

Banana Chan

31

by Alan Holman

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[The character Aubery Spade was created by B__. She contributed to the writing in episodes which contain Aubery.]

EXT. SKY OVER JAPANESE SEASIDE - DAWN

The sky is mostly dark purple, as the sun barely begins to appear on the horizon, as a small Cessna biplane flies over the coast-line.

INT. CESSNA BIPLANE - DAWN

AUBERY SPADE is blindfolded and unconscious, tied to the passenger-side seat in this small, two-person Cessna biplane.

AUBERY SPADE (age 17), is 6'2", with really messy ice-purple hair, and Halloween orange eyes. He wears a faded gray shirt, with no sleeves because they were ripped off. The back pockets were ripped out of his blue jeans. And he has a pouch attached to a black belt.

A man -- Aubery's CAPTOR -- wearing a fancy Italian business suit -- sits in the pilot's seat, flying the plane.

WIPE TO:

EXT. RAINBOW FOODS PARKING LOT - DAWN

AUBERY -- still blindfolded -- with a small bruised bump on his forehead -- wakes up in the middle of the empty parking lot.

He sits up, feels the pavement around him, then quickly removes the blindfold, and finds the beaten-up, bloody body, of his CAPTOR, laying dead beside him. Aside for

blood and bruises all over the CAPTOR's body, there is also a small, bleeding bullet-hole between his eyes.

A look of disappointment washes over AUBERY's face -- but not much.

AUBERY looks at the "Rainbow Foods" sign on the convenience store, and he notices what looks like a rock beside the doors. On closer inspection, it's a homeless person sleeping under a potato sack, beside the doors.

AUBERY spins around to see that he's on the western outskirts of a small town -- a forest to the west, and a seaport to the east. The seaport includes docks, warehouses, a light-house, et cetera.

The forest surrounds all sides of the town, aside for the east side, which is where the sea-port is.

The forest is near him, but the town is also near him.

A dog barks in the distance.

The dark purple of the sky is turning a brighter orange.

AUBERY walks across the parking lot, towards the convenience store.

The homeless person -- OLD BUSTER -- who sleeps beside the door, grabs AUBERY's leg.

AUBERY
Hey!

OLD BUSTER lets go of AUBERY's leg.

OLD BUSTER
Sorry. Can you spare some change?

AUBERY notices that OLD BUSTER is only just beginning to open his eyes for the morning, so AUBERY gets in the way just in time to block OLD BUSTER's view of a DOG peeing on the CAPTOR's dead body.

AUBERY digs through his pocket, and gives 500 Yen to OLD BUSTER.

OLD BUSTER
Thank you!

OLD BUSTER quickly runs into the convenience store. AUBERY turns around, and notices as the dog finishes peeing on the CAPTOR's dead body.

AUBERY salutes the dog.

The dog walks to the right of the store, and struts east-bound on a road which leads into town.

AUBERY follows the dog onto that road ... and he walks beside the dog, towards town.

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 girl in a red dress -- named MANDY -- plays with a small blue cat named 937.

937 has a bandage on his left leg.

The DOG stops, and barks at the left-side cat-statue.

AUBERY continues walking, until MANDY looks at him, smiles, and says ...

MANDY
Hello!

AUBERY
Hello. What town am I in?

The DOG continues to get angrier and angrier at the cat statue.

AUBERY
(to DOG)

Shush!

The DOG runs in one direction, towards one row of houses.

The cat -- 937 -- runs in another direction, towards another row of houses.

MANDY
Kitty is gone!

AUBERY
Sorry. What town am I in?

MANDY
This is Rain, plain and simple. I'm Mandy!

MANDY bows to AUBERY.

AUBERY bows to MANDY.

MANDY
Shit! I'll never find kitty now!

AUBERY
You're too young to swear.

The hairs on the back of AUBERY's neck stand up as the left-side cat-statue turns its head and looks at the back of AUBERY's head for a second.

