





INT. = INTERIOR

EXT. = EXTERIOR

This book is filled with television scripts for an unproduced series called BANANA CHAN.

Reading TV scripts is easy.

INT. = Interior EXT. = Exterior

ENJOY THE SHOW!

Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locals, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental. This story takes place in a fictional version of Japan, where some things, and some ways of doing stuff, are more "western" than in the actual Japan.

A.H.

Banana Chan Volume 1

EPISODES
1-TO-7

BY
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Chapter 1

The Emotion 16 Soldiers VS. The Eater Of Worlds

Our story begins in the town of Rain, Japan – a sea-side town where cherry blossoms fall in the spring, children chase butterflies in the summer; and in autumn, leaves crackle under feet. The winters bring snow that has a warmth to its photogenic nature. The perpetual saltwater breeze that I assume exists in this town of my imagination's creation delights all who sniff at its briny glory.

Banana Chan is a girl who lives in the town of Rain . Banana is actually a nickname that she gave to herself, and her surname is Chan because of a Chinese branch on her family tree.

Banana ' Chan 's natural hair color is auburn , but I have written her orange hair because orange is my favorite color.

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x01

The Emotion 16 Soldiers
VS
The Eater Of Worlds

PART 1 of 2

By Alan Holman

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BANANA CHAN: The First Episode

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
March, 2002.

WIPE TO:

INT./EXT. CAR, HIGHWAY - EVENING

MRS. CHAN drives.

MRS. CHAN, (age 32) is a normal, average-income woman. She's 6'4", with black hair, and orange eyebrows over her bright green eyes.

BANANA is the passenger.

BANANA (age 11) is 4'8" and almost tomboyish. She has blonde hair that goes half way down her back, orange eyebrows over green eyes, and a tiny bit of freckles that are barely visible.

MRS. CHAN
I wonder if anything at home has changed in those few years we've lived in Tokyo.

BANANA
I hope those girls who treated me badly got run over by a fleet of cement mixers!

MRS. CHAN
They won't even recognize you ... with your blonde hair, and your new name.

WIPE TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA wears a headband as the PRINCIPAL lectures her.

PRINCIPAL
Why do you refuse to remove that headband?

BANANA
It's my choice what I wear and when I wear it.

PRINCIPAL

If you don't remove that headband, I will have
no choice but to expel you.

BANANA begins crying.

BANANA

(thoughts)

"No! I must be stronger than to cry because
of damn stupid reasons like this."

PRINCIPAL

I'm going to count to three.

BANANA

Fine. But only because my head's getting
hot.

BANANA removes the headband, revealing her orange eyebrows.

PRINCIPAL

Orange eyebrows under blonde hair means
your hair has been dyed. The uniform policy
says that students must wear their hair in their
natural color while they attend our school.

INT. ARCADE - AFTERNOON

Three of BANANA's classmates -- YOSHI, MINAKO, and
NOZOMI -- approach BANANA as she plays a puzzle game.



Illustration by Jason Sullivan.

MINAKO

You're the new girl in our class at school!
Was your name Banana?

BANANA

(thoughts)

"Oh, like you don't know who I am. It was
your bullying of me that made me move to
Tokyo!"

MINAKO

We were stupid. We loved your headband.

YOSHI

That was really cool.

NOZOMI

Yeah, you were really cool!

BANANA looks confused, but shakes it off and says ...

BANANA

Yes, I am.

The girls laugh.

MINAKO

But it was also very brave of you, to wear that headband, because of our school's strict rules about wearing the proper school uniforms.

YOSHI

Yes, you were very brave!

NOZOMI

Very cool, and very brave!

BANANA

Thankies, but what do you girls want with me?

MINAKO

Be our friend!

The girls smile.

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BANANA lays awake on her bed, looking out the window, at the stars. While we listen to her thoughts, we also see flashbacks to BANANA and BODEN -- a thin, silver-haired boy -- enjoying games of tag, softball, and soccer.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

(sigh)

Although I'm glad to be home again, I want to return to Tokyo, to be with Boden. I miss him. He was the only person I've ever been able to connect with and fully trust with everything. He was my best friend, and we were so cool together. This is where I'm from, and I feel like this is where I belong. I never

felt like I belonged in Tokyo, yet Tokyo is where Boden is, and I can't explain it, but I feel like I belong with him. But he belongs there, and I belong here.

(sigh)

But I know that one day when we're older, he'll belong here, so he'll come here and he'll live with me, and he'll belong here with me, because we belong together.

(sigh)

Boden. In my darkest hour, you'll arrive on a white horse, and rescue me.

BANANA lays down with a smile on her face.

The smile turns to a frown.

BANANA

Darn it ... I can't sleep.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - NIGHT

BANANA and MRS. CHAN stand in front of the fridge, eating snacks.

MRS. CHAN

I can't sleep either.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOP OF LIGHTHOUSE, TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - DAWN

On the back of a lighthouse, a fire-ladder goes all the way to the roof. BANANA emerges from the top of the ladder, onto the roof.

BANANA lends a hand to help her mom, MRS. CHAN to emerge onto the roof as well.

On the highest point on the roof of the lighthouse, MRS. CHAN stands beside BANANA. MRS. CHAN puts her hand on BANANA's shoulder, causing both to smile.

MRS. CHAN

The town of Rain. Home.

BANANA

Sure. But I can't help feeling a little lost.

They look down on the town, seeing how it's basically a four mile long and four mile wide square-shaped town, with forests surrounding each side, except the east side where there's a sea-port.

For a brief moment, BANANA's eyes gaze down upon a nearby pond hidden in a nearby forest. Right beside the pond is a rock that's just big enough for someone to sit on it while dipping their toes into the pond.

MRS. CHAN

If old man Hazuki finds out we're on his lighthouse, we'll feel a little dead!

BANANA

If he tries anything, I swear to God, they will have to identify him by his dental records.

MRS. CHAN

Umm ... no.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - NOON

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, approach BANANA, who eats lunch at her desk.

MINAKO

Banana.

BANANA

What?

MINAKO holds up a folded piece of paper.

MINAKO

I've written a prediction on this piece of paper.

BANANA

A prediction?

MINAKO

Yes. Take it.

MINAKO gives the paper to BANANA.

MINAKO

Don't open it now. Open it later. Open it when you're all alone.

BANANA

Okay.

The girls leave.

BANANA

(sigh)

Those girls are weird.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

BANANA sits on a bench, watching as small kids play soccer in the field.

BANANA

So, I still haven't opened that note. What are they plotting?

BANANA takes the note out of her purse, and reluctantly opens it up.

BANANA

(reading the note)

"If you betray the Emotion 16 Soldiers in any way, then whenever you are empowered, and in control of any aspect of your life, the fates will grab that power and that control from you, and you will be lead towards a sour and bitter destiny."

BANANA laughs.

BANANA

(laughing)

It's just a childish prank! Those small-town losers haven't grown up, but I've spent the last

few years in a big city, so I've grown enough
that I can't be affected by this junk anymore!

BANANA crumbles up the note, and throws it into a nearby
garbage can.

INT. HAIR SALON - AFTERNOON

BANANA looks at herself in a mirror. Her hair -- which goes
half way down her back -- has returned to its natural color:
orange.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
There's the Lacy I remember and recognize
and adore.

BANANA
My name is still Banana.

MRS. CHAN
I'm sorry. I didn't realize that you were
actually still serious about the name change.

BANANA
I am. You'll see that I'm serious about
everything.

MRS. CHAN
One day you'll be serious about a boy.

BANANA
You've never been serious about a boy, so
why should I have to?

MRS. CHAN slaps BANANA's face.

MRS. CHAN
I'm sorry.

BANANA
So am I.

MRS. CHAN
I'll never slap you again.

BANANA
You'd better not, or I'll report you!

MRS. CHAN
I'm very sorry.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN eat breakfast.

MRS. CHAN gives an envelope to BANANA, and says ...

MRS. CHAN
You've got mail. The return address is the school, and it says on the envelope that it's from ... just the letter "A" in quotation marks. I wonder what it could be.

BANANA
So do I.

BANANA opens the envelope.

BANANA
(reads the letter)
"Dear Banana. You may call me A. Aside for other members of the Emotion 16 Soldiers, you may only share our secrets with up to one family member who you trust. Otherwise, you have betrayed us. And you know what happens to people who betray us."

MRS. CHAN
What happens to people who betray them?

BANANA
I forget. There was a note about it earlier at school, but I chucked it into the garbage. This is meaningless bullplop anyway.

MRS. CHAN
Yes, but someone obviously wants you to be their friend, so my advice is that you should play along with this childish game and have fun!

BANANA

Do you know anything about this that you're not telling me?

MRS. CHAN

No, of course not. It does just seem like it's a Childish thing. Someone who saw your headband probably thought that you were cool, and they want you to join their little club, and I think that's great! Join it -- whatever it is -- and play with any kids who want to play with you, and enjoy yourself!

BANANA

Okay.

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA approaches YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI.

BANANA

What's the dealio with the Emotion 16 Soldiers?

MINAKO

Hey, your hair's all orange!

BANANA

Yes, it is.

MINAKO

I almost didn't recognize you.

BANANA

I'm still that new girl.

MINAKO

Yeah. But now we can't call you Banana anymore. Hey, was Banana just a nickname because you had blonde hair, or is it your real name?

BANANA

Please continue to call me Banana.

MINAKO

Okay. Is that your real name?

BANANA

Actually, it's my pen-name for a book I'm writing about Zombies who go on a quest to find the Holy Grail.

MINAKO

That's cool.

BANANA

Yes. It's a great deal of fun. So -- as I asked -- what's the dealio with the Emotion 16 Soldiers?

MINAKO

The "dealio" is that you are now a member.

BANANA

What if I don't want to be a member?

MINAKO

If you don't want to be a member, then you've betrayed us, and the fates will punish you.

BANANA

I don't like ultimatums, and I don't like people who give me ultimatums either. Besides, where ultimatums are concerned, it's a stupid one anyway. Emotion 16 Soldiers sounds like something that you might say to a little kid to torture her into thinking that she's being excluded from something, so that she'll want to join, and then you can just pull a prank on her or something. Well sisters, I don't want to play your childish game, so leave me the hell alone!

INT. CLASSROOM, SCHOOL - NOON

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, approach BANANA who eats lunch at her desk.

YOSHI

Don't be mad at us, Banana. We're really your friends.

BANANA

Go away.

NOZOMI

No Banana, listen: our methods of recruiting need a bit of fine-tuning, that's all, but we're really just trying to be your friend.

BANANA

Recruiting?

MINAKO

You're the newest member of the Emotion 16 Soldiers.

BANANA

Like I said: I don't want to join your group, so leave me alone.

MINAKO

But like I said: If you don't want to join us, then you've betrayed us.

BANANA

That is a threat or an ultimatum. It's also stupid. I don't want anything to do with you, or your so-called Soldiers. Sayonara.

BANANA stands up, and walks away.

The girls follow BANANA into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - NOON

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, follow BANANA as she walks down the hall.

BANANA turns around, and says ...

BANANA

Why are you creepy girls following me now? I said I don't want anything to do with you, so leave me alone.

MINAKO

We can't leave you alone.

BANANA

Why not?

MINAKO

Because you have a power.

BANANA

And you have ... a stupid!

MINAKO

I'm serious, Banana. You have a power that no one else has, and that power is needed by our team, or else we won't be able to save the solar system from people realizing Earth's flat!

BANANA

Like I said: You have a stupid.

YOSHI

A series of random monsters is about to arise. One per week, twenty six weeks per year. From a portal on a pyramid in Egypt. And then, the reptilian shape-shifters from Orion, who fear the power of human love, will send their biggest critter, the "Eater of Worlds", to threaten the entire solar system! And when that happens, we'll need you, and your awesome power, the most. Banana Chan, you're our only hope!

BANANA

(laughs)

Yeah, because you're hopeless!

YOSHI

I'm serious! Certain monsters will emerge, and only our powers, that all humans have if they wake up, can stop them!

BANANA

I don't see any monsters. Which one of you is the leader?

MINAKO

Our leader goes by the letter "A", and she's not here right now. Why do you ask anyway?

BANANA

Let me leave a message for "A".

MINAKO
Okay.

BANANA
(screaming)
LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!

BANANA runs out a door to the school-yard.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EXT. SCHOOL-YARD - NOON

BANANA exits from the school.

BANANA
I've gotta get away from those crazy people.

BANANA runs ...

... and bumps into KING KONG's giant foot.

She looks up at the gigantic KING KONG who beats his chest while grunting a war cry.

BANANA
Eep!

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, arrive.

YOSHI points at KING KONG, and shouts ...

YOSHI
Love!

Hearts zoom out of YOSHI's hand, towards KING KONG. He picks up BANANA, and kisses her.

BANANA
YUCK!

YOSHI
Oops!

MINAKO points at KING KONG, and shouts ...

MINAKO
Hate!

A black beam shoots from MINAKO's hand, into KING KONG's chest.

KING KONG angrily throws BANANA towards the ocean ...

... BANANA skips a few times on the surface of the water, then she sinks into the ocean.

WIPE TO:

EXT. OCEAN, AFTERNOON

BANANA swims towards the beach, while thinking.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS
When I was thrown, my entire life flashed
before my eyes. Especially times when those
girls picked on me and I didn't fight back, I
didn't stand up for myself.

EXT. BEACH - AFTERNOON

From the ocean, BANANA swims to shore, where she's greeted by YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI.

NOZOMI has a towel that she gives to BANANA. BANANA wraps the towel around her body. The towel absorbs a lot of water from BANANA's soaked body. Then, with her left hand, BANANA grabs a corner of the towel, twirls it until it's tightly wound, and she whips NOZOMI across the side of her right leg with the tag on the corner of the other side of the towel; it actually rips a marble-sized chunk of skin out of NOZOMI's left leg.

NOZOMI shrieks while losing balance and clutching her wound while falling to the ground.

NOZOMI begins crying in pain.

MINAKO
Banana, you psychotic fool! Why'd you attack
Nozomi!?

BANANA

Because a few years ago, before I moved to Tokyo, I was Lacy -- remember me!?

The girls gasp in sudden recognition and realization.

BANANA

That's right. Nozomi nearly killed me when she pressed my face into the snow!

YOSHI

That was a long time ago! We were dumb kids!

BANANA

Not being able to see anything! Not being able to breathe! I thought I was going to die! It was the scariest minute of my life!

BANANA twirls the heavy wet towel around her head again, and whips NOZOMI's left leg with the sharp tag, ripping out a marble sized chunk of skin.

Now NOZOMI's cries turn to unbearable howls as her loss of blood accelerates.

BANANA

Yoshi. Do you remember that time you attacked me at that mud puddle?

YOSHI

(reluctant, afraid)
Y-yes.

BANANA unleashes a few dozen brutal punches all over YOSHI's face and body.

YOSHI falls to the ground, clutching wounds and wailing.

MINAKO turns around and starts to run away, but BANANA gives chase.

BANANA

You're not gonna get away, Minako! Remember that time when you lied to your friends mom and caused her to attack me?

MINAKO

Those were different times!

BANANA

Fuck you!

BANANA catches up to MINAKO, trips MINAKO so MINAKO falls face-first into the sand. MINAKO rolls over, but BANANA leaps towards her ...

MINAKO

Noooo!

... and both of BANANA's feet land right on the middle of MINAKO's stomach.

BANANA jumps on MINAKO's stomach, about five times, as if MINAKO's stomach is a trampoline. Then BANANA bounds off of MINAKO's stomach.

As a winded MINAKO folds into a fetal position, sobbing in just audible gusts of wind, BANANA stands before the three injured girls, and asks ...

BANANA

Why the hell was there a giant King Kong?
And what was with him throwing me into the
ocean?

NOZOMI shouts ...

NOZOMI

Fuck off!

BANANA runs towards NOZOMI. NOZOMI's eyes widen.
BANANA knees NOZOMI in the nose. NOZOMI falls backwards onto the sand, bleeding from nose and legs into the sand.

BANANA

This may have been overly violent, but fuck it --
I'm done with not standing up for myself! From
this point on, no one messes with Banana
Chan and gets away with it!

WIPE TO:

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

NOZOMI, with bandages on her legs and face, stands on the doorstep, and rings the doorbell.

MRS. CHAN answers.

MRS. CHAN
Hello.

NOZOMI
Hi. Is Banana here?

MRS. CHAN
What happened to you? You look terribly injured.

NOZOMI swallows a lump of saliva, and says.

NOZOMI
I got what I deserved.

MRS. CHAN
Oh?

BANANA arrives.

BANANA
Hi, Nozomi.

MRS. CHAN
Banana. Your friend is very injured.

BANANA
I know.

NOZOMI
Banana, the other girls were too injured and too afraid, but we all agreed that we're even now.

MRS. CHAN
What's this about?

BANANA
Nozomi. I need to hear you all say that you're sorry.

MRS. CHAN's eyes widen in sudden realization.

MRS. CHAN
Oh my God, Banana did you do that to her
face and legs?

BANANA
Yes, mom.

MRS. CHAN
(angry)
Banana!

NOZOMI
It's okay! I deserved it! I hurt Banana this
much in the past, and now we're even!

MRS. CHAN
One question: do you intend to press charges
on my daughter over this?

NOZOMI
No, ma'am. Banana just gave me what I had
coming to me.

BANANA
Yes. We're even now.

MRS. CHAN
I hate violence. But I know that if I punish
Banana for her outburst on you ...

BANANA
(smiles)
... and on her friends.

MRS. CHAN
A punishment would just upset this "even"
status. So Banana, the only way for you to
avoid a punishment is if you seriously try to
become friends with this girl, and her friends.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN
A couple weeks later.

WIPE TO:

INT. ICE CREAM RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

BANANA, YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, enjoy a variety of ice-cream flavors while laughing, giggling, chortling, and chatting ... until BANANA says ...

BANANA

Despite all that you've told me, I still don't want to join The Emotion 16 Soldiers.

NOZOMI

We really haven't told you much.

BANANA

Exactly. And that's one major reason why I don't want to join.

YOSHI

We're really not allowed to talk about the details to someone who isn't a member.

BANANA

So how did one of you recruit the other two?

NOZOMI

Whether it happened like that or not is a secret.

BANANA

Thanks for the ice cream, and thanks for the new friendship, but I'm going home.

BANANA stands up, and begins to walk towards the door.

BANANA

(thoughts)

"In the past couple of weeks, they fought a couple of monsters ... and they were still recovering from the beat-down I gave them. So they've got those monsters handled, they don't need me. But they said I have a power, and I wonder what it is."

BANANA turns around, walks towards the girls' table.

MINAKO

I thought you said you were leaving, Banana.

BANANA

What did you mean when you told me that I have a power?

NOZOMI

You were able to do far more damage to us than the big monsters do.

BANANA

Something tells me that's not what you meant.

NOZOMI

It's not.

BANANA

So what power do I have? Why do you want me in your group?

YOSHI

Will you beat us up if we don't tell you?

BANANA

No. I'm not doing that again. Even though I'm happy that I finally got even ...

(starts crying)

... I cry about the pain I inflicted. Did you ever cry about the pain you inflicted in me, those years ago?

The girls stare blankly at BANANA.

BANANA

(yells)

Did you cry about the pain you inflicted in me!?

YOSHI

I'm sorry Banana, but ... no.

MINAKO

Me neither. Sorry.

NOZOMI

I never cried about it. I too am sorry.

BANANA

Well then we're not even after all.

BANANA stands up, turns around, and begins walking to the exit.

MINAKO

Wait, Banana!

BANANA turns around, faces MINAKO, and asks...

BANANA

Why?

MINAKO

We lack empathy.

BANANA

Duh.

MINAKO

I mean it: We ... sometimes ... lack empathy.

BANANA

I mean it: Duh. Why the hell would you have to tell me something so obvious like the fact that the girls who treated me very badly years ago lack empathy?

YOSHI

Banana, it's anomalous that you have so much empathy.

BANANA

Empathy is human nature. And why are you all of a sudden using words like "anomalous"?

YOSHI

Exactly. Empathy is HUMAN nature.

NOZOMI

Yoshi!

YOSHI

Sorry, I've said too much.

BANANA
You all are crazy.

BANANA turns around, and walks towards the door, but then she turns around, faces them, smiles, and says ...

BANANA
And I'm crazy too! I'll join your group!

The girls smile and jump up and down.

BANANA
... but on a trial basis. You tell me what power I've got, I'll participate in some battles. If I get bored, or if I hate it, I'm out. Is that okay with you all?

The girls smile and nod.

WIPE TO:

EXT. LITTLE FISHING BOAT - AFTERNOON

BANANA, YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, sit on a little fishing boat, holding fishing-rods, with lines that go into the water.

A huge fish emerges from the water, bares sharp teeth, and growls at them.

BANANA
You've gotta be kidding!

MINAKO
It's a monster from the stargate!

BANANA puts her face in her palm, in embarrassment.

YOSHI
Banana, use your power!

BANANA
What IS my power?

As the fish approaches the boat, a pillow appears in BANANA's hands.

MINAKO

That!

BANANA

But a mallet or pillow usually appear in my hands when I'm in danger -- I thought you were talking about a different power!

NOZOMI

We weren't! Throw the pillow!

BANANA throws the pillow into the open mouth of the GIANT FISH. The GIANT FISH chokes to death.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA sleeps on her desk ... no pillow ... while the teacher lectures.

TEACHER

If I had anything important to teach, I'd wake her up. But this curriculum is totally out of touch with reality.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

MRS. CHAN and BANANA sit on the couch, chatting while eating fried fish (nom nom).

MRS. CHAN

Where did you say you got this fish again?
nom nom nom.

BANANA

Never mind that. nom nom. Tasty fish!

MRS. CHAN

You fried it very well! nom nom.

BANANA

Thankies! nom nom.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOP OF LIGHTHOUSE, TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - DAWN

BANANA and MRS. CHAN sit on the highest point on the roof of the lighthouse.

MRS. CHAN

We should stop coming here. I'm truly afraid that Mr. Hazuki will come up here and beat the tar out of us.

BANANA

Yeah. A family lives in this lighthouse. It's private property. We should respect their rights.

MRS. CHAN

But you know what would make this episode really perfect?

BANANA

Yeah. If he showed up and got angry at us, and we knocked him off of the ladder.

MRS. CHAN

That would be the perfect ending to this first episode.

BANANA

Well, it ain't gonna happen. I don't want him or anyone to get hurt, even if it's really funny.

MRS. CHAN

Mature. I like it.

MRS. CHAN approaches the ladder, looks down, and shrieks ...

MRS. CHAN

It's old man Hazuki! He's coming up here!

BANANA

(scared)
Really!?

MRS. CHAN

Yeah, come look!

BANANA approaches the ladder, looks down, and says ...

BANANA
But I don't see ...

MRS. CHAN pushes BANANA off the top of the lighthouse.

WIPE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

BANANA lays on a hospital bed, in a full-body cast.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
Sorry.

BANANA
Don't be! That was a really funny way to end
the first episode!

BOTH laugh.

END OF EPISODE



Illustration by Diane Holman, a sister of the author.

Chapter 2

The Emotion 16 Soldiers VS. The Eater Of Worlds PART 2

Banana could hear the sounds of the ocean, but she couldn't see anything. She couldn't see the individual on her left side, and she couldn't see the individual on her right side; she knew they were there – she was holding their hands, and walking on what felt like the sand of the beach.

She could remember being jolted out of bed early that morning. She could remember that there were three people, not only the two who were holding her hands. And as she thought back on her memories, she remembered Boden, the boy she loved when she was just a little girl. She wished that her “puppy love” hadn't been so strong, because she missed him so much that it hurt.

And as she thought of “puppy love”, she realized that she wanted a puppy. She made a mental note to remind herself to eventually get around to getting a dog.

But then she remembered reality – weird, weird, reality. Did she really get thrown into the ocean by King Kong recently? Or was it a dream? Was she dreaming now? Is the universe a dream? And if the universe is a dream, are we all co-creators of that dream? And if we're co-creators of the dream called the universe, why did she allow herself to get thrown into the ocean by a giant King Kong?

And why couldn't she see anything?

Banana's sense of smell was enhanced now that she couldn't see, and she strongly appreciated how the salt-water aroma dances on the breeze in Rain, Japan; that particular smell is something that she missed while she was in Tokyo. But in Tokyo remains Boden whom she misses very strongly.

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x02

The Emotion 16 Soldiers

VS

The Eater Of Worlds

PART 2 of 2

By Alan Holman

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EXT. PLANET EARTH

DATE ON SCREEN
March, 2002.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - DAWN

BANANA (age 11) is blind-folded.

YOSHI holds BANANA's left hand. MINAKO holds BANANA's
right hand. NOZOMI leads them to a spot on the beach.

BANANA
Why did I agree to be blindfolded?

YOSHI
It was your choice.

BANANA
Oh yeah.

BANANA takes off the blindfold.

BANANA
Why are we at the beach?

NOZOMI
We're meeting Frau Angstweiler here.

BANANA
Frau whatzawhozits?

MINAKO

Yeah! If you call her Frau Angstweiler in her presence, she'll kill you!

YOSHI
She's "A". For all intents and purposes, just call her "A".

BANANA
(confused)
Huh?

A light flurry of rose petals begins falling from the sky.

BANANA sneezes ... and sneezes ... and sneezes ... and continues sneezing and sneezing and sneezing. And when her face is a snotty mess, she still continues to sneeze and sneeze and sneeze ... and sneeze some more.

MINAKO
Stop the rose petals! She's obviously allergic!

BANANA runs away.

CUT TO:

INT. SNACK N' YAK RESTAURANT

BANANA eats fast food with YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI.

MINAKO
It's a shame that you're allergic to Frau Angstweiler's rose petals. That's her entrance.

BANANA
Well I never wanted to be in The Emotion 16 Soldiers anyway.

NOZOMI
More like the Emotion 16 Sisters! Oh, you'll love us if you give us a chance!

YOSHI
Banana, we need you to be in our group.

