

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x16

Project Blue Beam

By Alan Holman

INT. DARK BOX IN THE BACK OF A TRUCK

BANANA sits in a dark box, in the back of a truck, while talking into her cell-phone.

MRS. CHAN'S VOICE
Where are you?

BANANA
A box in a van ... or a truck -- I'm in an underground tunnel, beneath Vikki's house; it's kind of weird.

MRS. CHAN'S VOICE
How'd you get into a box, in a moving vehicle?

BANANA
Alicia got scared and ran away. We were investigating the weird stuff that happens at Vikki's place.

MRS. CHAN'S VOICE
What did you learn?

BANANA
Jack-all.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO SAUCER

BANANA CHAN exits from a box in a roomful of boxes. A metal door is across the room from her.

BANANA
Hmm...

We hear loud rumbling, and BANANA CHAN splats down onto the floor.

BANANA
Yeeee-ouch!

BANANA lies on the floor as the rumbling continues.

BANANA

Blast off to adventure! Tee hee.

The loud rumbling of the rocket ends, and BANANA begins flying in the zero gravity of space.

BANANA

Look at me! I'm Super Banana!

A fourteen year old geeky boy in glasses and suspenders, named RAPHAEL, enters the room through the metal airlock door.

RAPHAEL

A g-g-g-g...g-g...A GIRL!!!

BANANA

Tee hee!

RAPHAEL

I'm Raphael.

BANANA

Where are we?

RAPHAEL

A cargo saucer. This was inside a rocket that was launched from a top secret proving ground in my back yard.

BANANA

I hate back-story. Just show me around.

RAPHAEL

My pleasure. Follow me.

RAPHAEL floats into the airlock, and BANANA follows.

EXT. SPACE

A little flying saucer detaches from a big flying saucer which orbits earth.

INT. LITTLE FLYING SAUCER

BANANA and RAPHAEL sit in the cockpit. RAPHAEL's at the navigation station. BANANA looks through the window, in wonder, at the earth below them.

BANANA

Where are we going?

RAPHAEL

The space station orbits the moon, so we'll have a few minutes...alone.
(wink, wink)

BANANA blushes, then says bluntly...

BANANA

You're too young for me.

Out the window, we see a few small saucers, much like the one which BANANA and RAPHAEL are inside of, fly towards the large cargo saucer.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, SPACE STATION TERRA

A group of fourteen year old nerdy boys sit around a table playing a tabletop role-playing-game.

NERD WITH SUSPENDERS

My potion of torpor is still affecting the beast of wonder which is your...

RAPHAEL enters.

RAPHAEL

I bring a visitor!

VERY SHORT NERD

Your mother?

Pause.

VERY SHORT NERD

(continuing)
...because last time, she brought tang and cookies!

BANANA enters.

BANANA

Hiya.

All of the nerds, except RAPHAEL, run away, screaming: "A g-g-g-g-g A GIRL!!!"

Now, only BANANA and RAPHAEL are in the room.

INT. ASTROMETRICS LAB, SPACE STATION TERRA

Holographic star-charts, and similar maps of astronomical phenomenon, fill this room.

BANANA and RAPHAEL enter.

RAPHAEL

We can be alone here.

BANANA

But I want to meet the rest of your space station crew.

RAPHAEL

They're afraid of you.

BANANA

Why are your crew afraid of me?

RAPHAEL

We don't see girls very often.

BANANA

So what? Just treat me like one of the guys.

RAPHAEL

I hate it when girls delude themselves into thinking they're being treated like quote-unquote "one of the guys".

BANANA

What? Why?

RAPHAEL

Too many reasons. But I'm a sucker for girls, so I'd love to give you a chance to try to fit in.

WIPE TO:

INT. CORRIDOR, SPACE STATION TERRA

BANANA's walking through a long metallic corridor with RAPHAEL.

BANANA
Why aren't we floating?

RAPHAEL
Controlled rotation emulates gravitational pull.

