

How To Secede In Hawaii

by

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Cast of Characters

Herman.....Haole tourist in his sixties

Wiz.....Haole tourist in his thirties

Lily.....Headstrong Hawaiian woman.

Freddy.....Hawaiian man in his thirties. Scattered.

Duke.....Muscular, vain Hawaiian man with very pale
skin. Looks haole.

Kimo.....Hawaiian Man-feminine. Creepy manner.

Synopsis

Herman is a know-it-all retiree who has come to Hawai'i to experience the history, the culture and the people. After reading a book by a Hawaiian Nationalist, Herman believes he truly understands all there is to know about the place and tries to pass on his knowledge to his travelling companion, Wiz. But thirty-some year old Wiz is more interested in lying on the beach, drinking Mai Tais and watching bikinis go by.

During a visit to Iolani Palace, Herman and Wiz inadvertently get taken hostage by a group of Hawaiian Nationalists who want justice for the historical wrongs committed against them by white colonizers (Americans). Problem is, that the nationalists don't seem to get along. They hate each other and can't seem to agree on what they want to say to the public when the police and press show up. Against their better instincts, the Nationalists appoint Herman, "The Negotiator" to help them complete their grand plan.

Act I

SCENE 1: SCENE OPENS TO THE FRONT OF IOLANI PALACE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII. HERMAN AND EDDIE, "THE WIZ" ARE SITTING ON THE STEPS, HAVING A HAWAIIAN PLATE FROM THE LUNCH WAGON.

HERMAN

What do you think?

WIZ

About what?

HERMAN

About what! About the food!

WIZ

It's O.K., it's O.K. The taste is good, but I wish everything wasn't so...mushy.

HERMAN

Yeah. I can see that.

WIZ

What's in this green shit, anyway?

HERMAN

I think maybe it's chicken. (takes a bite and chews) It's chicken.

WIZ

You sure?

HERMAN

Yeah. It's chicken.

WIZ

I don't know...everything tastes like chicken. Rabbits taste like chicken, quail tastes like chicken...even frogs tastes like chicken. Maybe it's not chicken.

HERMAN

It's chicken.

WIZ

It don't...look like chicken.

HERMAN

I'm telling you, it's chicken.

WIZ

Chicken isn't supposed to be so...gray.

HERMAN

You use a lot of salt on things?

WIZ

What?

HERMAN

Salt. You, you like to put a lot of salt on your food?

WIZ

I don't know. Never thought about it.

HERMAN

You like your food tasty, or on the bland side?

WIZ

Why would anyone like bland food?

HERMAN

Just answer the question. You like it tasty, or bland?

WIZ

Tasty. Why?

HERMAN

Well there's your problem.

WIZ

What?

HERMAN

You probably put too much salt and such on your food. Bad for the tastebuds. Shrinks them down like a slug.

WIZ

Nah!

HERMAN

Let me ask you something. You ever see a cook in a wheelchair?

WIZ

What? (beat) No.

HERMAN

What about with a cane? You ever see a chef with a, a, a cane or maybe wearing a diaper?

WIZ

What the hell are you talking about?

HERMAN

Cooks, see...you don't ever see any of them like that because they, they, they just don't get the chance to get that decrepid before they have to, you know, move on.

WIZ

Move on? What do you mean, move on?

HERMAN

Retire. Most cooks have to retire early because their, their tastebuds are shot by the time they're fifty, give or take.

WIZ

That's bullshit! What about all those places downtown? With the little Chinese guys cooking moo goo gai somethin'. They're probably eighty, ninety years old!

HERMAN

Oh, for chrissake! The Chinese, they're not real cooks! They got one goddamn bottle of sauce for everything! That's not cooking! Too much salt. Too much of that, that, that hot chile crap you pour all over your food. That's why you don't know the difference between a frog and a chicken.

WIZ

Oh! C'mon! Lots of people can't tell the difference between frog and chicken! Why do you think people started eating frogs in the first place? Because it tastes like chicken! Not because it taste like a frog!

HERMAN

You've got a point there. But I still say that, that, that...

Herman pokes something on his fork.

WIZ

What?

Wiz looks closer.

WIZ

Is that a worm? Ugh! I knew the color of that purple shit wasn't right...

HERMAN

No. no....it's from the green stuff with the milky white crap... Oh! There's another one!

WIZ

Oh, man! Fucking thing is full of worms! I think I'm gonna be sick!

HERMAN

Waitaminute. I don't think those are worms...

WIZ

Yeah they're worms! Look at it!

HERMAN

I'm looking. (beat) I think they may be some kind of, of...sea creature.

WIZ

Sea creature? What? You mean like a fish?

HERMAN

No. This aint no fish. I think it may be one of those, those, those squishy things...you know, the ones that look like a penis with eyes.

WIZ

A penis with eyes?

HERMAN

Yeah! And it's got those little squiggly things coming out the bottom...legs or what have you. Here...

Herman picks up the book next to him and begins flipping through it.

HERMAN

There's a picture of the thing in this book I got. See, before I travel to a place, I always like to read up on it, you know? The history, the cultural...habitats and such. Keeps me one step ahead.

Herman finds the page and shows it to The Wiz

WIZ

It's a squid.

HERMAN

Yeah. Cute little bastards. Looks a little like my nephew.

WIZ

What the fuck is it doing in there? You think it fell in?

HERMAN

Of course not! These people...Hawaiians...they ate this kind of squiggly shit all the time! They had to! See, you and me, we can go out any time and get whatever we want—a burger, fries, whatever.

But back then, the King, he got most of the good stuff, like, like the steaks, chocolates, canons and such. The common people...they just took what they could get.

WIZ

I guess it's good to be the King.

HERMAN

Yeah. Bad thing is that the King liked the stuff so much, he, he ended up trading everything away. The land, all the hot women, what have you.

WIZ

Wow! What an asshole!

HERMAN

You got that right.

Herman closes the book and hands it to The Wiz.

HERMAN

Here. It's always a good idea to, to, to inform yourself. Stay one step ahead.

WIZ

Nah. I'm O.K.

HERMAN

Whatdoyou mean, "you're O.K.?" What makes you think you're O.K.?

WIZ

What? What's to know about life in paradise? What kind of sunscreen I should buy? Where I go to get a Mai Tai with the little umbrella in it? What technique I should use to get all the sand outta my crotch? What?

