

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x08

A Cat And His Boy

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BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
November, 2008.

WIPE TO:

INT. ALTAR ROOM, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA and MRS. CHAN chat while playing a two-player video game.

BANANA

A few days ago, a kid called me "granny."

MRS. CHAN

That would be Buster.

BANANA

How'd you know his name?

MRS. CHAN

The cat told me.

BANANA

(laughs)
You're funny.

937 enters.

937

I can talk.

BANANA faints.

MRS. CHAN

She's a fainter.

WIPE TO:

EXT. BACK YARD, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN shows 937 the Koi Pond.

Two koi-fish -- a sixteen year-old (KOI BANANA), and a thirty-eight year old (KOI KO) -- swim around the pond.

MRS. CHAN

I feel bad about reading Banana's diary.

937

I feel good when I suck Banana's blanket! It's like catnip!

WIPE TO:

EXT. MOONLIT PARK - NIGHT

BANANA CHAN lays on a grassy field, wearing only a full-body flamingo costume.

THE MOON talks to BANANA.

THE MOON

What is such a cute looking blonde-haired, slender teenage girl doing wearing a flamingo costume?

BANANA

Why do you only talk to me and no one else?

THE MOON

Because you're crazy.

BANANA

No, what's crazy is that cats can talk ... and that people can fly ... but only if they don't look down ... that would break the illusion.

THE MOON chuckles.

THE MOON

Actually, I have important news about your father.

BANANA

WHAT???

THE MOON

Your father's a real big jerk and I hate him.

BANANA

(angry)

Don't talk about my daddy like that! Never talk to me again! Unless you bring clowns! Clowns make me smile!

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

MRS. CHAN opens the curtains, shining light into BANANA's eyes, waking BANANA up painfully.

MRS. CHAN

Time for school!

BANANA does a double-take, as she asks...

BANANA

Why, why?

MRS. CHAN

Out of the blue, tell me: did you dream about the moon telling you that your father is a jerk?

BANANA

Yes, how did you know?

MRS. CHAN

No reason. But Banana, please quit dreaming- up such fantasies, and spend more time among real people, living in the real world.

BANANA

Alright mamma, but how did you know about that dream?

MRS. CHAN

A mother has her ways.

MRS. CHAN exits.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA and 937 sit and chat.

BANANA

I'm too shy to take your advice about James.
(sigh)
... but thanks anyway, Catty.

937

The name's Nine-Thirty-Seven.

BANANA

Can I call you Catty?

937

No.

BANANA

Please?

937

No.

BANANA

Pretty please?

937

No.

BANANA

Pretty please, with a cherry on top?

937

Yes.

They laugh.

WIPE TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - DAWN

BANANA climbs from her open window, onto the roof-top,
where
she sits, and watches the sun find a place among the shape-
shifting clouds in the sky.

The small blue cat -- named 937 -- joins her, and sits on her lap.

BANANA pets 937.

BANANA
What the hell is happening in my life? Nothing makes sense anymore ... except one thing: I like James.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA sleeps on her desk, as MR. ONO gives a lecture.

MR. ONO
Banana?

BANANA wakes up, screams, and her chair falls backwards.

The other students laugh.

BANANA
(screams at peers)
Don't provoke me!

The other students run away.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

BANANA stands outside her classroom, holding two buckets of water beside the door, as MR. ONO talks to her.

MR. ONO
Banana. Expulsion draws near.

BANANA
Most likely.
(serious)
What's the dealio? You usually let me sleep in class because you have a crush on my mom. Besides, I had to stay up late last night, so it's not my fault.

MR. ONO
What was so important last night?

BANANA
(drools)
A thick slice of cheese, melted on green
beans.

MR. ONO
Stay here.

MR. ONO walks back into the classroom, and slams the door.

BANANA
(sigh)
This blows. I'm going home.

WIPE TO:

EXT. PRETTY LITTLE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

BANANA picks flowers in front of a pretty little house.

An old lady emerges from the house, and points a shot-gun
at
BANANA.

OLD LADY
Not so fast, thief.

BANANA moves in slow-motion.

OLD LADY
That's better.

The old lady slips back into her house.

BANANA sneezes.

BANANA
I just remembered: I'm allergic to flowers.

BANANA tramples and stomps on all the flowers.

BANANA
Stupid flowers. I don't even need flowers
anyway.

BANANA leaves.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN sits on a chair, talking to the cat 937 who sits on the table.

937
... and I now serve as Buster's diary.

MRS. CHAN
When will he arrive?

BANANA enters.

BANANA
Hey, cat! Hey mom.

