

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x10

Buster's First Kiss

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BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN
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WIPE TO:

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL - MORNING

MR. ONO presides over the class.

BANANA (age 16) is one of the students.

MR. ONO
Rain was an autonomous kingdom -- a castle-town, whose castle was later renovated into a gothic-style Roman Catholic Cathedral, then up-rooted and transplanted atop the sea-side Mount Rain, an entire mountain which is hidden in a comet's impact crater, located north of here.

BANANA
So what?

The classmates laugh.

MR. ONO
Banana, you weren't here when the field-trip permission forms were handed out, and because Mr Dark is the tour-guide, you will remain here with me tomorrow. Bring popcorn ... enough for two.

BANANA
No probs!

The other students look puzzled ... and jealous.

MR. ONO continues his lesson.

MR. ONO
Mount Rain is artificial, originally built as a

place for a church for a religion that is unpopular around these here parts, and hidden for fear of religious discrimination; however, times allegedly changed, and the corporation Megalith bought, and transformed, that mountaintop Cathedral, into research and development lab-space, for their godless genetics projects.

BANANA

Mr. Ono. Is this geneticky thing important to the plot?

MR. ONO

Yes. But that's more of a Season 2 thing.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA enters the room, and finds BUSTER (age 12) curled up and sleeping on the table.

BANANA

Buster, you good-for-something little brat!

BUSTER wakes up.

BUSTER

Yes?

BANANA

How goes?

BUSTER

Nothing much. Sleeping. Domestic life is making me lazy. I like it!

BANANA

It's better than facing the world.

BUSTER

Hey, can we take that walk now?

BANANA

I guess so.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - LATE AFTERNOON

BANANA guides BUSTER on a late-afternoon walking-tour of Rain, Japan.

Kids push, pull, and throw, all sorts of toys, in every corner of town.

Nearby, a SMALL BOY falls down from his skateboard, and screams...

SMALL BOY
I GIVE UP! WHO WANTS MY STUPID
SKATEBOARD!?!

BUSTER runs to the small boy, and says...

BUSTER
Wow, I do!

The SMALL BOY shoots a confused look at BUSTER, then gives the board to BUSTER, and says...

SMALL BOY
TAKE IT! IT'S STUPID!

BANANA laughs, then she walks beside BUSTER as he begins learning to ride his new skateboard.

Buster points at some girls who are roller-blading.

BUSTER
Can you introduce me to them?

BANANA
I don't know them.

BUSTER
Why not? You live in the same town.

BANANA
They don't know you either.

BUSTER
What are they riding?

BANANA
Roller-blades.

BUSTER
Wow! By age six, I'd already toured thousands of years of local history, but I've never stopped to notice roller-blades.

BANANA
That was six of your years ago. You're twelve now.

BUSTER
It doesn't seem that long ago, because I try to forget about the six years I spent with the NINjAs.

BANANA
Buster. Why were you in the mall anyway?

BUSTER
To prevent you from going to the candy store, because the clerk James is an evil cyborg, who was sent by the Megalith Corporation, to kill you.

BANANA
Bullplop.

BUSTER
Anyway, why were you there?

BANANA
I had finally found enough inner strength to tell James that I like him. But now I'm afraid of rejection again.

BUSTER
Did you even hear what I said about James?

BANANA
I tune out stuff I don't wanna hear. I just shrug it off until I can deal with it. You should try it sometime.

BUSTER

Yeah! There's nothing I can do about Armageddon now, so I'll just shrug it off until it's important!

BANANA
That's the spirit!

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - LATE AFTERNOON

All customers flee, except MRS. CHAN, when BAKA appears in a puff of smoke.

BAKA
Thanks for taking your turn with Buster. I sure flubbed-up with that NINJA debacle; it's all my fault!

MRS. CHAN
Buster is safe now, so everything's alright!

BAKA
Perfect. Did you sound-proof his bedroom wall?

MRS. CHAN
Yes, I did. But why?

BAKA
He screams in his sleep ... in a harmonic language made of alphabetic forms that mimic the wave-form patterns of light which emerge from the spinning vortex shaped phosphene flare patterns in the brain.

MRS. CHAN
What!?!

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - LATE AFTERNOON

BANANA plays with her friend ALICIA.

ALICIA ORBIE (age 16) is 5'6", with shoulder-length red hair, black eyes, and a "sailor-scout" school uniform.