AUBERY takes a quick look behind him, but it's too late -- the statue isn't looking at him anymore. Still, AUBERY looks at the statue strangely, and takes a step away.

MANDY sticks her tongue out, says ...

MANDY
Nyeah, nyeah! Try to catch me!

MANDY runs in the same direction in which 937 ran.

AUBERY
No.

AUBERY inspects the left statue closely, as the right statue turns its head and looks at him.

AUBERY inspects the right statue closely, as the left statue turns its head and looks at him.

AUBERY begins to walk away, as both cat-statues' eyes turn yellow, and the statues say ...

CAT STATUES

Welcome to our town! Try our lotto!

AUBERY stumbles onto the middle of the road, falls on his back, and says ...

AUBERY

What the hell?!

AUBERY gets distracted by the sky which is turning blue. Many sea-gulls are coming in from the west.

Two POLICE CARS stop ... because AUBERY -- laying down -- is blocking their path.

AUBERY stands up, and tries not to look nervous or guilty.

A COP exits from one of the cars, looks at AUBERY, and says ...

COP

Were you at the convenience store?

AUBERY

I walked by it, yes ... why?

The COP holds out a picture of MAYOR WANDA ORBIE, and says ...

COP

Do you know this person?

AUBERY

No, I don't.

COP

Then you must not be from around here. How did you get here, and when did you get here?

AUBERY

Umm ... on a plane, and early this morning.

The COP looks impatient.

COP

This picture is of our Mayor, Wanda Orbie. I'll be uncharacteristically frank with you, because of the immediacy and severity required by this situation. Mayor Wanda Orbie disappeared, and I found this photo in a dead body's pocket. The corpse had been a wanted mobster. Now, there was a reward for him, dead or alive, and Old Buster at the store saw you with the body. And I repeat, there was a reward for him, dead or alive. There were fingerprints on the gun which was obviously stolen from his pocket and used in self-defense. If those fingerprints match yours, then you're actually eligible for the reward, so it would be to your benefit to cooperate with us. May we take your fingerprints? Did you kill him?

The COP holds out a fingerprint scanning device.

AUBERY

Yeah sure, you can take my prints ... but I didn't kill that dude you were talkin' about.

AUBERY puts his hand on the device.

The device beeps.

COP

Your fingerprints match those that were found on the gun. Hey, this isn't bad news. And I know this is surreal, but I'm supposed to give you this voucher for a 400000 Yen reward. Cash it at any bank, and spend it wisely.

The COP gives AUBERY a voucher, and starts laughing.

AUBERY

What's so funny?

COP

It's just that this day is starting off really weird for me.

AUBERY

I know what you mean.

COP
I've gotta run. Bye.

AUBERY
Bye.

The COP enters his car, and the COP CARS drive away.

AUBERY blinks in surprise.

AUBERY
Okay. Weird place. But at least I know I have cash. Let's go find a hotdog stand!

EXT. HOT DOG STAND - MORNING

The sky is now bright blue.

A string of small shops are just opening.

Many people of all ages walk down this street now.

A Jamaican guy named TOM sells hot-dogs at a small stand.

TOM
Hello! What can I get you for?

AUBERY
Chili Dog, please. And a bottle of water, please.

TOM
Okay!

They exchange cash and food.

AUBERY starts eating his chili-dog.

TOM
You don't look like you're from around here.

AUBERY
I'm not. I'm from New York.

TOM
Are you enjoying your stay in Japan?

AUBERY

I might if I were here for my own reasons, but I'm not. Where can I find someone to help me get home?

TOM

There is a travel agency across the street ...

TOM points at a company called MEGALITH TRAVEL.

TOM

... however, I don't trust them. You might want to go to the other travel agency down the block.

TOM points at a company called ASIA TRAVEL.

AUBERY

Thanks.

