

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 30

From Mud And Clay

By Alan Holman

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.

WIPE TO:

INT. BAKA'S HOUSE - HELL

BAKA, BUSTER, BANANA, MRS. CHAN, CARA, and 937, gather around the air-conditioner.

BAKA
What's going on?

MRS. CHAN
A weapon of mass destruction hit the minivan!

BAKA
Oh, that IS today!
(burp)
HAPPY FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY,
BUSTER!!!

BUSTER
Actually, it's my thirteenth birthday!

RITON appears in a bolt of lightning.

RITON
FINALLY, AFTER GA-JILLIONS OF TRAGIC
TRIES, MY FINEST, PENULTIMATE
CREATION, IS COMPLETE! I'M TALKING
ABOUT THAT BOWL OF PARADOXES
KNOWN AS MY PERPETUAL- MOTION,
DOUBLE-PARADOX, CREATION-MOTOR!

BUSTER
Creation ... motor?

RITON
Yes, Buster! One small paradox within a
bigger, slightly more open paradox, combined
in one, bowl-like, universe-generating, creation
motor! Do you remember when you created
the universe with a time-bomb?

BUSTER
It was a mistake! Honest!

RITON
It was no mistake, Buster. Getting that time-
bomb into your hands was all part of myself
and Baka's plot to de-throne a Kami-sama
who didn't understand the real-estate potential
of our proposed multi-verse! Do you know how
much financial gain we can accrue if we only
... ?

BUSTER
(screaming)
IT WAS FOR FINANCIAL GAIN!?!

RITON
Yes! You're astute! Now all that remains to
be set in place, is the final puzzle-piece!

BANANA
What puzzle?

RITON
Buster's original time-line!

BUSTER

WHAT!?!

RITON

Banana -- twenty-one year-old Roko will look exactly as you will look, when you're twenty-five.

BANANA

That's great, but why are you telling me this?

RITON

Because Roko -- when she gets older -- she's not mechanically inclined, and you are, but you just don't know it yet.

BANANA

Slow down. What?

RITON

Myself and Baka took over all physical and spectral realms during Kami-sama's, and the devil's, most recent mutual absence from their respective offices. Buster, are you mad at me?

BUSTER

What?

BANANA

I'm not understanding any of this.

BUSTER

Neither am I.

RITON

Long story short -- myself and Baka will show you -- Banana Chan -- how to design robots, because you're switching places with Roko. With our help, you'll create the battlesuit that destroys Megalith once and for all!

BANANA

AWESOME!

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

NARRATOR

An undisclosed amount of years later ...

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIGHT VOID

Twenty-one year old ROKO CHAN appears in this white void, sleeping. She wakes-up, opens her eyes, and asks ...

ROKO

Am I ... awake?

A woman who looks exactly like ROKO, but is in fact twenty-five year old BANANA CHAN, appears beside ROKO.

BANANA

Yes. Now fly.

ROKO sprouts angel wings, and flies away.

BANANA floats into ROKO's ex-spot, shuts her eyes, and fades into the void.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN

2049.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW RAIN CITY - NIGHT

Under a skyful of violet shooting stars slides a mix of multi-color smog. Under the prominent browns and glowing-greens of that smog sits New Rain City.

Beautiful suburban neighborhoods sit atop large, shiny skyscrapers.

The streets are empty as the TechDome makes its rounds. The TechDome is a tall, but speedy, population-control device,

which resembles a 360 foot high, 13 foot wide, and 120 foot long, steam-roller, that has many blades on its exterior which expand and retract randomly.

Most alleys are complicated "vagrant cities" where millions of poor people live in long lines of numbered tents, boxes, and discarded furniture.

14 Y/O BUSTER CHAN'S VOICE
My original time-line ...

A 50 foot tall, 20 foot wide, and 5000 foot long, robotic panther, zips into town, squirms through the TechDome -- thus rendering the TechDome useless -- then punctures the ten tallest buildings, and slides out of town in the blink of an eye.

As the ten tallest buildings topple, we hear the following narration.

14 Y/O BUSTER CHAN'S VOICE
... until Banana, in her panther battle-suit,
destroyed universal balance.

In front of the panther, RITON -- wearing a party hat, and holding a cake that says "Thank you, Banana Chan!" -- appears in a bolt of lightning.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN: 2008

INT. SHINKANSEN SUPEREXPRESS TRAIN, TOKYO - DAWN

From his seat in an otherwise empty car of the Shinkansen Superexpress Train, six-year-old BUSTER CHAN looks upon the distant horizon between Tokyo's skyscrapers, to where the beautiful volcano goddess Fujiyama -- Japan's highest mountain, Mount Fuji -- a 3,776 meter high, red-orange cone, rests 100 kilometers away, against light fog and the otherwise cloudless, bright autumn sky, as its dawnlit snow-capped mantle gleams in the rising sun.

