

PARADISE

An Original Teleplay
60-Minute Series Pilot

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII - DAY

The incredible diversity of the natural wonder that is the Big Island of Hawai'i blends together in a montage. It includes the dry and alien lava landscape of the Kona side, the rich green rain forests and waterfalls of the Hilo side and the blended landscape and panoramic ocean views of the more affluent north end of the island.

Here the mountains of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea dominate the scene near the town of Waimea.

There we zero in on a late model red convertible with the top down and BIGDEAL on the vanity plates.

INT. MANDY'S CAR - DAY

Inside we find MANDY, 40, behind the wheel. Dressed in a business blouse and skirt, she prefers a lot of make-up, which makes her stand out in the local tropical environment.

In the passenger seat is TRISH, 40-ish, overweight, in a sun hat and munching a bag of Taro Chips.

TRISH

Wow, Mandy, these are really good.
What's taro? Like tarot cards?

MANDY

Hmm, not sure about that, Trish. It's
Like a potato I guess. I don't know
really, they make my throat itch so I
don't eat it.

TRISH

Really? I have to say you missed it then
the last twenty-one years. Tasty taro.

MANDY

Ha! Thanks. There's plenty of stuff here
I don't need to pay attention to.

TRISH

It's so crazy to hear you talk like that! Hawaii is my favorite place in the whole world. Can't tell you how grateful I am that you and Ron let me come stay a week.

MANDY

Living here is a whole different can of Spam, believe me. That's why being a broker is pretty sweet here. This is the third time this calendar year I've sold this same house in Waimea.

TRISH

What? You're kidding! How--

MANDY

Well, that's what I mean. Mainland people come here, fall in love with it, want to live here. Then they move here. Let's just say it's, hmm, an adjustment. Three months later they've had enough of that! Back they go. And I'll tell you something. This guy we're going to give the keys to, this Barry what's his name, he's one of those. Or I'll eat a bag of those chips myself.

They pull into the driveway. Already there, smiling hugely, is BARRY DE BRUYN, 45, in a tropical Hawaiian shirt and shorts. Next to him is his 12 year-old son, ETHAN, not nearly as excited as his father.

EXT. BARRY'S HOUSE - DAY

With an equally huge smile of welcome, Mandy gets out of the car, hands Barry the house keys and shakes his hand.

INT. BARRY'S HOUSE - DAY

Barry is in his bedroom, unpacking two large suitcases. Ethan comes in, wiping his face with a towel.

ETHAN

Jeez, dad, the place comes complete with towels. You weren't kidding when you said furnished.

BARRY

Yeah baby. We call that moving, man style. A lot like shopping, Ethan, the quicker the better. How's the acne doing?

ETHAN

Thanks for mentioning it. Fine.

BARRY

Sorry, just wondering if that medication was working.

ETHAN

Yeah I guess whatever.

BARRY

So you want to go for a ride? Find some dinner? Maybe buy some stuff for the grill.

ETHAN

You couldn't have gotten us a cool convertible like that one?

BARRY

Come on, son. We went over this. I have to have a four by four to get all the way up the mountain, I can't get to the observatory without one.

ETHAN

Can I have a convertible when I turn sixteen?

BARRY

Sixteen! What, did I suddenly lose track of how old you are? You're twelve, right?

ETHAN

I just like to plan ahead.

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BARRY

Jesus. Scare the crap out of me why don't you.

EXT. BIG ISLAND - EVENING

The sun sets spectacularly over a panoramic ocean view as Barry and Ethan drive west down the winding road from Waimea to Kawaihae.

ETHAN

Wow, dad. Nice taste.

EXT. BIG ISLAND - EVENING

At the bottom of the road near Kawaihae, there is a sign for Spencer Beach Park. Barry turns in.

ETHAN

Where are we going?

BARRY

No idea. Sign said beach.

ETHAN

Cool.

They drive slowly through the parking area, never quite stopping as they gaze in wonder at the stunning surroundings. The park is blended with the historical site of Pu'ukohola Heiau, a large wooden structure that seems totally exotic to their combined eye.

ETHAN

What's that?

BARRY

Don't know. But I'd like to find out.

ETHAN

Wow! Cool. I see a beach! Hmm. Not a very big beach, is it? You know what they say, size doesn't matter. What does that mean, anyway? Size doesn't matter?

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BARRY

Never mind. We'll talk about it some other time. What does matter is I think it's very safe to say we'll be happy here.

EXT. BIG ISLAND / 7-11 NIGHT

Barry pulls into the convenience store parking lot.

ETHAN

Are you serious? They have Seven Eleven here?

BARRY

It's the Big Island of Hawaii, son. It's not Mars. Come on.

They exit the car and go into the convenience store.

ETHAN

They may not have Seven Eleven on Mars, dad, but I bet Amazon will deliver there pretty soon.

INT. 7-11 NIGHT

Barry and Ethan have filled a basket. In the background shops the Native Hawaiian LEILANI, pretty, early 30s and with long dark hair. Barry and Ethan approach the counter and start to check out with the help of the CLERK.

CLERK

Aloha.

BARRY

Aloha! Boy, this place is so great. So beautiful and the people are so friendly.

CLERK

Visiting from . . .?

BARRY

Just moved on island actually. New job.

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Unseen behind them, Leilani steps up to wait in line with her small basket in hand.

CLERK

Really? Welcome to paradise. What do you do?

BARRY

I'm an astronomer.

CLERK

Oh, really? So up on the mountain, huh?

BARRY

Well, yes and no. There's an office here in Waimea but I hope not to be in it much. Right up on top as much as I can though.

LEILANI

The way you say that.

Both Barry and Ethan turn around in surprise to face her. Ethan seems to sense the trouble coming and he quickly puts on his sunglasses and faces the Clerk.

BARRY

I'm sorry?

