than my voice did. So many pent-up emotions spilled out in an awkward monologue. Lucky for me, she didn't even hear that awkward monologue. It was her mom who answered the phone. Over the phone, their voices sound a bit alike when they say the word: hello.

INT./EXT. CAR/ROAD - AFTERNOON

Same as before.

BANANA

What did Ryone say?

MRS. CHAN

(smiles)

It's a secret.

BANANA

You're keeping secrets for a boy who's hitting on me?

MRS. CHAN

Yes.

BANANA

Well, cut it out, okay?

MRS. CHAN

You keep ignoring Ryone.

BANANA

I can ignore who-ever I want; it's my life.

MRS. CHAN

You're persistent about James for the same reason Ryone's persistent about you; it's called "love."

BANANA

How'd you know about James?

MRS. CHAN

I'm sorry. Your diary was left open on your bed when I went in to get your laundry.

BANANA

THAT'S PRIVATE!

MRS. CHAN

I'm sorry. I only read that page. It won't happen again \dots

(laugh)

... unless you leave it open where I can see it again.

BANANA mutters something under her breath.

The car arrives in the parking lot of a mall.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. MALL - AFTERNOON

BANANA (age 16) talks with her friend MINAKO (age 16).

For the hell of it, I'll describe BANANA again ...

BANANA CHAN (age 16) is 5'6", with shoulder-length dyedblonde 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.

MINAKO

It's weird to run into you in the mall.

BANANA

Agreed.

MINAKO

I haven't seen you anywhere after our little club broke up.

BANANA

That was two years ago.

MINAKO

I want you to know that I'm not mad at you anymore.

BANANA

(shrugs)

No worries.

MTNAKO

What school are you going to now?

BANANA

Rain ...

MINAKO's cell-phone rings.

MINAKO

Hold that thought.

MINAKO answers her cell phone.

BANANA

I've gotta go anyway. Talk to you later.

BANANA walks towards an arcade.

BUSTER CHAN approaches BANANA.

BUSTER CHAN (age 6), at 2'10", has messy hair that's been dyed brown, over his orange eyebrows, and a wardrobe which features personified-car parts called SqueegiMon; for example, his shirt features an animé character named "Tire the tire."

BUSTER tugs urgently on BANANA's skirt, asking...

BUSTER

Granny?

BANANA

Oh no, some twerp did not just call me "grannie"! Grrrr ...

The little boy tugs on her skirt again.

BUSTER

Granny?

Her eyes turn red, and an angry expression appears on her face as her shoulders raise.

The little boy tugs on her skirt again.

BUSTER

Granny?

She tenses up some more.

BANANA

I dare you to say that again, twerp!

The little boy tugs on her skirt again.

BUSTER

Granny?

She turns around, and picks him up, and throws him into the wall.

Then suddenly, at the sight of the little boy in pain, all signs of her anger disappear, and she runs to his aid.

BANANA

Sorry! Oh sorry, sorry, sorry, little boy! Are you alright!?!

WIPE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

BANANA -- carrying the bleeding little unconscious boy named

BUSTER -- runs toward a NURSE.

NURSE

I'll handle it from here.

The nurse takes BUSTER.

NURSE

(to BANANA)

Are you his mom?

BANANA

(angrily)

T'M SIXTEEN!

NURSE

Sorry. I didn't know.

BANANA raises her fist, and grits her teeth.

The nurse giggles nervously.

WIPE TO:

INT. BEDROOM, HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

BUSTER lies on a bed, sad, wearing his Tire SqueegiMon shirt on his chest, and a bandage on his head.

BANANA enters, holding a tire behind her back.

Frightened, BUSTER jumps behind blankets, in a corner of the room.

BUSTER

Stay away from me, Grandma, please!

BANANA raises her fists as her face turns red with angry rage, and she yells...

BANANA

GRANDMA!?!

As a nervous, accidental reflex, she tosses the tire at him.

The tire hurts him badly.

She faints.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATH IN TOWN-SIDE FOREST - NIGHT [DREAM]

BANANA kicks pebbles as she walks on the path.

She looks at the sky, just in time to see a shooting star.

In front of her, an average-looking Komodo Dragon named RITON appears in a bolt of lightning.

RITON

You've just saved the universe! I will grant you three wishes!

BANANA

Squee! You're such a cute dream-dragon! If this were real, and I actually had wishes, I'd want James to love me.

RITON

Granted!

BANANA

(laughs)

Sucker! That wasn't phrased as a wish!

RITON

Oops.

BANANA

But anyway, if this were real, I'd wish ...

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA wakes up on the couch ... because MRS. CHAN shoots her with a water-qun.