BANANA
Well if you need me so much, then Frau

whatzamajig must change her entrance.

MINAKO

And her exit. She also uses the rose petals
when she leaves.

YOSHI

And she smells like rose petals.

BANANA

Well there you have it, girls. I'm allergic to
your leader, so therefore I cannot join your
group, and that's final.



Illustration by Yudhianto Bambang.

INT. MADAME SARA'S FORTUNE TELLING PARLOR - AFTERNOON

BANANA consults a fortune teller named MADAME SARA.



Illustration by Jason Sullivan.

BANANA

The sign said if I buy a pie you'll tell my fortune?

MADAME SARA

How was the pie?

BANANA

Meh.

MADAME SARA

Only meh?

BANANA

I have to be honest with you. I've had better pie.

MADAME SARA

Fair. Okay.

MADAME SARA looks into her crystal ball.

MADAME SARA

Wow. I don't know where to begin. You have a very interesting future.

BANANA

Interesting good? -- or interesting bad?

MADAME SARA

Interesting complicated. A young man will enter your life.

BANANA

I'm only eleven. I don't want to talk about men until I'm waaaaay older. Except for one man who I miss with all my heart ...

MADAME SARA

Your father?

BANANA

No. And don't go there. I may be only eleven, but I did already have one boyfriend, and his name is Boden, and I miss him with all of my

heart.

MADAME SARA

I see. So you want to know if you'll ever see him again?

BANANA

Yes.

MADAME SARA

You will definitely see him again. But ...

BANANA

But what, damn it?!

MADAME SARA

He will die on the same day when you see him again.

Pause.

BANANA

Hey! What the hell is this?! Fortune tellers are supposed to re-assure us when our friends suck, not to predict doom and gloom!

BANANA grumbles, and angrily marches out of there.

CUT TO:

INT. MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN eat supper.

BANANA

My day sucked. First the girls wanted to show me the leader of their group. But the leader is addicted to flowers, and I'm allergic to flowers, and so that was a bust. Then a fortune teller said something that was outright wrong and disappointing.

MRS. CHAN

Don't go to those places. You never know with fortune tellers. Just avoid them.

BANANA

I don't know.

MRS. CHAN
What did the fortune teller say that was so disappointing?

BANANA
That's personal.

MRS. CHAN
(smiles)
Personal secrets are the first sign of adolescence! Congratulations Banana, you're becoming a woman!

BANANA
(sarcastic)
Oh joy.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

BANANA and the girls -- YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI -- watch the ocean.

YOSHI
Banana. There's something that you need to know about The Emotion 16 Soldiers.

BANANA
And what exactly is that?

NOZOMI
Actually, there's a long list of things Banana needs to know about The Emotion 16 Soldiers.

YOSHI
Well the first thing Banana needs to know is our cheer!

BANANA
(sarcastic)
Oh boy.

YOSHI, MINAKO, AND NOZOMI
(cheering)

To rid the world of Tyranny, Oppression,
Injustice, and Corruption! To fill the earth with
Justice and Freedom! These are our goals!
We are Emotion 16! Yaaaay team!

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI laugh and giggle while BANANA
yawns.

BANANA
And you still wonder why I have no interest in
this crap?

MINAKO
Very funny, Banana. Anyway, Frau
Angstweiler said that she's not going to use
the rose petals for her entrance and exit this
time. But her skin smells like roses, so she's
going to enhance her merkaba into a shield
that ...

BANANA
What's a merkaba?

In the sky, one tetrahedra of light pointing up, interlocks with
a second tetrahedra of light that is pointing down, so they are
counter-rotating spirals of energy with a common center. This is
a merkaba.

YOSHI points at the merkaba in the sky, and says ...

YOSHI
That's a merkaba! It's how Frau Angstweiler
travels!

BANANA
Holy ... wow.

MINAKO
It's different this time! We can't see through it
like usual, because this time it's a sneeze
guard!

BANANA
(sarcastic)
Funny.

The merkaba lands in front of them.

BANANA

So the Frau is inside of that weird magical energy merkaba thinger?

MINAKO

Yup. And myself, and Yoshi, and Nozomi, will go in there with her, while you wait out here. Because if you go in there, you'll smell the Frau, and she smells like roses, so you'll sneeze.

NOZOMI

Yeah Banana. We'll go in there and get our orders from the Frau.

MINAKO

It's sound-proof.

YOSHI

Yeah, it's sound-proof, so we'll come out when the Frau is done talking to us, and we'll tell you what our mission is!

BANANA

Okay.

YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI, enter the merkaba.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

A few hours later ...

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN visits BANANA who lays on a hospital bed.

MRS. CHAN

The doctor says you're almost over the shock of having gotten thrown into the ocean by a giant squid. The doctor says I can take you home whenever you want to go.

BANANA

Please allow me to relax on this bed for
another few hours.

MRS. CHAN

Okay.

WIPE TO:

INT. MERKABA

BANANA -- wearing a gas mask -- stands in this magical light,
with YOSHI, MINAKO, NOZOMI, and FRAU ANGSTWEILER.

FRAU ANGSTWEILER is a middle aged woman, with reptilian skin
and eyes, wearing a beautiful purple dress.

FRAU ANGSTWEILER

3647 years ago, the wealthiest one percent of
the elites from my planet came here to Earth,
where ...

BANANA

I'm sorry to interrupt, but what's with all the
monsters?

FRAU ANGSTWEILER

When you play the six magic frequencies in
the pyramid, a hidden space-ship will appear.

BANANA

Uhh ... okay. But what if I don't wanna figure
out what you mean by that?

FRAU ANGSTWEILER

The Eater of Worlds will appear, and you must
deal with it.

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

A few YEARS later ...

FADE TO:

EXT. EGYPTIAN DESERT - NOON

With the pyramids in the background, BANANA (age 14), YOSHI (age 14), MINAKO (age 14), and NOZOMI (age 14), all ride camels on the hot sand, under the hot sun.

BANANA (age 14) is 5'2" and thin. She has long orange hair that flows all the way down to the top of her pants.

YOSHI

Any minute now, the "Eater of Worlds" will arrive.

MINAKO

I hope we're far enough from the pyramids to be safe when the portal opens.

An octagonal checkerboard-patterned portal appears above the middle pyramid, as NOZOMI notices it, points at it, and says ...

NOZOMI

Look!

Nothing emerges from the portal, and it just disappears.

BANANA

Maybe the monster is invisible. We can only see a small portion of the light spectrum, after all.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOP OF MIDDLE PYRAMID - NOON

A small baby chicken, wearing a cute little t-shirt that says "Eater of Worlds", stands atop the pyramid, with an adorable little evil look in its eyes.

That small baby chicken is the EATER OF WORLDS.

WIPE TO:

EXT. COLORFUL PLACE WITH RAINBOWS AND SPARKLES

A CAMERAMAN and a BOOM MIC OPERATOR film the scene while BANANA and the EATER OF WORLDS face each-other in battle stances.

The EATER OF WORLDS is still just a chicken wearing a shirt that says "Eater of Worlds".

BANANA

Pretty Costume Transform!

BANANA does a magical transformation sequence (a la "Sailor Moon") into a superhero costume that is revealing, immodest, and indecent.

The EATER OF WORLDS quickly spits a brown liquid into BANANA's mouth.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SPACE, ABOVE A PLANET

BANANA, wearing her indecent superhero costume, flies above a huge planet that looks like a gigantic circular chessboard whereupon each square contains the native landscape of a human or animal culture, and members of that human or animal culture.

Each culture dances and plays in their own square.

BANANA

What is truth?

The borders of the squares vanish, and the human and animal cultures dance in all possible combinations.

BANANA

This is perfect!

Suddenly, twelve icons surround the planet. Each icon contains the face of a religious or mythical figure. From the icons, spider webs shoot out, grabbing random people and animals until only one white cat is left, alone, reading a book.

WHITE CAT

(sad)

I'm lonely.

BANANA

The eater of worlds is ...

Two beautiful cheerleaders appear, holding pom-poms.

CHEERLEADERS
Come on! You're so close!

BANANA
... religion!

CHEERLEADERS
Exactly!
(cheering)
Yay, Banana Chan!

The CHEERLEADERS cheer.

WIPE TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAWN [DREAM]

ADAM SPRITE (age 17) is a blonde haired, blue eyed guy, who sits -- in a grass skirt -- on a tree, in this forest, playing beautiful music on his piccolo.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Pages 49 to 61 of this volume are inspired by the visions I had the first time I drank an entheogen called Ayahuasca. You will notice that Banana had a bit of a violent streak in her personality before this sequence; whereas after this sequence, she finds it very difficult to even have violent thoughts. This is in the story because it's true. I'm personally a very different person after drinking Ayahuasca than I was before I drank it. After I drank it, it has become completely out of my character to threaten or harm anyone. Before I drank it, I fought back when my brothers would attack me for whatever reasons why they sometimes attack me in my life. But after I drank it, I don't even hit back when I get hit. It has become unfathomable to be violent against anyone, and I rarely even play violent video games anymore. Not that I was ever a violent person, because I've never been a violent person, and I am way more unviolent after having drank ayahuasca. Before I drank it, I did sometimes find myself fantasizing about violent forms of revenge against people who have wronged me in my life. But after I drank it, it's unfathomable to have thoughts of violent forms of revenge against anyone who has ever wronged me. I could be wrong, but I think it was 2009 when I drank it. So after 2009, I haven't had it in me to threaten or harm anyone. In fact, around that time, I took up a personal study of alternative medicine. I am writing this "author's note" in 2018, so it's been nearly a decade since I've thought there was any rationale behind violence or threats of any sort, against anyone, for any reason. Despite the positive effect that ayahuasca has had on me personally, I don't recommend it. It is an illegal substance in a lot of places, including where I was when I drank it. I don't condone crime, yet I felt drawn to trying that particular illegal substance. If it weren't for the fact that I drank it, the sequence in pages 49 to 61 of this volume wouldn't exist. I drank it only twice, and I don't feel any reason to ever drink it again.



Illustration by Jason Sullivan.

He stops playing his piccolo, and sees BANANA approach on the path below.

BANANA (age 14) is 5'2" and thin. She has long orange hair that flows all the way down to the top of her pants.

ADAM

Hiya, secret friend! How goes?

BANANA

I just defeated the "Eater of Worlds".

ADAM

I know. I watched it on TV with my friends. It was awesome! Come to think of it, this is our first actual conversation!

BANANA

No, we've talked before this life, and we'll talk again after. It's all good.

ADAM

Everything about you is good.

BANANA

Thankies, but why do you say that?

ADAM

Because it's true! You're a Nirvana Girl!

BANANA

What's a Nirvana Girl?

ADAM jumps off the tree, lands softly on the ground, holds her hands, looks in her eyes, and sings:

ADAM

(singing)

"Everyone's comfortable because of your love;/
they smile with comfortable certainty,/ knowing that they'll always see/ your smile./
Everyone who feels loved/ because of your smile,/ feels so loved/ that they smile!/ Your smile makes them smile/ -- it makes them feel loved!/ You make them feel loved./ You are

good enough/ to defend good or bad/ from
feelings that are sad./ The un-free that are
free/ because of your smile/ are countless
innocents!/ You make the guilty innocent!/

You free the un-free!/ I feel good enough to see
the one who smiles!/ I am good enough to see
the one who smiles!/ You are good enough to
be the one who smiles!/ You're my Nirvana
Girl."

BANANA laughs hysterically.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SPACE, BEFORE TWO GATES

BANANA, wearing her indecent superhero costume, stands before
two gates.

GATE ONE (on the left) has a picture of ADAM SPRITE on it.

GATE TWO (on the right) has a picture of the WHITE CAT on it.

The two CHEERLEADERS appear.

CHEERLEADER #1

Hey Banana! I just want you to know that I'm
proud of you. It's amazing that you've made it
this far, to your "The Moment."

BANANA

Thanks, now which gate ... ?

A giant DRAGON HEAD appears in front of BANANA and
screams.

BANANA laughs, and the DRAGON HEAD disappears.

BANANA

I have to figure it out for myself.

CHEERLEADER

(cheering)

Exactly! Woo! Yay, Banana Chan!

The two gates shatter, bathing BANANA in light.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - MORNING [DREAM]

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

MRS. CHAN
Time for church, Banana Chan!

BANANA
Why did we convert to Christianity this week?

MRS. CHAN
Why not?

BANANA
Ever since noticing that bloody crucifixion scene in the front of the church, I've been suffering through horrible, bloody nightmares about killing my friends.

MRS. CHAN
Cool!

BANANA
Oh why must I be tormented with the awful visage of gore at my impressionable age?

MRS. CHAN
Guilt.

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

BANANA
Why, why?

MRS. CHAN
Just kidding. And just kidding about the conversion.

BANANA
Damn spanky.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SPACE, BEFORE TWO GATES

BANANA, wearing her indecent superhero costume, stands before two gates.

The CHEERLEADERS stand between two gates.

GATE 1 (on the left) has a picture of a maze on it.

GATE 2 (on the right) has a picture of a solved puzzle on it.

BANANA
I must figure it out for myself.

GATE 1 explodes.

BANANA
I don't want to go through gate two, but it's the only one left, so I guess I have to.

BANANA opens gate two, and it leads to a fashion show.
BANANA quickly closes gate two.

BANANA
I don't want to get distracted by a pointless fashion show.

CHEERLEADER #1
You're so close to the answer!

BANANA
The fashion show is a distraction ... full of people who don't think for themselves. They think that someone else's definition of beauty is more important than their own.

CHEERLEADER #1
I love it!

CHEERLEADER #1 shoots a short burst of bright white light at BANANA, which BANANA enjoys a lot.

BANANA
Wow, that was great. What was that?

CHEERLEADERS
(proud)
Encouragement!

BANANA
Thanks!

CHEERLEADER
Remember. There was a maze on one gate,
and a solved puzzle on the other gate.

BANANA
And you can't tell me the answer?

CHEERLEADER
You're so close!

BANANA
You can't solve my puzzle for me, just as I
must not solve anyone else's puzzle for them!

CHEERLEADER
Exactly!

GATE 2 explodes.

CHEERLEADERS
(cheering)
Yay, Banana Chan!

BANANA is bathed in a bright white light.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING [DREAM]

MRS. CHAN and BANANA have tea and talk.

BANANA
I heard the news about a cat burglar.

MRS. CHAN
We don't have a cat.

BANANA
Oh yeah, tee hee.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SPACE, BEFORE TWO GATES

BANANA, wearing her indecent superhero costume, stands before two gates.

The CHEERLEADERS stand between the two gates.

GATE 1 (on the left) has a picture of a mobius strip on it.

GATE 2 (on the right) has a picture of a ball on it.

BANANA
I like balls.

BANANA opens the gate, and is bathed in a bright white light.

She begins to step through the gate, but a dragon appears just long enough to roar at her. She laughs, and says ...

BANANA
I don't need to solve this puzzle. And your dragon doesn't scare me. I know in my heart that the ball is the correct answer. So I have faith that my heart will lead me in the right direction.

CHEERLEADER
(cheering)
You've figured it out! Yay, Banana Chan!

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM [DREAM]

BANANA sleeps, and sleep-talks.

BANANA
Your world is so pretty...

WIPE TO:

INT. MAGICAL PALACE [DREAM]

A beautiful young QUEEN sits on the throne.



Illustration by Jason Sullivan.

BANANA curtsies before the queen.

QUEEN

You will bring the next queen into the world,
my daughter.

BANANA

You're not my mom.

QUEEN

We're all each-other's moms, my little
Princess.

BANANA

This is me confused. What?

QUEEN

Everyone is everything; therefore, you're a
Princess. And soon you'll meet your Prince.

BANANA

How will I recognize him?

QUEEN

He'll be flying a kite.

BANANA

Doy?

WIPE TO:

TRIPPY VISUALIZATIONS [DREAM]

We see trippy visualizations while a male voice sings:

"SENTIMENTAL DREAMWORLD"

Banana Chan

You're a secret closed door
You're too much to
touch anymore

I look into the sky
the sky is getting darker
time without you
and your eyes so proud
we touched the sky
as this lullaby was on the radio

I held your hand
touched your pretty face and yellow hair
We were a secret pair
I've never seen a face
leave such an impression
I'm depressed and regressing
when we did everything
unknowing that we did nothing
with our voices and our lives
our heavenly song
the clouds changed shape
with the setting sun
when we locked eyes
that's when we begun
planning open-ended destinies
brighter everything's become
my sentimental dreamworld
dreamworld

I held my breath,
when you promised we would fly free.
Promised raised three fingers up
but I'll always love you
although you broke that promise
All of those questions
unspoken that day
Remember how the stars were
shining when we were not
complicating that perfect state ...
with too much words
It's become my dreamworld
(my sentimental) dreamworld

Banana Chan
You're still my inspiration
My motivation for creation
Cause I don't have enough
so I create too much
secret memories
moonlight histories
that take place
within our dreamworld
dreamworld dreamworld

WIPE TO:

EXT. SPACE, ABOVE EARTH

BANANA, wearing her superhero costume, lays inside a big ball of white light, that is exactly as big as the earth.

A big dark black ball, that is exactly as big as the earth, appears on the other side of the earth.

The white ball (that BANANA is in), and the black ball, are absorbed into the earth.

BANANA
The darkness is "The Other", and I love all that
are of the darkness, just as I love all that are
of the light!

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON [DREAM]

BANANA plays a kooky song with the numbers on her cell-phone,
then giggles while listening to it ring.

SOMEONE'S VOICE
(on phone)
Hello?

BANANA
How are you?

SOMEONE'S VOICE
Fine, but what do you want?

BANANA
I wanna play Twister.

SOMEONE'S VOICE
Who are you?

BANANA
Banana.

SOMEONE'S VOICE
That's not a name, it's a fruit.

BANANA
Interesting.

SOMEONE'S VOICE
Why'd you call me?

BANANA
Wanna do a survey?

SOMEONE'S VOICE
I'm just headin' out the door.

BANANA
No you're not. You're on the phone!

SOMEONE'S VOICE
Well, I'm heading out the door!

BANANA
Where ya gonna go?

SOMEONE'S VOICE
That's none of your concern. Besides, you're invading my privacy!

BANANA
You're invading MY privacy!

SOMEONE'S VOICE
No, YOU'RE invading MINE!

BANANA
Bullshit! I don't even know nothing about you yet!

SOMEONE'S VOICE
What's your REAL name?

BANANA
One word survey: wuzzup?

SOMEONE'S VOICE
What's YOUR name?

BANANA
Shaguvula.

SOMEONE'S VOICE
I said tell me your name.

BANANA
Salubuva.

SOMEONE'S VOICE
Huh?

BANANA
Sabulafaba.

SOMEONE hangs up.

After a short pause, BANANA dials the kooky song again.

The same SOMEONE answers the phone.

SOMEONE'S VOICE
Hello?

BANANA
We seem to have been disconnected. Hey, I
thought you were going out the door?

SOMEONE'S VOICE
Fuck you!

BANANA
Oh, sorry. Toodles!

BANANA hangs up.

Pause.

BANANA re-dials the kooky tune.

The same SOMEONE's answering machine picks up...

SOMEONE'S ANSWERING MACHINE
Hello.

BANANA
Hi!

SOMEONE'S ANSWERING MACHINE
It's either nap time, or I'm not here, or I'm
being harassed by that nosy telephone sales
person again. In either case, leave a message
after the deafening mechanical shriek.

BANANA
Huh?

CUT TO:

EXT. THE TOWN OF RAIN - AFTERNOON [DREAM]

A sound-wave shatters every window in town.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN visits BANANA who lays on a bed, eating fried chicken.

MRS. CHAN
The doctor says you're almost over the shock of actually defeating something for a change. That so-called "Eater of Worlds" would have destroyed the entire universe. But luckily, you stopped it, in the nick of time!

BANANA
Yeah, well it was easy, and the other girls would have been able to do it just as easily as I did. Frau Angstweiler got mad at the girls, because she told me that she always delegated the comedy relief task to one of the other girls. I was ALWAYS supposed to have the most important task, but I never got the most important task until the final mission, because those girls are little bitches!

MRS. CHAN
Wow.

BANANA
I hate that they took advantage of me like that for a few whole years!

MRS. CHAN
Well, they left an angry message on the answering machine.

BANANA
Why are those ungrateful girls angry at me? I

saved the freaking world!

MRS. CHAN

According to what I understood of the message, they claim that you're the reason why they broke up.

BANANA

I'm glad to hear that they broke up. No one messes with Banana Chan and gets away with it!

MRS. CHAN

They were angry at you for not showing up for the meeting where they were drawing straws to see who'd be able to eventually tell their grand-kids about being the one who defeated the "Eater of Worlds." In other words, you skipped the meeting where they were deciding which of the crew would defeat the bad guy, and you defeated the bad guy yourself, so now you've got the bragging rights, and they don't, so they're angry at you.

BANANA

Those other girls were never in it for all the people who they were helping; they were only in it for the bragging rights.

MRS. CHAN

Will you ever brag about defeating the "Eater of Worlds"?

BANANA

What's the point? He was a chicken!

They laugh.

BANANA

Please allow me to relax on this bed for another few hours.

MRS. CHAN

Okay.

BANANA

Remember when I dyed my hair blonde?

MRS. CHAN
Yeah.

BANANA
I'm thinking I might do that again sometime
within the next couple of years.

MRS. CHAN
It's your hair -- do what you want with it.

BANANA
Darn right.

END OF EPISODE

Chapter 3

The Arrangement

Fourteen is the age when the average Rain girl leads a double-life, either as a solo superhero, or as a member of a group of magical girls, with whom she shares secret missions to save the earth or galaxy or universe from monsters that no one else knows about, monsters that exist because the magical girl superheroes exist.

But when Banana was fourteen, she had already finished her series of weekly adventures in which every week she'd participate in a battle to defeat a random monster. Everyone in Rain knew deep in their heart that they were all, at one point in their lives, main characters of shows that were viewed by The Watchers, and that's why – weeks after it became obvious that The Eater Of Worlds was indeed the final monster whom The Emotion 16 Soldiers would have to face -- Banana felt old, as if her “final episode” came too soon. She knew that the other girls felt the same way, but she hated them, so she didn't want to even talk to them about it.

But Banana could not stop shuddering every time whenever she'd realize that at fourteen she was past her prime, and no longer a main character. Yes, everyone's a main character ... but not for their entire lives. The

stories end, and then they become background characters. Banana, and the rest of the ex Emotion 16 Soldiers, knew that now they were background characters.

But as days continued to pass, Banana began to feel more and more relieved that she was no longer a main character. Perhaps it was a blessing that her adventures were over. Now she could play video games and just be lazy. The idea of playing video games, eating candy, and being lazy and uninteresting, was an idea that was beginning to hold a certain appeal for her.

At night-time, she stopped praying for a new situation. She stopped praying that she were an interesting enough character that she'd be brought back to the forefront for new and more interesting, unique adventures.

She stopped praying.
She started living.

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x03

The Arrangement

By Alan Holman

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BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
2005.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SAKURA PARK - MORNING

BANANA (age 14) looks at a kite in the sky which has the word
"Ryone" written on it.

We don't see the person who's flying the kite.

BANANA
(smiles)
So that boy's name is Ryone.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA and MRS. CHAN eat lunch.

BANANA
Hey, I've gotta ask you a question.

MRS. CHAN
Okay.

BANANA

Can we get a dog?

MRS. CHAN
Why do you want a dog?

BANANA
I saw this boy at Sakura Park.

MRS. CHAN
You "saw this boy at Sakura Park." Ooh, I like where this story is going.

MRS. CHAN laughs.

BANANA
(annoyed sigh)
I want to be his friend, that's all.

MRS. CHAN nods with a sarcastic smirk.

BANANA
He's also fourteen like me, and he seems like he'd be an interesting friend. But I need the dog because I'm shy, and a dog is an instant conversation starter.

MRS. CHAN
I can't believe you're already fourteen. You're getting to be that age where ...

BANANA
Don't finish that sentence, or you'll end up crying!

MRS. CHAN
Do you even know this boy's name?

BANANA
Yes. In fact, I do. It was written on his bike, his kite, and his backpack. His name is Ryone.

MRS. CHAN
His kite?

BANANA
He was flying a kite when I saw him.

MRS. CHAN
You like a boy who still flies a kite at fourteen?

BANANA
Yes ... as friends.

MRS. CHAN laughs teasingly.

BANANA
He looked like an interesting person who I'd
like to talk to as a friend, that's all.

MRS. CHAN
I see.

INT. PET STORE - AFTERNOON

BANANA talks with a SALESMAN in a pet-store.

SALESMAN
Do you have any particular breed in mind?

She points at a cute dog (breed: CHOW CHOW), and says ...

BANANA
That one!

SALESMAN
That breed is called Chow Chow.

BANANA
And that Chow Chow is called Doggie!

BANANA cuddles DOGGIE -- they look happy together.

BANANA
Doggie -- if anything bad ever happens to you,
there'll be hell to pay.

DOGGIE barks. BANANA nuzzles her nose against DOGGIE's
nose. DOGGIE licks BANANA. BANANA laughs.

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

BANANA's taking a nap.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
Banana.

BANANA
Yes? What can I do for you?

MRS. CHAN
Doggie went hungry for HOURS! I fed him, but
Banana -- he's YOUR responsibility!

BANANA
Actually, he was a gift for you. He's your
responsibility. Night night!

BANANA falls asleep.

WIPE TO:

INT. SKATING RINK - MORNING

BANANA sits in bleachers, watching people play hockey.

BANANA
(thoughts, voice over)
"Nowhere but our town is there an entire
skating rink facility built underground."

RYONE (age 14) approaches.

RYONE HAZUKI (age 14) is a 5', somewhat muscular (thin), black-eyed guy, who wears baggy shirts, ripped jeans, and a yellow baseball cap over short dark hair. He also has almost vampiric canine teeth.



Illustration by Jason Sullivan.

RYONE
Can I sit here?

BANANA
Heya, Ryone! Sure!

RYONE
Thanks!

