

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO JOHN BOY KIHANO?

by

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CHARACTERS

JOHN KIHANO	A Hawaiian-Chinese fisherman in his mid-forties
JAYDN KIHANO	His wife, Chinese
LANI KIHANO	Their daughter, sixteen
KAWIKA KIHANO	Their son, fourteen
JOHN BOY KIHANO	Their son, five
WENDALL LUM	A fisherman and John's childhood friend
SANDRA LUM	His wife and Jaydn's sister
DICKIE BOY LUM	Their son, seventeen
SHAUN WIGHT	Lani's boyfriend
SLIM LEE	A Policeman and first-cousin of Jaydn and Sandra

TIME

Anytime from late 90's to the present.

LOCATION

Various locations on Oahu, Hawaii.

ACT 1, PROLOGUE: THE REEF

(JOHN KIHANO, 40's, a Hawaiian-Chinese fisherman, deeply tanned, walks on stage. He wears a thin, tattered tee-shirt, paint-stained pants, and slippers. He carries a fishing pole and bucket. He leads JOHN BOY, his five-year-old son.)

JOHN

You know how it goes.

You don't know? Nobody wen tell you?

(John Boy shakes his head.)

Kay den.

(John turns over his bucket, transforming it into a drum.)

JOHN

I going tell it from da beginning. From da real old kine times.

(John teaches John Boy how to beat the drum as he chants his version of The Kumulipo, a Hawaiian creation myth.)

JOHN

Cuz you know, at da start of all tings, there was noting but wada, dead and dark and still. Until da sun came and filled da world wit light. Den da sun get dark so da moon could shine. Wit da moon, came da tides and da fishes. Da ocean wen move, wen ebb and flow, den churn and boil. Dis was da time of night. Da night wen give birth to man and woman, born in da form of Kane, molded by Kane from dark, red earth.

Da Gods enta; man cannot enta. Time wen pass. Da earth wen get created in full. Man enta, da Gods no can follow. Born was da children of man.

Man wen create one home on da islands of Hawai'i. Happy, he stay. Happy, he pay his taxes. He change his oil. He fix his roof. Happy, he stop fo listen to da Gods and try fo listen to his wife. He tink he doing good. He try become one family man.

He fails.

ACT 1, SCENE 1: SUNDAY DINNER - KIHANO'S GARAGE

(The lights brighten on the interior of the Kihano garage, an open and clean space with a folding table and chairs, the typical "Hawaiian style" dining room.

WENDALL, SANDRA, their son, DICKIE BOY, sit in slippers around the table, drinking beer and eating food on small paper plates with chopsticks. JAYDN, mistress of the house, graciously offers everyone more food.)

SANDRA

Full already.

WENDALL

No worry, Jaydn. It's not your cooking or nothting, your sista stay on one a her "diets."

DICKIE BOY

Mom, no can help, already.

SANDRA

God Funit, Dickie Boy! You like me slap you upside da head?

(To Jaydn)

It's dis new diet. You eat plenny food but you drink lotsa water. Dis one haole girl from New Jersay, she wen lose thiridy pounds.

JAYDN

Where'd you hear about dat junk kine stuff?

SANDRA

Not! Was on Oprah, you know.

JAYDN

You look good! No need diet.

WENDALL

Afta da last ting Sandra wen watch on tv, she covaed her legs and stomach wit plastic wrap and wen walk around da neighbahood like she one chicken drumstick on parade. I was so shame.

SANDRA

Only try look good fo you!

WENDALL

She ax, "Wendall! You tink my okole look too big?"
"No, honey, is just big enough."

SANDRA

You betta watch it.

DICKIE BOY

No can help but watch it.

JAYDN

You tink you funny, hah Dickie Boy? Wait till I tell you maddah what Slim wen tell me.

DICKIE BOY

Just kidding, eh Auntie?

JAYDN

Dickie Boy get pull ova fo one dewy [DUI] ticket and he stay so drunk he fell outta da car wen da cop wen open da door.

DICKIE BOY

Auntie, no need tell. It happens to da best of us.

SANDRA

Shaad up, you. (To Jaydn) Den wat?

JAYDN

You neva going believe dis. He wen trow up on da policeman.

SANDRA

WAT?!--

DICKIE BOY

I neva--

WENDALL

Sonny boy no can hold your beer?

DICKIE BOY

I came from one frat party, eh? Plenny chicks wen buy me choke beers.

JAYDN

Try wait, try wait--best part. Da cop said, "Eh, Dickie, dat you?" He wen trow up on his own uncle.

(Jaydn, Wendall, and Sandra howl with laughter. Dickie Boy sulks.)

WENDALL

You lucky bastard, you get Slim.

DICKIE BOY

Uncle Slim tink he so smart, tink he can teach me one lesson. He didn't give me one ticket, he trew me in da slamma ova night.

(John and John Boy enter. John Boy carries a bucket.)

WENDALL

John, bout time! Hungry enough to eat Dickie Boy ova here.

SANDRA

John Boooy! So cuuute! You catch da big fishie-wishie all by youself?

JOHN BOY

No.

JOHN

John Boy's one good fishaman, only he get so excited, he scares away all da fish.

JOHN BOY

I get one baby fish fo my tank.

(John Boy shows Jaydn the bucket.)

JAYDN

Get Kawika help you put em in one tank and call your sistah, it's late.

(Louder)

She know she s'pose help make dinnah.

JOHN BOY

Lani! Mom wants you. Kawika, I get one fish! Come see!

KAWIKA

(Off-stage)

WAAAAT?

LANI

(Offstage)

WAAAAT?

JAYDN

(yelling)

Hui! Get your okoles out here and close da TV. Your maddah is not one slave you know.

(John and John Boy exit.)

SANDRA

John Boy's growing up so fast.

JAYDN

Did I tell you he made honor roll again? Dey put him in da shark class.

SANDRA

What is dat, "shark" class?

JAYDN

Da kids get divided into mahimahi, dolphins, and sharks. Da most akamai kids is in da shark class.

SANDRA

Ohh, too good dat boy, eh? If only Dickie Boy could be one shark, yah?

DICKIE BOY

High school's lot harder, you know.

WENDALL

Wen you going buckle down?

DICKIE BOY

Dad...not here.

(John reenters carrying a large fish.)

WENDALL

Holy smokes. You wen out, just you and John Boy, and brought dat sucka in?

JOHN

John Boy's good luck.

SANDRA

Wat's da big deal?

DICKIE BOY

Like see you try.

SANDRA

Bollohead, if cannot catch, just go Chinatown.

(To Jaydn)

I get plenny kine connections at Maunakea Market you know.

DICKIE BOY

Gross.

WENDALL

John, try fo explain your secret to my wife.

JOHN

Dere's no secret. Is not technique, it's skill.

DICKIE BOY

Uh...same ting, hah?

JOHN

Dat's where you wrong, Dickie.

SANDRA

Hoah, dat's one surprise.

WENDALL

Quiet eh? Get some respect fo da masta.

(The group quiets and turns to John.)

JOHN

Da men who've been fishing all deir lives are like ghosts. Dey know da ocean like it's a part of deir body. Dey feel da current and da color of da water an den dey know what kine fish is going come next. It comes from da senses.

WENDALL

(To Dickie Boy)

You neva going have what it takes.

DICKIE BOY

You neither.

(Jaydn and LANI enter with more food. KAWIKA, Jaydn's son, slumps behind, holding his sketchbook. Kawika and Dickie Boy greet each other with a complicated handshake.

The following conversations overlap and flow

should naturally.)

DICKIE BOY

Sup Kawika, my man.

(To Lani)

what, no hello?

SANDRA

(To Jaydn)

Hoah, tank god da girls are back.
Dese guys act like dey get gills already.

(Sandra notices the food)

LANI
(To Dickie)
Already seen your ugly face.

SANDRA
Too much!

DICKIE BOY
At *school*. You brother's got mad skills.

WENDALL
Too bad good cooks don't run in da family.

LANI
Kawika just draws comic books.

SANDRA
Who need learn fo cook wen Jaydn around?

KAWIKA
Just?

WENDALL
Just once it'd be nice to come home to a house full of good smells. To open da fridge to someting odda dan leftovas.

LANI
It's good but don't you trace em?

SANDRA
EH! Where is da law dat says you cannot cook fo yourself?

DICKIE BOY
Dat was cold, girl. Kawika's Iron Man's got mad flair.

JAYDN
Wendall, I'll teach you to make simple kine stuff.

KAWIKA
I totally reinvented da costume.

DICKIE BOY

Wouldn't 'spect you to undastand.

JOHN

Jaydn, nobody's going learn to cook
noting wen you around to do it.

LANI

Hoah, sorry eh? Soooo sensitive.

SANDRA

Fo reals. Everyting taste
more betta on da second day
anyway.

(Jaydn notices John's catch)

JAYDN

John! Da fish stay on da dinner table.

SANDRA

Yeah, whatchu trying do, make us sick or someting?

JAYDN

Lani, go clean da fish.

LANI

I don't wanna touch em. It's gross.

(Jaydn gives Kawika the fish.)

JAYDN

Big cooler.

JOHN

Lani, since wen does fish bodda you?

DICKIE BOY

It's not da fish Uncle, it's da fish smell. She don't wanna hauna up her
hands now dat she get one daaaaaaaaate.

(Lani gestures to him to stop talking.
Dickie Boy smiles.)

DICKIE BOY

Da whole school know dey togetha even if nobody wen say it.

SANDRA

Is he real cute? Talk story wit Auntie.

JAYDN

Lani is not going out. If she lies and act up, she's not going get treated like one adult.

LANI

Mom! I'm in da tenth grade already.

JOHN

Where his faddah wen grad? Do I know him?

LANI

Dad...you always tink you know everybody.

SANDRA

Eh Lani girl, it's good fo watch out. What if you related? Hoah, my frien, she wen on tree dates wit her first cousin befo' dey ended up going togetha to da same family reunion. So embarrassing! And den, if you get kids, dey come out all funny kine, you know.

KAWIKA

Don't tink you need worry about dat.

LANI

Kawika! Don't encourage him.

SANDRA

We just curious Lani. No need be so futless.

DICKIE BOY

Yeah Lani, no need be so *futless*.

JOHN

Lani, why don't you just tell us about dis guy already? You're upsetting your maddah.

LANI

I'm not trying for upset anyone.

DICKIE BOY

You going get it, girl.

LANI

You da one who's--

JAYDN

Somebody going clean da gecko doodoo from da screens dis weekend if dey stay acting up.

LANI

His name is Shaun. Okay?

JAYDN

Shaun who?

DICKIE BOY

Yeah, what's da last name, Lani?

LANI

Wight.

(A beat of silence. The adults look at each other, finally Sandra speaks.)

SANDRA

Hapa boys so good looking, aren't dey?

JOHN

Is dat Stacey's boy?

LANI

I don't tink you know his parents.

JAYDN

We'd like meet dem.

WENDALL

What kine last name is White?

DICKIE BOY

Ha ha! White.

LANI

Mom, it's not even one date. He's so polite, you going love him.

JAYDN

We'll see.

DICKIE BOY

Hey! I got a haole joke! How can you spot one haole in Waikiki?

LANI

Dickie...

DICKIE BOY

Dey buy aloha pants fo deir aloha shirts!

(Dickie Boy is the only one who laughs.)

WENDALL

Okay. I'm taking Dickie Boy home.

SANDRA

Jaydn and I barely talk story yet!

JAYDN

Oh, I get leftovers for you!

(Jaydn wraps up food in tupperware.
Sandra helps.)

WENDALL

It's too much...

JAYDN

(Threatening)

Going to throw it out if you don't.

WENDALL

You always make sure we eat good.

SANDRA

I'm going to call you later.

