

Banana Chan

33

by Alan Holman

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and

B__

EXT. BACK YARD, SAWAMURA RESIDENCE - AFTERNOON

(CONTINUED)

Still pointing the sword -- SAWA-STEEL -- at the moon,
AUBERY shouts ...

AUBERY
MEGA-SAWA!

The sword is suddenly engulfed in beautiful indigo flames.

MIKON
Now!

AUBERY
Now?

MIKON
Yes, NOW!

AUBERY
Now ... what?!

MIKON
Scream "FLAME!"

AUBERY
Sure thing, pal. But -- just for the sake of not
jumping out of the boiling water, and into the
fire -- can you give me a hint about what'll
happen?

MIKON
It'll shoot!

AUBERY
And ... what'll it shoot? I mean, I've never dealt
with this kind of magic before.

MIKON
It'll shoot a shot!

AUBERY
And that shot will do what?

MIKON
The shot will ... hurt ... the moon!

AUBERY
And why would we want to hurt the moon?

MIKON
You can use it multiple times, but I suggest you
save it for battle!

AUBERY gives the kid a strange look, then nods, and says ...

AUBERY
Umm ... Good idea.
(shaking the sword)
... how do I turn it off?

MIKON
I don't know! I should get the scroll!

MIKON gets a manga magazine called "SAWA-SCROLL", and
says ...

MIKON
Just shake it a bit more.

AUBERY shakes it until it's a blur, and the flames turn
off. The sword is cold steel.

MIKON smiles.

MIKON
(bouncy)
I can't wait for next month's issue of Sawa-

Scroll!

AUBERY falls over.

AUBERY

You mean you're just making this up?!

MIKON

No. I'm not. Not me! Sensei and big brother Chikao make it up!

AUBERY

(animé "sweatdrop" cliché)
They make it up?

MIKON

They write Sawa-Scroll, and they tell me that it's based on actual scrolls that are in the hidden basement below our family's dojo!

That same siren from earlier comes from the sea-port.

AUBERY

Hey Mikon. What's with that siren?

MIKON

It's break time at the dock. The warehouses at the dock don't concern us. At least, I don't think so. How are you carrying that sword so easily? I thought it was heavy. Too heavy for me to carry anyway.

AUBERY

When I brought it near the tree, it got lighter.

MIKON

The sword will magically stick to your back, and a strap will grow there.

AUBERY

What?

MIKON

Try it!

AUBERY puts the sword on his back, and it sticks there. A thread begins to grow around the sheaf.

AUBERY
Strange.

937
Aubery. Did you say you wanted to ride a motorbike earlier?

AUBERY
Yeah, I did. I know how to drive those ... not an X-wing. I'll have to try that later if I have time.

937 leads AUBERY to the gate.

MIKON
Oh well. I guess I'll show you something cool later. Please rescue Sensei from sis, and try to get that Snake Demon out of her! Well, I've got games to play, and comics to read!

MIKON sinks into his house.

937 meows in front of the gate.

AUBERY shakes his head, and jogs toward the gate.

AUBERY
Right kitty. Lead the way. Hey, you got a name?

937
937. I'm a cyborg, and the bandage on my leg is just because Mandy -- that little girl -- wants to become a nurse. Please open the gate.

937 meows again.

AUBERY
Okay.

AUBERY opens the gate.

AUBERY
What kind of name is 937?

937
I was number 937 out of 1000. I'm the perfect one.

937 meows.

AUBERY

Okay. Makes sense, I guess.

AUBERY walks through the open gate. He takes a look at the mayor's house next door, then he looks down-hill on a road that leads to the business section of town.

937

The motorcycle is near the Cat Shrine.

937 points to the east and says ...

937

The cat shrine is that way.

AUBERY nods, and they walk east.

937

I wonder why the mayor has an x-wing in her shed? And didn't the boy say that the mayor's been replaced? Hmm ... that might not have been the real mayor who we saw go into her house. Oh well, who cares -- to the cat shrine!

AUBERY

Right!

The cat leads the way eastbound -- on a down-hill road.