HERMAN

(shaking head) No wonder they call it the "lost generation." You don't have a goddamn clue, do you?

WIZ

Aw! Here it comes...

HERMAN

I'm telling you, it's always best to be informed. Educated. Otherwise, you're not going to know what to do if you get yourself in a situation.

WIZ

What situation? What do you mean?

HERMAN

Like this here. (points at the plate) You would've wasted your money throwing it away because you, you, you thought this green crap was full of worms.

WIZ

Yeah. Now I'm throwing it away because it's full of squid.

HERMAN

True. But at least you're making an informed decision. It's very important. Especially when you're in a foreign place...you have to stay one step ahead. Know the history, the culture...

WIZ

I just want to know where I can get a drink with one of those...little umbrellas in it.

HERMAN

You can get that any hotel. Now THIS...THIS is a cultural experience! You can't get that at a bar or, or a beach!

WIZ

You know Herman, I'm grateful you asked me to come on this trip...

HERMAN

You should thank my friend. He's the one who suddenly got a tumor.

WIZ

...but maybe we should've discussed our agenda before we left. I mean, what the fuck are we doing here when we could be lying on the beach watching bikinis?

HERMAN

They say it was the size of a baseball. Or golf ball...something. Right there in his lungs. Funny thing is, he, he never smoked a day in his life. Even did some of these (moves his arms)every morning for thirty years.

WIZ

What? jumping jacks?

HERMAN

Yeah. Jumping jacks. See, the thing is, you never know when there'll be a tumor...or, or maybe you'll get hit by a bus...who knows? That's why you have to appreciate life. Don't, don't waste it all on little umbrellas and bikinis.

WIZ

I don't think anyone would consider watching bikinis a waste of time.

HERMAN

...depends on the bikini.

WIZ

True, true. (beat) I'm thirsty. You thirsty?

HERMAN

Yeah. I'm kind of parched, myself.

WIZ

I'll go...

HERMAN

No. I'll get it. I saw something I want from that cart over there. Be right back.

Herman gets up and exits.

The Wiz looks through the shopping bag next to him. He looks at the post cards. He looks at the hula girl doll. He turns the doll over and flips a button on and it begins to dance. Then he takes out a "shark in a bottle."

Herman appears with two coconuts with straws.

HERMAN

Jesus! What the hell is that! Put that away!

WIZ

What?

Herman grabs the Hula girl, shuts it off and shoves it in the bag.

HERMAN

What's wrong with you? Didn't I just tell you?

WIZ

What? I bought the stuff at the Hawaiian Mart! They should be happy!

HERMAN

This, this, this is the kind of thing I'm talking about! You don't know anything about anything!

Herman sees the shark in the Wiz's hand.

HERMAN

And what the hell is THAT?

WIZ

It's a shark in a bottle. See?

Wiz hold it up.

HERMAN

You got to get rid of this! Don't, don't, don't you know these Hawaiians...they consider the shark a god, for chrissake! You can't bring that in there!

WIZ

They think the shark is a god?

HERMAN

Yeah. It's right there in the book!

WIZ

But they eat people! What kind of god fucking eats people?

HERMAN

Well here's the thing: the shark god only punishes you if you show disrespect. (beat) Like those, those, those guys on the boards out there...

WIZ

What? You mean surfers?

HERMAN

Right. Surfers. See, most people think these, these surfer guys get bit because the shark mistakes them for a turtle, am I right?

WIZ

Yeah. I think that's pretty accurate...

HERMAN

But that's not the whole story. See, after I read this thing about the shark god...I put two and two together and figured there was something else going on there. That somehow, those surfers were being targeted because they were disrespecting the gods.

WIZ

What does that supposed to mean? Most of the time they're just floating around out there. How is that being disrespectful?

HERMAN

You're not going to believe this...but I heard it, first hand, from one of those surfers on the beach there.

WIZ

What?

HERMAN

(in a semi-whisper) They shit their pants.

WIZ

Nah!

HERMAN

I kid you not! They shit their pants out there in the water because they, they, they don't want to come in and use the can like any decent human being. Nevermind it only takes a few minutes...they can't stand to miss one goddamn wave.

WIZ

That's disgusting!

HERMAN

You got that right. (beat) Let me tell you something: If I was out there swimming around and I saw one of those guys crap their pants next to me, I'd bite their balls off myself.

Herman sips his drink.

The Wiz grabs the coconut with a straw, drinks then spits it out.

WIZ

What IS this?

HERMAN

What does it look like? It's coconut milk.

WIZ

Ugh. I thought it wasforget it.

HERMAN

It's good for you. Stops you up when you got the runs.

WIZ

Why, you got the runs?

HERMAN

Who me?

WIZ

Who else?

HERMAN

I don't have the runs. I'm just saying that if you get the runs, this stuff is supposed to, to...you know, constipate it.

WIZ

Huh. I didn't know that.

HERMAN

Learn something new every day.

Suddenly, a dark, local man with a red t-shirt that says "SECURITY" on the front runs into the scene, looking a bit panicked.

MAN (FREDDY)

Hey! You two! Get outta here! Now! It's closing!

WIZ

What?

MAN (FREDDY)

Get the hell out! The palace is closing! We're...about to close the gates!

HERMAN

But it aint five o'clock yet. The sign there says it closes at five.

MAN (FREDDY)

No! We're closing NOW! Go home!

HERMAN

Do you work here?

MAN (FREDDY)

No! Yes! We're closing the gates! You have to get out, now!

Herman reaches in his pocket.

The man watches him and screams LOUD.

Herman takes out the brochure. Both he and Wiz are staring at the man, who is frozen.

The man loosens up when he sees Herman took out a brochure.

HERMAN

Kinda high strung, aint you? (opening brochure)See...the brochure here, it says five o'clock. It doesn't say... (looking at his watch) four eighteen. We got here late because my friend here...he, he, he takes a long time to get out, if you know what I mean.

MAN (FREDDY)

Look! It's a special day! I-I-It's the Queen's birthday! So...we're closing early to celebrate, OK? Now get the fuck out of here!

HERMAN

Whoa! Does your boss know you use that kind of language? I don't think they'd approve of you telling paying customers to, to, to fuck off!

WIZ

Herman...