BANANA gets a can of pop from the fridge while MRS. CHAN says ...

MRS. CHAN
Hey Banana. Our cyborg feline was designed to deprogram children from an evil NINJA cult!

937
Trained, not designed.

MRS. CHAN
My mistake.

937
You're forgiven.

BANANA
Does he know the alphabet?

937
I know all alphabets.

BANANA sits on the table, beside 937, and pets him while she says ...

BANANA

Wow. So what exactly is a cyborg anyway?

937

A cyborg is a mix of sentient biology with robotic elements. My only robotic elements are to permanently store certain facts and figures that help me do my job.

BANANA

That, and to talk!

937

No, I was already able to talk, because ...

BANANA

Wait. What's your job?

937

I deprogram people from cults, and re-focus them on their own priorities, and humanity's priorities.

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA lays on the rock. 937 lays on her stomach while she pets him. Both look up, stargazing.

BANANA

I like the constellations. Do you know anything about the constellations?

937

Indeed. Pick one, and I'll tell you about it.

BANANA

Virgo.

937

Asrtrologers -- and astronomers -- call Virgo the "House of Bread". The ancients symbolized this with myths about a virgin birth. For example, in Hebrew, "bêth lehem" means "House of Bread".

BANANA

I recently wrote a story about a virgin birth!

937

Fascinating. One of my data files is a psychological study that says girls your age don't like to think about fertility.

BANANA

And that's why it's impossible to get any of my friends to read and review that particular work of fiction.

937

I wouldn't mind.

BANANA

I'll show it to you later. What other cool ways did ancient people use the stars in their myths?

937

Well, on the three shortest days of the year -- December 22nd to December 25th -- the sun's position is upon the constellation called The Southern Cross. The ancients symbolized this with myths about crucifixion and resurrection.

BANANA

Like Beddru or Tien!

937

Actually both Beddru and Tien, and the main characters from dozens of other myths.

BANANA

I'm intrigued. My favorite star is Sirius. What do you know about Sirius?

937

They should have named it the Cat Star.

BANANA laughs.

937

Sirius is the brightest star in the night sky.

BANANA

Indeed.

937

The three brightest stars in Orion's Belt are called The Three Kings. Annually, Sirius aligns with The Three Kings, pointing to where the sun rises on December 25th.

BANANA

Yay, Christmas!

937

Precisely. The Christmas Story is a metaphor for this; it's a plot device called Astrotheology.

BANANA

Does this mean there's truth to Astrology?

937

That's a loaded question. Astrotheology was invented in Babylon, where it was ...

WIPE TO:

INT. MADAME SARA'S FORTUNE TELLING PARLOR - AFTERNOON

BANANA consults a fortune teller named MADAME SARA.

MADAME SARA

I remember you! It was perhaps five or six years ago.

BANANA

Yeah, it was that long ago. And you still recognize me?

MADAME SARA

You've changed a bit.

BANANA

You look the same.

MADAME SARA

How have you been?

BANANA

You tell me.

MADAME SARA closes her eyes.

MADAME SARA

It was March of 2002 when you were eleven, and your mother drove you back to the town of your birth -- this town: Rain, Japan. You hoped that your classmates Yoshi, Minako, and Nozomi, wouldn't recognize you from a few years previous when they used to treat you very badly.

MADAME SARA opens her eyes, and resumes normal eye movement.

MADAME SARA

Why are you sixteen in November of 2008, when you were eleven in March of 2002? What month is your birthday?

BANANA

June and December.

MADAME SARA

Two months? How's that possible?

BANANA

You tell me.

MADAME SARA closes her eyes.

MADAME SARA

When you were a child, you had a great friendship with another child -- a boy named Boden. In fact, you still love him.

A tear rolls out of BANANA's eyes.

BANANA

Where is Boden now?

MADAME SARA opens her eyes, and resumes normal eye movement.

MADAME SARA

Banana, I told you this already: The day you see him again will be the day he dies.

BANANA

I love Boden. I refuse to believe you.

MADAME SARA

Sit down for dinner with Ryone. Banana, I know about the arrangement.

BANANA

Well don't tell Ryone about it.

MADAME SARA

Your father, and Ryone's father, run top secret construction companies that build secret bases throughout the solar system for secret agencies within the secret global shadow government. And the potential locations for more secret bases are running out, dooming both companies to collapse unless the companies merge. But there is so much friction between the "honorable" leaders of both those companies that the only way how a merger can go smoothly is if you and Ryone marry each-other. And you must do it because a lot of families -- including innocent children and pets -- depend on those companies. And due to the secret nature of the companies, you and Ryone aren't supposed to learn about the arranged marriage until you're both eighteen. Except, you learned about it when you were fourteen, and now you want to figure out a way to slip out of it, so that Ryone never has to learn about it.

