

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 29

Cara Has Grown Up

By Alan Holman

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BAKA and BUSTER have a discussion.

BUSTER

A weird old man said that because the cosmic double-cross within our galaxy exists, we're nearing "The Battleground."

BAKA

(bored)  
Old you?

BUSTER

Yeah.

BAKA

Thanks to my dominion over time-travel, we've already won Armageddon in 2012, so don't worry about it, okay?

BUSTER

I'm not worried about Armageddon. I'm worried About Ophiucius. He says it's an event in 2012 when cosmic rays from the center of the galaxy will cause everyone on earth to have a really weird dream.

BAKA

... and wake up from a nightmare. I'm aware of this. You shouldn't prevent it.

INT. CHINESE BUFFET - LATE AFTERNOON

BANANA and RYONE chat while eating Chinese food.

BANANA

Ryone. My essay is starting to drive me insane! Can you help me with it before I go completely bonkers?

RYONE

My pleasure ... if you stop treating me like a piece of meat!

BANANA

(laughs)

All must bow to your meaty goodness!

RYONE

I'm serious, Banana. You only give me any attention when it's convenient for you; however, whenever I'm the one who needs any attention, you never return my calls or anything!

BANANA

This is me baffled. Did you call?

RYONE

I'm tired of being treated like a piece of meat... I need you to appreciate me for WHO I AM, and not just because sometimes I'm convenient for a laugh, or a fun session of that game we play sometimes, or one of those cool stories I've told, that you've enjoyed, or grammar corrections for your writing -- which I love to do, because I love your writing -- or thoughts about yet another essay!

BANANA

Wait. When did you call?

RYONE

A lot of times, you joker! By the way, you sound better in person. And anyway, if you can't remember the calls, then you need all the help you can get, so of course I'll help you with your essay.

BANANA

Thanks ... I think.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

937 and MRS. CHAN eat pancakes.

The phone rings -- BUSTER enters, and answers it.

BUSTER  
(to phone)  
Hello?

MAIKO'S VOICE  
Buster?

BUSTER  
Yeah.

MAIKO'S VOICE  
It's Maiko. Meet me at the Ice Cream  
Restaurant, at sunset.

BUSTER  
I'll be there.

MAIKO'S VOICE  
Great, because you're paying.  
(laughs)  
Catch ya later, Buster!

BUSTER hangs-up the phone.

MRS. CHAN  
Who was it?

BUSTER  
Maiko.

MRS. CHAN smiles. 937 looks concerned.

937  
(angry)  
Buster. Are you sure you want another  
relationship with Maiko? Last time didn't go  
very well.

BUSTER  
(nods)  
I love her.

937  
(sighs)

Why?

BUSTER  
I just do.

937  
Buster. Keep your options open. Maiko's not the one for you.

BUSTER  
Do I sense some jealousy?

937  
No, not at all. Besides, Maiko's not even my type. I'm a cat!

BUSTER  
That's not what I meant.

937  
I know what you meant, Buster, and you're still barking up the wrong tree. But not completely, because as your pet, I do love you. And because I love you, I don't want to see you get hurt. And because Maiko hurt you in the other "draft" of this time-line, I don't think you're old enough to be serious about a girl.

BUSTER wipes a tear from his eye.

BUSTER  
I love you too, cat.

INT. ICE-CREAM RESTAURANT - SUNSET

MAIKO and BUSTER eat ice-cream. MAIKO has pink ice-cream, and BUSTER has blue ice-cream.

MAIKO  
Explain. I'm all ears.

BUSTER  
Okay. I'm from the future.

MAIKO  
No, you're not.

BUSTER  
Yes, I am. The year 2049, to be exact.

MAIKO  
No you're not.

BUSTER  
Yes, I am.

MAIKO  
Prove it.

BUSTER  
Okay. Hold my hand.

MAIKO  
(blushing)  
Sure, why not!

MAIKO hesitates, so BUSTER grabs her hand.

Both disappear in a puff of smoke.

CUT TO:

INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

BUSTER and 937 gaze out the window, at the stars.

