

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x14

The Secret Society

By Alan Holman

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

BUSTER walks down the sidewalk, with a spring in his step.

He closes his eyes for a second, and he bumps into a girl who also has her eyes closed.

The girl's name is TAMA SAKA, and she's thirteen years old, and dressed in a colorful outfit.

BOTH  
Sorry.

Both laugh.

TAMA SAKA  
Hi, I'm Tama.

BUSTER  
I'm Buster.

BOTH  
Sorry for bumping into you.

Both laugh.

TAMA SAKA  
Going to the party?

BUSTER  
Party?

TAMA SAKA  
Yeah. At the Lodge.

BUSTER  
What is a Lodge?

TAMA SAKA  
Wait, aren't you ...?

Pause.

BUSTER  
I'm a ninja.

TAMA SAKA  
(smiles)  
You're a ninja?

BUSTER  
Yeah.

TAMA SAKA  
Well Buster, if you promise to use your ninja skills to protect me, then I'll show you where the party is!

BUSTER  
I never said that my name is Buster.

TAMA SAKA  
Well, I might as well just tell you: Your family has hybrid genetics, and eventually your ability to perceive the reptiles in the interspaces will manifest so that they can guide you into positions of power. I'm from a Secret Society who is keeping track of your progress, and tonight is your initiation!

BUSTER  
(laughs)  
Bullshit!

Suddenly, a limousine interrupts them, when it parks beside them, and some thugs from inside of the limousine pull TAMA SAKA into the limousine.

TAMA SAKA  
Buster! They're kidnapping me! HELP!!!

BUSTER  
(stunned)  
I don't know what the hell she said, I was just amazed to be in conversation with a female for so long!

The limousine drives away.

BUSTER looks at the license plate on the back of the limo; on it are the words "SPACE MONKEYS." Then the limo drives away, turns a corner, and is gone.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - DAY

BUSTER is talking to MRS. CHAN.

BUSTER  
I met the coolest girl.

MRS. CHAN  
You did, did you?

BUSTER  
Yeah. But then she got kidnapped by thugs in a limousine which had the words "Space Monkeys" on its license plate.

MRS. CHAN  
That's odd. Some ninja you turned out to be -- why didn't you stop them?

BUSTER  
I know that I could have stopped them with my super ninja skills, but I was just so stunned because I actually sustained such an interesting conversation with such a cute girl for so long, so I went blank. But of course I want to save the girl.

MRS. CHAN  
How?

BUSTER  
Time travel is my only option, but I don't want to alter my own history.

MRS. CHAN  
Afraid of complications?

BUSTER  
Mortally afraid.

MRS. CHAN

Why?

BUSTER

Because time-travel has caused me many restless nights filled with painful, guilt-fueled night-terrors regarding NINJA training, and other morally-bankrupt, mostly blocked-out memories.

MRS. CHAN gives BUSTER a hug, as he begins to cry into her chest.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAWN

BUSTER's still crying into MRS. CHAN's chest.

BUSTER

Guilty nightmares keep telling me to rescue that girl, EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T!!!

MRS. CHAN

There, there.

BUSTER

Other nightmares told me I should have tried to follow that car.

INT. ARCADE - DAY

BUSTER's playing a video game called LAUGH RIOT in which the object of the game is to tickle comedians.

A teenaged boy named TAKKA RAKKA enters.

TAKKA RAKKA has short red hair, and he wears a leather jacket. On the back of TAKKA's leather jacket are the words "Space Monkeys."

BUSTER notices TAKKA's jacket, gets angry, quits playing the game, and runs toward TAKKA.

BUSTER

(to TAKKA, screaming)

WHAT ARE THE SPACE MONKEYS!?!

TAKKA laughs into BUSTER's face.

TAKKA

We're a group of like-minded individuals with a common bond -- a common experience which we'll share with you, but only after your training period ends.

BUSTER

What training?

TAKKA

Follow me.

laughs, and slowly walks out of the arcade.