Pause.

BANANA
Trippy.

They stop in front of a door marked "BRIDGE"

RAPHAEL
Wait out here for a minute. I'll be right back.

BANANA
Sure.

INT. COMMAND DECK OF SPACE STATION TERRA - DAY

In the front of the room is a large viewscreen which is monitoring the earth. In various parts of the room are 14 year old geeky boys who are pushing buttons and monitoring readings on consoles. An empty chair is in the center of the room, facing the viewscreen.

RAPHAEL enters.

NERD #1
Captain on the bridge!

RAPHAEL sits on the Captain's chair.

NERD #2 approaches RAPHAEL, and asks...

NERD #2
Is there really a girl on the station?

RAPHAEL

Yup.

NERD #2
A g-g-g-g-Girl!?!

RAPHAEL
Exactly.

NERD #2 falls over, then stands up.

NERD #2
Girls are a distraction; they lower our efficiency. They cause us to create chains of command based on machismo, rather than rank; chains of command in which she runs the show ultimately. Also, we get into fights about stupid things in front of her, just to show her who's the toughest. With a girl onboard, we need to segregate a specific washroom for her -- what will she think when she sees that all of our washrooms have urinals? Raph, it'll be your mom's visit all over again!

RAPHAEL
I hear ya loud and clear, buddy, but rather than extracting the feminine presence from our station, let's give her a chance to try to fit in. Remember: we outnumber her. We're not the ones who are trying to fit in; she is. So don't censor yourself while she's around here.

NERD #2
Don't censor ourselves?

RAPHAEL
Exactly.

NERD #2
But what about the planned staged alien attack, or the planned staged destruction of the station?

RAPHAEL
Of course we don't tell her about "Project Blue Beam", how we're trying to make people afraid of an alien race who are actually peaceful, so that when that peaceful alien race shows up,

people will back a military attack on their ships because galactic consciousness would end wars thus weapon sales thus profit for our bosses, not to mention it'd end the money system which has always allowed our bosses -- the reptilian Banking Clan -- to divide and conquer the masses. But other than those top secret things, don't censor yourselves.

NERD #2

But if she's even the slightest bit pretty, we'll all fight over her, because she's the only girl here.

On the viewscreen is a UFO.

RAPHAEL

(pointing at the screen)
Look! A "UFO"!

BANANA enters the room.

All the nerds, except RAPHAEL, klutzily stumble out of the room, screaming, "A g-g-g-g-g-g-g-GIRL!!!!"

...but before NERD #2 can get to the door, he accidentally trips and falls on a switch which fires a nuclear torpedo at the UFO.

RAPHAEL and BANANA watch the view screen in horror as the torpedo destroys the UFO in a huge blast.

BANANA

That can't be good.

RAPHAEL

What an understatement. That ship cost almost a billion dollars to make.

BANANA

What?

RAPHAEL

The other guys aren't in the room, so I can tell you: That ship was a pilotless drone from Mars Station. This is top secret, so don't tell

anyone that I told you.

BANANA

Well I'm glad you told me. I'd hate to think I killed some alien.

INT. CORRIDOR, SPACE STATION TERRA

RAPHAEL and BANANA stand in front of a door which is marked with the number "7"

RAPHAEL

Number seven is your room.

BANANA

Thanks.

RAPHAEL exits one way, as BANANA walks the other way, until she's in front of a door which is marked with the number "8"

BANANA

I like eight better.

BANANA opens door #8, and reveals an evil-looking nerd named STEVE NOODLE who is wearing a bath-robe while programming his computer.

INT. STEVE NOODLE'S ROOM, SPACE STATION TERRA

BANANA enters.

STEVE rotates his swivel chair to face BANANA.

STEVE NOODLE

(slowly)

I knew you'd swallow the bait.

BANANA

You're funny.

(laughs)

Why aren't you afraid of me like the other boys?

STEVE NOODLE

Spy-cams got me used to you, and a subliminal tape-recording in the ventilation

system brought you to my lair.