HERMAN

Waitaminute. Just let me finish and...

WIZ

Herman...

HERMAN

What?

Herman turns to Wiz and realizes there is a woman standing there in an identical red t-shirt, with a gun.

HERMAN

O.K. You win! We'll go.

Herman and the Wiz grab heir things and get up.

WOMAN

It's too late. (gesturing to the doors of the palace) Get your ass in there! Now!

Herman and Wiz begin to exit, followed by the man and woman with the gun.

Lights dim.

SCENE 2: INSIDE THE PALACE - MOMENTS LATER.

HERMAN AND THE WIZ ARE SITTING ON THE FLOOR IN A ROOM IN THE PALACE, THE MAN (FREDDY) IS WATCHING OVER THEM WITH A GUN. THE WOMAN, LILY, IS ON THE CELL PHONE. THERE IS AN OVAL TABLE WITH EIGHT CHAIRS IN THE ROOM.

LILY

(angry) Did you lock all the gates? What do you mean, you think so? What the hell is wrong with you? You send some bodies to the East gate right now before I come down there and...what? Wha-- what? I can't understand what you're-- wait...are you eating? Didn't I tell you never to eat while you're talking to me? It's disrespectful, that's why! You-- WAIT! Is that why you idiots were late? Goddamit! I couldn't care less about...what? Now, you listen to me! You put that nugget down right now and get your ass out there and check the gate before I shoot you all! Wha-whatt? You think I give a shit if you didn't eat all day? You think this is some kind of game? The police will be here any minute and if that....what? What the hell are you talking about? No...don't... (to Freddy) Asshole put me on hold!

Lily hold the phone, angry. She is "on hold."

LILY

(contained, volcanic anger) Yeah. I'm here. Don't you ever, ever, put me on hold again. Do you hear me? What are you talking about! Of course they called the cops! You think they're just gonna let us take over the palace and go home? What? You idiot! It doesn't matter if it's quitting time! No! No....Don't even start with...yeah? Well you tell that wife beater that a breaking and entering charge isn't going to make one damn difference in his sentence! What? No. No. No. No. Look....no! Can you just stop and...I....listen to me! No....no...no! Will you just...JESUS! JUST SHUT UP! Shut the hell up and go check the damn gate! Now! NOW! NOW!

Lily slams the phone shut.

LILY

Stupid asshole. Sometimes I don't know why I married him.

FREDDY

We secure?

LILY

I think so. The cops haven't showed up yet, have they?

Freddy looks out the window

FREDDY

I don't see anyone. But it can't be long....hey! Who's HE?

Lily goes to the window.

LILY

Where?

FREDDY

He's been hanging out in that spot for a long time...

LILY

You mean the guy licking the tree?

FREDDY

Yeah.

LILY

He's homeless.

FREDDY

Are you sure? He doesn't seem like a homeless guy...

Lily looks at Freddy and rolls her eyes, annoyed. She turns away from the window.

LILY

Jesus! Where the hell are the cops?

FREDDY

You don't actually want the cops here, do you?

LILY

You didn't read "The Plan," did you?

FREDDY

What? Of--of course I read it. I read it - "The plan" - right? I read it a week ago.

LILY

I just passed it out last night at the bus stop.

FREDDY

Oh.

LILY

And if you had actually read the damn plan, you'd know that the whole goddamn purpose of this takeover was to draw attention to our cause! And for that, you need the media, and for the media to give a shit about anything, you need either a cop, a fire engine or a dead body!

Lily and Freddy both look at Herman and Wiz.

WIZ

Oh, Come one! We're not even from here! It wasn't us!

LILY

There are no white men FROM here! Ever! All you haoles are the same! colonizers! Leeches! You go wherever you want and take whatever you want! Our land, our culture! Our religion! Our way of life!

The Wiz accidentally kicks his shopping bag and the shark in a bottle rolls out.

HERMAN

Uh oh...

LILY

What is THAT?

Liz grabs the shark. Freddy comes to look at it.

FREDDY

You think it's real?

LILY

(to freddy) Of course it's real, you moron! (turning to Herman and Wiz) What is the point of putting a FAKE symbol of Hawaiian meaning in an old Jelly Jar filled with formaldehyde? Our humiliation wouldn't be complete if this carcass of our BELOVED GOD, LONO was not real, would it? WOULD IT!?

HERMAN

You have to forgive my friend here. He, he, he didn't know about the shark being a god an all before he bought that thing.

WIZ

Yeah! I, I thought I was helping you Hawaiians. You know, contributing to the economy.

LILY

It's not MY economy, haole! Your fucking presence here isn't helping anyone but the white man! (beat) You think my people own the hotels, the restaurants, the stores? Huh? Who do you think owns all that?

WIZ

The white man?

LILY

That's right! THE WHITE MAN! The Japanese! The Chinese! EVERYONE but the Hawaiians! And you know what?

This fucking piece of shit tells me that not one of you foreigners gives a damn about who or what you have to sell to get what you want!

WIZ

I can return it...

LILY

I ought to shoot you both right now!

Lily's phone rings

LILY

(into phone) They here yet? What? (beat) I don't get it! No! They wouldn't just go home! They'll be here! I don't know! Any minute! No. No. NO! Look, just suck it up, alright? No! It's too risky...no,. What? Well you tell him that if I hear the words "take out" one more time...Yeah. Ok. Yeah. Bye. No. Goodbye.

Lily hangs up the phone.

LILY

What the hell is with everyone? Don't these people know this place is full of priceless....STUFF! Don't they give a shit about any of it? Are Hawaiians so....low meaningless to people that they don't give a shit if the royal palace is taken over and, and and blown up by a group of terrorists?!

FREDDY

Who? You mean us?

LILY

We've been here for almost an hour! Where the hell are the cops? The SWAT team? The news trucks?

Lily notices Herman raising his hand.

HERMAN

Can I say something?

LILY

What do you want?

HERMAN

Excuse me for saying, but maybe they're laying low. Watching to, to, to see what you're going to do.

FREDDY

What do you mean?

HERMAN

Well they obviously know about this by now...with the security guards you sent running and all. Most likely they're watching...probably with one of those, those, those night vision viewer things. You know, the ones where you see the red dots on the wall. You should look for that. They might be trying to pick you off, one by one.