DICKIE BOY

Bye Uncle John, goodbye Auntie, thanks for the grubz. Kawika, 7-11 before class?

KAWIKA

Shoots.

DICKIE BOY

See you Monday, Lani.

LANI

Not if you value your life.

(Wendall, Sandra, and Dickie Boy leave,
leftovers in hand. Kawika and Lani begin
to head inside.)

JAYDN

Hold it.

KAWIKA

Why me?

JAYDN

So you learn from your sistah's mistakes.

KAWIKA

Oh great.

JAYDN

Your faddah and I don't like it wen you lie in front of da whole family.

LANI

I didn't lie! I just didn't get one chance for explain.

JAYDN

You know you no can date until you 17, like Dickie Boy.

LANI

That's cause no one would go out wit him till his pimples cleared up.

(John chuckles, Jaydn glares at him.)

JAYDN

Since wen Dickie Boy gotta be da one to tell me bout you?

LANI

Would you let me go if it was da Hu's boy?

JAYDN

You didn't tell me about dis boy, you didn't help me wit dinner, and you didn't come out to talk wit you Auntie and Uncle.

LANI

If I bring him by da house and you meet him, then can we go out?

JAYDN

Ax you faddah.

JOHN
(Startled)

Huh?

LANI

Can I?

JOHN

You like dis boy?

LANI

Yeah, dad.

JOHN

Lani, your maddah, she worries bout you. But I know you akamai. So I going let you go. But he betta treat you right. I don't want nobody tink he betta dan you. Rememba, you da boss. Dere's no boy good enough fo my daughtah, undastand?

LANI

Right.

JOHN

Any boy who tink dat, you tell me about it, okay?

JAYDN

You tink it's okay dat your daughtah lies? Kawika?

KAWIKA

Why you ax me?

LANI

I didn't lie!

JAYDN

Don't talk back! John!

LANI

Dad!

JOHN

Eh! I'm sick of all of dis yelling.

LANI

Can I go?

JOHN

'Memba what I wen tell you, now.

It's okay wit me.

(Lani kisses her dad on the cheek.)

LANI

Tanks, daddy!

(Lani exits. Jaydn glares at John, who shifts in his seat.)

KAWIKA

Dis has been great. Good night.

(Kawika exits. John gets up. Jaydn gives him a look.)

JOHN

You axed!

JAYDN

So you'd agree wit me!

JOHN

I wen say it was okay wit me, if it was okay wit you.

JAYDN

It's not.

JOHN

So why'd you let her go?

JAYDN

You let her go.

You don't care if she lies? And goes out wit a haole boy we don't know?

JOHN

If you don't want her to go out wit him, tell her.

JAYDN

You betta be home to meet dis boy next Sunday.

JOHN

I'm taking John Boy fishing.

JAYDN

Dis boy needs to know he no can mess wit Lani.

JOHN

We'll be back in time.

(John gets up.)

JAYDN

You not going help clean up?

JOHN

I was going read John Boy his bedtime story. (Beat) But first I going help you clean up...

(John throws paper plates into the trash, and carries food into the kitchen with Jaydn. Kawika enters with a comic book.)

KAWIKA

(Calling off-stage)

I'm doing it right now! (To himself) Ugh. Da humanity.

(Kawika throws away a plate then sits down and reads the comic book. Lani

enters with a sponge. Kawika does not look up.)

LANI

You didn't stick up for me.

KAWIKA

People neva believe me. I don't care.

(Lani throws a sponge at Kawika who dodges it and moves his comic book out of the way.)

KAWIKA

Careful! I'm Switzerland. Kay? It's da secret of my survival.

LANI

How come dey always pick on me?

KAWIKA

Just mom--

LANI

Just mom.

KAWIKA

Wit you and John Boy, nobody bodda wit me.

LANI

Well. You lucky.

KAWIKA

Maybe.

Why you want to go wit Shaun anyway? Dickie Boy says he's a loser.

LANI

Dat Dickie Boy. I'm so mad at him.

KAWIKA

Pretty funny wen he told mom.

LANI

Who's side you on?

KAWIKA

Dickie's.

LANI

Everybody's against me!

KAWIKA

Not even.

LANI

Is no good talking to you.

(Lani exits.)

KAWIKA

Eh! You neva finish cleaning up!

(Grumbling, Kawika picks up the rest of the dishes and follows Lani into the house.)
)

ACT 1, SCENE 2: THE REEF - NEXT SUNDAY

(John teaches John Boy to fish.)

JOHN

Hold on. Lemme show you how to set da hook. Dat means you force da hook into da fish's mouth. Most time, all you need is one...sharp snap of da rod. You gotta be fast. And once you hook da fish, you betta be ready.

Cuz wen dat fish feels da hook, it wants noting more dan to get free. I don't blame him. Do you? Every kine fish puts up a different battle. You start to learn. Ahi, dey going swim straight away into da deep water, take you wit dem if you not careful. Ahi is da Hawaiian word fo fire. Ahi know dey stronger dan you and dey're ready fo one fight. Opakapakas swim side to side. Dey try fo trick you, break da line, hit one snag. Auwkeke fight wild wen dey first get hooked. Api come easy to da boat but fight strong near da side, so be careful.

Soon you going know which one you hook just by da tug of da line, da fight of da fish. Den you gotta know wen it's time to reel 'em in. Trust da strength of your line, da strength of your rod. But don't be cruel and leave da fish out there struggling fo too long. Cuz sometimes, once you catch 'em, dey're too small and you want to trow em back, let em live.

JOHN BOY

What we going catch today? Mahimahi?

(John laughs.)

JOHN

Manini. Da smallest fish fo da smallest boy.

(John smells something in the air and looks up, surprised.)

JOHN

Smell dat, son?

(John Boy smells.)

JOHN

Reminds me of Maunakea street. Selling her leis, cool in da aftanoon heat. Even though she wen sell next to da fish market, she always smell like da sweetest flower. Pikake.

JOHN BOY

Pi-kake.

(John and John Boy both turn suddenly, as if their names had been called.)

JOHN/JOHN BOY

Yes?

(John walks towards an unseen figure, pulling John Boy with him. Their fishing gear is left behind.)

ACT I, SCENE 3: KIHANO'S GARAGE, SUNDAY DINNER

(Jaydn and Sandra prepare food, Kawika, and Dickie Boy peel shrimp. Wendall watches them amused, drinking beer.)

DICKIE BOY

No offense or nuhting, but dis is ladies work.

WENDALL

Ha!

JAYDN

Just rememba how much you like my sweet and sour shrimp.

DICKIE BOY

Auntie Jaydn? Shouldn't my faddah be helping you too?

WENDALL

Afta my beer.

(Sandra puts a shrimp in Wendall's hand. He grimaces but begins peeling, glaring at Dickie Boy.)

WENDALL

(To Jaydn)

Well, if you need help...

(Lani enters dressed for her date.)

SANDRA

You going wear dat shirt on your date?

JAYDN

It's not a date, Sandra.

DICKIE BOY

Dat's not a shirt.

LANI

Mom! He's outside.

SANDRA

Bring him in, let's meet him.

JAYDN

Yes, let's meet da boy.

LANI

Why is there shrimp everywhere? He might stay for dinner.

DICKIE BOY

Mr. White no like local kine food or what?

LANI

Can I send Dickie Boy away?

(Shaun enters.)

SHAUN

Hi...Mrs. Kihano?

JAYDN

Nice to meet you.

DICKIE BOY

HI SHAUN!

SHAUN

Hey...uh...

DICKIE BOY

Dickie Boy. Like you didn't know.

SANDRA

Sit down, Shaun. I'm Lani's Auntie Sandra. You hungry?

WENDALL

Wendall. You like one beer?

(Shaun looks at Lani for a response. He finally nods. Lani reacts negatively, he's made the wrong choice. Jaydn looks at Lani disapprovingly. Sandra gives Wendall a bad look. Shaun puts down the offending beer and pushes it away.)

JAYDN

How long have you lived here?

SHAUN

Since the summer. My dad's in the air force. We move around a lot.

JAYDN

Dat must have been hard.

LANI

Mom, Shaun used to live in Japan.

SANDRA

Where?

SHAUN

Osaka. And before that, Germany.

DICKIE BOY

Hoah, dat's AMAZING.

SANDRA

Is your maddah fashionable?

SHAUN

I don't know. Not really. Need help, Mrs. Kihano?

(Dickie Boy, Kawika, and Wendall drop their shrimp and hand the bowl to Shaun. Shaun gingerly picks up the shrimp, and tries to peel.)

JAYDN

Tanks, eh? I can neva get dis girl to help.

LANI

Mommmmm. You know I help out all da time.

JAYDN

Ha.

LANI

You neva make Kawika help you!

KAWIKA

Not!

DICKIE BOY

Kawika and I just peeled choke shrimp.

WENDALL

Eh, no worries Jaydn. Dat's what da boyfriends are fo! You need any housework get done? Get dis buggah to do 'em!

(Wendall slaps Shaun heartily on the back.)

SHAUN

How's this?

(He holds up a shrimp.)

JAYDN

Not bad.

WENDALL

We going make one local boy outta you yet.

DICKIE BOY

Wait till you find out wat's fo dinnah!

(John enters, distractedly, holding a giant fish.)

WENDALL

Holy smokes, look at dat fish!

DICKIE BOY

Uncle, you really outdid yourself dis time.

(John grabs a beer from the cooler.)

JAYDN

Shaun's here.

LANI

He's helping mom.

JAYDN

Wash you hands befo' dinner. Is John Boy washing up? I going make his favorite.

SHAUN

(Whispering to Lani)

John Boy? Like The Waltons?

LANI

(giggling)

My little brother. Nobody watches dat haole show.

SHAUN

Excuse me, but the Walton's is an internationally belove-d classic.

WENDALL

Pig's feet everybody's favorite, eh Jaydn?

SHAUN

You guys eat pigs feet?

DICKIE BOY

Course not. Pig's da name of our dog, he died yestaday and--

LANI

You can eat da shrimp.

DICKIE BOY

I tink he should try it.

JAYDN

If Shaun no like, he no have to eat.

SHAUN

I'll try it. Smells good.

KAWIKA

Mom, can Dickie and I go into my room?

SANDRA

Hoah, dat's all you boys do, play video games! Stay and talk story wit your Auntie.

JAYDN

Its okay. I get one helper.

(Dickie Boy inspects a shrimp.)

DICKIE BOY

Shaun, do you enjoy eating excrement?

SHAUN

Excuse me?

(Dickie Boy holds up a shrimp.)

DICKIE BOY

Betta take out da vein or we'll all be eating--

JAYDN

Dickie, since you da expert, why don't you stay and help?

DICKIE BOY

Nah Auntie, my boy's got it covaed.

JAYDN

Call John Boy. I like hear bout fishing.

(John's head snaps up on the mention of John Boy's name. Dickie Boy and Kawika exit.)

SANDRA

It's so nice dey go every Sunday. John took Kawika too—

LANI

But not me, cause I'm a girl.

WENDALL

You still pissed about dat?

SHAUN

I'll take you, if you like.

LANI

Fishing?

SHAUN

Used to go with my dad.

LANI

Maybe.

(Lani and Shaun secretly hold hands under the table. Dickie Boy notices.)

WENDALL

You know, Mr. Kihano here is quite a fishaman. Fished his way through college.

SHAUN

That's a lot of fish.

WENDALL

Mr. Kihano and I go fishing every Saturday morning. Like come?

SHAUN

Sure--

SANDRA

How come you neva take your own son?

WENDALL

Cuz dat bollo-head no can wake up befo' noon.

SANDRA

And how come you neva ax me?

WENDALL

You?

SANDRA

Da men in dis house tink dey too good fo deir women. Slaving away in a hot kitchen.

