

“BANANA CHAN”

EPISODE 1x01

The Emotion 16 Soldiers
VS
The Eater Of Worlds

PART 1 of 2

By Alan Holman

Copyright (c) 2018 by Alan Holman
newlegend2005@yahoo.ca
All Rights Reserved

BANANA CHAN: The First Episode

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
March, 2002.

WIPE TO:

INT./EXT. CAR, HIGHWAY - EVENING

MRS. CHAN drives.

MRS. CHAN, (age 32) is a normal, average-income woman. She's 6'4", with black hair, and orange eyebrows over her bright green eyes.

BANANA is the passenger.

BANANA (age 11) is 4'8" and almost tomboyish. She has blonde hair that goes half way down her back, orange eyebrows over green eyes, and a tiny bit of freckles that are barely visible.

MRS. CHAN

I wonder if anything at home has changed in those few years we've lived in Tokyo.

BANANA

I hope those girls who treated me badly got run over by a fleet of cement mixers!

MRS. CHAN

They won't even recognize you ... with your blonde hair, and your new name.

WIPE TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA wears a headband as the PRINCIPAL lectures her.

PRINCIPAL

Why do you refuse to remove that headband?

BANANA

It's my choice what I wear and when I wear it.

PRINCIPAL

If you don't remove that headband, I will have no choice but to expel you.

BANANA begins crying.

BANANA

(thoughts)

"No! I must be stronger than to cry because of damn stupid reasons like this."

PRINCIPAL

I'm going to count to three.

BANANA

Fine. But only because my head's getting hot.

BANANA removes the headband, revealing her orange eyebrows.

PRINCIPAL

Orange eyebrows under blonde hair means your hair has been dyed. The uniform policy says that students must wear their hair in their natural color while they attend our school.

INT. ARCADE - AFTERNOON

Three of BANANA's classmates -- YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI -- approach BANANA as she plays a puzzle game.

MINAKO

You're the new girl in our class at school!
Was your name Banana?

BANANA

(thoughts)

"Oh, like you don't know who I am. It was your bullying that made me move to Tokyo!"

MINAKO

We loved your headband.

YOSHI

That was really cool.

NOZOMI

Yeah, you were really cool!

BANANA looks confused, but shakes it off and says ...

BANANA

Yes, I am.

The girls laugh.

MINAKO

But it was also very brave of you, to wear that headband, because of our school's strict rules about wearing the proper school uniforms.

YOSHI

Yes, you were very brave!

NOZOMI

Very cool, and very brave!

BANANA

Thankies, but what do you girls want with me?

MINAKO

Be our friend!

The girls smile.

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BANANA lays awake on her bed, looking out the window, at the stars. While we listen to her thoughts, we also see flashbacks to BANANA and BODEN -- a thin, silver-haired boy -- enjoying games of tag, softball, and soccer.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

(sigh)

Although I'm glad to be home again, I want to

return to Tokyo, to be with Boden. I miss him. He was the only person I've ever been able to connect with and fully trust with everything. He was my best friend, and we were so cool together. This is where I'm from, and I feel like this is where I belong. I never felt like I belonged in Tokyo, yet Tokyo is where Boden is, and I can't explain it, but I feel like I belong with him. But he belongs there, and I belong here.

(sigh)

But I know that one day when we're older, he'll belong here, so he'll come here and he'll live with me, and he'll belong here with me, because we belong together.

(sigh)

Boden. In my darkest hour, you'll arrive on a white horse, and rescue me.

BANANA lays down with a smile on her face.

The smile turns to a frown.

BANANA

Darn it ... I can't sleep.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - NIGHT

BANANA and MRS. CHAN stand in front of the fridge, eating snacks.

MRS. CHAN

I can't sleep either.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOP OF LIGHTHOUSE, TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - DAWN

On the back of a lighthouse, a fire-ladder goes all the way to the roof. BANANA emerges from the top of the ladder, onto the roof.

BANANA lends a hand to help MRS. CHAN to emerge onto the roof as well.

On the highest point on the roof of the lighthouse, MRS. CHAN stands beside BANANA. MRS. CHAN puts her hand on BANANA's shoulder, causing both to smile.

MRS. CHAN
The town of Rain. Home.

BANANA
Sure. But I can't help feeling a little lost.

They look down on the town, seeing how it's basically a four mile long and four mile wide square-shaped town, with forests surrounding each side, except the east side where there's a sea-port.

For a brief moment, BANANA's eyes gaze down upon a nearby pond hidden in a nearby forest. Right beside the pond is a rock that's just big enough for someone to sit on it while dipping their toes into the pond.