BANANA

Want my phone number?

(laughs)

You're a freaky weirdo ... but I like that.

STEVE NOODLE

I'm also the best freaking tabletop role-playing-game player onboard this rascal!

BANANA

Tabletop role-playing-game?

STEVE NOODLE

Yeah. Did Captain Raphael neglect to tell you that we spend our off-hours playing tabletop role-playing-games?

BANANA

I've heard about tabletop role-playing-games with much interest, but I've never actually gotten a chance to try playing any of them.

STEVE NOODLE

Well join us tonight.

BANANA

Yeah.

INT. GAME ROOM, SPACE STATION TERRA

BANANA joins a group of nerds in a tabletop role-playing-game.

RAPHAEL

Banana. The first step is to make your character.

BANANA

Okay.

RAPHAEL hands her a character creation form.

RAPHAEL

Fill out all the blanks on this form. When you get to these boxes, use this pair of dice.

BANANA
Okay.

NERD #2
I think I speak for all of us when I say this, but
Banana, please please please please please
SHOW US YOUR TITS!

BANANA destroys his face with her fist.

CUT TO:

INT. INFIRMARY, SPACE STATION TERRA

NERD #2 lays on a bed with a large bandage over his nose,
and an ice-pack over his groin.

RAPHAEL enters.

RAPHAEL
You spoke for all of us. And that's why we've
gotta get rid of her.

INT. BANANA'S ROOM, SPACE STATION TERRA

BANANA's sitting at a desk, staring at a wall.

There's a knock on the door.

BANANA
Come in.

RAPHAEL enters.

BANANA
Whew, I'm glad you're not another crazy guy
asking for the time.

RAPHAEL
The only clock on this deck is in your room.

BANANA
(nods)
Why is that anyway?

RAPHAEL laughs awkwardly.

INT. COMMAND DECK OF SPACE STATION TERRA - DAY

...same as before.

RAPHAEL enters.

NERD #1

The radio telescope indicates that Mars station has sent their armada of pilotless drone saucers to earth. They are in attack formation, ready to make people fear Pleadians as planned.

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA'S ROOM, SPACE STATION TERRA

BANANA's watching a situation comedy on the television.

There's a knock on the door. BANANA turns off the television, then she opens the door, revealing RAPHAEL.

RAPHAEL

Look, the nerds want you to believe that the aliens are real, so they've staged a UFO attack, and they're pretending to be too wimpy to pilot our X-Wing against them. They want you to pilot our mint condition, perfect to-a-T replicate, authentic, just like in the Star Wars trilogies, X-Wing, against the fake aliens!

BANANA

But I'm not a pilot!

RAPHAEL

Have you ever played Space Invaders?

BANANA

Yeah, I'm good at that game.

RAPHAEL

You'll do fine.

BANANA nods.

BANANA

Okay. I'll do it!

INT. HANGAR, SPACE STATION TERRA

A fighter craft, which looks like an X-Wing from Star Wars, sits in the middle of this hangar.

STEVE helps BANANA into the X-Wing's cockpit, then she flies it through the bay doors, and into space.

INT. SPACE

An "alien" armada approaches the solar system.

In a sequence which parodies the arcade game SPACE INVADERS, the X-Wing quickly, and easily, destroys the entire "alien" armada.

INT. COCKPIT, X-WING

BANANA flies the ship with ease.

BANANA

The earth is safe for yet another day.

A voice emits from a communication system.

NERDY VOICE

Congratulations Banana Chan! Now fly to Space Station Terra, and give us our X-Wing back.

BANANA

Not so fast. I wanna go home.

NERDY VOICE

We want our X-Wing back.

BANANA

I know about "Project Blue Beam". I know that the aliens are fake. And if you don't let me keep the X-Wing, I'll tell everyone about how you're planning to use fake UFOs to scare people into joining your New World Order.

NERDY VOICE

Who told you?