BUSTER CHAN (age 6), at 2'10", has messy hair that's been dyed brown, over his orange eyebrows, and a wardrobe which

features personified-car parts called SqueegiMon; for example, his shirt features an animé-character named "Tire the tire."

BUSTER

We pushed re-set, so that I can finally -- after gajillions of tragic tries -- win this video game!

A female demon head -- named FUJI -- appears in a puff of smoke.

FUJI

Please pardon the interruption!

BUSTER

Demon! Who are you?

FUJI

Fuji!

BUSTER

So why are you here?

FUJI

I'm here to tell you that your self-serving quest for a perfect time-line was a cage, because Buster, you must allow destiny to manifest itself. Perfection is in the eye of the beholder, Buster, so therefore others will suffer in a universe that's perfect in the eyes of its creator. Do you understand now, what you must do?

BUSTER

(sad)

Truth hurts.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA (age 16), BUSTER (age 6), MRS. CHAN, and FUJI, sit in front of a table.

FUJI

KA-ZAM!

MRS. CHAN and BANANA grab their heads, in pain.

MRS. CHAN
I REMEMBER THE OTHER TIME-LINES!

BANANA
ME TOO!

They let go of their heads.

937 -- the robot cat -- enters.

937
Did someone ask for a talking cat?

EVERYONE ELSE
Yeah!

937 cuddles against MRS. CHAN's feet, walks around BANANA's legs, jumps into BUSTER's lap, purrs loudly as he looks BUSTER in the eyes, and says...

937
So we meet again!

BANANA
Buster, you're six!

BUSTER
Good point.

BUSTER ages six years in one second. Now he's 12 years old.

BUSTER CHAN (age 12) is 4'8", with orange roots in his dyed-brown, and purple-streaked, hair, that's parted in the middle. Under this athletic boy's innocent green eyes are a tight SqueegiMon shirt, blue shorts, black socks, and futuristic running-shoes.

BUSTER
That's better.

BAKA appears in a puff of smoke.

BAKA AND FUJI
We're the Demon Twins!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN

BUSTER, BANANA, and 937, play poker.

BAKA appears in a puff of smoke.

BUSTER

Baka: Maiko explained about her family business, and I said ours is stopping universal apocalypse, and she laughed. Baka, show yourself to her!

BAKA

(playful)

Sure! But you gotta find me first!

BAKA disappears in a puff of smoke.

937 lays his cards on the table -- a royal flush.

937

Checkmate.

BUSTER

(playful)

Ready or not, here comes BUSTER CHAN!

BUSTER disappears in a puff of smoke.

CUT TO:

EXT. POND - TWILIGHT

BANANA sits on the usual rock, watching fireflies dance in the rippling light from the moon's reflection on the pond's waves.

She throws a rock into the water.

Her tears drop into the pond... adding ripples that dance with wind-ripples.

A star shoots above her.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - DAWN

937 and BUSTER (age 12), lay on the roof, watching birds, clouds, and the odd airplane.

937

You've narrowed your sets of time-line-sets, and became King of them, by achieving more than five of the ten goals you set before your first incarnation as Buster.

BUSTER

Is everyone a King or Queen?

937

No. And frankly, I'll never understand how you were tricked into tackling THAT thankless task.

BUSTER

Explain.

937

Not now. You've got three goals left. Keep in mind that it's easy to deviate from even the most direct route.

BUSTER

How do you know this?

937

Cats know all.

BUSTER

So ... it shouldn't be too hard for me to find stuff I chose to find ... can it?

937

(sighs)

It shouldn't, but it is.

BUSTER

What do you mean?

937

Without my help, this future has you living as a bum in New Rain City, and then you die.

And then we all die.

BUSTER

Where did you get the power to help me?

937

YOU GAVE ME THOSE POWERS! And the responsibilities have been so difficult, that I've recruited others, and even after trying our best, A GAJILLION TIMES, we KEEP FAILING! We've went to great lengths for you, so you could achieve your goals! We've even had you genetically enhanced! We've even hid Banana in Hell -- WHILE SHE WAS STILL ALIVE -- so that you'd go to that particular orphanage, AND JOIN THAT PARTICULAR NINJA CULT, while Banana worked on that battlesuit to defeat YOUR rival, but you still found ways to avoid even ATTEMPTING to achieve YOUR OWN goals!