BANANA

You've just described the hell that I know as my life.

MADAME SARA

Ryone's family are nice people. Ryone loves you.

BANANA

There's something about Ryone that I just can't trust.

MADAME SARA

Listen to his eyes with your heart. If you look into his eyes while you tell him that you don't trust him, his eyes will reveal truths that can't be expressed with language.

BANANA

Let's talk about something else.

MADAME SARA

You slammed an innocent child into a wall.

BANANA

I was already boiling over with frustration from the fact that my mom was reading my diary earlier, so I literally snapped when that kid called me "granny."

MADAME SARA

And then you threw a very heavy tire at him.

BANANA

That brat's name is Buster. If I ever see him again, I'll try to make up for my past mistakes by doing something really nice for him ... but I'm not sure what I'll do.

MADAME SARA

All of your problems will solve themselves, without you even having to think about them, if -- and only if -- a lot of positive energy surrounds you. So be nice to Buster, be nice to everyone. And especially be nice to Ryone.

BANANA

I'll try, I promise.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EXT. RAIN HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA sleep-walks towards the school.

BANANA'S VOICE

Hey. I'm Banana. I'm sixteen. I go to Rain High School.

BANANA bumps into the door and falls down.

CUT TO:

INT. RAIN HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

BANANA sleeps on her desk.

MR. ONO

Obesity is highest in cities with
fluoridated water. Fluoride interferes with
the thyroid gland, thus slows metabolism.
The spice called Tamarind removes fluoride
from your body. A big breakfast maintains
good metabolism.

(pause)

Banana Chan. Are you listening? This is
important!

BANANA CHAN wakes up, and screams ...

BANANA

AHHHH!!!

MR. ONO

Scary dream?

BANANA

Most likely, but I don't remember.

A bell rings.

MR. ONO

Class dismissed.

BANANA

What was school about today?

MR. ONO

Do you remember anything?

BANANA

Recently, I mortally wounded a small child.

WIPE TO:

[FLASHBACK TO SCENES FROM EPISODE 7]

INT. MALL - AFTERNOON

BANANA (age 16) talks with her friend MINAKO (age 16).

For the hell of it, I'll describe BANANA again ...

BANANA CHAN (age 16) is 5'6", with shoulder-length dyed-blond hair with orange roots. She's cute with orange eyebrows, big green eyes, and a tiny bit of freckles over the bright skin tone of her youthful face.

MINAKO

It's weird to run into you in the mall.

BANANA

Agreed.

MINAKO

I haven't seen you anywhere after our little club broke up.

BANANA

That was two years ago.

MINAKO

I want you to know that I'm not mad at you anymore.

BANANA

(shrugs)
No worries.

MINAKO

What school are you going to now?

BANANA

Rain ...

MINAKO's cell-phone rings.

MINAKO

Hold that thought.

MINAKO answers her cell phone.

BANANA

I've gotta go anyway. Talk to you later.

BANANA walks towards an arcade.

BUSTER CHAN approaches BANANA.

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 tugs urgently on BANANA's skirt, asking...

BUSTER
Granny?

BANANA
Oh no, some twerp did not just call me
"grannie"! Grrrr ...

The little boy tugs on her skirt again.

BUSTER
Granny?

Her eyes turn red, and an angry expression appears on her face as her shoulders raise.

The little boy tugs on her skirt again.

BUSTER
Granny?

She tenses up some more.

BANANA
I dare you to say that again, twerp!

The little boy tugs on her skirt again.

BUSTER
Granny?

She turns around, and picks him up, and throws him into the wall.

Then suddenly, at the sight of the little boy in pain, all signs of her anger disappear, and she runs to his aid.

BANANA
Sorry! Oh sorry, sorry, sorry, little boy! Are you alright!?!

WIPE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

BANANA -- carrying the bleeding little unconscious boy named
BUSTER -- runs toward a NURSE.

NURSE
I'll handle it from here.

The nurse takes BUSTER.

NURSE
(to BANANA)
Are you his mom?

BANANA
(angrily)
I'M SIXTEEN!

NURSE
Sorry. I didn't know.

BANANA raises her fist, and grits her teeth.

The nurse giggles nervously.

WIPE TO:

INT. BEDROOM, HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

BUSTER lies on a bed, sad, wearing his Tire SqueegiMon shirt on his chest, and a bandage on his head.