EXT. CAT SHRINE - AFTERNOON

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 plates of dried-up fish.

AUBERY and 937 approach.

A thin strap holds the sword to AUBERY's back.

937

The motorcycle is nearby -- just a sec.

937 eats the dried-up fish.

MANDY approaches, carrying a box, and she says ...

MANDY

It's time for your bandage to come off.

937

Alright.

937 looks at AUBERY and says ...

937

While she takes my bandage off, perhaps you should go to that house across the street, and tell Mr. Ono that you're a friend of 937, and that you want to use his bike.

MANDY looks at AUBERY, and says ...

AUBERY

(nods)

Okay. You're sure he'll let me?

937

Yeah. I have blackmail material on him. Long story.

AUBERY

Right.

MANDY

Do you need a cast?

AUBERY

No thanks. Be back in a bit.

AUBERY walks across the street.

EXT. MAISON ONO - AFTERNOON

There's a small buzzer beside the door. The door is cracked open a bit.

AUBERY approaches the door.

The homeless person from earlier -- OLD BUSTER -- approaches from the sidewalk, and says ...

OLD BUSTER
Hey man. Did you kill that guy this morning?

AUBERY
What? NO!

OLD BUSTER
Hey, don't be cruel.

OLD BUSTER walks away.

AUBERY presses the buzzer.

From inside the house, MR. ONO says ...

MR. ONO
Just a second! I'll be there in a second!

In a few seconds, MR. ONO -- a balding man in a ninja outfit, complete with black belt -- opens the door to greet AUBERY. Inside the house, AUBERY can see that an exercise video is paused on the TV.

MR. ONO
Hello. Ono is my name. What can I do for you?

MR. ONO bows ... and remains bowed.

MR. ONO
Don't mind me. It's my back. I'm bowed because of my back. Please come in and ... or don't. Just what do you want?

AUBERY
Can I use your bike?

MR. ONO
Hell no. I don't even know you. Get off my property.

AUBERY
I know 937.

MR. ONO
That changes everything!

MR. ONO gives the keys to AUBERY, and says ...

MR. ONO
The bike is in the alley. Be careful. And whatever he told you about me is a lie ... unless you'll help me.

AUBERY
Don't worry. He told me nothing. I just need your bike to save my sister.

The siren rings again, and MR. ONO says ...

MR. ONO
Sounds like their break is over. Anyway, I don't need to know your situation. I'm just glad to be of service to a friend of that darn cat. Good luck!

AUBERY
Thanks.

Still bowed, MR. ONO sinks into his house, and closes the door behind him.

EXT. BACK ALLEY, BETWEEN ONO'S HOUSE AND THE

CONVENIENCE STORE - AFTERNOON

A big MOTORBIKE, with cool green racing-stripes, stands here.

AUBERY approaches the bike.

AUBERY
Not bad. I'm used to street bikes, but this'll do.

937 approaches -- no longer wearing the bandage.

937

(amused)
What did he say about me?

AUBERY
Uhh ...

AUBERY starts the bike; it roars and purrs like a cat.

937
Well, that's it for me. You're on your own for
this part of the trip.

AUBERY
What? Why?

937
I'm afraid of ... how would I ride on that thing?
Hmm ...

937 climbs in front of AUBERY, and digs his claws into the
rubber seat, then says ...

937
Let's roll.

The bike roars ... and takes off.

EXT. HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

AUBERY and 937 ride the bike, on a coast-side highway,
within the forest which is just outside of town.

937
The turn-off to the mountain road is very soon.

AUBERY
What time is it?

937
It's about 5pm now. I'm ready to fight!

AUBERY
(nods)
Okay. But mind if I grab some chow first?

937
You want to go all the way back to the convenience

store?

AUBERY

Yes. Humans don't fight on empty stomachs.

937

Good point. Neither do cats -- unless it's over a scrap of food. But yeah, I ate cat-food at the shrine, and yeah you're probably starving. So I agree, it's best if we turn back. But first, why not try that sword/moon thing?

AUBERY

What? Now?

937

Just an idea.

AUBERY

Maybe later.

