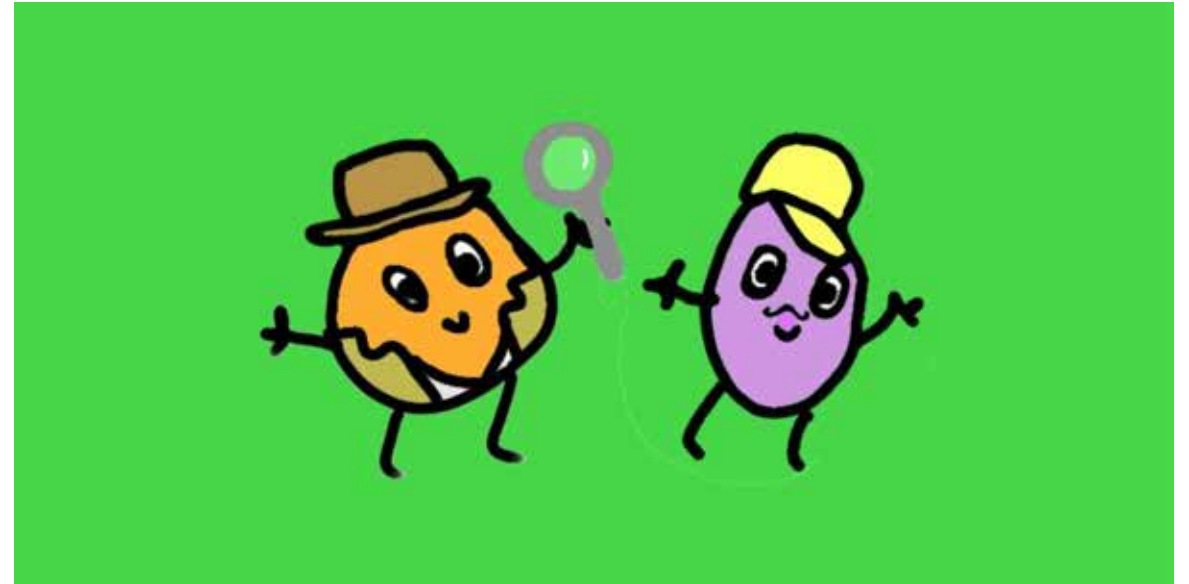


That Bad Banana!



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Published by Saronti Ltd

Facilitated by Clare Ford at the

Switched ON! Academy

August 2021

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Chapter One

Yawning and stretching, Mr Orange woke up to another normal day. Or was it...?

He didn't quite know what, but something felt different. He looked around, blurry from sleep.

Outside his round, bamboo window there was a fat, green melon bird. Sitting on the windowsill, it was happily snacking away at some grape flies.



The small town of Berry Borough stretched out for miles around. There were small cottages and

gravel paths, where little berry children played happily.

Even though Mr Orange was not strictly a 'berry', he had been accepted into the Berry community with sweet grace.

On his bedside table lay a cold cup of milk from last night, in his favorite cup - white with purple spots on. It made him think of his roommate, Dr Plum.

He stepped down onto his fluffy, grey carpet. It was soft, and warm. He gazed into his mirror, sleepy but positive.

And then he saw it..

His peel had been taken!

Chapter Two

He couldn't believe it.

Last night he was tucked up in bed with his fresh, zesty peel. This morning, he was all pith!

“My peel!” yelled Orange, in desperation.

He was distraught. His peel was all he was and without that....nothing!

He rushed downstairs.