BUSTER follows, with a confused look on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT, BEHIND ARCADE - DAY

TAKKA leans against his parked motorcycle while he talks with BUSTER.

BUSTER

What are the so-called "Space Monkeys"?

TAKKA

Buster. My dad let me tag along with him on his business trip to Denmark a few years ago. On the way to our hotel, I got lost in a mall. I didn't know the number to our hotel, its name, or even its location, so -- in other words -- I was separated from my father in a foreign land. If I weren't a Space Monkey, it would have been a hopeless situation. I would have had nowhere to go. But because I was a Space Monkey, I knew that I had friends everywhere, and I knew how to recognize them. So I found my friends, and they helped me find my dad. I had never met these people before in my life, but I knew something about them that all Space Monkeys know about each-other. It's our shared secret -- a secret that I'd like to share with you, so that you have

friends everywhere.

BUSTER

Beautiful story. Now tell me about your shared secret? -- it isn't something gross, is it?

TAKKA

That depends on your definition of gross.

BUSTER

Fair enough. By the way, how did you know my name?

TAKKA

You're a prospect.

BUSTER

I don't care about that. Where did the limo take the girl?

TAKKA

Don't worry.

BUSTER

I have to worry. The way I see it: I can either solve the mystery, or alert the authorities.

TAKKA gets onto his motorcycle.

TAKKA

I agree. Any decent person would alert the authorities as soon as possible. So good luck with that.

TAKKA drives away on his motorcycle.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER and MRS.CHAN are talking while eating apple pies.

BUSTER

These so-called "Space Monkeys" began supposedly training me for initiation.

MRS. CHAN

I've read, on the internet, that a lot of fraternal

gangs promote positive moral values.

BUSTER  
THOSE JERKS KIDNAPPED THAT GIRL --  
YOU CALL THAT "POSITIVE MORAL  
VALUES"!?!

MRS. CHAN  
Kidnapping? That wasn't in the contract...

BUSTER  
CONTRACT?

MRS. CHAN  
(bowing her head in shame)  
Buster. I got worried about you. You kept on  
going out at night alone.

BUSTER  
I thought you didn't mind. Banana goes out  
every night to that pond, doesn't she?

MRS. CHAN  
Yeah well ... Banana's protected ... umm ...  
it's complicated. The situation is somewhat  
different.

BUSTER  
How is the situation different? I'm a trained  
ninja, so I don't need any extra protection!

MRS. CHAN  
Regardless, a woman saw you leave the  
house at night, and she came over, and she  
complimented me. She said I'm raising such  
a wonderful, independent son. I couldn't tell  
her that you're not my son. I asked what she  
wanted, and she said her daughter is the so-  
called Lodge Sweetheart of the local Space  
Monkeys' chapter. That rubbed me the wrong  
way on far too many levels, so I asked what  
that meant, and she read a book to me about  
morality and time-management and friendship  
and honor; it included a story about a cool old  
timey Knight who sacrificed his life to protect  
his friends. Buster, she told me that you can  
have loyal friends all around the world, and she

explained how this organization uses drama to teach morality lessons, and she told me about how they create experiences to prepare kids for the next stages of their lives.

BUSTER

In other words, that girl's kidnapping was fake, and it was only an initiation stunt?

MRS. CHAN

Long story short: yeah.

BUSTER

Well they don't know me. They don't know about the things in my past which will cause me to act differently in those situations even though my intentions are still noble. They don't know about the things which might give them the wrong impression of me. What I'm trying to say is that their stunt assumes far too much about their so-called "prospects", and it might also be unfairly discriminatory. Plus, it put me through a lot of unnecessary anxiety, and, for that reason alone, I can't support an organization that pulls such stunts.

MRS. CHAN

Good point. And now that I think about it, neither can I. I should have got your opinion before I signed the contract.

BUSTER

You signed a contract?

MRS. CHAN

Yeah. Oops!

BUSTER

Why did you sign the contract before you got my opinion about it?