AUBERY tosses 150 Yen to TOM, and walks down the street, weaving through the crowd, trying not to bump into people, as he heads towards MEGALITH TRAVEL.

INT. MEGALITH TRAVEL - MORNING

Brochures are available throughout this place, for destinations all around the world.

A calm, smiley man -- named ANDREW -- sits behind the counter.

AUBERY enters.

A young, somewhat chubby, blue-haired, twelve year-old boy -- MIKON SAWAMURA -- enters, looks at AUBERY, and says ...

MIKON

Are you strong?

ANDREW laughs at the boy.

AUBERY looks down at the boy in surprise.

AUBERY

Umm ... well, I guess it all depends on what you need help with, kiddo.

MIKON
Can you defeat a dragon?

ANDREW laughs.

ANDREW
Quit bugging the customers.

MIKON continues looking at AUBERY.

AUBREY restrains laughter, and says ...

AUBERY
There are no such things as dragons, kid. You've been reading waaay too many comics. Besides, shouldn't you be in school, not slaying dragons?

MIKON
I quit school. Life's much easier that way. Can you defeat this pesky dragon or not?

ANDREW
Okay kid. I'm giving you to the count of three, to leave this other kid alone. One ...

MIKON looks intimidated.

MIKON
Come with me.

ANDREW
Two.

ANDREW gets a wooden paddle.

MIKON
Oh crap. I wonder how many of my family the dragon hasn't eaten yet.

AUBERY steps in between the man and the boy, and says ...

AUBERY
Hey pal! Back off! Leave the guy alone!

ANDREW
Are you a customer?

MIKON
(whispering)
Save my family.

AUBERY glares at ANDREW, then turns around to leave with the boy, and says ...

AUBERY
Come on, kid. Let's go before the guy pounds us into mince meat. Let's go see this dragon of yours.

EXT. BLOSSOM ROAD - MORNING

BLOSSOM ROAD is the name of a road which goes up a hill from that shopping district, towards a residential district.

MIKON
Hi. I'm Mikon Sawamura. I know you don't believe me about the dragon, but it's real, and it's in my dad's dojo. He has this tendency to fight wild animals to prove his skills. It's not a real drag ... well, it's real. It's not a mythical dragon; it's a Komodo Dragon from China. It's causing quite a problem.

AUBERY notices 937 -- still wearing a bandage -- run past them, in the opposite direction, as he says ...

AUBERY
Your dad has a Komodo Dragon in his dojo? Does he have a death wish by any chance?

MIKON
Ha! Ha!
(laughs)
Yeah, Sawamura-sensei has always had a death wish.
(nods in shame ... and sorrow)
He's my father.

In the far background 937 mutters ...

937
Damn.

AUBERY looks at 937, but asks MIKON ...

AUBERY

Does weird stuff like this always happen in this town, or is it just because I'm here?

MIKON

Weird stuff is a way of life in Rain.
(blush ... and shame)
Let's run.

AUBERY

Sure.

They run towards the residential district.

EXT. FRONT GATES AT MAISON SAWAMURA - MORNING

AUBERY and MIKON stand before a big gate.

MIKON

We're here!

MIKON pushes a button on the gate.

MIKON

I'm here with ...
(to AUBERY)
... what's your name?

AUBERY

Aubery Spade.

MIKON

I'm here with Aubery Spade.

The voice of KOKEN SAWAMURA emits from the button ...

KOKEN'S VOICE

Who the hell is that!?! Whatever. Come in.

The gate opens, revealing a big yard which includes a house called MAISON SAWAMURA, a dojo called THE SAWAMURA DOJO, a little shed, and a strange, totally-white, cherry tree, which is white and grows white cherries.

MIKON leads AUBERY as they walk on a path towards THE SAWAMURA DOJO.

AUBERY

Umm ... who just yelled at you?

MIKON

Oh, that was my older sister Koken. And don't tell anyone you saw the white cherry tree. If you want, and if you promise not to tell, I can get you some power for fighting the dragon, from this tree.

