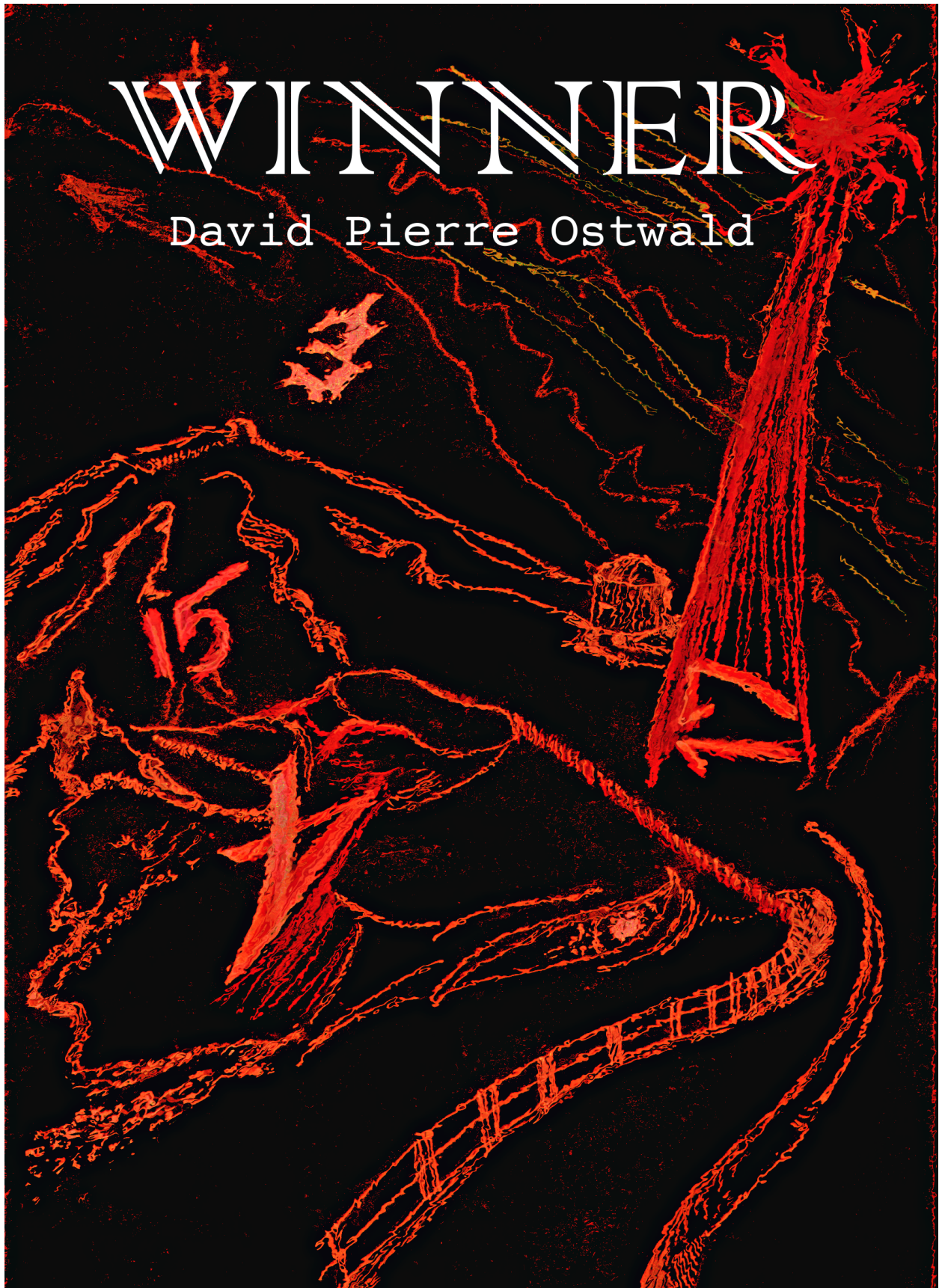


WINNER

David Pierre Ostwald



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Dedication

“i believe ancient lava tubes riddle the insides of Mauna Kea. These tubes lead deep into the Earth, into hidden chasms where you can view flowing lava rivers from subterranean ledges ...”

WARNING: This play uses strobe lights.