LEILANI

Right up on top. That's a sacred mountain. The land is sacred, do you understand? Poliahu's Heiau is right up on top. That place is not for you.

BARRY

Po--? I'm sorry, what? We're just doing some science, it doesn't--

LEILANI

Science? You have more than a dozen telescopes on top of our mountain. How much is enough?

BARRY

Uh, well, they all do different--

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LEILANI

Do you all eat? Do you all shit? Do you all drink your little coffee in your little Styrofoam cups? What happens to all of your trash, mister Scientist? You actually think you can live on the top of our mountain and do no damage to our land? Your head is up your okole.

BARRY

Uh--

LEILANI

And you people claim to be the smart ones. Not smart enough to figure that out, huh?

CLERK

That's, uh, forty-four sixty.

LEILANI

You know what? I think I'll come back for this another time. Thanks.

She angrily sets down her basket on an empty space on the counter and walks out of the store. All three of them stare after her.

ETHAN

Yep. Super happy here. You sure had that one pegged, Dad.

INT. LEILANI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Leilani comes into a much more modest house than the one Barry owns. In the kitchen SONNY, 60s, cooks.

LEILANI

Aloha.

As her mom looks up, Leilani bustles through the kitchen and into the back of the house.

SONNY

Aloha yourself. You're going to be late.

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LEILANI
(O.S.)

Yes I know.

She comes back into the kitchen holding a grass skirt.

LEILANI
Where is the drum? Have you seen it?

SONNY
What's wrong with you?

LEILANI
Nothing. Mother, have you seen the--
Ah, there it is.

She picks up the native drum and a handful of flower leis as well. Her mother looks at her askance.

SONNY
Leilani.

LEILANI
What?

They have a brief staredown before Leilani sighs and relents.

LEILANI
E kalamai. I'm sorry I'm just angry at myself. I lost my temper today.

SONNY
What happened?

LEILANI
I don't really want to go into it.

SONNY
Was it about Mauna Kea?

LEILANI
Yes, it was. How did you know that?
OK, never mind, sorry I asked, I should know better by now. I have to go.

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SONNY

I was hoping you would learn this a little faster.

LEILANI

Yes, weren't we all. That smells divine, save some for me.

SONNY

The anger doesn't help, daughter.

LEILANI

Yes, mother. Good night. I'll try not to wake you when I get back.

They honi briefly by pressing their foreheads together and sharing breath and then Leilani hurries out.

EXT. RESORT CONCERT STAGE - NIGHT

Spotlights enhance the natural tiki torch lighting as DANE, late 50s, plays slack key style guitar with astounding skill on a stage. He is before a large assemblage of RESORT GUESTS resplendent in their multi-colored Hawaiian shirts and each draped with a lei. SERVERS move through the crowd.

Dane finishes playing and the crowd erupts with applause in sincere appreciation. Dane swings the microphone up from the body of his guitar to his mouth so he can speak into it.

DANE

Mahalo, mahalo. It's such a pleasure to be here every single time I'm here. I just can't tell you. Just makes my heart feel, well . . .

(chokes up a little)

I know that's true as well for Kumu Leilani who comes next for you. I've known this lovely young wahine since she was knee high to a Menehune and let me tell you, that's not very big! Enjoy!

On cue, Leilani walks rhythmically onto the stage, thumping her drum as the lights change. She is now dressed in her full hula attire her every movement graceful and elegant. Dane rises from his stool and moves past her, guitar in hand.

EXT. STAGE - NIGHT

Leilani smiles as they pass.

LEILANI
Mahalo, Uncle Dane.

Dane winks warmly.

He goes offstage as a dozen HULA DANCERS follow Leilani past him and out into the stage light. Leilani thumps the beat and chants and they move into formation. As she steps into the background, beat and chant continuing, the rest of the troop does magical Polynesian dance before a captivated audience.

EXT. MAUNA KEA ACCESS ROAD - DAY

Barry is in his SUV, headed up the gravel road that leads to the top of Mauna Kea. His cell phone, in a holder but within his view, registers the altitude. It clicks 10998, 10999, 11000 feet above sea level and keeps going up.

Barry smiles. His overall delight is evident.

EXT. MAUNA KEA SUMMIT - DAY

Barry pulls his SUV into the summit area. A dozen large telescopes, their distinctive half-moon shapes stark against the snow-covered landscape, can be seen dotting the surrounding terrain nearby. The sunshine is bright and a full brilliant-white cloud layer can be seen spreading off into the distance below.

Barry focuses his attention on one telescope in specific and parks his vehicle close by. He gets out and makes his way around the huge metallic cylinder until he gets to a door. It actually has a doorbell.

INT. TELESCOPE - DAY

In response to his ring, after a brief moment the door swings open and there is the welcoming figure of ELENA, 40-ish, her English slightly clipped with a Russian accent.

ELENA

You must be Barry! I'm Elena Murazgova,
the P-M. Come on in.

They shake hands as he steps through the door. Immediately visible in the background through a glass window can be seen the massive base structure of a huge and impressive telescope. Barry's gaze flows upward to its distant top, just beneath a sealed dome.

BARRY

Sure is great to be here.

INT. TELESCOPE - DAY

A very small conference room is just about filled to the brim by its only table and the people in the chairs, all of whom appear between 35-45 years old. Elena and Barry are joined by the Hispanic MARIA as well as the African-American SHAQUILLE and Asian BO who is wearing a tam. Shaquille has a stammer that comes up about a quarter of the time when he speaks words that start with a vowel.

BO

I've been here two years and I think
this is the first time I've been in
this room. I hope it's the last time.

MARIA

Claustrophobic?

SHAQUILLE

Oh come on, Bo, this place is twice the
size of my apartment when I--I worked
at Staten Island. I could put a whole
efficiency kitchen in that corner.

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BO

Imagine that. And I know efficiency isn't really a thing with you.