ALICIA's the pitcher, BANANA's at bat.

ALICIA sets down the ball, BANANA sets down the bat.

They sit down.

ALICIA

It's five-thirty now. Why do you ask?

BANANA

You saw who I was walking with this afternoon?

ALICIA

Yeah, who's the brat?

BANANA

He goes to sleep at five in the afternoon, and wakes up at midnight every day; isn't that weird?

ALICIA

Yes. Who is he? Are you trying to make Ryone jealous?

BANANA

Don't mention Ryone. And Buster's a relative. Plus, a boy and a girl can walk with each other as friends, you know?

ALICIA

Maybe in Tokyo, but people talk too much about everything in this small town. I'd rather live in Tokyo. So tell me about Buster.

BANANA

Would if I could, but I just met the little brat.

ALICIA

You said he's related to you. Is he a Chan? Hey, you're Japanese, yet Chan is a Chinese surname, not a Japanese surname.

BANANA

We have some Chinese ancestors.

ALICIA

Which ancestors?

BANANA
I don't even know.

ALICIA
You're a bad liar, Banana Chan.

BANANA
Huh?

ALICIA
I get this vibe that you're holding many big secrets. And I also get a vibe that they make you happy. And I'm your friend, so I'm happy if you're happy, but can you tell me any of them?

BANANA
Naw.

ALICIA
I'm not going to force information out of you -- but TELL ME!

BANANA
No. You're being annoying.

ALICIA
Then make something up. It doesn't have to be real. Just tell me anything, please, just for the fun of it!

BANANA
Okay, sure. My secret is that I'm worried about something. I'm worried that the fear that my future grandson -- Buster -- who now lives with us, may still be a bloodthirsty assassin, didn't get in the way of welcoming him into our home!

ALICIA
Sounds like it'd make a good animé or manga plot! Are you writing that?

BANANA
(laughs)
Yeah.

ALICIA

Well, about that problem: I think it's only fair that Buster gets ... err ... to benefit from ... err ... I forget what it's called.

BANANA

I think it's called the benefit of the doubt.

ALICIA

Yeah, that's it!

BANANA

Okay. I'll give Buster the benefit of the doubt. What time is it?

ALICIA

It's almost five thirty-three. Now tell me a real secret!

BANANA looks down, and plays with something on the ground.

BANANA

Secrets are closed doors. Some doors lead to rooms that are on fire.

WIPE TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - LATE AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN sits on the roof, petting 937.

937

How was your day?

MRS. CHAN

Really good, actually. Thanks for asking.

937

You're welcome. What was so "really good" about your day? -- if I may ask.

MRS. CHAN

You may. Well, an old friend from High School called. I actually thought I'd never hear her voice again.

937

I'm sorry if I sound rude, but you're Banana's sister from another time-line, so your classmates go to Banana's school, and they don't know you. I'm sorry if pointing this out upsets you.

MRS. CHAN

No, it doesn't upset me ... too much. But yeah, it actually turns out that Alicia is Banana's classmate in this time-line.

937

Interesting.

MRS. CHAN

I felt so awkward talking to her. I wanted to warn her about "The Coronavirus" and "The Panther".

937

What would you say?

MRS. CHAN

I don't know, cat.

937

My name is 937.

MRS. CHAN

Banana calls you: "Catty."

937

She's the only person who may call me Catty.

MRS. CHAN

She called our dog Doggie, but his real name was Wu.

937

(animé "sweatdrop" cliché)
I ... FEAR ... dogs.

MRS. CHAN

Well, don't worry. Wu's long-gone. I'll miss that little rascal.

937

Cats are better anyway.

MRS. CHAN

One night, Banana came home from Odaiba in Tokyo, and she told me that Wu was dead. We cried, but Banana never told me how Wu died. Ever since then, she's just been getting more and more selfish and irresponsible with each and every new passing day, it seems.

937

Has Banana ever been ... responsible?

MRS. CHAN

Yes. When she was a member of the Emotion 16 Soldiers.

937

Emotion 16 Soldiers?

MRS. CHAN

It's a long story. Between ages eleven to fourteen, Banana was a hero.

937

Banana was ... a good girl?