WENDALL

You?

SANDRA

Don't you test me, Wendall Kapahukaniolono Richardson Lum.

WENDALL

Woman! You wouldn't have fun fishing. I know!

SANDRA

I don't know dat! I neva been!

WENDALL

You don't get dat dere are just guy tings, dat women wouldn't get. Back me up here, John.

(No response)

John? You listening? Whatsa matta wit you?

JOHN

I get someting I like to tell everybody. Good news--

(Kawika comes out of the bedroom.)

KAWIKA

Mom? I no can find John Boy.

JAYDN

You checked da bathroom?

KAWIKA

I looked all ova.

JOHN

Dat's wat I try fo tell everybady.

(Dickie Boy enters from the other door.)

JAYDN

Where's John Boy?

DICKIE BOY

Not in da backyard.

JOHN

He stay...

Wit Auntie Maile.

(A beat.)

SANDRA

Auntie who?

WENDALL

John, no offense or nuhting. But I've known you from small kid time, and I don't rememba no Auntie Maile.

JAYDN

Dat's because he doesn't have an Auntie Maile.

JOHN

You don't know noting.

JAYDN

I know your bloodline same as my own. Like da creases in my palm, I know.

(A beat.)

JOHN

She taught me how fo swim.

JAYDN

Wat does dat have to do wit John Boy?

JOHN

She's watching him.

JAYDN

Why? Why on Sunday? Dat's da family day.

(No response)

Wen's pick up? Eight? Nine?

JOHN

I...tink he's staying ovanight.

SANDRA

He doesn't even have one toothbrush!

WENDALL

Sandra!

JAYDN

Why didn't you bring him home? John, I don't even know dis woman.

Where does she live?

(No response)

Where does she live?

JOHN

Big Island.

JAYDN

She took him to a neighbah island? John! What da hell were you tinkin'?
Hah?

JOHN

John Boy like go.

JAYDN

Whatchu you mean, John Boy like go? He's five. You forty-five, you make
da decisions--

JOHN

And I decide he should go--

JAYDN

--But you neva make decisions like dat widout me.

JOHN

Isn't it enough I tink it's okay fo once?

JAYDN

I can't sleep till I know where my baby stay.

JOHN

She's a good woman, Jaydn. Why you no can trust people?

JAYDN

Wat's her numba, I like call her right now. Her numba? John!

JOHN

She...doesn't have one. She lives in da mountains. Real old-fashioned like
on a ranch.

JAYDN

Like on a ranch, or on a ranch? Wat's her address?

JOHN

She going bring John Boy home.

JAYDN

When? Tomorrow?

JOHN

Not sure.

JAYDN

WHAT!

WENDALL

John.

SANDRA

Tell us where John Boy stay. It's not funny anymore.

WENDALL

Sandra's right. You no can do dat kinda ting.

JOHN

She's family.

JAYDN

She's not my family! Some nerve.

JOHN

I promise, John Boy's okay.

JAYDN

How can you make one promise like dat unless our son is right here?

JOHN

You tink I'd put our son in danger?

JAYDN

No. But--

JOHN

Don't you tink I'd do what's right fo him?

JAYDN

Dis isn't right.

JOHN

Is one good ting. I can sense it. Please. I'm so tired, I tink I no make sense, if I did, you'd know how good dis can be, yeah? So I going take one nap. Okay?

JAYDN

John? We are not pau yet.

(He kisses Jaydn on the forehead and enters the house. Jaydn stands frozen for a moment then rushes after him. Sandra and Wendall follow.)

JAYDN

Don't you dare. JOHN! I need one address. I need one phone numba. I need one god damn pickup time fo Christsakes!

SANDRA

Dat's right girl, you tell him--

WENDALL

Just stay calm everybody. John's gotta have one good explanation--

(The door slams shut. Dickie Boy, Kawika, Shaun, and Lani look at each other.)

A moment of silence.

Sounds of dishes breaking. Something hits the floor.)

JAYDN [OFFSTAGE]

WHAT DA HELL YOU TINKING?

WENDALL [OFFSTAGE]

Sandra, get outta da way!

JAYDN [OFFSTAGE]

WHO DA HELL IS DIS WOMAN? WHERE IS MY SON?

(Sounds of arguing and destruction continues.)

DICKIE BOY

(To Kawika)

Let's bounce.

(Kawika and Dickie Boy exit. Dickie Boy, unnoticed by Lani, takes a six-pack of beer with him. Lani and Shaun look at each other. Lani offers Shaun a container.)

LANI

Pig's feet?

(Blackout. Sound of waves.)

ACT I, SCENE 5: OUTSIDE THE KIHANO'S HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

(Lani and Shaun sit together. Lani takes his hand and looks at his watch. They have been sitting there for a long time. She drops his wrist.

They listen to the muffled shouting. Unobserved, Dickie Boy and Kawika come around the side of the house. Dickie Boy and Kawika are smoking joints. Kawika, making an awkward first-go at it, stomps it out and giggles. Dickie Boy shushes him.)

LANI

You should probably go home.

SHAUN

Is there anything I can do?

DICKIE BOY

Lani!

LANI

Dickie! You scared me. You guys been smoking? Kawika?

KAWIKA

Not (coughs) even!

DICKIE BOY

Don't you tink he's been entertained enough fo one evening?

LANI

He's just trying to help.

DICKIE BOY

And now it's okay dat he can hear all our private family stuffs? You've known him fo what, two whole weeks?

SHAUN

Hey--chill out, ok?

DICKIE BOY

What's wrong, cannot handle? Go home, haole boy.

SHAUN

What's your problem?

KAWIKA

Sorry, he gets kinda mean wen he drinks and stuff.

DICKIE BOY

Stay away from my cousin. I don't wanna see you around here anymore.

SHAUN

It's not up to you, is it? We can see each other if we want.

DICKIE BOY

Dat's da ting wit you haoles isn't it? You tink you can take whateva you like becuz you tink you betta. Well, let me tell you someting. Brown is betta. Why you tink brown eggs cost more in da grocery store? Cuz dey betta tasting. Den you pay extra fo size. Dere's large, extra large, and jumbo. So next time you even tink about messing around wit my cousin, you betta rememba dat I'm one big jumbo brown egg. Cuz next time you boddah me, I going crack you wide open.

SHAUN

You're a joke.

(Dickie Boy lunges towards Shaun, Kawika holds him back.)

SHAUN

Is that all you've got? Seriously? Guys like you never go away.

LANI

Dickie, why you gotta get so salty all da time? He's not messing wit me. I don't need your help, stupid.

DICKIE BOY

Shut up, Lani.

(Dickie Boy pushes Lani. Shaun pushes Dickie Boy. Dickie Boy falls into Kawika, knocking him down. Jaydn opens the door, and stands silently watching the commotion. They freeze.)

JAYDN

What's going on?

Why is Shaun still here?

LANI

He was just checking to see if everyting was okay.

JAYDN

Goodnight, Shaun.

(Shaun exits.)

Everyting is not okay.

LANI

I know.

JAYDN

Get in da house. All of you.

(Dickie Boy, Kawika, and Lani enter the house. In the light, it is clear Jaydn has been crying.)

JAYDN

At a time like dis, you sneaking around wit some guy.

LANI

I wasn't!

JAYDN

Your braddah could be anywhere right now. Your faddah is too incompetant to tell us what he did wit his own son, and you aren't here.

LANI

I'm sorry.

JAYDN

And smoking too.

(Lani is about to protest but she looks at Kawika and stays quiet.)

JAYDN

I don't want you to see him anymore.

LANI

Why? What are you talking about?

SANDRA

Don't give your maddah trouble.

JAYDN

Tomorrow I want you to come home right afta school in case anyone calls.

LANI

Where will you guys be?

JAYDN

If dis boy is more important dan your little braddah, go out.

LANI

I didn't say dat.

JAYDN

You just like you faddah.

LANI

Will you listen to me? I'll be here, okay?

JAYDN

I don't care what you do.

LANI

Mom! Jesus! Are you even listening to what I'm saying?

WENDALL

Let's just calm down, everybody.

SANDRA

Stop intafering, Wendall.

WENDALL

I'm not intafering. Jaydn needs our support.

SANDRA

You not helping. Jaydn going sleep ova at our house.

JAYDN

I need to be here if anyting happens.

SANDRA

You can't stay here wit (Sandra gestures towards John) da kine right now. You need some rest. Poor ting... (Screams) DICKIE BOY!

DICKIE BOY

What?

SANDRA

Get some food fo take home. Lani, pack some clothes fo your maddah.

(Lani and Dickie Boy exchange glances and exit to different parts of the house.)

JAYDN

I should stay here in case somebody calls. Or comes by.

SANDRA

You need to get away, calm down. Anyway, Lani will be here. Won't you, Lani?

LANI

Of course!

SANDRA

Besides, we only five minutes away. Tree wen Dickie drives.

JAYDN

Don't know what I'd do widout you.

SANDRA

John?

JOHN

Yes, Sandra.

SANDRA

Is dat all you have to say fo yourself?

JOHN

(To Jaydn)

Don't go. Auntie Maile going bring him back soon.

JAYDN

What scares me da most, is how you keep saying she going bring him back again and again, like you not sure she going do it at all.

(John looks at Jaydn.)

WENDALL

Is all one big mixup I'm sure.

JOHN

Jaydn, my fadda always said everybody get tree chances in life.

JAYDN

Can you handle tings by yourself?

(Lani nods. Jaydn packs up things around the house.)

JOHN

(To Jaydn)

Da first was afta my faddah died,

I had to support my family.

Took ova my faddah's boat.

JAYDN

(To Lani)

Dere's planny of food in da fridge.

Call us if you hear from anyone
Anyone. Undastand?

I came from four generations
of fishamen. Figured it was
bloodline. But da first time,
dere was one massive storm.
I lost control. I almost lost everting.
But I prayed to God and even to
da ocean fo help.
Somehow made it back alive.
Second time was wen I was
twenty. Was like I was already
an old man. My life was saving money,
going out drinking, looking fo women—
Second chance came wen I met you.

(Beat)

You know dat.

LANI

Yeah.

JAYDN

(To Lani and Kawika)

Answa da phone on da first ring.
Keep it next to you.

JAYDN

(To Sandra)

Maybe I should stay. Kawika might need help wit his homework. What if
John Boy comes home?

SANDRA

Dey'll be fine fo one night. Let's go.

JOHN

Are you listening to me?

JAYDN

My son?

JOHN

Dat's da third chance. What Auntie Maile's going give him. Her
wisdom...her wealth.

SANDRA

Wealth?

JAYDN

We neva had much but we managed fo our kids.

JOHN

You going undastand one day.

JAYDN

No.

(Dickie Boy comes out with food. Jaydn
and Sandra exit. Dickie Boy looks at Lani,
then exits.)

WENDALL

John?

Take care.

(Kawika exits carrying the duffle bag of Jaydn's things. Lani and John are alone in the room.)

JOHN

You going yell at me too?

LANI

No.

(A long beat.)

JOHN

You know da story bout da old hermit?

LANI

I don't know.

JOHN

Da old hermit lived in his house and mended his net. Everyone laughed at him. Wouldn't leave him in peace. One day, a young man trew stones at da old man.

LANI

Are you lying to mom?

JOHN

Da hermit stood up and put six sticks in da sand. "Each stick," he said, "is one day. Today I put dem here, tomorrow I going take one out. Da next day anotha. Wit da last stick, you die."

LANI

How come we neva met Maile? How come mom's neva heard of her?

JOHN

Today, I saw a woman, all in white. Her dark hair, long and wavy. She wore rows and rows of pikake leis. Could smell da jasmine across da water. John Boy axed who da beautiful woman was. I knew it was Maile. She was more beautiful dan I eva remembad. I no can believe it was really her.

