

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x04

Love Letters

By Alan Holman

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

BANANA and RYONE sit in a coffee shop.

BANANA

...and then we were brought back to earth.  
And that's what I'll tell my mom about why I  
was out all night with you.

RYONE

That alien abduction story isn't believable. We  
might as well just tell her the truth.

BANANA

I can never tell her the truth about what  
actually went on between us last night.

RYONE

But there's nothing wrong or regrettable about  
what went on between us last night.

BANANA

I think it's gross.

RYONE

I think it's wonderful that we lost all track of  
time and ...

BANANA

Don't remind me.

RYONE

... made up that story by role-playing it like a  
game, until morning.

BANANA

I'm so ashamed!

RYONE

There's nothing shameful about having a long  
chat with another person!

BANANA

We'll tell her we got abducted by Aliens, and

probed in every orifice!

RYONE

Why must you make up excuses? Especially an unbelievable excuse about alien abduction!

BANANA

Because ... I don't want to like you in the way which you like me.

RYONE

Why not?

BANANA

That's personal. I don't want to explain it to you right now, if you don't mind.

RYONE

How about some of it?

BANANA

Some of it? Well ... I don't want my older person to think that I'm serious about anyone when I'm not.

RYONE

Fair enough. Can I at least walk you home?

BANANA

Now you're really starting to creep me out, Ryone.

RYONE

I just asked to walk you home. It's not like I ... I don't know what.

BANANA

I'm sorry. I need time alone, please. I need to un-fuzz my head during a walk home, by myself, please.

RYONE

Okay.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF IMAGES: Banana goes to the mall and window-

shops -- she even tries on a few outfits, but she doesn't buy anything; she does this for the entire afternoon.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA eats supper with MRS. CHAN.

MRS. CHAN  
Has Ryone met Wu yet?

BANANA  
No no. Ryone has not met Doggie yet, and I'd appreciate if we don't talk about Ryone anymore.

MRS. CHAN  
Well Lacy. There's something we've gotta talk about.

BANANA  
Why are you calling me by my real name?

MRS. CHAN  
Because I need to break character for a bit.

BANANA  
Break character?

MRS. CHAN  
Yes. I pretend that I'm your mother, but I'm not -- as you know.

BANANA  
Yes, it's like a role-play.

MRS. CHAN  
Exactly like a role-play. I look like your real mother, but I want to tell you who I am, yet you never let me talk about that subject.

BANANA  
You look just like her, and I still can't deal with the fact that she died. So I don't care who you really are. Please continue to pretend that you're her, until I'm ready to learn the truth -- whatever the truth is.

MRS. CHAN

Lacy ... yes, I'll tell you who I am whenever you want me to.

BANANA

It won't happen any time soon, mommie.

MRS. CHAN

(annoyed sigh)

I don't mind keeping up the charade if it means avoiding unnecessary complication.

BANANA

So why are you calling me Lacy?

MRS. CHAN

Because I found a document when I was going through your mother's stuff.

BANANA

You ARE my mother.

MRS. CHAN

I'm Banana's mother, not Lacy's; that's the distinction.

BANANA

Go on. What document are you talking about?

MRS. CHAN

I found a document which indicates an arranged marriage. It's signed by your father and Ryone's father.

BANANA

Oh no. Please tell me that you're joking. You're joking, right?!

MRS. CHAN

Is Ryone's surname Hazuki?

BANANA

I don't know. I hope not. I'll find out. If it is Hazuki, I'll tell you, and then we'll NEVER discuss this again, okay?! NEVER!!!

MRS. CHAN  
I understand.

CUT TO:

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

BANANA sits with RYONE.

BANANA  
What's your surname?

RYONE  
Hazuki. Why do you ask?

BANANA  
No reason. I think I'm gonna be sick. I've gotta go. By the way, this isn't a date.

RYONE  
But we just got here.

BANANA  
I'll talk to you later, Ryone. Have a nice day.  
Sayonara.

RYONE  
See ya.  
(thoughts, voice over)  
"Did I do something wrong?"

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN eat supper.

BANANA  
(disappointed)  
Ryone's surname is Hazuki.

MRS. CHAN  
Your father and his father arranged for you two to marry each-other when you're both eighteen.

BANANA

Can you show me the document?

MRS. CHAN  
I can. It's upstairs.

BANANA  
No. On second thought, I don't want to see it. Seeing it makes it real. And I don't want it to be real. I just want to forget about it.