WIZ

Oh! Like in that movie!

FREDDY

What movie?

WIZ

You know, the one where a bunch of drug dealers are holding a soldier in a compound and the sharp shooter outside picks them off, one by one.

FREDDY

Yeah! I saw that! What's his name? Harrison Ford, right?

WIZ

Nah, nah! I think it was...was it Bruce Willis?

FREDDY

No. That's the Die Hard guy. It's not him...

LILY

Enough! There aren't any sharp shooters out there, you idiot!

HERMAN

Well, maybe not shooters, but they've probably got agents out there right now, watching. Deciding how to...how to make their move.

LILY

You don't know anything!

HERMAN

Well, I do know a few things...I was a negotiator once.

WIZ

You were? Oh my god! I didn't know that!

HERMAN

Yeah. Yeah. Back in the eighties. H.D. Internal affairs.

WIZ

Jesus! That's weird!

FREDDY

(to Lily in a soft voice) You know, maybe we should listen to him.

LILY

I don't trust white men.

FREDDY

Yeah, but we don't know what we're doing.

LILY

Speak for yourself, Freddy!

Lily glares at Herman.

LILY

Check the window again, Fred.

Fred goes to the window.

FREDDY

Nothing. Just that homeless guy.

LILY

I don't get it! An angry mob of Hawaiians take over the palace and nothing!

HERMAN

Homeless guy?

FREDDY

Yeah.

HERMAN

Hmmm.

FREDDY

What?

HERMAN

May I take a quick look?

LILY

(frustrated) Fine!

Herman looks out the window.

HERMAN

That's no homeless guy.

FREDDY

You see! I knew it!

HERMAN

Oh....that Guy's good! (motioning to Freddy) You know how you can tell he's not homeless?

FREDDY

How?

HERMAN

See the way he's pissin' straight out?

LILY

What?

HERMAN

The way he's pissin'. His stream is going straight out. See, real homeless guys tend to piss sideways, because they, they don't want to take a chance it gets on their shoes.

WIZ

I never heard that.

HERMAN

Oh, yeah! Shoes are their most important possession. If they get too much urine on it, it's, it's it's no good for the material and such.

LILY

You're full of it!

HERMAN

And his hat...no homeless guy wears a hat like that...

LILY

O.K., O.K.. Enough!

HERMAN

Just trying to help.

LILY

We don't need your help, haole!

Herman goes back to sit down.

Lily's phone rings.

LILY

Yes?

Lily continues to talk on the phone.

Wiz talks to Herman in a softer voice—to be heard only between Herman and Wiz.

WIZ

Hey. Maybe you should just keep out of it.

HERMAN

What do you mean keep out of it? How can we keep out of it? Look where we are!

WIZ

Yeah. But you don't have to...the less you talk, the less chances of making her mad.

HERMAN

There you go again! Sticking your head in the sand.

WIZ

Sticking my head in the sand? Are you crazy? We're hostages!

HERMAN

It don't matter! You have to understand...it's a cause! These people...Hawaiians...they were screwed! They, they, they just want some justice! Some dignity! Didn't you see Braveheart?

WIZ

What? Braveheart? They're living in paradise, for god's sake! The bums here sleep on the beach! You know how much people back home would pay to sleep on the beach?

HERMAN

That's not the point. Their nation--it was stolen!

WIZ

Stolen? I thought you said the kings, they traded most of it.

HERMAN

Yeah, well, sure. But bottom line is, the Americans, they, they, they took over the government against the will of the people.

WIZ

The will of the people.

HERMAN

Yeah. The will of the people.

WIZ

So let me get this straight. The Hawaiian people didn't have anything because the leaders traded it away...but when the Americans came to overthrow them, they people didn't want it because they'd rather get fucked over by their own kind.

HERMAN

That's right.

WIZ

That's fucking insane!.

HERMAN

Insane. Not insane. That's not the issue. If Hawaiians want to, to, to get fucked over by their own leaders, who's to tell them they don't have that right? (beat) Think of it this way: it's, it's, it's like being in a bad marriage, you know? You hate your wife, your wife hates you, the kids are screwed up because you, you, you spend all your time taking bites out of each other. When you're not at home, you drink, have affairs and such because if you didn't, you'd have to face the fact that your life is a ball of shit and then you, you'd have to jump off a building. But THEN your wife gets the idea you should see a marriage counselor. Well after listening to the both of you, the counselor basically says that it's hopeless, that, that, that you should part ways before someone gets killed. But you know what? Fuck him! Who the hell is he to say who should split up? If, if, if I want to live the rest of my life drunk, fucking dirty women and living with a bitch, it's my choice. It's my life! Am I right here?

WIZ

Fucking psychologists don't know shit, anyway.

HERMAN

You got that right.

Lily hangs up the phone.

LILY

Still no sign of the cops.

FREDDY

Now what?

Lily goes back to the window.

FREDDY

Hey. Maybe we should ask him. He was a negotiator, and all.

LILY

Alright.

Lily walks up to Herman.

LILY

OK, Haole. What's the next step?

HERMAN

Well, that agent out there on the bench. He's no accident. They're out there somewhere waiting for you to, to, to make your move. Do something stupid. See, in a case like this, they don't want the media to come because they'll look bad. They want to contain it. Which is why you don't have a bunch of police cars parked out front.

FREDDY

So what do we do?

Herman thinks for a beat.

HERMAN

First, you have to have your demands ready. Because when they come to get you, you can't be the one to look like you don't know what you're doing.

Freddy and Lily look at each other.

HERMAN

You do have a, a, a list of demands, don't you?

LILY

Well, no. THIS was supposed to be a statement.

HERMAN

Excuse me for saying, but if you just wanted to make a statement, maybe you should've just wrote a letter to the papers.

LILY

Hey! Don't get smart with me!

HERMAN

Look, I'm just saying that, that, that taking over a, a palace is a big deal! You go through all this trouble with the guards, the guns and such...people will expect you ask for something!

FREDDY

I think he's right. It doesn't make sense to go through all this and get nothing.

LILY

Well, we haven't had the chance to sit down and...

HERMAN

You should do it now. Before the media gets involved.

Lily frets and looks at Freddy.

FREDDY

Should I call the others?

LILY

God no!

FREDDY

(to Herman) They don't get along.

