

NAN

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SCENE 1.

A faint light stays up on NAN in the kitchen. There are two coffee mugs on the table. In the corner is an ironing board already set up.

NAN is quietly talking to someone that isn't there, a conversation we aren't able to make out.

NAN stretches her fingers out, rolling her wrists every so often. When her hands are not in use, she tucks them into her armpits out of embarrassment.

Another faint light come up slowly on ALICE in the bedroom, putting on her makeup, going through her morning routine. Her back is to us. We can only see her face in a large, three-paneled mirror.

Lights come down on NAN briefly.

A faint light comes up on MADDI sleeping in a muddy, white nightgown.

ALICE and MADDI share a bed in ALICE's bedroom.

Lights come down on ALICE briefly.

Lights stay up on MADDI as lights come back up on NAN in the kitchen still talking to herself, trying to take a sip from her coffee cup, using the heels of her hand to pick it up and bring it to her mouth.

Lights come down on MADDI and NAN.

Lights come up again on ALICE putting the last touches on her makeup.

Lights fade to black.

Then, finally, an individual light comes up on each woman.

Separate, and alone.

Lights go down on ALICE and MADDI.

NAN yawns.

NAN

No, I naht tired, why? Why you say dat fo'?'
Just need more coffee, dat's all.

A listening beat.

NAN

But you up early too, no act!

A listening beat.

NAN

Well, if you tired den go sleep in ma bed. Go! Can, you know.
I not gon' wake you up.

A listening beat.

NAN

Not sleepin' too good.

A listening beat.

NAN

Cuz I stay dreamin' too much dat's why.

A listening beat.

NAN

How you know I was dreamin' 'bout Moloka'i again, huh? I like
go back. But cannot no more.

(quick beat)

NAN

Cuz I no can get on one plane! I stay old godfunnit! I like
see you try get on one plane.

(beat)

NAN

All da old folks still over dea you tink? I betchu still get
some. Maybe not a lot, but get some I betchu. I betchu some
still dea.

Tell you what, betchu that stoplight still dea too! You remember da one? Whole island only get one stoplight, how's dat?! Not like ovah hea, ovah hea get too *many* lights.

She laughs to herself.

NAN

Da buggah, it wen flash red all day and night! When we'd go up da mountain fo' go camp and you went look out across da island, what you saw? Just dat light, flashing in da darkness.

A listening beat.

NAN

How you no rememba' dat?! We took Alice with us, 'member, when she still small kine and brah, she couldn't take her eyes off 'em. Just kept starin' at em. Ho, I haven't been Moloka'i long time. Long time! Years and years and years. I betchu dey get choke stoplights now!

ALICE completes her morning routine.

ALICE

Maddi.

Maddi, it's time to wake up.

Maddi sleeps on her side of the bed.

ALICE

If I gotta get up early to talk to your principal, then you gotta get up too.

(A little bit louder) Maddi.

MADDI

(Groggy) Go away.

ALICE

Don't fuss cuz I don't have time this morning.

MADDI

What time is it?

ALICE

Never mind what time it is.

MADDI

(Eyes closed) You're meeting with her now?

ALICE

Today's Tuesday. I work both jobs on Tuesdays. This is the only time I can meet with her. You're lucky Mrs. Hannity is nice enough to meet this early.

MADDI

How does that make me lucky?

ALICE

Never mind ask how you're lucky. Just get up already.

MADDI doesn't move.

ALICE

The least you could do is tell me what you did this time-

MADDI

I didn't do anything!

ALICE

Well, you musta done something if I gotta meet with her in person. How many times is this already where I gotta go down to the principal's office to talk about your behavior? You've only been at that school for a month.

MADDI

I hate that school.

ALICE

Now I don't have time to fuss with you this morning cuz if you make me late for Mrs. Hannity, then I'm gonna be late to get to the store, and I gotta get there by 8, otherwise I'm gonna hear it from Mrs. Rosario, and Mrs. Rosario already clocked me late twice last week-

MADDI

Those times weren't my fault-

ALICE

One of them was! Now if Mrs. Rosario clocks me late a third time, then I'm definitely gonna have to hear her mouth, and I can tell you, I'm probably not gonna like what comes out of it, now I'm gonna come over there in a second if you don't hurry up, cuz I swear, I'm not gonna lose this job, you hear me? Not this one.