MRS. CHAN  
I visited the Hazukis.

BANANA  
You what?!

MRS. CHAN  
I had tea with them. Mister Goro Hazuki, and his wife Sen, and their daughter Kit. Ryone wasn't home.

BANANA  
He was only with me for a minute.

MRS. CHAN  
The Hazukis live in the light-house.

BANANA  
What's it like in that place?

MRS. CHAN  
It's quite messy; they're struggling financially.

BANANA  
Oh, I feel sorry for them. You didn't say anything about the arrangement -- did you?

MRS. CHAN  
Mister Goro Hazuki doesn't even know about it. I hinted about it, but Mrs. Sen Hazuki kept changing the topic. I think she knows something, but Goro is clueless. It didn't make sense until I realized that Mister Goro Hazuki isn't Ryone's father.

BANANA  
Ryone doesn't live with his real dad?

MRS. CHAN

That's right. And you don't live with your real mother. That's one more thing that you two have got in common.

BANANA

I thought we weren't talking about that anymore, please.

MRS. CHAN

Okay.

BANANA

So tell me more about this arrangement.

MRS. CHAN

Okay. Well anyway, Ryone calls Goro his father, but Goro is actually Ryone's uncle. Ryone's real father isn't in Ryone's life. I came home and studied the document further, and I learned that Ryone's real father works for a top-secret construction company.

BANANA

Daddy works for a top-secret construction company too.

MRS. CHAN

Exactly. So the purpose of the arranged marriage is for a business merger.

BANANA

I'm being used in the worst possible way.

MRS. CHAN

As I understand it, your father will return when Ryone and yourself are both eighteen, and he'll bring you two to a special place where he will reveal information about the arrangement to both of you at the same time.

BANANA

Do I have a choice?

MRS. CHAN

In this modern age, yes you DO have a

choice. If you don't like each-other, the companies can still merge if you're "just friends" with Ryone.

BANANA

That's good. I'll go for the "just friends." And by the way, we will NEVER mention this again, okay?

MRS. CHAN

Okay. I promise.

BANANA

Especially don't mention anything about this "arrangement" to Ryone.

MRS. CHAN

I understand.

BANANA

So ... if this was supposed to be a secret, then why did you tell me?

MRS. CHAN

Because I don't believe in secrets. I seriously don't believe in secrets. Lacy, I want to tell you who I really am.

BANANA

No no. It's Banana. And Banana knows you as Banana's mother.

MRS. CHAN

I like being Banana's mother.

MRS. CHAN wipes a small tear from under her eye.

BANANA

And I like Banana's mother.

BANANA wipes a small tear from under her eye.

They hug.

CUT TO:

INT. FAST EDDIE'S COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

BANANA and RYONE chat.

BANANA  
This isn't a date.

RYONE  
I was trying to visualize my soul, and I figured  
that a person's soul looks like ...

BANANA  
... a sparkle of light!

RYONE  
Uhh ... no, that's not what I was gonna say. I  
was gonna say that a person's soul looks like  
his or her house when he or she is not  
expecting company.

BANANA  
Time flies when I'm alone.  
(sarcastic)  
I wonder why.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF IMAGES: Banana sleeping on a hammock.  
Banana sleeping on her bed. Banana sleeping on the roof.  
Banana sleeping on a couch. Banana sleeping on her desk in  
school. Et cetera.

CUT TO:

INT. SKATING RINK - MORNING

BANANA and RYONE skate while holding hands.

RYONE  
I wish this moment would last forever.

BANANA  
It's fun, yeah.

BANANA removes her hand from RYONE's hand.

RYONE  
Why'd you ... ?

BANANA  
Skating is heavenly.

RYONE  
Banana. I love you.

RYONE goes for a kiss, but BANANA blocks him with her hand and says ...

BANANA  
No no. Don't do that.

RYONE  
But I love you.

RYONE moves her hand and tries to kiss her, but BANANA turns away and says ...

BANANA  
Skating is heavenly.

RYONE  
I'll always love you.

BANANA  
Why?

RYONE  
I have to.

BANANA  
Please shut up about this, okay?

RYONE  
Why?

BANANA  
I don't want to talk about it, okay?

RYONE  
Don't I deserve to know why I'm being rejected?

BANANA  
No. And by the way, Ryone: this isn't a date.

RYONE

I'm not going to just stop pursuing the girl of my dreams unless I have a very good reason to stop. And I don't think that it's possible to have a reason to stop.