MRS. CHAN

Because she made it seem fun. I'm sorry.

BUSTER

Apology accepted.

MRS. CHAN

Good. But Buster, long story short, they promised to keep you out of trouble when you go out. However, now that I think about it more clearly, I entirely disagree with the kidnapping stunt also.

BUSTER

I don't mean to be disrespectful to anybody, but I will make my own decisions about who I associate with, and I'm very suspicious of them on so many levels, especially because, although it's my life they're messing with, they approached you before they approached me. So tell me what you know!!!

MRS. CHAN

I'm sorry, Buster, but it sounded great for you at the time -- now, I'm no longer sure. I need more information.

BUSTER

As do I.

MRS. CHAN

I'll tell you everything I can remember from what that woman read to me.

BUSTER

That's a start.

CUT TO:

INT. ARCADE - DAY

BUSTER plays a violent video game called BLAST-FUN-ME.

TAKKA RAKKA enters, wearing his leather jacket which has the words "Space Monkeys" on the back of it.

TAKKA RAKKA approaches BUSTER.

TAKKA RAKKA

Congratulations, Buster Chan. You've passed your initiation.

BUSTER  
Don't give me that crap.

TAKKA RAKKA  
Your scores in these video games qualified  
you to join our gang "The Space Monkeys."

BUSTER takes a look at all of the violent video games in  
the  
arcade.

BUSTER  
Is this some kind of a joke?

TAKKA RAKKA  
Yeah. The video games had nothing to do  
with it.

BUSTER  
Fair enough. But it still raises the question:  
Is your gang violent?

TAKKA RAKKA  
The Space Monkeys promote non-violence.

BUSTER  
How?

TOM NIKON  
You'll see at your free house.

BUSTER  
(in disbelief)  
FREE HOUSE!?!

TAKKA RAKKA hands a key to BUSTER. The key has an  
address sticker on it which says, "1312 Chimp Street."

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - DAY

BUSTER shows the key to BANANA and MRS. CHAN.

MRS. CHAN  
We should at least check out the house.

BANANA  
And steal all their worldly possessions!

BUSTER  
I'll go -- with you two, of course.

BANANA  
Count me in! ... if it involves burning things.

BUSTER  
No burny!

BANANA  
Then no Banana for you!

EXT. FRONT DOOR, MANSION, CHIMP STREET - DAY

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN approach the "scary mansion."

BUSTER tries the key on the door -- it works.

They enter the mansion.

INT. ENTRANCE CHAMBER, MANSION - DAY

In this entrance chamber, there are stairs to the second floor, a giant chandelier, closets, etc...

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN take their shoes off.

INT. KITCHEN, MANSION - DAY

There's a huge dinner table in this kitchen. Chairs are only on one side of the table, because a huge, wide-screen television set is on the other side of the table.

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN sit at the table, and begin talking.

A British Butler named WILLARD enters.

WILLARD  
You must be Buster Chan.

BUSTER  
Yes. Who are you?

WILLARD  
I am Butler Willard. Please follow me to the basement, Master Chan.

BUSTER  
Lead the way.

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN stand up.

WILLARD  
(to MRS. CHAN)  
I am sorry, madam. The basement is for  
Master Buster Chan's eyes only. Angelique  
went over this with you, ma'am. It's an  
independence thing.

BUSTER  
I'm not going if she can't.

WILLARD  
If you do not follow me to the basement, you  
can not become a "Space Monkey", and this  
house will not be yours.

BUSTER  
I'm not sure about this. It could be a trap.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

BUSTER  
I'm not going to walk blindly into a trap.

WILLARD  
Your paranoia is unfortunate.

MRS. CHAN  
Yeah, Buster. I'm with the Butler on this one.  
Some of the things which that woman told me  
are really beginning to make a lot of sense to  
me right now, and I'm realizing that I shouldn't  
have even come here with you today. Buster,  
they ARE offering you this house. And we  
could definitely make good use of a place like  
this. If it means taking a chance and walking  
head first into a mysterious and unknown  
situation with a lot of uncertainties, you're just  
going to have to learn to trust and take a  
chance.