BUSTER  
...she smiled at me during our tour of the time-  
line. Then she called it a date, and then she  
kissed me. Being inside her kiss -- it was a  
perfect moment. Someday, I promise I'll  
destroy the universe, just to start it up again  
from the start, so that I could re-live that  
moment. And when that moment -- that  
perfect kiss -- ended, she smiled again. A  
unique smile that I still see when I close my  
eyes.

937  
Are you joking about the "destroy the  
universe" part?

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BUSTER and MAIKO sit at the table. 937 lays on the table.

BUSTER

Instructors in my boarding school made me perform unspeakable experiments -- and horrible atrocities -- on human lab rats.

MAIKO

What kind of boarding school would do that?

BUSTER

An evil NINjA boarding school in the future.

MAIKO

I accept that you can time-travel, but a talking cat is a stretch!

BUSTER

(nods)

When I was ten, the NINjAs had me so brainwashed that I felt no guilt for routinely conducting the unspeakable experiments.

MAIKO

Who would send their kids to such a school?

BUSTER

My half-uncle sent me there when I was six, because a pamphlet convinced him that the NINjAs would provide me with a top-notch education.

MAIKO

In other words, their recruitment strategy was a lie?

BUSTER

Yes. So, when I was nine, my half-uncle learned, during an annual "Family Night", that the NINjAs were evil.

MAIKO

How did he figure it out?

BUSTER

During a concert, his keen eye noticed a girl

using the wrong slide-positions on her trombone, and then he found a hidden sound system. The NINjAs were too plentiful for him to attempt to bust me out, so he spent the next year designing one-thousand Cybernetic Deprogrammer Cats.

937

Like me!

BUSTER

The cats were distributed during the next family night, and they would stay in the bedrooms of myself and one-thousand of the cadets, where they spent the next two years providing stimulating conversations which opened our minds to logic, willpower, and individuality.

MAIKO

Slowly but surely, you were deprogrammed!

BUSTER

When I was fully deprogrammed, I remembered my time-travel abilities, and I escaped in a puff of smoke.

MAIKO

Where'd you get your time-travel abilities anyway?

BUSTER

My demon half-uncle saved me from the evil butlers by letting me beta-test a demonic credit system.

MAIKO

I didn't understand any of that.

BUSTER

Where should I begin explaining?

MAIKO

Demon half-uncle.

BUSTER laughs.

BUSTER

I see I've still got a lot left to explain, but do you believe any of what I've said so far?

WIPE TO:

EXT. ROOF-TOP, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BUSTER and MAIKO lay on the roof-top, watching birds.

BUSTER

Well Maiko -- I've told you my story, so can you tell me yours?

MAIKO

Of course. But I don't just tell this to anyone. Buster, please be responsible with my trust.

BUSTER

Okay.

They laugh.

MAIKO

You know those clubs ... ?

BUSTER

Uhh ... what clubs?

MAIKO

Business-men go to them.

BUSTER

Geisha clubs?

MAIKO

Yeah. Well my mom sorta' runs one of those clubs, and I think it's sexist.

BUSTER

So you probably argue with your mom about that.

MAIKO

Yeah, a lot. My mom's a Geisha, and I refuse to follow in her footsteps.

BUSTER

Well, I love you for who you are, and as long  
as you grow and change as who you are, and  
not as who someone else wants you to be,  
then I'll always love you, Maiko.

They kiss.

WIPE TO:

EXT. RAINBOW FOODS - MORNING

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

OLD BUSTER

I wait -- in front of the grocery store -- for Cara,  
because if she ever returns to Rain, she'll want  
groceries.

BUSTER

You're insane.

A thin woman with long orange hair, a gray sweater, and  
loose blue jeans, approaches -- her name is CARA (age 26),  
and she smiles at BUSTER and OLD BUSTER, as she says...

CARA

Well I'll be a monkey's daughter -- you're  
Buster, and you're an older version of Buster!  
It's me, Cara! We must catch-up over cake!

OLD BUSTER

Of course!

BUSTER falls over.

CUT TO:

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

BUSTER, OLD BUSTER, and CARA, chat while eating cake.

OLD BUSTER

Where's my cat?

CARA  
Well ... I don't know, but I'm here!