Uncomfortable pause.

BANANA

I'll give you a chance to be my friend. If you mess up our friendship, then it's over.

RYONE

What?

BANANA

I walk in Sakura Park on nights when I can't sleep.

RYONE

At night time? Is that safe?

BANANA

Join me when I go. Protect me. Be a friend. Just don't talk about love. We have other things in common, so don't mention love, okay?

RYONE

But loving you is who I am.

BANANA

FUCK OFF!!!

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

The next day.

EXT. TENNIS COURT - MORNING

BANANA sits on a bench facing a tennis court, watching people play tennis.

BANANA

(thoughts, voice over)

"My life is a Russian Egg-Doll -- so much beneath the surface. I can't even sleep, it's so much to think about."

BANANA notices a cloud that looks like a turtle.

BANANA

(thoughts, voice over)

"That cloud looks like a horse. To top everything off, there's Ryone now. I haven't seen him since I told him to fuck off, but I found a note from him in the mailbox this morning ... which means he was at my house to put the note in the mailbox ... and that's creepy."

CUT TO:

EXT. MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA checks the mailbox, and finds a folded note with a sticker-seal that says "From Ryone."

BANANA

(thoughts, voice over)

"I'm glad I found this before my older person saw it."

BANANA opens the note, and reads it.

BANANA

(reading the note -- thoughts, voice over)

"My dearest Banana. I'm happy to just be around you, so I'm sad that we're apart. Just to see you, and know that you're alright, fills my eyes with tears of joy, so therefore my tears are an acid-rain of loneliness and despair. Banana, I am a desolate nothing without you. Sincerely, Ryone."

(talking)

Damn it, Ryone! God! If I just leave him alone, maybe that'll shut him up!

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

MRS. CHAN hands the phone to BANANA.

MRS. CHAN  
It's for you.

BANANA  
Thank you.  
(to phone)  
Hello?

RYONE'S VOICE  
Did you get my note?

BANANA runs upstairs and enters her bedroom, where she slams the door behind her.

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

BANANA enters quickly, carrying the phone. She slams the door, and slides down the door, sitting pressed-up against the door.

BANANA  
(to phone)  
Ryone?

RYONE'S VOICE  
Uhh ... yeah, that's my name. And yours is Banana.

BANANA  
How did you get this number?

RYONE'S VOICE  
We've talked on the phone before.

BANANA  
Oh yeah.

RYONE'S VOICE  
Did you get my note?

BANANA

Yeah, it was really sweet.

RYONE'S VOICE  
I'm relieved to hear that.

BANANA  
But listen, Ryone. I don't feel those things for you.

RYONE'S VOICE  
And because I do, I want to try to do something to convince you that ...

BANANA  
(interrupting)  
You're a friend. That's as far as it goes.

RYONE'S VOICE  
That's our status now. But in the future, it'll be different.

BANANA  
What you have, is a crush on me. Get over it! -- or I'll call the police!

BANANA pushes the "end call" button, and slams the phone down onto the floor.

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN  
The next day.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - MORNING

BANANA sits on the side, watching people bowl.

A little old lady approaches BANANA.

LITTLE OLD LADY  
You look ... melancholy.

BANANA  
Such a big word for a little old lady.

LITTLE OLD LADY  
I always see you watching people do things,

but you never do things.

BANANA  
I do things.

LITTLE OLD LADY  
Like what?

BANANA  
If you must know, I'm observing human  
behavior so that I can write stories.

LITTLE OLD LADY  
There are things you can't learn from watching.

BANANA  
Like what?

LITTLE OLD LADY  
Love. I saw you throw this in the garbage can.

LITTLE OLD LADY hands a note to BANANA.

BANANA  
I got that in my mailbox this morning. And I  
threw it away because I don't want it. If you  
want it, keep it for all I care. The guy who  
wrote it to me is a creep, and that's why I don't  
want it.

LITTLE OLD LADY  
The words he wrote were so lovely that I  
memorized the entire letter! He said, "My  
lovely flower. I love you so strongly that it's  
not mere feelings; it's spiritual! In fact, it's so  
spiritual that I think our souls must be  
connected somehow! Whatever it is, please  
remember and always know that I offer you my  
unconditional trust. Just as I'll always trust  
you, you can trust me, and put faith in me,  
and I will never let you down about anything.  
Love Ryone ... please." If you knew anything  
about love, you wouldn't have thrown this note  
away.