BANANA

Did I fall asleep?

MRS. CHAN

Yes. Ryone found you sleeping in a hospital room.

BANANA

Ryone plus me, equals not happening.

MRS. CHAN

He was performing funny skits for terminally ill orphans. Why were you at the hospital?

BANANA

There was a little boy. I accidentally hurt him.

MRS. CHAN

Is he alright?

BANANA

He'll be fine.

MRS. CHAN

Banana, you should have seen Ryone! He carried you home, and put you on the couch! (sigh)

He looked so chivalrous! I took pictures!

CUT TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

BANANA cuts photographs.

BANANA

Destroying the evidence, once and for all.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN sits at the table, eating a peach, as BANANA enters.

BANANA

Hey! It's allowance day, so pay up! Sixty billion double-dollars should cover it!

MRS. CHAN

No.

BANANA

Why not?

CUT TO:

INT. PACHINKO PARLOR - MORNING [FLASHBACK]

MRS. CHAN opens an envelope labeled "Banana's Allowance". The envelope contains 5000 Yen.

In a montage, MRS. CHAN plays pachinko until only fifty Yen are left in that envelope.

CUT TO:

INT. RAINBOW FOODS - MORNING [FLASHBACK]

MRS. CHAN approaches the PROPRIETOR of the store.

MRS. CHAN

Scratch 'n Win lotto ticket, please!

PROPRIETOR

Of course! That'll be fifty yen.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAINBOW FOODS - MORNING [FLASHBACK]

MRS. CHAN exits from the grocery store, carrying full bags.

She almost passes a VAGRANT who is in front of the store.

The VAGRANT is a 5'10", dirty, mop-haired, middle-aged man, who wears a crusty old hat over his orange hair, green eyes, and raggedy, booze-stinking, dirty-old, dark-green trench coat.

VAGRANT

Can you spare some change?

MRS. CHAN

Ok!

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

... same as before.

MRS. CHAN

I deferred your allowance to a vagrant again.

BANANA

WHA!? What a kick in the head. Why can't he just get a job?

MRS. CHAN

I could ask you the same question, Banana. Get a job.

BANANA

Oh noes! A jobby!

BANANA screams at the top of her lungs ...

BANANA

OH THE HUMANITY!!!

INT. STORE, MALL - AFTERNOON

BANANA works the cash register. No one else is in the store.

A CUSTOMER enters.

CUSTOMER

I need to use the toilet.

BANANA

Staff only.

CUSTOMER runs away.

BANANA

Loser.

The MANAGER enters, and gives BANANA an angry look.

MANAGER

Never call a customer a loser! You're fired!

BANANA

(begins crying)
I'm no good at this job!

MANAGER

Are you crying?

BANANA

(nods) Yes.

MANAGER

I'm sorry. I guess this is your first job. I didn't mean to be so harsh.

BANANA

S'okay.

(smiles)

I quit anyway ...

(with two fingers, she makes an "L"

shape on her forehead.)

... LOSER!

EXT. PRETTY LITTLE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

BANANA - wearing a white medical face-mask -- picks roses in

front of a pretty little house.

A kind old lady emerges from the house, and notices BANANA.

KIND OLD LADY

Why are you picking my roses?

BANANA sneezes in her mask.

KIND OLD LADY

Are they for a boy you like?

BANANA

Most likely.

KIND OLD LADY

Aren't you curious why my roses are still in bloom in November?

BANANA

Roses?

KIND OLD LADY

Yes. This whole neighborhood has warm soil because a super-secret deep underground military base has to vent heat from a ...

BANANA drops the roses she's already picked, and says ...

BANANA

James likes Morning Glories.

KIND OLD LADY

Morning Glories lose their bloom in the afternoon.

EXT. OLD SHOTGUN GRANNY'S FRONT YARD - DAWN

On a porch, old SHOTGUN GRANNY rocks in her rocking-chair, cleaning her shotgun.

SHOTGUN GRANNY looks down the barrel of her gun, towards

flower-garden, where BANANA - wearing a white medical face-mask - picks piles of Morning Glory. SHOTGUN GRANNY shoots a warning-shot into the air beside BANANA's head.

BANANA

Eep!

SHOTGUN GRANNY shoots -- BANANA ducks the shot in the nick of time.

BANANA takes all the flowers she can grab, and runs with them.

CUT TO:

INT. PUBLIC REST-ROOM - MORNING

BANANA - still wearing the white medical face-mask -- holds the flowers, looks at her reflection in the mirror, and practices.

BANANA

Hey James! Hiya, James! May I call you
Jim?