WIPE TO:

EXT. RAINBOW FOODS CONVENIENCE STORE - AFTERNOON

The sky is turning from blue to yellow.

In front of the store, the vagrant -- OLD BUSTER -- holds a sign that says "The End Is Near".

AUBERY and 937 approach.

OLD BUSTER

Would you like a religious tract?

937 looks annoyed.

AUBERY

No thanks.

OLD BUSTER

Okay, friend.

AUBERY rolls his eyes, and almost enters the automatic doors, when 937 shouts ...

937

Wait!

AUBERY
What?

937
The store-clerk might misinterpret your intentions. I mean, leave the sword with me on the bike-seat.

INT. RAINBOW FOODS CONVENIENCE STORE - AFTERNOON

Muzak plays. A CLERK behind the counter, who looks American, says ...

CLERK
Hi!

AUBERY
(waves)
Yo.

AUBERY passes the lottery booth, passes shelves with CDs, magazines, batteries, a photocopier, et cetera ... until he finds the snacks and drinks.

CLERK
Are you American? I am. I'm here studying. Nice country. How long have you been here?

AUBERY
I've been here all day. Feels like only five long hours, but I know it's been a lot longer.

AUBERY grabs a ham & cheese sandwich, and a bag of Doritos.

CLERK
Looks like you're hungry. Well, I'll write it up. Five hours in Japan. See the sights? There are hot-springs near by. Anyway, this all comes to 350 Yen.

AUBERY also grabs a Pepsi.

CLERK
430 Yen.

AUBERY digs out some cash, and hands it to the CLERK.

The CLERK accepts the cash, hands the correct amount of change to AUBERY, and says ...

CLERK

Care to eat it here and chat?

An impatient-looking woman -- MRS. CHAN -- enters, gets behind AUBERY in the line.

AUBERY

Nah. I better get going. I got something important I gotta take care of.

CLERK

See you later.

AUBERY exits.

CLERK

New lotto numbers, Mrs. Chan?

MRS. CHAN

Yup.

MRS. CHAN gives her list of numbers to the guy, and he produces a ticket with those numbers.

EXT. RAINBOW FOODS CONVENIENCE STORE - AFTERNOON

AUBERY eats his sandwich, as 937 relaxes on the bike-seat.

MRS. CHAN exits from the store, gives AUBERY a suspicious look, then continues walking.

AUBERY

Weird lady.

MRS. CHAN turns around, and says ...

MRS. CHAN

Hey, did ... ?

937 interrupts her with a stern NOD.

She smiles, turns around, and continues walking.

OLD BUSTER approaches MRS. CHAN, and says ...

OLD BUSTER
Is Cara still sleeping on the couch?

MRS. CHAN
I don't know. Let's go check.

OLD BUSTER and MRS. CHAN walk away.

AUBERY
What was that about?

937
(animé "sweatdrop" cliché)
She's one of my humans.

AUBERY
Ahh ... okay.

AUBERY continues eating his food -- he finishes it quickly.

937
Shall we roll?

AUBERY
Yup.

AUBERY grabs the sword from the bike-seat, and straps it into the holder which grew on his back.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EXT. HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

AUBERY and 937 ride the bike, on a coast-side highway, within the forest which is just outside of town.

937
The turn-off, onto Mountain Road, is very soon.

They pass a sign which reads: "Underground Skating Rink Attraction -- Next Left Turn."

They pass the next left turn.

937

Mountain Road leads to that road which spirals up the mountain.

They pass a sign which reads: Mountain Road -- Next Right Turn."

They take the next right turn.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - AFTERNOON

This long road leads to the road which spirals its way up the mountain. Thick forest is to the left, and to the right.

Moments after AUBERY and 937 turn that motorbike onto this road, a TRAIN post-pones their journey.

AUBERY looks to his left, and between some trees, he sees a small clearing with a POND, and a rock beside that pond. On the rock, an 18 year-old young woman, named BANANA-chan HAZUKI - who is wearing a wedding ring - sleeps.

AUBERY and 937 notice as a scruffy looking CRIMINAL emerges from the forest, and approaches BANANA.

