

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x15

Liminality

By Alan Holman

RAZZLE DAZZLE

We see RAZZLE DAZZLE as BANANA narrates ...

BANANA'S VOICE

In the previous episode, that cold sore wasn't make-up. I didn't like that, so I almost quit. But then, after realizing how much money I'd be rakin' in by continuing to star in the series, I was convinced to come back to the show; besides, lotsa money equals lotsa take-out! But I didn't like the way the show was going, so I asked for a re-write. So that's why we just up'n began a new storyline out of nowhere! In the new storyline, I'm an American Pop-Star!

CUT TO:

EXT. ABOVE AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER - DAY

A black STEALTH BOMBER comes in for a landing.

INT. CORRIDOR, AIRCRAFT CARRIER - DAY

A HANDLER talks to BANANA CHAN; she's dressed in a red, white, and blue, bathing suit.

HANDLER

Are you ready for your first USO show,  
Banana?

BANANA

I'm gonna do just fab, because I'm psyched. I'll  
rock this pop concert.

HANDLER

Let's hope so.

EXT. DECK OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER - DAY

Thousands of armed forces personnel cheer toward a large stage that's decorated in bright colors.

The lights go on.

Pop music begins playing.

BANANA enters the stage, so the crowd goes insane with cheers.

BANANA sings:

I make you happy  
When will you all see  
That I am sad

Your love is candy  
And I need sugar  
Or I'll be bad

CUT TO:

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE, RECORD COMPANY - DAY

Banana's MANAGER talks to BANANA.

MANAGER

Your popularity will rise over the top if you go into hiding for a bit.

BANANA

What are you saying?

MANAGER

We need your fans to miss you for a while, then you'll make a huge comeback!

BANANA

Why can't I just keep playing concerts?

MANAGER

Because there's a thing called overkill, honey. Labels milk their acts until no one likes them anymore. It's why the average idol rarely lasts more than a year. We're not gonna make that mistake with you. We're gonna keep taking you away, then bringing you back, until the end of time. It's called giving them the gift of missing you!

BANANA  
You know what's best, boss.

EXT. IN FRONT OF HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

BANANA is hounded by reporters, all asking overlapping questions, until BANANA loses it, and says....

BANANA  
ONE AT A TIME, OR I'LL SHOVE A DEATH  
INDUCING SWORD DOWN YOUR THROAT!!!

All the reporters run away, except one.

REPORTER ONE  
Yowza.

Pause.

REPORTER ONE  
I have brought this trained monkey along; he'll  
type up your response to my question.

BANANA  
I don't see a trained monkey.

REPORTER ONE  
My cover's blown.

BANANA looks confused.

REPORTER ONE  
But may I ask a question anyway?

BANANA  
Sure.

REPORTER ONE  
Is it true that you actually thought that  
breaking a nail merited a hospital stay?

BANANA  
I guess so.

REPORTER ONE turns into a giant leprechaun and flies into  
the clouds.

BANANA

I wonder what's his deal?

INT. LIVING ROOM, RANCH IN MONTANA - DAY

MRS. CHAN sits on a side of a table, reading the newspaper and drinking coffee.

BANANA enters.

BANANA

Hi mom.

MRS. CHAN

Hi, Banana.

BANANA

You look really happy.

MRS. CHAN

I'm happy that you bought this life for our family.

BANANA

You don't think they're evil, do you?

MRS. CHAN

That label can do what they want, dear, until you feel that they're evil. As long as you don't see any of the glaring problems with what they do, then I can't really tell you what to do.

BANANA's cellular phone rings; she answers it.

BANANA

Yippers.

Pause.

BANANA

But I don't need a bodyguard.

Pause.

BANANA

Alright. If you think it's wise, I agree with you.

She hangs up the phone.

MRS. CHAN

What's this about a bodyguard?

BANANA

The label thinks I need one.

EXT. DRIVEWAY, RANCH IN MONTANA - DAY

An armored limo pulls into the driveway.

BANANA runs out of the house, and into the driveway, to greet her new bodyguard.

An ugly, eighty year old woman, in a long black dress, named

CREAM, exits the limo.

CREAM

Are you the spoiled brat I'm supposed to protect?

BANANA looks shocked.

BANANA

You shouldn't be calling me names.

CREAM

You are my responsibility, twerp, and I don't like it just as much as you don't.