(sad)

It's shameful to have to live in a universe where I must keep the means for the salvation of that ENTIRE FREAKING UNIVERSE, a huge secret from ITS OWN KING!

BUSTER

Don't worry.

937

(sad)

Well, I'm still frustrated, because you've found more "free lives" than anyone else in history, yet you keep dying!

(crying)

You're hopeless!

BUSTER

(smiles)

I can smile, so there's hope!

Pause.

937

(crying)

We've even looked up cheats from some web-site, so you'd have extra help with this damn

level!

BUSTER

You didn't have to!
(blushing)
I'm not THAT important.

937

Yes, YOU ARE! Well, that's the bad news.
So here's the good news: memories of other
tries contain accomplishments; in other
words, you're farther than you've EVER been!

BUSTER

What's left on the agenda?

937

(smiles)
Wow! You've never asked THAT before!
Okay, I've always NEEDED to tell you to write
"The Eternal Oasis" on a folded paper, draw
Mount Fuji on that paper, then also write "The
End" on it. Fold that paper into a paper crane,
and finally, kiss Maiko.

BUSTER

(smiles)
That's it?

937

(nods)
Yup! That's all! Except whenever you've found
out, someone would come along and erase
your memories, and you'd become a ... bum.

BUSTER

Poverty's a virtue.

937

No. I'm trying to save you from that shameful
"financial status."

BUSTER

The term "shameful financial status" -- not to
mention any term that involves the word
"status" -- is both prejudicial and
discriminatory.

937

I know how to put things into perspective for you. Let me give you a wider perspective about the value of money by taking you to my home-world.

BUSTER
Home-work!?!

937

No, home-world. Cats are from Catland.

BUSTER
(laughs)
A planet of cats!?!

BANANA joins them from a ladder, and says ...

BANANA
It's true! A planet of the spayed and neutered!

937 snickers.

BANANA
He's telling the truth, Buster! They're warm and fuzzy snugly waggy-wu-guglys! Go seeeeeeeeeeee!

BUSTER
Will you come?

BANANA
Nope.

BUSTER
Why not?

BANANA
I wouldn't mind, but I have to be crabby and anti-social sometimes too.

937 curls around BUSTER's leg.

Boy and cat vanish.

BANANA

(sad)
No.
(screaming)
I ... FORGOT TO GET A HUG!!!

BAKA appears in a puff of smoke.

BAKA
They'll be back.

BLANK SCREEN

NARRATOR
Baka can turn invisible. An invisible, drunken
Baka, wandered into a room -- before womb --
as Riton back-stabbed Buster ...

INT. ENDLESS HALLWAY - BRIGHT

ROKO holds hands with her two year old son TODDLER BUSTER,
and leads the tiny tike through this strange nexus.

An infinite amount of doorways line each side of this
endless hallway.

ROKO
We're almost there.

TODDLER BUSTER
Where?

ROKO
The dragon-faced alien, who lives in a scepter.

TODDLER BUSTER
A scepter? What's that?

ROKO
A scepter is an ... an ... antique.

TODDLER BUSTER
What does he do?

ROKO
He's a professional Soul-Stealer. I'm leaving
you with him.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

TODDLER BUSTER

Buster doesn't wanna go alone, to the Soul-Stealer, momma.

ROKO

Don't worry. It'll be fine.

TODDLER BUSTER

Why?

ROKO

Because our remembered dreams are different from our real dreams. Our memories are replaced, before we wake up, as protection from the truth.

TODDLER BUSTER

What?

ROKO

Listen, Buster. We're almost there. His name is Riton. Don't let him scare you. Co-operate with him. He's only trying to help. Be brave ... like a soldier!

TODDLER BUSTER

Okay, momma.

WIPE TO:

INT. DARK ROOM

The only illuminated figures in this otherwise pitch dark room are TODDLER BUSTER, and a flying scepter.

The scepter is a fourteen-inch statue of two, ten-inch golden snakes, who twist around each-other -- possibly mating -- balancing atop their heads a four-inch, blue crystal ball, inside which is the face of a green eyed Komodo Dragon, whose name is RITON.

RITON

Hello, Buster.

TODDLER BUSTER

Hiya, Riton!

RITON

In this incarnation, I'll replace your soul with the artificial implant, right after you learn of the trip.

TODDLER BUSTER

What if I give-up?

RITON

I'm counting on it!

TODDLER BUSTER

HEY!

(angry, betrayed)
We had a deal!

Pause.

RITON

(loud, sudden)
BOO!!!