HERMAN

Who don't get along?

FREDDY

The different groups. That's why everyone took over a different part of the palace.

LILY

He doesn't need to know that!

FREDDY

Well how are we going to make demands to the cops when no one can agree?

LILY

I'LL write them.

HERMAN

See, you might not want to do that, because you, you, you want to make sure there's a united front.

FREDDY

A united front?

HERMAN

Yeah. At least you want it to look that way.

LILY

(to herself)Shit!

FREDDY

So now what?

LILY

That fucking Kimo gives me the creeps! (beat) O.K. Freddy, call them and tell them to get their asses over here.

FREDDY

Got it.

Freddy starts dialing.

FREDDY

(into phone) Hey, we need you and Duke up here now. (beat) Yeah. We have to meet—it's important. What? Yeah, now. What? No, no. We can't wait until a commercial! (beat) No...what? No, I'm....

Freddy puts the phone on his chest.

FREDDY

He wants to know if we got beer.

LILY

Tell him I'm going to go down there and kick the T.V. in if he's not here in five minutes!

FREDDY

(into phone) We got a case of Bud. OK. Yeah. Five minutes.

Freddy hangs up.

LIGHTS DIM.

ACT II

SCENE 1: INSIDE IOLANI PALACE IN THE SAME ROOM - TEN MINUTES LATER. LILY IS SITTING ON ONE SIDE. THE OTHER TWO LEADERS, DUKE AND KIMO, ARE SITTING OPPOSITE. FREDDY IS STANDING UP, NEAR THE WINDOW.

LILY

I've called you here so we can discuss what we would like to demand from the haole authorities...

DUKE

...once they show up.

Lily ignores Duke

LILY

We think that they may actually be watching the palace right now. Waiting for us to let our guard down. So that's one thing we can't do. We must keep sharp and be on the defensive at all times!

One of the men, Kimo, burps as he holds a beer.

KIMO

Pardon me!

DUKE

What makes you think they're watching us?

FREDDY

(motioning to the window) Over here!

Duke and Kimo get up and look out the window.

FREDDY

You see the homeless guy out there?

DUKE

You mean the one washing himself in the bird bath?

FREDDY

Uh, yes.

DUKE

What about him?

FREDDY

He's an agent.

DUKE

Huh. He looks like my cousin, Junior. Reminds me that the fucker owes me money. I should call him before I forget...

Duke takes out his cell phone and starts to dial.

Freddy points out the window, again.

FREDDY

No! Look!

Freddy, Duke and Kimo go to the window.

FREDDY

You see, he's about to pee and... watch the way he, he...

KIMO

Oh my!

Kimo squints and looks intensely.

KIMO

I don't think he's going to pee...

FREDDY

Yeah, he is! See, he's got his penis out and...oh...

DUKE

(laughs) This might be good!

Lily goes to the window.

LILY

(in disgust) Ugh!

KIMO

Well, he certainly has big hands...

FREDDY

...yeah, and fast!

DUKE

Did you say fat?

FREDDY

What?

DUKE

Did you say he has "fat hands?"

FREDDY

No. Fast. I said he has fast hands...

DUKE

That's a weird thing to say.

FREDDY

I don't go that fast...

DUKE

Me neither. But it's still a weird thing to say.

KIMO

I thought everyone went that fast.

FREDDY

Not me. I like to make it last...

KIMO

I sometimes go that fast...

DUKE

Yeah, well, guys who are confused about their sexual identities have to rush it. If they don't, their fantasies get all fucked up. Is it a him? Is it a her? Two legs, four legs...before you know it, it's limp city. You can relate, can't you, Kimo?

KIMO

At least I don't need steroids to get it up.

DUKE

Bite me!

KIMO

You wish!

LILY

Will you two just shut up!

FREDDY

Oh, oh! There he goes...

DUKE

Body's tensed up...

FREDDY

Head's going back...

KIMO

Tongue's rolling out...

DUKE

And heeeeere's Johnny!

They all stare out the window in
silence.

DUKE, KIMO, LILY AND FREDDY

Ugh!

They look away from the window, making faces.

KIMO

I am never sitting on a public bench, again.

They all return to the table.

FREDDY

So maybe he isn't an agent.

DUKE

You think?

HERMAN

Forgive me for interrupting, but that's what these guys are trained to do....you know, to, to throw you off track.

Duke looks at Herman for a beat.

DUKE

Who the fuck are you?

HERMAN

I'm the hostage.

DUKE

Hostage? You guys took a hostage?

FREDDY

Two, actually. They wouldn't leave! What was I going to do?

DUKE

Great. Now we can add twenty years when we all get arrested.

LILY

Just shut it, Duke!

DUKE

Me? What kind of morons takes a hostage? Who are we? Al Qaeda?

HERMAN

Look, no one's getting arrested.

DUKE

Oh, yeah? What kind of stupid-ass haole becomes a hostage when we don't even have real guns?

WIZ

You mean those aren't real?

DUKE

Of course not! I have a job! I have a family! I have four Blue Nose pit bull embryos ripe and ready to implant in my bitch! Jesus! I have tickets to Vegas next week! I can't go to prison!

KIMO

Oh my god! The "Sound of Music" auditions are at the end of the month!

LILY

You guys are pathetic! What's more important: a freaking trip to Vegas or standing up for the rights of all Hawaiians? Your people!?

Duke and Kimo stare at her in silence.

Lily frets loudly.

KIMO

I say we pack up and get out of here before the cops do show up.

DUKE

I agree.

HERMAN

Wait! Excuse me for interrupting, but, but let me say that I don't think anyone here is going to prison.

DUKE

Who cares what you think, haole.

HERMAN

No! Me and Wiz, we aren't going to press charges. Am I right?

WIZ

Of course. Never.

DUKE

Really! And you're not saying that just because you think us crazy Hawaiians might just gut you both like pigs right now?

Herman stares in fascination at Duke.

DUKE

What the hell are you staring at?

HERMAN

It's just that you don't look...your skin...

Herman briefly looks at Freddy standing behind Duke, shaking his head "no".

HERMAN

We don't want you to get in trouble. We, we, we support you. See? We read the book!

KIMO

What book?

Herman takes out the book.

FREDDY

Hey! That's Maile's book!

DUKE

Oh my god! Maile? What a self-righteous bitch!