CREAM reveals a whip.

CREAM

My name is Cream, and this is my whip.

BANANA

I'M NOT A CAGED ANIMAL!!!

CREAM reveals some documents, gives them to BANANA CHAN. BANANA CHAN reads the documents thoroughly.

BANANA

Oh, it says here I am. Why's mom's signature here?

CREAM

Didn't she tell you that she signed this three months ago?

BANANA

No. What's this about?

CREAM

Well, since you're touring, the record company is your new legal guardian until you turn eighteen. And then, you know what happens when you turn eighteen!

A tear rolls down BANANA's face.

BANANA

I didn't know about this.

BANANA runs toward the side of the house, crying.

EXT. POOL, RANCH IN MONTANA - DAY

BANANA runs toward the pool where MRS. CHAN swims.

BANANA's still crying.

BANANA

Is it true, mom, that the record company is my legal guardian?

MRS. CHAN nods.

BANANA yells...

BANANA

But you're my parent!

MRS. CHAN

It's just a technicality.

BANANA

How could you sign me away to a corporation?

MRS. CHAN

Reluctantly. But think about the future!

BANANA

How long are we bound by contract to serve the record label?

MRS. CHAN

Three years, or until they deem you unprofitable.

BANANA

What do I have to do in order to become unprofitable?

MRS. CHAN

Why would you want that?

BANANA

ANSWER THE QUESTION!!!

MRS. CHAN

Well, you've always had such a high metabolism that you never put on too much weight, regardless of how much food you cram into your gullet. I mean, you've got a bottomless pit for a stomach, and an endless appetite, yet you always remain cute as a button.

BANANA

I know, but get to the point, please!

MRS. CHAN

Well, I guess I could share my take-out with you, and hope for the best.

CREAM enters.

CREAM

No!

MRS. CHAN

And who are you?

CREAM

I'm Cream; her legal guardian. Who are you?

MRS. CHAN

Her mother.

BANANA  
This is crazy.

CREAM  
This is the life you've chosen for yourself.

BANANA  
No, it's not.

BANANA begins running away, but CREAM stops her with a tranquilizer dart.

MRS. CHAN  
Where can I buy one of those?

CREAM  
Not sure where I got it.

MRS. CHAN  
Cream? -- is that your real name?

CREAM  
Yes.

MRS. CHAN  
Interesting name.

CREAM  
True.

MRS. CHAN  
Want some coffee. Do you take cream?

MRS. CHAN laughs.

CREAM  
I don't fraternize with clients.

MRS. CHAN  
I wasn't aware that I was the client. Isn't the label your client?

CREAM  
Yes. Do you think that, in another life, Banana might compliment my marksmanship?

MRS. CHAN  
Well, she likes archery, so I'm not sure. Why  
do you ask?

CREAM  
I'm a big fan.

MRS. CHAN punches CREAM, which knocks her out immediately.

MRS. CHAN  
That was too easy.

INT. WINDOWLESS CREW QUARTERS, AIRCRAFT CARRIER

BANANA wakes up.

MRS. CHAN enters.

BANANA  
Where am I?

MRS. CHAN  
That aircraft carrier on which you performed  
recently.

BANANA  
Why am I here?

MRS. CHAN  
We're refugees, pumpkin.

BANANA  
Refugees. From what?

MRS. CHAN  
From Cream.

BANANA  
Cream?

MRS. CHAN  
Your bodyguard.

BANANA  
Oh her. I hate her.

MRS. CHAN  
And your label. I've got a friend on this ship;  
it's the Captain. We can hide out in here for as  
long as we need.

BANANA  
So where are we going?

MRS. CHAN  
Japan.

BANANA  
I've always wanted to be Japanese.

BANANA winks at the camera.

MRS. CHAN  
I've got a friend in Tokyo who can falsify some  
identification for both of us.

BANANA  
Why do you suddenly have all these friends  
everywhere?

Long pause.

MRS. CHAN  
I used to be a spy.

BANANA  
Huh?

MRS. CHAN  
It's true. I'm telling you now because I couldn't  
stand keeping it from you for all these years.

The NAVY CAPTAIN enters.

NAVY CAPTAIN  
There you are. May I escort you to your  
quarters?

BANANA  
Where will I be staying?

NAVY CAPTAIN  
With the Navy seal.

BANANA  
The...Navy...seal?