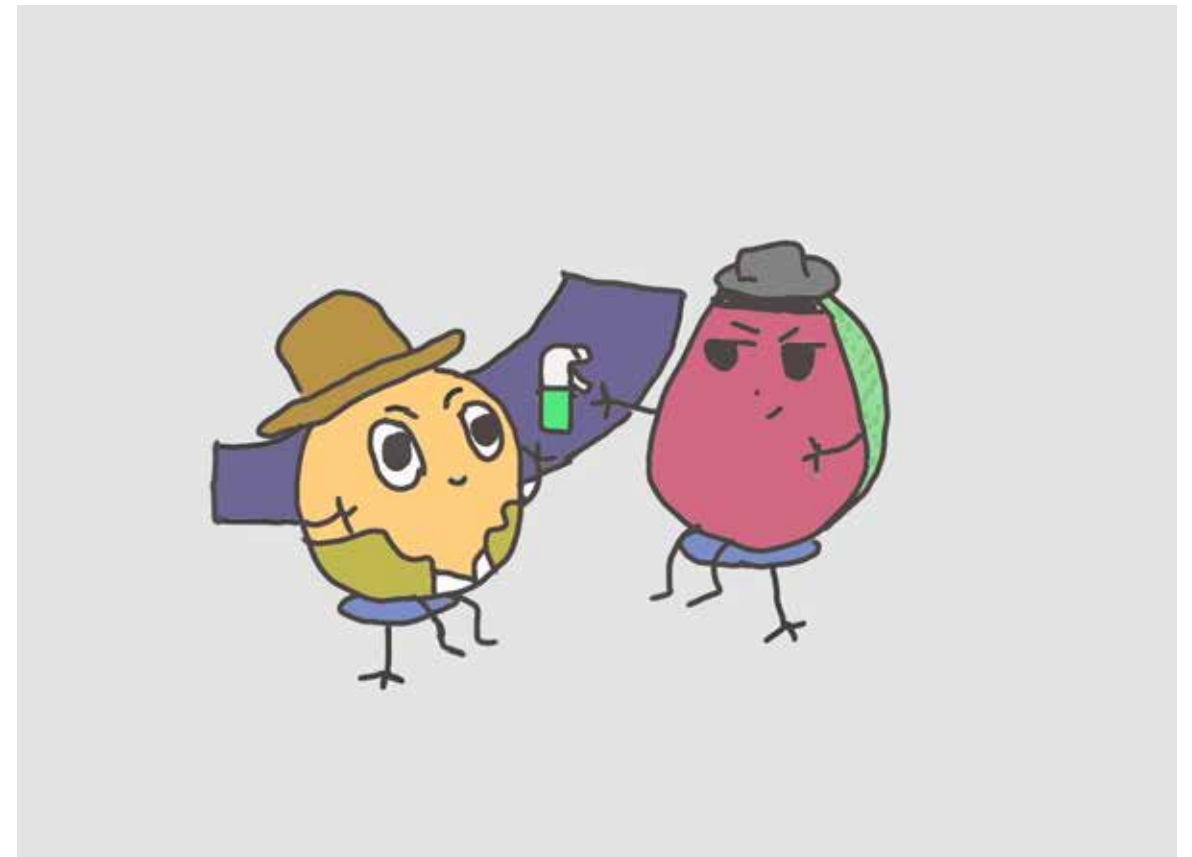
He shouted to Dr Plum, his roommate, “There’s something I’ve got to sort out!” Mr Orange flung on his overcoat, his detecting hat, grabbed his magnifying glass and headed into the busy streets of Berry Borough.



First, he headed to the Police Station to ask some of his buddies in the Fruit Force, but that was a loose end.

Next, he headed to the Grape of Wrath Inn, a dark and dingy place of untrustworthy foes. He was looking for Grisly Guava, the baddest fruit in town.

Guava was sitting in a dusty corner.



“Have you seen any shady characters around these parts?” Mr Orange asked, slipping a rare

bottle of Fertilizer across the table. Mr Orange knew this gift would get Guava to talk.

“Only one,” Guava replied, pocketing the Fertilizer, “It was hard to see his eyes under his mask, but I think it was a Banana.”

Mr Orange froze. He couldn't breathe. He suddenly knew who had taken his peel.

Mr Orange stumbled out of the Inn, without looking back. He knew there could only be one explanation. It was the Banana Emperor, himself!

Chapter Three.

A while back, when they were both in Fruit School, playing an innocent game of cards during break with a group of friends, Orange had won his first game of Crazy 8s.