LILY

You take that back!

DUKE

Why should I? Everyone knows it! Right Freddy?

Freddy shrugs.

LILY

YOU'RE just jealous because she's a woman with Mana! Power! A long list of publications!

DUKE

So she's published! Big deal!

LILY

That's more than you can say, tough guy!

DUKE

Hey! Hey! That's because the people running the local press here are a bunch of pansies! They're not man enough to stomach the fiery storm my book will create if it's unleashed on the public!

LILY

You wrote a cook book, asshole!

DUKE

Don't let the pretty pictures fool you, sister! For your information, my book is a sociological study on the concept of "Loco Moco" in modern culture. (hissing)I did research in France!

KIMO

(sneezing out) Full of shit.

DUKE

What?

KIMO

Nothing.

DUKE

Hey! At least I don't walk around in my underwear all day.

KIMO

These are tights! I work in the dance department!

DUKE

Yeah! As a secretary, you fruit!

KIMO

(gasps)I've been told many times that I capture the spirit of what the dance department represents at the university!

DUKE

Yeah! You're all a bunch of tootie fruities prancing around in your underwears!

Kimo gasps.

LILY

SHUT UP! Both of you! We have to stop this! Now! If we don't have a list of demands to give them when they show up, we'll look like fools! So can you PLEASE just shut the hell up, sit down and cooperate for fifteen minutes?

DUKE

Who died and made you king? Queen. Whatever.

LILY

Look, I planned this protest and I'm telling you to sit down. You got a problem with that?

DUKE

I think the person who is most qualified should be running this deal. I have a PhD in Political Science and a Masters degree in packaging. What are YOUR qualifications?

LILY

Maile, our beloved leader, the person who started this movement years ago, is my advisor. I am her best student! Her confidant!

KIMO

You mean her babysitter.

LILY

What? Hey! I only help her with her kids as a favor to her!

DUKE
Oh, yeah? Is that why you think you can fuck her husband?

LILY
(gasps) That is a LIE!

DUKE
That's not what I heard.

LILY
Who told you that? Who?

KIMO
Oh, god! How could you do that? He's so...old.

LILY
I am NOT fucking her husband!

DUKE
Well not since he started wearing diapers...

LILY
If you ever say those thing again, I'm going to-

DUKE
To what? You gonna tell Maile?

LILY
You're an asshole!

HERMAN
(trying to interrupt) Hold on, hold on...

DUKE
Yeah? Well at least I don't have my nose up someone else's
ass!

LILY
(really angry) Why you-

HERMAN
(yelling) Can everyone just SHUT UP!

Everyone is silent. Herman is suddenly
aware of what he has just done.

HERMAN
Ugh...I mean please shut up... (beat) For Chrissake! You're
worse than the kids at the pool!

DUKE
Well why do you think we're in separate rooms? We can't
agree.

KIMO

Yeah. And we can't stand each other.

HERMAN

Well that's fine. But you just have to, to, to do this! Before they come! You have to be prepared! Keep your wits about you! Because you know what, you fight amongst yourselves, that's just what they want! They're probably listening...waiting until you're distracted! That, that, that's when they'll storm the place! Then it'll be too late!

LILY

He's right.

DUKE

He is? He seems kinda nuts to me.

LILY

Yeah, you should know.

HERMAN

Even if you think I'm a, a a goddamn nut...if you want justice, you want to make a statement, you have to work fast, you have to be clear about what you want. Now's the time to get ready.

Silence for a beat.

DUKE

O.K. Fine!

LILY

Fine!

KIMO

Fine!

Everyone is facing away from each other, pouting.

FREDDY

Look, I know he's a white guy, but since we can't agree on...ANYTHING, why don't we get him to run the meeting. He's the only one without an agenda.

DUKE

Yeah. Besides world domination and colonization of all peoples of color, that is.

KIMO

Right.

LILY

I guess I'm OK with that.

Lily looks at Herman.

HERMAN

Me?

KIMO

Yes. Otherwise we'll never get out of here!

DUKE

You guys are kidding, right?

FREDDY

Well I'm in.

LILY

So am I.

Kimo nods.

Everyone looks at Duke.

DUKE

Oh what the hell! We can always shoot you if you screw it up.

WIZ

Well this is...unexpected.

HERMAN

You got that right.

LIGHTS DIM.

SCENE 2: INSIDE IOLANI PALACE, SAME ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.
EVERYONE EXCEPT WIZ (WHO IS ON THE FLOOR) IS SEATED AROUND
THE LARGE OVAL TABLE.

LILY

Look, let's just get it over with.

HERMAN

Hold on.

LILY

What?

HERMAN

I'd like to nominate my friend over there, as secretary.

WIZ

Who me?

HERMAN

Yeah, you. Would anyone like to second the nomination?

FREDDY

I second it.

DUKE

Will you just shut the fuck up and start?

KIMO

Hey! He's running the meeting!

DUKE

Are you fucking kidding me?

LILY

Shut up! (to Wiz) YOU! Get over here! (to fred) You! Give him a paper and pencil.

LILY

O.K.

HERMAN

Alright. Why don't we just keep it simple. Go around the table and, and, and everyone will say one thing they'd like to see on the list. We keep going until everything is done.

DUKE

Sounds fair.

HERMAN

Fine. Why don't we start with you.

DUKE

Thank You. (clears throat for a long time) Nothing can make up for the suffering our people have had to endure at the hands of white colonizers. And let me tell you something, as long as the white man is among us, Hawaiians will never be able to live and breath as Hawaiians. So, I would like to demand that Hawaiians have a completely autonomous existence. A separate nation apart from the Americans.

HERMAN

You mean like a reservation?

DUKE

Call it what you like, but I'll call it Molokai.

KIMO

You want to put us all on Molokai? There's nothing there! What am I going to do on Molokai?

DUKE

The same thing you do here. Sit at a desk in your underwear and bat your eyelashes at young boys. We'll need marginally educated, lower middle-class people like you to staff our offices, schools and canoe rental places.

Kimo gives Duke the finger.

FREDDY

But Kimo's right: there's practically NOTHING on Molokai. Where are we going to get the money for all that?

DUKE

That's my second demand: Two ba-jillion dollars, in cash, for undue suffering.