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

NARRATOR

For back-stabbing Buster, Baka planned to kill Riton repeatedly, until Riton's complete exile from EVERY time-line; however, during their confrontation, Riton explained to Baka, in great detail, how he was trying to set the stage so that the universe doesn't cave in on itself. Baka thought it sounded cool, so he got in on the action. Meanwhile, all along, Riton and Baka were unknowing pawns of 937.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF MOUNT FUJI - MORNING

MRS. CHAN sits beside the volcano's steaming mouth, as FUJI tells a story.

FUJI

A long time ago, the Earth was just a bunch of mud and clay, until Izanagi and Izanami developed it into a planet where nice people, in a nice house, would eventually exist, so that Kami-sama could relax there with them, if only for a few years.

MRS. CHAN
Maison Chan!?!

FUJI
Exactly. The universe is only a machine that allowed for the creation of our Earth where Buster can enjoy his vacation in Maison Chan, as an adolescent boy named Buster.

MRS. CHAN
I know.

FUJI
You do?

MRS. CHAN
I know that whenever Buster dies, or goes back in time from the future, the universe ends, because it's no longer needed to accommodate Buster. That's why the Armageddon was after Buster left the orphanage.
(nervous giggle)
And in time-lines where Buster's in the Space Ark Soul, the Armageddon reaches earth in 2012, because the universe doesn't need to accommodate anything that doesn't affect, or isn't affected by, The Space Ark Soul.

FUJI
You have an excellent perspective!

EXT. POND - TWILIGHT

BANANA sits on the usual rock, watching fireflies dance in the rippling light from the moon's reflection on the pond's waves.

A star shoots above her.

BUSTER approaches from behind her.

BUSTER
Hiya!

BANANA
Buster! You're back!!! -- why so soon?

BUSTER
Space is vast. I prefer the comfort of home.

BANANA
What about Catland?

BUSTER
I couldn't stop sneezing. I never thought allergies would happen to me.

BANANA
Did you learn the virtue of money?

BUSTER
Yes. Everyone on Catland is rich and happy because money's used more properly there -- distributed more fairly.

BAKA appears in a puff of smoke.

BAKA
Buster! 937 showed me the paper crane you made, so I took the liberty of hiring Maiko for an important favor. Just a sec!

BAKA disappears in a puff of smoke.

BANANA
What's this about?

BUSTER
Maiko's mother owns a club where Maiko sometimes does shift-work as an assistant. But that probably doesn't have anything to do with this. Y'know, she told me in that other time-line that it was love at first sight -- that's why she forgave certain ... never-mind. I really like her a lot!

BANANA
(singing)
Buster's got a girl-friend!

BAKA and MAIKO appear in a puff of smoke. MAIKO wears her hair in buns, and a beautiful kimono, with white face make-up, and pink circles on her cheeks.

BUSTER
Maiko?

MAIKO
Yes, I am.
(laughs)
This scary flying demon-head explained everything.

BUSTER
Like what?

MAIKO kisses BUSTER.

During the kiss, no one notices as TIRE -- a talking tire -- appears before them, and says quickly ...

TIRE
Wabba, Wabba.

No longer than TIRE's brief speech, the following SUBTITLES appear on the bottom of the screen: "When a planet's Kami-sama matures, compromises between good and evil dissolve threats of Armageddon, so radiation belts at atmospheric edges dissolve, letting souls evolve to realms within similar barriers at edges of solar systems, then galaxies. Unless accompanied by a Universal Citizen, Kami-samas -- and their planets' spirits of sentient life forms -- are only perceptive of other Kami-samas, and other sentient spirits, within their own solar system; in your case, it was a male for Earth, and a female for Mars, until earthlings conquered Mars and its Kami-sama was given the form of the hybrid embryo within that other time-line's Maiko. Anyway Buster, when your planets' souls relocate to the edge of the galaxy, humanity -- and all forms of sentient life with origins on earth -- will be granted Universal Citizenship which allows interaction with every other mature Kami-sama and species. And in case you didn't understand that, it

doesn't matter since this show is just for fun. The only reason I said that stuff was so that super-nerds can't nit-pick the plot."

TIRE rolls away.

The kiss ends.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

NARRATOR

With that said, the Chan Family won absolute eternal honor by defeating Armageddon, embracing Ophiucius, and advancing to The Next Level!

CUT TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - MORNING

A boy is behind the counter; his name is JAMES ALYN -- he has short black hair with purple highlights, and he wears gray sweat-pants, no shirt, no shoes, and a red bandanna. He has a tattoo of a foot-long scar across his chest.

BANANA enters, and she approaches JAMES ALYN.

BANANA

(laughs)

Hey James! If a dingo ate your baby, where would you hide the chickens?

JAMES

Sorry ...?

BANANA

I'm always interested to hear other people's opinions ... but I still like mine better ... if that made any sense.

