

FUNERAL ATTIRE

By

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CHARACTERS:

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Kekoa – man in his 30s
Nainoa – man in his 30s, Kekoa's half-brother
Funeral director

Setting: Kekoa and Nainoa have been called to the funeral home in preparation for their father's memorial services. They meet with the Funeral Director

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

We are, of course, so sorry for the loss of your father.

KEKOA

You looking at him or you looking at me? He was my father too.

NAINOA

He was looking at both of us, stupid.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

I was looking at both of you, Nainoa.

KEKOA

He's Nainoa. I'm Kekoa. We're half brothers.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

I understand.

KEKOA

All you need to understand is that I'm the direct descendant. Nainoa was from my dad's girlfriend.

NAINOA

That makes me direct, too, and your mom wasn't dad's wife either.

KEKOA

My mom was his girlfriend before your mom was his girlfriend, and I'm older so I have rank.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Gentlemen, the grieving process often brings out feelings of unfairness or disharmony in families, but if I can offer this comfort, he was father to both of you, he had a lot of aloha, and he loved you equally.

KEKOA

He liked me better.

No way, he liked me more.

NAINOA

He said I looked like him.

KEKOA

He said I looked like him.

NAINOA

You looked like his ass.

KEKOA

He had a good looking ass.

NAINOA

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Guys, if I can get to the point - -

You gonna read his will or something?

KEKOA

I don't need nothing. He gave me his aloha.

NAINOA

Me too. But I want his surfboard.

KEKOA

I want his truck.

NAINOA

You take the truck, I'm taking the horse trailer.

KEKOA

You take the horse trailer, I'm taking the horse.

NAINOA

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Boys! This is not that kind of meeting. We're not here to talk about dividing up his money.

Oh, Daddy didn't have money.

KEKOA

NAINOA

And if he did, his wife spent it long ago.

KEKOA

Fake nails and figurines.

NAINOA

She had lots of small dogs with shiny collars.

KEKOA

That's not the one he was married to. This is the one after that one. This one liked to go to Vegas.

NAINOA

Oh yeah. Not dogs. Vegas.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

I'm not a lawyer. I'm not a counselor. I'm the funeral director. I'm preparing your father's memorial services and he left instructions for how he wants to be buried.

KEKOA

I'll give the eulogy.

NAINOA

I'll play ukulele at the grave site.

KEKOA

You sing like a chicken.

NAINOA

You talk like a drunk.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

All of those details have been decided by your step mother. She'll be returning from her "grief counseling retreat" in Las Vegas in time for the service.

KEKOA

She killed him, you know.

NAINOA

Rolled right on top of him with that ass.

KEKOA

But maybe he died smiling, so...

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

The one thing that remains is a special request from your father.

KEKOA

Whatever the old man wanted.

NAINOA

I am there for my pops.

KEKOA

I would do anything for my daddy.

NAINOA

Shave my head, knock out my front teeth, anything.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

He wants to be buried in a malo.

Total silence from the guys as they take in this information.

KEKOA

You're talking loin-cloth malo?

NAINOA

The thing that wraps over his... wow... and goes in between his... wow.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Yes. He wants to be buried in a malo and you have to dress him.

KEKOA and NAINOA

Noooooooooo...

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Is it a matter of unfamiliarity? I found a YouTube tutorial.

KEKOA

Wait a minute, that's not even culturally appropriate. That's not how ancient Hawaiians were buried.

NAINOA

What do you know about Hawaiians? I've seen you eat pineapple on your pizza so don't you act like you're an expert on Hawaiians.

KEKOA

I never ate no damn pineapple on no damn pizza. I always pick that shit off. You take that back, you surf instructor who can't surf.

NAINOA

I'd rather be a surfer who can't surf than a lifeguard who can't swim, so...

The brothers look like they're about to throw punches.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Please. I understand your reaction. We see all sorts of requests these days. Some combine traditional customs with new ideas of culture. This... is what he wanted.

KEKOA

Since when he got all Hawaiian?

NAINOA

He was born Hawaiian, but since when he got all cultural?

KEKOA

He was taking those cultural classes at the community center.