NAVY CAPTAIN nods.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO HOLD

BANANA sits on a mattress which is next to a small pool in which a seal jumps around, does flips, and balances a ball on its nose.

BANANA  
Very funny.

SEAL  
Oar oar oar!!!

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

BANANA'S VOICE  
This blows. I'd rather continue the original storyline ... in which I live in the small sea-side town of Rain, Japan. And I don't do so well in school, but I was once a hero who defeated the Eater of Worlds. And I'm arranged to marry Ryone, even though he doesn't know of the arrangement, and I don't even like him. It's complicated. And to make matters even more complicated: I have a talking cat, and a twelve year old grandson from the future named Buster!

WIPE TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM - DAY

BUSTER lies on his bed, reading a comic book.

BANANA enters.

BANANA CHAN  
Buster!

BUSTER

What? Can't you see I'm reading?

BANANA CHAN

That's a dumb superhero story. You should read love stories, because violence is so childish!

BUSTER

What?

BANANA CHAN

You're growing up, Buster, so you should read about love. Love is important.

BUSTER

Who are you? You're not Banana. The Banana I know is a shrew when it comes to that sort of thing, just ask Ryone.

BANANA CHAN

Shut up about Ryone.

BUSTER

Okay.

A light-bulb appears over BANANA's head, as does a yellow background with white stripes. She smiles and says...

BANANA CHAN

I'll be right back!

She runs out of the room.

After a short pause, she re-enters with a SAILOR MOON manga.

BUSTER

Sailor Moon?

BANANA CHAN

It's heavenly.

BUSTER

Why should I read it?

BANANA CHAN

So that I can tell you about The Emotion 16  
Soldiers.

BUSTER  
What?

BANANA CHAN  
Just read my Sailor Moon books.

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER sits with 937 on the roof-top.

BUSTER  
Banana gave me a girly book to read.

937  
What book?

BUSTER  
It doesn't matter. Besides, she'll forget about  
it anyway.

937  
Whatever, man. Whatever.

WIPE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM, LIGHT HOUSE - EVENING

Fragments of everything litter the table and the floor in  
this very messy room.

RYONE (age 16) eats dinner with his father GORO, mother  
SEN,  
and sister KIT.

GORO HAZUKI (age 49) is a bald and muscular man, who wears  
army fatigues.

SEN HAZUKI (age 39) is a tall and worldly-looking woman,  
who  
wears a fashionable skirt.

KIT HAZUKI (age 8) wears cowgirl boots, jean-shorts, a  
short jean skirt, a jean vest over a jean shirt, a fake

smile, and glitter-streaked braided hair which flows half-way down her back.

KIT

Dad, I want a cell phone.

GORO

You don't need a goddamn cell phone.

KIT

But Tracy has a cell phone!

GORO

Who the fuck is Tracy? And we're not millionaires.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

KIT

Dad, please get me a cell phone!

GORO

I already said: We're not millionaires!

KIT

We'd be millionaires if you didn't gamble all the time!

GORO

That's not true.

RYONE

Dad, I've seen the numbers; it is true. Right, mom?

SEN

Yes.

GORO

I'm not getting her a cell phone.

KIT

But daaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaad!

RYONE

I agree with dad on this one. Cell phones cause cancer.

KIT  
But I need one!

GORO  
You need a swift kick in the head.

SEN  
Goro, stop.

They eat for a while.

RYONE  
This is good food, mom.

SEN  
You think so?

RYONE  
Of course. You always make great food.

KIT  
Dad. You still didn't answer my question.  
Can I get a cell phone?

GORO  
What the fuck do you need a cell phone for?

RYONE  
Yeah Kit. I'm double your age, and I don't  
need a phone.

KIT  
Well your only friends are on the internet, but  
that doesn't count.

RYONE  
Most people in this town still wouldn't have a  
clue if you bought a clue for 'em for Christmas.

GORO  
Ryone, I should just kick your useless ass.

RYONE  
I still have a bruise on the side of my arm from  
where you kicked me the other day.

GORO  
I never kicked you.

RYONE rolls up his shirt, and shows-off a big bruise.

GORO  
(yelling)  
I didn't kick you!

RYONE  
Yes, you do! And when you can admit it to  
yourself ...!

GORO slaps RYONE.

RYONE  
(crying)  
Fuck off!

SEN laughs.