BANANA

It's all over the internet. But like 90% of people don't believe it anyway. But I know that it's true, and I'll tell everyone that it's true if you don't let me keep your X-Wing.

NERDY VOICE

That's fair, but why do you want it?

BANANA

My friend Alicia is a huge fan of Star Wars: The Clone Wars, so I want to give it to her to make up for the fact that I forgot to give her a present on her birthday.

NERDY VOICE

Okay. Well, I guess that would be alright.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EXT. BACK YARD, MAISON CHAN - DAY

Large fences block the view of this back yard from neighbors and/or passers-by. The back yard contains a flower garden, a vegetable garden, a swimming pool, a large patch of grass, a sand box, a shed, and a swing set.

An X-Wing fighter spacecraft, like in the movie STAR WARS, stands prominently in the center of the large patch of grass.

BUSTER enters the back yard from the back door of the house, and notices the X-Wing.

BUSTER

Holy cash cow! When did we get a spaceship!?

BANANA runs into the scene.

BANANA

It's mine! No touchy!

BUSTER
How did you get a space ship?

BANANA
I snuck into a box for some reason. That box was loaded as cargo into a small saucer that flew in a rocket to a space station ... and stuff.

BUSTER
Oh. So what's this space-ship for, anyway?

BANANA
I'm giving it to Alicia as a birthday present, because she likes Star Wars: The Clone Wars!

Pause.

BUSTER
Oh. Cool! I hope she likes it!

BANANA hops into the cockpit of the X-Wing, and flies it up into the sky.

EXT. MOON

A small flying saucer lands on the surface of the moon.

BANANA and RAPHAEL, wearing space suits, get out of the saucer, and walk on the surface of the moon.

BANANA's yammering about this-and-that...

BANANA
...and then my grandson from the future came to live with me.

RAPHAEL
Huh? Are you pulling my leg?

BANANA looks at RAPHAEL's legs, then she takes a good, long look at her hands in front of her face, and asks...

BANANA
(fake confusion)
Was that some kind of a trick question?
(laughing)

Just kidding - I'm not stupid.

WIPE TO:

EXT. DOOR-STEP, MAISON ORBIE - AFTERNOON

BANANA rings the door-bell.

ALICIA answers the door, hugs BANANA, and says.

ALICIA
Hey Nanners! What's up with you?

BANANA
Something horrible.

ALICIA
Oh no! What?

BANANA
It's complicated. Let's sit down somewhere.

INT. ALICIA'S ROOM, MAISON ORBIE - AFTERNOON

BANANA and ALICIA play a video-game called a "Dating Sim" in which BANANA controls the girl, and ALICIA controls the guy.

ALICIA
So what's that big deal you wanted to tell me about?

BANANA
Oh that -- I almost forgot about it for five whole minutes -- the most glorious five minutes I've had in a long time.

ALICIA
Ouch. Sounds like it's not so good news at all.

BANANA
It's pretty bad.

ALICIA
Do you want to tell me what it is?

BANANA

Yes. Umm ... but let's go to Ashana's first. If I'm telling you, I might as well tell her also.

ALICIA

Does it have anything to do with what went on at Vikki's place?

BANANA

No.

ALICIA

What went on at Vikki's place?

BANANA

It's classified.

ALICIA

Tell me anyway.

BANANA

Okay. They launch space ships to a top secret space station. I snuck aboard, and I met some nerdy boys who are pawns in a secret government plot to make the world a global fascist state with me as their lizard Queen!

ALICIA

(laughs)
You're lying!

BANANA

No, I'm not. But I'll tell you that story another time.

ALICIA

Okay!

BANANA

But right now, let's go to Ashana's place so that I can tell you and her what is bothering me.

INT. NIKO DOJO - MORNING

BANANA and ALICIA sit in a corner watching their friend ASHANA practice martial arts (nothing too spectacular).

ASHANA NIKO (age 14) is athletic, 5'2", with short black hair, and brown eyes. She wears a karate outfit with a black belt.

