

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x21

The Better Man

By Alan Holman

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - DAY

BUSTER and MAIKO sit here, talking.

MAIKO

Where did your time-travel abilities come from? And how early in the process did you accept that your deprogrammer was a cyborg cat?

BUSTER

Very early. Now let's kiss.

MAIKO

Right!

They kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - DAY

BANANA and ROB chat.

BANANA

So what are your hopes, Rob? -- your dreams?

ROB takes a deep breath, and says...

ROB

I dream of the day when I'll be the world's most powerful mystic.

BANANA

Hell, America would be declaring war on powerful mystics too ... if mystics even existed.

ROB

Hear me out, Banana. My ancestor, Lady Six, mastered the transformation of 1972 American pennies into diamonds; her only

problem: 1972 American pennies did not yet exist.

ROB puts a 1972 American penny on the table, points at it, and it transforms into a diamond.

BANANA's eyes widen with shock.

BANANA
You totally lucked out on that one!

ROB
I've been studying Lady Six's technique. When I un-earth her moldy carcass, revive it, then enslave her, we can rule the world together! What do you say?

BANANA
Okay -- I joined the Dark Side ... now where the Hell are my COOKIES!!?

A POLICE OFFICER enters, subdues ROB.

POLICE OFFICER
You're under arrest.

ROB
WHAT!?! HOW DID YOU KNOW!?!

POLICE OFFICER
It sounds too crazy.

ROB
Try me!

POLICE OFFICER
Tell it to the judge.

The POLICE OFFICER drags the kicking-and-screaming ROB away.

BANANA stands in startled shock.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER, BANANA, 937, and MRS. CHAN are eating cereal -- yes, even the cat.

BANANA
MY BOYFRIEND'S IN JAIL!!!

MRS. CHAN falls over.

BUSTER falls silent for a moment, then asks...

BUSTER
Why?

BANANA
A crime involving diamonds.

BUSTER
Oh wow! In my time-line, diamonds are how
my mom afforded everything!

BANANA
Shut up, you bastard!

BUSTER
I'll never be born, yet I'm here!

BANANA
(screaming)
YOU STUPID LITTLE BRAT!!! You were
trained as an evil NINJA assassin for goodness
sakes, so why the hell did we even let you into
this house!?!

BUSTER
A, because I'm family. And B, because SHUT
UP, okay!?!

BUSTER starts crying, closes his eyes, and mutters ...

BUSTER
Calm blue ocean. Calm blue ocean.

CUT TO:

EXT. BESIDE A CREEK - EVENING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN sit on a creek-side bench, watching
fireflies.

MRS. CHAN
Are you sure you're alright?

BANANA falls over.

BANANA
(crying and moaning)
NO!

BANANA closes her eyes, and mutters ...

BANANA
Calm blue ocean. Calm blue ocean.

MRS. CHAN
Is that working?

Stops crying.

BANANA
NO!

MRS. CHAN
You stopped crying.

BANANA
Yeah, I guess I have.

Pause.

MRS. CHAN
Now that Rob's unavailable, maybe you should
spend some time with Ryone.

BANANA
MOM!

MRS. CHAN
Banana, I've seen other girls hit on him; he
shrugs them off! He's only interested in you,
Banana.

BANANA
Where have you seen him shrug off other
girls?

MRS. CHAN

At the mall, and in the park.

BANANA

Well that's his business, not mine.

MRS. CHAN

I think you should date everyone who's interested.

BANANA

You only think that, because no one's shown any interest in you.

MRS. CHAN slaps BANANA.

MRS. CHAN

I'm sorry.

BANANA

No, I'm sorry.

They hug.

MRS. CHAN

I'll never slap you again.

INT. NIKO DOJO -- MORNING

BANANA and her friend ALICIA, sit in a corner, whispering to each-other, as their friend ASHANA practices martial arts (nothing too fancy) in the middle of the room.

BANANA

Remember Ryone?

ALICIA

Of course. I see him around town regularly.

BANANA

My mom called him, and asked him to stay at my place for a while.

ALICIA

Why? And doesn't that go against your mom's dumb "sanctuary" house-rule that keeps me out of your house -- even though I'm your best friend -- just because Buster doesn't

like me? I mean, I thought you didn't like Ryone. So doesn't that make your mom a hypocrite!? Even though your mom's for that "arrangement", you don't even need to like Ryone for another year, so you should have a say! Besides, what about your boyfriend Rob Piso?