RYONE  
Mom! Please stop laughing when he's beating  
me!

GORO kicks RYONE's bruise, and RYONE crumbles to the  
ground, crying.

SEN  
(laughing)  
I can't control my laughter when Goro hits  
people; that's why I love him, and that's why  
you were born, Ryone!

RYONE  
(crying)  
I wish even one person in the world loved me!

GORO kicks RYONE in the ribs.

SEN laughs.

RYONE crawls out of the room.

KIT runs out of the room, crying.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

Ryone's escape is his poetry.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA sits on the rock, dips her toes in the pond, and ponders.

RYONE'S VOICE

(voice-over)

I dreamed I was a pure white falcon, flying up a mountainside, with a quiet sea beneath me, and bright stars above me. I was holding keys tightly in my talons. Then I heard your voice, as you said, "I'm here with you, Ryone." Happy, I reached the top of the mountain. I was wearing white robes as I drank clear water from a natural fountain. Then I heard your voice, as you said, "I'm here with you, Ryone." Happy, I jumped into a scarlet robe, ran to a cliff, and looked at angels. They wanted to wash my feet, but I assured them I could do it myself. Then I heard your voice, as you said, "I'm here with you Ryone." Happy, I washed my hands and feet, and then I woke up from that pleasant dream, to this nightmare in which you're not here with me. You're not here with me, here where I can love and protect you, here where I can teach you about the things I know, and here where I can learn from you about the things you know. I love you, Banana. And someday we'll be here or there together.

BANANA sighs.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA, MRS. CHAN, and BUSTER, sit around the table, eating cereal.

MRS. CHAN  
Hey kids. Might be a good idea for our little family to go to the fair today!

BANANA  
A fair's in town?

MRS. CHAN  
No; it was just a conversation starter. But I do want to spend time with you today.

BANANA  
I gotta visit friends after school, so no.

MRS. CHAN  
You're spending more time visiting friends than going to school, or doing your homework! I'm so jealous!

MRS. CHAN exits.

BANANA  
(thoughts, voice over)  
"I'm so glad that I have friends, and that they have time for me!"  
(speaking)  
You're a really big fan of that SqueegiMon show, hey?

BUSTER  
Yup. Hey, I thought you said you are too, aren't you?

BANANA  
No, me likey more destruction. I lay on the couch and listen to the background music. And I look at the screen only when that silver haired dude is on.

BUSTER  
What's so cool about him?

BANANA  
He's really funny! Plus, his voice actor is Tuku Fee, and Tuku Fee rocks my socks!

BUSTER  
You're weird.

BANANA  
No. That show's weird. Why the heck do they turn into car parts anyway?

BUSTER  
It's their anger transformation! Don't you get it?

BANANA  
Yeah, it's cool, but I'm just not interested now.

BUSTER  
Oh. Banana, I have a confession to make.

BANANA  
What could it possibly be?

BUSTER  
SqueegiMon was your idea.

BANANA  
Huh? I think I hit you a bit too hard when I threw that tire at you months ago ...

BUSTER  
But Grandma...

BANANA  
But nothing! Quit calling me Grandma!

BUSTER  
Let me explain: When you were older, you wrote SqueegiMon. But when it was finally produced, Armageddon occurred so the entire story didn't get to play itself out on TV. I know this because I met an older version of you during my time-travels. So anyway, you gave me all the scripts, and I time-traveled with a friend of yours, to a few years ago, and he used one of his pseudonyms when he pitched SqueegiMon to that animation studio. This way you get to see, as a kid, that show which future-you wished she had seen as a kid, because it has lessons that prevent you from

making certain mistakes.

BANANA  
That explains it!

BUSTER  
What?

BANANA  
That explains why SqueegiMon usually blows  
my freaking mind, so please change the topic  
as soon as possible, please!

BUSTER  
Okay. Speaking of "please", please don't  
marry James Alyn, because then I won't exist!

BANANA faints.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN  
Did she faint again?

BUSTER  
Yes.

MRS. CHAN  
She has low blood-sugar.

BUSTER  
Low blood-sugar? Is she a vegetarian?

MRS. CHAN  
No.

BUSTER  
No?

MRS. CHAN  
Correct.

She ruffles his hair.

BUSTER  
Not the hair.

MRS. CHAN  
Sorry.

He begins combing.