Shaquille makes a face towards him in reply.

MARIA

Oh, nice. Maybe it's good we never get together like this.

SHAQUILLE

That's right! Hey, Elena, we need to have fewer meetings.

ELENA

How can we possibly have fewer meetings than we have?

MARIA

Besides, it's a special occasion.

ELENA

OK, children, calm down. Let's say hello to Barry, shall we? Barry De Bruyn, this is Maria Vasquez, Bo Lee and Shaquille Carson.

SHAQUILLE

Shack.

ELENA

Missing today is Brian MacNulty, Chief of Operations, he sends his regards. As you can see we don't stand much on ceremony around here.

BARRY

Nice to meet--

BO

Ceremony? Are you kidding? We're twelve thousand feet up--

MARIA

Thirty-two thousand actually if we measure it properly--

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BO

Who in the world would need ceremony
all the way up here?

EXT. BIG ISLAND - DAY

From this particular spot at the oceanfront of black lava rock, in the distance through nearby waving palms can be seen the snow-tipped peak of Mauna Kea. Even the observatories are visible, tiny domes glinting in the sunlight.

Leilani is there and she is again the picture of grace, her aura wise and peaceful, along with several of the Native Hawaiian GIRLS from her Hula troop, ranging in age from 10 to 40. Leilani gestures to the distant mountain.

LEILANI

So who can tell me what the word mauna
means?

One of the younger girls, KANANI, answers.

KANANI

It means mountain, Kumu.

LEILANI

That's right, Kanani. And kea?

KANANI

It means white. White mountain.

LEILANI

That's exactly right.

KANANI

I made a snowball when we went up to
the heiau last year, remember?

Leilani gestures again and they all begin to move slowly along the shoreline, a line of very low lava cliffs that actually run right down to water level. As a wave comes up, a tropical turtle can be seen swimming within it.

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LEILANI

I do remember. That heiau is a temple to Pele's sister, Poliahu. As Pele is the Goddess of the lava, the fire, so Poliahu is the Goddess of the mountain. Mauna Kea is the highest place on our island and that's why the heiau is there.

KANANI

The highest place in all of Hawaii, Kumu.

LEILANI

That's right. This place where we are now is a heiau, too. From the ocean to the mountain top, the aina is always our kuleana. We are only stewards, keepers of the Earth, it is our responsibility to treat the land with respect. It will be here long after we are gone. In fact that is what the word mauna truly means. Mau forever. Na belonging to a place. Mauna is forever belonging to a place. That can only apply to a mountain. Not to us.

One of the girls, KALEI, spots a discarded six pack left as trash in the crevice of some lava rock. She picks it up with an expression of distaste.

KALEI

We need to teach some of that to the howlees, Kumu.

One of the other girls, MALIA, speaks up.

MALIA

If you ask me, the haoles have more appreciation than locals, Kalei. I think it's locals do dis kine crap. Not tourists.

KALEI

Kumu?

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LEILANI

Sad to say Malia is probably right.
We all take it for granted.

A third girl, IOLANI, chimes in.

IOLANI

I know. As bad as the tourists can
be our own people can be the total
worst. That's why what you do is so
important, Kumu. You're always
reminding us to be the best of
ourselves.

LEILANI

Mahalo for that, Iolani. Believe me, I
understand it can be easier said than
done.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD IN HAWAII - DAY

Ethan's face is smashed into the ground by a heavy
pair of hands. He fights back as best he can against
the bigger Hawaiian Boy, KONI. Ethan knocks the hands
aside, punching at the brown face above him. He
connects, but takes two in retaliation before a
Teacher, ROGER, finally comes up to separate the boys.
Koni connects on a last swing to Ethan's face and is
pulled off.

KONI

Howlee piece of crap!

Several of the BOYS crowded around murmur assent as
Koni is led away and Roger scowls at them as he
passes.

A few other boys including KEAHI move to help Ethan as
the crowd dissolves. Several GIRLS including Kanani
look on in disapproval and talk amongst themselves.
Keahi is the one who helps Ethan to his feet.

KEAHI

Shit, dude, you okay? That's it, yeah,
just tilt your head back. Come on,
brah. Let's get you to the Nurse.

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INT. OBSERVATORY - DAY

Barry is at a computer workstation. He is looking at some images. He clicks and they roll by. Then he stops one. He goes back to the previous image. He goes back and forth from one to the other several times.

An expression approaching excitement starts to creep into his face as Maria comes up behind him holding two cups of coffee.

MARIA

Coffee break?

BARRY

Love to, thanks.

She pulls up a chair as he sips.

BARRY

This is fantastic.

MARIA

First time having Kona coffee?

BARRY

Mmm. Wow. I could be in a commercial for this stuff.

MARIA

Did you know we have ten of the world's thirteen climate zones on this one island? Continuously wet. Dry arid. Obviously where we are now on top of the mountain, polar tundra. The list goes on. On the East side of the island at Kumukahi point, N-O-A-A has a permanent station that regularly measures some of the cleanest air on the planet. Your coffee is the tip of the iceberg, you could grow anything here.

(laughs)

Including land. The whole place grows.

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BARRY

I do know about the active volcano.

MARIA

Kilauea. Covered up a couple of neighborhoods a few years back. This island would definitely be a place for what we would call active science.

BARRY

Speaking of which, take a look at this.

He sets down the coffee cup and invites her to lean in over his shoulder. He points to something on the screen that we can't see. Then he seems to switch to something else and points to it.

He appears to flip back and forth. He looks at her to gauge her reaction. Still staring at the screen, Maria raises one eyebrow.

MARIA

When are these from?

BARRY

Last night. And the night before.

MARIA

No kidding.

INT. ELENA'S OFFICE - DAY

Elena is behind a modest desk with Barry and Maria standing before her.

ELENA

Making yourself right at home, are we?

MARIA

I think it could be important.