Intense screams of agony, thumping noises, and even some crunching noises, come from THE SAWAMURA DOJO.

AUBERY

It doesn't sound like we have time! Come on!
Let's go see if we can help your old man!

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. THE SAWAMURA DOJO - MORNING

A middle-aged Kung-Fu master named SAWAMURA SENSEI clings to a saddle that's strapped to the back of a komodo dragon named RITON, as it bucks around the room in circles ... because he's wearing a leash that's chained to a pillar -- well, more of a column than a pillar -- in the center of the room.

RITON

Get the old bastard off of me!

MIKON

Hey dad! You've tamed it!

RITON

Tamed!?! I'm not tamed for anyone!
(to Aubery)
Hey! If you save me from this old guy, I'll reward you greatly!

AUBERY

(really surprised)
Dude, that dragon just talked.

MIKON

No! We need this talking dragon! Don't take him.
We need him! We'll teach you our kung fu technique if you leave him here!

RITON

I'll give you much greater things if you rescue me from this old freak, and his blue-haired kids!

MIKON

I didn't expect dad to win against the dragon, and get his saddle on the back!

SAWAMURA-SENSEI

(laughing)

No need to rescue me!

RITON

Rescue me!

AUBERY looks back and forth between RITON who screams in agony, and MIKON and SAWAMURA-SENSEI, who laugh at the dragon's misfortune.

AUBERY

All I want to do is go home, to New York City.

RITON gives AUBERY a sad look ... with tears falling out of his eyes, as he says ...

RITON

I know a way to get you home, if you can rescue me!

SAWAMURA-SENSEI

Don't listen to him! And by the way, I can't help you get home, so don't bother asking!

KOKEN SAWAMURA (gender: female / age: 17 / hair: blue), enters the room, looks at her father SAWAMURA-SENSEI, and says ...

KOKEN

Get off that dragon, and drive me to work!

AUBERY takes a quick glance at her. KOKEN looks at him, and says ...

KOKEN

Who the hell are you?

AUBERY

(confused, mutters to self)
And I thought my friends and family were strange.
(bows politely, says to her)
Aubery Spade. Nice to meet you.

KOKEN blushes, and says ...

KOKEN
(nervous)
Whatever, hi. Yeah, maybe later. I've got work to
get to.

Looks at SAWAMURA-SENSEI, and says ...

KOKEN
Leave the dragon here. Let the boys take care of
him.

She indicates MIKON and AUBERY as "the boys."

SAWAMURA-SENSEI gets off the dragon, and says ...

SAWAMURA-SENSEI
Fine. Hey Aubery. Do you want to learn the
Sawamura Five-Finger Soul Style of Kung Fu?

RITON looks at AUBERY, and says ...

RITON
Don't do it.

KOKEN
Oh God, I'll be LATE!

MIKON
Learn the technique!

AUBERY
Nah, that's okay. We'll umm ... just look after
the dragon. I think your daughter is getting angry
as well.

SAWAMURA-SENSEI bows to AUBERY, and he exits with his
daughter KOKEN.

RITON
Rescue me. I hate this leash.

MIKON

Don't rescue him. Dad likes to cook the animals he tames, and they're real good. Stay the day, and have supper -- we can pass the time with video games, then eat this dragon!

KOKEN enters, and says to AUBERY ...

KOKEN

Dad says you're a foreigner. And yeah, you look like one. Would you like a free tour of my workplace, Megalith Towers?

The dragon motions that AUBERY should say 'no.'

The blue cat -- 937 -- who still wears a bandage on his leg, enters, and sits in a corner.

KOKEN

Well, I've gotta go. Staying here? Or coming to see the big city? Your call.

After a few unsure moments, KOKEN exits.

After a few more unsure moments, the sound of a car starting comes from outside.

AUBERY

Umm, see ya kid. Have fun watching the dragon. Hey Koken, wait up!