JAMES

(laughs)

You're wacky!

BANANA

(shrugs)
It's fun. Wacky is funny! Wanna get lunch?

JAMES
Well, okay! Your name is ... ?

CUT TO:

INT. MAISON ALYN - MORNING

BANANA eats dinner with JAMES and MR. ALYN.

MR. ALYN
(shouts)
FIANCEE!?

BANANA looks at an engagement ring which she is wearing.

BANANA
It had a nice ring to it -- now it's ringing in my ears.

MR. ALYN
Her family was disgraced in battle in the Feudal Era! To protect this family, I cannot allow it!

JAMES and BANANA look stunned.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN
One month later ...

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - AFTERNOON

Resting in the pond, BANANA ingests every sleeping-pill from a new bottle.

She closes her eyes, falls asleep, and sinks into the pond.

The water boils.

The camera pans a little to the left, to finally reveal a sign -- which has been there all along -- that says ...

"DANGER: OCCASIONAL HOT SPRING"

CUT TO:

EXT. SAKURA PARK - AFTERNOON

RYONE flies a kite that has his name written on it.

BANANA appears in a puff of smoke behind RYONE -- she is soaking wet, and drowsy.

BANANA taps RYONE's shoulder.

RYONE turns around, and notices BANANA.

RYONE
Banana?

BANANA collapses into RYONE's arms.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

BANANA wakes up on a hospital bed.

RYONE is at her bedside.

BANANA
I attempted suicide.

RYONE
I know.

BANANA
(crying)
I ATTEMPTED SUICIDE!

RYONE embraces BANANA -- she cries into his chest.

RYONE
I know.

BANANA
(crying)
I'm sorry.

RYONE
I know.

BUSTER -- now wearing a red-shirt, and sporting angelic wings and a halo -- enters.

BUSTER
Guess what.

BANANA
(crying)
NO! I can't be dead!

BUSTER uses his angel wings to fly around the room a few times.

BUSTER
Just because you're seeing angels -- specifically me, Tsukihi -- doesn't mean that you're dead!

BANANA
Tsukihi?

You heard him -- he's now TSUKIHI.

TSUKIHI
That's right, Banana! Who was Buster is now Tsukihi; that's my name, don't wear it out!

BANANA
So ... why the wings of angelic nature?

TSUKIHI
Because Ryone's not scared of you anymore.

BANANA
What?!

BUSTER
That's your cue, Ryone. You only get to do this once, so make it good.

RYONE slaps BANANA.

BUSTER

What you're witnessing here, folks, is how true love makes men brave enough to make girls women.

A tear slips out from under BANANA's left eye, as she shoots
RYONE a glare that's half stun, and half vengeful smile.

BANANA
What kind of chauvinistic ... ?

RYONE pulls BANANA towards himself, and gives her a passionate kiss. Both look like they enjoy it a lot.

TSUKIHI
He's not afraid of you anymore, Banana.
Admit it: That's what you were waiting for all along. And in case I'm wrong, here's ...
(calling)
... Doggie!

Banana's dog DOGGIE (A.K.A. Wu) -- whom we last saw in chapter six -- enters the room, jumps onto BANANA's lap, and begins licking the right side of her face ... a face of sudden bliss!

BANANA
(crying with joy and laughter)
DOGGIE!

Pause.

RYONE
I'm sorry about the slap.

BANANA
Don't be. I realize that I've been stupid, and I actually needed the tough love, Ryone.

RYONE
Really?

BANANA
Yeah, but I'm not gonna tell you why -- not while Buster is still here. It's a personal matter.

RYONE
I see.

BANANA
I hope you see. Plus, that better be the last
time you ever slap me.

RYONE
It is, I promise.

BANANA
Seal that promise.

RYONE
How?

BANANA
With a kiss, dummy.

RYONE
Shall do.

RYONE and BANANA share a magical kiss.

CUT TO:

HELL

Hell freezes over.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH, BESIDE TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - LATE
AFTERNOON

BANANA (age 16), RYONE (age 16), and DOGGIE (age ??), sit
on
a blanket, eating food from a picnic basket.

RYONE
(smiling)
... and then I said, "The better man fights only
to protect."

BANANA
(laughs)

What did he do?

RYONE

He called me a "douche bag".

BANANA

(laughs)

What an idiot!

They look at each-other's faces, smiling and blushing.

RYONE

I love you, Banana.

BANANA

You know what, Ryone?

RYONE

You love me too?

BANANA

You kinda wore me out. Then I imagined our future family, and it makes me smile ... with love.

They kiss.

You applaud.

END OF EPISODE.