MRS. CHAN

The best. Even before that, when she was little, she liked -- more than anything else in the world -- to see people smile. It didn't matter who you were, she wanted to put a smile on your face, and she would put that smile on your face no matter what. If she found out that you liked oranges, for example, she'd go on a quest for the best oranges in the world. And she'd find those oranges, and give them to you as a gift, and they were damn good oranges. You wouldn't know it from how she acts nowadays, but when she was a little girl, she made a lot of sacrifices, for a lot of people -- she literally risked her life almost every week, for people who she didn't even know ... anyone. And now, she acts selfish and irresponsible, as if the world owes her a debt of gratitude. And in some ways, it does.

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Posters of animé characters and pop-stars are strewn across the wall of the room. BANANA sleeps on her bed, snoring, and sleep-talking ...

BANANA
(sleep-talking, smiling)
I can lie through my teeth and make people believe the sky is pink!

The time displayed on her clock-radio is 6:59; when it flips to 7:00, the radio turns on, waking her up.

NEWSCASTER
... he goes by the name Ryone. He is extremely heroic; he rescued many ...

BANANA turns off the radio, returns to sleeping, and sleep-talking.

BANANA
(sleep-talking, mumbling, drooling)
My punishment for taking so long to finish my list ... my motivation to finish my list is ... flamingos. It's uncomfortable. I sit on it, but not for very long, cause it's ... chicken ... pickles ... mmm, pickles are king! Pickles will one day rule the world, with their not so tasty cousins the cucumber as their slaves! ... stone.

BANANA sleep-laughs.

BANANA
(sleep talking)
Of course I've lied to him. I lie to everybody. Even the fish. His secret weakness is ... well, he hasn't told me. I mean, it wouldn't be much of a secret if he told people.

BUSTER enters, and slaps BANANA's face.

BANANA wakes up, and reacts to getting slapped ...

BANANA
AHHH!

BANANA throws BUSTER into a pile of teddy bears.

BUSTER laughs.

BUSTER
Again!

BANANA
Why are you in my room, you little brat?

BUSTER
Mom told me to wake you up.

BANANA
She's not your mom.

BUSTER
I know. But shut up.

BANANA
Is it true you're my grandson?

BUSTER
Yes.

BANANA
Then why did you come from the future?

BUSTER
Breakfast.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA enters late.

MR. ONO
Late again?

BANANA
Yes, sorry.

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - MORNING

BANANA and RYONE sit across from each-other. She eats chocolate cookie-dough ice-cream with creamsicle swirl, while he eats vanilla ice-cream.

RYONE
I hope you don't find me weird.

BANANA
You paid for ice-cream, so no worries.

RYONE
My mistake. I'm sorry for being pretty weird.

BANANA
It's alright.

RYONE finishes his ice-cream.

BANANA
That was quick.

BANANA's ice-cream drips all over the place.

RYONE
Yours is dripping all over the place.

BANANA
No it isn't.

BANANA notices that it's dripping.

BANANA
Oh.

BANANA suddenly looks sick.

RYONE
What's wrong with you?

BANANA
Dizzy, tired, stomach ache, confused,
paranoid.

RYONE
I get that too. Those symptoms go away
when I see you. That's one of many reasons

why I so totally need you in my life.

BANANA

I've gotta go. Excuse me. And don't you dare call this a date, Ryone.

BANANA runs away.

WIPE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL

MRS. CHAN lays on a hospital bed, wearing a body-cast.

BANANA enters.

BANANA

I got a weird feeling that you were here, and so I ran as fast as I could.

MRS. CHAN

I got hit by a car. It was a damn drunk driver.

BANANA

You'll be alright, Mom. If Buster was able to survive a body-cast situation, you will too.

MRS. CHAN

I hope so. I had a bad day. Please tell me you had a good day. I hope you had a good day.

BANANA

Today was the best day of my life, aside for finding out that you got hit by a car, of course.

MRS. CHAN

Oh Banana, please make me feel better by telling me about your day.

BANANA

Well, I ...

Long pause.

BANANA

... I'm not sure what to say.

MRS. CHAN
How romantic.

They laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. ARCADE - DAY

BUSTER and BANANA play a shooting-game called BLAST-FUN-ME, in which they both hold guns and shoot at innocent bystanders.

BANANA
Why haven't you returned to your time,
Buster?

BUSTER
Because the world was ending, and
Armageddon is not a good place to be.

BANANA
You're young and single, so Armageddon
would be the perfect place for you to pick up
girls, Buster; it's like a freakin' single's club,
so why didn't you stay and meet a nice young
girlfriend?