BANANA enters, holding a tire behind her back.

Frightened, BUSTER jumps behind blankets, in a corner of the room.

BUSTER

Stay away from me, Grandma, please!

BANANA raises her fists as her face turns red with angry rage, and she yells...

BANANA

GRANDMA!?!

As a nervous, accidental reflex, she tosses the tire at him.

The tire hurts him badly.

She faints.

WIPE TO:

INT. BEDROOM, HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

BUSTER wears a body-cast, as BANANA - wearing a white medical face-mask -- enters with withered Morning Glory flowers.

BANANA approaches him, drops the withered Morning Glory flowers onto BUSTER, then turns around to leave.

BUSTER

Wait!

BANANA stops in her tracks - takes off her mask to reveal an oozing, gross mess, through which she gives BUSTER a warm smile, and asks ...

BANANA

What's up?

BUSTER

You attacked a helpless child! Tires are very heavy, y'know!?!

BANANA

(indignant)

Well, I thought you wanted one because you wear a picture of the Tire SqueegiMon on your shirt! So the tire was a gift because I felt sorry

for you!

BUSTER
A gift?

BANANA
Yeah, I like SqueegiMon too. In fact, watching
animé is how I de-stress. It was a toss-up
between a tire toy, or the actual tire, actually.

BUSTER
Thank you! This is the BEST GIFT EVER!!!

BUSTER hugs BANANA ... even though he's wearing a body-cast.

BANANA
(animé "sweat-drop" cliché)
Whatever, buster.

BUSTER
(laughs)
"That's my name! Don't wear it out!"

[END OF FLASHBACK]

FADE TO:

INT. BREAKFAST TABLE, KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BUSTER, now TWELVE years old, talks with MRS. CHAN.

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
...my half-uncle had no idea that the NINjAs
were evil, because their misleading pamphlet
contained a bunch of lies about ...

BANANA enters, and interrupts.

BANANA

(points at BUSTER)
Hey!?! Is that ... the twerp's older brother?

BUSTER
Nope!
(laughs)
I'm "the twerp"!

BANANA
And the moon is made of Brussels sprouts.

MRS. CHAN
He's my twelve-year-old, great Grandson from
the future; he's going to be staying in the old
guest room!

BUSTER
Hiya! Believe it or not, I'm Buster!

BANANA
And up is down, down is up, and birds fly left.

MRS. CHAN
He's really from the future.

BANANA
Oh, I get what you're saying. Time travel,
right?

BUSTER
Yeah! I'm a time-traveler!

BANANA
And I'm a fishmonger. If you're my grandson,
then who's your grandfather, huh!?!

BUSTER
Rob Piso.

BANANA
Who?

BUSTER
You'll meet a guy named Rob, then after a
long, drawn-out, gradually-progressing
relationship with him, you'll eventually, after
several years of dating Rob, you'll get married

to him, and you two will conceive a daughter
named Roko.

BANANA
That's an awesome name!

BUSTER
Weird. I think I just named my own mother!

They laugh.

BANANA
But what about James?

MRS. CHAN
But what about Ryone?

BANANA
(to Buster)
I think you'd better tell me your back-story.

BUSTER
Okay. Just a sec...

BUSTER takes a deep breath.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN: "The Future, circa 2048."

WIPE TO:

EXT. CITY OF NEW RAIN - NIGHT

Looking through thick smog, New Rain City is a complicated
system of roads, sky-walks, over-passes, bridges,
buildings, and artificial rivers.

On top of run-down skyscrapers are entire upper-class
neighborhoods. On top of one run-down building, for
example, is a pretty little house.

12 Y/O BUSTER CHAN'S VOICE
We lived in New Rain City, where the poor --
known as Untouchables -- lived on the streets,

while the Pure -- known as employees of the Megalith Corporation -- lived in Pretty Little Houses atop single-family skyscrapers that looked run-down to hide us from the Untouchables. Big families had more than one house on their building, but mom and I only needed one Pretty Little House, since it was only the two of us.

INT. LIVING ROOM, PRETTY LITTLE HOUSE - MORNING

ROKO CHAN enters the room, and sits on a couch.

ROKO CHAN is a slightly-slim, somewhat muscular, six-foot tall woman in her early forties, whose short blonde hair almost reaches her shoulders. Under her bright green eyes, she wears sneakers and blue jeans over the bottom-half of her purple full-body sweater-suit.

A holographic projection-orb rises from the floor, and emits a small television set.

ROKO shakes her head, and the TV morphs into a slightly-bigger TV.