NAINOA

Why they have to make these old dudes think they're Hawaiian warriors? Why don't they just stick to 'how to make flower lei without flowers'?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

If you're ready, I'll take you to him.

KEKOA

Now?

NAINOA

If you don't wanna do it, I'll do it myself. Because that's my dad.

KEKOA

Oh I'm doing it. My father wants his nuts tied up in a bow, I'm doing it, no questions.

They stand and the Funeral Director leads them to their father. We don't see the father. We see the sons' reactions as they look down at their dad.

The Funeral Director hands the brothers a long piece of white cloth. The brothers each take one end.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

I'll give you some privacy. You should think of this time with your father as special. He trusted this to you.

Funeral Director exits.

KEKOA

So what?

NAINOA

So what?

KEKOA

Jump in. If you make mistake, I'll let you know.

NAINOA

Nah, you do the wrapping, I'll flip him over when you get to the ass part. I'm stronger.

KEKOA

You're not stronger. You're just bigger because you're bloated.

NAINOA

Fine. We'll do it together. But, first we gotta take off the sheet.

KEKOA

You take one end, I'll take the other.

NAINOA

OK.

KEKOA and NAINOA together

One, two, three.

They pull the sheet off the body. They both look down as if they're seeing their father. They were expecting to be scared by they're quite moved.

KEKOA

That's my dad.

NAINOA

That is definitely my father.

Whoa, I have that same birthmark.

KEKOA

Me too.

NAINOA

Right there.

KEKOA

Me too.

NAINOA

It looks like the island of Maui rising up from the sea of my groin.

KEKOA

What is wrong with you? It's a face gazing at the strength of my manhood.

NAINOA

Gazing and laughing.

KEKOA

Hey, don't make fun. I'm your father's son, too. You got as much of him in you that I have in me.

NAINOA

They look at each other and decide to try a different tack.

KEKOA

So, you ever did this before?

NAINOA

Only on myself and only for hula, like, in the fifth grade.

KEKOA

Me too. It's easy when you're young and don't have much to cover.

NAINOA

OK, we take the end part and put it up by his chest.

KEKOA

Yup. Yup. And then this goes down and covers over here by his - -

NAINOA

Got it.

KEKOA

Hey, hey, you're lingering. Why you lingering?

NAINOA

I'm just making it straight! Now it goes in between here and we roll him over.

They roll him over.

KEKOA

Oof. Daddy was beefy.

NAINOA

Now pass it to the back. Why you patting? Don't pat, you weirdo.

KEKOA

I don't want him to chafe.

NAINOA

He's not gonna chafe! He's dead!

The two are struck by this thought.

KEKOA

That's so sad. He will never chafe again.

NAINOA

Aw, man. His chafing days are over.

KEKOA

Our father is gone.

NAINOA

He was a good dad. Not so faithful to our moms, but he loved us kids.

KEKOA

He had a lot of aloha.

NAINOA

A whole lot of aloha to go around.

KEKOA

Let's do this. Pass it here. Now you do the over-under.

NAINOA

I think should be under-over

KEKOA

You do it like that, the thing will fall off.

NAINOA

Not like he's going to be walking around.

Again, this moment is painful.

KEKOA

That's too much. I can't handle.

NAINOA

I know. I'm sorry. I don't even want the horse trailer or the horse. I just want my dad.

He starts to cry. Kekoa starts to cry, too. They use the end of the malo to wipe their eyes and end up sobbing together before they catch themselves and straighten up.

KEKOA

You're the closest relative I have now.

NAINOA

You're like a brother to me.

KEKOA

Stupid, I am your brother.

NAINOA

Yeah, but you never acted like it.

KEKOA

Neither did you.

NAINOA

You know this is why he made us do this, right? That whole bonding thing we never figured out.

KEKOA

Yeah. Fricken community center cultural classes. They should stick to basic hula and microwave kulolo. This stuff is hard.

NAINOA

Hey. I'll let you ride my horse if you let me borrow your horse trailer

KEKOA

Deal. But that surf board is mine.

NAINOA

Now make sure the flaps are even, front and back.

KEKOA

That's my dad.

NAINOA

That's our dad.

KEKOA

Our father looks like warrior.

-End-