Characters

‘AILĀ‘AU, the OG “Forest Eater”, god of fire and destruction, Victor’s true father

KALEOPATARA, ‘Ailā‘au’s spouse and mother of Victor

POLIAHU, white-robed goddess of Mauna Kea

PELEHONUAMEA, “the one who devours”, a younger lava goddess

VICTOR / KAIAPUNIHĀHĀLUAHŌKŪAKUAMANAMAKANAPONOHĪMENI, the youngest child of ‘Ailā‘au, expert at *hōlua* and member of the Hawai‘i National *Hōlua* team

KEAKA ZALIYA KELEKINA, *Lā‘mea* and lover of Victor

NOA and LAKA, children of Victor and Keaka

DWELLERS-DEEP, once human descendants of Ancient Egyptian-Polynesians

ELDERS, the most ancient dwellers within Mauna Kea

LĀ‘MEA, immortalized Dwellers-Deep who worship Pelehonuamea

WARRIORS OF KŪ, a very vengeful race that evolved to protect the Elders

ANCESTRAL SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, exist in the Celestial Sphere, as the Stars.

SURFACE DWELLERS, Terrans mostly without knowledge of the Dwellers-Deep

LINDA-LOU JONES, Victor’s girlfriend and a cheerleader

KE KIPĪ a.k.a. **The REBELS**, Hawai‘ians who rebel against Western rule

MELEKIKEKEKA, a member of *Ke Kipi*

The MERCENARIES, a subset of the *Ke Kipi*

CALEB KEALOHILANI, a Mercenary

PUPUKA ALIAKAE LILĪ‘UOKALANI a.k.a. **“LUCAS”**, a Mercenary

SLACKERS, Terrans who have lost the will to succeed in anything

NEVIN, a Slacker and friend to the Rebels

BARTENDER, a “priest” of the *Heiau Ho’ona*

STRIPPER, a “nun” of the *Heiau Ho’ona*

OFFICER STANTLEY, a police officer

POLICE, Surface Dwellers who become distracted by Victor’s antics

TOURISTS, Surface Dwellers who gather at the base of Mauna Kea to watch Victor break-dance in front of the police

MESSENGERS, members of *Ke Kipi* who ride scooters

CHIEF KANAKA, the police chief

DRIVER, a Lyft driver

CAPTAIN DREADBEARD, a Time-traveling space bandit of the Ancient Kthulhu Order

GREENLANTERN FÜRELISE, Captain Dreadbeard’s red-haired friend

ATHLETES, Surface Dwellers who work-out in the weight-training room

SILVER & BRONZE MEDALISTS, *hōlua* racers who lost to Victor

JUDGE, a judge at the Tokyo Olympics

a note for the Designer

Create a fantastic, mythical world!...
Visualize it as if looking into a crystal ball!

Act 1, Scene 1

SETTING: an Underground World, within the bowels of Mauna Kea, has existed for centuries, unbeknownst to most "Surface Dwellers"

'Ailā'au and Kaleopatara sit together in their throne room, a huge, crimson cavern within the "bowels of the Earth", hidden deep down within a labyrinth of lava tubes, ancient passages that riddle the interior of the World's Largest Mountain, Mauna Kea. The walls glow crimson-red from the glow of a lava "pool" in the center of the room. Lava "rivers" of fire flow in all four cardinal directions, from this lava pool. Steam (dry-ice fog) floats all around, seemingly coming from the lava floor. This is truly the "Navel of the Earth". It has existed for millennia, unbeknownst to most Surface Dwellers.

'Ailā'au and Kaleopatara wear their garments primarily in the style of the Ancient Egyptians, with a Hawaiian flair. They are direct descendants of the Ancient Egyptian races, forced to live underground thousands of years ago, to preserve their sacred culture.

'AILĀ'AU

He Ali'i ka āina, he kauwā ke kanaka
The Land is king, man is the servant.

KALEOPATARA

Yes, my love, *he kauwā ke kanaka...*
And if the Land is King, then surely
the One Who Created the Land
Is the God!

'AILĀ'AU

Then why does it seem, for reasons unknown
Surface Dwellers neglect me, and leave me alone?

KALEOPATARA

Well, my dear, you do live underground...