937

This is why they call Rain "the town on the wrong side of the tracks".

The CRIMINAL reaches into his pocket, and takes out a knife.

AUBERY

Man, this town is one death-trap after another!

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - AFTERNOON

BANANA sleeps on the rock, as a knife-wielding CRIMINAL approaches her.

AUBERY and 937 -- on a motorbike -- emerge from the trees.

The CRIMINAL puts the pond between himself and the bike, and says ...

CRIMINAL

I'm on this side of the pond -- you're on the

other.

937

The pond is small -- we can go around it!

BANANA -- sleeping on the rock -- rolls over, and starts to drown in the pond.

The CRIMINAL dives in, and emerges with her wallet, and runs away.

AUBERY

Ass.

AUBERY stops the bike at the edge of the pond, gets off the bike, dives in, then emerges with BANANA, and puts her on the rock.

BANANA coughs up water, opens her eyes, and says ...

BANANA

(laughs)

Works like an alarm clock! Same time every day.

Who are you?

AUBERY

I'm Aubery Spade.

BANANA

Why do you have that sword? You stole my wallet!

My husband Ryone is gonna so kill you!

AUBERY

I didn't steal your wallet.

BANANA notices 937.

BANANA

937! Save me! This guy stole my wallet!

937

No, he didn't.

BANANA

Oh? Then who did?

937 points a paw toward where the CRIMINAL is running farther into the forest.

AUBERY pulls out one of his nunchaku, and throws it toward the CRIMINAL. The nunchaku wraps around the CRIMINAL's legs, and trips him. The CRIMINAL's forehead hits a branch as he falls, so he's out cold. BANANA's wallet falls out from the CRIMINAL's side-pocket.

BANANA
Thankies!

AUBERY walks over to the unconscious CRIMINAL, picks up the wallet and nunchaku, then walks back to BANANA, gives her the wallet, and says ...

AUBERY
You're welcome. Who are you by the way?

BANANA
Banana-chan Hazuki! Proud new wife of Ryone Hazuki! Did my cat bring you here, or something?

AUBERY
Yeah. I'm going to save my sister.

BANANA
Oh really? Did something bad happen to your sister?

AUBERY
Yeah. She's being held hostage by some crazy people in the fortress on top of that mountain.

BANANA
Sounds dangerous. Well, I can give you something that might be helpful.

AUBERY
That'd be great. Thanks. What is it?

BANANA gives AUBERY a tiny machine with three buttons on it. The buttons are labeled "one", "two", and "three."

AUBERY
What's this?

BANANA

It's an EyeJi-chan from the show SqueeGiMon. Don't ask me how, but I hot-wired it to actually work!

AUBERY

I don't know anything about that show. What does this thing do?

BANANA

I'm sorry, but I'm late for meditating. You'll figure it out! Good luck with the saving of your sister stuff!

She sits on the rock -- in what monks call the Lotus Position -- then says ...

BANANA

Bye!

BANANA closes her eyes, and begins meditating.

AUBERY returns to the motorcycle.

AUBERY

This place is so weird.

937

Let's go.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - EVENING

This long road leads to the road which spirals its way up the mountain. Thick forest is to the left, and to the right.

AUBERY and 937 -- on the motorbike -- return to this road, from the forest.

The final car of the TRAIN, which blocked them earlier, has just passed by.

937

Step on it, please.

AUBERY steps on it.

The bike moves fast.

A siren goes off in the distance.

AUBERY
What's that?

937
It's the dock siren. Warehouse district. They get off work at 6pm. So that means its time for me to wish you a good evening.

AUBERY
It'll be good when my sister's safe.

937
I hear ya, but hear me out: A lot of dangerous things happen in this town, but the good guys always win ... well, usually. She'll be fine!

AUBERY
You think so?

937
Cats know all. Hey, there's the coast, and Spiral road!

CUT TO:

EXT. COAST - EVENING

The sky is turning bright orange. The sun is moving towards the horizon.

AUBERY and 937 ride the motorbike onto a sea-side road, but the turn-off onto the base of Spiral Road -- the road which spirals up the mountain -- is blocked by three empty armored cars.

