

"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.