

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 28

Vagrant Story

By Alan Holman

EXT. SPACE, ABOVE EARTH

BANANA'S VOICE

My first wish, because it must be granted, is: I wish for a zillion more wishes. And I've given A LOT of thought to my second wish. And so, here's my second wish: I wish to rewind this time-line, so that I can re-write this time-line, by re-living my entire life, from the moment Buster moved into Maison Chan. Which brings me to my third wish: I wish for myself, Buster, Baka, Riton, 937, and of course: the woman I used to call mommie, to be the only ones in the entire universe, who still remember this version of the time-line. I'll make more wishes later. Thankies!

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN: 2008

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

Twelve year old BUSTER talks with MRS. CHAN.

BUSTER

My name's Buster! I trained with evil NINJA warriors from the End Times for about six years. Then, I was rescued by a cybernetic deprogrammer cat named 937, a fluffy feline companion who my half-uncle, a demon named Baka, sent to help me overcome my brainwashing, and to ultimately rescue me from the NINJA cult! 937 helped me remember I could time-travel, then I escaped from that evil cult, with him! Then Baka apologized for letting me join the NINJAs -- he had no idea they were evil. He sent me there by accident,

when he believed their pamphlet, which was full of lies about a top-notch NINJA-run boarding-school. Also, I enjoy SqueeJiMon!

Pause.

BUSTER
Can I stay?

MRS. CHAN
Yeah. Of course. The talking cat was here earlier, and he already explained everything to me. But you'll have to tell your story again, for Banana's sake.

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN grab their heads, and fall over.

BUSTER
Whoah! What a trip!

BANANA (age 16) enters, points at them, and laughs.

MRS. CHAN and BUSTER stand up, shaking their heads.

MRS. CHAN
(to Banana)
You think this is funny?

BANANA
Yes! Very!

BANANA continues laughing.

BUSTER
Whoah... It's like being psychic!

MRS. CHAN
Yes. I remember twenty-twelve, except it's two-thousand-and-eight!

BUSTER
Yeah. I was reading a pamphlet about Ark politics, but then...
(happy)
... THEN, I'M HERE! THIS IS AWESOME!

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

BANANA'S VOICE

And that's how Buster -- my twelve-year-old grandson from the future, moved in with my sixteen-year-old self, and the thirty-something year-old woman whom I proudly call "mommie."

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER, BAKA, 937, MRS. CHAN, and BANANA, sit 'n chat.

BANANA

With things back to normal, what should we do?

BUSTER

I'll take issue with your definition of normal. We've freakin' been to Jupiter's "Ice Moon" Europa in another time-line!

BANANA

Now the fact of the matter is: it was THIS time-line, and we're re-writing it!

BUSTER

(shakes his head)
Banana, Banana...

BANANA

Why are you shaking your head?

BUSTER

Because instead of me explaining something to you, you're explaining something to me, and that ain't normal at all, sister.

BANANA

I'm your sister now, am I?

BUSTER

(nods)
Yeah. I think it's for the best.

BANANA rubs BUSTER's hair, and says . . .

BANANA
You'll be fine.

BUSTER
I'll be fine?
(confused)
What does that even mean?

BANANA
It means you're my brother. Welcome to the household!

BUSTER
Thanks, but can we drop that "Sanctuary Rule"?

MRS. CHAN
No. I made that rule for a personal reason that -- as long as I'm the one who pays the bills -- I'm not obligated to justify it to anyone.

BUSTER
But it's distinguished our home as our escape from reality!

MRS. CHAN
Oh God ... he's in debate mode. Buster, our home is our safe-haven from feelings of discomfort.

BUSTER
But keeping away the things and people we can't deal with, plants seeds for unfair discrimination!

MRS. CHAN
I know. It's a risk.

BUSTER
A safer risk is to meet and greet those people whose differences may seem scary at first, especially the ones who -- for whatever reason -- they seek our attention. Learn about them! If we overcome any fears we may have

of them, that would probably be a very good thing, because you never know who's not scary once you get to know them!