ELENA

We don't repurpose lightly, Barry. Even for the new guy we're trying to impress with our spirit of aloha.

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BARRY

I completely understand.

MARIA

It would only take about two hours. At the beginning. Bo can surrender two hours tonight.

ELENA

You know as well as I do that's University time, Maria.

MARIA

All I can say is the data speaks for itself. You saw it.

ELENA

You can verify this in two hours? You're sure?

BARRY

It will either be where I expect it or it won't. The exposure time should be long enough.

ELENA

This would make quite the first day for you, Barry. All right, I'll approve it and take the heat. Swing the telescope.

INT. TELESCOPE - DAY

The massive structure of the huge telescope glides slowly but smoothly as it rotates into position.

Maria is at a computer terminal, watching the movement closely as she enters commands on the keyboard. Barry stands nearby, fascinated by all.

They are dwarfed by the size of the telescope being controlled.

BARRY

You've done this before I see.

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MARIA

Oh, yes. Really it's not too different from one at Paranal. Still, they all have their little quirks.

BARRY

Paranal? Chile you mean?

MARIA

Yes, I am from Santiago. I did my internship at Paranal. You know it weighs over three hundred tons. Yet I can control it to the millimeter. It glides as if on silk, responsive to my slightest touch.

BARRY

Astounding. You must have a whole team to keep it working.

Maria laughs.

MARIA

Yes, and his name is Kaliko. I'm sure you'll meet him soon enough. Unless your luck continues like this that is.

Barry laughs. His gaze strays to the giant telescope moving as if barely affected by gravity. At last it stops.

MARIA

OK, that should be the spot. Now for my favorite part of the whole thing.

With a flourish, she presses the Enter key again on her keyboard. The dome itself slowly opens. A stunning view of a rich dusky sky is revealed.

BARRY

Incredible.

MARIA

And now let's see if we can find your comet tonight.

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INT. BARRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Barry comes bounding cheerfully through the front door.

BARRY

Ethan? Hey, Ethan! Sorry I'm a little later than expected--

As he goes into the dining room he stops mid-sentence. He finds Ethan head in hands at the dining room table, an ice pack pressed up against his eye.

Ethan looks up at him revealing a completely swollen face.

ETHAN

So how was your day?

Barry rushes over and escorts his son to the couch.

BARRY

My God! What happened?

ETHAN

Still not really checking that ol' voice mail, huh?

BARRY

Uh--

ETHAN

We have a parent teacher conference at the school at seven thirty tomorrow.

BARRY

Tomorrow? Morning?

ETHAN

No, dad. Seven thirty at night. Yes, in the morning. Izzat a problem?

BARRY

Oh, uh, no, no of course not. I'll make you a milkshake, okay?

Heads for the kitchen.

ETHAN

Okay. And dad? You know what I found out?

BARRY

What's that, son?

ETHAN

Size absolutely totally matters.

INT. DANE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dane sits on the edge of a bed, playing a beautiful Hawaiian lullaby. Keahi, tucked into the bed under the covers, smiles as Dane finishes playing and sets the guitar aside.

KEAHI

I never get tired of that.

DANE

Always my pleasure. Good night.

He bends down to honi the boy. Then he picks up his guitar and starts to leave.

KEAHI

Grampa?

DANE

Yes, Keahi?

KEAHI

Is it true that the white people stole our land?

DANE

Who told you that?

KEAHI

I heard it at school. One of the new kids got the snot beat out of him. Is that why they're so angry? Like Koni.

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DANE

Well, maybe. But I think it can be hard to know. You yourself can understand, maybe things aren't so good at home for him.

Keahi is silent. But he looks thoughtful for a long moment.

DANE

I love you.

KEAHI

I know that!

DANE

Your parents also love you, Keahi. You are here with me for now because they love you. They don't want you turning into Koni because of them.

KEAHI

I love you, grampa. Good night.

INT. SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Ethan is wearing sunglasses as he sits next to his father before the desk of Principal VINCENT.

Seated nearby are Koni and his father KAHILI.

BARRY

So let me get this straight. You're going to suspend my son if there is another fight?

VINCENT

Ethan, for the last time, the sunglasses please. If you don't keep them off when you're inside the building I'll have to confiscate them for the day.

With a melodramatic sigh, Ethan pulls them off to reveal his swollen face. Unseen, Koni smirks.

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VINCENT (CONT.)

That's correct, mister De Bruyn.

BARRY

My son? Are you trying to tell me my son started this?

VINCENT

Some of the witnesses say one thing, some say another.

Barry gestures towards Koni who, even seated, is very clearly a much larger person than Ethan.

BARRY

My son picked a fight with him?

KAHILI

Are you blaming Koni?

BARRY

Who else is there?

KAHILI

We don't have to take this crap.

Vincent holds up his hand to try to make peace.

VINCENT

Everyone here is being treated fairly, mister Kana'ole. Kahili. We're not making any judgments. The warning is given equally to all. You can all see together that that's true.

KAHILI

Are we done?

VINCENT

Yes, we're done. For now.

KAHILI

Koni. Let's go.

They don't hesitate to head for the door. Kahili casts a withering stink-eye in Barry's direction as they leave.

BARRY

Go ahead, Ethan, I'll be right out.

Ethan skulks out. Just as he leaves the screen, he can be seen putting on the sunglasses.

VINCENT

Ethan!

Ethan freezes.

VINCENT (CONT.)

Why don't you leave those here. You can pick them up later.

Ethan stomps back into to office, tosses the sunglasses onto Vincent's desk and stomps out again. Barry turns a withering gaze of his own on Vincent.

BARRY

Principal Vincent. Can I assume every square inch of this school's campus is covered by a security camera?

Vincent is silent.

BARRY

Uh huh. Can I assume you've seen the tape?

Vincent is silent.

BARRY

Would you care to show it to me?