BANANA  
Leave me alone, or I'll brand you with a hot

iron.

The LITTLE OLD LADY runs away, screaming.

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA sits on the doorstep, talking to the phone.

RYONE'S VOICE

Did you read what I wrote about trust?

BANANA

Yes, but I'm not going to TRUST you with what I'm thinking right now, because you HAVE been nice to me, and I don't want to hurt ... I mean, hurt your feelings. Listen Ryone, I don't know if I'll ever feel that way about you, so quit being a BOTHER! -- or I'll shove something very sharp down your throat!

BANANA presses the "end call" button, and slams the phone to the doorstep.

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

The next day.

EXT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

BANANA's sleeping.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN

Banana.

BANANA wakes up.

BANANA

What?

MRS. CHAN sits on the edge of the bed.

MRS. CHAN

There was a very interesting note in the

mailbox this morning.

BANANA  
You're kidding me.

MRS. CHAN  
It's from Ryone.

BANANA  
You're kidding me.

MRS. CHAN  
He must have been here early this morning to put it in the mailbox -- that's so sweet. He could have just come in, though. We're nice people who welcome friends.

BANANA  
Give me the note.

MRS. CHAN  
I want to have it framed.

BANANA  
WHAT!?!

MRS. CHAN  
(laughs)  
Well, it's your first love letter! The boy is obviously smitten with you. This is a special occasion, a landmark event in your life!

BANANA  
Suddenly my life is falling into a void of sadness and despair.

MRS. CHAN  
What?

BANANA  
Give me the note, so I can burn it.

MRS. CHAN  
Here you go ... but don't burn it.

MRS. CHAN hands the note to BANANA.

BANANA  
I really don't like Ryone.

MRS. CHAN  
I don't know what to say.

BANANA  
Well ... if he calls, tell him that I'm not here.

MRS. CHAN  
That's childish.

BANANA  
I'm a child.

MRS. CHAN  
I wouldn't be so sure.

BANANA  
Please.

MRS. CHAN  
If I answer it, I'll tell him you're not here.

BANANA  
Now go.

MRS. CHAN  
Alright.

MRS. CHAN exits.

BANANA  
(reads the note)  
"Sweetest of the Bananas. Because I met  
you, I know what love feels like. So my only  
desire has become to make damn sure that  
you'll share that feeling with me at its best,  
and enjoy it as much as I do. Talk to you  
later, sweetie."

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN  
The next day.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA lays on the couch.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN

You didn't go anywhere yesterday or today.  
You've just stayed inside.

BANANA

It's because of Ryone. The town is so small  
that if I go somewhere, I'm bound to run into  
him.

MRS. CHAN

It doesn't sound like he means you any harm,  
though. If you really don't like him, you need  
to talk with him in-person before this develops  
too far. If you actually are scared, it could be  
a matter of you being a late-bloomer -- too  
immature to deal with this mature situation  
that's suddenly been thrust upon you. So --  
when you talk to Ryone -- I could come with  
you. In fact, I'd love to come with you,  
because I'd love to meet him.

BANANA

I don't want you to meet him.

MRS. CHAN

Well -- in case you've forgotten -- I have met  
his family. They are very nice people. Goro  
can be a bit abrasive, but his heart is in the  
right place and he means well.

BANANA

I don't want you to have anymore contact with  
them, as it may give Ryone a bit of hope ...  
which would just waste more time.

MRS. CHAN

Do you want to see the note he left for you  
today?

BANANA

No.

MRS. CHAN  
Okay.

Pause.

MRS. CHAN  
Can I keep it?

BANANA  
Sure. As I may need it as evidence against  
him someday.

MRS. CHAN  
I hate to break it to you, Banana, but love is  
above the law.

BANANA  
What about STALKING!?!?

MRS. CHAN  
Leaving a note in your mailbox isn't stalking.

BANANA  
It's creepy. It may not be illegal, but it's not  
the cool.