OLD BUSTER  
(devastated)  
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

OLD BUSTER runs away, screaming profanities.

CARA  
What's his problem?

BUSTER  
He just found out his scepter's missing.

CARA  
What scepter?

BUSTER  
The one I stole from him.

CARA  
Why?

BUSTER  
It's a long story.

CARA  
Oh. I don't like long stories.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA and RITON sit here.

BANANA  
Where's Buster?

RITON  
I don't know. He probably got distracted by his destined quest to fulfill the Jupiter Prophecy.

BANANA  
Prophecies kick ass! How's it go?

RITON

It goes: "They will. They'll cruise a universe, start their own. Write a bible, leave it alone! He will. He'll trap Kami-sama, then save Kami-sama from where he trapped him! The Savior's Savior was his captor. The wise will share his sight. By beating his equal to his own game, He'll conquer obstruction and price. What must be broken, will then be broken. By winning an ironic game, he'll bind the world, rescue realization and understanding. He'll see without being seen. He'll regret his struggle. He'll wander and wait without seeking. He'll chose to drown. He'll refuse to reach. He won't ask! He has no home. He's on his own. The final part of the plan, he'll smile at his questioners, stalling them, taking the action of revealing Kami-sama, fulfilling the Jupiter prophesy, making things well, making things proud, because to see all, and not be seen, lead him to his choice!"

BANANA

Wacky.

BUSTER and CARA enter.

BUSTER

Look who's back! Banana, it's Cara!

BANANA

CARA!?!

BANANA and CARA hug each-other!

CARA

(tears of joy)  
Mom!

BANANA

How ... old are you?

CARA

Twenty-six.

BANANA

Well, I must be doing something right if I'm

nine years younger than my own daughter!

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

CARA, BUSTER, and BANANA, sit on the rooftop, watching shapely clouds float across the dark, deep colors of the evening sky; meanwhile, in the background, 937 tortures birds in nearby trees, then he leaps onto the roof-top, and sits down. In seconds, MRS. CHAN climbs onto the roof from a ladder, gives everyone lemonade, and sits down.

RYONE joins them from the ladder; he looks at CARA, and says

...

RYONE

I get the strangest feeling that I know you.  
Have we met?

CARA

Yes. I'm Cara Hazuki, your daughter from an alternate future time-line!

RYONE looks thrilled.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE TO HAPPY MUSIC: RYONE and CARA view, and interact with, many varieties of animals, at a zoo; they react with excitement and laughter, to the antics of many varieties of performers and animals, at a circus; they play all sorts of two player video-games, at an arcade; they watch a badly-animated cartoon at a movie theater; and then they go to an animé convention where they dress-up as characters from that badly animated cartoon, and they receive autographs from the actual badly-animated characters!

CUT TO:

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

BANANA and RYONE sip n'chat.

RYONE

Cara explained everything. Banana, our potential daughter Cara is a blessing!

BANANA

Argh! I stress the word "potential", Ryone.

RYONE

I won't lie -- I do feel as if there's a bond that connects us.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

RYONE

I won't lie -- I do feel as if there's a bond that connects us.

BANANA

Agh! The so-called red ribbon of destiny is an animé cliché that creeps me out, Ryone.

RYONE

I sure as hell wouldn't be trying so hard if I knew it was destiny.

BANANA laughs ... then she looks a little embarrassed.

RYONE

It's not a lie that I love you, Banana.

BANANA

Okay, the deal is that you are not to talk like that to me anymore - okay, Ryone?

RYONE

When we met, I was younger, and I made some grand declarations about how I feel about you. I've grown -- not much, but a little -- and I've realized that you're a little brat, a big dork, and a cold snowflake.

BANANA

Yeah! A cold snowflake that'll result in bodily harm if you don't shut up about this, Ryone!

RYONE

I don't have enough experience with this emotion to know the right way to act around

the girl who inspires this emotion; namely, you Banana.

BANANA

And I don't have enough experience with it either, to know how to act around the guy ... what you said; namely, James.

RYONE

Your "Sanctuary Rule" doesn't help, as I don't go to the same school as you, and so I must count on random meetings.