BANANA

Rob's in jail -- I've gotta move on with my life.

ALICIA

Okay, but if you give Ryone a chance, then isn't it only fair that Buster gives me a chance?

BANANA

I don't know.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Stars illuminate the recently-rained-on tarmac of this highway, reflecting their patterns brilliantly into the eyes of RYONE HAZUKI.

RYONE HAZUKI (age 17) is a 6'2", somewhat muscular (thin), black-eyed guy, who wears baggy jackets over baggy shirts, ripped jeans, and a red head-band over his yellow baseball cap, and uncombed black-haired mullet. He has almost vampiric canine teeth, and a perpetual five o'clock shadow on his face -- a face that's worn from a long trek.

RYONE'S THOUGHTS

I miss Banana way more than words can ever say!

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN OF RAIN - LATE MORNING

DORIAN, a cool looking guy with sunglasses, un-combed black hair, a headband, a rosary around his neck, and vampiric canine teeth, stands in front of a string of small shops: a butcher shop, a jacket store, an arcade, Rainbow Foods, and FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP.

CUT TO:

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - LATE MORNING

DORIAN sits at a table, drinking coffee -- he looks bored.

DORIAN
What was I thinking when I hitched a ride to
Japan?

BANANA enters, notices DORIAN; she sits with him.

BANANA
Are you new here?

DORIAN smiles slyly.

DORIAN
I LIKE CHEESE!!!

BANANA laughs.

BANANA
(laughing)
You're funny!

DORIAN
I don't speak Japanese. You're mocking me,
aren't you?

BANANA
Sorry, I don't speak English. What?

ASHANA NIKO walks by, and DORIAN throws his cheese at her
--
she doesn't notice it in her hair.

BANANA laughs, then takes DORIAN's hand from mid-air, and
kisses it.

DORIAN
Umm...what's that for?

BANANA
YAY! We can talk! So, where ya from?

DORIAN
The U.S. of A., and my return-flight is

tomorrow afternoon.

BANANA
Wanna come to my place for dinner?

DORIAN
Will there be cheese?

BANANA
Yes, with macaroni!

DORIAN
Yeah, sure.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN eat macaroni.

BANANA and DORIAN enter.

BANANA
He's Dorian, and I ... umm ... gotta take a
piss.

BANANA exits.

MRS. CHAN
You're Banana's new boyfriend?

DORIAN
No.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN
The next day...

WIPE TO:

EXT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA chats with DORIAN.

BANANA
Anyway, what brings you to Japan?

DORIAN
An airplane.

BANANA
Cool, but why?

DORIAN
Myself and my room-mate Yorhana rented a movie about flight attendants, and they were all chicks, so Yorhana, in hopes of becoming "more than friends" with such chicks, applied for a flight attendant job at New City Airlines; when he got the job, we partied all night. The airline called the next morning, about an understaffed flight to Japan, but Yorhana was too hung-over to attend the flight, so I pretended to be him, and here I am!

BANANA
Why didn't airport security realize you're not Yorhana?

DORIAN
I don't know, but the flight carried wrestlers to a show in this town, and it was running late, and everyone was so frantic, and ...

BANANA
Buster wanted to go to that show.

DORIAN
I've got tickets!

DORIAN reveals four tickets.

BANANA
It was yesterday.

DORIAN
Oh yeah.

DORIAN throws the tickets into a garbage can.

DORIAN
(urgently)
WHAT TIME IS IT!?!

BANANA
Two o'clock, why?

DORIAN
Thanks for all the hospitality.

BANANA
You're leaving?

DORIAN
(nods)
I'll miss my flight if I don't leave now.

BANANA
Come back any time, Dorian!

DORIAN
Thanks for letting me harass your family!

BANANA
You're welcome!

DORIAN exits.

RYONE enters.

RYONE
Banana -- who was that guy?

BANANA
Just a friend. Jealous?

RYONE
Yeah.

BANANA
(laughs)
Well, don't be, you dork.

BANANA kisses RYONE.

RYONE
That doesn't make it better.

BANANA
What do you mean? I kissed you. I thought

you liked those.

RYONE

I wish we'd communicate more.

BANANA

About what?

RYONE

You never said you invited that guy to stay here for a while.

BANANA

I never said I invited you to stay over for a while, so what's your problem?

RYONE

Your mother invited me, not you.

BANANA

She called you because she's a crazy woman.