MRS. CHAN rubs BUSTER's head playfully.

BUSTER

We're part of a larger world, and yes home is home, but Banana and I are kids who will each have to learn enough about the outside world that we can someday form our own homes in the world, and we'll need to be familiar with the world and its people, in order to protect those homes -- and our families in our homes -- from whatever we and they can't deal with.

MRS. CHAN

You'll go far.

BUSTER

Please don't patronize me.

MRS. CHAN

I'm the parent. That's my job.

BUSTER

No, it's to teach us how to get comfortable with those people who make us uncomfortable at first, because the creation of future generations depends on us giving them a fair chance to prove that they may be worthwhile human beings, who may be worthy of inviting over for dinner sometimes!

BANANA

Don't go there. The rule is because home should make you happy.

BUSTER

Yes, home should make you happy, but can a rule that justifies, and even encourages, a fear of the outside world, make you happy?

BANANA

Good point, moms. Maybe that rule's why you're not married.

MRS. CHAN slaps BANANA.

MRS. CHAN
I'm sorry. I'll never slap you again.

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER, BAKA, 937, MRS. CHAN, and BANANA, lay on the rooftop, watching birds and clouds.

BANANA
Hey Plantane.

MRS. CHAN
Yes, Banana?

BANANA
I liked you best as "mommie."

MRS. CHAN
I do too. Also, I can't stand plantains.

CUT TO:

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

BANANA and BUSTER sip 'n chat.

BANANA
I never understood how you destroyed Jupiter.

BUSTER
I didn't.

BANANA
Yes, you did.

BUSTER
Then how come Jupiter's still there?

BANANA
Shut up, Buster. You know what I mean.
How were you powerful enough to blast Jupiter
into tiny, teensy-beensy bits?

BUSTER
I thought I was killing myself.

BANANA

That's horrible! Suicide is the stupidest thing!
It's a crime against everything, and everyone!

BUSTER

I know. And I also knew that the Sawa-Sawa
Flame reciprocates the evil energy of its
target, and I knew that evil Rob owned
Megalith, and I knew that Megalith bought
Jupiter. But the blast, which vaporized Jupiter
into a fine dust, still makes no sense at all
unless Rob was in Jupiter, since Rob was
Satan. I don't care how he got there -- do
you?

BANANA

No. I just hope our lives are never again that
complicated.

BUSTER

I'll drink to that, but why don't you wish it?

BANANA

Because life should be unpredictable.

BUSTER

Does that mean you've overcome your
shyness?

BANANA

Maybe. Maybe not. I don't know.
Regardless, I'm gonna make a ...

RITON appears in a bolt of lightning.

RITON

Hiya, Banana and Buster!

BANANA

What's up, Riton?

RITON

About your wishing power...

BANANA

Okay -- what about it?

RITON

You already wished for a zillion wishes, so you can't wish for no more wishes.

BANANA

How'd you know what I was gonna say?

RITON

It was easy to find the moment when the universe burnt-out like a light bulb, because you voided natural law.

BANANA

Oopsies! I'm sorry!

RITON

It's alright. Everything will be okay.

BANANA

(cheers)
Yee-hee!

RITON

Just remember to make sure that you don't contradict any of the wishes which you've already made.

BANANA

Oh geez... that'll be hard, but I'll try my best. Thankies!

RITON

You're welkies.

RITON vanishes in a bolt of lightning.

BANANA

That was weird. It was like he could read my thoughts, or something!

BUSTER

That's because he's a time-traveler -- he knew what you were gonna say.

BANANA

I know.

BUSTER
Is wishing too big of a responsibility?

BANANA
You know it.

BUSTER
In that case, I've got an idea that should prevent you from making the wrong wish.

BANANA
In that case, I'm all ears!