LANI

Who is she?

JOHN

A friend of my maddah's. She gave me my first job. Dethorning roses on Maunakea street.

LANI

John Boy's coming back, right?

JOHN

What you tink?

(Lani pauses.)

LANI

I tink he is. For sure.

JOHN

Ass why you stay da most akamai one in dis house.

(Lani heads to her room.)

JOHN

You don't want to hear da rest of da story?

LANI

Goodnight dad.

(Lani exits.)

JOHN

Da young man did not believe what da hermit wen say. Da young man said "I'm young and strong. I going live fo many years." Da young man kicked over da hermit's sticks and ran away.

(John digs holes in the table with his knife and sets up six wooden chop sticks.)

Maile...take care of my son.

ACT II SCENE 1: THE KIHANO'S GARAGE - MONDAY MORNING

(Lani and Kawika sit together, munching cereal.)

LANI

How'd you sleep last night?

KAWIKA

Hey Einstein--how you tink?

LANI

You guys going look for John Boy dis aftanoon?

KAWIKA

Guess so.

LANI

Tink he's okay?

KAWIKA

Probably. It's mom and dad I stay worried about.

LANI

I couldn't sleep, I had dis weird dream.

(John enters carrying a fishing pole.)

JOHN

Morning.

KAWIKA

You went out already?

JOHN

Yep.

KAWIKA

Wen'd you wake up?

(John puts away his fishing gear. Dickie Boy enters.)

DICKIE BOY

Look at all da fish! Saw dis huge buggar in da truck.

KAWIKA

Dad went fishing.

DICKIE BOY

Where?

JOHN

Off Nanakuli.

DICKIE BOY

You caught a fish dat big from shore? You didn't even take your boat?
How can you even bring em in by yourself?

(John becomes increasingly withdrawn and uncomfortable by Dickie's reactions.)

JOHN

Got lucky.

DICKIE BOY

I'll say. Dat's amazing—even fo you, uncle—

JOHN

Tanks.

(Dickie Boy puts his arms around Lani and Kawika.)

DICKIE BOY

How are my two favorite cousins dis morning?

LANI

Morning breath. Whatchu you doing here?

DICKIE BOY

Is dat all da tanks I get?

(Dickie Boy sits down and eats cereal.)

KAWIKA

We surfing today?

LANI

You guys have to go look for John Boy. Why you here so early?

DICKIE BOY

Your mom's making me drive you to school. And my mom wants you to pack more of her tings.

LANI

How long she staying?

KAWIKA

We have to go school today?

DICKIE BOY

Personally, I don't tink it's a good idea.

Course you don't. LANI

We're gonna be late. KAWIKA

Bye, dad. LANI

(Kawika, Lani, and Dickie exit. John sits at the table and stares into space. He pours himself a bowl of cereal and begins eating. He goes to where his chopsticks are still left standing and pulls one out. Five remain.
)

ACT II, SCENE 2: KIHANO'S GARAGE

(Wendall enters. He looks around.)

WENDALL

John. You home or what? He's not here, you can come in.

(Jaydn enters, surveying the mess.
She sees the sticks in the table.)

JAYDN

God funnit! Who da hell wen carve in my table? I leave fo two fricking days...

WENDALL

Come on, Jaydn. Let da kids clean dat up.

(Wendall leads Jaydn to a chair.)

You going make yourself crazy. Lani already brought you your stuff, what else you need?

(Jaydn gets up and returns with a
photo of John Boy.)

Dat's a good one.

JAYDN

Fo da poster.

WENDALL

You should get some sleep.

JAYDN

Dey didn't believe me. Afta waiting thirdy-six hours befo' I could even report John Boy as officially missing.

WENDALL

Dey took your report.

JAYDN

But dey didn't understand. "If you son is at Auntie's house, dat's okay den, why's he missing?" I told da officer, "I don't know Maile. I don't trust her." My child is wit a stranger right now and nobody seems to notice.

WENDALL

Funny how everybody at da station knows John. It's like dey all fishing buddies of his.

JAYDN

Funny. Used to tink it was good ting. We neva got any parking tickets.

(Wendall unfolds a paper.)

WENDALL

Slim wanted to give this to you. It's based on John's description of Maile Kapuhanui.

JAYDN

Oh.

WENDALL

I told him you weren't ready.

JAYDN

She's handsome. Almost noble looking. Wit those cheekbones and dat hair.

WENDALL

Jaydn. You're so beautiful. You can't tink dat John==

JAYDN

And smug. She's so damn smug. What else did Slim tell you?

WENDALL

He's doing all he can.

JAYDN

Stop hiding tings from me, Wendall. You a lousy liar.

WENDALL

Slim said. It's bad. He said dat da State has no record of a Maile Kapuhanui eva living in Hawaii. Let alone owning some flowershop on Maunakea Street. He axed John if there was some odda name she goes by? Cuz right now, dey looking fo one woman dat, according to their records...does not exist.

(A long beat.)

JAYDN

Thank you.

WENDALL

Jaydn? Are you?

JAYDN

I bet Sandra neva told you dis story.

Wen my great-grandmaddah came to Hawai'i from China, she got real sick wen she was on da boat. She had to leave her little boy and little girl wit strangas. My great-grandfaddah was away, I neva knew where. Times was tough den, no one would take in two kids. So she left da girl wit one family and her boy wit anotha. Wen she got well, she picked up her daughta. But wen she try fo pick up her son, da family said, "Oh, he's gone." Gone? "He got sick and died months ago. We couldn't getta hold of you. So sorry."

Dat's da worst ting dat could happen. Saying goodbye to her son, not knowing it was fo da last time.

WENDALL

I going find your boy, Jaydn. Trust me. John's a good man. Da bess.

JAYDN

Doesn't matter anymore.

ACT II SCENE 3: AT SCHOOL

(Shaun runs up to Lani and Kawika.)

SHAUN

Lani.

(Lani gives Kawika a look.)

KAWIKA

Like I want to be around you guys anyway.

(Kawika exits.)

SHAUN

Your mom was on the news.

LANI

That's so embarrassing.

SHAUN

Mrs. Yee let us out of class to put up posters.

(Shaun shows Lani a poster.)

LANI

Mrs. Yee made these? Howsit any of her business?

SHAUN

People want to help. All the mothers are rallying together. Even my mom wants to get involved.

(Lani crumples up the poster.)

LANI

People need to chill out. What does it say about my dad that everyone's just assuming John Boy's been kidnapped or--

SHAUN

Lani--I was there.

LANI

Don't tell anyone about dat night.

SHAUN

Aren't you worried about your brother?

LANI

Do you have my workbook?

(Shaun hands her a textbook.)

SHAUN

There's no point in me helping you with your schoolwork if you don't even come to class to turn it in.

LANI

I'm here now.

SHAUN

Being on campus and being in class are vastly different distinctions.

LANI

Stop doing my homework then. I didn't ask you to.

SHAUN

Are you mad about the fight I had with your cousin?

LANI

I fight with him like every day.

SHAUN

I want to help.

LANI

That's what everybody says.

SHAUN

I can leave you alone if you want, it's not a problem.

LANI

You have no idea how much my dad loves John Boy. Nobody seems to understand that.

SHAUN

I'm sure he—

LANI

Do you want to go to the beach? And just. Not say a single word? I think I'd like that.

SHAUN

Maybe.

LANI

If you could hang out wit me and not bring it up...that would mean a lot to me. It would make me really, really happy.

SHAUN

Dunno if I can take your word on that.

LANI

Don't have to. I'll prove it.

SHAUN

Guess I'll see you at the beach then.

LANI

Guess so.

ACT II SCENE 4: KIHANO'S GARAGE SAME DAY

(John sits alone at the table drinking a beer. Lani enters with her school bag. She throws it on the table.)

JOHN
Shouldn't you be in school?

LANI [OFF-STAGE]
Shouldn't you be at work?

JOHN
Not today.

LANI [OFF-STAGE]
Or yesterday.

Mom was on da news.

JOHN
Did she look good? Chee, I shoulda taped it.

LANI [OFF-STAGE]
Everyone's talking about it. People at school started coming up to me.

JOHN
Did you tell dem da truth?

LANI [OFF-STAGE]
I don't know da truth!

(Lani reenters with beach clothes and towels. She prepares for her date.)

JOHN
You don't worry about anybody. Okay? You just tell dem dat Auntie Maile is taking care of John Boy fo a coupla days.

LANI
It's almost been a week without any word. Why you tink mom stopped talking to you?

JOHN
Where are you going?

LANI
Beach.

JOHN

Why are you putting on makeup?

LANI

How long till John Boy comes home?

JOHN

Your maddah doesn't like it wen you wear too much makeup.

LANI

How long?

(John hesitates.)

JOHN

I don't know.

LANI

Dad, how can that be?

JOHN

You don't believe me.

LANI

I'm gonna be late.

JOHN

She said she'd help us but I had to trust her completely or she couldn't do nuhting.

LANI

Wat's she going do? You said she's rich, right?

JOHN

Promise me you won't tell anybody dis.

LANI

You aren't telling me anyting.

JOHN

She'll get angry if she tinks I don't trust her. I made one promise, and I cannot break one bond like dat.

LANI

Mom's worried sick. Isn't that more important?

JOHN

Your maddah makes too big a deal out of everyting. It will all work out soon.

LANI

How do you know Maile isn't lying?

JOHN

Lying?

LANI

Maybe she was a good person when you were a kid, but then all this bad stuff happened to her. What if she's not...who you thought she was. Maybe she said all that stuff to trick you.

JOHN

A good heart stay a good heart. She's like my friend, my maddah, and kumu, all in da same woman.

(Beat)

You betta go.

LANI

Fine.

JOHN

Lani?

LANI

Yeah?

JOHN

Dey told me not to come back to work afta dey read da paper. Don't tell your maddah. I no like her worry. I going get a betta job.

LANI

Whatever you say.

(Lani exits. John picks up the sticks and inserts four back into the table.)

JOHN

Dat night da young man who trew da stones, lay in bed listening to da sobbing of his maddah. Wen sleep finally came, he dreamt of one evil spirit in da darkness. Da akua came toward him wit long claws and fiery eyes. Da young man woke up screaming and ran outside, sitting on his porch till dawn.

(He pulls out one of the sticks, studies the other three, and walks out of the room.)

ACT II SCENE 5: SANDRA'S HOUSE

(Sandra's house, a long table covered with boxes and stacks of paper. Sandra and Jaydn sit behind the table, stuffing envelopes.)

SANDRA

You start looking real pasty lately. You should go walking wit me. Get some fresh air.

JAYDN

Sandra, you go walking in da mall. It's called shopping.

SANDRA

Not! It's my eggzacise. Deany Girl and I go walking in da morning wen da mall opens up. It's real nice. One lap is one-fourth mile.

JAYDN

I get no time fo dat now.

SANDRA

You gotta take care of your body too. You haven't slept in ages. You spend all night cooking all kine food.

JAYDN

I want to make sure you guys get enough fo eat.

SANDRA

I gained ten pounds since you stay ova! You don't stop.

JAYDN

We betta get these fliers up befo' it gets dark.

(Sandra holds one up.)

SANDRA

It's amazing what dey can do at Kinko's, yeah? Dey even did 'em in color.

(Jaydn begins crying.)

SANDRA

Jaydn!

JAYDN

Wat if we neva find him?

SANDRA

You can't let yourself tink dat way.

JAYDN

Da police don't do nuhting.

SANDRA

Dey're doing deir bess. Da mayor called. What an honor, yeah? Hope I sounded smart.

JAYDN

You wouldn't feel so honored if it was your son.

SANDRA

I'm so sorry. I talk befo' I tink sometimes.