Orange was initially chuffed to have won. But then the young Banana Emperor became so distraught at his loss, yelling and pushing the table over, that he swore to get revenge!

He stormed out and they hadn't seen each other since. Orange had been wondering when they would meet again.



Since then, the Banana Emperor had turned truly rotten and became a bully to all of the students in the School. As he grew, they grew too, and eventually they kicked him and his followers out of the Fruit Kingdom in disgrace.

He must have found some allies among the other fruits for him to have snuck into Berry Borough.

Chapter Four

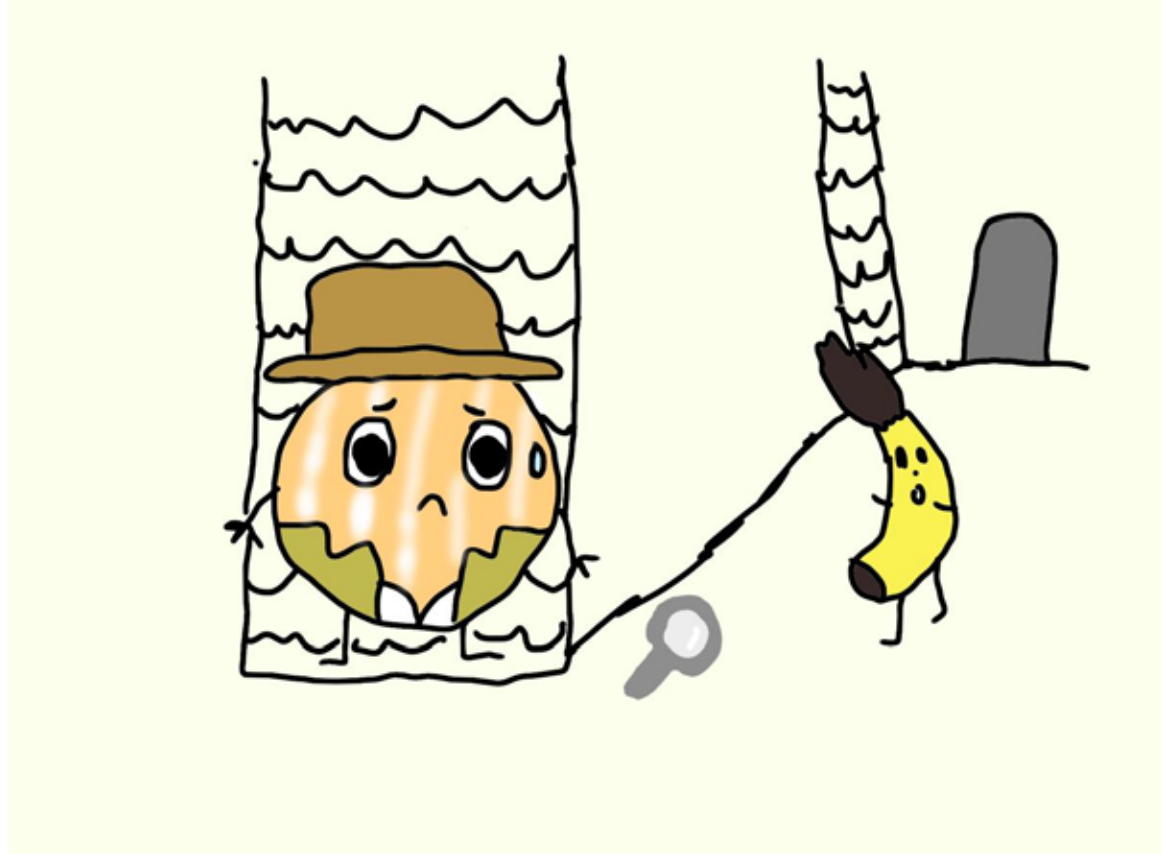
Mr Orange realised that the Bananas must be hiding in Lemon Land! Where else but the most sour place in the whole of the Fruit Kingdom.

Orange knew that the Lemons had always wanted to please the Bananas because they wanted to be just as tall and mighty as the Banana Emperor, though this could never be the case for those simpering citrus fruits!