BUSTER

Can you tell me what is in the basement?

WILLARD  
Not with Mrs. Chan present.

BUSTER  
I'm not going to be left alone with you.

WILLARD  
Is that your final answer?

BUSTER  
Yes.  
(looks at Mrs. Chan.)  
Do you think I made the correct decision?

MRS. CHAN  
I'm not sure what to think.

BUSTER  
Neither am I. Let's just get the hell out of here.

WILLARD  
If you do not join the "Space Monkeys" now, you will NEVER be given another chance to join us. Is your final decision to NOT JOIN the "Space Monkeys"?

BUSTER nods.

WILLARD  
THEN GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE!!!

INT. RED ROOM, BASEMENT, MANSION - DAY

This small red room features a ... GOLDEN URINAL!!!

BANANA -- who is wearing a tuxedo and a fake mustache -- enters the room with WILLARD.

BANANA  
(points at the urinal)  
What is THAT!?!

WILLARD shoots a strange look at BANANA.

WILLARD  
(shakes his head in disbelief)  
I need you to urinate into that.

BANANA  
YUCK! WHY!?!

WILLARD  
Two reasons: to ensure that you are drug free,  
and to activate the elevator.

BANANA turns toward WILLARD, takes off her fake mustache,  
looks sheepishly at him and says ...

BANANA  
I'm a girl.

WILLARD  
I know. It was an obvious disguise. This is  
the executive bathroom. But your honesty is  
admirable, and we do have a place for you.

WIPE TO:

INT. INITIATION THEATER

BANANA stands at one end of a wide hallway. At the other  
end of the hallway is are closed curtains. Between BANANA  
and the stage are seven pairs of pillars that hold up  
closed gates.

WILLARD  
If you can pass through the seven gates, slip  
behind the Veil of Isis ...

BANANA  
You mean the curtain?

WILLARD  
Yes. Behind the curtain, you'll find a piece of  
paper. Follow the instructions that are written  
on that piece of paper, to become our most  
important member.

BANANA  
Can you give me a hint?

WILLARD  
Yes. One hint. Your hint is: "Honesty is the best policy."

BANANA  
Okay.

BANANA steps toward GATE #1, and she can't open it because it's locked.

BANANA  
Please open the gates for me.

WILLARD  
Congratulations! Many people never learn to say please!

The gates disappear, but the pillars remain.

WILLARD  
Now, Banana, you must pass through the seven pairs of pillars which tune you to higher vibratory levels, and symbolize the involution of your soul during your evolutionary journey in which you earn the seven keys of the seven stages which are: Innocence, Initiation, Selection, Crucifixion, Transmutation, Purification, and finally Perfection.

BANANA does a mad dash through all seven pairs of pillars.

WILLARD  
Now pass through the veil so that you may gain experience, overcome, instruct, and finally obtain freedom.

BANANA slips behind the curtain, thus stepping into a small room wherein she sees a small crumbled up piece of paper on the floor.

She picks up the paper, opens it up, and reads ...

BANANA  
(reading)  
"Clothing is hiding, and hiding is lying. Lying is bad, thus naked is good."

Pause.

BANANA

They're either brilliant philosophers, or  
outlandish perverts.

(pause)

I want to find out.

BANANA removes her shoes.

WIPE TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - DAY

BUSTER sits on his bed, reading a history book from the  
future.

He sees something in the book, then screams...

BUSTER

COME HERE!!!

BANANA and MRS. CHAN enter.

BANANA

Huh?

BUSTER

My history book from the future contains the  
secrets of the Space Monkeys!!!

MRS. CHAN

Great!

BANANA

(nervous)

We don't need to learn their secrets. It's  
unimportant.

BUSTER

It says they're a Secret Society.

BANANA

I don't buy into all that Secret Society crap. I  
think it's a bunch of nonsense.