AUBERY runs out the door.

INT. BLACK LIMOUSINE - MORNING

AUBERY jumps into the back-seat, beside KOKEN.

KOKEN

Heh! I knew you couldn't resist! Ha! Okay, great. I work at Megalith Tower, on a ...

937 jumps through the open window, into the car, and onto AUBERY's lap.

AUBERY

Hey kitty!

937
Hey yourself.

KOKEN laughs.

The big gate opens, and the limo drives onto a road.

KOKEN
He can talk. He's a town secret.

AUBERY
(to 937)
Have you been following me around all day or what?

937
I've been following you, yes.

KOKEN
Anyway Aubery, I work at Megalith Towers in Tokyo,
on a project.

AUBERY
Thought so.

KOKEN
And all our volunteers are orphans.

AUBERY
Orphans. Hey, isn't that like breaking some kind
of labor laws or something?

KOKEN
You'll find that the doors are locked.

A strange energy barrier appears between KOKEN's side of
the back-seat, and the side where AUBERY sits with 937.

KOKEN
Hehehe. It's a top-secret project. I'm quite
certain that you're an orphan. That's why we had
the guy kidnap you. But apparently he died
somehow, but yet you still wandered to our house!

937
Oh oh. This don't look good.

AUBERY
No kidding.
(tries to open car door)
LET ME OUTTA HERE!

The car drives onto a busier street.

The window begins to slowly close, as the car speeds-up,
and drives onto a freeway.

KOKEN
No escape from Project Total Control Ultra.

AUBERY
Psh. That's what you think.

The window is a quarter-way closed now, and continuing to
close slowly. AUBERY puts the cat onto his shoulder, and
says ...

AUBERY
You might want to hold on, kitty.

937
Yup.

AUBERY climbs out the window, onto the roof of the fast-
moving car.

937
Cool. I love the sea breeze.

The car turns onto a road beside a large crater. In the
middle of the crater is a mountain with a large church-like
fortress on top of it. There is a wall around the
fortress, with a big gate. And between the gate and the
front door is a bridge over a moat. This entire crater,
and everything it contains, was unable to be seen from the
town.

KOKEN climbs onto the car, takes an attack-stance, and
screams ...

KOKEN
Sawa-Mountain-Rise!

The mountain grows -- it fills the crater. Now there's just a huge mountain where the crater was ... and the car is quickly driving toward the top of the mountain, on a road that winds around the mountainside, and ends at the gate.

KOKEN
Sawa-Sawa-FLAME!

A small pillar of light flies from KOKEN's hand, towards AUBERY who luckily ducks the flame by crouching low to keep his balance on the moving vehicle.

AUBERY
I so wish I had one of my knives right now.

KOKEN's projectile flame hits the mountainside, and some rocks fall in a tiny avalanche which doesn't hit the car.

AUBERY looks around for a way to escape, as he says ...

AUBERY
Listen lady. I don't want to hurt you. Just let me go home, and I won't tell anyone about your twisted organization.

KOKEN
(screaming)
We're your home now! Now, stay still!

AUBERY looks around, and notices that at this angle, he can jump off the front of the car, and fall very far into the ocean, but he doesn't try -- the water is very far down, and its depth is anyone's guess.

KOKEN
I didn't want to do this, but ...

AUBERY
Hn. Sorry sister. No deals.

AUBERY takes his own fighting stance, and starts backing up towards the rear of the car.

AUBERY
Hey cat. You have any escape ideas that don't involve me becoming road-pizza, or deep-

water-sushi?

937 -- still clung to AUBERY's shoulder -- says ...

937

If you jump, I jump.

937 leaps off AUBERY's shoulder, and scratches KOKEN's face. She loses balance, but regains it as 937 bounces back onto AUBERY's shoulder.

AUBERY tackles KOKEN, and sits on her stomach, pinning her arms to the roof of the vehicle.