It didn't take him long to get there.

Mr Orange snuck into Lemon Land, breathing hard and set his eyes on the Palace. He snuck in as one of the guards opened the door to enter.

He hid behind one of the large pillars and no-one saw him.



But then, he dropped his magnifying glass which clattered to the floor with a heartbreaking CRASH! Footsteps hurried his way.

He tried to find somewhere to hide, but before he knew it, there were several guards searching the Hall he was in. He was spotted! "I found him!" yelled one of the guards, "Where shall we take him?"

"Straight to the Emperor," said the biggest Banana guard, "He will want a word with him."

Chapter Five

As Mr Orange was bundled into a dark room; he had to strain his eyes to see. The lights came up, suddenly on... a card table! The Banana Emperor was waiting on his Throne, then he spoke, "Mr Orange. I've waited all these years for a re-match!"

"You took my peel, just to make me play a re-match?!" shouted Mr Orange.

The Banana Emperor grinned, wickedly, "Come now, Old Friend, take a seat." The guard pushed Orange into the nearest chair.

"We play for the peel," the Emperor said slyly.

"Deal," Orange uttered to the Emperor, knowing that he had no choice.



The game began. It was Crazy Eights, just like that day many years before.

Orange began to sweat. His heart was racing. His hands were sticky and he could barely hold his cards.

Mr Orange could hear the focused breath of the Banana Emperor. Banana's long eyebrow hairs were rustling as he concentrated.

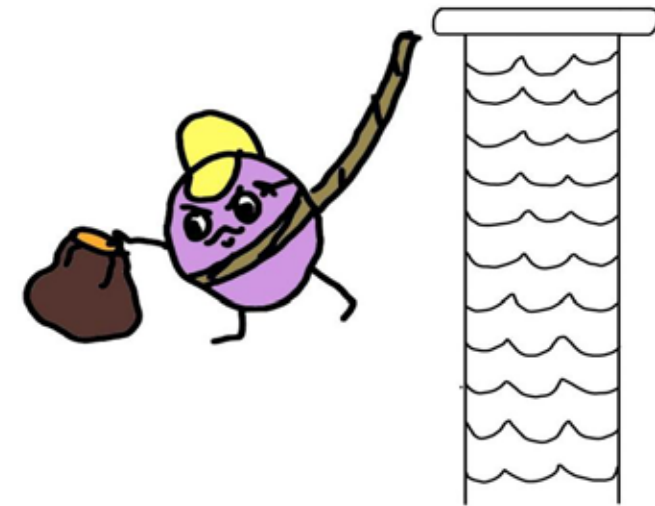
Orange looked down at his hand of cards. He had two 8s. Looking over at the Emperor, he wondered if the game was rigged.

He could only win if he could get rid of his cards, especially the 8s.

The game seemed to take forever, as the two enemies took their turns and the Emperor seemed to get rid of his cards like lightning. Mr Orange couldn't get rid of his cards and he knew he was losing.

As the Emperor threw down his last card, and cheered a nasty cheer, Orange knew he had lost! He would never see his peel again...

Suddenly, Dr Plum swung in through the window tied to a long rope!



Plum grabbed the sack from the Banana Emperor as he landed in the room. Mr Orange yelled, "Plum! What are you doing here?"

"I've come to save you!" Dr Plum exclaimed, "I know when something is up with you so I decided to do some investigating of my own. Eventually, it led me here."

The Banana Emperor had been silent with shock, but now shouted, "Get them!" His guards chased Orange and Plum down the stairs and out of the

Palace doors, with the Banana Emperor close on their heels.

Just as they ran to the border that separates Lemon Land and the rest of the Fruit Kingdom, The Banana Emperor caught up with them.