RYONE sits beside her.

RYONE
So ... have we met?

BANANA
No no. I know your name because I saw you
flying your kite in the park.

RYONE

(embarrassed)
Yeah, and my kite has my name written on it.
My dad used to write my name on everything
when I was little. It's embarrassing.

BANANA
Your bike looked new.

RYONE
Well he wrote my name on that because it's
expensive.

BANANA
That's a little weird. No one steals around
here.

RYONE
I know.

Pause.

BANANA
I did something useless the other day.

RYONE
Uselessness sucks. What did you do that
was useless?

BANANA
Well it wasn't totally useless. That reminds
me -- I didn't even tell you my name yet. I'm
Banana!

RYONE
I'm Ryone.

BANANA
I know.

They laugh.

RYONE
(nervous)
Erm ... can I get you some popcorn ... cotton
candy ... chocolate bars ... burritos ... egg
rolls ... or maybe ... Chinese food ... or
burgers ... or perhaps you'd like a cola or

something to drink?

BANANA

There's always the water fountain.

Awkward pause.

RYONE

I'm not too thirsty.

Awkward pause.

BANANA

So ... how goes?

RYONE

I never know how to answer that question.
Please tell me how it goes with you?

BANANA

I'm fine.

RYONE

That's nice. I think I'm fine also. Except ...
I'm nervous for various reasons, and you're
totally cool and calm and collected.

BANANA

(annoyed)
I'm not trying to impress anyone.

RYONE

Why do you look annoyed?

BANANA

(thoughts, voice over)
"Because I got the dog so that I'd be able to
approach you with a conversation-starter, but
now you approached me and started a
conversation anyway, except you were a
hundred times more interesting before I ever
heard you talk. And I forgot to bring the dog,
as if it matters anymore anyway. And ugh ... I
can't explain it, but you're not as interesting
up- close."
(speaking)
I don't know.

RYONE

You don't know why you're annoyed? Well, okay.

(thoughts, voice over)

"I had the courage to approach her, and now I'm actually talking with her! Her name's Banana! How cute!"

(speaking)

Banana is a very cute name.

BANANA

(smiles)

Thankies! Ryone's not too bad.

RYONE laughs while blushing.

RYONE

You wanna go out?

BANANA

We're already out.

RYONE

I mean -- for a date?

BANANA

No thank you, Ryone. You're a sweet guy and all, but we just met, and I'm not ready for that kind of commitment.

RYONE

One date isn't a big commitment.

BANANA

Don't be pushy.

RYONE

Sorry.

Awkward pause.

RYONE

Have I blown it?

BANANA

What?

RYONE
Never-mind. I say that too much.

BANANA
Say what?

RYONE
Never-mind. Never-mind.

BANANA
(gives him an odd look)
Is everything alright?

RYONE
Never-mind.

BANANA
So how's your family?

RYONE
Uhh ... I'm not sure what to say.

BANANA
(amused)
You are in a family, aren't you?

RYONE
Yeah.
(nervous laugh)
Of course.

BANANA
Are they doing well?

RYONE
(nervous, hesitant)
My dad's name is Goro. My mom's name is
Kit. I mean, my sister's name is Kit. And my
mom's name is Sen.

BANANA
Why are you sweating so much?

RYONE
I don't know. I'm just weird today, I guess.

BANANA puts her hand on RYONE's hand, and says ...

BANANA
Just relax, okay?

RYONE faints.

BANANA
Not that much.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET EARTH

BANANA'S VOICE
My real name is Lacy, but nowadays all
Banana power is mine! -- yee-hee! And a
Chinese branch on our family tree is why we're
Chans.
(laughs)
So yeah, I'm Banana Chan!
(stoic)
But I used to be Lacy ...

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM, RAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL - NOON

[FLASHBACK]

LACY (age 7) -- has waist-length orange hair. She sits at her desk, alone -- eating her lunch, while reading a Sailor Moon manga -- as every other student in the classroom socializes with each-other.

Three girls -- YOSHI, MINAKO, and NOZOMI -- approach LACY. They're laughing towards LACY ... but it's not a friendly laugh.

YOSHI
Hi, Lacy.

LACY
Huh?

NOZOMI
She's so dense!

MINAKO

Yeah -- reading Sailor Moon? What a loser!

LACY

Leave me alone.

MINAKO

Sailor Moon is old!

YOSHI

Stay current!

LACY

What do you want from me?

MINAKO

Why are you always reading the same old
Sailor Moon crap?

YOSHI

Why are you a loser?

MINAKO

And you're butt ugly!

YOSHI

You don't even have two parents, and you
smell bad!

NOZOMI

Does your dad still construct moon-bases in
the moon?

(laughing)

It's true -- that's what you said!

YOSHI

And my mom says Lacy's mom's a ...

LACY

(crying)

LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!

As LACY puts her head on her desk, and cries into her arms, all
of the students in the entire classroom gather around LACY's
desk and everyone points and laughs at her.

CUT TO:

EXT. VIEW OF JAPAN FROM SPACE

BANANA'S VOICE

Japan has typhoons, tidal waves, and earthquakes! But weather was the least of my problems. Damn Yoshi, Minako, and Nozomi, were a nuisance. Those twerps made me cry every day. Mom got concerned, so we moved to Tokyo to get away. In Tokyo, I made a friend named Boden Powers ...

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK, TOKYO

Under a cherry tree, LACY (age 7) sits cross-legged in meditation's lotus position, while meditating with her eyes closed.

A silver haired boy named BODEN POWERS (age 7) chases a butterfly with a net when he accidentally stumbles over LACY.

LACY's face turns angry as her eyes turn red, and a storm erupts around her as she uses her fists to ferociously pound BODEN into the ground.

BODEN

(laughs)

That tickles.

LACY stops.

BODEN

Knocking into you was an accident. I was chasing a butterfly, but it got away.

LACY

Oh I'm sorry. It's just that, where I come from, no one ever knocked into me by accident; it was always on purpose.

BODEN

How can they?! You're too cute! Next time someone tries something like that, you call me, and I'll rush in to protect you.

LACY
That's fine. You don't need to.

BODEN
This isn't up for debate.

LACY smiles.

LACY
I'm lazy ... I mean Lacy ... by the way.

BODEN
I'm Boden. And I'm pleased to meet you.

LACY
No no, the pleasure is all mine.

They bow to each-other, very low.

CUT TO:

EXT. VIEW OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

BANANA'S VOICE
We were much more than friends. We were
soul mates. But we were only kids.

CUT TO:

YEAR ON SCREEN: 2002

CUT TO:

INT. LUNCH ROOM, HIGH SCHOOL - NOON [FLASHBACK]

BANANA (age 11) sits with a boy named BODEN.

BANANA (age 11) is 4'8" and almost tomboyish. She has orange hair that goes half way down her back, green eyes, and a tiny bit of freckles that are barely visible.

BODEN is an average-looking eleven year-old boy with short silver hair.

BODEN
I have to say it.

BANANA

I know. But when someone you tell ... it ... to goes away, it's cruel, so ... whatever ... I love you, Boden.

BODEN

I love you too, Lacy.

They kiss.

BANANA

Now what?

BODEN

It doesn't hurt yet.

BANANA

I don't want it to ever hurt.

BODEN

Then don't go. It'll hurt.

BANANA

Can I just look at your face, Boden, for a few minutes ... or a long time ... before I have to go?

BODEN

Yes. It's all we can do.

They look at each-other's faces, while the conversation continues.

BANANA

I miss you already.

BODEN

Don't worry. You'll make new friends!

BANANA

I thought we'd be friends forever.

BODEN

So did I. This is too cruel.

BANANA

I wanted us to get married.

BODEN

Yeah, we want ours to be a life-long friendship anyway, so why can't we just get married at this age?

BANANA

I meant later, when we're adults. We're way too young just now, but I trust you, and ... this sucks.

BODEN

Then consider us engaged.

BANANA cries loudly, and BODEN wraps his arms around her to comfort her.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

BANANA

(cries)
No!

BODEN

I don't want to meet another girl. I've already met you. Let's be engaged!

BANANA

(cries)
No. I'm leaving Tokyo to return to Rain where I was born, and I won't ever come back to Tokyo, so I'm sorry. We deserve to be happy where-ever we are, so let's try to meet new people.

BODEN holds her tighter, and whispers in her ear ...

BODEN

(whispering)
I've already met you.

BANANA squirms out of his arms, and runs away crying.

BANANA

(crying)
Don't you dare come near Rain! Trust me.
Don't follow me, or wait for me! I'm sorry for

being harsh, but I have to leave you like this!

BODEN
(crying)
Why? This makes no sense! Why?

BANANA
Because ...
(crying)
... love doesn't make sense!

WIPE TO:

EXT. VIEW OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

BANANA'S VOICE
When I had to move back to Rain, me and
Boden were devastated. I changed my name
to Banana, leaving my real name in Tokyo,
with him.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
2005.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SAKURA PARK - AFTERNOON

BANANA (age 14) sits on a bench, watching kids play on the
playground.

BANANA
(thoughts, voice over)
"I want to move back to Tokyo. For almost
half the day, I didn't even think once about
Boden. Something must be wrong with me,
because Boden is the important person in my
life, so why haven't I even been thinking about
Boden at all lately?"

RYONE approaches.

RYONE

Heya, Banana!

BANANA
Hi, Ryone.

RYONE
I'm sorry about earlier.

BANANA
You fainted -- it's not your fault.

RYONE
That's right. Thank you.

BANANA
No probs.

RYONE
Can I sit with you?

BANANA
I guess so.

RYONE sits beside BANANA.

BANANA heaves an annoyed sigh.

RYONE heaves an "in love" sigh.

RYONE
How goes?

BANANA
Well, I noticed something. I noticed that I said
"heya" the first time we met. And now you
said "heya" now that we're meeting for a
second time.

RYONE
(laughs)
Yeah, and you said "how goes" the first time
we met. And now I said "how goes" now that
we're meeting for a second time.

BANANA
Do you have any originality?

RYONE
(laughs)
Tons of it! Maybe you'll find out about it later
... if you're lucky. So stick around and find
out, okay?

BANANA
Well ... I'm sorry but I'm kind of tired. Can we
continue this later, or on the weekend?

RYONE
Sure. G'night.

BANANA
G'night!

BANANA stands up, and walks away.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF IMAGES: Banana spends the afternoon playing
with her dog (breed: Chow Chow) named Doggie in her back yard.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA eats supper with MRS. CHAN.

MRS. CHAN
You're very alert. Did you take an afternoon
nap?

BANANA
No. I played with Doggie. Where were you?

MRS. CHAN
Out and about. I almost forgot -- we have a
dog now! My money, that you borrowed from
me, paid for him ...

BANANA
I'm good for it.

MRS. CHAN
I feed him, so therefore I named him Wu, so
please stop calling him Doggie because that

name is so childish that it brings shame to our household.

BANANA
You're joking, right?

MRS. CHAN
Call him Wu.

BANANA
He's Doggie.

MRS. CHAN
Then we'll agree to disagree then. He's Wu when I call him, and he's Doggie when you call him. We'll have a very confused dog in the future.

BANANA
Maybe.

Pause.

MRS. CHAN
Did you approach that boy yet?

BANANA
Ryone approached me instead, and I didn't have Doggie with me.

MRS. CHAN
Wu. How'd it go?

BANANA
Not well. He's annoying. I thought he'd be cool, but he's suddenly so clingy. And everywhere I go, he just shows up and wants to talk, but he's got nothing interesting to talk about.

MRS. CHAN
Sounds like he's got a crush on you.

BANANA
I still think he'd make a cool friend if he'd just drop the whole crush thing.

MRS. CHAN
I'd like to meet him. Invite him over for dinner tomorrow, please.

BANANA
I guess there's nothing too wrong with that. Maybe I might invite him over for dinner. But maybe I might not, so don't get your hopes up.

MRS. CHAN
Right.

BANANA
(thoughts, voice over)
"I won't invite him, and hopefully she'll forget all about him and shut up about him soon, so everything can be normal again."

INT. REC ROOM, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

This room has a couch, a TV, a lot of boxes, an air-hockey table, and a lot of random clutter.

MRS. CHAN follows a fly with a fly-swatter. The fly lands on an empty picture frame that hangs on the wall.

MRS. CHAN swings at the picture frame, but the fly gets away just in the nick of time. When the swatter hits the picture frame, a ninety-three page document falls from behind the frame.

MRS. CHAN picks up the document.

MRS. CHAN
What's this?

She reads the cover page of the document ...

MRS. CHAN
(reading)
"Covert arrangement to merge Reg Chan's Specialty Constructions with Edward Hazuki's Constructive Installations, by Method of arranged marriage between Lacy Chan and Ryone Hazuki?"
(pause)
So this is why ...
(pause)
Oh no, Banana's not gonna like this.

MRS. CHAN flips a few pages, and reads some random words ...

MRS. CHAN
(reading)
"... arranged to maintain a genetic program
that allows interaction between ..."
(pause)
What the hell?

MRS. CHAN flips a few pages, and reads some random words ...

MRS. CHAN
(reading)
"... to preserve the leadership of the
Babylonian ..."

MRS. CHAN closes the document.

MRS. CHAN
I hope Banana and Ryone get along when they
meet each-other.

EXT. TOWN-SIDE FOREST - MORNING

BANANA stands here, flying a kite.

BANANA
(thoughts, voice over)
"Darn Ryone. Now I wanna fly a kite. I wish
he'd just go fly ... away. Sheesh."

Her kite flies into a tree, and gets tangled in a high branch.

BANANA
..ergh!

RYONE, wearing nothing more than gym-shorts, runs up to her.

RYONE
huff *puff* Tag!
(tags her)
You're it! BANANA I'M NOT PLAYING TAG!!!

RYONE notices the tangled kite.

RYONE

Want me to get it down?

BANANA gives him a condescending look, and says...

BANANA

You couldn't get it down if you tried!

A large BOOM shakes the entire forest, causing BANANA and RYONE to lose their balance and fall down, as a black cloud blocks out most of the sky.

BANANA

...wuh?

Two blue-faced aliens enter this area, and approach BANANA and RYONE; they are both freaked out by the blue-faced aliens.

BANANA AND RYONE

AAAAAAHHH!!! AH! WAAAAAAAOOWW!!!

WOWIE! WHOAH!

BLUE FACE #1

Do not be afraid.

BANANA AND RYONE

(terrified)

WOWIE!!! ZIGGY HO!!!!

BLUE FACE #1

It's probin' time!

BANANA and RYONE faint.

INT. METAL ROOM

BANANA wakes up beside RYONE in a completely door-less metal room.

BANANA

...erp!

RYONE wakes up.

RYONE

GAH!!!

RYONE bangs his fists against the wall.

RYONE
GET US OUT OF HERE!!!

BANANA bangs her fists against the wall.

BANANA
RESCUE ME!!!

BLUE FACE #1 suddenly appears in the middle of the room.

BLUE FACE #1
It's really not so bad ... some people actually
enjoy getting probed!

BANANA and RYONE scream in fear.

BANANA
That's illegal!

RYONE
Yeah! That's illegal! We'll call the cops on
you if you do something like that to us!

BLUE FACE #1
Your earth cops have no jurisdiction where
we're going!

RYONE
Where?

BLUE FACE #1
The center of the earth!

RYONE and BANANA look confused.

A mosquito flies out of BANANA's pocket; BLUE FACE #1 notices
it, and screams...

BLUE FACE #1
A BOORLAP!!!

BANANA slaps the mosquito, thus killing it.

BLUE FACE #1
I am forever in your debt for vanquishing that
boorlap. They're diseased. I can't, in good

conscience, probe you against your will.

BANANA
THEN TAKE ME HOME!!!

RYONE
And me too!

BANANA
HIM TOO!! -- I guess...

BLUE FACE #1
Yes ma'am.

INT. THEATER - EVENING

A large audience sits in a theater, watching a stage-play.

On the stage, BANANA and RYONE are on a corny set of an alien space-craft, and another kid wears the BLUE FACE #1 alien mask.

The curtains close.

The audience applauds.

The applause continues while BANANA, RYONE, and the kid wearing the BLUE FACE #1 mask, walk to the front of the stage, in front of the closed curtains. The applause intensifies as BANANA, RYONE, and the kid wearing the BLUE FACE #1 mask bow in unison.

The applause continues while MRS. CHAN makes her curtain call.

Then the applause intensifies to the maximum extent while the SALESMAN and DOGGIE make their curtain call.

BANANA
Thank you for watching Banana Chan episode three! I'm sorry that the end of this episode got so weird.

RYONE
Next episode is a total chick flick.

BANANA
Yeah. You can skip the next episode if you want to.

MRS. CHAN
Don't tell them to skip an episode.

BANANA
Okay. And just so you guys know, this scene isn't canon.

MRS. CHAN
Next episode is entirely canon, and you must not miss it.

BANANA
But I want them to miss it. It's embarrassing.

RYONE
Yeah, the next episode embarrasses me too.

MRS. CHAN
It's an important part of the story, and I have a really important monologue in it. Besides, what would our sponsors think if they knew that you were telling our audience to skip an episode?

BANANA
Good point. Without our sponsors, I wouldn't be able to enjoy my lifestyle of take-outs and buffets!

RYONE
A damn good lifestyle.

BANANA
Screw off, Ryone.

RYONE
What?!

MRS. CHAN
She's just kidding. We all love each-other. Well, drive safely, audience! And be sure to tune in next time, for another well-written episode of Banana Chan!

They all bow, as the audience applauds louder.

END OF EPISODE



Illustration by Diane Holman.

Chapter 4

Love Letters

Suddenly, it dawned on Banana that her time as an Emotion 16 Soldier was but a Prologue for an extended epic; that was her intuition anyway. She needed to prove that hypothesis. Her curious heart caused her to run to the public library, where she devoured books and online materials, in search of a formula for the type of epic she was in. She did not like Ryone, and she did not want to end up with Ryone.

After a lot of reading, she found the formula for the story structure that the writer of her anime series was obviously following. According to the formula, the girl's time as a super hero was her back-story. The boy would also have a back-story that would include experiences and insights that were so similar to the girl's unlikely back-story that if the girl learned the boy's back-story, it would cause the girl to immediately fall in love with the boy.

So Banana decided to avoid learning Ryone's back-story at all costs, because something about falling in love with a guy who she didn't like from the start seemed unnatural. Plus, her heart belonged to Boden ... even though the psychic said that Boden would die on the day

when she sees him again. She prayed the psychic was wrong, or that she mis-heard the psychic and it meant that Boden would “dye” his hair ... or something.

She knew that the series would keep putting Ryone into the same scenes as her, so she decided to always stay in the moment, and to NEVER let Ryone talk about his past. He could talk about his family history, he could talk about history in general, but he could never talk about his own history. But she couldn't tell him this. She couldn't tell this to anyone. It would be interesting. Interesting scenes make it into the scripts, become part of the series – and the series must follow-up on all material that's included in the series ... and the twists that might cause might not bode well for her.

"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?"

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.

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.

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.

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!!!

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."

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

Chapter 5

The Walk

When Banana was a very young girl, she found clues that lead her to believe that her father runs a big company that builds top-secret bases on the moon. And when she blabbed about it, it caused her to get teased A LOT, so much that it hurt so bad emotionally, that she had to move to Tokyo for a few years. That was a well-established point in the plot of the series already, so she knew that the arranged marriage wasn't some new invention by a writer who would stretch the boundaries of the universe of his story to make sure that Banana ends up with Ryone no matter what. But still, Banana did fear that the writer would stop at nothing to make sure that Banana ends up with Ryone.

When Banana learned that Ryone's dad runs the same kind of company as the company which her dad

runs, it was indeed a commonality, but it wasn't a common experience. She still knew, from what she had read about the structure of the sort of story that if she learns about the sorts of experiences that Ryone had while Banana was having her experiences with The Emotion 16 Soldiers, the veil would be lifted about certain unlikely commonalities which both of them have in their unusual experiences, and it would cause Banana to fall in love with Ryone; Banana does not want that to happen, because Banana does not like Ryone.

Banana is a rebel against the story of her own anime series.

Banana knows that the writer will continue to write Ryone into scenes with her until the writer's agenda is fulfilled. And she knows that the writer's agenda is the formula in which Banana falls in love with him when she learns his back-story, and then together they fight bad-guys and foil conspiracies until their arranged marriage, and then they live happily ever after.

So if she never hears Ryone's back-story, then the bad guys will never appear!

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x05

The Walk

By Alan Holman

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BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
2005.

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

RYONE (age 14) rings the doorbell.

BANANA (age 14) answers the door.

BANANA
Hi?

RYONE
Hello! How are you today?

BANANA
Listen Ryone, your notes have gotta stop.

RYONE
I thought you'd love them, I'm sorry. What's
wrong with them in specific?

BANANA

Everything!

RYONE
I didn't realize.

BANANA
It's really bothering me a lot. I don't mean to sound rude, but I don't want to see you again ... EVER!

RYONE
Listen Banana, I can't just turn my emotions off like a switch. I love you a lot, and I really didn't know that my notes were bothering you as much as you say they are. I'll definitely stop sending them, since the last thing I want to do is make you uncomfortable. Listen, I don't want to make you more uncomfortable than any situation demands. I'd much rather commit to making your life beautiful.

BANANA
What you want is satisfaction.

RYONE
I'll only be satisfied when I know that you've had a happy, healthy, full life.

BANANA
Go.

RYONE
Banana -- don't break my heart. I love you.

BANANA
You barely know me. And I barely know you.

RYONE
But everything I know about you, I love.

BANANA
Your definition of love is something I don't understand. It seems to be controlling you a lot, and the idea of being controlled is too scary for me.

RYONE

I don't want to control you. But being controlled by love is the exact opposite of scary, believe me.

BANANA

No, Ryone. Just no. Things could get out of hand. Bad things could happen. There's too many uncertainties.

RYONE

A boy that loves a girl makes sure that nothing uncertain happens. A boy that loves a girl makes sure everything is safe and secure.

BANANA

We don't know each-other enough for you to be saying stuff like this to me.

RYONE

Then let's talk -- anywhere, while doing anything ... like a date.

BANANA

What if one day, I don't look how you want me to look?

RYONE

It doesn't matter to me if you become fatter, skinnier, mediuem, taller, smaller, or different in any way, like different hair color, different eye color, different skin color, different personality, different anything -- I don't care. I just want you to be comfortable with me -- but mostly, with yourself. I'm attracted to the life within you, and also the really cute shell holding it.

(sigh)

If physical traits matter to you, I'll work out however much, or little is required. I'll even dye my hair or get colored contact lenses or something ... whatever. Anything you ask. The only thing I'll ask for in return is appreciation for my efforts. And someday that appreciation will develop into the feeling I have for you, which is very special, and I want you to understand it. I want to teach it to you. I love you so much that I want to do everything I

can to make sure that you know what it's like to feel like that for a person. I want that person to be me, but if it's not, trust me - you'll love our future children!

BANANA

You sound FAR TOO obsessed, Ryone. Especially because we barely know each-other. Why do you love me?

RYONE

Why is the only thing I can't explain.

BANANA

Then that's why I believe you're lying.

RYONE

I wish I could make you trust me.

BANANA

No one can make me do anything that I don't want to do, especially trust someone, especially if that someone is a person who is creeping me out. And you're creeping me out, Ryone. On top of that, you're very annoying.

RYONE

Don't be annoyed. I care about you. I want to know what you care about. I want to learn to care about those things. I'll never ask you to change your name unless you want to. I'll never ask you to cook unless you want to. The ONLY THING IN THE WORLD I'll ask you to do is believe that I love you, and try to appreciate me.

BANANA

Let's talk about this later, okay?

RYONE

Of course! We must! But when?

BANANA

I'll give you a chance to continue to be MY FRIEND, Ryone. We still haven't walked in the park like I said we'd do. I keep my word, and I'll keep my word about that. When we

walk in the park, DO NOT tell me that you love me.

RYONE

But ...

BANANA

Just go. I'll call you for that walk.

BANANA slams the door.

RYONE

Bye. I'll be waiting for your call. I love you, Banana Chan.

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

The Next Day.

EXT. ROOFTOP, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA lays on the rooftop.

BANANA

I don't need to go anywhere to enjoy the spring air; there's enough of it on the roof-top!

A bird takes a poop on her forehead.

BANANA

Them's the breaks, I guess.

(wide smile)

But at least I didn't get one of those annoying notes from Ryone today!

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN

The Next Day.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

BANANA and MRS. CHAN play a game of Chinese Chess.

MRS. CHAN

Another day, another lack-of-note from

Ryone. I thought -- and actually kind of hoped -- that finding a note from Ryone for you in the mailbox would become a daily ritual.

BANANA

Don't say that. And don't mention that boy's name in this house.

MRS. CHAN

I like him.

BANANA

I know you do. But I don't, and that's the only thing that matters.

MRS. CHAN

As much as I hate to admit it, you do have a good point. So how did you let him down? Why isn't he sending notes anymore?

BANANA

I told him that one day I'll call him and we'll go for a walk.

MRS. CHAN

Will you call him for that walk?

BANANA

No.

MRS. CHAN

So why did you lie to him?

BANANA

To shut him up.

MRS. CHAN

You can never shut up love. He'll express it in one way or another.

BANANA

Yeah, well at least I can take a break from those damn annoying notes!

MRS. CHAN

Okay. I can tell this is a sensitive subject for you ...

BANANA
YOU THINK!?!

MRS. CHAN
... so I'll help by not mentioning it.

The door-bell rings.

BANANA runs up-stairs.

MRS. CHAN opens the door, revealing RYONE, who is standing on the door-step, saying ...

RYONE
(eyes closed)
Banana. I love you. Come to dinner. Meet my family.

MRS. CHAN
Hold that pose. I'll get a picture. You're so cute!

RYONE opens his eyes ...

RYONE
(embarrassed)
Oops! You're not Banana! Sorry!

MRS. CHAN
(welcoming smile)
Won't you come in? Stay a while. Make yourself comfortable. Tell me about yourself.