VINCENT

Mister De Bruyn. Barry.

BARRY

Oh, here it comes.

VINCENT

I think as you spend some time here you'll recognize the need for the appearance of even-handedness when dealing with the Native population.

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BARRY

Is that so.

VINCENT

Try to look at all sides. There are a lot of considerations.

BARRY

I see. Well, add this to your list of considerations. You try to suspend my son from school for fights he doesn't start and you, me, Ethan, those two Hawaiian jackasses you had in here and everybody else in the solar system can all see that security tape together in court when I sue your ass.

VINCENT

Mister De Bruyn--

BARRY

To quote, what was his name, Kahilly? We don't have to take this crap. Trust me, we won't. I have a lawyer.

He winks, then storms out. Vincent sighs and rubs his forehead as if he can feel a headache coming on.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Ethan pulls some books from his locker. He closes the locker and casts a wary eye down the hall. Unseen behind him, Keahi comes up.

KEAHI

Hey--

Ethan nearly jumps out of his skin, spinning a hundred and eighty degrees in mid-air to face Keahi.

KEAHI (CONT.)

Woah, woah, brahda. The good guys.

ETHAN

Oh, Jesus. Wow. Yeah, okay, wow.

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KEAHI

You okay?

ETHAN

Yeah, yeah. Look, I wanted to thank you for helping me.

KEAHI

You have a low bar.

ETHAN

Sorry?

KEAHI

I didn't exactly leap to the rescue.

ETHAN

You're joking. Who would?

KEAHI

Yeah. Well. About that. You move pretty good. You do, like, sports?

ETHAN

Now I know you're joking. Against guys the size of Koni? He's his own offensive line.

Keahi laughs.

ETHAN

What?

KEAHI

That was funny. He's totally offensive no doubt.

ETHAN

Uh--

KEAHI

Anyway, doesn't matter if you're like athletic really. I saw you pop Koni a couple times fighting back so at least you're not a pussy.

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ETHAN

Uh--

KEAHI

So my grampa Dane has this friend,
Cyrus. He teaches Lua.

ETHAN

What's that? Polynesian football?

KEAHI

No, brah. Polynesian breaking and
dislocating. Hawaiian Martial Arts.

INT. OBSERVATORY - DAY

Barry enters the workstation area where Shaquille is
cranking away on the keyboard at one of the machines.

BARRY

Hiya, Shack.

SHAQUILLE

(not looking up)

Hey.

BARRY

Hey, you, uh, happen to see Maria
this morning?

SHAQUILLE

You'd have to check the schedule but I
don't think she's due back until the
weekend.

BARRY

Oh. K. So can you by any chance
point me to last night's image array?

SHAQUILLE

Heisenberg uncertainty principle, and
my limited knowledge o-o-of the file
system would in this case both say
maybe. Looking for anything in
particular?

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BARRY

Just a comet.

For the first time Shaquille looks up.

SHAQUILLE

Say again?

BARRY

I think it makes better pictures
than a story. Lemme show you.

INT. OBSERVATORY - DAY

VISUAL EFFECT: CLOSE-UP on two images, first one and then the other. The images both show the same star field, a vast collection of white dots in a black background. All of the dots are exactly the same in each image--except for one.

There is a blue circle around one specific dot in both images. That dot has moved.

BARRY (O.S.)

Lemme put them up side by side.

The two images appear next to each other. It's now very obvious that the dot of interest has moved from one spot to another in an otherwise identical display of white dots.

BARRY(O.S.)

And now I'll apply the filter.

On each image, a white dot in exactly the same location as in the other image flashes as a bright green highlight and then disappears.

The whole process takes only a few seconds as one by one each identically-placed white dot flashes green and vanishes leaving more and more and more black screen on both. The huge number of dots shrinks rapidly.

When the process has finished, only one white dot remains in each image. It's the dot circled in blue.

Paradise - Pilot

A pull back reveals Barry, Shaquille and Bo standing next to each other at a workstation looking at the monitor.

BARRY

Now, let's pull up the one from last night.

A third image displays and filters the stars to black. Only one white dot remains. As Barry shows the images one, two, three in sequence, the motion of that one dot across the screen is quite plain to see like the slow motion frames of a movie.

BO

So we're sure that's not a U-F-O?
Sorry, I mean a U-A-P.

BARRY

Say that again?

BO

Oh come on. You read the Pentagon report.

He gestures with his hands as if weighing.

BO (CONT.)

U-A-P. You found a comet on your first day of work. Honestly, at this point, which is more likely?

SHAQUILLE

As ever, the Universe is a mystery.

BARRY

Sorry?

SHAQUILLE

An awful lot of people have looked at that patch of sky. For years. Your total time on this mountain has been less than it takes to cure a chunk of salmon for a-a-a weekend bagel spread and we're looking at you having a space statue.

Paradise – Pilot

BARRY

Oh, that's got a lovely ring to it.

SHAQUILLE

So if you don't mind my asking, what was it that made you move here?

BARRY

Despite initial appearances, I do actually have a P-H-D in Astrophysics.

SHAQUILLE

There are lots of places for that. All over the world. Why this one?

BARRY

It's Hawaii, are you kidding?

SHAQUILLE

This island i-i-is further from any continental land mass than any other island on Earth. Don't think there isn't some symbolism in that. But hardly the only thing that makes this place specifically unique.

BARRY

Well, okay, truth be told, my wife passed on not all that long ago.

Barry sees Shaquille start to offer condolences and holds up one hand to stop him.

BARRY (CONT.)

Thanks. Little over a year now I guess. Good idea to have a change of scene I thought both for me and for my son. Can't get much bigger than this. I had no idea.

SHAQUILLE

I-I-I see. All I can say at this point is there are no accidents and Pele must really like you. Welcome to Hawaii, man.

BARRY

Who's Pele?