'AILĀ'AU

Where I fume fire, spew lava, and do what I do best!!
Do these haughty mortals wish to put me to test?

KALEOPATARA

Oh, my sweet, you are so hot-blooded!
Come, let me be closer to you!

[Kaleopatara pulls him closer, puts her arms around his broad shoulders, snuggles, etc...]

‘AILĀ‘AU

Ah, my love Kaleopatara, you always treat me so fair
Unlike that Pelehonuamea bitch, she *ho’okamani* wanna-be, with the red hair!
I let her stay at Kilauea, it seems to suit her well
While inside the grandeur of Mauna Kea, I prefer to dwell.
From here we tap the original root of Ao’s fires
Much more than those little ponds of which “Pele” never tires.

[‘AILĀ‘AU should speak more broken, Pidgin-English, the more emotional he gets, no time for the “formality” of good grammar!...]

She take MY fire and call it her own!?
But I don’t think she ever full-grown!
She want everyone notice her, think she so hot!
But I am where she get her Power, not...

KALEOPATARA

Must you speak of her now, my love?!
You know I hate Pele too!!
But even She not favored amongst the Surface Dwellers...

[KALEOPATARA’s language should accommodate ‘AILĀ‘AU’s. So she falls into Pidgin-English after he does, though to a lesser degree. She is a calming element in His life...]

Not in these days!
You and I both know,
The only god left to them
Calls itself The Almighty Dollar.
And even the so-called “Fire Goddess”
No longer makes those weak-legged tourists tremble!

‘AILĀ‘AU

‘Ae, truly a sad state of affairs, this Nation in Distress!
Yet the problems of Surface Dwellers, I could care less...
Perhaps if our son were still with us...

KALEOPATARA

[Still in their lava pool together, KALEOPATARA looks deep into 'AILĀ'AU's eyes, as they continue to embrace...]

I miss him too, my love.

We may find him still.

I always hope...

Perhaps the Warriors will bring news...

[The two fall even closer together, sink down into the pool completely. Crimson-red light glows more wildly now, in response to their mingling. Then fade to black, as the scene ends.]

Act 1, Scene 2

Victor, naked and wearing Mask #1 (one of extreme, almost insane pleasure, with an extremely large nose) rides the papa hōlua (wooden lava sled) down the side of Mauna Loa, on a super-kahua hōlua he knows very well. This man-made route crosses the entire Island. Loud Polynesian drum music plays, and Victor moves with the music, as he flies down the hill, head-first. Extreme death metal music mixes in-and-out with the Islander sounds, creating a collage of fast, energetic, pounding beats and enthusiastic vocalizations. Victor ecstatically grooves with the music, leans his body in and out of turns. The effect of flying downhill: use deep red and orange streamers blown by a large fan, or a projected image onto the background, or both... The scenery in the background: black lava, rocks and silversword, a multi-point perspective, to give the feeling of flying, racing downhill...

Suddenly, there erupts a burst of red flames and spraying red liquid, directly ahead of Victor. His face shows the terror he feels!! Lights, red, orange, yellow, white, go crazy everywhere, as Victor's hōlua shakes wildly, and he screams!

VICTOR

Whoa is me, Pele hast risen!!
Everywhere the land's a' fizzin!
I can't stop, not at this speed!
Am gonna crash, 'tis true indeed!!!

KEAKA

[Now Keaka rises up with the eruption of flames and liquid, seeming to grow out from the hot lava! Her face is hideous, a mask of pure grotesqueness, the lips drawn in death's grimace and a gaping hole where the nose should be... yet her eyes shine a brilliant white!... Her movements flow like a cross between lava and an octopus...]

Who's this lava surfer?!
Such a hero of the hōlua
I've never seen before!

VICTOR

[Completely in shock, Victor goes numb and loses control of his sled.]
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhh!!

[VICTOR flies into the air, where he does a somersault or two, then lands head-first, with his feet in the air, in a hollow tree up on a hill. Comical at first, with Victor's top half stuck in the tree, his naked butt in the air, his feet kicking to try to get free, in vain. Lava flows around the base of this hill, but cannot reach Victor.]

KEAKA

[Casting an evil grin, tosses her head back...]

'Ōkole Maluna!!!

Ha ha!!

Hua hua!!!