RYONE
(smiles)
Okay!

RYONE enters.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

RYONE chats with MRS. CHAN.

RYONE

You sure Banana won't mind if I chat with you?

MRS. CHAN
I don't know.

RYONE
I don't want it to seem like I'm trying to get to her through you.

MRS. CHAN
Give it your best shot.

RYONE
I can try to get to her through you?

MRS. CHAN
Well, I don't know, but never hide your intentions. Besides, as her guardian, I should meet guys who are interested in her. So tell me about yourself.

RYONE
I'd rather tell Banana ... but she never listens ...

MRS. CHAN laughs.

RYONE
... so okay, I'll tell you. But where should I begin?

MRS. CHAN
With your intentions. What sort of relationship do you intend to have with her?

RYONE
Whatever she allows.

MRS. CHAN
But what do YOU want?

RYONE
I want to marry your daughter and have kids.

MRS. CHAN
You ARE a kid.

RYONE

Well, I mean when we're old enough and mature. I can't imagine spending such a large amount of time with, and taking care of babies with, and going to work to provide for, anyone else but her. And while we're still kids, I want to be bratty with her!

MRS. CHAN

Your family is poor. You should provide for them.

RYONE

They're mean to me.

MRS. CHAN

Banana's mean to you.

RYONE

It's different because I love her.

MRS. CHAN

You don't love your family?

RYONE

I do, but if my dad loved my mom a quarter of how strongly I love Banana, he wouldn't be so lazy and so angry all the time. My feelings towards Banana compel me to not only want to provide for her, but to NEED TO provide for her. It's hard to explain, but I can't do anything if I'm not with her.

MRS. CHAN

I wish someone would have had those feelings towards me when I was younger ... and I had those feelings towards someone.

RYONE

So you'll help me?

MRS. CHAN

My hands are tied. She's chosen to ignore you, and she has that right. And because a home is a sanctuary, I must now respect her rights by kicking you out. Ryone, I'm sorry. I

like you, and it DOES break my heart to do this, but I have to restrict you from coming into this house unless she invites you in. It'd be different if you were a friend or family member, but because you're someone who actually loves her, I'm sorry, but you have to leave until she accepts your love and invites you in ... if that ever happens at all. And if it doesn't happen, don't keep pining over the same person, as I'm still hoping for a certain someone to return to my life, and he hasn't come back yet. Good luck, my friend.

RYONE nods, and exits.

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

RYONE stands on the doorstep, and says ...

RYONE

Banana Chan. I've met tons of people. You're the only one whose smile and laugh makes me forget about all my problems, and takes away every shred of any pain I've got. It is a miracle that I've met the one girl who has that power to make me happy just by being happy herself. I must somehow ensure that you are always happy enough to smile ... because I need to know that I may see your smile once in a while ... or I'll surely lose hope and die. That is why I'm going to marry you someday, and I don't care how long it takes, or what I have to do. I'm going to marry you, and make you smile every day, no matter what.

The door opens, and BANANA appears.

BANANA

Come on. My mom's crazy. She said it's bad karma to break promises, and I did promise to go on a walk with you, so let's go.

RYONE

Awesome!

BANANA

But it's not a "date".

RYONE
I see.

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - AFTERNOON

BANANA and RYONE sit at home-plate, chatting.

RYONE
Banana, I love you.

BANANA
Okay pal, back off. And remember, Ryone:
this isn't a date, so don't get anymore weird
ideas.

RYONE
It's not just the fact that you were so cute I
just had to poke you to see if you were real.
But it's also the fact that when I poked you, I
found out that you're TICKLISH!

RYONE begins tickling her.

BANANA
(laughing)
I don't want to have to hurt you, Ryone.

RYONE
I'll be there for you if you ask for help with
anything. No friend has ever gone that far for
me, but I'd sacrifice more than that for you.

BANANA
(laughing)
Wha!? But we barely know each-other,
Ryone!

RYONE
Well I love you, Banana.

She gently stops him from tickling her, then she stops laughing.

BANANA
Talk is cheap.

RYONE

Talk IS NOT cheap.

BANANA
You just want to use me.

RYONE
You make me feel good about myself.

BANANA
You just want to use me to feel good about yourself.

RYONE
I feel good about you too.

BANANA
I've enjoyed being your friend, but now you're scaring me, Ryone. Mom's almost forty, and she's not married -- you know why? Because guys can't be trusted.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

RYONE
Don't reject me.

BANANA
You're rubbing me the wrong way.

RYONE
How can you tell?

BANANA
For one thing: You're not tickling me anymore. For another thing: We barely know each-other.

RYONE
But everything I know about you, I love.

BANANA
Stop it. You're scaring me.

RYONE
Love is the exact opposite of scary, believe me.

BANANA

No Ryone. Why do you love me?

RYONE

I can't explain it.

BANANA

Ah, so you're a liar!

RYONE

No, I'm not! Trust me!

BANANA

No. You're really starting to creep me out.

RYONE

Please believe me!

BANANA

Let's talk about this when we're not
FOURTEEN! Ryone -- you're stupid to talk
about this when we're so young!

RYONE

Okay, maybe you're right. But when?

BANANA

Don't call me. I'll call you.
(thoughts)
"... a creep."

RYONE

Awesome! I'll be waiting! We're in the same
prefecture, so it's free!

EXT. SAKURA PARK - NIGHT

BANANA and her small black dog (breed: Chow Chow / age: 2) sit
under a cherry tree and gaze at the crescent moon.

RYONE approaches, and sits with them.

RYONE

When you said, "Don't call me. I'll call you." --
I feared you'd never call. But you did call, and
... why'd you call?

BANANA
You talk too much.

RYONE
Maybe.
(blush)
Banana, I'll talk as much or as little as you
want me to.

BANANA
Hey, sometimes it's not the best idea to go
after what you want, you know?

RYONE
(embarrassed)
I'm sorry. I'm so stupid. I apologize for all of
this inconvenience. You probably want me to
go.

Pause.

RYONE
Sure you'll be safe?

Pause.

RYONE
I'll keep a safe distance, but I've gotta make
sure you get home safely.

BANANA laughs at RYONE.

RYONE looks confused.

BANANA
You just got here.

RYONE
I'm sorry -- and yeah, it's for the best that I
stay near you, and protect you, to make sure
you're safe ... and your dog.

BANANA rolls her eyes.

BANANA
(rolls her eyes, and smiles)
We don't want your protection. Oh, and by

the way, Ryone, don't you dare call this a date.

RYONE

Banana, you'd have to win the annual All Division Fighting Tournament at Shikigami Falls before I ... hell, even I need a walk home, and I'm practically fearless! -- well, except for bees. They scare me.

BANANA

(laughs)

I can give you a new fear.

RYONE

I'll bet you can.

BANANA

Meet Wu.

RYONE

The dog?

BANANA

Well, mommie calls him Wu, but his name's Doggie.

DOGGIE barks.

RYONE

I would have asked for the mutt's name earlier, but we started talking.

BANANA

No, you started talking, Ryone. And then you wouldn't shut up, you idiot.

RYONE

Well I need you. I'm sick of taking things into my own hands.

BANANA

What is that supposed to mean?

RYONE

Never-mind. It came out wrong. I'm nervous. Banana, you're ... my new fear.

BANANA
I can also make you afraid of Doggie.

RYONE
Nah. I love dogs.

DOGGIE bites RYONE in the mid-section.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA sits on a rock, watching as an ice-machine fills the pond with ice -- her buddy RYONE sits in that icy pond.

RYONE
Your ... MUTT ... dishonored me!

BANANA
What's the dealio? No one will ever see your slimy, gross, bite-marks, because of where they are! It's not like a haircut.

RYONE
(yelling)
CUT YOUR HAIR!!!

BANANA
Don't yell at me; it's disrespectful!

RYONE
(imitating her, mockingly)
"What's the dealio?"
(shouting)
CUT YOUR HAIR!

BANANA gives him an odd look.

BANANA
People see my hair. I won't cut it!

RYONE
You owe me.

BANANA
You're making me uncomfortable, you creep.

Has anyone ever told you that you suck, you idiot?

RYONE
CUT YOUR HAIR!

BANANA
You're such a loser.

RYONE
(yelling)
YOU'RE INSANE!

BANANA
No, you're the insane one, you yeller!
Sheesh.

RYONE
Good point.

BANANA
(rolls her eyes)
You're such an idiot.

RYONE
I know.
(crying)
I know how much I suck.

BANANA
No, you don't.

RYONE
(crying)
That's right.
(crying louder)
I have no idea how much I suck.

BANANA
Aww, you don't suck too much, Ryone.
You're ... pretty good ...
(rolls her eyes)
... sorta. Not good enough for this to be a date, though.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

BANANA, now with CHIN-LENGTH orange hair, is crying.

RYONE walks beside her.

RYONE
I'm sorry.

BANANA
(crying)
What'll I tell people!?!

RYONE
I dunno ... who cares anyway?

RYONE
PEOPLE!!!

RYONE
Say it was getting in your jeans, I dunno.

BANANA
That's stupid!

RYONE
Had I known your long hair was that important
to you, I'd have still cut it, because Banana --
now we're even.

BANANA
Ryone! You said you love me!

RYONE
And I do.

BANANA
If your definition of love includes getting even, I
want out!

RYONE
We're already out.

BANANA laughs.

RYONE
I'm glad you found that funny.

BANANA

Just unexpected. But before you get any
bright ideas, Ryone, this isn't a date, okay?

Pause.

BANANA
Okay?

They stop, and look into each-other's eyes -- then both of them
turn away nervously, blush, and laugh.

RYONE
See, you're laughing.

Then they set their solid gazes into each-other's eyes again --
this time, without looking away.

RYONE
Life is such a fantastic animé.

BANANA
All guys are the same.

RYONE
And you're different.

RYONE takes her hand.

RYONE
Shall we dance?

BANANA
Sure.

RYONE
I'm full of good ideas tonight.

They laugh.

RYONE puts his hand on her waist, and she slaps him.

BANANA
I'm not that kind of girl!

RYONE
Yes, you are.

RYONE puts his hand on her waist again, and his other hand in her other hand, and they dance.

RYONE
You're the dancing kind.

BANANA
I am.

RYONE
I am too.

BANANA
(laughs)
Oh, that's just stupid.



Illustration by Jason Sullivan.

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

BANANA sits on the pond-side rock.

RYONE lays on the rock, with his head on BANANA's lap.

BANANA

This isn't a date, Ryone. And kids our age
could get into trouble, outside this late.

RYONE

We're not kids.

BANANA

We're fourteen. We should have a curfew.

RYONE

You don't actually believe that, do you?

BANANA

No.

RYONE

But there's a lot of creepy people outside this
late; take me for example!

BANANA

Yeah. You ARE pretty creepy, Ryone.

RYONE

I'm also needy and clingy -- but only to you,
Banana, and can you blame a guy for wanting
to be happy? Be my ... girl-friend.

BANANA

You can't "make me" like you.

RYONE

I just suddenly loved you one day,
completely. So I have to at least try.

BANANA

Try what?

RYONE

I don't know ... something. Please allow me to kiss you.

Pause.

BANANA
(thoughts, voice over)
"Damn it, Ryone! Your dumb over-politeness just wrecked your perfect chance to kiss me!"
(stoic, speaking)
This conversation is over.

INT. FOOD COURT, MALL - AFTERNOON

BANANA sits alone, eating Chinese food.

RYONE approaches.

RYONE
Hey. May I sit down?

BANANA
I guess so. Just don't call this a date.

RYONE
Your dog left quite a mark the other day.

BANANA
Then you cut my hair as revenge, you jerk!

RYONE
I'm sorry about that. Besides, you let me. And hey, your dog did far worse.

BANANA
That's because Doggie's my good little self-defense.

RYONE
There should be a law against going for the family jewels.

BANANA
No. Self defense teachers tell you to strike that weak spot. It gets the job done.

RYONE

It's totally immoral to strike that weak spot.

BANANA

It's totally immoral to attack someone.

RYONE

Hey, let's go on an actual date.

BANANA

Until I finish my Chinese food, I'm all yours.

RYONE

No, I mean a date. A calendar date. Let's set aside a date for us. That's a date.

BANANA

I don't like you in that way, Ryone. I've told you this before. Keep this up, and you won't even be a friend.

RYONE

Banana. People date people they don't like all the time. That's because no one knows until they try, and it's only fair to try people who think you're worth a try. Otherwise, they'll never learn if you weren't worth the try, and -- if they're smart -- they'll keep trying to get the try.

BANANA

You're incorrigible, Ryone.

RYONE

I don't even know what that means.

BANANA

Yeah right.

RYONE

It's true. Other words I don't understand include: dais, pavilion, trellis, and terrarium.

BANANA

I know those ones.

RYONE

Let's take each-other to where-ever our whims
take us for an entire day. An entire calendar
date. That's why normal people call it a date,
and that's because they know that there is no
other way to know.

BANANA

Who needs normal?

RYONE

Banana. An entire lifetime of memories can
be packed into one day if you try. That's why
a day is a date, and a proper date is a day.
People preview potential lives by dating, and
they date and date and date so they can
make the right choice. It's the only way to
decide. Aren't you the least bit curious to find
out what I see in you that makes me know
that you're worth trying entire lifetimes for a
date with you?

BANANA

Can't say I'm too interested, buddy.

RYONE falls over.

EXT. OUTDOOR MALL, TOKYO - MORNING

BANANA and RYONE sit at a table, making small people out of
colorful clay.

RYONE

... and compliment number one thousand is
that I love your eyes.

BANANA

Flattery will get you ...

BANANA gets distracted by the blue, diamond-shaped tattoo,
which is worn over the lips of an AINU WOMAN who passes them.

BANANA

... whoah.

The AINU WOMAN stops in her tracks, and says ...

BANANA

(to AINU WOMAN)
That's a cool tattoo!

AINU WOMAN
Thanks! You're polite compared to the people
who say I look like a clown. I've been walking
all day -- may I sit with you?

BANANA
Sure. I'm Banana.

AINU WOMAN
I'm June.

RYONE
I'm Ryone.

They bow to each-other.

BANANA
Ryone's my boyfriend.

RYONE faints.

JUNE
I don't think he's used to being called a
boyfriend.

BANANA
Yeah, we're on a date, and it's the first time I
called him my boyfriend. I don't see why he
fainted -- it's just a word.

JUNE
Looks like it's more than that for him.

BANANA
Naw. He's just an idiot. Hey, that's a really
cute tattoo on your lips? Where'd you get it?

JUNE
Oh, this little thing that made me get kicked
out at the hot springs? This blue, diamond-
shaped tattoo, is a traditional rite of passage
for Ainu girls when they enter womanhood.

BANANA

What's an Ainu?

JUNE

I am, hi!

(laughs)

The Ainu are the oldest culture in all of Japan.
Ainu are the original Japanese people. We're
referred to as Aboriginal.

BANANA

So, how old is your culture?

JUNE

Very old. In fact, the first Ainu came to earth
individually, in cradles which descended from
the sky. And that was a very long time ago.

BANANA

That's really cool!

JUNE

Yes, but not unique. There are Native
Africans, Native Americans, Arabs, and
Australians, who also tell legends about
people who descended from the sky ... and
even beings who displaced rulers by
interbreeding with select bloodlines.

BANANA

History is cool!

END OF EPISODE

Chapter 6

Resistance

Banana was beginning to enjoy spending time with Ryone. She hated to admit it, but she was beginning to like him ... as a friend. She originally wanted to be his friend anyway. So she figured that there'd be no harm in calling him a boyfriend if she feels that he's a friend. That way, Ryone can think whatever he wants to think, and feel whatever he wants to feel, but she can know the truth, and she can hang out with her friend without having him keep on putting pressure onto her to call him her boyfriend. She figures that the writer's going to keep throwing them together into the same scenes anyway, so she might as well do fun activities with him rather than running away all the time. If he calls it dating, whatever. She won't fall in love if he doesn't tell his back-story. And if they remain busy with fun activities, then he'll never have time to tell his back-story.

So all she has to do is just keep thinking of distractions, fun activities that both of them can enjoy. And maybe she can get to episode 26 of the series without Ryone ever telling her his back-story. She knows that most anime serials end on the 26th episode, so all she has to do is make sure that there are 26 episodes worth of interesting scenes before Ryone can possibly tell Banana his back-story. From cross-referencing the most interesting parts of her diaries with the story structure that is described in the book that she ended up stealing from the library, she could determine that she was about to begin the sixth episode.

An interesting thing about sixth episodes, which she knew from her anime fandom, is that if a studio doesn't like the series on the basis of the first five episodes, they either cancel the series, or they re-tool the series. In the case of a cancellation, the sixth episode wraps up the story. In the case of a re-tooling, the sixth episode is a transitional episode; it introduces elements that will come into play in a new beginning ... or a beginning of a new storyline ... which takes place in episode seven. Banana hoped that she had been un-likeable enough that the series had been cancelled ... but she knew in her heart that the sixth episode was going to be transitional into a re-tooled new beginning.

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x06

Resistance

By Alan Holman

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BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
2005.

EXT. OUTDOOR MALL, TOKYO - MORNING

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They bow to each-other.

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Ryone's my boyfriend.

RYONE faints.

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(laughs)

The Ainu are the oldest culture in all of Japan. Ainu are the original Japanese people. We're referred to as Aboriginal.

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So, how old is your culture?

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Yes, but not unique. There are Native Africans, Native Americans, Arabs, and Australians, who also tell legends about people who descended from the sky ... and even beings who displaced rulers by interbreeding with select bloodlines.

BANANA

History is cool!

JUNE

Indeed. In my people's history, there was a storyteller named Fuji who ...

BANANA

Tell me about Fuji later! Tell me more about the tattoo!

JUNE

It's so refreshing to hear this from a mainlander!

BANANA

What do you mean "mainlander"?

JUNE

Most of Japan is this one island; however,

there's a smaller island also -- that's where most of my people can be found.

BANANA

Cool. Less island, more tattoo. Tell me, tell me!

JUNE

Most modern Ainu women do not get the tattoos anymore because we're ridiculed on the mainland. There are actually laws in place now, which prevent underage girls from getting the tattoos. But these tattoos are a traditional rite of passage in my culture, and I love my culture. I love traditions. So I was stubborn, and I broke the law by getting the tattoo when I was fourteen years old. And you know what: They're proud of me at home, and I'm proud to show off my tattoo, even when people laugh.

BANANA

Good for you! Yeah, a girl should have the freedom to choose how she observes her own culture's traditions.

JUNE

That's right. A lot of my friends didn't get the tattoos, and they never will. I get harassed by mainlanders ... but I didn't do it to be different than them. I did it to be true to myself.

BANANA

Okay. I understand that the tattoo is a rite of passage. But what's the point of a rite of passage anyway?

JUNE

In my culture, the tattoo announced that I was ready to be married.

BANANA

But you said that you got the tattoo when you were fourteen.

JUNE

That's right.

BANANA

No, it's wrong. It's way wrong. I'm fourteen, so I know that fourteen is way, way, way, way, way, too young to get married. That's just sick, gross, and totally perverted, and wrong. Way, way wrong.

JUNE

I disagree, but I'll forgive you. You're just ignorant.

BANANA

Hey!

JUNE

My wedding may not have been recognized by the government, but it was recognized and celebrated by everyone in my entire hometown, because it's our proudest tradition.

BANANA

You mean to tell me that you actually got married when you were my age?

JUNE

Yes.

BANANA gives her an odd glare, with one eyebrow raised, and one eyebrow lowered.

BANANA

But guys are ... lots of things.

JUNE

My husband is devoted to me, and I love him. Everything's alright.

BANANA

Well, that's just luck. I know I'm not ready for that sort of thing. Heck, I know of forty year-olds who are still too immature to be married.

JUNE

Well, what you've gotta realize is that everyone is different. And you've gotta learn to tolerate people for their differences.

BANANA

Let's talk about something else. This topic
creeps me out.

JUNE

(laughs)

And you make me laugh. Hey, I've never told
anyone about this, but my culture also has a
tradition called a "promise belt" ...

BANANA

What?

JUNE

We weave bark into a ...

RYONE wakes up.

JUNE

(nervous suddenly)

Well, look at the time! I have an appointment!
I'm sorry, Banana. I can't tell you anything
right now. I'm in a hurry.

RYONE sits at his seat, and begins drinking his tea.

RYONE

(to JUNE)

Hello. I'm Ryone.

JUNE

I'm June.

RYONE and JUNE bow to each-other.

JUNE

Banana. Take this. It's a book of Ainu myths.

JUNE gives a book to BANANA.

BANANA

Thank you ... but why?

JUNE

Please read it, okay?

BANANA

I will. Myths are cool! Talk to you later!

JUNE smiles, waves, then runs away.

BANANA waves.

RYONE

What's with her?

BANANA

I don't know.

RYONE

Are you gonna read that book?

BANANA

Of course.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF PALETTE TOWN FERRIS WHEEL IN ODAIBA

TOKYO - NIGHT

BANANA and RYONE sit on the top of this 115 meter tall ferris wheel, holding hands, and looking at the great view of Tokyo's Odaiba district.

RYONE leans toward BANANA for a kiss -- but she blocks him with her hand, and says ...

BANANA

Get your mind out of the gutter. This is a public place, Ryone-- it's inappropriate.

RYONE notices that all of the other people on the entire ride are young couples their age, who are kissing.

RYONE

But everyone's ...

BANANA's backpack starts moving.

RYONE

... everyone's ...
(confused)

What's up with your moving backpack,
Banana?

BANANA

Doggie was asleep in my backpack; he enjoys
the view from high altitudes.

BANANA takes off her backpack, and begins opening it.

DOGGIE emerges from the backpack and licks BANANA's face.

RYONE

Banana. Please put him back into your bag. I
don't want to pay another 900 yen.

DOGGIE notices RYONE.

DOGGIE bares his teeth at RYONE, growls, and leaps towards
RYONE's face.

RYONE

DOWN, BOY!

RYONE dodges, and DOGGIE flies beside RYONE's face ... and
falls.

BANANA

NO!!!

(screaming)

DOGGIE!!!

BANANA covers her eyes ... with RYONE's chest, as RYONE
watches what WE DON'T SEE.

RYONE

Banana.

BANANA

Ryone, you're driving me crazy! And I can't
start blaming myself for stuff ... so ... take the
BLAME ... or I'll HATE you!

RYONE

Eep! Okay!

(raises three fingers)

I -- Ryone Hazuki -- take the blame. What
now?

BANANA

Now ...

(crying)

... you have to leave me alone, Ryone. I want
you out of my life. Don't call me, I'll call you.

RYONE

You will?

BANANA takes her head out of RYONE's chest.

BANANA

(raises three fingers up)

It's a promise. Besides, I know you saw an
angel rescue my dog.

RYONE

(nods)

He's signaling me to deny everything.

They laugh through their tears as they cry.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

MR. ONO presides over the class.

MR. ONO is a tall bald man who wears a ninja suit -- complete
with black belt -- for some reason.



Illustration by Jason Sullivan.

BANANA is a student.

MR. ONO

... and the author was so lazy that the title character had the same teacher when she was fourteen as when she was sixteen. And the author was also not good at math. For example: If she was fourteen in 2005, how could she be sixteen in 2008? Wait, maybe that does make sense if she alternates between different regional calendars.

BANANA raises her hand.

MR. ONO
What is it, Banana?

BANANA
Female hygiene.

MR. ONO
You're excused.

BANANA exits.

INT. LIBRARY, SCHOOL - MORNING

Many students sit at tables, reading books or doing activities.

Some students use internet terminals.

The girls have purses.

Most boys and girls have backpacks.

BANANA sits at a computer terminal, surfing the internet. Her purse hangs on her chair.

BANANA
(thoughts, annoyed)
"If Ryone really loved me, why would he be filling my e-mail box with so much crap? And he probably wants me to read all of it too!"

MR. ONO enters the library and begins walking towards BANANA.

MR. ONO -- now behind BANANA -- taps her shoulder. Her back stiffens, and a fearful expression appears on her face.

BANANA
Yikes!

MR. ONO
Turn around. Face me.

BANANA
The crap in my e-mail is no match for the crap

I'll get when I face you!

MR. ONO
Why didn't you return to the classroom?

BANANA
Too boring.

MR. ONO
You should pay attention to your teacher.
What are you looking for on the internet?

BANANA
Freedom from boredom.

MR. ONO
You're supposed to be in class, not playing on
the computer.

The intercom emits the PRINCIPAL'S VOICE.

PRINCIPAL'S VOICE
(from intercom)
To all staff and students. This is your principal
speaking. We're always concerned for the
safety of our students. And in the light of the
recent school shootings in nearby towns, our
school has just agreed to participate in a pilot
project. So, within the next hour, ID badges
will be handed out to every student. And
effective immediately after you receive your
badge, you will be required to wear your badge
for the remainder of the school year.

BANANA
This is where the crap begins!

PRINCIPAL'S VOICE
(from intercom)
Also, as an added safety measure, all
backpacks, fanny packs, purses, and bags of
any sort, will be subject to random searches,
and will only be allowed in the halls before the
first class of the day, and after the last class
of the day. So therefore, when you arrive at
school in the morning, you must bring your
bags directly to your locker. And when you

leave school in the afternoon, you must bring your bag directly to the nearest exit. They will not be allowed in the hallway during the school day. And this is partly because of crowding.

BANANA
(screams)
Fuck me with teh sword of violation!

MR. ONO
Language!

BANANA
Fuck you, Mr. Ono! Your job is to educate, not over-protect!

MR. ONO
Actually, it's both.

BANANA
Without purses, it becomes extremely obvious to everyone when a girl's ... it's embarrassing! And the breaks between classes are already too short for anything! Without my backpack or purse ... OH NOES! There won't be time for the washroom, communicating with friends! It's just directly to the locker between every class! School, thy leash hast tightened! Why must we be imprisoned by your crappy new rules!? I never shot anyone, so don't imprison me! But if you imprison me with these unfair new rules, it will surely drive me to go on a fucking killing spree!