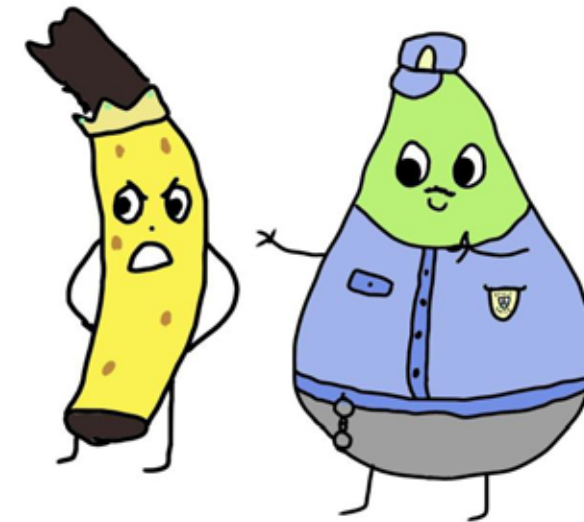
Struggling to break free, Mr Orange and Dr Plum shouted for help. And then...

The Fruit Force arrived! Officers came from left and right, circling the Banana Emperor and all his guards!

Tension filled the air. Everyone was still. A melon bird flew by, landing on the branch of a tree.

And then... “Guards, arrest them!” roared the head of the Force!

And so they did.

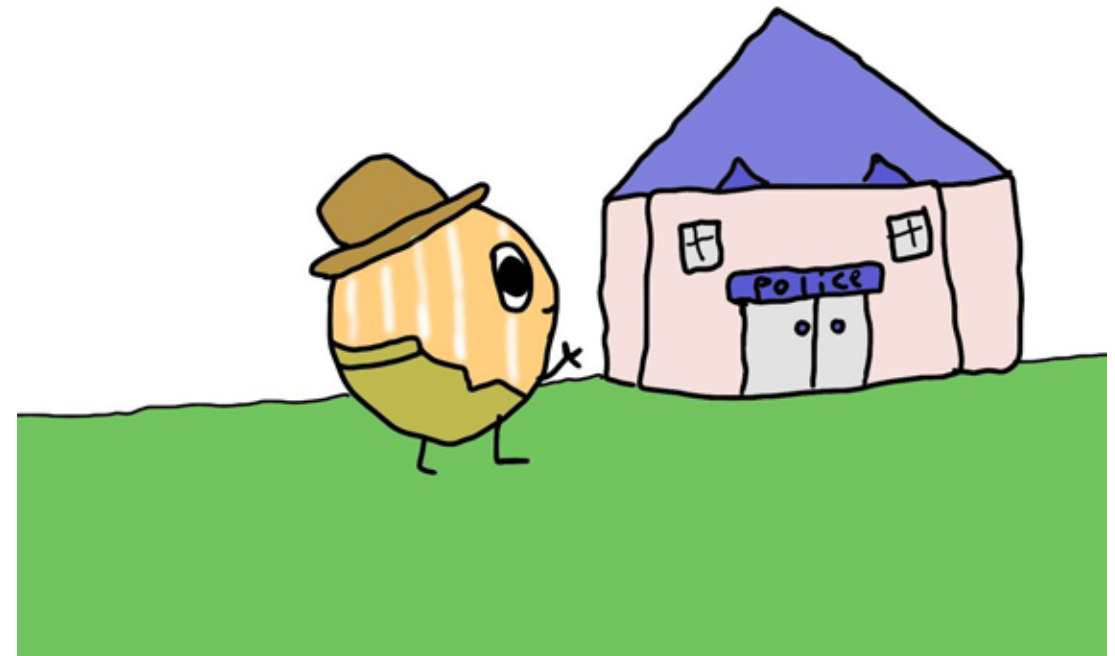


Panic broke out among the crowd; many had joined to watch the epic battle between the Banana Emperor and the Police. It was loud, and busy.

But, eventually, they managed to capture the Banana Emperor and all his rotten followers!

“Nooo!” exclaimed the Banana Emperor. “I have been captured! But fear not, my trustworthy Banana guards, this is not the end!”

Despite his shouting, The Banana Emperor was to be locked away in the nastiest prison cell there was.



Chapter Six

Back in their apartment in Berry Borough, Mr Orange and Dr Plum were having a cup of tea.