VICTOR

[Dark red blood begins to flow from Victor's body, in rivulets going in all four cardinal directions from his hanging body. It resembles the flow of lava, and Keaka, startled, now stands motionless.]

Oooooooooooooooooohhhh.....

[VICTOR loses consciousness and goes completely limp. As Victor's blood flows, it begins to turn and coalesce into small bumps on the floor. These shapes become more clear and then stand up! Red-and orange-dressed children burst forth from each form and run off the stage in all directions, like pieces of living lava set free!...]

KEAKA

[With great fear and surprise! KEAKA instantly shrinks back down into the lava, from whence she came!]

AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

[Like mythic menehunes, the little lava-creatures continue to race around the stage, in pulsating patterns around VICTOR, eventually shooting out again in all directions from the stage, as the lights dim, to indicate nightfall, the setting Sun... Stars explode with Light, as if new-born, then the scene fades to black...]

Act 1, Scene 3

Lights rise...

Sunrise of the next day. A group of three voices sounds in the distance, talking in the background, a distance away, growing closer.

The rivulets of Victor's blood have turned to lines of vegetation, again along the same 4-Cardinal directions. Ferns, small 'Ohia, and Kava vines sprout, as if cuttings thrown like porcupine spines, from Victor's seemingly broken body...

CALEB

Over here!!

MERC #2

Hahahahaha!!
Look it's Wikoli!
Okole Maluna!!!
Hahahahaha!!

[Continues to laugh, as the squadron of three Mercenaries arrives on the scene. They wear drab clothes that blend in well with the scenery, to provide camouflage. They also wear camouflage face-paint.]

CALEB

Hey!! No funny, brah!
Somethin' not right here...
Look!...

[Points all around at the lines of newly-sprouted vegetation, in perfect lines along the four cardinal directions.]

ALIAKAE

[PUPUKA ALIAKAE LILI'UOKALANI wears her hair short, sports a muscle-T to show off her biceps, and looks very much like a man.]

Straight-line?... but it's... *ohiohi*???

CALEB

Ohiohi from Victor??!
What?!
WHAT???!...

[Quickly looks all around then back at VICTOR.]

...He blood DRY!!!

MERC #2

Oh no!! No!! No good!!
Quick! I take the arms!!

[MERC #2 pulls VICTOR upright by the arms, while CALEB grabs Victor's torso. Together, they lift VICTOR out of the tree. They begin to quickly but calmly administer first aid and dress VICTOR's wounds, and use only short sentences in this emergency...]

[SPACE for ad lib...]

ALIAKAE

[Suddenly stops the bandaging, holds gauze in one hand, does a double-take to look closer at VICTOR's quickly-healing wounds...]

Weird! You see that?
He mostly healed!!...
Lā'au kāhea?...

MERC #2

'Ola?!!! How??...

Act II, Scene 1

SETTING:

The “Heiau Ho’ona”, a local Temple of Inebriation centered in the Bayshore storefront area of downtown Hilo. Here they serve everything from kava, to bhang (an ancient Indian herb), to shots of juiced turmeric or holy basil, to coca infusions, to dark coffee drinks, to local ales and ciders, to wines from white to purple, to tinctures of dozens of psychotropic plants.

a play on Heiau Ho’ōla, which was a heiau to treat the sick!

sits atop black lava rock foundation, a squared-off heiau

The two sit on the edge of the heiau, looking up at the stars, with the sound of the Hilo Bay coming from below and stage left. To stage right is the large Heiau Ho’ona, taking-up most of the scene.

VICTOR, naked and wearing Mask #2 (one of both intoxication and sensual magnetism, with its characteristically enormous nose), sits next to his girlfriend LINDA-LOU.

LINDA-LOU

Oh, Wikoli, I’m so glad you’re okay again!...

VICTOR

Aren’t the Stars tonight *makalapua*?
So bright, they look brand new!
So many, like silver strands of Poliahu
Her hair flying through the Celestial Sphere!!...

LINDA-LOU

Ooooooh, Wikoli!! I love it when you get romantic!!
[LINDA-LOU cuddles-up closer to VICTOR...]

VICTOR

You know you can call on them...

In dire need, you can wake them!