JAYDN

Did I tell you dey made him a shark?

SANDRA

More than once...

JAYDN

Mrs. Kato said she tink John Boy can do anyting wen he grows up. Doctor, lawyer, whateva he wants...of course, all he like be is da paperboy like his braddah but you know...one day he might get bigga plans.

SANDRA

He's a bright boy.

JAYDN

You see dis picture? Dis was da time he wen try cut his own bangs, so he made a little window on his forehead. And by his smile, I can tell he lost his first tooth. Funny, I wen save all my kids baby teeth. Wat you do wit tings like dat?

SANDRA

Box 'em. I get five boxes of Dickie's Mutated Ninja Turtle drawings in da attic. But you can neva trow em out, can you?

(Wendall, Kawika, and Dickie Boy come in with empty boxes. Wendall begins to fill up the boxes with posters.)

SANDRA

Already?

WENDALL

Your son can be a hard worker wen he try.

SANDRA

Dat so?

DICKIE BOY

We put up fliers all da way into da valley, two on every telephone pole.

KAWIKA

I even got people to put em inside deir store windows.

JAYDN

Don't know what I'd do widout you...

DICKIE BOY

No worries, Auntie, happy to help.

WENDALL

It's sad, going deep into the valley. All da banana trees are dying. Bunchy top. All of these tiny, wilted bananas. Dey say Panama disease is coming back. There might not be any bananas in fifteen years.

SANDRA

Dat's impossible.

JAYDN

You should offer 'em some from our patch. Sweetest apple bananas around.

(The men are is silent.)

JAYDN

John's grandmother dug dat patch. Wen John was born, his maddah planted da placenta under da tree. And it was her place. Den wen I had my kids, I found my three trees. And dat was my place. Brings me peace.

DICKIE BOY

Uh. Auntie, we betta head out.

JAYDN

Kawika? Sit wit me fo awhile.

KAWIKA

I gotta help Dickie Boy.

SANDRA

Kawika! Sit wit your maddah! Dickie Boy can manage.

WENDALL

Sandra, help us load up da car.

SANDRA

I'm coming. Hold you horses.

(Dickie Boy and Wendall exit carrying large boxes of flyers. Sandra follows.)

JAYDN
How was school today?

KAWIKA
I had one math test.

JAYDN
How do you tink you did?

KAWIKA
I dunno.

JAYDN
Give me a percentage. 85...90?

KAWIKA
Maybe 75?

JAYDN
Ai ya! How come so bad?

KAWIKA
C plus.

JAYDN
75 is a C.

KAWIKA
C plus. Anyway, da teacha said can retake em if I want.

JAYDN
Just you or da whole class?

KAWIKA
Just me.

JAYDN
Take advantage of dat.

KAWIKA
Cuz of "family problems" is why I can retake.

JAYD
Talked to your faddah lately?

KAWIKA
No.

JAYDN

How come?

KAWIKA

All he does is go fishing.

JAYDN

How can he go fishing at a time like dis?

KAWIKA

Maybe he was trying to calm down.

JAYDN

Is he upset?

KAWIKA

I don't know.

JAYDN

Did he talk about me or dat Maile woman?

KAWIKA

He axed about you a lot, I guess. He said you looked good on t.v.

JAYDN

Oh yeah? (Beat) People going say a lot of tings about your faddah.

KAWIKA

Mom. Dey already are.

JAYDN

Oh. So what you tink going happen?

KAWIKA

I tink Johnny going come back real soon.

JAYDN

How do you feel bout your faddah? Wen John Boy comes back, do you tink your faddah should get off da hook?

KAWIKA

Mom, I don't know. I guess I wish he hadn't done it.

JAYDN

Are you angry?

KAWIKA

I'm not happy.

JAYDN

Whateva happens, I want you know dat your faddah would neva intentionally do anyting wrong. I want you to rememba dat. Even if he has gone crazy. Whateva happens, he still you faddah.

KAWIKA

Tink he's really lost it?

(Sandra reenters with Dickie Boy and Wendall.)

SANDRA

Da boys are going head out.

KAWIKA

Great. I going too!

JAYDN

I should start dinner.

SANDRA

No, let me. You cook too much.

JAYDN

I want to. Do you have any bread?

SANDRA

Wendall threw it out last week. He said da kine was turning green.

WENDALL

Honey, it was past green. Da buggah was orange going on purple.

SANDRA

I'm buying da groceries.

JAYDN

I'm your guest.

SANDRA

Jaydn! You neva let me do nuhting!

(They exit. Jaydn comes back for her purse. She picks up her wedding ring. She hesitates then puts on the ring.)

ACT II SCENE 6: KIHANO'S GARAGE EARLY TUESDAY EVENING

(Wendall and Dickie Boy enter the Kihano's garage. John is sipping a beer in the dark. They do not see him at first. The room is full of fish.)

DICKIE BOY
What's smells so pilau?

WENDALL
Smells like fish.

DICKIE BOY
Smells like death.

JOHN
Oh, hey boys.

(Wendall and Dickie Boy jump.)

WENDALL
John! Thought we'd check on you.

JOHN
I'm glad you guys came to see me. Shows you put family first.

WENDALL
So...John, you've been fishing?

JOHN
I always fish.

WENDALL
But dere must be a hundred fish in here.

DICKIE BOY
Hoah, Uncle. You was always one killa fishaman, but dis is a world record or someting.

WENDALL
You don't wannna sell em? At least trow em back if you not going eat. Give da other guys one chance fo catch.

JOHN
Haven't thought about it.

WENDALL
Dat's crazy. I'd kill to catch dat many fish.

JOHN
Would you?

DICKIE BOY
We'd be rich.

WENDALL
Are da kids home?

JOHN
Kawika might be.

WENDALL
Son, why don't you go talk to Kawika. Help him wit his homework.

DICKIE BOY
Me?

WENDALL
You.

DICKIE BOY
Chee...fine.

(Dickie Boy exits.)

WENDALL
Sandra and Jaydn have been talking to reporters. Dey've been saying bad tings about you, especially Sandra. I can't stop 'em.

JOHN
Dey'll do what dey like.

WENDALL
John! You gotta do someting, tell em what's really going on. You can calm dem down, if anyone could. Dey blackening your name, John. Soon, nobody going rememba you fo who you are anymore.

JOHN
Dey'll understand soon enough, Wendall.

WENDALL
Your wife doesn't know where her son is...how patient do you tink she going be?

(John picks up a dead baby hammer head shark by the tail.)

JOHN

Rememba wen we went fishing by Kawela Bay wen we was ten? You got one baby on your line like dis--

WENDALL

And I got so scared it cuz it was one shark dat I dropped da pole in da water. Jeeze, John. Dat was a long time ago

(John holds the shark in his arms, more tenderly.)

JOHN

Dis one, I didn't mean to catch. It jumped in my boat, I didn't notice til too late. Look at his tiny teeth. Rows and rows, so delicate.

WENDALL

John...sharks don't jump into boats.

JOHN

Dis one did. Maybe to get to all da other fish?

WENDALL

Tell me your secret, I have to know.

JOHN

There's no skill wit me anymore. I put da fishing hook in da wada and every time I bring back one fish. Couldn't seem to rebait my line fast enough. Den I stop using bait. Den I stop using my rod.

WENDALL

What?

JOHN

I picked dem out of da water. Dey swam into my hands. Dey surrounded my boat, waiting fo me to catch em. So eager to be near me.

WENDALL

Bullshit...dere's no way.

JOHN

It's like I neva seen befo'.

WENDALL

Will you take me? I gotta see dis wit my own eyes.

Why not. Please?

JOHN

Don't feel right.

WENDALL

Come on, John. You know I always stand by you.

JOHN

Tomorrow morning then.

WENDALL

Tanks John. Dis means a lot.

JOHN

Just rememba it'll be like I told you. So be prepared, eh?

WENDALL

I'm sorry it seems like I wen take da ladies side on dis.

JOHN

Yeah?

WENDALL

But it's just...I don't rememba Maile. Like, eva. And I knew you from baby time. I mean, we married two sistahs. We're braddahs now. I always thought of you dat way. So...how come you can't tell me about it. It's just me. Wendall.

JOHN

Maybe you'll undastand tomorrow, on da boat.

WENDALL

Okay den. Tomorrow.

ACT II SCENE 7: THE BEACH

(Lani and Shaun sit on a towel at the beach at night.)

SHAUN

You sure it's okay to be out here?

LANI

My mom tinks I'm at home with Kawika.

SHAUN

This is the first time I've been to the beach at night here. You know, the sand here is very different from everywhere else I've lived.

LANI

Sand is sand.

SHAUN

In France, the whole beach is made up of slippery stones.

LANI

Stones?

SHAUN

And people spread out blankets and lie on top of them. This sand here is so soft...reminds me of cashew butter.

LANI

What!

SHAUN

And there are all of these tiny things...glass, coral, bones.

LANI

That's not a bone.

SHAUN

I thought that's what sand was made of.

LANI

Sand's made out of shells battered against the waves for too long.

SHAUN

Same thing. Bones. This sand feels very old.

LANI

We're glad you approve.

(Lani and Shaun inch closer together.)

SHAUN

I like being here.

LANI

You already said that!

SHAUN

No I didn't, that's your local ego. I mean, it's March and I'm wearing shorts. And the mountains right next to the ocean, and the trade winds, and every day...a rainbow. I know that sounds stupid, but I love all the places you've shown me. Sometimes, I see something so beautiful it feels unreal. Like I shouldn't be allowed to see it, yet it's right there, everyday, as if it were ordinary.

LANI

I thought you told Dickie you didn't like being here.

SHAUN

At first...well, let's just say it's not so good to be the new guy. Even though I'm like a professional new kid. But you made me feel welcome here from the start. I remember the first time I saw you...

LANI

What? What did you think?

SHAUN

(Ignoring her question)

That was my first day, the principal gave me a lei. At my old school, the principal didn't know your name. And if she did, that meant you were in trouble.

LANI

On the first day of school, my used to mom make me beautiful 'ilima leis. They're really hard to make, it takes hundreds of flowers and their stems usually break in half when you put the needle through. They're gold colored, soft and fluffy, like feathers and nobody can make em like my mom. Anyway, first day of high school, she made me leis to give to all of my teachers. I was so embarrassed. I told her nobody gives their teachers leis any more but she insisted. When I got to school I was so shame, I threw them in the trash. Hours of her work. That afternoon when she picked me up from school, she saw my math teacher. She asked him if he liked the lei and my teacher said he never got one. My mom didn't say anything.

SHAUN

How can you live with yourself?

LANI

No, really, I still feel bad about it.

SHAUN

That's how mom's are. When you get old enough, they keep doing stuff for you don't want. My mom still packs me home lunch every day but I throw it away so I can eat the same food as everyone else. Helps me blend in.

LANI

That's so wasteful. Why didn't you give the food to someone else?

SHAUN

Then people would know.

LANI

But I know.

SHAUN

And now you're special. You're in the circle of trust. I hope I won't regret my decision.

(They kiss.
John enters with a net, spear, and head-
lamp.)

JOHN

Lani? Dat you?

LANI

Jeeze dad, what are you doing here?

JOHN

Thought I'd come out here tonight. Look at da moon. Go fishing.

LANI

It's late.

JOHN

No can sleep.

LANI

You should go back to bed.

JOHN

Aren't you supposed to be at Sandra's wit your maddah?

LANI

I told her I was spending the night at home. Don't tell her I'm here.

SHAUN

Mr. Kihano? I was just about to drop her off. I just hadn't been to this beach before and I wanted to see it. It's my fault.

(John places his hand on Shaun's shoulder.)

JOHN

I undastand

(John sits between Shaun and Lani.)

JOHN

Lani--I neva got to finish telling da story.