MRS. CHAN
If old man Hazuki finds out we're on his lighthouse, we'll feel a little dead!

BANANA
If he tries anything, I swear to God, they will have to identify him by his dental records.

MRS. CHAN
Umm ... no.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - NOON

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, approach BANANA, who eats lunch at her desk.

MINAKO
Banana.

BANANA
What?

MINAKO holds up a folded piece of paper.

MINAKO

I've written a prediction on this piece of paper.

BANANA

A prediction?

MINAKO

Yes. Take it.

MINAKO gives the paper to BANANA.

MINAKO

Don't open it now. Open it later. Open it
when you're all alone.

BANANA

Okay.

The girls leave.

BANANA

(sigh)

Something about those girls freaks me out.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

BANANA sits on a bench, watching as small kids play soccer
in the field.

BANANA

I can't believe that I still haven't opened that
note. Why am I letting it get to me? Oh
yeah -- because if it's just the beginning of
their bullying again, do I really know if I
can handle it this time around?

BANANA takes the note out of her purse, and reluctantly
opens it up.

BANANA

(reading the note)

"If you betray the Emotion 16 Soldiers in any
way, then whenever you are empowered, and
in control of any aspect of your life, the fates
will grab that power and that control from you,
and you will be lead towards a sour and bitter
destiny."

BANANA laughs.

BANANA
(laughing)
It's just a childish prank! Those small-town losers haven't grown up, but I've spent the last few years in a big city, so I've grown enough that I can't be affected by this junk anymore!

BANANA crumbles up the note, and throws it into a nearby garbage can.

INT. HAIR SALON - AFTERNOON

BANANA looks at herself in a mirror. Her hair -- which goes half way down her back -- has returned to its natural color: orange.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
There's the Lacy I remember and recognize and adore.

BANANA
My name is still Banana.

MRS. CHAN
I'm sorry. I didn't realize that you were actually still serious about the name change.

BANANA
I am. You'll see that I'm serious about everything.

MRS. CHAN
One day you'll be serious about a boy.

BANANA
You've never been serious about a boy, so why should I have to?

MRS. CHAN slaps BANANA's face.

MRS. CHAN
I'm sorry.

BANANA

So am I.

MRS. CHAN

I'll never slap you again.

BANANA

No. It's okay. I understand.

MRS. CHAN

No you don't.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN eat breakfast.

MRS. CHAN gives an envelope to BANANA, and says ...

MRS. CHAN

You've got mail. The return address is the school, and it says on the envelope that it's from ... just the letter "A" in quotation marks. I wonder what it could be.

BANANA

So do I.

BANANA opens the envelope.

BANANA

(reads the letter)

"Dear Banana. You may call me A. Aside for other members of the Emotion 16 Soldiers, you may only share our secrets with up to one family member who you trust. Otherwise, you have betrayed us. And you know what happens to people who betray us."

MRS. CHAN

What happens to people who betray them?

BANANA

I forget. There was a note about it earlier at school, but I chucked it into the garbage. This is meaningless bullplop anyway.

MRS. CHAN

Yes, but someone obviously wants you to be their friend, so my advice is that you should play along with this childish game and have fun!

BANANA

Do you know anything about this that you're not telling me?

MRS. CHAN

No, of course not. But it does just seem like it's some sort of childish game. Someone who saw your headband probably thought that you were cool, and they want you to join their little club, and I think that's great! Join it -- whatever it is -- and play with any kid who wants to play with you, and enjoy yourself!

BANANA

Okay.

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA approaches YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI.

BANANA

What's the dealio with the Emotion 16
Soldiers?

MINAKO

Hey, your hair's all orange!

BANANA

Yes, it is.

MINAKO

I almost didn't recognize you.

BANANA

I'm still that new girl.

MINAKO

Yeah. But now we can't call you Banana anymore. Hey, was Banana just a nickname because you had blonde hair, or is it your real name?

BANANA

Please continue to call me Banana.

MINAKO

Okay. Is that your real name?

BANANA

Actually, it's my pen-name for a book I'm writing about Zombies who go on a quest to find the Holy Grail.

MINAKO

That's cool.

BANANA

Yes. It's a great deal of fun. So -- as I asked -- what's the dealio with the Emotion 16 Soldiers?

MINAKO

The "dealio" is that you are now a member.

BANANA

What if I don't want to be a member?

MINAKO

If you don't want to be a member, then you've betrayed us, and the fates will punish you.