BUSTER

Anyway, they're environmentalists. They protest against factories which pollute the environment.

MRS. CHAN

Maybe they can get rid of that nasty brown cloud of pollution which hangs over most of Asia.

BUSTER

Maybe -- I'm too bored to read that far. Let's just tie Takka to a chair, and give him a scare until he gives us answers!

MRS. CHAN

No! Don't torture kids in my house!

BANANA laughs.

MRS. CHAN

Who's Takka anyway?

BUSTER

The guy who told me that I'm a "prospect."

MRS. CHAN

Well, he'd better not sue us.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - DAY

TAKKA RAKKA is tied to a chair, while BUSTER and MRS. CHAN ask him questions.

BANANA sits in a corner, watching.

BUSTER

Either answer my questions, or I'll get a bucket and a rope.

TAKKA RAKKA

(mortally afraid)

OKAY!!! JUST DON'T GET THAT BUCKET AND ROPE!!!

BUSTER

First question: Where does the elevator lead to?

TAKKA RAKKA  
An underground city.

BUSTER  
Bullshit! Where's it really lead?

TAKKA RAKKA  
The Grand Hall.

BUSTER  
What's in the Grand Hall?

TAKKA RAKKA  
A place where ideas can be shared freely.  
The round table which keeps everyone focused  
on their purpose. The place where the most  
important decisions in the world are made. A  
place where people can mix freely with each-  
other, without fear.

BUSTER  
So what's the big secret?

TAKKA RAKKA  
Ley Lines, Vortex Points! Travel to other  
dimensions! Our masters are Reptiles from  
the Sirius Star System!

BUSTER  
I know a cult-headed idiot when I see one --  
set this one free.

MRS. CHAN  
I can't believe I allowed this fiasco.

BUSTER sets TAKKA RAKKA free.

TAKKA RAKKA runs away.

MRS. CHAN  
Why was he so afraid of a bucket and rope?

BUSTER  
My NINjA masters taught me the "Two Object  
Trick."

MRS. CHAN  
I'm afraid to ask: What's the "Two Object  
Trick"?

BUSTER  
You threaten your prisoner with two objects.

MRS. CHAN  
Then what?

BUSTER  
Their imagination does the rest!

BUSTER and BANANA laugh.

BUSTER  
It works every time.

MRS. CHAN  
Buster, you're grounded.

BANANA laughs.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER, BANANA, and MRS. CHAN are in this room.

BANANA  
What's on TV?

MRS. CHAN turns on the TV. The NEWS is on, recapping a  
factory explosion.

NEWSCASTER  
Several teenage male members of a crime  
gang called "The Space Monkeys" were  
arrested for this arson.

BUSTER  
Heavy shipoop.

MRS. CHAN  
Buster. We've gotta tell Interpol about this.

BUSTER

Okay. Why?

MRS. CHAN  
We've gotta put a stop to The Space  
Monkeys.

BANANA  
No! Don't do it!

MRS. CHAN  
Why not?

BANANA  
I joined, and I like it.

Pause.

MRS. CHAN  
Then I won't do it.

Pause.

BUSTER  
You joined?

BANANA  
Yeah. And I like it.

BUSTER  
I thought they were fraternal.

BANANA  
I'm the new Lodge Sweetheart.

MRS. CHAN  
What exactly does that entail?

BANANA  
Nothing you should be worried about.

MRS. CHAN  
Tell me or I'll get a pillow and a tomato.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAWN

BUSTER, wearing a backpack, and eating a banana, walks along a path.

BUSTER'S THOUGHTS

So Banana explained the job of Lodge Sweetheart, and Mrs. Chan almost had a heart attack, so she made Banana quit. But now that I know the connection between the Lodge Sweetheart and the so-called "shared experience", I fully regret that I didn't join when the other girl was the Sweetheart.

A crowbar flies beside him, and lands on the grass in front of him.