The Ancestral Spirits of the Dead

The 'Aumākua!!!! {Family or personal gods}

[VICTOR appears completely transfixed by the clear night sky. LINDA-LOU realizes she might as well be invisible!...]

LINDA-LOU

Victor??...

VICTOR

Rarely called upon...

Only in case of emergency,

And only if you're nice to them

AND lucky to gain their attention!

LINDA-LOU

Victor??...

[LINDA-LOU puts her face up to his and looks straight into his face, but VICTOR remains motionless.]

VICTOR

Much feared, because they are so powerful!

Even though these Spirits have no more substance on Earth...

LINDA-LOU

[LINDA-LOU pushes herself away from his shoulder, now sits sideways, perpendicular to VICTOR.]

Victor, do you really believe those old stories??...

VICTOR

[Finally breaks his stare and looks at LINDA-LOU, a blank look on his face, seemingly lost as to what she was saying.]

Stories? What stories??

LINDA-LOU

[LINDA-LOU shakes VICTOR's arm, to try to get his attention.]

You know,...

About the Lost Kingdom!

VICTOR

You mean when Hawaii split in two?

'Aumākua come from then, it's true!

LINDA-LOU

But you can't believe in the Ancient Ones!... Do you?!

VICTOR

My Linda, how could you doubt?
The legends that tell all about
Old Hawaii, before it joined the Empire
The British Commonwealth entire!

LINDA-LOU

No! You can't believe in people living underground, do you?!
Creatures that bathe in lava?!? How crazy?!...

VICTOR

[Laughs jocosely, while smiles and looks her in the eyes, as if she were a simple child.]

The tales are tall as coconut
And we can decide what
To believe or not
It's the beauty!... of the thought...

LINDA-LOU

[LINDA-LOU swoons and snuggles-up close to him again, much more so than before...]

Oooh, Wikooli!... You're such a romantic!!...

[A bright crescent Moon begins to rise on the horizon, In its wake, suddenly KEAKA appears again as out of nowhere, this time in the form of a dark pueo that seemingly flies down from the very heavens. She wears a false nose over her hideous mask of a face. But as she attempts to fly closer and get VICTOR's attention, the fake nose falls off.]

VICTOR

[VICTOR flinches at the sight of her lava-rotted, gaping hole of a nose. He immediately draws back in complete panic, his heart racing, arms flailing as if to swat the owl, though KEAKA hovers out of his reach, so dark LINDA-LOU can't see her. KEAKA lands and crouches down by the beach, embarrassed to see VICTOR with LINDA-LOU. Her terrible mask looks straight at him, and he squirms in agony. Finally, VICTOR jumps up and heads towards the Heiau Ho'ona's entrance, an old-fashioned double-swinging door, like you would see for the entrance to an old Western saloon.]

I apologize, dear Linda
I must go within, if only to find a
Cup of kava and maybe a coco...
Something tonight has made me too loco...

LINDA-LOU

Wait for me Victor!

[VICTOR and LINDA-LOU pass by a group of Slackers lazing around the front of the Heiau Ho'ona.]

SLACKER #1

Hey big kahuna!

Could you spare a shilling or two for a phone call?

VICTOR

[VICTOR stops in his tracks, seems to have forgotten about his shock at KEAKA's sudden appearance, looks quizzically at the slacker, then reaches in his pocket and pulls out a bill.]

A phone call again? Hahaha!

Here's ten pounds, find yo'self a dinna'!

SLACKER #1

Mahalo Victor!

I go eat!!

[He takes a cell phone out of his pocket and becomes completely engrossed in it, as he starts texting and taking selfies of himself and his other Slacker friends, with the money in front of the Heiau Ho'ona', calls-up an app for pizza delivery, etc...]

Doordash!!!!

Pizza, my braddas!...

Act II, Scene 2

As VICTOR and LINDA-LOU enter the Heiau Ho'ona, strings of lights illuminate its interior. This brings our full attention to the interior of the "Temple". The starlight outside appears only dimly now.

Columns carved in Tiki form support the circular, palm-thatched roof of the Heiau Ho'ona. Along the curved, back wall is a veritable shrine of vials, bottles, carafes, flacons, flasks, decanters, pitchers, and glassware,... among other larger instruments of single and simple purpose — intoxication! Eager bartenders diligently serve... and welcome anyone who has money to spend!