RYONE

I know. I'm so pathetic.

BANANA

But Ryone -- didn't you say that you wanted to be here?

RYONE

I did say that I want to be here, and I do want to be here. Yes, we're getting to know each other a bit better. And yes, for the same reason I've loved you for YEARS, I still love you, but ...

(crying)

... I'm more and more sure with each passing hour that you might not ever be capable of feeling like that for anyone.

BANANA

HEY!

(thoughts, voice over)

"Don't mention love, you wuss, and please don't let my 'hey!' reaction stop you from sticking up for your feelings, Ryone!"

RYONE
Do you like that guy?

BANANA
Yes.

RYONE
Do you like me?

BANANA
(thoughts, voice over)
"I'm trying to like you, Ryone; I really am. But never ASK if I like you! Don't you get it, you dumbass!?! Shouldn't this be obvious!?!"
(speaking)
Ryone ...

Pause.

RYONE
Just answer the question: Do you like me -- yes/no?

BANANA
(laughs)
"Yes/no" -- I like the way you said that.

RYONE
Thanks. But do you only like the things I'm capable of saying or doing sometimes, or do you also like the person who's sometimes saying and doing that stuff?

BANANA
(thoughts, voice over)
"You're a very nice guy, Ryone, and I know you love me, but I usually don't feel very attracted to you. But I do have some affection for you in friendly terms, but I don't ... love you ... but there's a chance I might someday love you, so -- because you're nice to me -- I don't want to say that I just don't feel attracted to you right now, in a way that hurts your feelings, you over-sensitive dork. And I especially don't want to tell you that there's a chance I might love you someday, if it might just give you false hope."

(speaking)
I don't know how to answer that.

RYONE
There's only one way to answer anything:
honestly. If you ask me a question, I'm
honest with you about the answer. I always
will be; it's easy to answer honestly when you
actually ask the questions.

BANANA
HEY! I know you're ... I don't know. You're
very interesting, Ryone. But aren't we all?

RYONE
What the hell does that mean?

BANANA
"Hell"? -- I thought you said you weren't
angry.

RYONE
What? I didn't say anything about anger. But
now maybe ... I don't know. Does that guy
mean more to you than I do?

BANANA
I just met him -- I'm not sure.

RYONE
I've been in your life for a lot longer, and I've
wanted for ages to be consistently within your
vicinity. Then this Dorian marches into your
vicinity, and suddenly he's Mr. Welcomed-
With-Open-Arms.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

RYONE
He didn't even have to try. I tried my ass off,
and he didn't even have to try.

BANANA
Makes you think, doesn't it?

RYONE
Yes! That's my point! It makes me think!

Banana, I know that you're worth all of the effort I've been giving, and more. But do you even appreciate that I appreciate that you're worth so much?

BANANA
Aww, that's sweet!

RYONE
Do you appreciate me?

BANANA
You've been quite helpful.

RYONE
Yes. But do you appreciate that you have access to the help, more than you appreciate the person who wants to continue to have opportunities to help?

BANANA
Ryone. You're a very nice person.

RYONE
If I'm so nice, then why won't you answer any of my questions? Maybe I'm not nice. What's wrong with me? Tell me, so I can change!

BANANA
I don't know how to answer. But maybe I will answer the right way one day. Stick around and find out.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA answers a ringing phone.

BANANA
(to phone)
Mello!

DORIAN'S VOICE
Guess who!

BANANA
Dorian?

DORIAN'S VOICE

Yup.

BANANA

Coolers, so how ya doin'?

DORIAN'S VOICE

Fine. Nice meeting you. Yorhana lost his new flight attendant job because of me, so ...

BANANA

I'm glad that I met you too, Dorian. If I'm ever in America, I'll look you up!

DORIAN'S VOICE

Cool! If we ever meet again, I'll give Buster a crown of thorns!

BANANA laughs.

RYONE enters the room as BANANA says ...

BANANA

Well, bye Dorian-baby!

BANANA hangs up the phone.

RYONE

"DORIAN-BABY"!?!"

BANANA

Oh, hello Ryone -- I didn't see you come in! That was Dorian long distance, all the way from America! He must really like me!

RYONE

So someone has to be able to afford an expensive phone call in order for you to think they like you?

BANANA

It helps.

RYONE

There were times when I orbited the phone for an hour just because I wanted to call you. But some of those times I gave up, and the other

times I called, I made very short awkward calls.

BANANA

Okay.