MRS. CHAN  
That's a matter of opinion. I'd hate to live in a  
world where a nice - albeit naive and  
inexperienced - guy like Ryone gets punished  
for trying to express in words that one emotion  
that is inexpressible with words. If you  
mature - and not everybody does - your heart  
will warm up to his poems, for they're more  
honest effort into love's fools' errand than most  
people put into anything ... all because he  
wants to be there for you, to help you out and  
stuff, even when you're sick. You're creeped  
out because it seems to you like if he wants  
to be your slave, when those poems exist  
'cause truth must be told to earn your trust  
because falling in love was nature's way of  
telling him that he deserves your trust even  
more than I do. He wants to be your protector  
and even a guide when you're bratty. You  
idiot, he has no idea how to communicate to  
you a thing that most people have no idea how

to listen to. So sadly, you'll continue to get the wrong impression of Ryone's notes until you learn the language of real love, and not some crush, lust, or affection. Most people never learn. I've been in love, and I've had my heart broken, so I know. My ears are open, but I can't translate for the deaf. Yes Banana, I know how unattractive he is when Ryone is pushy about this topic, but trust me Banana: Let it slide and have faith. Besides, at the salon I heard today a fact that Ryone's heart was broken quite recently by a brat named Charlotte, and so now that he recognizes that his love for you is true, he's speaking love's language only because he assumes you already know it. He knows he'd never leave you. He'd never break your heart, and - because love is care for health and well-being - he has a pregnant need to protect you from ever experiencing heartbreak, which is the worst pain possible. I've been in the pain of when folks who don't know the language think that the poems and rants of true love are insane, when ironically only fluent speakers of true love's flowing linguistics know this is the talk that moves this world, it's not "creepy" at all. I find these notes endearing.

BANANA

I just wish he'd leave me alone. And by the way, you're insane.

MRS. CHAN

Have you seen him at all since you first told him to leave you alone?

BANANA

No.

MRS. CHAN

In that case, he IS being loyal to your wishes. But he's also being true to himself by expressing his emotions through these notes. It is your choice whether you read them or not. But if you don't read them, it'll break his heart if you tell him that you didn't read them.

BANANA

What do you know about this sort of thing?  
You're almost forty and not married!

MRS. CHAN

I've been in love with someone who didn't get it. Plus, before that, I made the same mistake that you're making now. The kind of love that causes that kind of effort is so rare that it's worth embracing, even if you don't feel it in return at first. I now love the guy I pushed away, but he's gone. As your legal guardian, I hate to tell you this, but you really are one hell of a big idiot, Banana. Did you even show him the dog yet, like you planned before he started confessing his feelings?

BANANA

No. There's no point.

MRS. CHAN

Yes, there is. Banana, it was a great plan, and you've gotta have a thing called "follow-thru." Don't become a flake.

BANANA

Don't say that.

MRS. CHAN

I'm going to read you his note, because I know these sorts of things are important.

BANANA

No no, don't.

MRS. CHAN

Please Banana -- I really do think you should hear this one.

BANANA

Fine. Okay. But if I tell you to stop, stop okay?

MRS. CHAN

Okay.

MRS. CHAN takes the note out of her pocket.

MRS. CHAN  
Please listen to this, Banana.

BANANA  
I seriously don't want you to read that to me.

MRS. CHAN  
I seriously want to read it to you.

BANANA  
Why are you so meddlesome?

MRS. CHAN  
I'm your mother; that's what mothers are for.

BANANA  
You're not really my mother.

MRS. CHAN  
I thought you didn't like to talk about that. Or is it that you'll only talk about it when it supports your point? I'm just going to read it to you.

MRS. CHAN  
(reading the note)  
"Dear Banana. Half of my personality wants to do everything I can to make your life perfect. The other half is all of me ... it's hard to explain what I mean by that. It's kind of like I'm all of me, but you're still the other half. I know this sounds corny but it's true, and it's not just cheap words, and my talk on this topic is not cheap. I love you, and I'd only say "I love you" to someone who I'd offer my trustworthiness, and my everything. I love you, Banana; and that means you can put faith in me for whatever you require of me, and I'll sacrifice everything to make sure that I don't let you down. Maybe this sounds illogical or impractical to offer self-sacrifice for someone who hasn't returned my feelings, but I know why it's logical, and I know why it's practical, and you're just going to have to trust me as I trust you because I love you. Listen here, Banana. If you ever need anything --

sympathy or resolution or anything else -- I offer you my companionship. I will be your team-mate in any situation. Thank you for your time, and please reply. I miss you a lot."

MRS. CHAN wipes a tear from her eye.

BANANA looks very annoyed.

MRS. CHAN  
You've gotta talk with him.

BANANA  
But I don't want to talk with him.

MRS. CHAN  
We're having tsukemono and ramen noodles for supper tonight.

MRS. CHAN exits.

BANANA  
I wish ANYONE understood what I'm going through. I hate this situation! I'm in such an emotional slump now, that I can't even write!

END OF EPISODE