BO

We better tell Brian, there's going to be press.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

CHILDREN of middle school age can be seen dispersing from the front of the school building.

There are some busses nearby and a line of cars waiting to pick up children. Leilani is one of them.

Kanani approaches Leilani's car and climbs into the passenger seat.

KANANI

Aloha auinala, Kumu.

LEILANI

Good afternoon to you, Kanani.

KANANI

Thank you for picking me up.

LEILANI

No problem at all. I know with your mom's work it can be hard to get to halau class on Fridays.

Just as she pulls away from the curb she sees Ethan passing by on his way to the bus. She does a double take to make sure she recognizes him. Clearly she does even under the bruises.

LEILANI

What happened to that boy?

KANANI

Ethan De Bruyn? He's new. What you think? Da kine happen.

LEILANI

You want to be more specific?

Paradise - Pilot

KANANI

The haole patrol say hello to him.

LEILANI

The what?

KANANI

Sorry, that's just what we call them.
The Hawaiian kids who bully the White
kids. 'Cuz they're, ya know, haoles.
Don't need more reason than that,
right?

Leilani is silent as they drive off. Her eye strays to the rear-view mirror where she can still see the retreating form of Ethan. She frowns.

EXT. LEILANI'S HOUSE - DAY

Leilani is in a small but lush yard behind her house. The surroundings can only be called verdant.

She plucks Passion Fruit from a tree with Ferns three feet high in the background, gathering several of the exotic fruit into a basket before going back into the house.

INT. LEILANI'S HOUSE - DAY

She enters the kitchen where her mother Sonny is once again cooking, several pots going at once.

LEILANI

Here's the Lilokoi for the cake.

SONNY

Thank you, dear. Did you talk to Cyrus about doing the private show for that Japanese group? You should do more of those. Pay good.

LEILANI

Did you know they have more hula schools in Japan than they do here?

Paradise - Pilot

SONNY

They know a valuable thing when they see it. They're not haoles.

LEILANI

Oh, mother, the things you say.

Sonny turns her gaze to her daughter.

LEILANI

Don't look at me like that. You gimme chicken skin every time.

SONNY

Haoles have no breath, daughter. White, yellow, brown. Skin color make no difference, ya?

LEILANI

I know that.

SONNY.

Hm.

She goes back to her cooking. She is wrapping lau lau, a dish composed of stuffing wrapped in green lu'au leaf. She has several of them done already.

LEILANI

Do you think I'm a bully?

SONNY

Maybe sometimes.

Leilani laughs.

LEILANI

That's not what you were supposed to say! You were supposed to look at me in shock and say, oh whatever do you mean of course not!

SONNY

You would not be the first good teacher to suffer such an affliction. You sit, ya? Eat now.

Paradise – Pilot

Leilani processes but does not reply, then slowly takes a seat at the table as her smile fades.

SONNY

You're important, you're a kumu.
Teacher of your culture, ya? Maybe
sometimes you wear too much like one
shield going into battle.

Sonny works on the last lau lau, taking the last of the stuffing and folding it together.

Then she puts it onto a plate, wipes her hands on her apron and brings the plate to Leilani.

SONNY (CONT.)

Culture is the lu'au leaf, daughter.
Uhane--spirit--is what is truly precious.
On the inside. Wise person not get them
mixed up. Ya?

She kisses Leilani on the forehead and goes out. Leilani looks thoughtful as she unwraps her food. Suddenly Sonny's head pops back in through the door.

SONNY

Oh, and daughter, no worries. That man you have been thinking about with all this. You will get your chance to make it up to him.

She goes out. Leilani calls after her.

LEILANI

It's a big island, mother.

SONNY (O.S.)

Not big enough to escape that.

INT. BARRY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Barry is in the kitchen cooking some eggs and bacon. The toaster pops up and he snags the two pieces. As he does, he notices the clock.

BARRY

Ah, crap!

He dashes out of the kitchen into the living room.

INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Barry enters looking harried and hurried.

BARRY

Where the hell is--ah!

He finds the remote and flips on the television.

He scans the channels and settles on a newscast just as a CAR HORN honks outside.

Ethan comes out of his bedroom, fully dressed and carrying a gym bag.

ETHAN

Hey, dad.

BARRY

What in the world are you doing up on a Saturday?

His son hustles past him toward the door with barely a glance.

ETHAN

Headed out with some friends. Catch ya' in a couple hours.

BARRY

Hey wait! I wanted to show you--

And Ethan is out the door.

BARRY

(calling after him)

I didn't even know you had any friends!

NEWSCASTER (T.V.)

And in Science, there is big news from Hawaii today--

Paradise - Pilot

Barry sniffs as if smelling something burning. Smoke comes billowing out of the kitchen.

BARRY

Dammit!

He dashes back into the kitchen.

INT. BARRY'S KITCHEN - DAY

He runs in to find eggs like cardboard and blackened bacon. He curses again, looks around frantically for a moment for a utensil then gives up and dumps it all unceremoniously onto a plate. He snags a fork in passing and dashes back into the living room.

INT. BARRY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Barry almost runs in, food barely staying on the plate.

NEWSCASTER

Isn't that something? We'll be right back.

Barry plops down dejectedly on the couch.

EXT. HAWAII - DAY

Ethan rides in the open back of a PICKUP TRUCK along with Keahi. There is a set of golf clubs in the truck bed with them. Through the windshield can be seen the heads of a DRIVER and a PASSENGER.

ETHAN

Amazing that it's legal to do this here. Ride in the back like this back home and the cops would stop us like we were on fire. You'd think they'd have more important stuff to do.

KEAHI

You do what you have to do no doubt.

Paradise - Pilot

ETHAN

It's nice of your cousin to pick us up.

KEAHI

No worries. Have to go right past the Lua on the way to the golf course.

ETHAN

These his clubs?

KEAHI

Mine.