RYONE

My point is: I know that we're perfect for each-other, so I feared screwing up before you found out that truth. I'd stare catatonic at the wall, or I'd just lay on the carpet in the middle of the day, and my mind would be blank as I'd try to muster up the courage to call you. You're a treasure, and I don't want to make any mistakes until AFTER you give me certain assurances.

BANANA

Like what?

RYONE

Seriously assure me that you understand that my feelings are real. And because of these real feelings, I can't treat you as I treat any other friend.

BANANA

How will you treat me?

RYONE

As a treasure, but not as an object. You will be granted every consideration for your safety, health, and comfort, and all sacrifices that I am capable of. So I ask you again -- do you appreciate me?

EXT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

BANANA and RYONE lay on BANANA's bed -- fully clothed, not even touching each-other -- just talking.

RYONE

Chan is a unique surname for a Japanese family, because "-chan" is an honorific in Japan, and not a surname here. What's up with that?

BANANA

I thought you already knew.

RYONE

I'm not sure if I remember you ever mentioning anything about it.

BANANA

In Feudal times, my ancestors were a warrior family of practitioners of Sawamura-sensei's Five-Finger Soul Style.

RYONE

Interesting.

BANANA

Their dojo is still in town.

RYONE

Has your family always lived in Rain?

BANANA

Yes. Using Sawa-style, my family overthrew this place when it was a feudal castle-town, and we actually gave it the name Rain.

RYONE

Cool! Yay for your family!

BANANA

Not exactly. And this is a secret.

RYONE

A secret?

BANANA

Yes. You see, Ryone -- while my ancestors were celebrating their victory when they took over the castle and named it Rain. Well, it was a two night victory party, and that's when your family attacked this place, and re-claimed Rain.

RYONE

What?

BANANA

Ryone -- your family owns the lighthouse,
right?

RYONE
Yes.

BANANA
Well that's where the castle used-to be. Your
family are the Hazuki-Samurai.

RYONE
Yes, we are.

BANANA
Your family -- the Hazuki-Samurai -- were the
rival clan who overthrew Rain as my family
were celebrating.

RYONE
But their names weren't Chan.

BANANA
That's right. My ancestors had a different last
name. Our names were changed to Chan in
the nineteen-forties, because of something
that occurred almost an entire half-a-century
earlier, during the Russo-Japanese war.

RYONE
If you're the rival clan, then that means that
you're ... in a disgraced family!

BANANA
Oh shut up, Ryone. You've loved me forever --
you wouldn't stop loving me now just because
of some dumb fight that my ancestors lost a
long time ago in the feudal era.

RYONE
It's not a dumb fight. My ancestors won that
fight, and my family is very proud of that
victory. I love you, but it would disgrace my
family if I ...
(crying)
... if I ... -- and now it feels as if my soul is
being ripped ... right from its socket.

BANANA

Oh cheer up, Ryone! You're just being stupid,
you idiot!

RYONE

I know the story. I love you with all of my
soul, but that's because something is wrong
with me. I know for a fact that I can't be with
you Banana, so why do I still love you with all
of my soul?

BANANA

You're such a butthead.

RYONE

Please tell me -- your family -- did they at
least put up a ... challenge?

BANANA

Nope. My ancestors were too inept to utilize
the "complexities of spirit" which Sawa-style
required.

RYONE

Learn the style, then show me that it has at
least some potential!

BANANA

Nah. I have no interest in some dumb fighting
style, especially one that my ancestors lost
with, and then they were forced into work as
executioners for the prison system.

RYONE

What about the modern Sawamura-sensei?
I've met him -- he's quite old, but do you think
that you could please -- for me -- become his
student?

BANANA

Like I said: I have no interest in learning a
fighting style. I'm a pretty good brawler
anyway.

RYONE

I don't believe in fighting, but Banana -- please
learn the style, master it, get good at it.

BANANA

Why?

RYONE

If you can demonstrate some talent, it'll be easier to convince my ...

(pause)

... no. My family still wouldn't accept you, because ... they're very traditional.

BANANA

I thought your family wasn't that traditional, Ryone. And you've always said you love me, so why can't you just accept me as I am?

RYONE

I can ... but my family can't.

BANANA

Well maybe your dad can't, but I've heard your mom runs the show in that household.

RYONE

They're my family, and I don't know what you're talking about. Besides, in the Feudal Era ...

BANANA

... your family stripped my ancestors of their names and surnames, and your family numbered my ancestors like cattle.