BUSTER, unfazed, takes another bite from his BANANA.

TAKKA RAKKA, wearing his "Space Monkeys" leather jacket, appears in front of BUSTER.

Two more guys wearing "Space Monkeys" leather jackets appear behind BUSTER -- BUSTER spins 360 degrees and notices them all.

TAKKA RAKKA

Most of my gang is in jail because of your family.

BUSTER finishes his banana, throws the peel at TAKKA's face, and says...

BUSTER

You guys deserve to be punished.

TAKKA, and the other two guys, advance towards BUSTER -- BUSTER picks up the crowbar, and the two guys run away. Now, it's only TAKKA and BUSTER CHAN.

TAKKA

If you would have joined, Banana would have never been made the Lodge Sweetheart; it's a policy.

BUSTER

That's good. But kisses shouldn't be that

cheap.

TAKKA

You just don't get it. And that's why you will be punished.

TAKKA throws a punch towards BUSTER's face, but when BUSTER shifts to a side, TAKKA's fist flies beside BUSTER's ear.

With one motion, BUSTER hooks an arm around TAKKA's flying fist, knees TAKKA's groin, bends backwards while raising his knee more-and-more into TAKKA's groin -- it's a throw move which leaves TAKKA laying on the ground behind BUSTER, vibrating in pain.

BUSTER turns around, kneels down, spits in TAKKA's eye and says...

BUSTER

Drink it, pal.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER, BANANA, and MRS. CHAN, eat breakfast.

BANANA has a big cold-sore on her lip.

BUSTER

You have an infection on your lip.

BANANA

Shut up.

MRS. CHAN

It's a big infection.

BANANA

Shut up.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

BANANA talks with a DOCTOR.

DOCTOR  
That infection is a cold-sore.

BANANA  
How did I get it.

DOCTOR  
Have you kissed anyone?

BANANA  
Yes.

DOCTOR  
That person was obviously incompatible with  
you.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - DAY

MRS. CHAN sits at the table, eating a peach.

BANANA enters.

BANANA  
Why does this room smell of piddle?

MRS. CHAN  
I deferred your allowance to a vagrant again.

BANANA  
What a kick in the head.

MRS. CHAN  
I'm sorry, Banana -- but if you want money,  
you're going to have to find a job, and actually  
keep it this time.

BANANA  
But I'm beautiful!

MRS. CHAN  
Good point. Men are more likely to hire pretty  
girls than anyone else.

BANANA

Then I'll apply to a woman for a job.

MRS. CHAN

Just go to Rand's Convenience Store, and ask him to re-hire you.

BANANA

No thank you. No fuckin' way I'm working again until I absolutely must! Now give me money for the arcade!

WIPE TO:

INT. ARCADE - DAY

BANANA CHAN jumps up and down while watching BUSTER win at a game of "HOLD HANDS AND SMILE" in which the object of the game is crashing space-ships into planets.

BANANA stops jumping, as a thought surfaces...

BANANA CHAN

Have you ever stopped to consider that some video games are disrespectful?

BUSTER

Have you ever stopped to consider that you should get a life?

BANANA grabs BUSTER's collar, rips him away from the game, and yells into his face...

BANANA CHAN

Now listen, you runt! It disturbs me that you have the high score on every game in this arcade, especially since every game in this arcade touts such low morals!

BUSTER

Let go of me, or I will make you let go of me. I will only tell you this once.

BANANA lets go of BUSTER.

BANANA CHAN

I'm sorry. I'm just frustrated about a lot of stuff. But I don't want to talk about that stuff,

so I'm taking it out on you by mentioning an issue that I normally don't care about!

BUSTER

What?

BANANA CHAN

I'm jealous that you have the high scores on everything here, so stop playing for a while please, so that I can have a fair chance to catch up to you.

BUSTER

What would you have me do with my time?

BANANA CHAN

Join the Space Monkeys, perhaps!

Pause.

BUSTER

If they'll let me.

They laugh.

END OF EPISODE.