937
Those cars are empty. No one is in them. Maybe Koken drove them here, one by one, to put up a barrier before her new guards get there in the morning.

AUBERY
Yeah. Very suspicious.

937

Do you still feel stronger from that tree?

AUBERY

Yeah. It's like super-human strength.

937

Does it feel like enough to lift the motorcycle,
and climb over the cars while carrying the
motorcycle?

AUBERY

I guess I can give it a try. But if I get crushed,
I'm coming back to haunt you, got it?

AUBERY gets off of the bike.

937

Wait! What if those cars are rigged with
explosives!

AUBERY

What do you suggest?

937

I don't know. But let's think about this for a
minute.

AUBERY

Okay.

937

Three cars. Three buttons on the device Banana
gave you. Hmm ... Koken likes bombs. I'm not sure
if any of this connects.

AUBERY

I could just try pressing the buttons in order, and
see what happens.

937

Maybe.

AUBERY gets the small device out of his pocket, and presses
button 2.

A swirling portal opens up -- can't see through it, to where it goes.

AUBERY
What the hell?

937
My thoughts exactly.

AUBERY presses button 1.

Another portal opens beside the swirling one -- can see only the outline of the portal.

AUBERY
How the hell did she make this?

937
She's mechanically inclined.

AUBERY
Weird.

AUBERY presses button 3.

A CHILI DOG appears in AUBERY's hand.

AUBERY throws the CHILI DOG into the swirly portal.

The device says ...

EYEJI
One chili dog stored in memory, for use at any time.

The swirly portal closes.

Button two starts flashing.

AUBERY presses button 1 again.

The portal which is only an outline disappears.

937
That was pointless. The portals, and the chili dog, are gone, but we've still got these three cars, that are blocking our path, to deal with!

AUBERY

Yeah.

937

Maybe the Sawamura family's Menshu tree gave you enough strength to push the cars into the ocean. That might be funny.

AUBERY

Maybe.

937

Or test your sword on them. Mega-Sawa-Flame, Mikon called that one move.

AUBERY

I've had enough with the confusing device.

AUBERY puts the EyeJi into his pocket.

AUBERY

I'd rather push them into the ocean. At least that way, if there is a bomb, I won't get blown to Moscow.

937

I've seen Mafia films where bombs explode when car-doors slam. And that dead guy this morning looked like a Mafia guy. So it's a possibility that the cars may be rigged with explosives. Hmm ... he had a picture of the mayor. The cops grabbed that picture, and questioned you with it, but the mayor was at her house. I wonder what that's all about. And why was that X-wing in her shed? Maybe we should avoid her.

AUBERY

(shrugs)

Probably.

AUBERY walks in front of the first car, and gives it a little push, surprising himself with how easily he springs the car off the road, flinging it towards the horizon, until it splashes into the distant water.

937

Maybe use less strength next time.

AUBERY

Right.

AUBERY lightly pushes the next car -- it flings a quarter of the distance of the first car. It explodes as it hits the water.

937

Why would a car explode when it hits the water?
Weird.

AUBERY

Yeah, no kidding.

AUBERY pushes the last car with his foot; it's a powerful foot, so it flings too far to see the splash.

937

I'll bet that took no effort at all.

AUBERY

Yeah. I'll have to be careful.

937

That sword is weird; it's giving you amazing levels of power!

The sword-holder transforms into an armored back-plate.

AUBERY

Cool! What is with this sword anyway?

937

Meh. Some dead Samurai put their power into that tree called Menshu ... and the power from that tree was drawn into the sword. I feel odd.

The cat dies.

AUBERY

937?! Maybe his batteries are dead. He was a cyborg.

The cat opens his eyes, and says...

937

REBOOT! Hope I didn't scare you. I have to do that sometimes.

AUBERY

(glares)

You could have warned me.

937

I try to forget about that one aspect of my life. I reboot every birthday.

AUBERY

Oh ... um. Happy birthday?

937

Party later. Rescue that girl, now!

AUBERY

Okay! Gotta save my sister from the crazy people!

They mount the motorbike.

TO BE CONTINUED ...