LANI

Dad...why don't you tell me later.

JOHN

Da story of da hermit's curse wen spread fast. Soon, everyone knew in tree days, dat da boy going die. He saw dat his neighbors stared at him, like he was already dead.

SHAUN

(Whispered overlap on John)

What's your dad talking about?

LANI

(Whispered overlap on John)

It's an old story. I dunno why he likes it so much, it's totally depressing.

JOHN

His friends avoid him, none of da men worked wit him in da field. No one like be near him. Finally, he went to da old man and apologized fo his rudeness. Da old hermit, sitting next to tree sticks just looked up, and removed anodda stick.

(John holds a stick in his hand.)

SHAUN

(Whispering)

Is that the stick?

LANI

(Whispering)

It's a stick.

SHAUN

Sir? Do you want me to drive you back?

LANI
He's fine. Right, dad?

JOHN
Maile! Long time no see!

LANI
Maile? Where?

JOHN
I'm not John Boy anymore, dis is John Boy. My son.
He's helping me fish.

(John listens.)

How could you be lonely? Everybody loves you.

(John listens.)

JOHN
I tink about you often.

SHAUN
I think he's talking to someone.

LANI
Dad. Dad!

JOHN
Your son drowned? I don't know what I'd do if I lost one of mine.

LANI
Dad! Dad!

SHAUN
Mr. Kihano?

(John snaps back into attention.)

JOHN
Eh?

LANI
Dad...what were you just doing?

JOHN
Talking.

LANI
To who?

JOHN

You and...watchu your name?

SHAUN

Shaun.

JOHN

And Shaun. About da hermit and da young man...right?

LANI

You were talking to Maile. Did she tell you where John Boy is? Dad?

JOHN

I...I tink I going to go back home. Fish tomorrow.

(John shakily gathers up his things. He exits clutching the stick in his hand.)

LANI

Dad, come back!

(Lani tries to run after him but stumbles.)

SHAUN

Lani! It's okay...it's gonna be okay.

LANI

But...he wasn't...he wasn't talking to anybody...

(Lani looks up surprised. Lani sees something in the distance. Is it Maile?)

ACT III, SCENE 1: OUTSIDE THE KIHANO HOUSE

(Kawika and Dickie Boy enter the garage. They are both carrying 40's of Coolers Lite. Dickie Boy stands up on a table singing drunkenly and dancing in an exaggerated manner.)

DICKIE BOY
(Singing)

We should be togeda
In a leeettle hula heaven
ova da silver seaaaaa.
Gay and freeeee togeda
In da leeeettle hula heaven
unda one koa treeeeee.
Dreaming one dream of love.

(Kawika laughs and almost falls out of his chair.)

DICKIE BOY
I no can believe one Kihano man could be such a light weight.

KAWIKA
(Whispered loudly)
Dickie! Mom might catch us drinking.

DICKIE BOY
She's not here. And Uncle John's not going care.

KAWIKA
Let's go somewhere else, okay?

(Kawika tries to drag Dickie away but both fall to the floor laughing.)

DICKIE BOY
I like stay.

KAWIKA
Let's just walk down da hill. Please Dickie.

DICKIE BOY
You like me take you out to da parties, you gotta play it cool.

KAWIKA
Do you rememba dat one girl wit da black tank top and da long hair?

DICKIE BOY

Richelle. Everybody notice Richelle. We're like really cool right now.

KAWIKA

Wen you wen go up dere to talk to her, I thought I going die.

DICKIE BOY

You gotta be bold. You tink chicks going notice you in da corner? I went up there and got da numba.

KAWIKA

I saw you go up dere...

DICKIE BOY

See.

KAWIKA

(Sustaining giggles)

But I neva see you get da numba!

DICKIE BOY

Eh! Didn't anyone eva tell you to respect your elders?

KAWIKA

(Giggling)

Nooooooooooo. Dickie....Boy.

(Dickie Boy grabs Kawika and twists his arm behind his back and then puts him in a headlock.)

KAWIKA

Oww...Dickie Boy, stop.

DICKIE BOY

Dickie...what?

KAWIKA

Stop it. Come on Dickie Boy.

(Dickie tightens the headlock.)

DICKIE BOY

Dickie what? Dickie what?

KAWIKA

Dickie...Boy! Ow! Ow...Dickie...Man. Mercy already. Owwww!

(Dickie Boy releases him.)

KAWIKA

Jeez Dickie. Dat really hurt.

DICKIE BOY

You learned your lesson. Now don't foget it.

(Kawika looks at him reproachfully,
rubbing his very red neck.)

DICKIE BOY

Hey, don't get your panties in a twist, okay? (No response) Ey! Eva hear da one about da Portagee who wen buy one bottle afta shave lotion den wen slap himself to death?

KAWIKA

No.

DICKIE BOY

Dat was da whole joke, headless. You don't know what afta shave lotion is? Hoah, I almost foget you neva wen shave befo'.

KAWIKA

I going bed already.

DICKIE BOY

Don't get pissed. Oh wait, you already are, yeah?...Come on Kawika, dat was one joke!

(They hear the faint sound of a car pulling
up. The door opens and closes.)

DICKIE BOY

Don't you want to talk to your sistah?

KAWIKA

Lani's still out?

DICKIE BOY

She's been seeing quite a lot of dat haole. And wen I say a lot...

KAWIKA

Not even.

DICKEY BOY

Tonight.

KAWIKA

Don't spread rumors about my sistah, man.

DICKIE BOY

I get sources.

KAWIKA

Whoa. Mom's gonna kill her.

DICKIE BOY

Hopefully fo everyone, she won't find out.

KAWIKA

I won't tell.

DICKIE BOY

Lucky fo her. (Beat) I tink she's coming.

(Dickie Boy grabs Kawika and they hide behind chairs.)

KAWIKA

What are we doing?

DICKIE BOY

You'll find out.

(Lani enters. Dickie Boy and Kawika jump out behind the chairs and yell. Lani screams.)

LANI

You assholes!

KAWIKA

Don't wake up dad!

LANI

Why'd you guys tackle me then?

KAWIKA

You shoulda seen your face. You were so scared.

(Lani balks at Kawika's breath.)

LANI

Dickie Boy, did you get him drunk?

KAWIKA

Don't call him Dickie Boy.

LANI
What?

KAWIKA
He'll kill you.

DICKIE BOY
It's Mr. Dickie to you.

KAWIKA
Sir Dickie Man to you.

LANI
Sir Dicksalot--did you take him to one of your parties?

DICKIE BOY
What's it to you?

LANI
He's fourteen. Don't take him drinking wit your skeezy friends.

DICKIE BOY
What's bugging you?

KAWIKA
Yeah! What crawled up your butt and died?

(Both Dickie Boy and Lani look at Kawika surprised. Kawika can't stop laughing at his own joke. He lies down on the bench.)

LANI
Dickie!

DICKIE BOY
What? You tink I taught him dat one? Anyway, I wouldn't get so mad about Kawika, not afta what you did.

LANI
I went to da movies.

DICKIE BOY
How come your legs all sandy den?

(Lani looks over at Kawika, who has fallen asleep. He still clutches the beer bottle.)

DICKIE BOY
He's asleep already. But he knows.

LANI

Knows what? I'm going to bed. Help me bring him to his room.

(Dickie doesn't move to help her.)

Dickie Boy?

DICKIE BOY

Uh oh. What did Kawika tell you? You aren't allowed to call me Dickie Boy.

(He grabs her and puts her in a headlock. She struggles to get away and he pins her on the floor with himself on top of her.)

LANI

Dickie, get off of me!

DICKIE BOY

You tink you such hot shit. You like to talk down to me at school, go out wit your haole friends. You tink I'm stupid, don't you?

LANI

You're so paranoid. GET OFF OF ME.

You wanna know if I tink you're stupid? You are stupid, Dickie Boy. You're sooooo stupid. And you love it. You sit around drinking beer and jacking off and you aren't going to go anywhere. You'll neva get off dis damn island.

(Lani shoves Dickie Boy off of her.)

DICKIE BOY

What's so wrong about dis damn island anyway?

LANI

People like you. Look at you, you're twenty years away from a beer belly, some menial-shit job, two kids, and a divorce. It's staring at you right in da face like it's going happen tomorrow.

DICKIE BOY

Lani, you don't give a shit about anything but yourself.

LANI

That's not true!

DICKIE BOY

Your braddah is missing. Five years old. I don't see you doing noting but stay at da house. Everyday, I drive out and look fo him. Put up posters, make phone calls, spend time wit your maddah. Where are you? Seeing

your rich haole boyfriend and talking about how bad you have it? You tink you're too good fo dis family? You tink you betta dan da rest of us?

LANI

What's the point? The police got no clues. The whole island's talking about us and looking for Johnny but nobody's found so much as a fingernail. Dad says he'll bring John Boy back. I know he will. And I know no one can find him till then. So I believe my father. What's so wrong wit that?

DICKIE BOY

So dat's it den? You just going sit back and do noting? You just going to give up on your braddah and just hang out wit dis guy? He just going to tell his friends he had one hula dancer wen he was in Hawaii.

LANI

Shut up, Dickie. You don't know anything.

DICKIE BOY

Eh, Lani. You wen lost it in one BMW? Or was it in one Volvo? Real classy. Bet it was all romantic on da beach wit da stars. I saw Shaun buying condoms at da 7-11 tonight. He didn't even notice me. Da bastard look real sure of himself too. So don't act like you hot shit.

LANI

You don't know nothing. You know what happened on the beach? My father talking to like a crazy person. Our mothers are like...obsessed wit dis campaign and John Boy could be dead fo all we know...

DICKIE BOY

Don't talk like dat--

LANI

Can't you feel it too? The day afta it happened, I had this feeling, that Johnny was just gone. Like he was dead or in a place where nobody could find him no matter what. That's why dad can't really talk about it. John Boy drowned or something and that Maile woman had something to do wit it.

KAWIKA

He's dead?

(Lani and Dickie Boy turn to Kawika surprised.)

DICKIE BOY/ LANI

No.

LANI

I mean...I don't know.

DICKIE BOY

NO.

KAWIKA

Dickie, I don't like you talking to Lani like dat. John Boy's not dead. I mean, he's not until we know fo sure. And dere's no way we know fo sure until, we know.

LANI

Right.

KAWIKA

And dere's no reason to be tinkin like dat anyway. It would upset mom. So let's go to bed. But first...Dickie, apologize to Lani.

DICKIE BOY

Not.

KAWIKA

Apologize.

DICKIE BOY

Sorry...Lani.

KAWIKA

And Lani?

LANI

Sorry I called you stupid a bunch a times. I didn't mean it.

KAWIKA

Nobody eva ax me what I tink about anyting. I tink everyone's gone crazy, Dad, Mom, Auntie Sandra, even you guys. But...we're all kids, you know? We aren't like dem. We gotta stick togetha. So Dickie...I don't want you to bully us anymore or give me Indian burns and stuff...and Lani, you should be around more...becuz Mom needs you. She says so all da time. Okay?

LANI

Yeah.

DICKIE BOY

Sure.

KAWIKA

Okay. Let's go to bed. I tink I going trow up.

(Kawika slumps over again as if he was a toy who was suddenly turned off. Lani and

Dickie Boy look at each other, surprised.
Together they help carry Kawika.)

LANI

Dickie...

I am sorry. He's only five. That's why I felt he could go...because he's so perfect and tiny. And he's never done anything wrong, he's not capable of anything bad because he's still so new. So I thought maybe he disappeared before the world could get to him. That dad knew about a special place to take him but couldn't tell us about it yet. And we had to trust him. I know what he's doing is wrong. But I never wanted to help look, because at the time, I felt like we stopped looking for John Boy and we were just looking for a body.