BUSTER
Wish to transfer your wishing ability into the power button on the remote control for the TV. And then, push the power button, and wish that the remote control is indestructible. And then, push the button, and wish that you're the only person who can push that button to access the wishing power of the remote control! Think about it! With the power transferred to the remote, you'll be able to wish anything, at any time, but the only wishes that'll come true -- not counting coincidences -- will be the wishes you make while pushing the power button on the remote control for the TV!

BANANA
YEAH! THANKIES FOR THAT PERFECT,
AWESOME IDEA!

RITON appears in a puff of smoke.

RITON
(laughing)
Buster, you're brilliant! I went to the future, and found out that your idea worked!

BANANA
Thanks for killing the suspense!

RITON
Any time!

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

BANANA'S VOICE

And that's why we call the remote my "wish wand"! Clever nickname, eh?

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA sits at the table, eating barbecued ribs.

BUSTER flies into the room, wearing a BATMAN costume.

BANANA

ACK!!! BUSTER!!! HOW ARE YOU FLYING!?!

BUSTER

This is a form-fitting, bullet-proof, flying Batman costume -- I borrowed it from a movie studio in the future!

BANANA

COOLERS!! But Batman can't fly!

BUSTER

I'm gonna go play super-hero!

BUSTER flies out of the room.

EXT. STREET, TOWN OF RAIN - AFTERNOON

An out-of-control truck hurtles toward an old lady.

BUSTER, wearing the Batman costume, pushes the lady out of the way of the out-of-control truck.

The lady gets run over by a bus.

BUSTER

ACK!!!

BUSTER flies away, quickly.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA eats a taco.

BUSTER enters.

BANANA

Can I play with that Batman costume now?

BUSTER

It...umm...broke.

CUT TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BUSTER wakes up, screaming.

No one heard.

BUSTER screams again.

Still, no one heard.

BUSTER

If I were in real danger, no one would hear my screams. Perhaps sound-proofing this room wasn't such a bright idea after-all.

WIPE TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

BUSTER sits on his bed, listening to the radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

(on radio)

Today's "Dedication Only Request Hour" begins after these messages, so get those dialing fingers ready!

The radio plays commercials as BUSTER dials six numbers.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

(on phone)

Hey there, you've reached Rainy Day '95's

"Dedication Only Request Hour" -- to whom will you dedicate a song?

BUSTER
(to phone)
I'd like to dedicate a song to the men and women of the "Dark Sky", specifically workers at Space Station Freedom, The Mercury Iron Mines, The Europa Observatory Complex, and especially Reg Chan of The Japanese Moon-base!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN reads a news-paper, as BANANA enters.

BANANA
Hey mommie, what's up?

MRS. CHAN
Slow news day, except Rainy Day '95 lost their broadcast license; they were pulled from the air-waves.

BANANA
What? That's odd. How'd such a good station mess up?

MRS. CHAN
No one cares.

BANANA
Where's Buster?

MRS. CHAN
No one's exactly sure.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

BANANA grabs the TV remote, and pushes "power" (the TV turns off), while she says...

BANANA
I wish Buster were here.

BUSTER -- bruised, and crying -- appears in a puff of smoke.

BANANA

Buster! Why are you crying? What's wrong?

BUSTER

(crying)

It was the "Dark Sky"! They were
TORTURING me!

MRS. CHAN

WHAT!?!

BUSTER

I requested a song, and ... then ...
(screaming, crying)

... SINISTER GOINGS-ON TRANSPIRED!!!

BANANA

I hate this! I wish I ... knew what to wish for!

BANANA grabs the TV remote, and pushes "power" (the TV
turns
on), while she says...

BANANA

I've got it! I wish we had one more chance to
re-write this time-line.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN: 2008

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - MORNING

Sunbeams slip between clouds, and shine atop birds that fly
over the coastal town of Rain, Japan, which is surrounded
otherwise by forest. Flying with a butterfly's
perspective, we see residential zones, schools, Sakura
Park, a sea-port, and a district of small businesses, such
as a movie theater, Fast Eddie's Coffee Shop, and Rainbow
Foods.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

Twelve year old BUSTER talks with MRS. CHAN.