BANANA
She's really good at that. I want a skill!

ALICIA
You've got loads of skills.

BANANA
Like what?

ALICIA
Listening.

BANANA
That's not a skill.

ALICIA
Sure it is. You're very good at it.

BANANA
Well thanks, but I'd like something else, like a hobby. I used to write, but I stopped two years ago.

ALICIA
Your friends are your hobby! We count on you! And right now we're counting on you to tell us your secret, so what's the big deal?

BANANA
Exactly; it's a big deal. I should have told you about it when I found out about it two years ago.

ALICIA
Is it a secret?

BANANA
Yes. And it involves me, but darn secrecy! I should tell my two best friends! You're my two best friends, and it's stupid, but I've never

found the right time to tell you two about this stuff, 'cuz other stuff keeps coming up. When she's done practicing, I'll tell you both what it is.

ALICIA

Ashana doesn't know that you've got news for her, does she?

BANANA

No, I don't want to interrupt her practice session. Her dad said she's always more dedicated when we're around. I hope she wins a gold medal again at this years' tournament at Shikigami Falls.

(sad)

I'm not good at anything. I need a skill, so I can accomplish something before my ...

(crying)

Arranged marriage.

ASHANA stops practicing, and approaches.

ASHANA

What's with the water-works?

ALICIA

An arranged marriage?!

BANANA

Yeah.

ASHANA

What the HELL?

BANANA

The only thing I know about my dad is that he runs a business that has an important contract with another business. The son of the guy who runs that other business is who I'm supposed to marry.

ASHANA

You don't have to go through with this!

BANANA

Yeah, I probably do.

ASHANA

Why?

BANANA

It's too complicated. In fact, the groom doesn't even know yet. When we're both eighteen, he'll find out about it. It's sort of top secret, because the companies are like government or something. I have to marry the son of my dad's friend in two years when I'm eighteen.

ASHANA

Why!?!

BANANA

So all the families of all the people who work hard for two very large corporations can continue to put food on their tables without anything to worry about. It's complicated, but that marriage is very real, and very important. It's my responsibility, even though I know the guy, and I hate his freaking guts.

ALICIA

That's STUPID and CRUEL!

BANANA runs out, crying.

ALICIA and ASHANA run after BANANA.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - AFTERNOON

BANANA, ALICIA, and ASHANA, sit on a rock, dipping their toes into the pond, as they talk amongst themselves.

BANANA

... and everyone will thank me because the companies will finally co-exist in harmony. I learned all the details from documents in an old shelf. I'm actually not supposed to know about it yet. I'm supposed to learn in two years. It's complicated.

ALICIA
What does your mom think about the whole thing?

BANANA
She likes the guy. I'm in the worst case scenario.

They all hug ... and cry.

BANANA
The worst part is that you can't even give me company at the wedding. It's just for the families -- I'm sorry. It's very traditional, and you can't be there; that's the worst part.

They all cry -- in a group-hug.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA chats with MRS. CHAN.

BANANA
I told my two closest friends about the arranged marriage.

MRS. CHAN
Why?

BANANA
Because it was driving me crazy.

MRS. CHAN
Did it help, to tell them about it?

BANANA
Yeah.

MRS. CHAN
Well, that's good. You did the right thing then. We don't need a crazy person. But what about the guy Buster said you'll meet in the future?

BANANA

I still haven't met Rob yet. And Buster doesn't exactly act like he's a trained NINjA, so I have my doubts about his story. Such as how can I marry a guy named Rob if I'm arranged to marry a guy named Ryone?

MRS. CHAN
Good point.

BANANA
It makes me sick.

BUSTER enters.

BUSTER
(to Mrs. Chan)
Did you tell Banana?

BANANA
Tell me what?

MRS. CHAN
Banana, we've been thinking. Despite our bias towards Ryone, it's obvious that his notes do bother you on a profound level.

BUSTER
Even though it imaginably bothers him on a more profound level that you rarely reply to him.