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

BANANA -- wearing a new ID card on a string that hangs from her neck -- stands in this hallway, holding two heavy buckets of water.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL, FRONT LAWN - MORNING

Many boys and girls walk towards the school, wearing new ID

cards that hang from their necks on strings.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who isn't wearing her ID card.

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who has her backpack beside her desk.

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who is wearing a purse.

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who is wearing a fanny-pack.

BANANA is the only student in the classroom who sits at her desk with a big confident smile on her face.

MR. ONO enters the room, looks at BANANA in amazement.

BANANA
Do your worst.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA -- with messy hair, and wearing pajamas -- lays on a couch, playing a video game.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
Why aren't you at school?

BANANA
Jack expelled me again for another stupid thing.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN confronts MR. ONO in the classroom after school.

MRS. CHAN
What's your excuse this time, jerk!?

MR. ONO
Ko, it's been years. You're still ravishing.

MRS. CHAN
Why'd you expel Banana!?

MR. ONO
Please be my guest for a nice dinner -- I'll explain it to you.

MRS. CHAN's swift fist crushes MR. ONO's face.

As MR. ONO falls to the ground, he murmurs in pain ...

MR. ONO
I won't press charges.

MRS. CHAN
Wimp. Even my daughter was brave enough to press charges on a guy.

WIPE TO:

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM, POLICE DEPARTMENT - AFTERNOON

RYONE is interrogated by a police officer named SGT. NOISE.

RYONE
Wait -- since when can a person get charged for sending love letters? Isn't that inhumane? Yes, it's cruel and unusual punishment! Police brutality!

SGT. NOISE
I've seen how long some of the notes were. I didn't read them, but I assume the worst. If you persist in trying to communicate with her, you'll be charged with harassment.

RYONE
I had to write those notes to preserve my sanity amid abuse and violence from my family.

SGT. NOISE

Unwanted communication.

RYONE

You're harassing me. In fact, everyone except her, interrupts my thoughts of her, and is therefore guilty of harassment!

SGT. NOISE

Well, she complained. So it's up to me to decide whether or not to lay charges. I don't like to charge people. A criminal record can wreck your future, and even restrict you from travel. I believe in giving people a chance. So I won't charge you, but you are to end all unwanted communications with her, or I WILL charge you. The oness is on you.

RYONE

If I'm supposed to end all "unwanted communications" with her, then I'll just have to find out what a "wanted communication" with her is.

SGT. NOISE

I didn't make myself clear. If she reports ANY contact from you, you WILL be charged.

RYONE

You might as well just throw me in jail then. Life without her is a prison sentence anyway.

SGT. NOISE

And if she communicates with you, call me.

RYONE

Why?

SGT. NOISE

She threatened to charge you. It's only fair that you have that power.

RYONE

I'd never charge her. Hell, I'm not even mad at her for getting you to talk to me. She just did it because she's a dork. Hey, do you have a definition of harassment?

SGT. NOISE

Harassment is unwelcome behavior that degrades, demeans, humiliates, or embarrasses a person, and that a reasonable person should have known would be unwelcome.

RYONE

Well, she's not only a dork, but she's also a brat, and a flake. And if calling her a dork, a brat, and a flake, at times when she's being one or all of those things, degrades or demeans her, then what happened to freedom of speech?

SGT. NOISE

A reasonable person would have known that it would be unwelcome.

RYONE

I'm perfectly reasonable. When I'm stuck in my room because my family's being abusive, I send notes to escape.

SGT. NOISE

Drop it.

RYONE

I can't. And you'll understand when you see the face which makes you a believer.

SGT. NOISE

You're just a dumb kid. And I had enough difficulties with my own dumb kids until I sent them to this one hard labor camp up north. In fact, that's your punishment. Hard labor up north, until November of 2008.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN, wearing pajamas, sit on the couch, playing video games, while a small radio in the room emits a news broadcast ...

RADIO

And now some news for local high school

students. When a girl named Banana Chan got expelled for breaking the controversial new ID and bag rules, her bravery inspired spontaneous protests in the form of all the students arranging over a social networking site on the internet to skip school today in contention of the rule that got their comrade expelled. The protest was a success. There are absolutely no students in the halls today. And it forced the hand of the school board. An immediate vote by the board has lifted the bag ban and the ID rule. It has also been announced that Banana Chan's expulsion has been lifted and has been removed from her permanent record along with all of her previous violations of school rules in recognition of her heroic protest. At a pep-rally, the school principal will appear with Banana this afternoon where he will formally beg her forgiveness for the school's inadequacies in this situation.

BANANA

Oh yeah, I was supposed to go to that pep rally, but I'd rather play video games. Can I stay home from school today?

MRS. CHAN

Yeah.

BANANA and MRS. CHAN break into spontaneous laughter.

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

MR. ONO writes something on the board.

All of the students have bags, purses, and no IDs ... except BANANA; she wears her ID, and she does not have her purse, and she does not have her bag. She just has a big smile on her face while she says ...

BANANA

I want cheese!

All the students look at her.

MR. ONO
What?

BANANA starts laughing.

CUT TO:

BLANK SCREEN

DATE ON SCREEN
November, 2008.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAIN HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

The schoolyard is empty.

Through windows, we see silhouettes of classes that are already
in session.

One girl - BANANA CHAN (age 16) - is late.

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.



Illustration by Katie Day.

During the following monologue, we watch BANANA as she frantically runs across the schoolyard, towards the front doors.

BANANA'S VOICE

Hey! I'm Banana! I'm also awesome! I'm sixteen, and I go to Rain High School, on a

regular basis, but I'm beyond help. I can only get bad marks. Aww, poor me! So I'm feeling kind of down. But don't feel too bad about me. I believe in destiny. When I was a little brat, I had a friend named Boden. We loved each-other, and believed it was our destiny to get married. But I had to move, and I've never seen Boden at all since then. It really bugs me. But with that being said, I still believe in destiny. I still believe we'll re-meet someday. At least, I hope so anyway.

Still running, BANANA enters the school by smashing through a closed door, leaving a hole that looks like her body.

CUT TO:

INT. RAIN HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

MR. ONO presides over the class.

BANANA sleeps on her desk.

The female students wear "sailor-scout" school-uniforms, and the male students wear "black-suit" school-uniforms. [The outdated uniforms are meant as homage to the animé "Sailor Moon".]

MR. ONO

The AIDS cure is an herb called Sutherlandia Frutescens. The cancer cure is a mix of baking soda and apricot kernels. But nutrition is key. Ninety percent of your diet must be vegetables. The other ten percent can include fruits and meat, and whatever else you like.

(pause)

Banana Chan. Are you listening? This is important!

BANANA CHAN wakes up, smiles at MR. ONO, and says ...

BANANA

Sorry. I was dreaming about ... goddamnit, you asshole, you made me forget my dream!

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND, SCHOOL - MORNING

BANANA's class plays baseball.

BANANA sits on the bench with other girls ... she over-hears a conversation between two girls, named KAGOME and SARENA.

KAGOME

I had a conversation with him, and he was really funny.

SARENA

Really? I like funny!

KAGOME

Yeah, really. Really funny.

SARENA

Well, he's also confident. I saw him give a speech in front of ...

KAGOME

Yeah, he is confident! I mean, just the way he ...

SARENA

He's working at the candy store today after school.

KAGOME

Are you going?

SARENA

Can't. Baby-sitting.

KAGOME

I can't either. Shy.

They laugh.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

(voice-over)

"A boy who works at the candy store, eh?
Well, I might as well go check him out."

CUT TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

BANANA brings a pile of candies to JAMES at the cash-register.

JAMES ALYN (age 17) has short black hair with purple highlights.



Illustration by The AnimeQueens.

He wears ONLY tight black sweatpants, and a red bandanna. He has a foot-long scar across his shirtless chest.

JAMES

Is this everything?

BANANA faints.

Annoyed, JAMES sweeps her onto a pile of fainted girls.



Illustration by The AnimeQueens.

EXT. TOWN-SIDE POND - NIGHT

In the moon-light, surrounded by forest, with a light-house sticking up in the backdrop, BANANA sits on a rock, dips her toes into the pond, and ponders.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

(voice-over)

"I've been coming to this pond, on a regular basis, ever since my dog died, two years ago. I come here to think and meditate. I'm weird that way. This place has special meaning to my mom, so she lets me come here in the middle of the night, even though it makes me need to sleep on my desk in school."

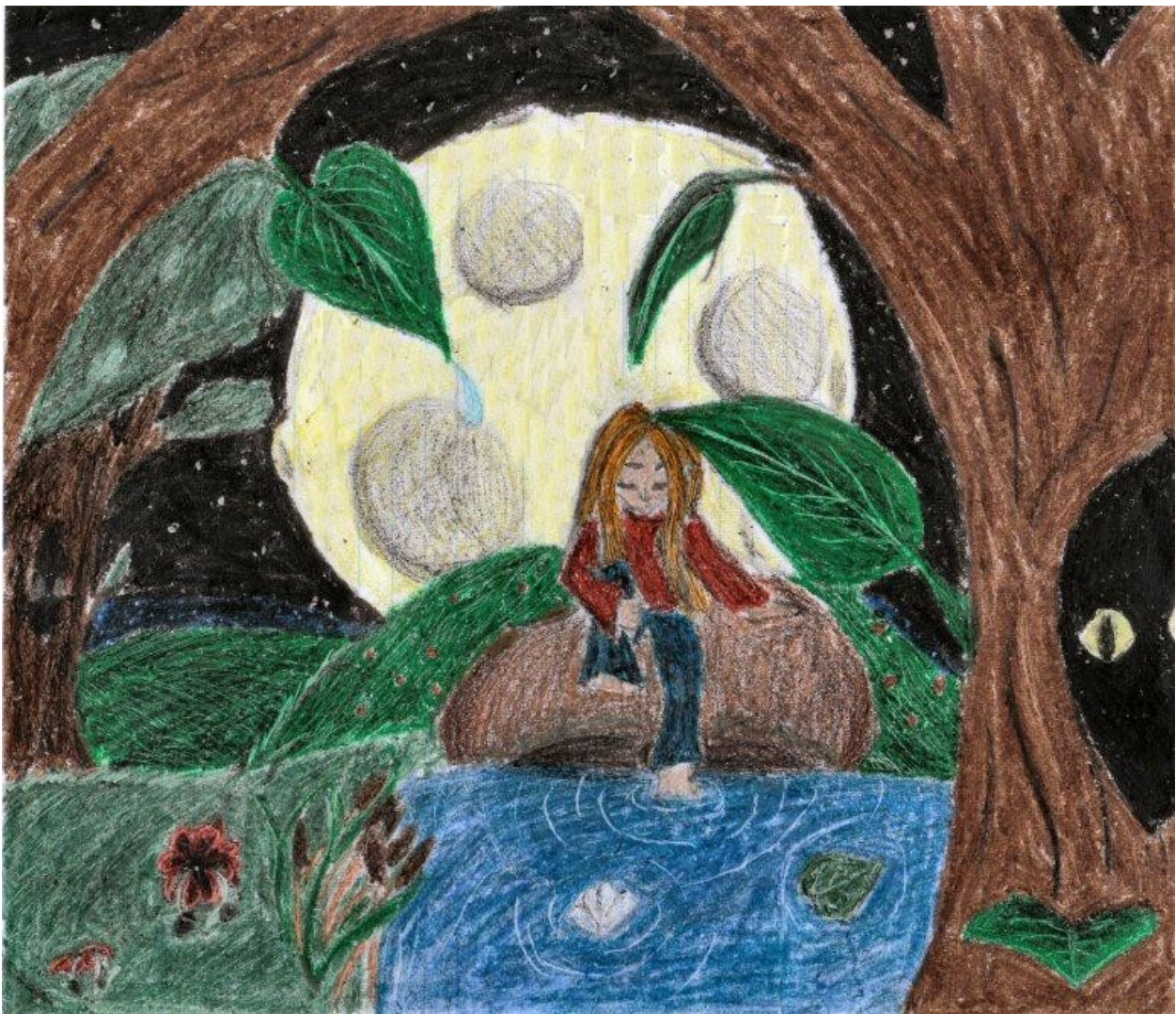


Illustration by Monika Holman.

CUT TO:

DESCRIPTION OF MAISON CHAN:

MAISON CHAN, the dwelling of BANANA CHAN and MRS. CHAN, has a BASEMENT, a MAIN FLOOR, and a SECOND FLOOR.

The BASEMENT includes a REC-ROOM, and proper toilet and shower facilities. The BASEMENT REC-ROOM is called a rec-room, simply because it contains an extra TV. The couch facing the TV has a fold-out double-bed. However, the so-called REC-ROOM is only used to store boxes that are filled with a variety of odds-and-ends.

The MAIN FLOOR has a LAUNDRY ROOM, an EMPTY ROOM, a KITCHEN, a LIVING-ROOM, proper toilet and shower facilities, and a BUDDHIST ALTAR ROOM. In the KITCHEN, a small ten-inch TV/radio hangs at eye-level above the sink, so that TV can be watched during dish-washing. The LIVING-ROOM features a couch, lamp, coffee-table, and TV. In the middle of the BUDDHIST ALTAR ROOM is a long, low table, upon which is set a TV and many video game consoles. The TV faces the altar, so that the altar is behind players' backs. The altar itself has been cleared-off for a perfectly clean DDR mat; otherwise, there are coffee-stains, and remnants of snacks, around the mat on the altar. Board game pieces, magazines, and snack remnants, are strewn about the floor.

The SECOND FLOOR has proper toilet and shower facilities, Mrs. Chan's MASTER-BEDROOM, a GUEST ROOM, a STORAGE ROOM, and BANANA'S BEDROOM. Mrs. Chan's MASTER-BEDROOM is fully-equipped, including an awesome computer, a balcony, and a LARGE hot-tub. Boy-band posters, dating back to 1997, tile the yellow, banana-patterned wallpaper in BANANA'S BEDROOM. She has a lime-green carpet, and a closet that's always open, overflowing with sweaters, jeans, and shoes, et cetera. Barely any dresses, and the dresses she has, have very long skirts. Her "sailor scout" school uniform is hung neatly on a hanger, that's held in place by a nail, on the wall beside her bed.

She has desk with a mirror, and a set of dresser-drawers. She has a walkman, a Discman, an MP3 player, and about fifty tapes, fifteen CDs, and a dozen memory cards, all piled beside the head of her bed. She doesn't have her own computer of any sort. She has a large window which she can open and climb onto the rooftop. The SECOND-FLOOR GUEST ROOM is empty except for a bed, a desk/drawer set, and a closet.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

BANANA and MRS. CHAN eat their breakfast-cereal.

MRS. CHAN, (age 38) is a normal, average-looking woman. She's 6'4", with black hair, and orange eyebrows over her bright green eyes.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

(voice-over)

"I just got home from the pond, and it's time for breakfast. Then I'll go to school, and get my sleep. I also nap after school because those pesky teachers wake me up sometimes."

MRS. CHAN

Ryone called yesterday.

BANANA gets an annoyed expression on her face ... at which MRS. CHAN laughs.

Freeze-frame.

BANANA'S THOUGHTS

"Here's where my life gets complicated. Just like how I believe I'm destined to end up with Boden, Ryone believes he's destined to end up with me. To make matters worse, my mom likes Ryone. To make matters much worse, I'm arranged to marry Ryone. It's true, and top-secret. Ryone doesn't know about the arrangement. And he won't know until we're both eighteen. So who's behind the arrangement? The government. The government is the bane of my existence. More specifically, two companies that do contracts for the government. My dad works for one of those companies, and Ryone's dad works for the other of those companies. At least, that's what I've been led to believe. But anyway, I know about the arrangement because my mom doesn't like to keep secrets. And she's not really my mom. As I said: complicated. But you'll catch on soon enough."

Unfreeze-frame.

BANANA
What did you tell him?

MRS. CHAN
I told him to call back.

BANANA
What a kick to the head.

END OF EPISODE.

Chapter 7

What Makes Me Smile

Banana realized that the fact that absolutely nothing of interest happened in her life between the time when Ryone was sent up north, and the time when he returned to town, meant that the series had been re-tooled. After having a lot of time to think about it, Banana realized that the original plan for the series was to have Banana and Ryone team up against bad guys for twenty-six episodes per year, for each year from age fourteen to age eighteen ... except for age fourteen, when there would be twenty four episodes in which they're a team because the first two episodes were Banana's back-story as a member of The Emotion 16 Soldiers.

Banana had to smile when she did the math and realized that she was on episode seven at age sixteen; it meant that the series had indeed been re-tooled because of her non-conformity with the original formula of the series. The fact that the interesting moments in her life were so far apart could only mean that the network's order for the series had been reduced from multiple seasons, to only one season of twenty-six episodes.

The overall epic was re-tooled, but Banana's study of story structure indicated that the original formula was

still being adhered to. In other words, the writer would now throw in a new element, which Banana would have to watch out for, because this new element would somehow cause Ryone to tell his back-story to Banana ... thus causing Banana to fall in love with Ryone ... thus causing bad guys to appear whom Banana and Ryone would fight as a team ... leading up to their arranged wedding at age eighteen. The new element would be a catalyst to set those events in motion. The new element could be a character, an event, a twist, a mission ... it could be anything. Banana would have to watch out for anything that seems anomalous. But in a town that's filled with weirdness, it's a little bit difficult to watch out for something that's anomalous. Regardless, she was on the look-out for that extra variable ... she had to be wise to it ... whatever it is.

"BANANA CHAN"

EPISODE 1x07

What Makes Me Smile

By Alan Holman

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BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
November, 2008.

EXT. PATH IN TOWN-SIDE FOREST - NIGHT [DREAM]

BANANA (age 16) kicks pebbles as she walks on the path.

She looks at the sky, just in time to see a shooting star.

BANANA
I'd wish ...

RYONE'S VOICE
I love you.

BANANA
Don't talk to me, Ryone!

RYONE'S VOICE
I love you.

BANANA
LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!!!

CUT TO:

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL - MORNING

MR. ONO presides over the class -- he draws a Japanese character on the board.

MR. ONO
Hayao Miyazaki was seventeen when he saw

Taiji Yabushita's colorful expression called "Legend of the White Serpent" in 1958; thus, from its humble beginnings, animé has always inspired its master film-maker, namely Miyazaki, whose first major motion picture, "Castle of Cagliostro", opened nation-wide twenty-one years later, in 1979.

He draws another Japanese character on the board.

MR. ONO

Where would you put the comma in this sentence? Banana Chan, are you sleeping?

BANANA wakes up, and screams ...

BANANA

LEAVE ME ...!

WIPE TO:

EXT. TOWN OF RAIN, JAPAN - MORNING

Sunbeams slip between clouds, and shine atop birds.

A forest surrounds three sides of the square shaped coastal town of Rain, Japan. This small square-shaped town is a friendly crowd of residential zones, schools, parks, malls, hospitals, districts of small businesses, dojos, shrines, and an east-side sea-port on the coast, et cetera. And it's all sprinkled with fallen autumn leaves.

BANANA'S VOICE

... THE HELL ALONE!

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

RYONE'S VOICE

If I believed in destiny, I wouldn't be trying so damn hard.

WIPE TO:

INT. HALLWAY, SCHOOL - MORNING

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

MR. ONO

Banana. You're lucky I don't expel you for sleeping in class all the time. Stay here.

MR. ONO re-enters the classroom, slamming the door behind him.

WIPE TO:

INT. ARCADE - AFTERNOON

BANANA plays Dance Dance Revolution.

MR. ONO enters the arcade, and stands beside her.

MR. ONO

Banana.

BANANA makes a startled noise, and almost falls.

WIPE TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

JAMES ALYN stands behind the counter.

BANANA enters.

JAMES

Hey there! How may I sweeten your day?

BANANA blushes, smiles, falls on the floor, stands up, wipes dust off herself, then she runs away, embarrassed.

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM, MAISON CHAN - DAWN

BANANA wakes as the morning's first sunbeam warms her pajamas.

BANANA smiles, stands, stretches, then walks within the sunbeam, and steps, through her open window, onto the rooftop outside.

WIPE TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

JAMES ALYN is behind the counter.

BANANA enters with flowers.

BANANA

That horrible gash reminds me of red
Christmas lights. I like red Christmas lights!

JAMES

It's a scar, actually.

BANANA

How'd you get that horrible scar?

JAMES

It's a tattoo, actually.

BANANA

Yeah, I thought so.

BANANA gives the flowers to JAMES.

He takes the flowers, and puts them on a meter-high pile of
flowers and cards.

JAMES

Thank you, sweetie.

He kisses her cheek.

She blushes, smiles, falls on the floor, stands up, wipes dust
off herself, kisses him on the lips as hearts circle around
their joined heads, then runs away embarrassed.

Then, she faints atop a large pile of fainted schoolgirls.

WIPE TO:

INT. PUBLIC REST-ROOM - AFTERNOON

BANANA holds a resumé, looks at her reflection in the mirror,
and she practices for a conversation.

BANANA

Hey, James! Funny story: I haven't had any candy or chocolaty goodness since I first saw you at this town's only candy store, because thinking about you makes me weak in the knees ... and shy. So yeah, here's my resumé, and show your manager, so he can hire me, and we can work together!

WIPE TO:

INT. CANDY STORE - DAY

JAMES ALYN stands behind the counter.

BANANA enters with a bouquet of flowers.

BANANA

What's your full name?

JAMES

James Alyn. Why do you ask?

BANANA

Because, James Alyn, you're very hot.

JAMES smiles, and makes a nervous noise -- almost a laugh.

BANANA

Here are some flowers.

He takes the flowers, sniffs them, then puts them on a large pile of flowers and cards.

JAMES

Thanks, girl. Y'know, for conversation sake, I actually have a favorite flower. Yeah, I know what you're thinking: what kind of guy likes flowers? Well, there's a story behind it, but my favorite flowers are Morning Glories ... not these cheap, fake flowers, that you've been giving me.

He kisses her cheek.

She blushes, smiles, falls on the floor, stands up, wipes dust off herself, kisses him on the lips as hearts circle around their joined heads, then she runs away, embarrassed.

Then, she faints atop a large pile of fainted schoolgirls.

A clock shows time drag for a few hours. All the stores in the mall close.

The girls stand up, brush dust off themselves, and all of them exit the mall in an orderly fashion.

WIPE TO:

EXT. SAKURA PARK - AFTERNOON

BANANA folds her resumé into a paper air-plane, and throws it into a garbage can.

WIPE TO:

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

The stars in the sky illuminate the sides of a nighttime-rainbow which shines its colors upon BANANA's hair as she lays on her back, in the middle of the field.

BANANA

James Alyn is soooo HOT! I shall give him a
nickname: Sweatpants Bandanna!

The moon begins to slowly reveal itself from behind the nighttime-rainbow.

THE MOON

You must not dream of him, Banana.

BANANA

The moon doesn't talk, so I must be sleeping.

THE MOON

I only talk when I have something important to
say.

BANANA

Good plan.

THE MOON

Sweatpants is not your destiny; it's just a crush.

She laughs, shaking her head twitchily with her laughter.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN uses her pinky finger to curl her hair across her cheeks.

She watches a television, that is above the sink, while she washes the dishes.

NEWSCASTER

Thousands of people, hemisphere-wide, switched, from wearing sweatpants, to dressing in more-fashionable cargo-pants, jeans, party-pants, or dress-pants, as the moon, which has, until now, been long believed an inanimate asteroid, made a cryptic decree against the likes of sweatpants.

BANANA enters the room, laughing, and kisses her mother.

MRS. CHAN turns the television off.

MRS. CHAN

Where were you last night?

BANANA

I fell asleep in the middle of a field.

MRS. CHAN

You could catch a cold.

BANANA

Yeah. I won't go to the pond tonight. I'll just sleep at a normal time.

MRS. CHAN

Do as you will.

WIPE TO:

INT. WEDDING CHAPEL - DAY [DREAM]

BANANA -- wearing a wedding dress -- and RYONE -- wearing a tuxedo -- stand before a PRIEST.

PRIEST
You may now kiss the bride.

BANANA runs away.

RYONE chases her.

RYONE
Banana!

WIPE TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - DAWN

BANANA wakes up.

BANANA
I wonder why I have dreams like that. I know they can't really mean anything. I'm not hallucinating, am I? I don't know what anymore. I've gotta get over this Ryone crisis, before it drives me totally crazy.

MRS. CHAN enters.

MRS. CHAN
Banana. Are you finally up? Do you feel better? Darling let me feel your forehead.

BANANA
Oh mom, I'm fine.

MRS. CHAN
Fine?

MRS. CHAN feels BANANA's forehead.

MRS. CHAN
You're burning up. You're not going anywhere. Especially if you want to go to the mall tomorrow.

BANANA
But mom! I wanna see my friends! I was

supposed to go over to Alicia's house! They're waiting for me. We were gonna go to the mall.

MRS. CHAN

Well Alicia and Vikki can come over here, and you can play by the koi pond, alright?

BANANA

Mom. In case you haven't noticed, I've grown up. We don't play anymore.

MRS. CHAN

Well, do whatever you do then. Probably talk about boys, right?

BANANA

Most of the guys I know act pretty dorky.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - DAWN

BANANA chats on the phone with her friend VIKKI.

VIKKI'S VOICE

What's the matter, kiddo?

BANANA

Oh, it's nothing. Mom's just makin' a fuss 'cause I guess I got a little fever.

VIKKI'S VOICE

Banana. It's freakin' dawn. Don't call me this early unless it's an emergency.

BANANA

Oops. I'm sorry, Vikki. I'm too distracted lately.

VIKKI'S VOICE

Ryone?

BANANA

Yeah.

VIKKI'S VOICE

I understand. It's okay, Banana. Call me

whenever you want, even at three in the morning. I love you, my friend.

BANANA

Thanks. I love you too, my friend.

VIKKI'S VOICE

Go outside, and find something to make you smile.

BANANA

Good advice. Thanks.

WIPE TO:

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. Jars of cat food fill the platform.