BUSTER

My name's Buster! I trained with evil NINJA warriors from the End Times for about six years. Then, I was rescued by a cybernetic deprogrammer cat named 937, a fluffy feline companion who my half-uncle, a demon named Baka, sent to help me overcome my brainwashing, and to ultimately rescue me from the NINJA cult! 937 helped me remember I could time-travel, then I escaped from that evil cult, with him! Then Baka apologized for letting me join the NINJAs -- he had no idea they were evil. He sent me there by accident, when he believed their pamphlet, which was full of lies about a top-notch NINJA-run boarding-school. Also, I enjoy SqueeJiMon!

Pause.

BUSTER

Can I stay?

MRS. CHAN

Yeah. Of course. The talking cat was here earlier, and he already explained everything to me. But you'll have to tell your story again, for Banana's sake.

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN grab their heads, and fall over.

BUSTER

Whoah! What a trip!

Sixteen year old BANANA enters, points at them, and laughs.

MRS. CHAN and BUSTER stand up, shaking their heads.

MRS. CHAN

(to Banana)

You think this is funny?

BANANA
Yes! Very!

Everyone laughs for a while, until BUSTER says...

BUSTER
Whoah... It's like being psychic!

RITON appears in a bolt of lightning.

RITON
Banana.

BUSTER
Yes?

RITON
One more wish to re-write this time-line will contradict the phrase "one more chance" and thus destroy the universe.

BANANA
In that case, I'll bury the remote!

RITON
What remote?

BANANA
My wish wand!

BANANA laughs -- everyone else shoots awkward glances in her direction.

BANANA
Oh, never-mind.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN sits at a table, eating doughnuts.

The doorbell rings, and MRS. CHAN answers it, revealing a mayoral candidate named WANDA ORBIE.

WANDA ORBIE (age 43) is 5'5", with long red hair, and black eyes. Under her up-turned nose is a thin frame upon which she wears business outfits and her Mayoral sash.

WANDA ORBIE
Can I count on your vote?

MRS. CHAN
No.

WANDA ORBIE
Fair enough.

MRS. CHAN
Yeah.

MRS. CHAN slams the door in WANDA's face.

WIPE TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER drops a water balloon out of his window, and then we hear ...

WANDA ORBIE'S VOICE
HEY!!!

INT. CAFETERIA, RAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

BUSTER CHAN is playing a card game called SqueegiMon with a boy named BOBBY DARK.

BOBBY DARK is a skinny boy who dresses in black pants and a black t-shirt.

BUSTER CHAN
Another victory for me!

BOBBY DARK
I'll beat you next time -- we're almost equal.

WIPE TO:

These scenes -- set in random times of day -- MONTAGE to the tune of SENTIMENTAL DREAMWORLD: BANANA at SAKURA PARK --

wearing her yellow bikini and headphones (discman on her belly) -- naps on a picnic blanket. 937 in the KITCHEN at MAISON CHAN fries a mouse, and a sparrow, in a frying pan. BUSTER sits with his drama club, on a STAGE in the THEATER at RAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL. BANANA and ALICIA wearing bikinis in SAKURA PARK, sit in shade between two trees. MRS. CHAN in a GROCERY STORE reads a magazine. BUSTER in a LIBRARY returns books. BANANA and ALICIA in ALICIA'S HOUSE (MAISON ORBIE) trade sandals and sweaters. BUSTER in a RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD rides his skateboard. BANANA, BUSTER, 937, and MRS. CHAN -- at SAKURA PARK -- share rice and soup. BUSTER in a HALLWAY at RAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL does homework on the floor in front of his open locker. MRS. CHAN in the LIVING ROOM at MAISON CHAN watches a soap opera. BANANA -- wearing her yellow bikini -- sits, playing a hand-held video game, as a TRAIN takes her all throughout JAPAN. BUSTER in the LIVING ROOM of MAISON CHAN watches SPEED RACER. BUSTER in various ARCADES plays various fighting-games. MRS. CHAN and BUSTER in the KITCHEN of MAISON CHAN share varieties of fast-food. BANANA -- back-floating on a clear HOT SPRING -- wearing her yellow bikini and headphones (discman on her belly) -- naps; she wakes and smiles as the MONTAGE ENDS.