ETHAN

Yours! Ok, wait. Aren't you coming to the Lua thing with me?

KEAHI

Me? No. Closest I ever get to violence is nailing a couple of birdies.

ETHAN

Oh, um, I don't know--

KEAHI

Don't worry, they know to pick you up.

ETHAN

No, that isn't--

The Driver HONKS at someone passing the other direction on the road and gestures a Shaka sign out the window. The other car honks back as an arm appears from a window.

ETHAN

Are you sure you--

KEAHI

Ha! Sorry. I get to play like five Saturdays a whole year. Course is usually packed with the people who, you know, pay! But my cousin Darren is the starter, he clued me in on a threesome going off this morning.

ETHAN

You have a lot of cousins.

KEAHI

Doesn't everyone?

ETHAN

Um, no.

The pickup truck turns quickly onto a side street. Then it loops quickly to face the way they came in before coming to a sharp halt before a nearby driveway.

EXT. CYRUS'S HOUSE - DAY

The truck stops where the driveway meets the street.

KEAHI

This is you.

Ethan looks around confused.

ETHAN

This is a house.

KEAHI

Yes, that's right, it is a house.
You wanna get out? I'll miss my
tee time.

ETHAN

Are you sure--

Keahi tosses Ethan's gym bag over the side. He helps Ethan follow the bag.

KEAHI

Give him aloha for me, ya?

The Driver, a Hawaiian about 18 years old, pokes his head out of the open driver's side window as they drive off.

DRIVER

You be right here two hours, ya?

Paradise - Pilot

And they're gone.

With a lack of confidence quite apparent, Ethan makes his way up the driveway to the front door.

As he gets closer to it he can see that the door is adorned with two short wooden paddles mounted on it. Criss-crossed at the handles, the edge of each paddle is rimmed with razor-sharp shark's teeth.

Ethan sighs and knocks on the door. A moment passes and the door opens on the warm and welcoming face of CYRUS, in his 60s but looking quite fit with a barrel chest.

CYRUS

You must be Ethan. Aloha! Come on in.
Now we can all get started.

EXT. CYRUS'S HOUSE - DAY

A small group of a half dozen BOYS are doing push-ups in a line in the back yard of Cyrus's house. Ethan is one of them. The boys finish under the watchful eye of Cyrus and stand up.

CYRUS

Very good. Always stretch your body and do these kinds of warmup exercises to prepare for greater exertion to come. Being properly prepared is far more than half of your battle. It's how you win before you start.

He gestures to one of the boys, LIAM, and also to a pair of canoe paddles on the back porch that are leaning against the house.

CYRUS (CONT.)

Let me show you what I mean. Liam, grab one of those canoe paddles.

Liam, a few years older than Ethan, follows the instruction.

CYRUS

Now, attack me with it.

The boys all laugh including Liam.

LIAM

With a canoe paddle?

Cyrus nods.

Extremely unsure of himself, Liam holds the paddle as if he will get into a boat with it. Then he swings the fat end towards Cyrus.

Cyrus aggressively steps close to Liam to intercept the swing with his hands long before it reaches him.

CYRUS

I don't think you could hurt a mosquito like that.

LIAM

It's a canoe paddle, kumu.

CYRUS

Yes.

He snatches it from Liam, takes a step back and suddenly the paddle is a blur in his hands. Cyrus twirls it like a fighting staff, dances to one side, thrusts the butt end within a few inches of Liam. The whole sequence is quite lethal in appearance and for a moment everyone is frozen.

CYRUS

A canoe paddle.

The boys all murmur as Liam steps back into line, Ethan seems captivated.

CYRUS

What is the difference between Liam and me?

ETHAN

Practice.

Paradise – Pilot

CYRUS

Yes. Practice is another word for conditioning. Confidence comes from doing something successfully and then leaning on that experience.

One of the other boys, SETH, speaks.

SETH

Like training your body to run and you don't get out of breath.

CYRUS

Exactly, Seth. Remember that conditioning is as important to the mind as it is to the body. This is still a canoe paddle. But what that means depends on your point of view. What do you see when you look at it?
(he spins it lethally)
And what do I see?

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Keahi is on the green near the hole, surveying a putt from behind the ball. Three older GOLFERS stand around nearby, watching. Keahi steps up to the ball, putts, misses.

KEAHI

Ah, nuts! Didn't see that last break.

One of the golfers, MARTIN, smiles in satisfaction. He saunters near Keahi as they head for the next tee.

MARTIN

That's three in a row, kid. Sure you wanna play the back nine?

KEAHI

Does seem a little scary right now! So, uh, whaddya say, double the stakes? A hundred a hole?

MARTIN

You can't be serious. Done.

Paradise - Pilot

They all get ready to tee off.

KEAHI

Your honor, your honor.

Martin rolls his eyes. He steps up and cranks a drive. It heads out there a long way, right down the middle. Martin winks at him as Keahi steps up past him. Keahi smiles back.

He tees up his ball, takes a deep breath and swings. It's a rocket, dead center of the fairway and thirty yards past Martin's ball. Martin's eyebrows go up, then they narrow as he turns to Keahi.

Keahi winks as he goes past Martin towards his ball.

His second shot is twelve feet from the pin. He sinks the putt. Montage of striped drives and his putts rolling in from everywhere at lengths of five to forty feet.

By the end, Martin is looking very unhappy. They are on the last green, the clubhouse in the background. Keahi stands over a fifteen-foot putt.

Just before he's about to hit, he stops and turns to Martin.

KEAHI

Double or nothing?

MARTIN

Absolutely not.

Keahi looks disappointed.

Then he turns back to his ball, measures his putt and knocks it right into the cup.

EXT. GOLF COURSE STARTER SHACK - DAY

Clearly mindful not to be seen by other players or anyone else at the club, Keahi can be seen receiving several hundred dollar bills from Martin.