Beside the shrine, BANANA CHAN plays with a small blue cat named 937. She shakes his paw. He rolls around as she rubs his belly. She dangles a string in front of him, which he plays with.

BANANA

I figured out what makes me smile!

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - MORNING

MRS. CHAN sits on the couch, eating a banana.

BANANA enters, with 937 sitting on her shoulder.

BANANA

Meet my kitty minion!

MRS. CHAN

You can't keep him.

BANANA
Yes I can!

MRS. CHAN
Don't you remember what happened to
Doggie?

BANANA
Mom ... Catty won't suffer a tragic fate like
Doggie's fall two years ago.

937
(thoughts, voice-over)
"Tragic fate?"

MRS. CHAN
Okay, keep him.

BANANA
(exuberant)
Boo-Yah!

937 looks nervous.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. CAR/ROAD - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN drives. BANANA is the passenger.

MRS. CHAN
Ryone called.

BANANA
Dang.

MRS. CHAN
I said "hello", but he thought I was you, so he
said some very interesting things.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN [FLASHBACK]

MRS. CHAN answers the phone.

MRS. CHAN
Hello?

RYONE'S VOICE
I still love you since the first time I saw you,
years ago! I love you, so it's dishonorable for
me to pursue other girls until those feelings
get resolved by dating or at least spending
ANY time together, or SOMETHING! So -- it's
unfair, damn it! -- that you get to -- as you
said -- "enjoy the freedom of being single" --
while I have to rot in the prison of being single!
What you've called my obsession, I KNOW as
my devotion, my moral conviction, my
HONOR! I'd give anything to do anything with
you! -- watch clouds, hang out at the arcade!
It's no obstacle to your freedom to be with
me! I idolize you! I want to ENABLE your
whims! For as long as we've been apart, I've
been falling apart, and ...
(meek)
... you're Banana's mom, aren't you?

MRS. CHAN
Ryone?

RYONE'S VOICE
(nervous)
Oops. Sorry. Uhh ...

RYONE hangs up on MRS. CHAN.

MRS. CHAN laughs.

WIPE TO:

BLANK SCREEN

RYONE'S VOICE
After years of not seeing her at all anywhere, I
had finally worked up the courage to call her
on the telephone. And when I called, my
hands shook more than my voice did. So
many pent-up emotions spilled out in an
awkward monologue. Lucky for me, she didn't
even hear that awkward monologue. It was
her mom who answered the phone. Over the

phone, their voices sound a bit alike when they say the word: hello.

INT./EXT. CAR/ROAD - AFTERNOON

Same as before.

BANANA
What did Ryone say?

MRS. CHAN
(smiles)
It's a secret.

BANANA
You're keeping secrets for a boy who's hitting on me?

MRS. CHAN
Yes.

BANANA
Well, cut it out, okay?

MRS. CHAN
You keep ignoring Ryone.

BANANA
I can ignore who-ever I want; it's my life.

MRS. CHAN
You're persistent about James for the same reason Ryone's persistent about you; it's called "love."

BANANA
How'd you know about James?

MRS. CHAN
I'm sorry. Your diary was left open on your bed when I went in to get your laundry.

BANANA
THAT'S PRIVATE!

MRS. CHAN
I'm sorry. I only read that page. It won't

happen again ...
(laugh)
... unless you leave it open where I can see it
again.

BANANA mutters something under her breath.

The car arrives in the parking lot of a mall.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

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 anim  character named "Tire the tire."



Illustration by Jason Sullivan.

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.



Illustration by The AnimeQueens.

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.

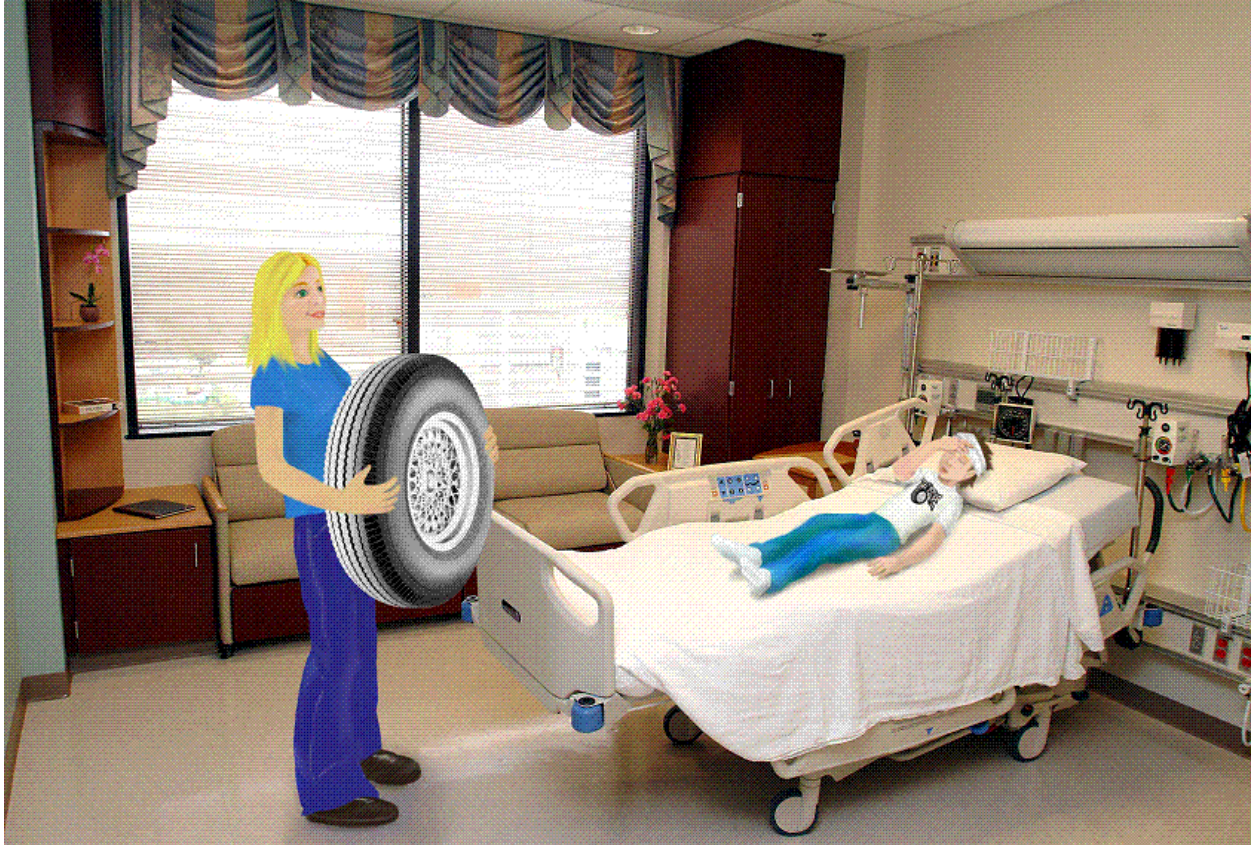


Illustration by Diane Holman.

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.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATH IN TOWN-SIDE FOREST - NIGHT [DREAM]

BANANA kicks pebbles as she walks on the path.

She looks at the sky, just in time to see a shooting star.

In front of her, an average-looking Komodo Dragon named RITON appears in a bolt of lightning.



Illustration by Liana Buszka.

RITON
You've just saved the universe! I will grant you
three wishes!

BANANA
Squee! You're such a cute dream-dragon! If
this were real, and I actually had wishes, I'd
want James to love me.

RITON
Granted!

BANANA

(laughs)
Sucker! That wasn't phrased as a wish!

RITON
Oops.

BANANA
But anyway, if this were real, I'd wish ...

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - EVENING

BANANA wakes up on the couch ... because MRS. CHAN shoots her with a water-gun.

BANANA
Did I fall asleep?

MRS. CHAN
Yes. Ryone found you sleeping in a hospital room.

BANANA
Ryone plus me, equals not happening.

MRS. CHAN
He was performing funny skits for terminally ill orphans. Why were you at the hospital?

BANANA
There was a little boy. I accidentally hurt him.

MRS. CHAN
Is he alright?

BANANA
He'll be fine.

MRS. CHAN
Banana, you should have seen Ryone! He carried you home, and put you on the couch!
(sigh)
He looked so chivalrous! I took pictures!

CUT TO:

INT. BANANA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

BANANA cuts photographs.

BANANA
Destroying the evidence, once and for all.

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN sits at the table, eating a peach, as BANANA enters.

BANANA
Hey! It's allowance day, so pay up! Sixty billion double-dollars should cover it!

MRS. CHAN
No.

BANANA
Why not?

CUT TO:

INT. PACHINKO PARLOR - MORNING [FLASHBACK]

MRS. CHAN opens an envelope labeled "Banana's Allowance".
The envelope contains 5000 Yen.

In a montage, MRS. CHAN plays pachinko until only fifty Yen are left in that envelope.

CUT TO:

INT. RAINBOW FOODS - MORNING [FLASHBACK]

MRS. CHAN approaches the PROPRIETOR of the store.

MRS. CHAN
Scratch 'n Win lotto ticket, please!

PROPRIETOR
Of course! That'll be fifty yen.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAINBOW FOODS - MORNING [FLASHBACK]

MRS. CHAN exits from the grocery store, carrying full bags.

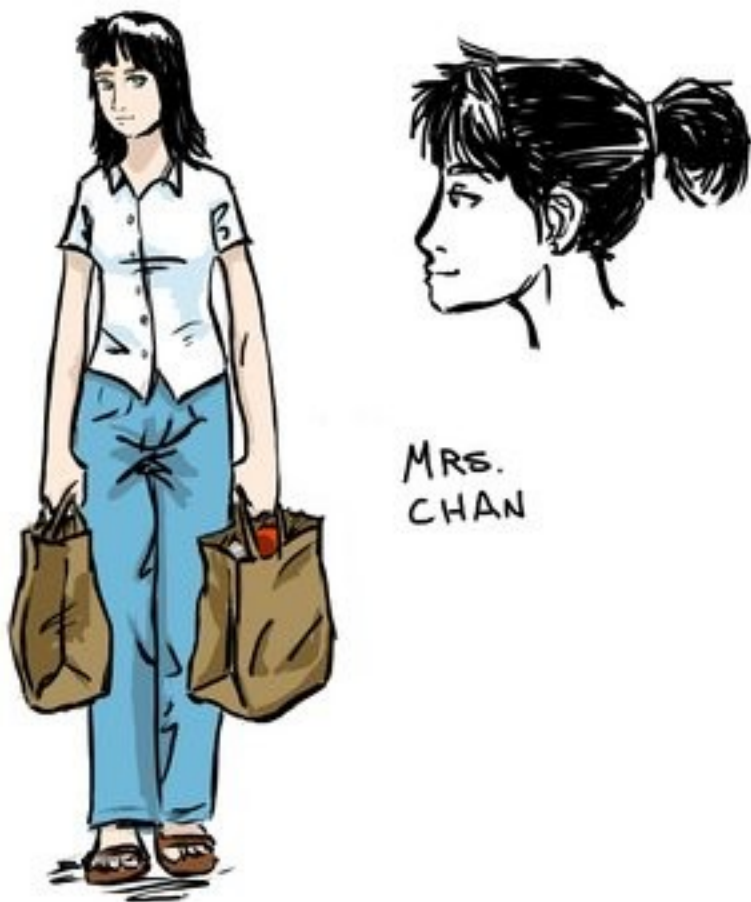


Illustration by Liana Buszka.

She almost passes a VAGRANT who is in front of the store.



Illustration by Liana Buszka.

The VAGRANT is a 5'10", dirty, mop-haired, middle-aged man, who wears a crusty old hat over his orange hair, green eyes, and raggedy, booze-stinking, dirty-old, dark-green trench coat.

VAGRANT
Can you spare some change?

MRS. CHAN
Ok!

INT. KITCHEN, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

... same as before.

MRS. CHAN
I deferred your allowance to a vagrant again.

BANANA
WHA!? What a kick in the head. Why can't
he just get a job?

MRS. CHAN
I could ask you the same question, Banana.
Get a job.

BANANA
Oh noes! A jobby!

BANANA screams at the top of her lungs ...

BANANA
OH THE HUMANITY!!!

INT. STORE, MALL - AFTERNOON

BANANA works the cash register. No one else is in the store.

A CUSTOMER enters.

CUSTOMER
I need to use the toilet.

BANANA
Staff only.

CUSTOMER runs away.

BANANA
Loser.

The MANAGER enters, and gives BANANA an angry look.



Illustration by The AnimeQueens.

MANAGER

Never call a customer a loser! You're fired!

BANANA

(begins crying)

I'm no good at this job!

MANAGER

Are you crying?

BANANA

(nods)

Yes.

MANAGER

I'm sorry. I guess this is your first job. I didn't mean to be so harsh.

BANANA

S'okay.

(smiles)

I quit anyway ...

(with two fingers, she makes an "L" shape on her forehead.)

... LOSER!

EXT. PRETTY LITTLE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

BANANA - wearing a white medical face-mask -- picks roses in front of a pretty little house.

A kind old lady emerges from the house, and notices BANANA.

KIND OLD LADY

Why are you picking my roses?

BANANA sneezes in her mask.

KIND OLD LADY

Are they for a boy you like?

BANANA

Most likely.

KIND OLD LADY

Aren't you curious why my roses are still in bloom in November?

BANANA

Roses?

KIND OLD LADY

Yes. This whole neighborhood has warm soil because a super-secret deep underground military base has to vent heat from a ...

BANANA drops the roses she's already picked, and says ...

BANANA

James likes Morning Glories.

KIND OLD LADY

Morning Glories lose their bloom in the afternoon.

EXT. OLD SHOTGUN GRANNY'S FRONT YARD - DAWN

On a porch, old SHOTGUN GRANNY rocks in her rocking-chair, cleaning her shotgun.

SHOTGUN GRANNY looks down the barrel of her gun, towards her flower-garden, where BANANA - wearing a white medical face-

mask - picks piles of Morning Glory. SHOTGUN GRANNY shoots a warning-shot into the air beside BANANA's head.

BANANA

Eep!

SHOTGUN GRANNY shoots -- BANANA ducks the shot in the nick of time.

BANANA takes all the flowers she can grab, and runs with them.

CUT TO:

INT. PUBLIC REST-ROOM - MORNING

BANANA - still wearing the white medical face-mask -- holds the flowers, looks at her reflection in the mirror, and practices.

BANANA

Hey James! Hiya, James! May I call you Jim?

(sneeze)

Yes? -- well, that's cool, but I'd prefer to call you James, if you're okay with that. If you're not, that's totally cool also, Jim. Anyway, well I wanted you to have these flowers.

(sneeze)

Why, you ask? Well, let me hold both of your hands and look into your eyes while I ...

(sneeze)

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!"

BLANK SCREEN

RYONE'S VOICE
It's been one week since the hospital, longer since that phone call. Ever since Ponyo on a Cliff, the new Miyazaki movie, opened across all of Japan, months ago, I've been trying to find courage to ask her to go on a date with me, to see that movie.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

MRS. CHAN answers the phone.

MRS. CHAN
Hello?

RYONE'S VOICE
Wanna do something spontaneous?

MRS. CHAN
(laughs)
Like what?

RYONE'S VOICE
Wait a sec. You're not Banana. Oops.
Sorry.

MRS. CHAN
(smiling)
Banana. It's the phone. Ryone wants to do
something "spontaneous"!

BANANA enters.

BANANA
Hello?

RYONE'S VOICE
I accidentally said a line, that was meant for
you, to your mother. I'm so sorry.

BANANA
What do you want?

RYONE'S VOICE
Your company for the afternoon. Have you
seen Ponyo on a Cliff?

BANANA
Yes. Besides, I'm too busy this afternoon, to
see a movie today.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOORSTEP, MAISON CHAN - AFTERNOON

RYONE stands on the doorstep, and knocks on the door.

RYONE HAZUKI (age 16) is a 6', somewhat muscular (thin), black-eyed guy, with almost vampiric canine teeth, who wears baggy jackets over baggy shirts, ripped jeans, and a red head-band over his yellow baseball cap, and uncombed black-haired mullet.



Illustration by Liana Buszka.

BANANA answers the door.

RYONE
Yo.

BANANA
You insufferable jackass!

BANANA slams the door in his face.

MRS. CHAN opens the door.

MRS. CHAN
Ryone, I apologize for her temper.

RYONE
It's okay. She's cute when she's angry.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNSET, BEACH - EVENING

RYONE'S VOICE
"When I saw Banana Chan for the very first time two years ago, she was immediately the person I'd waited all my life to see, and I didn't even know I'd been waiting. But suddenly, in my heart, she became someone I'd risk my life to protect. She became family. It was overwhelming. Nothing in school, and none of the worthless cartoons I'd watched as a child, taught me how to keep cool around the girl who means everything to me. Banana's not the type of girl I'd have looked for, but everything I am KNOWS that she's the person whom I MUST protect, and care for, and comfort, and make laugh, and stuff, for all eternity. In other words, I love Banana. And that's why I must never give up."

WIPE TO:

INT. CLASS, SCHOOL - DAY

MR. ONO draws a Japanese character on the board.

BANANA picks at her hair as she sleeps at her desk, then she wakes up...

BANANA
WHERE AM I?!!!!

MR. ONO
In class, Banana Chan.

BANANA
OH NO!!!!

She screams, falls beside her desk, cries.

MR. ONO
Banana. Out of curiosity, what were you
dreaming about?

BANANA
Now in the dream, little green men -- closely
related to the leprechaun -- come out of the
ant hole to bring me matches! And the Fire
God Jim-Bob-Bob tells me to burn cities! His
name used to be Aujjviemflrcojvw Bowler
or ... Ajadnlietndvsg Bowler ... but I had
trouble pronouncing his first name.

MR. ONO
Do you like those dreams more than you like
this reality in which we live?

BANANA sinks her face down into her desk, in shame, and wipes
tears from beneath her eyes.

BANANA
Yes.
(crying)
I'd rather be eating glazed doughnuts like a
crazed dingo!

END OF EPISODE

ART

I would like to thank the following artists for their amazing contributions of visual artwork!

THE ANIMEQUEENS
(Heather Ewert & Megan Ewert)

DIANE HOLMAN

JASON SULLIVAN

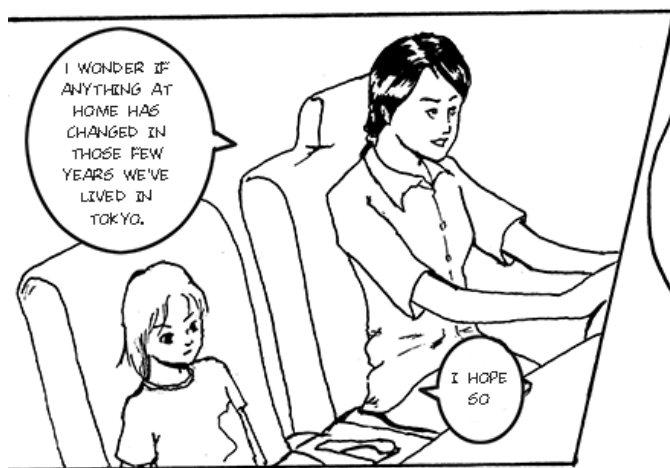
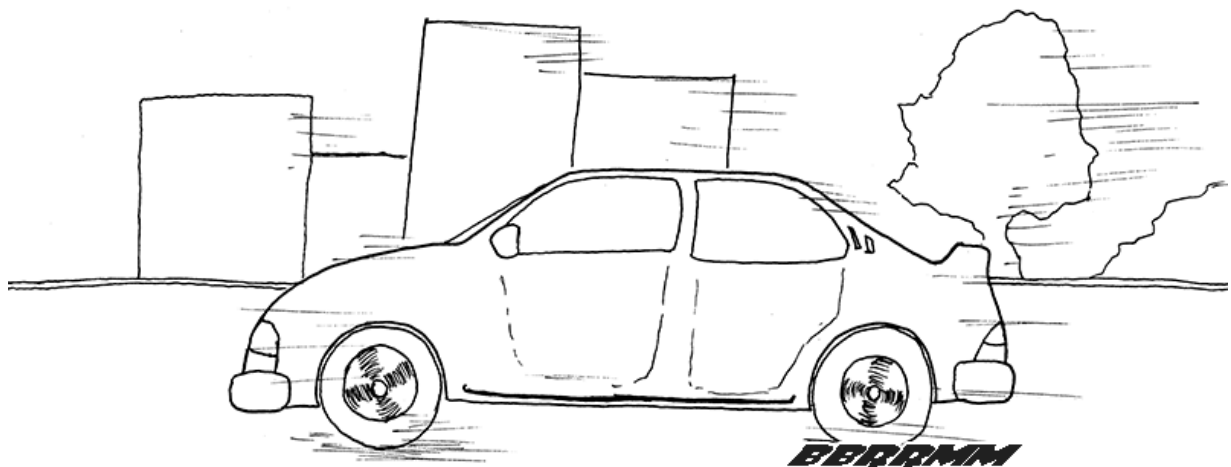
KATIE DAY

LIANA BUSZKA

MONIKA HOLMAN

YUDHianto BAMBAY

BONUS MANGA!
Clip from episode 1!
By
Yudhianto Bambang
(With Bayo Aji)



I WONDER IF
ANYTHING AT
HOME HAS
CHANGED IN
THOSE FEW
YEARS WE'VE
LIVED IN
TOKYO.

I HOPE
SO



EXACTLY LIKE
THAT, AND
THOSE GIRLS
WON'T BE PICK-
ING ON YOU
ANYMORE



NOW THAT
WE'RE RE-
TURNING
HOME,
IT'LL BE A
FRESH
START

LIKE PUSH-
ING THE
RESET
SWITCH ON
A VIDEO
GAME



YES THEY
WILL



NO, I'VE NEVER
HATED THEM, AND
I DON'T HATE
THEM, AND I'LL
NEVER HATE
ANYONE, EVER

GOOD

YOU TAUGHT
ME TO BE A
PERSON WHO
DOESN'T
HATE,

THAT'S
RIGHT, BE-
CAUSE
HATE IS
STUPID

BUT MY
EYEBROWS
ARE STILL
ORANGE,
AND THEY
GIVE AWAY
...

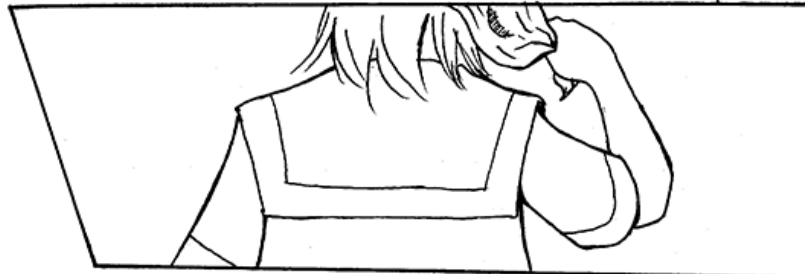
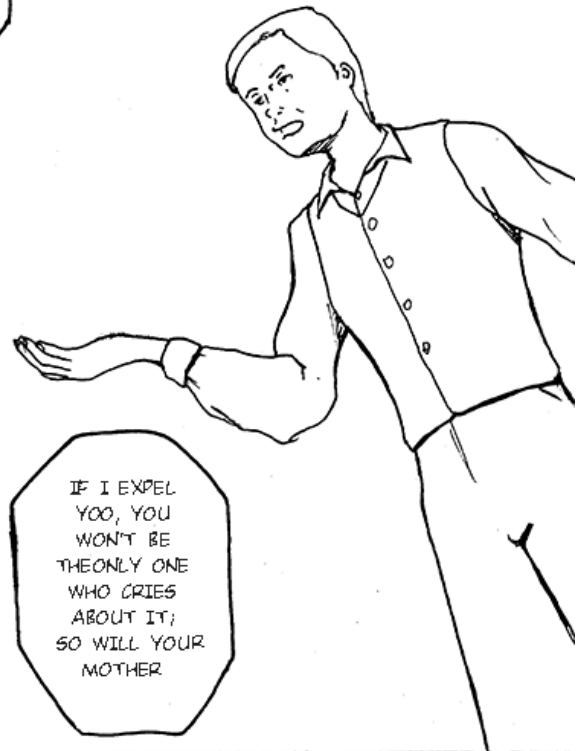
...
THAT I'M THE
ORANGE-HAIRED
GIRL WHO THEY
HATED! WHEN I
RETURN, ALL THE
STUFF THAT WE
RAN AWAY FROM
WILL JUST
BEGIN AGAIN

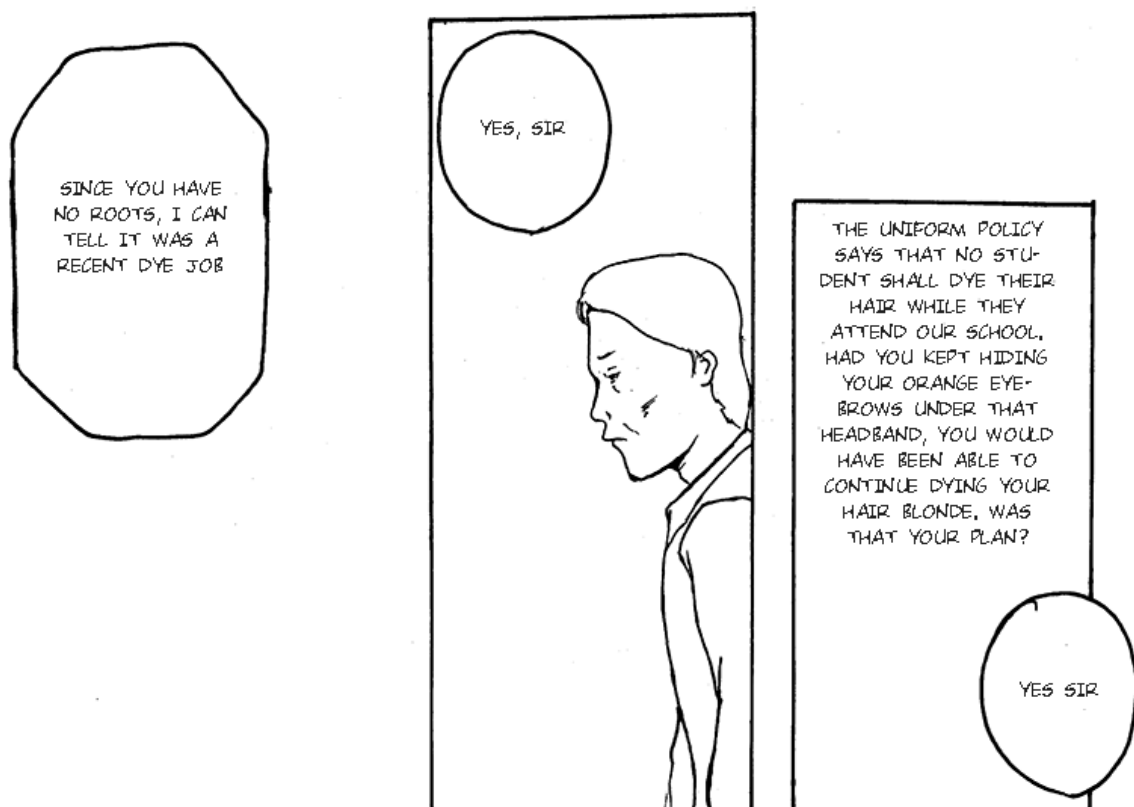
YOU ARE
TOO
PARA-
NOID

YOU CAN
NAVER TOO
PARANOID.
CAN I WEAR
A HEAD BAND
TO SCHOOL?