BANANA

For your information, Ryone. We don't have that rule anymore. And even if we did, you came over and met Cara anyway. So you broke the rule, and that's part of the reason why you creep me out sometimes, Ryone.

RYONE

I'd like to know your boundaries, so that I can know an appropriate place and time to try to get your attention long enough.

BANANA

How long is long enough?

RYONE

I don't know. Long enough to feel as if you've gotten to know the "real me". A fair shake. A fair in-person evaluation.

BANANA

That's what I want with James.

RYONE

I found the courage to approach you. Please find the courage to approach James.

BANANA

Won't you get jealous?

RYONE

Don't ever feel guilty about making another person jealous, if you're with the person you truly love.

WIPE TO:

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - EVENING

BANANA and RYONE eat Chinese food.

BANANA

You offered food, and I accepted. I restrict you from calling this a date.

RYONE

Why are you always so ...

BANANA

Feisty?

RYONE

Yeah. Why are you always so feisty towards me, Banana?

BANANA

I'm nice and laid back to everyone else. You're the only one who I'm feisty towards.

RYONE

I don't believe that for one second.

BANANA

And that's one reason why I wish you didn't even know where I live, Ryone.

RYONE

Our souls are made of the same thing, Banana, and admit it: you've realized it too. The fact that your mind's got a lot of catching up to do, and you're too stubborn to admit it, is why you keep pushing me away. But Banana, I want you to know that you can speak your mind around me and you'll be safe.

BANANA

God Ryone -- why'd I even come here?

RYONE

Well geez, ain't it smart to date everyone who's interested?

BANANA

Meh.

RYONE

If you date everyone who's interested, then you'll end up making a wiser choice about who to marry when the time comes.

BANANA

I'm still young, and I won't need to make that kind of decision in like ten years!

RYONE

So don't! But date! Gather information! Banana, I've fallen for you, and on the off chance that we're not meant to be together ...

BANANA

And right there is another reason why I wish you didn't even know where I live, Ryone.

RYONE

Damn it, Banana! I don't give a rat's ass about your location! It's your SAFETY that matters to me!

BANANA

Viva me!

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT DOORSTEP, MAISON

937 chats with a young paper-boy named ROD.

ROD

You're lucky to be a talking cat.

937

No, I'm not. When a talking cat asks a demon for directions, the demon gets the talking cat so drunk that the talking cat thinks cybernetic implants are a good thing to let the demon integrate into the talking cat's brain.

ROD

You could talk before you were a cyborg?

937

Yup. The implants only improve my memory  
and stop my aging. All Catland cats can talk.

ROD

Catland?

937

It's a planet.

ROD

That's SO corny!

937

So is ...  
(yelling)  
... YOUR FACE!

Offended, ROD runs away, crying.

937 laughs.

EXT. CAT SHRINE - DAWN

The Buddhist "Cat Shrine" is between two houses, in a small  
residential neighborhood.

The shrine consists of two statues of actual-sized cats, on  
either side of an altar with ornaments which honor the cat  
spirit, and before the altar is a spot for kneeling, and a  
platform where one may make offerings to the cat spirit.  
The platform is currently filled with jars of cat food.

Beside the shrine, a little purple-eyed girl in a red dress  
-- named MANDY -- plays with that familiar small blue cat  
named 937.

937

Mandy -- I gotta talk to you.

MANDY

(laughs)  
Stupid idiot! Cat's can't talk!

937

Well, I can. I'm the cat-spirit of this shrine.

MANDY  
Guess what!

937  
What?

MANDY  
I wanna be a nurse when I'm all grown up!  
What's your name?

937  
Nine Thirty Seven.

MANDY  
(giggles)  
Hi, Nine Thirty Seven! I'm Mandy, plain and  
simple!

MANDY bows to 937.

937  
Mandy. Do you remember which house I  
came from?

MANDY  
Yes, I do! You're a Chan!

937  
That's right.

MANDY  
Whee-hee! What's my prize?

937  
You win a secret mission!

MANDY  
Wow! I'm ready! Tell me what to do!

937  
Tell everyone in town -- except the Chan  
family -- that a wonderful cat spirit is giving  
free luck-readings at this shrine!