RYONE

My ancestors used to call your ancestors monsters.

BANANA

What's past is past, so go with the flow.

Pause.

RYONE

How did your ancestors change your name to Chan anyway?

BANANA

In the year 1946 ... or was it 1947? Well anyway, in the late forties, my grandfather -- a dude named Oda -- brought his newborn son Reg to Russia for five years, which is where they acquired forged documents in Japanese. Then they hired NINjAs from the future to break into the local family registers and replace the real documents with the new real ones, thus wiping clean our disgraced heritage.

RYONE

I'm confused. Did you say they hired NINjAs from the future?

BANANA

Yes. The NINjAs called themselves "The Wisher Cult." I wonder who the wisher is. Lucky wisher. I wish I were a wisher.
(pause)
But maybe I shouldn't voice my wishes.

RYONE looks confused.

RYONE

Let's get ice-cream. You like ice-cream?

BANANA

Yee-hee! Ice-cream! I like ice cream!

RYONE

I know something sweeter than any ice cream.

BANANA

Burning things?

RYONE embraces BANANA, and kisses her.

Both of them enjoy the kiss.

RYONE

Let's go burn the world!

BANANA

(smiles)
That's my dream and goal in life!

They walk away.

INT. ARCADE - DAY

BUSTER plays a two-player videogame with RYONE.

BUSTER

With you back in Banana's life, Banana's easier to get along with, and she seems to have gotten over Rob's imprisonment!

RYONE

Imprisonment? What's Banana's ex-boyfriend in jail for?

BUSTER wins the game!

BUSTER

He wanted to use some sort of mystic magic to revive his evil ancestor Lady Six, so that she could use some kind of evil power with which they'd rule the world.

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

BANANA and RYONE sit here, sipping tea.

ROB enters.

ROB

Banana.

BANANA looks at him, drops her jaw and her cup -- the cup shatters on the floor.

BANANA

(gasping)
Oh no, Rob!

RYONE

The infamous Rob?

ROB

Why do you look so sad, Banana? I thought you'd be happy to see that I was released from prison because the evidence against me was too absurd! I thought you'd smile! Your

smile's what I live for, Banana, and I thought you'd smile to see me.

BANANA

I thought...I thought, at first, that I'd also be happy, but I'm not.

(suddenly, screaming, crying)

I CAN'T SUPPORT A WORLD DOMINATION PLOT, IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA GET ARRESTED ON YOUR FIRST TRY! YOU'RE A CRAZY LOSER, AND YOU DESERVE TO BE IN JAIL!!!

(pause -- her crying becomes nervous laughter.)

I'm -- hehe -- I'm actually glad I said that! It feels good! The only crazy thing about me is how I cried that you were in jail. You deserve to be in jail. I'm going to exit this coffee shop, and forget about you.

ROB falls onto his knees, and wipes something from his eyes, then suddenly, in a rage, stands up, and picks BANANA up by both of her arms, holds her tightly, so they're face to face, while he yells at her...

ROB

YOU CRAZY GIRL! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!

BANANA kicks ROB's groin, then he lets go of her as he bends in pain.

BANANA

Come on, Ryone. Let's go.

RYONE

No. I can't support your violence; it goes against my moral code.

RYONE turns his back towards BANANA, and he helps ROB to his feet.

RYONE and ROB turn their backs toward BANANA, and RYONE helps ROB as both of them walk arm-in-arm, away from BANANA.

EXT. FRONT OF FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

ROB and RYONE exit the coffee shop.

ROB
I should warn you about her.

RYONE
That's a relief. I thought you were gonna start a fight.

ROB
My heart just wouldn't be in it. Heed my warning, friend: Banana Chan is bad news. She will ruin your life.

RYONE
She is my life.

ROB slaps RYONE.

ROB
YOU are YOUR OWN life! Don't let any girl get that deep into your heart unless or until you're married to her!

RYONE
But it seems so natural!

ROB
Yes, that kind of devotion IS natural; it's what makes the good marriages last. But being so weak that it makes you look obsessed, even when the girl's as irresistible as she is, can lead to behavior that the inexperienced brat who we love just can't understand until she's had her own heart broken from someone else! Believe me, she'll choose one of us after that's happened! We'll beat up the guy who breaks her heart together. Then we'll fight, to prove I'm the better man.

RYONE
No. The better man fights only to protect.

END OF EPISODE