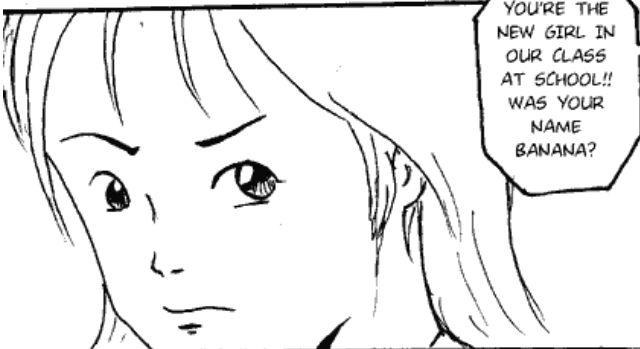
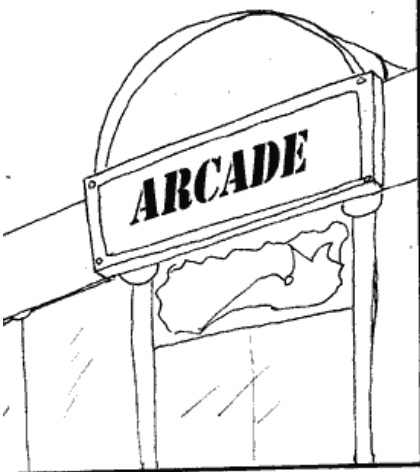
ONLY IF
THEY
ALLOW IT







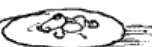








SO, HOW
DID YOUR
FIRST DAY
BACK AT
SCHOOL?
DID ANYONE
RECOGNIZE
YOU?



I'M NOT
SURE



I GOT A
PHONE CALL
FROM YOUR
PRINCIPAL. HE
TOLD ME EV-
ERYTHING

I'M
SORRY

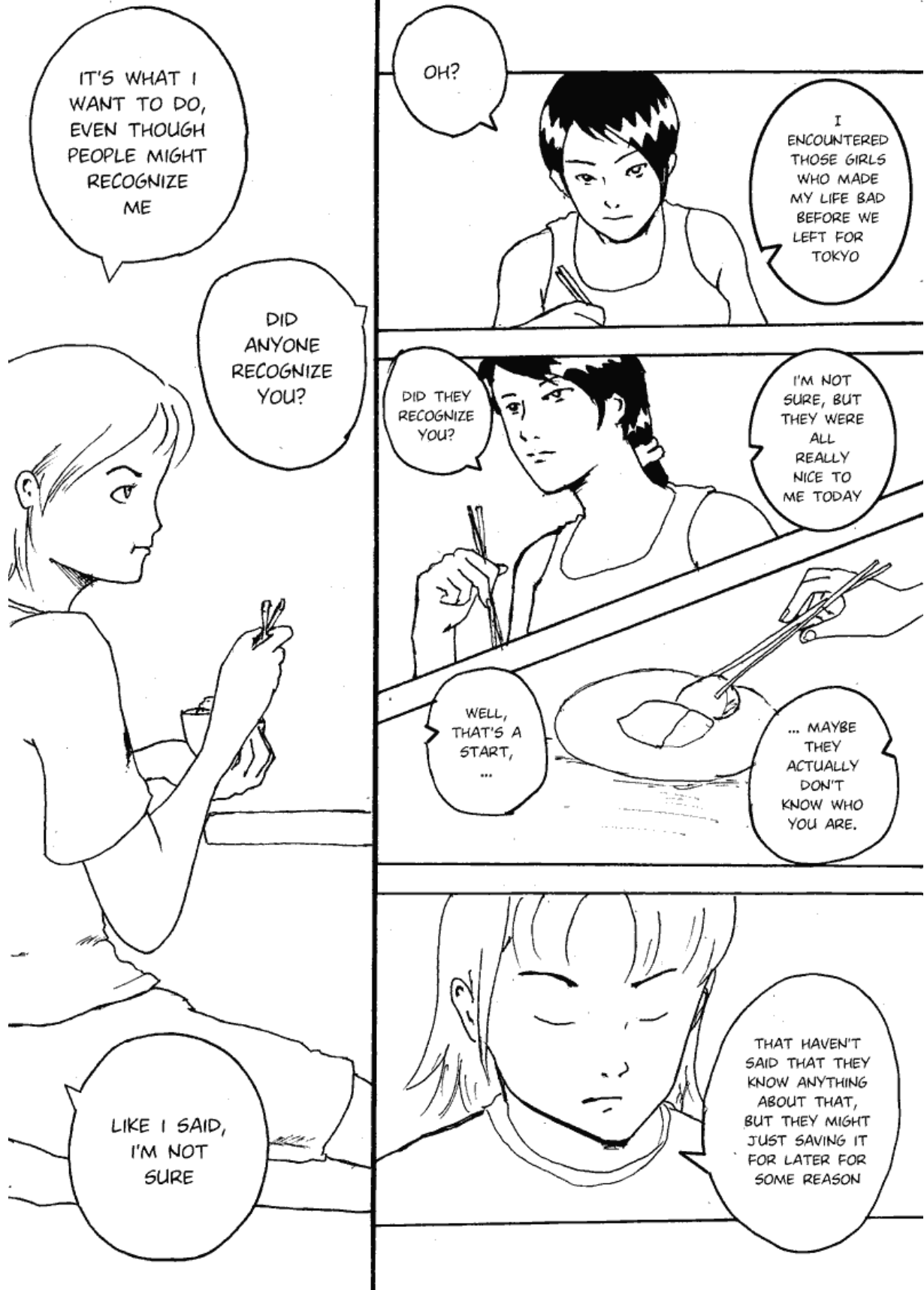


NO, I'M SORRY
FOR NOT LIS-
TENING TO
YOU. I SHOULD
HAVE PAID
FOR THEM TO
DYE YOUR
EYEBROW
ALSO, LIKE
YOU SAID

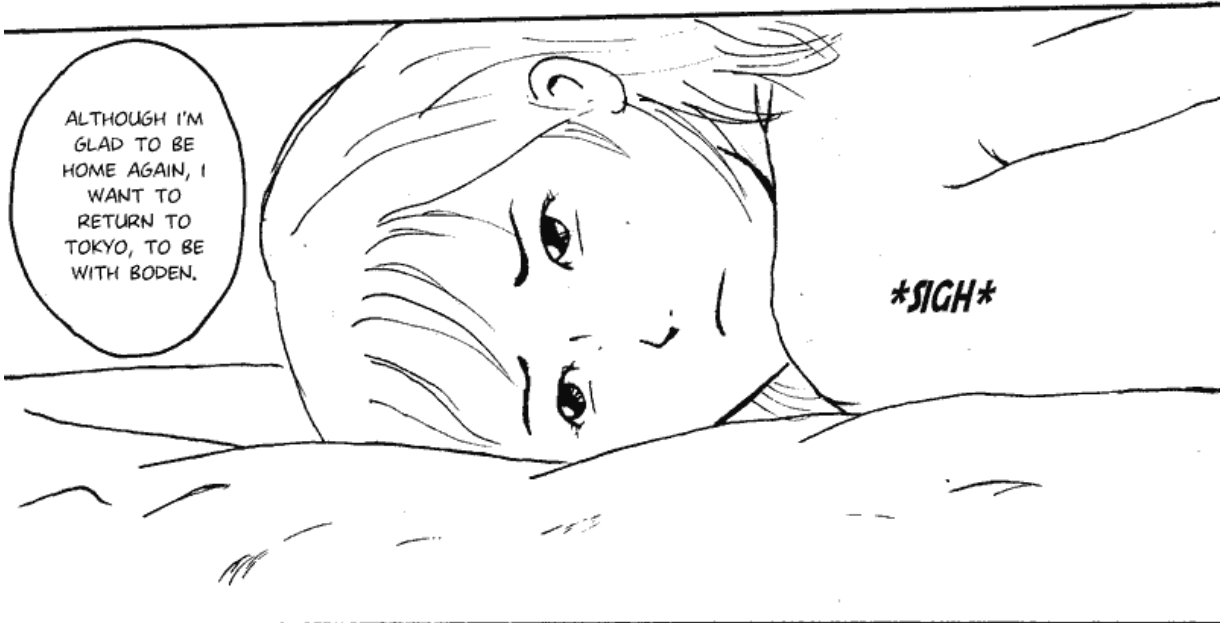
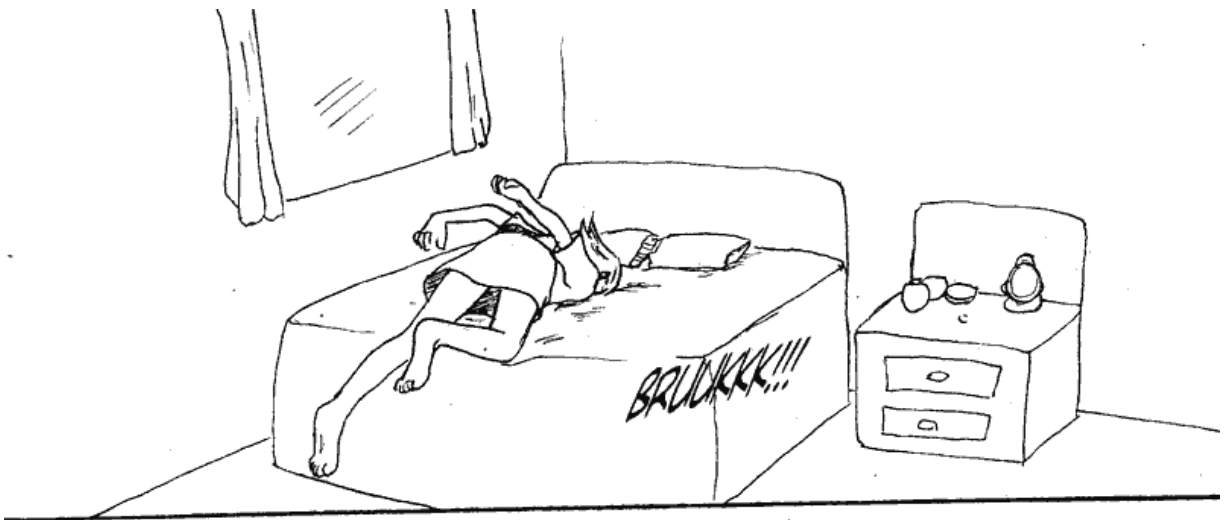
DAMN RIGHT.
BUT NOW
WE'RE GOING
TO JUST DYE
MY HAIR
BACK TO IT'S
ORIGINAL
COLOR.



IT SEEMS LIKE A
WASTE, BUT IF
THAT'S WHAY
YOU WANT TO
DO, THEN THAT'S
WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO DO.
I'LL SET UP AN
APPONITMENT
FOR YOU AT THE
HAIR SALON TO-
MORROW AFTER-
NOON.







I MISS HIM. HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON I'VE EVER BEEN ABLE TO CONNECT WITH AND TRUST FULLY WITH EVERYTHING. HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND, AND WE WERE SO COOL TOGETHER. THIS IS WHERE I'M FROM, AND I FEEL LIKE THIS IS WHERE I BELONG.

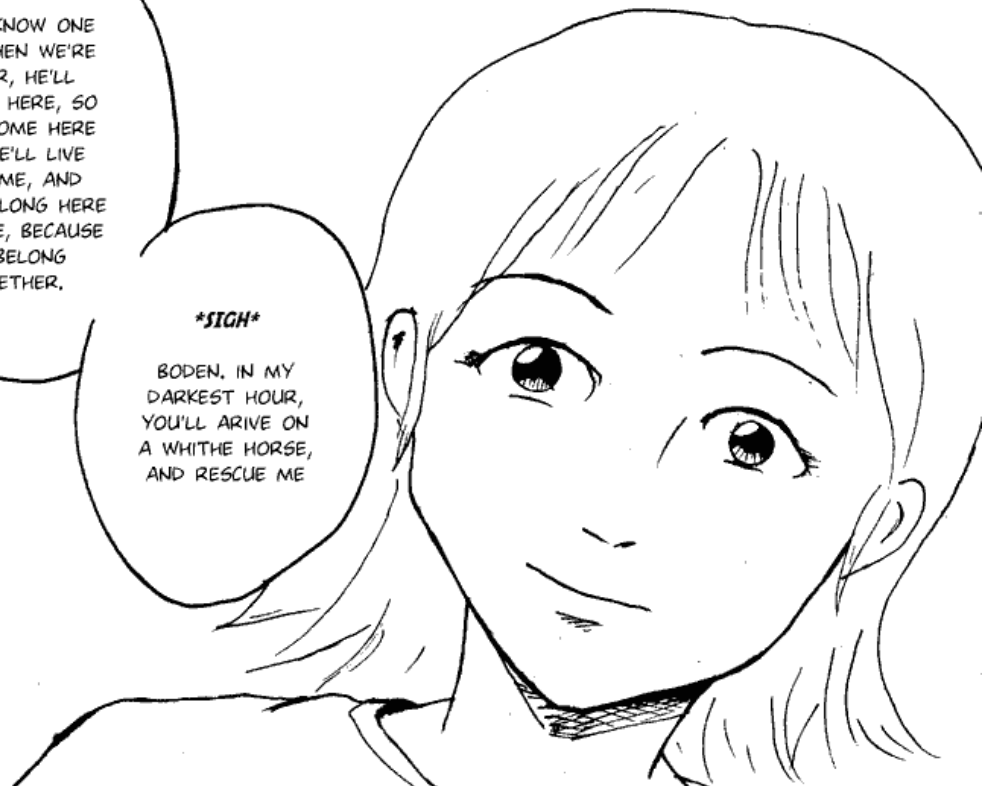
I NEVER FELT LIKE I BELONGED IN TOKYO, YET TOKYO IS WHERE BODEN IS, AND I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT I FEEL LIKE I BELONG WITH HIM. BUT HE BELONGS THERE AND I BELONG HERE.

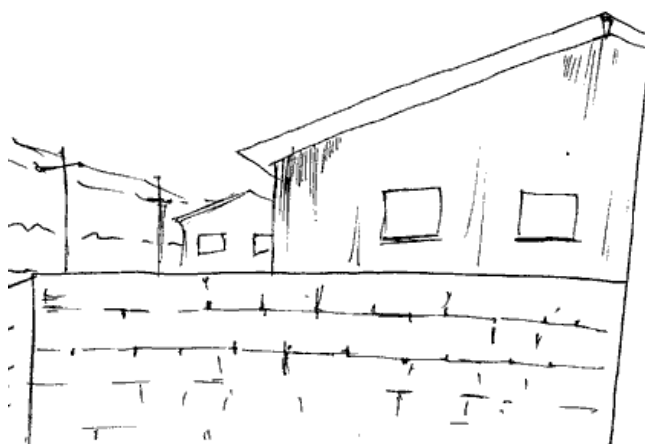
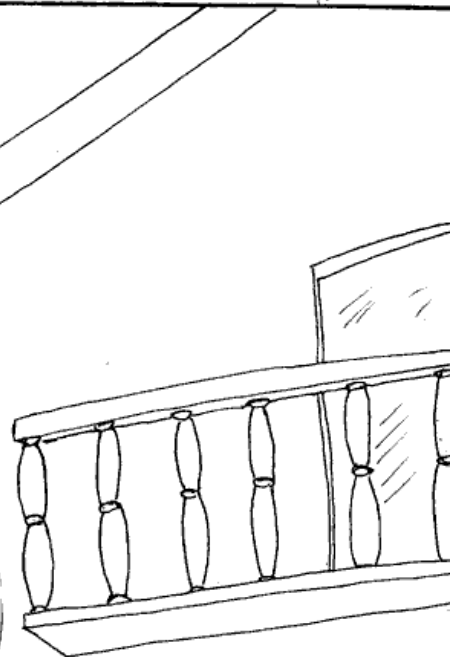
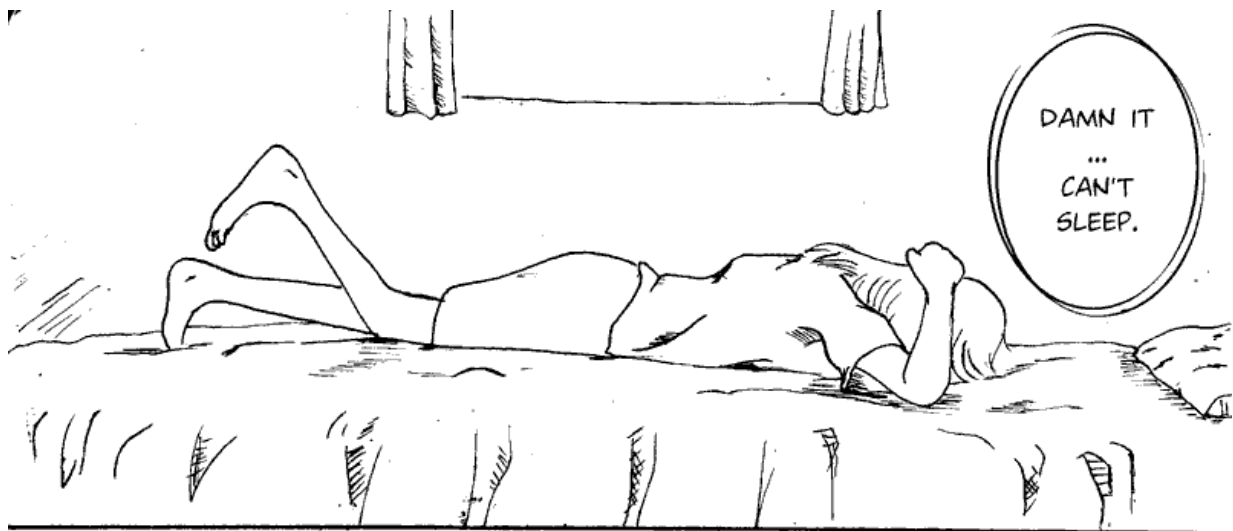


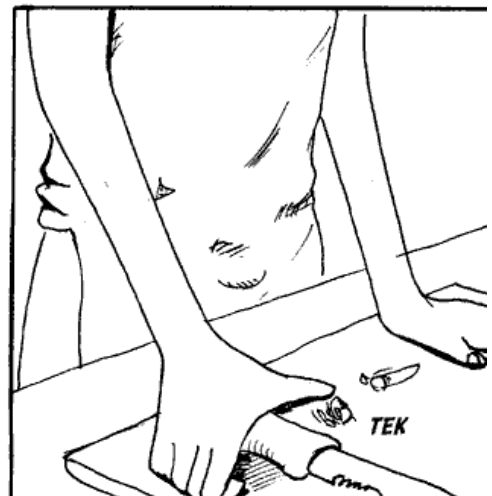
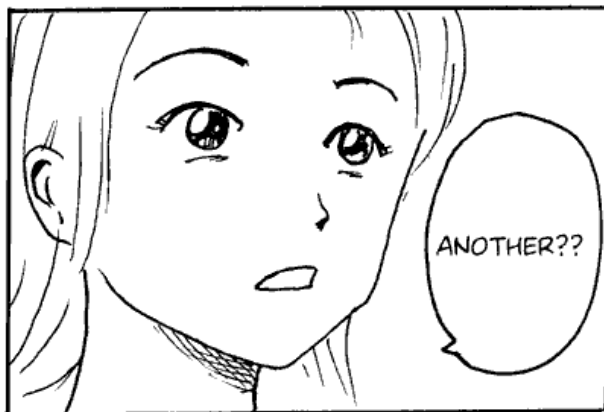
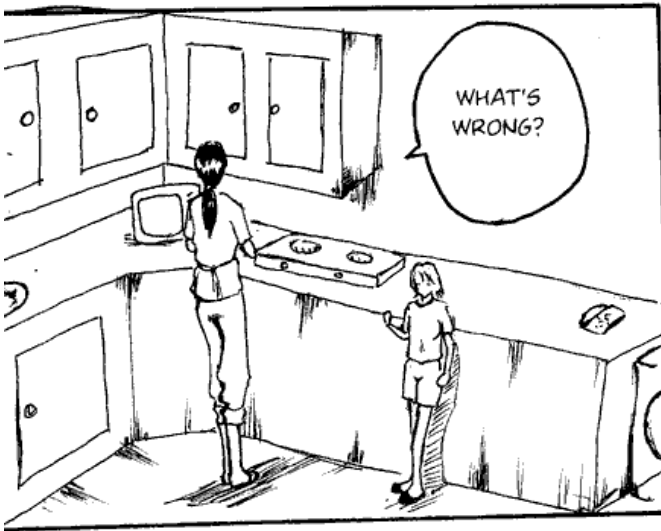
BUT I KNOW ONE
DAY WHEN WE'RE
OLDER, HE'LL
BELONG HERE, SO
HE'LL COME HERE
AND HE'LL LIVE
WITH ME, AND
HE'LL BELONG HERE
WITH ME, BECAUSE
WE BELONG
TOGETHER.