BUSTER
I'm not ready for that type of commitment; I'm
like nine or twelve or something like that.

BANANA
Yeah. I'm not ready either. And by the way,
you're twelve. How come you don't know your
own age?

BUSTER
I'm concentrating on the game, and not on the
conversation. Look, I've got a higher score
than you.

BANANA
Not any more, because I have successfully
distracted you.

BUSTER
Someday I will defeat you, Banana Chan.
Just you wait and see.

BANANA
HEY EVERYBODY!!! I DEFEATED BUSTER
IN THIS GAME!!! LOOK AT THE LITTLE
LOSER-BOY!!!

No one looks.

BANANA
Ignorant egoists didn't look. Must form plan.

BUSTER
Plan?

BANANA
I've got one!

BUSTER
Okay. What's the plan, fearful leader?

BANANA
The plan is: We'll go home using the same
route we took to get here!

BUSTER
You're weird, weirdo. Regardless, I think
you're right. I may want to meet a little
girlfriend soon. So ... do I look handsome?

BANANA
Personality matters more than looks. Still,
you'd look half-decent if you worked out a little
more. You say you were a ninja, but you're
quite scrawny, which in its own right is kinda'
cute, but we're related, so it feels icky to
answer your question any further.

BUSTER
I see. Then, I got a better idea. Let's just go
home and watch TV! It's almost time for
SqueegiMon!

BANANA
Good plan. Mushroom styles!

BUSTER
Mushroom styles?

BANANA
What?

BUSTER
You just said it.

BANANA
I don't listen to a lot of the stuff I say. I also
don't think before I speak most of the time!

BUSTER
Yes, you do.

BANANA
(laughs)
Yeah. Counter-culture anarchistic
philosophies aside, let's go home and watch
animé!

BUSTER
Yay, animé!

They laugh.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER stands on the kitchen table, practicing karate
stances.

MRS. CHAN enters the room, chewing on a frozen pizza.

MRS. CHAN
You're an early riser ... but how early?

BUSTER sits on the table, and says ...

BUSTER
I wake up at the beginning of the day.

MRS. CHAN
Oh yeah, that NINJA school.

BUSTER
What did Baka say about me?

MRS. CHAN
He used the words "housebroken" and
"domesticated". He was very drunk -- I
thought he was talking about a dog.

BUSTER
Wu Chow Chow Fu!

BUSTER acts like a dog for a few moments ... even licks
some
things.

Then he does an impressive back-roll off the table, into a
drop kick, into a cool crouching pose during which he
throws in some punches for style -- then he sits in a chair.

MRS. CHAN
Let's change the topic. Umm ... well,
Banana's not doing so well in school.

MRS. CHAN sits on a chair.

BUSTER
Okay. Make sure she always uses a pencil,
not a pen. That way I can sneak into her
room, and fix her answers.

MRS. CHAN
Nah. That won't be necessary. Only fix half of
her answers, if it's something like ... an
important test or something ... I don't know. I
should wake her. She's "sleeping-in."

BANANA enters, yawning ...

MRS. CHAN
Good morning, Banana!

BANANA
G'mornin.

The door-bell rings.

BUSTER hides under the table.

BANANA answers the door, revealing her friend ALICIA.

MRS. CHAN faints.

ALICIA only notices BUSTER -- she walks directly to him, bows very low towards him, and says ...

ALICIA
I'm Alicia Orbie -- you're Buster?

BUSTER
Hiya! Yes, I am.

ALICIA inspects him -- walking around him, and poking and prodding, and taking measurements, and smelling him, and even licking his ear ... she continues invading his personal space in absurd ways, during the following dialogue ...

BUSTER
What are you doing?

ALICIA
Making sure.

ALICIA stops, smiles at him -- he smiles back.

ALICIA
Banana -- can I be his girlfriend?

BANANA
(shrugs)
I don't know.

BUSTER
Don't I get a say?

BANANA
(shrugs)
I don't know.

ALICIA
(wide grin)
Buster and Banana! You're invited to my party! It's in Buster's honor because he's

new! Be at my place tonight!

EXT. FRONT LAWN, RAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

BUSTER -- wearing a "black-suit" school uniform, and a backpack -- stands on his skateboard, in front of the school.

Many kids hang out in clusters, in front of the school.