KIMO

Hey! You don't get to make TWO demands. You have to wait your turn.

DUKE

Well he asked!

LILY

Even if they did give you the two billion, that's not even enough to build all the buildings, roads and sewer systems we'd need.

DUKE

Well, I could make the figure more...ambiguous. The point is for the Americans to fund the basics for Hawaiians as part of their payment for the crime they committed against our people! There is no price on that!

FREDDY

Actually, I think the Japanese came up with some kind of formula for undue suffering when they were figuring out their reparations payments. I saw it on the JACL website. I can google it when I get home.

KIMO

God. I love Japanese people. They're so...clever.

DUKE

That's because they're compensating for their tiny penises.

KIMO

Now that's not nice!

DUKE

It's true! The bigger the sword, the smaller the penis. Or visa versa. Whatever. Foucault said that.

LILY

He did not say that!

DUKE

Vous etes un fou, baby!

HERMAN

Not that this isn't a fascinating subject, but I think we have to, to, to get back on subject.

DUKE

Right. What were we talking about?

Herman looks at Wiz and he reads his notes.

WIZ

Uh, you were asking for Molokai and two ba-jillion dollars.

DUKE

Oh, yes. I think we should make that three ba-jillion.

HERMAN

O.K. O.K. But like you said, the number can be changed later on.

LILY

Jesus! He's just being ridiculous! They'll NEVER just hand over Molokai! It's just not....it's just stupid!

DUKE

Why is it stupid? It's just one island. No one even gives a crap about it. Like Kimo said, there's nothing there.

LILY

But we can't just tell the State we want to take control of a whole island! It's not practical! We can't even answer simple questions, like, like what kind of government we want to establish, who'll live there...

DUKE

Hawaiians ONLY. That's who.

KIMO

If you mean pure bloods, good luck. All four of them are in Halawa prison.

DUKE

No! Not pure...fifty percent.

LILY

What? I'm not fifty percent! Are you telling me that I wouldn't be allowed to live there?

DUKE

I guess not.

LILY

This is bullshit.

DUKE

It's not my fault that your ancestors couldn't stay away from white meat...

LILY

I'm one third Chinese, dickwad!

DUKE

Even worse!

LILY

You big asshole, I--

HERMAN

OK! Hold on a minute! Maybe...all of this percentage business can go in later.

WIZ

An amendment.

HERMAN

Yeah. An amendment.

DUKE

But I want Molokai to stay in.

HERMAN

Fine. It's in.

Herman glances at Wiz's notes.

HERMAN

Molokai doesn't have a "Y" in it, by the way.

WIZ

Got it.

HERMAN

OK. So the first demand is that the government give Hawaiians Molokai and money to build roads, a, a, a post office and such.

FREDDY

What about an aquarium?

LILY

What?

FREDDY

An aquarium. You know, to hold fish.

LILY

I know what an aquarium is. Why would we ask for THAT?

FREDDY

Because you'd think that a place surrounded by water would have the greatest aquarium, ever! We could have a massive tank with man-eating sharks in it, oh! And one of those underground caves where you can see...

DUKE

Hey, Freddy-boy!

FREDDY

Yeah?

DUKE

You're more than half Hawaiian, aren't you?

FREDDY

You better believe it!

DUKE

Damn! (to Lily) Maybe you're right. Our gene pool has turned to shit! If we don't let you Asians in, we'll be doing crack and playing basketball all day just like the Indians.

LILY

That's "Native Americans."

DUKE

Right. Whatever.

FREDDY

Is he insulting me?

DUKE

See what I mean?

HERMAN

O.K., O.K. Why don't we move on. We got Molokai on the list, two billion dollars, give or take, to be used for buildings, roads and an aquarium.

Herman looks at Kimo.

HERMAN

(to Kimo)Your turn.

KIMO

As you all might not know, I am the only one here with royal blood. I come from a long line of Ali'i. And in order to preserve that lineage, that culture, that history, those of us with such bloodlines should be placed on a council to make decisions about our culture.

DUKE

You kidding me? Royal blood?

KIMO

That's right! I am the direct descendant of Kawa.

DUKE

Who the fuck is that?

KIMO

Prince Kuhio's second cousin twice removed, that's who.

DUKE

What? That's not a bloodline, you freaking idiot!

KIMO

It's more than YOU got.

LILY

Look, even if you did have royal blood, which you don't, it doesn't automatically put you in a privileged position. We've got to do this in a fair, democratic manner or the people won't put up with it.

DUKE

Oh! So now you want to use the white colonizer's structure of government, do you? What was all that shit in your wonderful leader's book about not using the colonizer's ways?

LILY

All I'm saying is if you pull this royal blood bullshit on people, they're not going to put up with it. Well, at least the people without royal blood won't put up with it. And anyway, if anyone should be leader it's Maile. She started the movement, she got all the support, she...

DUKE

She's a bitch.

LILY

Why you ungrateful, f---

DUKE

Oh Come on! I'm sure her husband tells you all about what a bitch she is. Right, Kimo?

KIMO

Well she is kind of a narcissist.

DUKE

Freddy?

Freddy shrugs.

LILY

Maile is the strongest, smartest person we have! If she isn't part of the leadership...

HERMAN

Look, I think we should get back to the details later and just stick to what you want to hand them NOW. Tonight. (beat) What, what about an apology? You know, like the, the African Americans got?

DUKE

Apology? What good is an apology! We want reparations! We want cash money in our hands! (to Wiz) Write that down.

WIZ

Excuse me for, uh, interrupting, but can I say something?

DUKE

No!

KIMO

Oh, shut up, Duke! (to Wiz) Go ahead...

Wiz looks at Herman.

HERMAN

Go on...

WIZ

I'll be honest with you. When I got up this morning, all I wanted out of this place was to sit in the sun with a Mai Tai so I could watch the bikinis go by. Maybe I'd go to one of those hula shows, a few luaus, a boat ride...but that's it. I didn't care about any of this stuff. But now, I...I think it's important. I think it's important for people like me who come here, to know the truth about what happened to your people. To understand your history, your culture. I mean, isn't educating people like me an important part of what justice is all about?

Everyone is silent for a moment and stares at Wiz.

DUKE

Let them read a book!

LILY

Yeah! It's not our job to tutor white people! We're not your slaves!