Two year old toddler BUSTER CHAN, runs into the room, crying.

BUSTER CHAN (age 2) is an average toddler of 1'6". Under his short orange hair, are innocent and curious, bright green eyes, a fire truck shirt, sweatpants, socks, and shoes.

BUSTER CHAN
Momma, it's scary!

ROKO CHAN
Buster, what's wrong!?!?

BUSTER jumps into ROKO's arms, and screams...

BUSTER CHAN
(frightened)
MOMMA!!! IT'S SCARY!!!

ROKO hugs BUSTER.

ROKO CHAN
A nightmare?

BUSTER CHAN
An antique tried to steal Buster!

BUSTER vomits.

ROKO feels his forehead, and says...

ROKO CHAN
You're burning up.

BUSTER CHAN
WHAT'S BURNING!?!

ROKO CHAN Let's find a doctor.

INT. STORAGE CELLAR, MEGALITH HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A Doctor named TOFFEE, and a demon named BAKA, scheme.

DOCTOR TOFFEE (age 42) is a skinny-to-average 6'10", black-haired Doctor of Pediatric Biogenetics, with yellow contact lenses.

BAKA is a ten-inch tall (fourteen inches if you include his horns), ash-haired, red-eyed, flying demon head, who leaves behind him a braided, translucent spectral trail, which varies in length and thickness.

BAKA
What's a spectral realm?

DR. TOFFEE
How can you not know what the spectral realm is, after you've just spent the previous ten minutes explaining an in-depth plot to dominate said realm?

BAKA
(burps)
Did I say dominate?

DR. TOFFEE
Yes.

BAKA

What if we fail?

DR. TOFFEE

Well of course we'd fail the plot you devised. It's about as unbelievable and insane as you are.

BAKA

Then you devise a plot.

DR. TOFFEE

Why? I don't even know you, nor do I want to dominate the spectral realm, or any realm for that matter. Besides, I'm still trying to figure out how to account for the fact that I'm talking to a demon.

Pause.

BAKA

I know your secret: you were raised by nuns.

DR. TOFFEE

Who are you, and why did you just show up ten minutes ago, and start describing a plot to dominate the spectral realm?

BAKA

I also know your father.

DR. TOFFEE

(laughs)

I'm sure you do.

BAKA

No, I'm not drunk!

(burps)

Good day to you, sir. I shall now take my leave of you ... whoever you are.

INT. BEDROOM, HOSPITAL - DAY

ROKO CHAN, and DR. TOFFEE, watch as BUSTER sleeps.

DR. TOFFEE

The effects are neutralized by sleep.

ROKO CHAN
Effects of what?

DR. TOFFEE
Regard the InfoDoc...

An orb rises from a compartment in the floor, and projects a holographic doctor named INFODOC.

DR. TOFFEE exits.

INFODOC
Your son or daughter is Terrible Two. This age is turbulent, so inquire about over-the-counter horse-tranquilizers.

INT. STAFF LOUNGE, HOSPITAL - DAY

DR. TOFFEE enters, sits with other DOCTORS, and lights up a cigarette.

The other DOCTORS disapprove of the cigarette smoke, so they exit. Then DR. TOFFEE extinguishes his cigarette, and laughs.

His cellular phone rings; he answers it.

DR. TOFFEE
Hello?
(pause)
Yes, his mother -- Roko Chan -- brought him in -- fever, vomiting, nightmares.
(pause)
Once his brain assimilates the genetic information, he'll be healthier than ever, not to mention smarter than ever.

INT. LIVING ROOM, PRETTY LITTLE HOUSE - DAY

ROKO enters, carrying two-year-old BUSTER in her arms.

ROKO CHAN
Why did you have that nightmare?

BUSTER CHAN
Neuropathy.

ROKO puts BUSTER on the table, looks into his eyes, and asks...

ROKO CHAN
What?

BUSTER CHAN
Neuropathy.

ROKO CHAN
Big word, little boy.

BUSTER CHAN
That's because Buster's vocabulary increased.

ROKO
When?

BUSTER CHAN
When momma and Buster approached the green guy.

ROKO CHAN
Green guy?

BUSTER CHAN
Don't you remember? Buster was brave, like a soldier, when Buster picked up the snakes and the ball, and...and...

Pause.

ROKO CHAN
"Snakes and the ball?"

BUSTER CHAN
The golden snakes that held up the blue ball that the green face came from.

ROKO CHAN
Your vocabulary is amazing for a two year old, Buster, but you still must learn that dreams are not reality.

END OF EPISODE