(sneeze)

Yes? -- well, that's cool, but I'd prefer to call you James, if you're okay with that. If you're not, that's totally cool also, Jim. Anyway, well I wanted you to have these flowers. (sneeze)

Why, you ask? Well, let me hold both of your hands and look into your eyes while I ... (sneeze)

WIPE TO:

INT. BEDROOM, HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

BUSTER wears a body-cast, as BANANA - wearing a white medical face-mask -- enters with withered Morning Glory flowers.

BANANA approaches him, drops the withered Morning Glory flowers onto BUSTER, then turns around to leave.

BUSTER

Wait!

BANANA stops in her tracks - takes off her mask to reveal an

oozing, gross mess, through which she gives BUSTER a warm smile, and asks ...

BANANA

What's up?

BUSTER

You attacked a helpless child! Tires are very heavy, y'know!?!

BANANA

(indignant)

Well, I thought you wanted one because you wear a picture of the Tire SqueegiMon on your shirt! So the tire was a gift because I felt sorry for you!

BUSTER

A gift?

BANANA

Yeah, I like SqueegiMon too. In fact, watching animé is how I de-stress. It was a toss-up between a tire toy, or the actual tire, actually.

BUSTER

Thank you! This is the BEST GIFT EVER!!!

BUSTER hugs BANANA ... even though he's wearing a body-cast.

BANANA

(animé "sweat-drop" cliché)
Whatever, buster.

BUSTER

(laughs)

"That's my name! Don't wear it out!"

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

RYONE'S VOICE

It's been one week since the hospital, longer since that phone call. Ever since Ponyo on a Cliff, the new Miyazaki movie, opened across all of Japan, months ago, I've been trying to find courage to ask her to go on a date with me, to see that movie.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN answers the phone.

MRS. CHAN

Hello?

RYONE'S VOICE

Wanna do something spontaneous?

MRS. CHAN

(laughs)
Like what?

RYONE'S VOICE

Wait a sec. You're not Banana. Oops. Sorry.

MRS. CHAN

(smiling)

Banana. It's the phone. Ryone wants to do something "spontaneous"!

BANANA enters.

BANANA

Hello?

RYONE'S VOICE

I accidentally said a line, that was meant for you, to your mother. I'm so sorry.

BANANA

What do you want?

RYONE'S VOICE

Your company for the afternoon. Have you seen Ponyo on a Cliff?

BANANA

Yes. Besides, I'm too busy this afternoon, to see a movie today.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

RYONE stands on the doorstep, and knocks on the door.

RYONE HAZUKI (age 16) is a 6', somewhat muscular (thin), black-eyed guy, with almost vampiric canine teeth, who wears baggy jackets over baggy shirts, ripped jeans, and a red head-band over his yellow baseball cap, and uncombed black-haired mullet.

BANANA answers the door.

RYONE

Yo.

BANANA

You insufferable jackass!

BANANA slams the door in his face.

MRS. CHAN opens the door.

MRS. CHAN

Ryone, I apologize for her temper.

RYONE

It's okay. She's cute when she's angry.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNSET, BEACH - EVENING

RYONE'S VOICE

"When I saw Banana Chan for the very first time two years ago, she was immediately the person I'd waited all my life to see, and I didn't even know I'd been waiting. But suddenly, in my heart, she became someone I'd risk my life to protect. She became family. It was overwhelming. Nothing in school, and none of the worthless cartoons I'd watched as a child, taught me how to keep cool around the girl who means everything to me. Banana's not the type of girl I'd have looked for, but everything I am KNOWS that she's the person whom I MUST protect, and care for, and comfort, and make laugh, and stuff, for all eternity. In other words, I love Banana. And that's why I must never give up."

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL - DAY

MR. ONO draws a Japanese character on the board.

BANANA picks at her hair as she sleeps at her desk, then she

wakes up...

BANANA

WHERE AM I?!!!!

MR. ONO

In class, Banana Chan.

BANANA

OH NO!!!!

She screams, falls beside her desk, cries.

MR. ONO

Banana. Out of curiosity, what were you dreaming about?

BANANA

Now in the dream, little green men -- closely related to the leprechaun -- come out of the ant hole to bring me matches! And the Fire God Jim-Bob-Bob tells me to burn cities! His name used to be Aujjviemflrcojvw Bowler or ... Ajadnlietndvsg Bowler ... but I had trouble pronouncing his first name.

Do you like those dreams more than you like this reality in which we live?

BANANA sinks her face down into her desk, in shame, and wipes tears from beneath her eyes.

BANANA

Yes.

(crying)

I'd rather be eating glazed doughnuts like a crazed dingo!

END OF EPISODE