BANANA

I don't like ultimatums, and I don't like people who give me ultimatums either. Besides, where ultimatums are concerned, it's a stupid one anyway. Emotion 16 Soldiers sounds like something that you might say to a little kid to torture her into thinking that she's being excluded from something, so that she'll want to join, and then you can just pull a prank on her or something. Well sisters, I don't want to play your childish game, so leave me the hell alone!

INT. CLASSROOM, SCHOOL - NOON

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, approach BANANA who eats lunch at her desk.

YOSHI

Don't be mad at us, Banana. We're really your friends.

BANANA

Go away.

NOZOMI

No Banana, listen: our methods of recruiting need a bit of fine-tuning, that's all, but we're really just trying to be your friend.

BANANA

Recruiting?

MINAKO

You're the newest member of the Emotion 16 Soldiers.

BANANA

Like I said: I don't want to join your group, so leave me alone.

MINAKO

But like I said: If you don't want to join us, then you've betrayed us.

BANANA

That is a threat or an ultimatum. It's also stupid. I don't want anything to do with you, or your so-called Soldiers. Sayonara.

BANANA stands up, and walks away.

The girls follow BANANA into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - NOON

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, follow BANANA as she walks down the hall.

BANANA turns around, and says ...

BANANA

Why are you creepy girls following me now? I said I don't want anything to do with you, so

leave me alone.

MINAKO

We can't leave you alone.

BANANA

Why not?

MINAKO

Because you have a power.

BANANA

And you have ... a stupid!

MINAKO

I'm serious, Banana. You have a power that no one else has, and that power is needed by our team, or else we won't be able to save the solar system!

BANANA

Like I said: You have a stupid.

YOSHI

A series of random monsters is about to arise. One per week, twenty six weeks per year. From a portal on a pyramid in Egypt. And then, the reptilian shape-shifters from Orion, who fear the power of human love, will send their biggest critter, the "Eater of Worlds", to threaten the entire solar system! And when that happens, we'll need you, and your awesome power, the most. Banana Chan, you're our only hope!

BANANA

(laughs)

Yeah, because you're hopeless!

YOSHI

I'm serious! Certain monsters will emerge, and only our powers, that all humans have if they wake up, can stop them!

BANANA

I don't see any monsters. Which one of you is the leader?

MINAKO

Our leader goes by the letter "A", and she's not here right now. Why do you ask anyway?

BANANA

Let me leave a message for "A".

MINAKO

Okay.

BANANA

(screaming)

LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!

BANANA runs out a door to the school-yard.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EXT. SCHOOL-YARD - NOON

BANANA exits from the school.

BANANA

I've gotta get away from those crazy people.

BANANA runs ...

... and bumps into KING KONG's giant foot.

She looks up at the gigantic KING KONG who beats his chest while grunting a war cry.

BANANA

Eep!

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, arrive.

YOSHI points at KING KONG, and shouts ...

YOSHI

Love!

Hearts zoom out of YOSHI's hand, towards KING KONG. He picks up BANANA, and kisses her.

BANANA

YUCK!

YOSHI

Oops!

MINAKO points at KING KONG, and shouts ...

MINAKO

Hate!

A black beam shoots from MINAKO's hand, into KING KONG's chest.

KING KONG angrily throws BANANA towards the ocean ...

... BANANA skips a few times on the surface of the water, then she sinks into the ocean.

WIPE TO:

EXT. OCEAN, AFTERNOON

BANANA swims towards the beach, while thinking.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

When I was thrown, my entire life flashed before my eyes. Especially times when those girls picked on me and I didn't fight back, I didn't stand up for myself.

EXT. BEACH - AFTERNOON

From the ocean, BANANA swims to shore, where she's greeted by YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI.

NOZOMI has a towel that she gives to BANANA. BANANA wraps the towel around her body. The towel absorbs a lot of water from BANANA's soaked body. Then, with her left hand, BANANA grabs a corner of the towel, twirls it until it's tightly wound, and she whips NOZOMI across the side of her right leg with the tag on the corner of the other side of the towel; it actually rips a marble-sized chunk of skin out of NOZOMI's left leg.

NOZOMI shrieks while losing balance and clutching her wound while falling to the ground.

NOZOMI begins crying in pain.

MINAKO

Banana, you psychotic fool! Why'd you attack
Nozomi!?

BANANA

Because a few years ago, before I moved to
Tokyo, I was Lacy -- remember me!?

The girls gasp in sudden recognition and realization.

BANANA

That's right. Nozomi nearly killed me when
she pressed my face into the snow!

YOSHI

That was a long time ago! We were dumb
kids!