MANDY

Right!

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - SUNRISE

BANANA -- wearing blue jammies -- wakes up, and looks at the corners of her window, but not out it.

BANANA

Hmm ...

She moves toward the window, and looks at the doorstep, where BUSTER and 937 sit, talking with a paperboy named ROD, whose bike lays on the grass beside them.

She watches BUSTER's lips move, then ROD's, then 937's.

BANANA

Dudes, what's the big idea?

CUT TO:

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - SUNRISE

BANANA joins BUSTER, 937, and their friend ROD.

BANANA

Yo, paper-kid! You know about the cat?

ROD

Yeah. Everyone knows!

BANANA

Everyone? -- as in ... everyone?

BUSTER, 937, and ROD laugh.

937

(nods)

It's true. I'm very popular!

BANANA gives them this cute look with one eyebrow up, and one eyebrow down, while she asks...

BANANA

(confused)

So ... the cat's out of the bag, and it's not the

end of the world?

ROD  
Actually ...

937  
(interrupts)  
Banana -- I've got business with the paper-  
boy. Can you give us a few moments?

BANANA  
Sure!

BANANA leaves the area.

937  
Rod. The Chan family cannot know that  
everybody else is evacuating the town today.

ROD  
But you said that everyone who leaves for  
Tokyo will have incredibly good luck today!

937  
Yes, I said that. But the Chan family already  
have the good luck; they have me! And you'd  
better get going.

ROD  
My family is poor. We can afford the trip to  
Tokyo, but we don't have money to get back  
home, so we decided that we won't go at all.

937  
So you just need money for the trip back?

ROD  
Yeah.

937  
Okay. I can do that for you. You must hurry  
to that rock where Banana sits at night -- do  
you know the one?

ROD  
Yes, I've seen her sit on that rock by the pond!

937

The rock is big, but the secret of the rock is that it's very light. Under that rock, there's a map to a stash of enough aged tsukemono to make your family millionaires!

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

BANANA and ROB chat.

ROB

Banana, marry me, so we can share our secrets!

BANANA

No way in freaking Hell, you jerk!

WIPE TO:

EXT. SAKURA PARK - EVENING

BANANA sits on a bench, watching the moon.

RYONE approaches.

BANANA

Hi Ryone. You're boring!

RYONE

What?

BANANA

I feel so empowered today.

RYONE

That's good.

BANANA

Your problem is that you get too attached.

RYONE

You're supposed to form an emotional attachment to the ones you love.

BANANA

I can't. Love doesn't make sense. You act like it's destiny; that's what's scary.

RYONE

There is no destiny. There are potentials, and possibilities, but no destiny. Well, if destiny exists, it's open-ended ... which makes no sense, so ...

BANANA

I wanna plan an open-ended destiny.

RYONE is speechless.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN: 2009

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - LATE NIGHT

BANANA enters the house, bloody and bruised, and screams LOUDLY...

BANANA

WAKE UP!!!

BUSTER, 937, MRS. CHAN, CARA, and BUSTER, run into the room, in various states of undress.

937

I thought this place was sound-proof.

BANANA

ROB'S GONE PSYCHO!!! HE'S GOT NUKES!!!

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. - TOWN OF RAIN/MINIVAN - LATE NIGHT

The MINIVAN carrying BUSTER, 937, MRS. CHAN, CARA, and BANANA, speeds. Dozens of POLICE CARS chase them. A torpedo labeled "MEGALITH" falls from the sky, hits the MINIVAN, causes a mushroom cloud, and leaves no survivors.

We gaze at the radioactive, nuclear wasteland, where the town used to be.

EXT. BAKA'S ISLAND - HELL

Under a burning orange sky, and on a sea of lava, a black island accommodates a blue house and its front-yard lawn, and back-yard flower-garden. Above the front window, in silver spray-paint, is written: "Baka's House."

BUSTER, BANANA, MRS. CHAN, CARA, and 937, stand on the front lawn.

BANANA  
(confused)  
Baka's house?

GIANT BATS zoom across the sky.

BUSTER  
Yup.

END OF EPISODE