ALICE goes over to her, notices she's covered in mud.

ALICE

Shit.

MADDI

What?

ALICE

It happened again.

MADDI

What happened?

(Realizing) Oh, shit.

ALICE

Now I gotta wash these sheets 'fore we go. I don't know if I have time-

MADDI

I'm sorry, I didn't know-

ALICE

Hurry up, just give me the comforter. And the pillowcase too. This whole room is a mess. You know, I don't like sleeping in a pigsty, you know. Look at your clothes, they're all over the place-

MADDI

The clothes are on my side.

ALICE

I don't care whose side they stay on, they shouldn't be on the ground at all.

MADDI

Okay okay, I'll clean it up.

ALICE

Your Nan, she like her house clean, you know, I can't leave the house with the room looking like this.

MADDI

Don't worry about it. I'll clean it up.

MADDI

I thought you said this was our house now.

ALICE

What?

MADDI

You said "Nan's house." I thought you said this was our house now-

ALICE

I never said that, Maddi, why would I say that? You know this is just temporary.

MADDI

So we're gonna move back into our old place?

ALICE

If your father hadn't walked out on us, then we'd still be at our old place.

(beat)

MADDI

So where are we gonna go?

ALICE

We'll find a new place.

MADDI

Why?

ALICE

Why what?

MADDI

Why do we have to find a new place? I like living with Nan.
Don't you like it here?

ALICE

You're kidding, right? I'm an adult woman sleeping in her
childhood bedroom.

(beat)

ALICE

Listen, when we get our new place, we'll have our own rooms,
okay?

MADDI

We had our own rooms at our old house.

MADDI

Look, when you're 18, you can live wherever you like.
I need your nightgown too.

MADDI

Well, when are we moving?

ALICE

As soon as I come up with enough money, and that won't happen
if Mrs. Rosario fires me for clocking in late again.

ALICE starts to pick up the room.

MADDI

Why are you cleaning, Ma, I said I would clean it.

ALICE starts folding some clothes and
stuffing it into the drawers or hanging
them up in the closet.

MADDI

You're going to be late.

ALICE

You know, you can't treat your stuff like this, you know, you
have to take care of your things- Look, I just bought you
this shirt!

MADDI

Will you stop please? I said I would clean it up-

ALICE

I didn't know I was raising a slob. Honestly, what am I gonna do with you?

MADDI

I'm sorry, okay?

ALICE

And you're always sorry about something.

MADDI

Well then what do you want me to say then?!

ALICE

Don't say nothing. Just act right.

(beat)

ALICE

(A small laugh) Wow.

MADDI

What?

ALICE

You got mud all over your face.

ALICE tries to wipe off some mud from MADDI's cheek. MADDI moves out of her reach.

ALICE

I was just in the shower and I left you some hot water but don't take too long cuz it drives your Nan nuts when you take forever in the shower and I don't want to hear about it from her later on, okay? But wash good cuz the mud stay all over.

NAN laughs loudly.

MADDI

Is somebody here?

ALICE

Is that everything?

ALICE bundles up all the dirty clothes and sheets.

MADDI

Who is Nan talking to?

Another laugh.

MADDI

Why is she laughing at?

ALICE

She's probably on the phone.

MADDI

But the phone didn't ring-

ALICE

Maddi! Can you just go and do what I told you to do, please.

MADDI exits.

ALICE finishes gathering the sheets.

A moment.

ALICE crosses to the kitchen but stops right before the threshold.

She can hear her mother talking to herself. NAN is laughing at a joke that we can't hear.

ALICE

Who are you talkin' to, Ma?

NAN

Oh! You scared me, godfunnit.

How you gon' scare me li' dat?!

ALICE

Not my fault you scare easy.

NAN

I'm an old woman, Alice! You cannot just sneak up on old folks li' dat.

ALICE

I didn't sneak-

NAN

And wea you going with dose sheets?

ALICE

I'm gonna go put 'em outside-

NAN

How dey get dirty is what I mean?

ALICE

It happened again.

NAN

What? How many times dat already?!

ALICE

I don't know but it's happening more and more.

NAN

You don't hear her get up in da middle of da night?

ALICE

No-

NAN

Did you lock all da doors like I wen tol' you?

ALICE

Yeah.

NAN

Well, how she gon' get out if you wen lock all da doors?

ALICE

I don't know, Ma.