Paradise - Pilot

MARTIN

Why don't you just go pro and play with the other sharks?

KEAHI

US Amateur first. US Junior Am actually.

MARTIN

How old are you?

KEAHI

I'll be thirteen next week.

MARTIN

Oh yeah? Thirteen. You oughtta get out of it while you still can.

KEAHI

Didn't you just say the opposite?

MARTIN

A game invented by the Devil. You can only get better. The endless climb, never reach the goal. Ever. You're too young to understand. Sisyphus had a better deal pushing a rock up a hill than this goddam game.

KEAHI

Who?

MARTIN

Never mind, sorry.

KEAHI

So if you feel that way then why do you play?

MARTIN

Are you kidding? I love it. Couldn't live without it. Even if losing my ass to squirts like you. I think I'll head over to the range and hit a few irons.

Shaking head, Martin walks away. Just before he's out of earshot, he turns and walks backwards as he calls out.

MARTIN

Seriously. Quit before you lose your mind.

And he's gone. From O.S., the voice of DARREN, age 20, can be heard.

DARREN (O.S.)

Uncle Dane find out 'bout dis and someone gone get one lickin'.

Keahi jumps.

KEAHI

Darren! Don't do that, I have to putt with this heart tomorrow.

DARREN

How much you get, Cuzz?

KEAHI

We played double on the back nine.

DARREN

Nice. Da kine when I need one car loan.

KEAHI

Nice.

DARREN

So how much you start with?

Keahi reaches into one of his pockets and pulls out a ten and a five.

DARREN

You had fifteen dollars? And then you played at fifty bucks a hole?

Keahi smiles.

DARREN

And they say the US Open is pressure.

Paradise – Pilot

They fist bump.

KEAHI

So . . . catch a ride with you to
get back?

Darren laughs.

EXT. BARRY'S HOUSE - DAY

Ethan rides alone in the back as the pick-up truck
turns onto Barry's street. He is slurping a
milkshake.

The truck turns into a nearby driveway and Ethan calls
out.

ETHAN

It's the next one.

DRIVER

That one's taken.

Ethan looks up in surprise to see an ISLAND TV-4
reporting van parked in his driveway. He grabs his
gym bag and hops out with a wave of thanks.

His surprise grows as he sees a female REPORTER and
CAMERAMAN in his own front yard interviewing his
father.

There is a huge and energetic man, BRIAN, standing
next to Barry and clearly doing all the talking speech
that comes with the hint of an Irish lilt.

BRIAN

Justifies all the time and effort
that goes into this type of discovery.
We all know it's a team effort, from
the people who do the research to the
people who maintain our components so
that people like Barry can make these
kinds of discoveries. Nobody works
alone, we're all in it together.

REPORTER

You're brand new to the team, though,
aren't you?

BARRY

Actually I--

Brian puts his arm around Barry.

BRIAN

He might be new but that just speaks to
the quality of people that we bring in
to this project, a project I am very
proud to lead. From all parts of
the world and all walks of life.
Science is the one language we all
speak, all around the globe.

REPORTER

Still, even a scientist must feel
lucky sometimes, eh?

BARRY

Of course I--

BRIAN

Let's be clear, these events are not
luck. Hard work, intuitive research,
dogged persistence. That's the
combination that leads people like Barry
to us and leads to things like finding
Comet De Bruyn.

Ethan chokes on his milkshake and coughs it out
through his nose loud enough for all of them to turn
his direction.

ETHAN

Wait, what did he just say?

EXT. RESORT - NIGHT

Barry and Ethan, both now showered and changed into
better clothes, are shown to their seat in the outdoor
amphitheater. The atmosphere is fully Polynesian,
with tiki torches and other cultural accoutrements.

Paradise - Pilot

Ethan looks around and can see a whole range of very tasty looking dinner dishes being served.

ETHAN

Hey dad--

BARRY

Don't get used to it. Special occasion.

ETHAN

So you're gonna learn to cook like that?

BARRY

You're almost old enough to have a car, right? Why don't you learn to cook like that?

Ethan makes a face and Barry laughs.

Within just a few moments of being seated the first course arrives, a lush looking fresh Papaya salad. Their eyes light up.

BARRY

Oh this is gonna be good.

ETHAN

Hey dad.

BARRY

Son?

ETHAN

Congratulations, man! You did awesome with a capital A.

Barry beams from this praise as DRUMMING starts in the background. He grabs his fork and turns his eyes to the stage. Leilani leads her troop out for a Hula show.

BARRY

I don't believe it.

ETHAN

What?

Paradise – Pilot

BARRY

It's that woman. That same woman.
That exact same Hawaiian woman.

ETHAN

Are you serious?

BARRY

Well, that will ruin an appetite,
won't it?

With a frown, he sets down his fork and crosses his arms to watch the show.

But as the show progresses, Barry's expression softens. Clearly Leilani is very passionate and committed. And she has a grace about her that can't be missed.

Barry shakes his head and starts to eat.

BARRY

Hawaii is a weird place.

INT. BARRY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

It's late, most of the lights are off. Barry is in a bathrobe and slippers. He pours himself a short glass of milk.

INT. BARRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Barry moves through the house, sipping his milk. He spies the door to Ethan's bedroom left ajar and he peeks in to see his son sprawled out on the bed, sound asleep. Barry smiles in satisfaction and moves towards his bedroom.

INT. BARRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Barry goes into the bedroom which has a connected master bath. He sets the milk down on a table next to

the bed and goes into the master bath area to the sink and quickly washes his face.

Wiping himself dry, he allows himself another smile of satisfaction in the mirror.

Still wiping his face, he turns to re-enter the bedroom. He freezes.

The transparent figures of THREE HUGE ANCIENT HAWAIIAN WARRIORS walk in right through the wall, in a line, past him without seeing him, and out the other side of the room.

Barry's eyes go wide as saucers.

FADE OUT.