DICKIE BOY

But we aren't just looking fo John Boy's sake. Lani, your maddah can't sleep. She cooks us huge meals at four in da morning. She's up cooking, frantically, neva stopping. We gotta keep looking. Because dat's someting to do. Because nobody can just wait. It's not natural. Wen you lose a diamond ring, you look fo it. You don't wait fo it to come back. And wen you lose a child, you go out of your mind looking.

LANI

And if you never find what you looking for?

DICKIE BOY

Den somebody going pay.

ACT III, SCENE 2: KIHANO HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

(John sits in a chair, with his fishing gear, alone in a dark, sleeping house.)

JOHN

Da bible say God provides fo his children. But you gotta trust in him. Abraham went to da place God told him about. Took him days to reach dis mountain. Finally he lifted his eyes, and saw da place far off and knew da sacrifice he must make. He brought his only son. He knew he had to trust in God.

God. God is da ocean. I once stayed on a fishing boat fo 17 days. Da ocean is da biggest place of all, empty and vast but full of life. All I saw were birds and clouds, den at night, so many stars. Made me tink of da ancient fishamen who went out there wit noting. My faddah was at sea wen Hurricane 'Iwa hit. He was on da Big Island side, but he couldn't get back to shore in time. Back den all we had was a small wooden boat, and no one can outrun a hurricane in dat. Da hurricane came closer and closer. Da boat nearly capsized many times. Two crewmen went ovaboard, but my faddah pulled dem out of da ocean alive. My faddah told me da eye of da storm is very calm. Wen da hurricane start coming da force of da wind was killa. My faddah was a big man, but he was powaless, thought he going die. He just had to hold on. Dat's what we gotta do until John Boy comes back. Cause right now, all you guys, you on da outside. You feel da winds, feel da waves. But I stay right inside da eye. I look up at da power of da storm but I know, too, it going pass. It will be okay if we stay togetha till da storm clears. We'll be fine. I just know it.

ACT III, SCENE 3: KIHANO HOUSE - LATER THAT DAY

(John and Wendall sit at the table facing each other without speaking. There is a large pile of fish between them. Lani enters in her pajamas.)

LANI

You went fishing again?

WENDALL

He did. I didn't.

LANI

What do you mean?

WENDALL

5 am we go out. I'm right behind your faddah, same water, tree feet apart. Da fish are jumping around his hook, turning da water white. I see him scoop dem up wit his hands, like dey pieces of wood. I see him toss dem back and da same fish jump back in! Hoah, I no can believe my eyes.

JOHN

I try fo explain, Wendall. Fishing's been good.

WENDALL

John. Dis is someting else. How come I neva caught not even one tiny fish, and you hundreds?

JOHN

I get lucky.

WENDALL

I know what I saw, and it's not luck. John! It's loko 'ino. Guaranteed.

LANI

Dad doesn't know black magic. That's ridiculous.

WENDALL

It's da work of da gods.

LANI

You're superstitious, Uncle.

WENDALL

I've heard da stories. Hey! Did you put one curse on me? To outdo me at fishing? Is dat why I haven't been catching any fish?

LANI

He didn't put a curse on you. He wouldn't even if he could.

WENDALL

How else can you explain it? Thousands of fish, every kine too. Kines dat only live in deep water even dat I neva even seen befo', jumping into da boat, and noting fo me? Not even a nibble?

JOHN

Do you want dese fish? I don't want dem.

WENDALL

I would neva eat dose fish.

JOHN

Den sell 'em, if you like.

WENDALL

People could get infected.

LANI

Infected?

WENDALL

You're too young to know. E malama o loa'a i ka niho.

LANI

You know I don't speak good Hawaiian.

JOHN

Avoid sorcerers and bad magic or you going get caught in deir teeth.

(Lani picks up a fish.)

WENDALL

Put it down. It's not natural.

LANI

Feels like fish...smells like fish.

(Lani tosses the fish at Wendall. He jumps away.)

WENDALL

Damn it. You've got nerve, girl. Get dressed. I'm taking you ova to our house. Go wake up Kawika.

LANI

Dickie can pick us up later.

WENDALL

Suit yourself.

LANI

I'm going back to bed.

(She exits. John picks up the fish Lani threw.)

JOHN

I'm sorry you didn't catch any fish, Wendall. I thought maybe dey would come to you too. Next time, eh?

WENDALL

Dere is no next time, John.

JOHN

You told me you had to see it fo yourself. I warned you.

WENDALL

I neva thought...John...if you could see da look in your eyes. You weren't even looking at da water. Just staring straight ahead and pulling out da fish. It was like dey were just waiting fo you to catch dem. Like dey was just waiting fo die.

JOHN

Don't be afraid...

WENDALL

I betta be going.

JOHN

You and Dickie Boy come by tonight. We'll play poker, eh?

WENDALL

Maybe later. Gotta go.

JOHN

See you.

(Wendall exits. John walks to the sticks and removes another, leaving one stick.)

JOHN

On da fifth day, he saw his family making leis. He axed dem why. Dey said, "Because you are dead." To his own family, he was dead.

ACT III SCENE 4: SANDRA'S HOUSE

(Wendall enters. Sandra and Jaydn are making flower leis.)

WENDALL

What are dose fo?

JAYDN

To tank some of da maddahs fo deir help.

SANDRA

So, how was fishing?

WENDALL

Enlightening.

SANDRA

Whatchu mean?

WENDALL

Hey, Sandra? Can you go shopping or someting?

SANDRA

Hah? Is dat all you tink I'm good fo?

JAYDN

I'm sorry Sandra.

SANDRA

Fine. I'll go, but only fo Jaydn.

(Sandra exits.)

JAYDN

What happened on dat boat? I just talked to Slim today at da police station. He axed if I wanted to press charges against John. You have to tell me what I should do. Is he crazy? Do you tink he actually did someting.

WENDALL

No...no. I mean, it's John. It's da same John, you know. But he's just like...out to lunch or someting. He just hasn't come back yet.

JAYDN

What does dat mean?

WENDALL

I don't know. Frick. He really scared me dis morning. It was unreal. I just watched him, trying fo read his face. Trying fo see if he was as scared as I was. But dere was noting.

JAYDN

I don't know what to tink. Sandra and I wen Ala Moana, she try fo get me to go shopping to take my mind off of tings. And I saw an old grandmaddah wit her grandson and I ran up and I grabbed his hand. I really thought it was John Boy. Dis poor lady thought I was one kidnappa.

WENDALL

It's okay. I tink I see John Boy all da time.

JAYDN

Sometimes I go to da beach and stare at da water fo hours. Just looking. Once, I thought I saw him. Dis little ting, bobbing in da water. I thought it was my baby. But it was just driftwood and seaweed tangled up in garbage. Somehow it resembled da body of a child, curled up on it's side, sleeping. John Boy always sleeps on his side, wit both his knees bent forward. I was so sure it was him. And I was so happy. Because den I undastood. I thought maybe he drowned and John just couldn't tell us. Maybe he didn't know how to face me. At least den I would know.

I need to know what happened to my child. My family. But I don't. I always waited fo my life to get betta. I always thought to myself, tings are good but we could have, you know, more money, more time, whateva. I nagged da kids to study. I nagged John to fix da roof. And den you lose your child and everyting stops. Whateva life I thought I had, it's ova.

WENDALL

It's not ova. Not even close. You're still a beautiful woman wit so many tings out there fo you. Tink about Lani, and Kawaika, and Johnny. You gotta stay strong fo dem. Think about what a good maddah you are, and a figura in da community. How much joy you can bring to people. Don't get lost because you married da wrong man.

(Jaydn pulls away surprised.)

JAYDN

What?

WENDALL

It's not like dat, I mean, I used to respect John, more dan anyting. But I really admire you, Jaydn. You know why I eat so much of your cooking? Cause I see your soul inside of it, dat passion, dat cannot help but come out. I know...I know I shouldn't even bring this up but...(beat) You don't even rememba, do you?

JAYDN

You have got to be kidding.

WENDALL

I know it was high school. But I met you first. You went wit me first.

JAYDN

We went on one date!

WENDALL

I liked you fo a year! Then I introduced you to John and it was all ova between us. And he was a player and he drank like a fish.

JAYDN

Well, he's not dat way anymore. And Sandra, what about my sistah?

WENDALL

Look, forget all of dis. But...

JAYDN

But what?

WENDALL

I told him you was da girl I wanted to marry. And he just said, "too early yet fo see." Da next ting I know, you guys were engaged. Look, I'm sorry Jaydn. You spend your life swallowing tings up. Please forgive me.

JAYDN

It's...okay, Wendall.

WENDALL

You see, John was my bess friend and he always gets da bess tings, you know? Biggest fish, bess woman, beautiful children. Every time, he takes from me, he acts like he doesn't even know he's doing it. Dat's what kills me. And I still love him. But now...it doesn't matter.

JAYDN

Why doesn't it matter anymore?

WENDALL

I know you don't want to hear dis either...but I saw proof wit my own eyes. Da work of outside forces.

JAYDN

Maile?

WENDALL

Yeah. I tink it's...well, you might tink dis sounds stupid...but I tink it's da work of one of da Akua. I tink someting happened to him, wen he was out in da water dat day.

JAYDN

What? Wendall! You don't believe dat stuff. Nobody believes in dat anymore.

WENDALL

John does. He told me so, wen we were boys. One time, we went surfing in rough water. And he was knocked off his board and da water just kept turning him. He said he just kept rolling on da floor of da ocean and it wouldn't let him free. We kept calling out his name, John! John! Looking fo him. We started crying, we was sure he drowned. And den he called out my name. He was all da way on shore. Holy smokes, we were all dumbfounded. He wen told us later dat a big wave pushed him all da way onto da beach. Evah since den, everybody say dat John had one guardian angel looking ova him.

JAYDN

So what am I supposed to do? Make an offering? Sacrifice my first born child?

WENDALL

I've been tinkin' about dose old legends, you know? Maybe Maile is a God in disguise. Maybe she's da shark goddess.

JAYDN

Dere is no shark goddess. It's a shark god, Kamohoalii. And if we believed in dat stuff, which we don't, he wouldn't do harm to us because he's John's family's 'amakua. He protects us.

WENDALL

Yeah but people who pick a shark fo deir god gotta be careful. You don't know fishing superstitions, Jaydn, but dey say dat some sharks are itchy-mouthed uhinipili, eaters-of-all. Dey sink fishing boats. Even though da fishamen make planny of offerings. Dere's no pleasing em.

JAYDN

What am I supposed to say to dis?

WENDALL

Wait. You know what I tink we should do? Follow John, next time he goes fishing. Maile is sure to show up.

JAYDN

Please don't.

WENDALL

What?

JAYDN

Don't tell me dese tings.

WENDALL

But, Jaydn. If you had seen him fish...

JAYDN

Dis isn't about da gods. Dis is my family. And if I can't get him to tell me anyting maybe da police will. Dere are no gods Wendall, only people and deir families. And I'm going to get mine back.

ACT III, SCENE 5: KIHANO'S GARAGE

(Slim enters in a policeman's uniform.)

SLIM

John.

JOHN

Slim. How you? Sit down. How's Charlene?

SLIM

You know why I'm here.

JOHN

Yeah...okay.

SLIM

What did you do the day of Sunday, March 13th?

JOHN

I got up early, 7 o'clock. Woke up John Boy and we went fishing.

SLIM

Where exactly?

JOHN

At the reef at Nanakulil.

SLIM

And wen did you see "Auntie" Maile Kapuhanui?

JOHN

Maybe...eight o'clock.

SLIM

How did she come up to you?

JOHN

She walked up to me from behind. I neva saw her coming.

SLIM

Was there anybody else there?

JOHN

No, we were all alone, just me and John Boy.