WIPE TO:

EXT. POND - NIGHT

BANANA -- wearing a long skirt -- dangles her legs into a pond as she straddles a giant rock, with her gaze set on the full moon.

FADE TO:

INT. MADAME SARA'S PSYCHIC ADVICE - MORNING

BUSTER enters the parlor of psychic MADAME SARA.

MADAME SARA's crystal ball shatters.

BUSTER
What's that mean?

MADAME SARA
O...phi...u...cius.

BUSTER
What's Ophiucus?

MADAME SARA runs away, screaming.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN chats with BUSTER and BANANA.

BANANA
... spiders, snakes, and maggots. And in the nightmares, the pain is VERY real. It's not always easy to forget those nightmares, but I always try.

MRS. CHAN
That's awful, Banana!

BUSTER
Yeah. Your nightmares are almost as bad as my night-terrors! I'm surprised that you don't scream in your sleep.

BANANA
So am I. I didn't know that you still have your night terrors.

BUSTER
I do. They began when I was very little.

BANANA
My nightmares began when I met Baka. Don't tell him, okay?

BUSTER
Okay.

BANANA
Mom?

MRS. CHAN
My lips are sealed.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAINBOW FOODS GROCERY STORE -- MORNING

MRS. CHAN exits with a bag of groceries; she almost passes that booze-stinking, mop-haired VAGRANT, whom she met in the seventh episode.

VAGRANT
Mrs. Chan?

MRS. CHAN
Yes!

VAGRANT
Remember me?

MRS. CHAN
Vaguely.

VAGRANT
(sad)
I'm THAT unimportant!?!

MRS. CHAN
No, I remember you. I gave you clean clothes. Why aren't you wearing them?

VAGRANT
No one pities a well-dressed man.

MRS. CHAN
That's why you stink?

VAGRANT
Yes.

MRS. CHAN
How cliché. Do you have one of those signs that say: "The end is near"?

VAGRANT
No, because the universe is one, infinite time-line.

MRS. CHAN
Hmm?

VAGRANT

Whenever the devil instigates, and wins, an Armageddon, Kami-sama must demolish what's left of the universe, salvage spirits, and re-build, thus re-set, the universe, from the bottom up, while time flows ever forward. In other words, although the Armageddon is near, the end is not.

MRS. CHAN

Yes, I know.

VAGRANT

Really? What else do you know?

MRS. CHAN

I know that an entire Canadian commune calls you Old Buster, because you were the Mayor of The Space Ark Soul, and now you disguise yourself as a vagrant.

OLD BUSTER's jaw drops.

OLD BUSTER

(previously known as VAGRANT)
How did you know?

MRS. CHAN

We're re-writing the time-line in which you eventually told me your story.

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN: 2009 -- Town of Rain, Japan.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL [CLIP FROM EPISODE 20]

BANANA enters late.

MR. ONO

(to Banana)
Hi Banana. You're late again? Well, take a seat next to Rob -- he's the new boy.

MR. ONO points at ROB who is a very muscular boy with short

black hair, a tight black t-shirt, cargo pants, and expensive sport-shoes.

BANANA
(curious)
Rob's the name of the new boy?

ROB
Yes, hi!

BANANA sits beside ROB. [CLIP ENDS]

BANANA
(annoyed)
Yes, hello.

ROB
Sheesh. Why'd you give me the "cold shoulder"?

BANANA
Shush up, new guy; it's nap time.