KIMO

I agree. Who has time for any of that? And besides, an apology can't buy a condo on Diamond Head beach!

FREDDY

We should be spending our time building that awesome aquarium!

There's a chatter of negative comments towards Wiz, all at once. Through the loud chaos, Herman interjects.

HERMAN

O.K.! Whoa! Now, now hold on a minute! (beat) Wiz here has a point!

DUKE

Oh. There go the white men ganging up on us again!

HERMAN

No! I mean, sure, you want reparations...but, but don't you want to ask for it in a way that, that, that says something about who you are? What you believe? What kind of world you want to live in AS HAWAIIANS?

FREDDY

What do you mean?

DUKE

Yeah. Spit it out.

HERMAN

Well, like all that preservation land. I read about it in that book there...it's yours, am I right? That's, that's something you can pass down to your children, grandchildren and so on...

DUKE

Actually, that's not a bad idea. We could take some of that land and build a few casinos.

LILY

Gambling is illegal, shithead.

DUKE

It won't be on Hawaiian land! (to Wiz) You! Write that down.

KIMO

Well if you're going to build casinos, I think we should also have a world-class food court, like in Paris or Rome.

LILY

The french don't have food courts, you idiot.

KIMO

They have those streets lined with one wonderful cafe after another....(to Wiz) write that down.

WIZ

Right.

HERMAN

Look, I don't mean to interrupt this, but aren't you getting a little off-point here?

Everyone stares at Herman.

DUKE

Hey I got an idea! What if we get one of those reality T.V. Shows? You know, like what's that guy's name from KISS?

FREDDY

Gene Simmons.

DUKE

Yeah! Gene Simmons! The camera follows us around as we Hawaiians build our new nation! We can call it: "Everybody Loves Duke."

LILY

Oh, please!

DUKE

You got any better ideas?

LILY

As a matter of fact, yes. One thing we'll need is an all-Hawaiian channel. Everything will be in Hawaiian—news, television shows, everything.

KIMO

Oh, god!

DUKE

Yeah! Why would we want that? Can you imagine having to watch "The Big Bang Theory" in Hawaiian? What a nightmare!

LILY

You're such an idiot!

DUKE

You are.

LILY

YOU are.

DUKE

YOU are.

LILY

YOU—

There is a LOUD booming sound

LILY

What was THAT?

Freddy runs to the window.

FREDDY

They're shooting off fireworks!

DUKE

Who? The cops?

FREDDY

I think that's Herbert and Kalani out there!

DUKE

What? Those assholes better not be using my stash!

LILY

What the hell is wrong with you! We have to stop them!

DUKE

Why me?

LILY

Somebody'll call the cops!

KIMO
Isn't that what we want?

LILY
Not now! We haven't finished!

DUKE
Shoot! Alright. Let's go.

Everyone gets up except Kimo. Duke and
freddy exit. Lily looks back.

LILY
(to Kimo)Let's go!

KIMO
Fine!

KIMO
(leaning to Wiz)Be sure you got that part about the cafes...

LILY
Let's go!

KIMO
Alright, alright! I'm coming!

Kimo exits. Lily turns to herman and
Wiz.

LILY
(to herman and wiz) You two! Stay here.

Lily exits.

Herman and Wiz sit still for a beat.
They look at each other then run to the
window.

WIZ
Oooo.

HERMAN
Oh my god!

WIZ
She's got a good left hook, for a girl.

HERMAN
You got that right.

WIZ
Whoa! Duke's pretty fast!

HERMAN

Yeah, well, Hawaiians...they used to catch their food...pigs and such. Not any more, of course.

WIZ

Pigs?

HERMAN

Yeah, Pigs.

WIZ

They'd chase pigs?

HERMAN

Yeah. With spears and such. Like, like the Kenyans.

WIZ

Kenyans?

HERMAN

Yeah. Now THOSE GUYS are fast! Did you know they can out-run a gazelle?

WIZ

No!

HERMAN

Oh yeah! They chase it until it can't run anymore. Then when it's lying there, exhausted, they, they stab it in the heart.

WIZ

Oh my god! That's brutal!

HERMAN

Can't be any more manly than that! (beat) We men in the first world...we're nothing. Can't even catch the ice cream truck.

Herman and Wiz continue to look out the window.

They both wince suddenly.

WIZ AND HERMAN

Ooo!

WIZ

That must've hurt!

HERMAN

Too bad. Hawaiians...they're just like us now. Slow. Lacking real.....hunger. You know?

WIZ

Yeah. Especially that guy over there...

HERMAN

(shaking head) Too much salt in their diets...

They look out the window in silence.

WIZ

There's the cops...

Red flashing lights come from the window.

HERMAN

Ah! I hate those lights. Hurts my eyes...

WIZ

By the way, how come you never told me you were a cop?

HERMAN

Me? A cop? I was never a cop. What makes you think I was a, a, a cop?

WIZ

You said you were a negotiator. H.P. or something.

HERMAN

"H.D." Home Depot. Yeah. That was a tough job.

WIZ

(laughing) You were a negotiator for Home Depot?

HERMAN

Oh you think it's funny? Let me tell you something: it may sound like a nice cushy job to you, but some of those, those those "situations"...(shaking head) you wouldn't want to be caught in the middle of it, I'm telling you!

WIZ

Why? What did you do?

HERMAN

See, whenever an "issue" came up in customer service, guys like me were called in because management didn't, didn't want to deal with it. We had stun guns, batons...real cloak and dagger stuff.

WIZ

Wow. I had no idea working at Home Depot could be so...dangerous.

HERMAN

Yeah. Once I had to beat a woman off me with a glue gun.(beat) You're never the same after that, you know?

WIZ

Yeah. I can imagine.

Herman gazes at his watch.

HERMAN

I think we can probably go now.

WIZ

You sure?

HERMAN

Maybe we can still catch the buffet downstairs.

WIZ

Great! I need a drink with one of those umbrellas in it...

Herman and Wiz turn and start to exit.

HERMAN

We can sit outside. Watch the sunset...

WIZ

Yeah. Maybe see some bikinis...

HERMAN

Bikinis? You don't think it's, it's too late to see bikinis?

WIZ

Oh. I don't think it's EVER too late to see bikinis...

HERMAN

Yeah. You got that right.

Herman and Wiz exit

THE END.