SLIM

She saw you and walked all the way across the reef to you, but you neva saw her coming?

JOHN

I was teaching Johnny how to fish. Man alive, was I surprised to see her. Hadn't spoken to her in ova twenty years. But I wasn't surprised. Auntie Maile loves da water.

SLIM

And wen did you decide John Boy was going to stay wit her? Had you made any previous arrangements? Were you meeting her there?

JOHN

Maile said she wanted to look afta John Boy, just fo a little while.

SLIM

Wen was da last time you saw this woman?

JOHN

1985. At Waimea beach, wit my maddah.

SLIM

Does anyone else know Maile, odda relatives?

JOHN

My maddah died in '87. She was da only one who really knew Maile.

SLIM

John, we did a check on this Auntie Maile Kapuhanui. There's no record of any living person in da state of Hawaii, or even da state of California, Nevada, Washington, and Oregon. Do you undastand? Aside from your testimony, no one else can prove she exists. There are no witnesses at the park dat saw you speak to any woman. One man saw you return to your car alone, witout John Boy. So, according to you, she's real, she has your son, everyting is fine. But according to police records, you gave your son to a person who's identity we cannot prove wit unknown whereabouts. So where does dat leave us?

JOHN

I don't know.

SLIM

You tink you can just do dis to my cousin? She's going out of her mind wit worry. You lucky she's not pressing charges, so far, she's only filing fo a missing person's report. But if John Boy doesn't turn up soon--

JOHN

Calm down Slim. Da boy's coming back. Soon. Is like I keep telling everybady but dey no can believe me.

SLIM

You know what my buddies are doing right now? Dey are out in a boat wit the coast guard. Dey're looking fo the body of your son.

JOHN

(moves away from Slim)

Ehh. No need fo do dat. Dat's not nice.

SLIM

You tink I want to throw you in jail? I don't know what shit you trying to pull ova everyone, John, but it's not working. No one believes in the "Auntie Maile" story anymore.

Look...everyone still tink you're a good guy. If someting happened to John Boy, an accident...don't be afraid just to tell us. Or if she really did kidnap your son...but we need more to go on. Some cold, hard, facts. One place fo start. Because this lady left no trace. You told Jaydn she went to the Big Island? No one by her name or description boarded a plane. Neither did John Boy. I even watched hours of surveillance footage from the Honolulu International Airport.

(Slim studies John carefully).

She didn't get on a plane. You know dat, don't you?

JOHN

John Boy is safe, Slim. I know it.

SLIM

John...if you don't help us, you are going to become a suspect to the disappearance and possible murder of your child. So, if you have any clue where your son is, I would tell me, right now.
Am...I...making...myself...perfectly...clear?

JOHN

Sure.

SLIM

Do you have any more information on the whereabouts of Maile Kapuhanui or John Kihano the third?

JOHN

Not...at dis time. But bumbye, it's all going be clear. I promise.

SLIM

To hell wit your stupid promises. There's noting more you can tell me? Fo your child's sake? Fo the sanity of your wife? Fo your reputation in this community as a law-abiding citizen NOT guilty of infanticide!

JOHN

Infanticide...is like da killing of one baby. Not a boy. And how can you accuse me of someting like dat? Shame on you!

SLIM

This is your last chance.

JOHN

Auntie Maile took John Boy and she told me to be patient. Dat's all I know.

SLIM

I came here to help you. But no one can help you. Next time I come here, I going do a lot more than asking questions!

JOHN

You should know betta than ax those crazy kine questions. Your maddah wen raise you betta dan dat!

(Slim storms out.)

SHAUN

Lani--your cousin gave me this note. You don't want to see me anymore?

LANI

I never accepted he was gone. I was so sure things would work out because my dad wouldn't let anything really bad happen. I wanted a simple answer but I couldn't find one, so I ran away with you instead...

SHAUN

And now you wish you hadn't.

(Lani hesitates.)

SHAUN

You know, you didn't have to write a note and give it to your cousin.

LANI

I didn't know how to face you.

SHAUN

If you were feeling this way, you could have told me sooner. I would've understood.

LANI

You don't.

SHAUN

I don't understand families? Or loss? Everyone has a family. My brother died of leukemia when he was eight. My parents don't speak to each other anymore. Lani, I care about you. But don't tell me what I don't understand.

LANI

I always thought they'd be around forever. Now I know that's impossible. Shaun...if you could—

SHAUN

I'm gonna go now. I guess, call me if anything. (He stops himself)
Just...take care.

LANI

Take care.

(Shaun walks away. Lani watches him go.)

ACT III, SCENE 7: KIHANO'S GARAGE

(John sits in the darkness at the table. Jaydn enters.)

Jaydn?
JOHN

I came by to see you.
JAYDN

Slim came by to see me too.
JOHN

I sent him to snap you back into reality.
JAYDN

I missed you.
JOHN

I...missed you too. But John--
JAYDN

John Boy is coming home tomorrow.
JOHN

Wat? How? Are you sure--
JADYN

Auntie Maile told me. I'm sorry fo all da trouble I caused, Jaydn. I thought I was doing da right ting.
JOHN

Da right ting? You destroyed everyting. How could you give up John Boy? How could you not want to spend every single day wit him?
JAYDN

Auntie Maile needed him more.
JOHN

Just becuz she lost her son, doesn't mean she can have mine. You didn't tink about your own family. Why is dis woman so important to you?
JAYDN

Are you in love wit her?

(Long beat.)

No. But she is good and kind and she was suffering, so much. And I thought...we have tree and she had none--
JOHN

JAYDN

Wat!

JOHN

But it was only fo one short time.

JAYDN

A day would have been too long. Dis has not been a little while. Look, John.

(She shows him her hair.)

JAYDN

My hair is turning gray. You turned me into an old woman.

JOHN

I'm sorry, I wish I could take it back but I can't. It will all be ova soon. I promise.

JAYDN

Can we get him now?

JOHN

It has to be tomorrow. Look, just...cook a big dinner fo tomorrow night. Okay? A celebration fo John Boy's return. His favorite tings. And I will bring him to you.

JAYDN

Tomorrow wen?

JOHN

In time fo dinner.

JAYDN

You promise? No more delays?

JOHN

As long as I stay living, I going do dis tomorrow.

JAYDN

Tank God fo dat.

JOHN

Jaydn?

JAYDN

Yes?

JOHN

Will you all stay here tonight? It's very lonely here now wit da kids staying at Sandra's.

(Jaydn considers. John waits)

JAYDN

In one act of good faith, tonight, we all going sleep unda da same roof.
But if John Boy... (she stops herself)
I going see to it dat you neva see any of your kids again.

JOHN

Tomorrow den.

KAWIKA

How come everyone staying ova? Even Uncle Wendall and Auntie Sandra?

DICKIE BOY

Didn't dey tell you?

LANI

Dad told mom John Boy's coming home tomorrow. For sure dis time.

KAWIKA

What? Dat's great.

DICKIE BOY

Yeah. If he comes through.

KAWIKA

But now everyting will work out okay. We can stop sleeping at your house and Mom and Dad--

LANI

I wouldn't jump to any conclusions, Kawika.

KAWIKA

How come you guys no get excited? John Boy's coming home tomorrow!

(John exits the house quietly. He is carrying his fishing gear. The kids duck out of sight.)

JOHN

Last day. Da last stick is gone.

KAWIKA

Wat's he saying?

LANI

I don't know but he's holding that stick again.

DICKIE BOY

Shit. Where's he going?

LANI

Shhh. Fishing I tink. We should follow him.

KAWIKA

No...he'll see us.

LANI

Come on.

ACT III, SCENE 9: THE REEF

JOHN

Maile! Maile! Where are you? It's time, see? (Holds the stick) You promised. (He sees John Boy) John Boy! Give him to me.

(John moves forward, but is stopped by an unseen force.)

JOHN

You promised Maile. We had one agreement!

(Lani, Dickie Boy, and Kawika enter, unseen by John.)

DICKIE BOY

Who's he talking to?

LANI

Maile.

KAWIKA

Maile!

JOHN

Dere was no trade!

(John listens.)

JOHN

I no care if I'm da greatest fisherman who eva lived. You tricked me. Give me back my son.

(John listens.)

JOHN

Take anyting else.

(John listens. Sound of Hawaiian chanting that grows louder and fiercer.)

VOICE

Koho pololei. Pono'o 'oe ke hele. Ai ole, I ke keiki e hele? Pono'o 'oe ke hele. Ai ole, I ke keiki e hele?

JOHN

Isn't dere some other way? (Realization) This what you wanted all along.

(John falls onto his knees, unable to decide.)

LANI

Shit, what's she saying? Come on, Dickie. You studying Hawaiian in school right now.

DICKIE BOY

I no know wat dis lady saying.

KAWIKA

Come on! "Koho polo lei" is like...choose correctly. "Pono'o 'oe ke hele" you...should be da one to go.."

LANI

"Make da right choice, you or da boy must go."

KAWIKA

Dad wouldn't go wit her anyway. She's creepy.

JOHN

I'm ready now.

(Chanting stops. Complete silence.)

KAWIKA

Dad?

LANI

He's going into da deep water.

KAWIKA

Come back!

DICKIE BOY

Uncle, come back!

LANI AND KAWIKA

Dad! Dad!

ACT III, SCENE 10: KIHANO'S GARAGE

(Jaydn stands before a table of food.)

JAYDN

Everyting's ready!

WENDALL

Jaydn...you going make yourself sick, cooking so much.

JAYDN

I can't help it. I'm so nervous. Wen I woke up dis morning, John and da kids had already left to get John Boy.

SANDRA

It's so exciting. Like Christmas, yeah?

JAYDN

Not...exactly.

WENDALL

Hoah Sandra, you have a way of always saying da wrong ting at da wrong time, eh?

JADYN

Sandra always means well. Maybe you should appreciate your wife a little more.

WENDALL

I'm sorry, Sandra.

SANDRA

(To Jaydn)

You see what I have to go through? No respect. So what's going to happen between you and John?

JAYDN

I haven't decided yet. I'm so furious. But all I can tink about is John Boy...and dat's he's coming home today. So I can't be angry right now. Ax me tomorrow, I guess.

(Lani, Kawika, and Dickie Boy enter wet and shivering.)

JADYN

Why are you all wet? Where's your faddah? Where's John Boy?

(John Boy runs in and hugs Jaydn.)

JAYDN

John Boy! My baby! Tank god.

WENDALL

Where's John?

(Kawika and Dickie Boy look down.
Lani bursts into tears.)

ACT III, EPILOGUE: THE BEACH

(Lani places the sticks into the sand in a circle. In the center, she puts a cross. John, dressed in white, watches Lani from a distance, but she cannot see him.)

LANI

I never understood why this was your favorite story. There were so many better ones. Did you tink you were like the hermit that no one spoke to? But everybody loved you. Or did you tink you were the foolish boy, who got himself cursed. Sometimes I tink you thought you were both. Maybe that's why you couldn't save yourself.

But I'll finish it for you anyway. On the last day, the boy was desperate, he prayed, he begged, he did everything in his power to fight the curse. But that night, he died. Just like the hermit said he would. The End.

And what do we learn from that? Not to throw stones? To be kind to lonely, old men? That once we make a mistake, we can never recover from it? What did you want me to learn? You taught me so much, why can't I understand your last lesson? After the boy died, no one ever saw the old hermit again. He disappeared, just like you.

We had your funeral last week. The casket was empty. It could not contain you. It's funny, I thought I saw you with Maile, on that last day, just for a moment. I don't know why I could tink it was you, but I did. Crazy, right? Just two shark fins off in the distance.

And then, you were gone.

(She drapes the Ilima lei on top of the cross and blows him a kiss. John smiles.)

END OF PLAY