BANANA

Not being able to see anything! Not being
able to breathe! I thought I was going to die!
It was the scariest minute of my life!

BANANA twirls the heavy wet towel around her head again,
and whips NOZOMI's left leg with the sharp tag, ripping
out a marble sized chunk of skin.

Now NOZOMI's cries turn to unbearable howls as her loss of
blood accelerates.

BANANA

Yoshi. Do you remember that time you
attacked me at that mud puddle?

YOSHI

(reluctant, afraid)
Y-yes.

BANANA unleashes a few dozen brutal punches all over
YOSHI's face and body.

YOSHI falls to the ground, clutching wounds and wailing.

MINAKO turns around and starts to run away, but BANANA gives chase.

BANANA

You're not gonna get away, Minako!
Remember that time when you lied to your friends mom and caused her to attack me?

MINAKO

Those were different times!

BANANA

Fuck you!

BANANA catches up to MINAKO, trips MINAKO so MINAKO falls face-first into the sand. MINAKO rolls over, but BANANA leaps towards her ...

MINAKO

Nooooo!

... and both of BANANA's feet land right on the middle of MINAKO's stomach.

BANANA jumps on MINAKO's stomach, about five times, as if MINAKO's stomach is a trampoline. Then BANANA bounds off of MINAKO's stomach.

As a winded MINAKO folds into a fetal position, sobbing in just audible gusts of wind, BANANA stands before the three injured girls, and asks ...

BANANA

Why the hell was there a giant King Kong?
And what was with him throwing me into the ocean?

NOZOMI shouts ...

NOZOMI

Fuck off!

BANANA runs towards NOZOMI. NOZOMI's eyes widen. BANANA knees NOZOMI in the nose. NOZOMI falls backwards onto the sand, bleeding from nose and legs into the sand.

BANANA

This may have been overly violent, but fuck it -- I'm done with not standing up for myself! From this point on, no one messes with Banana Chan and gets away with it!

WIPE TO:

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

NOZOMI, with bandages on her legs and face, stands on the doorstep, and rings the doorbell.

MRS. CHAN answers.

MRS. CHAN

Hello.

NOZOMI

Hi. Is Banana here?

MRS. CHAN

What happened to you? You look terribly injured.

NOZOMI swallows a lump of saliva, and says.

NOZOMI

I got what I deserved.

MRS. CHAN

Oh?

BANANA arrives.

BANANA

Hi, Nozomi.

MRS. CHAN

Banana. Your friend is very injured.

BANANA

I know.

NOZOMI

Banana, the other girls were too injured and

too afraid, but we all agreed that we're even now.

MRS. CHAN
What's this about?

BANANA
Nozomi. I need to hear you all say that you're sorry.

MRS. CHAN's eyes widen in sudden realization.

MRS. CHAN
Oh my God, Banana did you do that to her face and legs?

BANANA
Yes, mom.

MRS. CHAN
(angry)
Banana!

NOZOMI
It's okay! I deserved it! I hurt Banana this much in the past, and now we're even!

MRS. CHAN
One question: do you intend to press charges on my daughter over this?

NOZOMI
No, ma'am. Banana just gave me what I had coming to me.

BANANA
Yes. We're even now.

MRS. CHAN
I hate violence. But I know that if I punish Banana for her outburst on you ...

BANANA
(smiles)
... and on her friends.

MRS. CHAN

A punishment would just upset this "even" status. So Banana, the only way for you to avoid a punishment is if you seriously try to become friends with this girl, and her friends.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

A couple weeks later.

WIPE TO:

INT. ICE CREAM RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

BANANA, YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, enjoy a variety of ice-cream flavors while laughing, giggling, chortling, and chatting ... until BANANA says ...

BANANA

Despite all that you've told me, I still don't want to join The Emotion 16 Soldiers.

NOZOMI

We really haven't told you much.

BANANA

Exactly. And that's one major reason why I don't want to join.

YOSHI

We're really not allowed to talk about the details to someone who isn't a member.

BANANA

So how did one of you recruit the other two?

NOZOMI

Whether it happened like that or not is a secret.

BANANA

Thanks for the ice cream, and thanks for the new friendship, but I'm going home.

BANANA stands up, and begins to walk towards the door.

BANANA

(thoughts)

"In the past couple of weeks, they fought a couple of monsters ... and they were still recovering from the beat-down I gave them. So they've got those monsters handled, they don't need me. But they said I have a power, and I wonder what it is."

BANANA turns around, walks towards the girls' table.

MINAKO

I thought you said you were leaving, Banana.