BUSTER
(animé "sweatdrop" cliché)
I've gotta get outta' here.

BUSTER skateboards away.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA chats with BUSTER.

BANANA
How was your first day of middle-school?

BUSTER
I didn't go.

BANANA
(laughs)
I'm sorry to hear that!

BUSTER
Then why are you laughing?

BANANA
(laughs)
Sorry.
(stops laughing)
Hey, what did you do instead of school? Did you practice your deadly NINjA skillz?

BUSTER
No. I time-traveled for a week or so, to study our town, its people, and us.

BANANA
Cool. Anyway Bust, about Alicia's party

tonight: I'm not a party person, but not going would be rude to Alicia. So, when we're there, keep me company, and use your deadly NINJA skillz to protect me.

BUSTER

Okay. Hey, what can you tell me about Alicia?

BANANA

Not much except she's the mayor's daughter. Before this week, I used to only talk with her whenever we'd run into each-other in town and stuff. But earlier this week, in the school cafeteria, I saw that she was lonely, so I put down the book I was reading, and I approached her, and I said "hello". We struck up a conversation, and now she calls me on the phone and we hang out. She's my best friend, and I love her!

EXT. FRONT LAWN, MAISON ORBIE - EVENING

ALICIA sits beside BUSTER on a two-person swing. The sound of a wild party -- music, laughter, reverie, video games, things breaking -- comes from the house.

ALICIA

Buster. Kiss me.

BUSTER

No thank you, but thanks for asking.

ALICIA

Why won't you?

BUSTER

I'm twelve, and you're creepy.

ALICIA

Have you ever had your first kiss, Buster Chan?

BUSTER

Yes. My mother used to kiss me good-night before she died when I was two years old.

ALICIA
Well I'm different, and better than you'd
imagine.

BUSTER
What's your point?

ALICIA
My point is: it's special, and we should do it
sometime!

BUSTER
If it's special, then I should only do it with
someone who is special to me.

ALICIA
That's selfish, because you're special to me!

ALICIA surprises him with a gigantic smooch.

BUSTER runs away.

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

ALICIA stands on the doorstep, and rings the door-bell.

BUSTER answers the door.

ALICIA
I came to apologize.

BUSTER
Were you drunk?

ALICIA
No. Alcohol is stupid. May I come in?

BUSTER
I don't know. You're Banana's best friend, so
she'd probably let you in. But we have a
house rule that says our home's our
sanctuary.

ALICIA
What does that mean?

BUSTER

It means that because I'm creeped out by you, you've lost your right to enter this house, even if you are Banana's best friend.

ALICIA

That's no fair. You go to a different school than I do, so when will I get to spend enough time around you to convince you that I'm worthy of your consideration? I mean, I've already met you, so I can't un-meet you. And when I met you, I fell in love. I need to get your attention for long enough for you to ...

BUSTER

... fall in love with you?

ALICIA

Yeah.

BUSTER

That's unlikely. You're not my type.

ALICIA

You don't know what type I am, because you don't know me!

BUSTER

I know that you're scaring me right now by being too pushy. And pushy people are the exact opposite of my type.

ALICIA

So you want a submissive girl? I can be that way!

BUSTER

I didn't say that. I'm a kid right now, and I don't want to think about these sorts of things right now.

ALICIA

Fair enough. But when you do think about those sorts of things, what kind of girl will you be looking for?

BUSTER

Someone who knows who she is, and doesn't

change who she is for anyone but herself.

ALICIA
But what if ... ?

BUSTER
(interrupts)
Good-bye.

BUSTER closes the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER returns to a game of Chinese chess with BANANA.

BANANA
Who was at the door?

BUSTER
It was Alicia.

BANANA
Why didn't you let her in?

BUSTER
Because of the sanctuary rule. She creeps
me out.

BANANA
But she's my best friend.

BUSTER
Well, I recently spent time at the arcade with
that Ryone guy who I've seen you shut the
door on for the very same reason as why I
shut the door on Alicia. And Ryone's actually
a cool guy when you get to know him, and I'd
love to show him some of the cool toys I've got
in my room. So If I let Alicia in, then you're a
hypocrite if you continue to keep Ryone out.

BANANA
(angry)
Fine then! Keep Alicia out for all I care, you
dumb brat!

BANANA flips-over the Chinese chess board, and runs up into her bedroom.

END OF EPISODE