BANANA falls asleep on her desk, as MR. ONO begins a lecture.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAKURA PARK - LATE AFTERNOON

BANANA sits alone on a bench, looking at the birds, clouds, and trees -- and kids playing in the playground.

RYONE approaches.

RYONE
Hiya, sadsack! Can I buy you some Chinese food to help you forget about whatever problem is bothering you so much that you're sitting here alone, and looking so sad?

BANANA
No thanks.

RYONE
But a pleasant chat over Chinese food can go a long way towards clearing anyone's head of

any problems, so that's why I insist that you join me for Chinese food, and I won't take "no" for an answer.

BANANA
(smiles)
Okay. It's not like me to turn down free food anyway. But if you call it a date, you're dead.

INT. CHINESE BUFFET - LATE AFTERNOON

BANANA and RYONE chat while eating Chinese food.

BANANA eats slowly as her plate overflows with food.

RYONE eats quickly, as his is almost empty.

BANANA
So how goes?

RYONE
I want you to know that, no matter what, I'll always love you.

BANANA
(annoyed sigh)
Ryone. I don't mean to sound harsh, but a lot is on my plate right now, and ...

RYONE
Take your time.

BANANA
Right.

RYONE
You can finish anything on your plate if you take just one bite at a time.

BANANA
But what if you take so much time that your food spoils?

RYONE
I hate metaphors.

BANANA laughs.

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

The next day...

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER and MRS. CHAN share an orange.

MRS. CHAN

That friend of mine -- Old Buster -- told me that
Banana's wish erased his future, after he
came from that future.

BUSTER

I still don't believe that he's me.

MRS. CHAN

Well he is, and he's a bum, so stay in school.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

A phone stops ringing when MRS. CHAN answers it.

MRS. CHAN

(to phone)
Hello?

RYONE

Banana?

MRS. CHAN

(disguising her voice)
Yes. This is she.

RYONE

Do you share my wish for a world where love
and enthusiasm can be offered and given
freely without fear?

MRS. CHAN

(disguising her voice)
Always, hon.

RYONE

Amazing! You know, I was thinking about on the internet when I typed that stuff that you replied to with all those harsh words.

MRS. CHAN

(disguising her voice)

I'm sorry for mis-judging you.

RYONE

Damn right you're sorry. And damn right you misjudged me. Still, I'm the one who should apologize. I apologize because I've caused you so much trouble. I need to make up for all of it somehow, because I love you. Plus, there's something that you need to know about me. This little piece of information will definitely solve all our problems ...

MRS. CHAN

(disguising her voice)

What do I need to know about you?

WIPE TO:

EXT. RAINBOW FOODS - AFTERNOON

BUSTER nearly passes a familiar booze-stinking, mop-haired man, whom we used to know as VAGRANT, but we now know him, as OLD BUSTER.

OLD BUSTER

People avoid vagrants because we represent their own -- especially your own -- scary potentials.

BUSTER

You know nothing about me.

OLD BUSTER

Listen, Buster...

BUSTER

(interrupting)

You know my name?

OLD BUSTER

Yes.

BUSTER

Oh! You're ... him ... me?

OLD BUSTER

That's right. And don't worry -- I'm not really a vagrant.

BUSTER

(nods)

I know. She told me. So you're the older ... me?

OLD BUSTER

(nods)

Middle aged, and in the flesh.

BUSTER

Why are you a bum?

OLD BUSTER

I'm on a secret mission!

BUSTER

What are you talking about?

OLD BUSTER

If I told you, then it wouldn't be a secret! If I fail: OPHIUCIUS!

BUSTER

Ophiucius?

OLD BUSTER

Yup. We must fulfill all verses of The Jupiter Prophecy before Armageddon, in order to raise human consciousness to endure Ophiucius.

BUSTER

What's Ophiucius?

OLD BUSTER

Worse than Armageddon if we're not prepared.

END OF EPISODE