BANANA
He's too desperate.

BUSTER
But he's extremely creative, and he puts a lot of thought into his notes.

BANANA
Yeah right. Buster, why do you prefer Ryone, if your grandpa's Rob?

MRS. CHAN
Yeah, that is a really good question.

BUSTER
Ryone's cool. I don't know Rob yet either.

MRS. CHAN
Aren't you afraid of the paradoxical danger?

BUSTER
What are you talking about?

BANANA
I guess Buster hasn't seen that movie.

BUSTER
No. I haven't watched many films.

MRS. CHAN
Never mind.

BUSTER takes a note out of his pocket.

BUSTER
I'll bet this note took a lot of thought.

BANANA
Which one is that? And by the way, if you think I care that you're reading it, you're wrong.

BUSTER
This one was in the pile. I liked this one a lot.
(reading the note)
"Banana -- I propose we've got a lot in common. Please reconsider your rejections. Actually try dating me. My likes are adventure, spirit, team, posture, tolerance, care, composure, abundance, respect, love, family, friends, fertility, trust, memory, maturity, change, togetherness, dignity, sacrifice, understanding, compromise, peace, sympathy, acceptance, truth, survival, and resolution. If we have any of those things in common, please let me date you so that I can try to eventually join your awesome family."
(stops reading)
I love that list!

BANANA
It's just a useless list. He's simply trying to use words to impress me. Well any loser can write well if they try hard enough.

BUSTER

Go to him! Do something!

BANANA

I don't know what to do but just continue ignoring it until it's too late, or it hopefully goes away for good, and maybe that Rob guy will show up.

Slight pause.

BANANA

Ryone stops sending notes sometimes, but then spring comes and it all begins again.

MRS. CHAN

I think you should talk to him.

BANANA

No.

MRS. CHAN

Yes. If you actually believe that his non-threatening, harmless notes, are unacceptable, you've gotta tell him.

BUSTER

In person. Plus, I don't understand what's so unacceptable about a declaration of love. I think you're just discriminating him about his sexual preference, namely you.

BANANA

Buster, you brat! Ick!

MRS. CHAN

Banana. Go to him, look him in the eyes, and -- if you have the capacity for it -- tell him to stop.

BANANA

No. I feel very strongly against him seeing me. I want him to forget what I even look like. Or maybe I'll change my appearance.

BUSTER

That's cruel if he loves you!

BANANA
(crying)
Shut ... up!

BANANA runs into her bedroom, and slams the door.

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

BUSTER hands a little notebook to RYONE.

BUSTER
Ryone. Read this.

RYONE
Okay.
(reading)
"The sun's rays slip between white, fluffy clouds, and sparkle in the damp, after-rain air. Seagulls soar beside the ocean, and crows cast over-protective gazes upon the town from the forest which surrounds its northern, southern, and eastern, borders. And to Rain's west, the oceanside -- with its docks, warehouses, sandy beaches ... and the light-house which protects it all."
(pause)
This is beautiful. The words have such an amazing texture. What is this?

BUSTER
Banana wrote this.

RYONE
Buster. I want -- more than anything -- to read that book. But I can't read it without her permission. So I'll have to pass.

BUSTER
Really?

RYONE
Naw. Give it here.

BUSTER laughs, and gives the book to RYONE.

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA sits on a rock, dips her toes into a pond, and writes in a little notebook.

BANANA

(writing)

"Most of Lacy's nights are spent sitting on a rock, beside a pond, where she watches the moon, and wonders who she is. She doesn't know her father. She knows that the woman who raised her is not her mother. Her natural hair color, orange, is an unusual hair-color for Japanese people. She dyes her hair blonde, but keeps her roots and eyebrows orange. One day, her future grandson -- with purple highlights in his brown hair with orange roots -- named Buster Chan, escaped Armageddon, only to recruit Banana on an epic quest to solve the mysteries of their roots."

END OF EPISODE