BANANA

What did you mean when you told me that I have a power?

NOZOMI

You were able to do far more damage to us than the big monsters do.

BANANA

Something tells me that's not what you meant.

NOZOMI

It's not.

BANANA

So what power do I have? Why do you want me in your group?

YOSHI

Will you beat us up if we don't tell you?

BANANA

No. I'm not doing that again. Even though I'm happy that I finally got even ...

(starts crying)

... I cry about the pain I inflicted. Did you ever cry about the pain you inflicted in me, those years ago?

The girls stare blankly at BANANA.

BANANA

(yells)
Did you cry about the pain you inflicted in
me!?

YOSHI
I'm sorry Banana, but ... no.

MINAKO
Me neither. Sorry.

NOZOMI
I never cried about it. I too am sorry.

BANANA
Well then we're not even after all.

BANANA stands up, turns around, and begins walking to the exit.

MINAKO
Wait, Banana!

BANANA turns around, faces MINAKO, and asks...

BANANA
Why?

MINAKO
We lack empathy.

BANANA
Duh.

MINAKO
I mean it: We ... sometimes ... lack empathy.

BANANA
I mean it: Duh. Why the hell would you have to tell me something so obvious like the fact that the girls who treated me very badly years ago lack empathy?

YOSHI
Banana, it's anomalous that you have so much empathy.

BANANA

Empathy is human nature. And why are you all of a sudden using words like "anomalous"?

YOSHI

Exactly. Empathy is HUMAN nature.

NOZOMI

Yoshi!

YOSHI

Sorry, I've said too much.

BANANA

You all are crazy.

BANANA turns around, and walks towards the door, but then she turns around, faces them, smiles, and says ...

BANANA

And I'm crazy too! I'll join your group!

The girls smile and jump up and down.

BANANA

... but on a trial basis. You tell me what power I've got, I'll participate in some battles. If I get bored, or if I hate it, I'm out. Is that okay with you all?

The girls smile and nod.

WIPE TO:

EXT. LITTLE FISHING BOAT - AFTERNOON

BANANA, YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, sit on a little fishing boat, holding fishing-rods, with lines that go into the water.

A huge fish emerges from the water, bares sharp teeth, and growls at them.

BANANA

You've gotta be kidding!

MINAKO

It's a monster from the stargate!

BANANA puts her face in her palm, in embarrassment.

YOSHI

Banana, use your power!

BANANA

What IS my power?

As the fish approaches the boat, a pillow appears in BANANA's hands.

MINAKO

That!

BANANA

But a mallet or pillow usually appear in my hands when I'm in danger -- I thought you were talking about a different power!

NOZOMI

We weren't! Throw the pillow!

BANANA throws the pillow into the open mouth of the GIANT FISH. The GIANT FISH chokes to death.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA sleeps on her desk ... no pillow ... while the teacher lectures.

TEACHER

If I had anything important to teach, I'd wake her up. But this curriculum is totally out of touch with reality.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

MRS. CHAN and BANANA sit on the couch, chatting while eating fried fish (nom nom).

MRS. CHAN

Where did you say you got this fish again?
nom nom nom.

BANANA
Never mind that. nom nom. Tasty fish!

MRS. CHAN
You fried it very well! nom nom.

BANANA
Thankies! nom nom.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOP OF LIGHTHOUSE, TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - DAWN

BANANA and MRS. CHAN sit on the highest point on the roof of the lighthouse.

MRS. CHAN
We should stop coming here. I'm truly afraid that Mr. Hazuki will come up here and beat the tar out of us.

BANANA
Yeah. A family lives in this lighthouse. It's private property. We should respect their rights.

MRS. CHAN
But you know what would make this episode really perfect?

BANANA
Yeah. If he showed up and got angry at us, and we knocked him off of the ladder.

MRS. CHAN
That would be the perfect ending to this first episode.

BANANA
Well, it ain't gonna happen. I don't want him or anyone to get hurt, even if it's really funny.

MRS. CHAN

Mature. I like it.

MRS. CHAN approaches the ladder, looks down, and shrieks ...

MRS. CHAN
It's old man Hazuki! He's coming up here!

BANANA
(scared)
Really!?

MRS. CHAN
Yeah, come look!

BANANA approaches the ladder, looks down, and says ...

BANANA
But I don't see ...

MRS. CHAN pushes BANANA off the top of the lighthouse.

WIPE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

BANANA lays on a hospital bed, in a full-body cast.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
Sorry.

BANANA
Don't be! That was a really funny way to end
the first episode!

BOTH laugh.

END OF EPISODE