EXT. SEASHORE - DAY

RYONE and his KIT sit on the beach, watching the waves.

KIT  
I'd kill myself if dad treated me the way he  
treats you. What keeps you alive?

A thought-bubble appears over RYONE's head, in which a  
naked  
BANANA CHAN stands with RYONE on the beach, laughing and  
smiling while he clowns around.

RYONE  
Hope.

WIPE TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP, LIGHT HOUSE - NIGHT

RYONE sits on the roof of the light-house, and the  
following  
scenes play in his thought-bubble ...

INT. CHAN FAMILY DOJO - MORNING [RYONE'S THOUGHT-  
BUBBLE]

MRS. CHAN and BANANA practice martial arts fighting styles;  
they spar during this conversation.

MRS. CHAN  
I have a gambling problem.

BANANA  
What?!

MRS. CHAN  
Money doesn't grow on trees, Banana. I  
bought this dojo with money I made from  
gambling. But then I took a gambling tip from  
Ryone's dad.

BANANA  
What!?

MRS. CHAN  
I have to sell the dojo.

EXT. MOONLIT PARK - NIGHT [RYONE'S THOUGHT-BUBBLE]

BANANA CHAN lays on green grass, wearing only a bikini.

THE MOON talks to her.

THE MOON  
Your quest, if you choose to accept it, is to find the sixteenth emotion.

BANANA  
The sixteenth emotion?

THE MOON  
Yes, the sixteenth emotion; otherwise known as Emotion 16.

BANANA  
But how will I find this emotion?

THE MOON  
You must keep a diary as you go on this amazing quest through your mind.

BANANA  
A quest through my mind?

THE MOON  
Yes, a quest through your mind.

BANANA  
That's easy; I'm always doin' crazy messed-up stuff in my head!

THE MOON  
This quest is different, because you must defeat the evil Brainstorm.

BANANA  
What's a Brainstorm?

THE MOON

It's the process of coming up with a list of emotions without the help of a dictionary, thesaurus, or any other reference guide. And once you defeat Brainstorm, it'll join you as a skill which you may call upon at any time.

BANANA

Okay, like I care. But what do I get in return?

THE MOON

Didn't you hear me?

BANANA

Nope; I was thinkin' about other stuff.

THE MOON

Then I'll repeat myself. Basically, your quest is to write out a list of sixteen emotions and circle the sixteenth then bring me the list so that I may check it for spelling errors.

BANANA

What is this, school?

Then we see a piece of paper, with a list of emotions on it, and a bunch of doodles on the sides ...

"My List of Emotions"

by Banana Chan

1. Happy
2. Afraid
3. Tolerance
4. Loneliness
5. Sympathy
6. Joygasmic bubbly feeling.
7. Understanding
8. Profound cosmic understanding.

9. Boredom
  10. Pity
  11. Jes' bummin' aroun'.
  12. That low blood-pressury feeling you get when you pet an animal like a cat or a puppy or a bunny or somethin'.
  13. Respect
  14. Total one-ness
  15. Total two-ness A.K.A. total totalness :)
  16. Luv
- Luv Banana Chan.

WIPE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA, RAIN HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

BANANA eats lunch in a crowded high school cafeteria; she sits with her red-haired friend named ALICIA, and a bald girl named VIKKI.

ALICIA  
I saw a flying saucer.

BANANA spits her food at the wall, causing a dripping mess, which she laughs at.

BANANA  
(pointing at the mess)  
Slimer!

ALICIA  
Anyway, I was heading to Vikki's house when I saw a big flying saucer launch from a strange hole in her back yard.

VIKKI looks nervous.

VIKKI  
Umm... there's no underground proving-ground

linked to a sub-terrain air-field, behind my house. What are you talking about?

ALICIA  
I never said anything like that.

BANANA  
What the heck's a ... proving ground?

VIKKI  
It's a place where secret rockets and new aircraft are tested, but it doesn't exist.

VIKKI stands up, and runs away.

BANANA finishes her food.

BANANA  
Yummers.

BANANA eats VIKKI's unfinished food.

BANANA  
Yummers.

ALICIA  
We must investigate that weird stuff in Vikki's yard!

BANANA  
I'll go under one condition.

ALICIA  
Oh?

BANANA points at ALICIA's food.

ALICIA laughs and gives her food to BANANA, and BANANA eats it all, in an instant.

END OF EPISODE