AUBERY

Look. If you just tell me how to get home, I'll leave.

KOKEN spits on AUBERY's face, and says ...

KOKEN

We're almost at the top of the mountain. Then you can do nothing!

AUBERY -- still pinning her -- notices that the ocean below him, is getting farther and farther below him.

937

To state the obvious, this ain't the Tokyo Megalith Tower. She lied.

AUBERY considers the ocean, as he asks ...

AUBERY

(to 937)

What? Then where the hell are we going?

937

Hell if I know.

AUBERY

Greeaaaatt.....

The car begins to slow down, as it reaches the top of the spiraling road -- the top of the hill.

The car comes to a stop before a big gate.

Seven GUARDS run out of the fortress, and over the bridge, and through the gate, and towards the car, and point their guns at AUBERY, and scream ...

GUARD 1
Get off of Koken!

937
You'd better do what they say. I mean, we can still jump -- very far -- off the side of the road, to the ocean, but it'd be really stupid ... maybe.

AUBERY rolls off the vehicle, to the other side of the car, so the car is between him and the guns.

KOKEN rolls off the vehicle, to the side with the guards, and she joins the guards.

GUARD 2
Come out from behind the vehicle, with your hands up!

AUBERY
What do you think I am -- stupid?!

KOKEN laughs, and accidentally reveals her snake-like forked tongue, which she accidentally touches to her own eye, then screams ...

KOKEN
Ouch! That stings! OUCH! IT REALLY STINGS!

The GUARDS all give their complete attention to KOKEN.

AUBERY notices that the trunk at the back of the car is a bit open, so he creeps over to the trunk and takes a look inside, and sees all sorts of weapons.

GUARD 3
He's at the trunk!

KOKEN grabs a ninja star from her pocket.

The GUARDS continue aiming their guns, and creeping towards the vehicle.

GUARD 4

DO NOT take one of those weapons from the trunk!

937 -- still clung to AUBERY's shoulder -- says ...

937

DO take one of those weapons from the trunk!

AUBERY reaches into the trunk, and hoards a bunch of different types of knives, and pairs of nunchakus. He throws fourteen knives towards the guards, and dives behind the car, bringing the rest of the knives and nunchakus with him, as his perfect aim punctures the eyes of all seven of the guards, killing the guards instantly.

KOKEN

JERK!

937

Bingo.

AUBERY

Ha! I told you not to mess with me, sister.

KOKEN looks towards the open gate, then runs towards AUBERY, saying ...

KOKEN

You're going in there, if I have to drag you inside!

AUBERY

You can try.

As KOKEN approaches, when she's about a meter away from AUBERY, he pulls a katana out of the trunk, and says ...

AUBERY

Oh, nice!

KOKEN backs away a bit.

AUBERY holds the katana out in front of himself, while tucking the nunchakus into his belt, and starts backing away.

AUBERY

If you follow me, you'll end up like your friends
the pincushions over there.

KOKEN

Okay! I won't follow you. I'm afraid of swords.

KOKEN notices that there is still a driver in the car. She
signals to the driver to ram the car into AUBERY.

The car makes a rumbling sound as if the driver tried to do
something, but was out of gas.

AUBERY

Hahaha ... suckers!

The driver gets out of the car, and escapes, with KOKEN,
into the fortress.

A church-bell starts ringing from the fortress.

AUBERY walks over to the car, and opens the driver-door.
He enters the empty car, and sits on the drivers-seat.

AUBERY starts the car.

937

Hey, I thought it was out of gas. I guess the
driver -- whoever that was -- is on our side --
whatever our side is. But anyway, come to my
place. Much to explain. I can help you get back
to New York, but only if you do me a favor.

AUBERY

Really? You can get me back to New York? What's
the favor?

937

I'll explain at my place ... a house called Maison
Chan.

AUBERY begins driving the car down the spiral road.

END OF EPISODE.