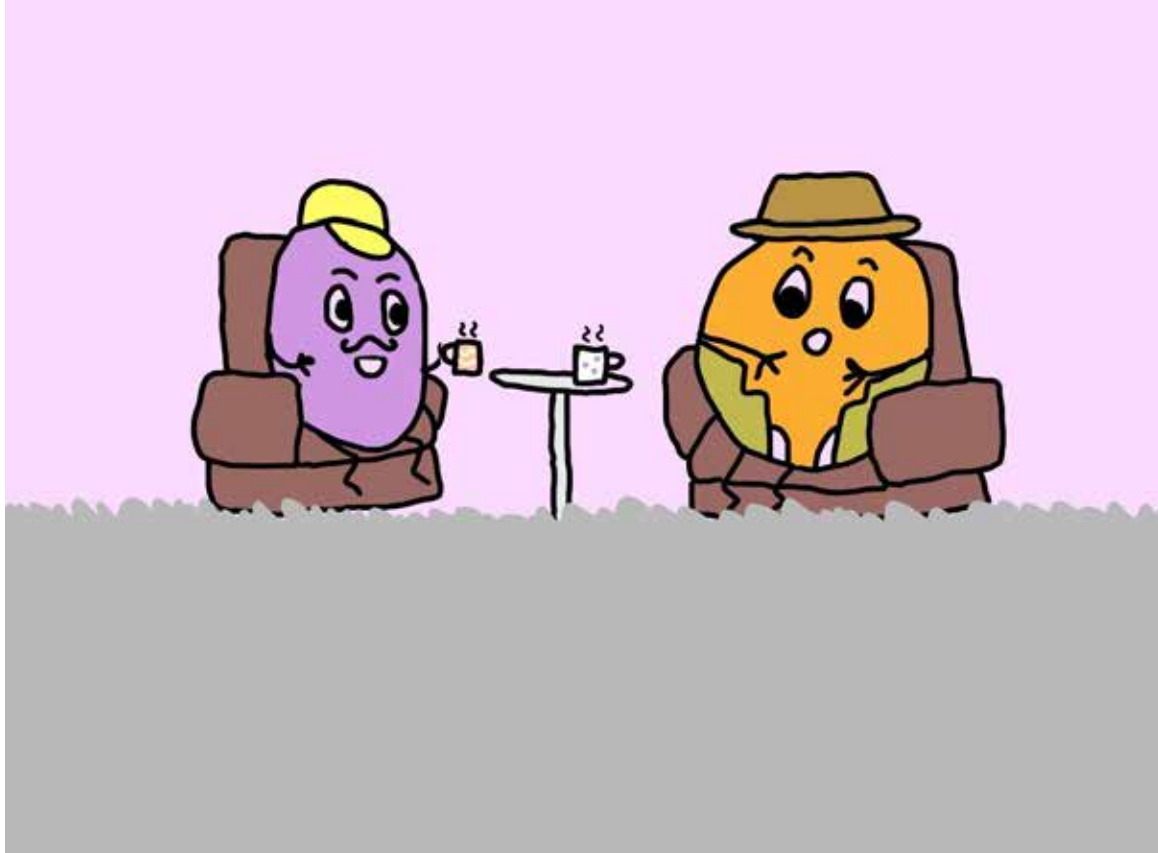
Dr Plum wondered, “You know, Orange, the Banana Emperor may have been a Bad Banana, but I wonder if he had any real friends who could have helped him to choose a better life?”

“Plum, that’s an excellent point! Without you, I would have given up after losing that game of

Crazy Eights. You literally saved my skin!” mused Orange.

“Just because you fail once, doesn’t mean there’s not a new day to come,” replied Plum.

Mr Orange sat back in his chair, “ I might just have to give up on some of these donuts, though, Plum. My overcoat barely does up!”



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Mr Orange wakes up on just an ordinary day, to find something amiss in Lemonland. His detective skills lead him to a dangerous encounter with Bad Banana, but will Mr Orange get to the bottom of the problem?