SIGH

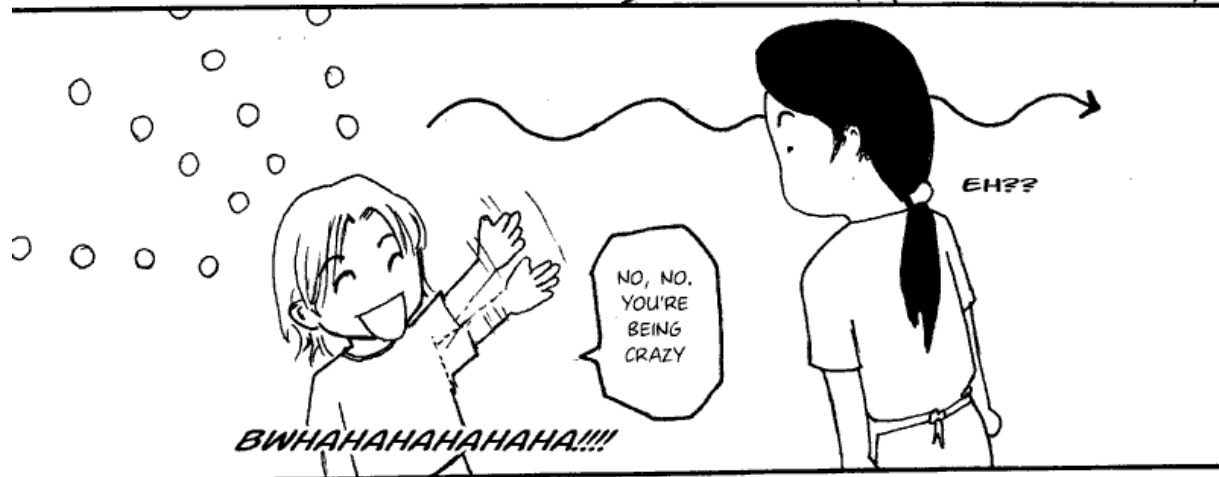
BODEN. IN MY
DARKEST HOUR,
YOU'LL ARRIVE ON
A WHITE HORSE,
AND RESCUE ME

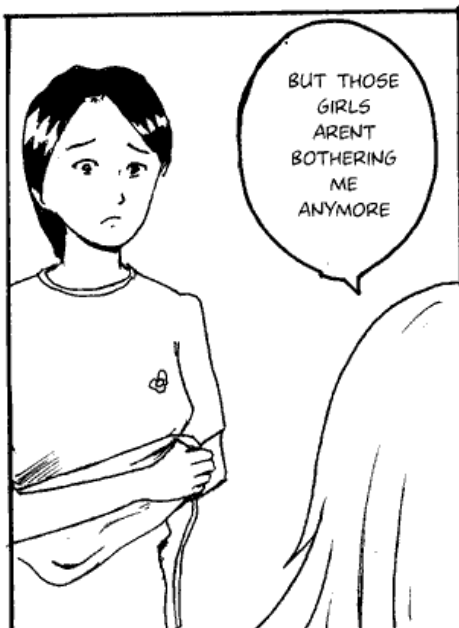
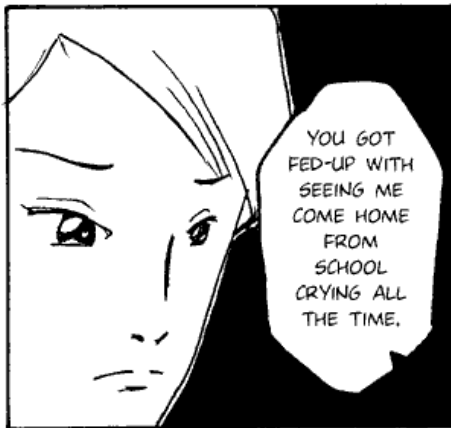
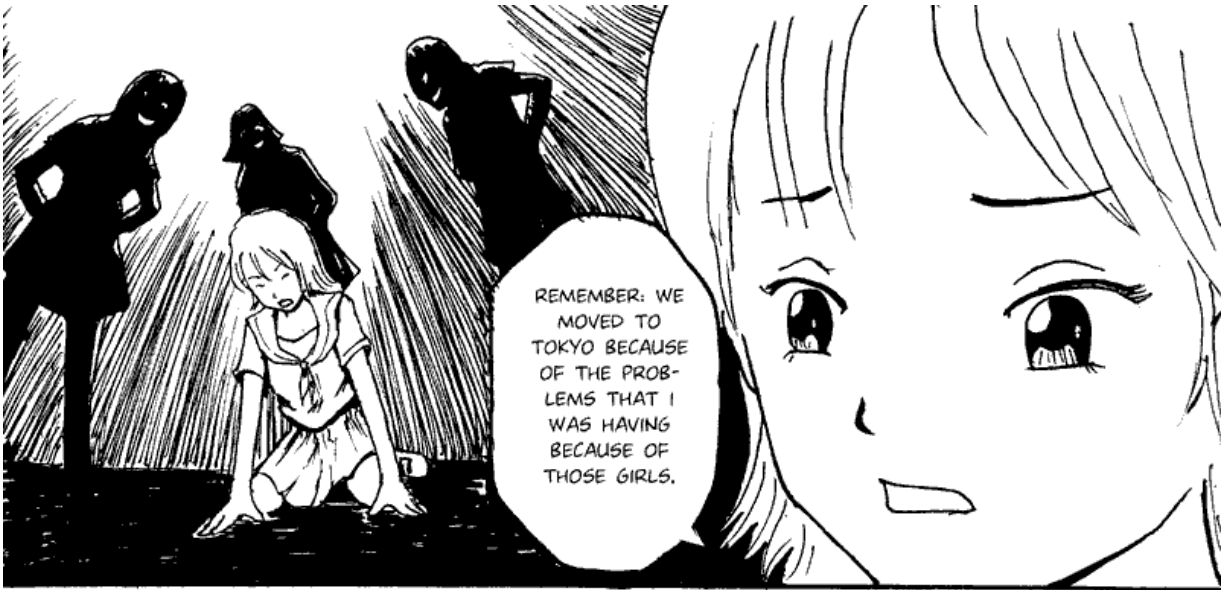


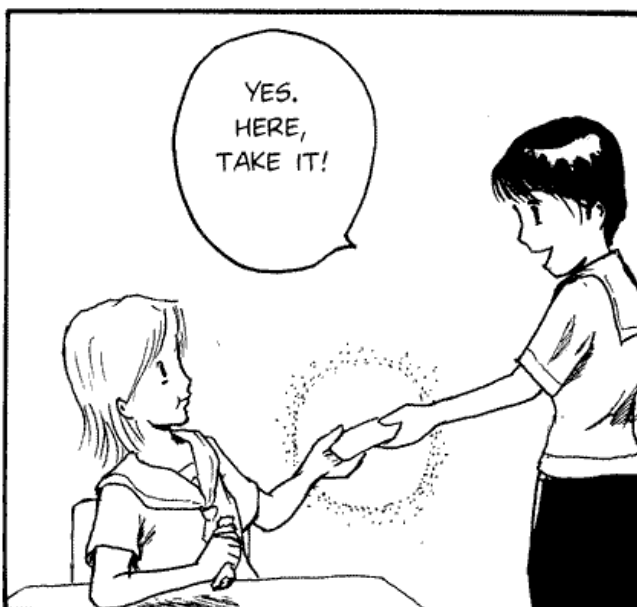
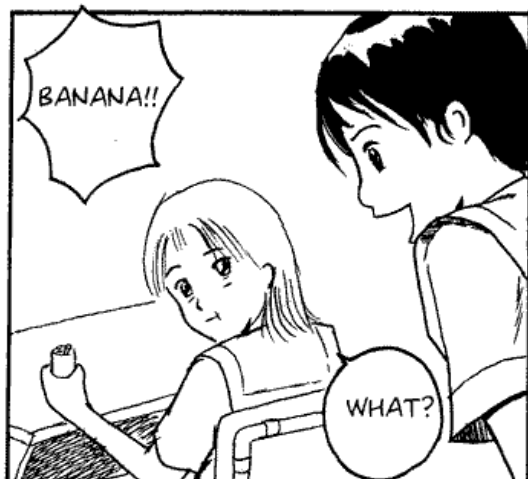
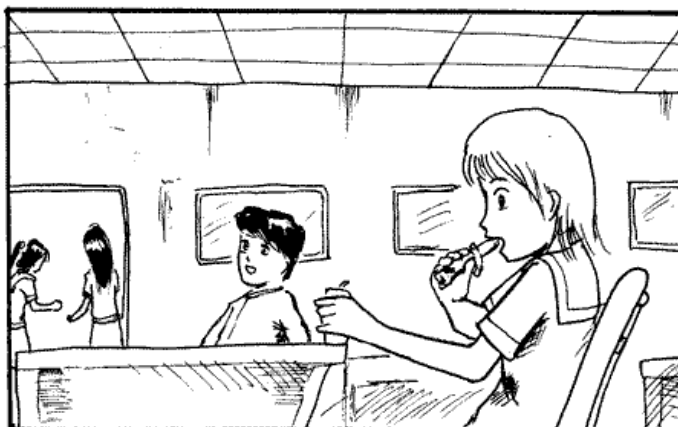
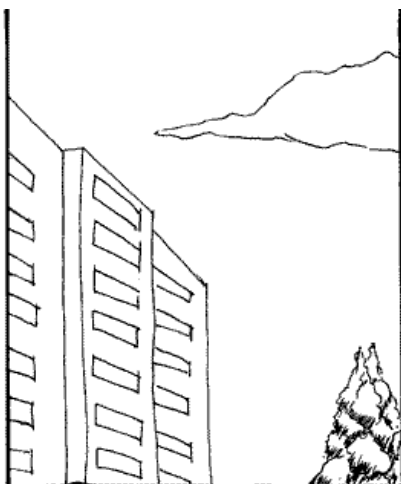








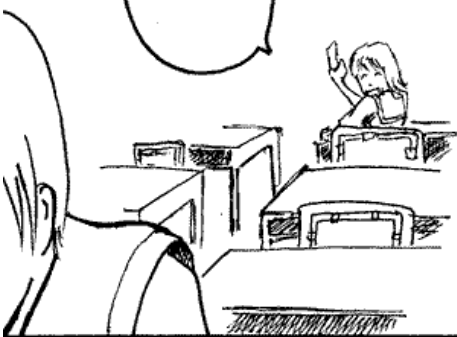




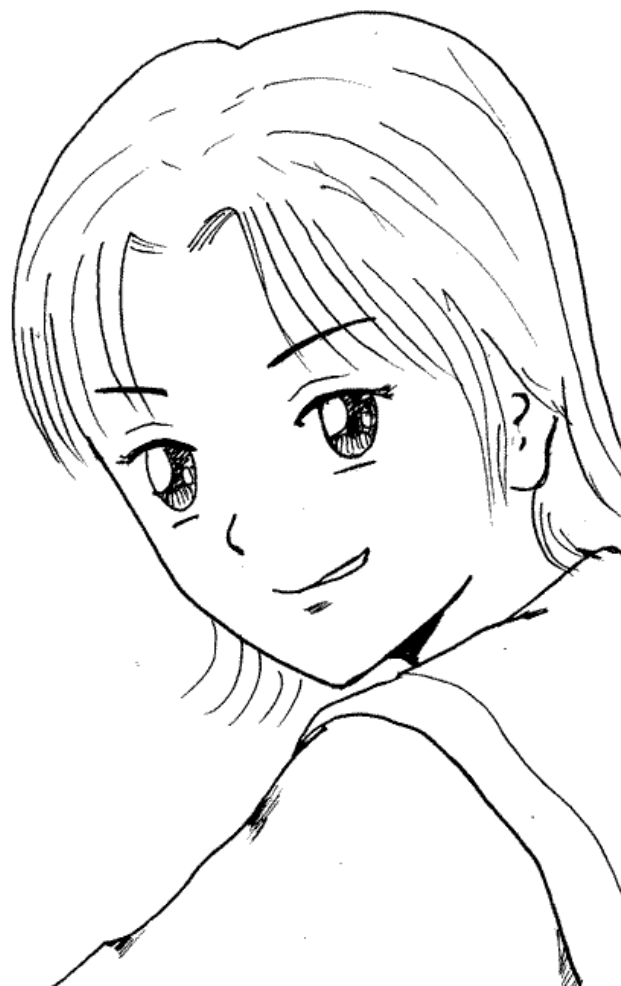
DONT OPEN
IT NOW. OPEN
IT LATER.
OPEN IT
WHEN YOU'RE
ALL ALONE

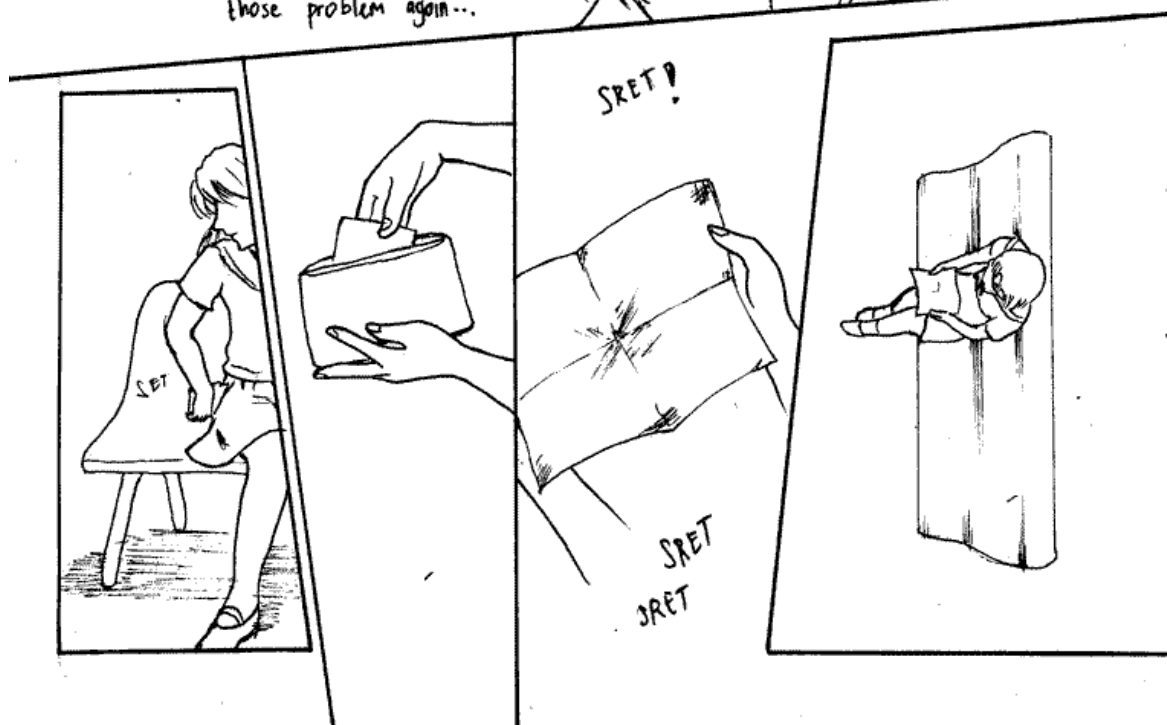


OUKAY
!!!



* SIGH *
I HAVE A
BAD FEELING
ABOUT THIS



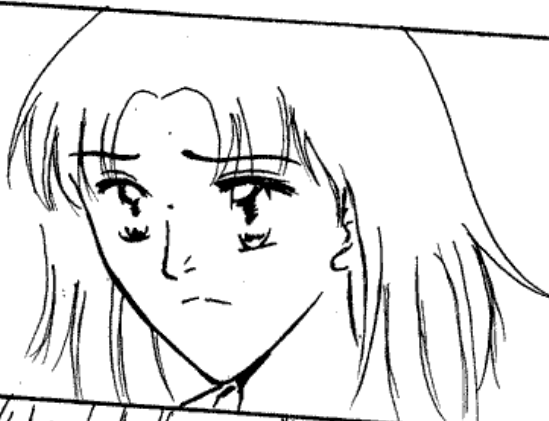


if you betray
the emotion 16 Soldiers
in anyway



then whenever you
are empowered...

and in
control of
any aspect
of your life
...



...
the fates
will grab that
power and that
control from you
...

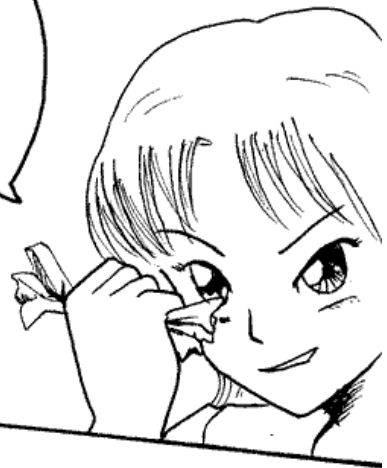


...
and you will be
lead towards a
sour and bitter
destiny.

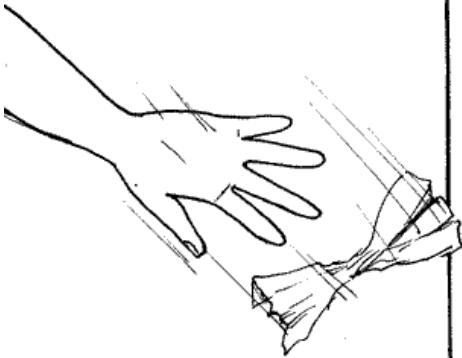




IT'S JUST A
CHILDISH
PRANK!
THISE SMALL
TOWN
LOSERS
HAVENT
GROWN UP

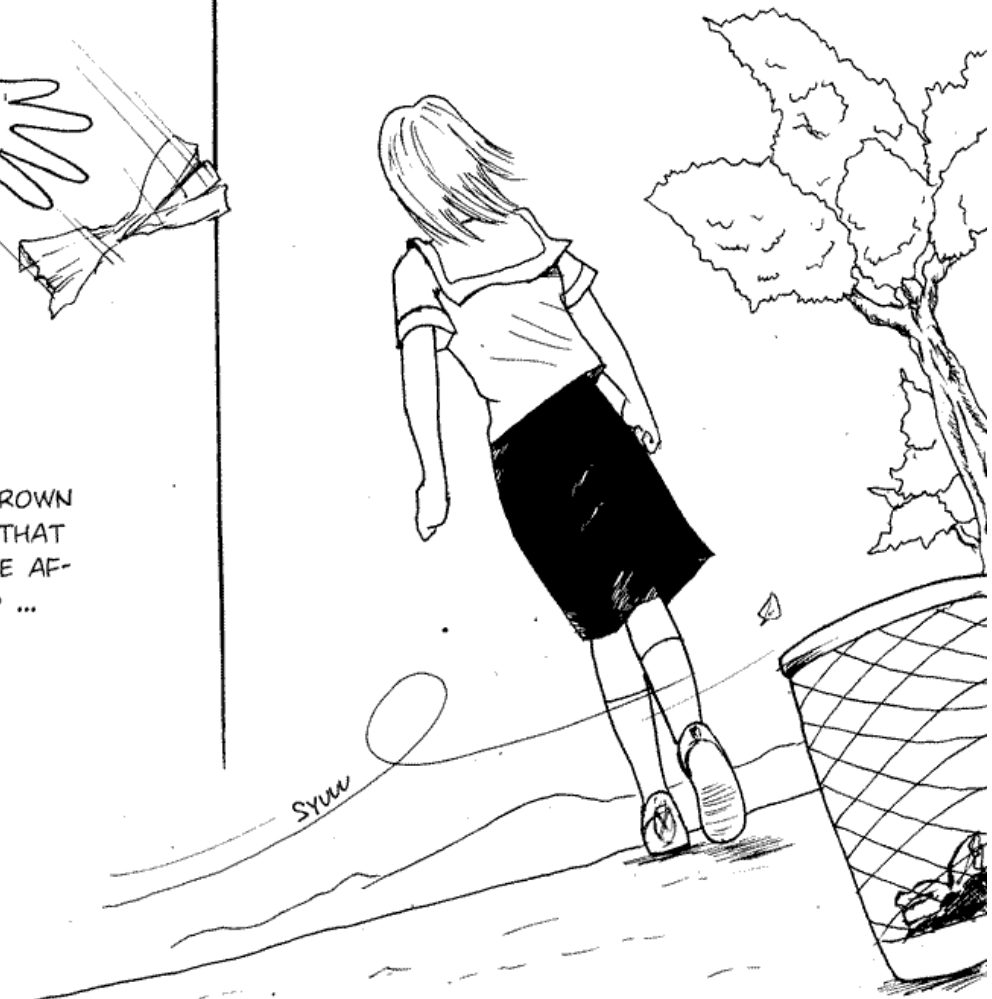


BUT I'VE
SPENT THE
LAST FEW
YEARS IN A
BIG CITY ...

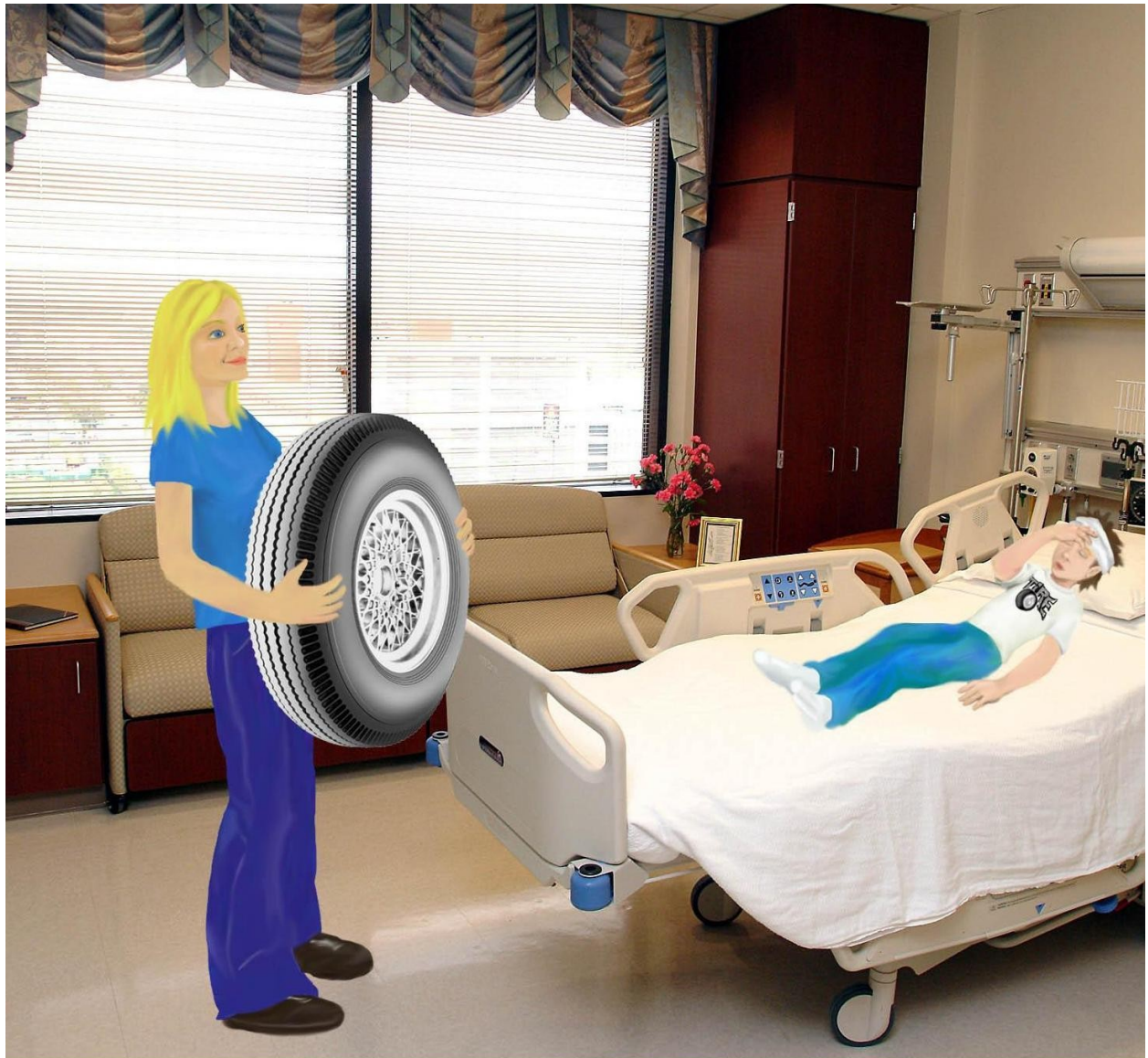


BY THIS JUNK
ANYMORE!!

...
SO I'VE GROWN
ENOUGH THAT
I CAN'T BE AF-
FECTED ...



Banana Chan



BANANA CHAN
Volume 1
by
Alan Holman

Alan Holman



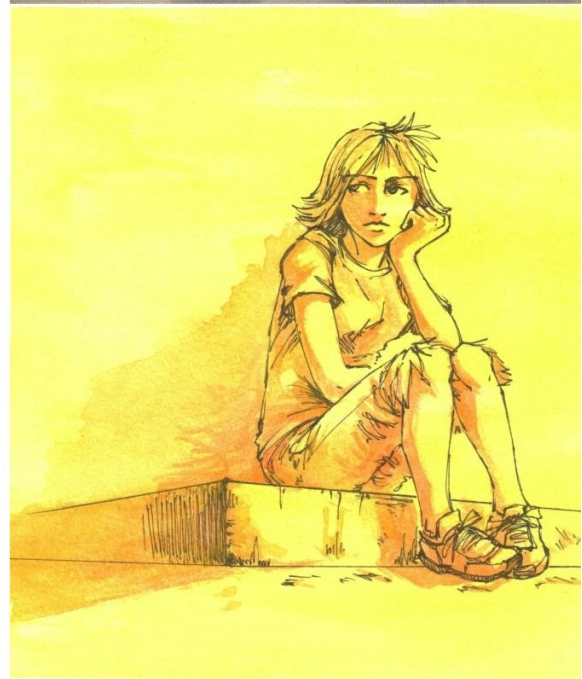
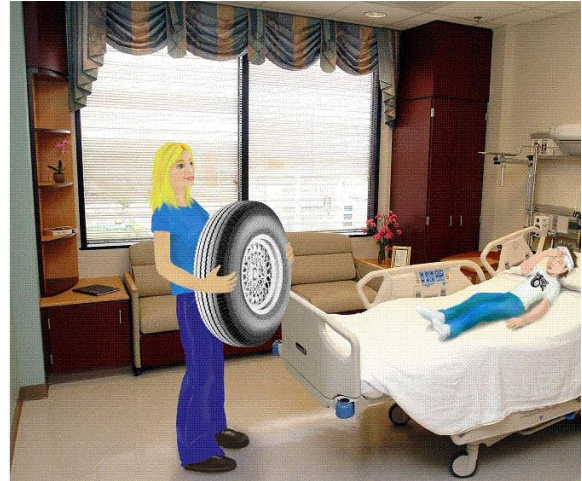
Hi!

I'm Alan Holman, and I appreciate that you've purchased volume 1 of my series **BANANA CHAN!**

I've always been a fan of animé, but one thing that annoyed me about certain shows was that the developments of characters and relationships was often put on hold so that the characters could defeat weekly monsters.

So I've written a story that takes place in the same environment that you'd find in a "monster of the week" show, but a main focus in my story is the developments of the characters and their relationships.

Yes there are monsters and conspiracies in this story, but the focus of this volume is set on the personalities of the people who will, in a future volume, save the world from those monsters and conspiracies ;)



The Ultimate Orijinaru Dojinshi!

Banana Chan

Chapters 1 & 2: "The Emotion 16 Soldiers VS. The Eater Of Worlds, Parts 1 & 2" -- The series begins with an abridged maho shojo which pits the stubbornly hikikomori Banana Chan against a weekly series of giant monsters.

Chapter 3: "The Arrangement" -- Shojo drama continues when the perhaps tsundere Banana Chan is pursued by ...

... she is a reluctant heroine who would rather play video games and read books than save the world from ...

THIS SERIES

- is exciting
- has characters that would be fun to hang out with
- has action
- has funny situations that could happen in real life
- really makes you laugh
- is made for teenagers
- is a new kind of show that you've never seen before
- has imaginary places and imaginary people
- is a show with interesting stories
- has a character who is writing poems or stories in a journal
- has someone working part time to earn money
- has someone playing with or taking care of a pet
- has someone hanging out with friends.
- has someone reading books, magazines, or comic books.

... an epic coming-of-age tale about a reluctant heroine named Banana Chan. Volume 1 establishes her character by ...

NAME: Banana
AGE: 11-to-16
HEIGHT: Tall for her age.
WEIGHT: Healthy weight for her age and height.
HAIR COLOUR/LENGTH/APPEARANCE: Orange, dyed blonde.
EYES COLOUR/LENGTH/APPEARANCE: Green, bright.
SKIN: Caucasian, like most anime characters who are Japanese.
LOOKS: Like an energetic kid... but she's lazy.
APPEARANCE: Childish female child.
CLOTHES: Japanese stuff.
IN THE STREETS: Uhh...
SOCIAL STATUS: Bu.....
AFFILIATIONS: Quite anti-social.
ATTACKS:
LIKES: Ice cream, Cats.
DISLIKES: Ryone!!
STRENGTHS:
WEAKNESSES:
PERSONALITY:
HISTORY:

This volume, which charts her growth from ages 11-to-16 ...