A long bar faces this shiny, colorful, mesmerizing wall of Inebriation. Large flat-screen TVs float strategically within the curvature of the back wall and its alluring displays. They show scenes of hula, scenes of surfing, scenes of fire-dancing, scenes of Taiko drumming, and scenes of hōlua racing. Authentic Polynesian chanting and drum music plays in the background, to create the Heiau Ho'ona's deep-rooted, ebullient-while-low-key ambience. Plants and ferns adorn the inside of the room, which is mostly open on all sides, except for the back wall.

Up-stage at the Bar, customers sit and order food and drinks, keep their backs to the audience. PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, and NEVIN sit at a table or booth more down-stage, to stage-right of the long bar. They become the focus of attention. A plethora of dishes and glasses, full, half-empty or otherwise, covers most of their table.

VICTOR and LINDA-LOU wave to get their attention and then join them. Everyone exchanges greetings, then the two new-comers settle-in and get cozy with their group...

BARTENDER

[Notices the new-comers and walks over to get their order.]

Name your poison...

VICTOR

[To the bartender...]

Ah, now I feel at ease!

Two more kava please!

BARTENDER

[Prepares the coconut shells of kava and then serves them to Linda-Lou and Victor.]

He wahahe'e ke kū'ai

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, VICTOR, LINDA-LOU

[All laugh heartily. PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, and NEVIN raise their glasses, make a cheers together, and drink.]

MELEKIKEKEKA

Victor, come join our conversation...
We want you to be part of this...
You see, we found a place on the *mauna*, a secret place...
We stay warm there, we have food.
But we haveta' keep it hidden!
Government says we can't be there,
So we haveta' hide...

VICTOR

Concealed like the fox!
Or trapped in that box!

MELEKIKEKEKA

[Speaks between sips of his drink... Gesticulates to emphasize his words...]

No, no... it's not like that...
You should really come and see...
You can stay with us, whenever you need.
Ke Kipi has a solid camp at Mauna Kea now...
But we all hate how the University
Wants to build...
Yet another telescope!
A new blemish...
A new insult to ancient Poliahu...
And her sacred home...
A white pimple to pop!...
We gonna pop those white pimples!

PUPUKA

[PUPUKA ALIAKAE LILI'UOKALANI still wears her head-lamp, but now dresses in a more civilian-style, solid black, ninja-like attire. At the Heiau Ho'ona, ALIAKAE usually goes by her first name PUPUKA. She seems not to notice she still wears her head-lamp. In her utility-vest, as well as in several others places such as her ankles or forearms, she holsters all kinds of weapons, guns, knives, and all the tools of her "trade". All the Mercenaries wear a similar "uniform", based on need and portability.]

Ya, she white too!

Poliahu gonna pop those white pimples!!

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, VICTOR, LINDA-LOU

[All raise their glasses and drink.]

Poliahu!!!...

MELEKIKEKEKA

And somethin' crazy, Victor...
 When we made camp,
 We found some entries to the lava tubes
 Way up on the *mauna*.
 And there were people down there,
 Living in the *mauna*...
 But different than you and me...
 Their eyes red like lava,
 Their skin the smell of kava...
 Just like yours!!...
 They call themselves "Dwellers Deep"...
 Weird, huh?
 And they say the "Surface Dwellers"
 From the telescopes broke in on them...
 Found them a while ago...
 But kept it all secret and hushed-up quiet...
 Why don't you drive up there...
 And see for yourself?

VICTOR

Yes, why don't I?!
 Tonight!!! With the Moon up high!
 I have a team of hounds
 Ten beasts together bound!
 How they love to run and pull my sled
 Up any steep *mauna*, to which I've them led!
[Victor drinks his kava.]

MELEKIKEKEKA

Why you talk so funny, Victor?...

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, VICTOR, LINDA-LOU

[All laugh. VICTOR orders another kava from the bartender...]

BARTENDER

[Prepares the kava and then serves it to VICTOR.]

He wahahe'e ke kū'ai

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, VICTOR, LINDA-LOU

[All laugh again. They continue to imbibe a variety of substances, talk amongst themselves...]

NEVIN

Sometimes, I can't even believe
WHY I'm stuck being a human!...

MELEKIKEKEKA

Stuck being human??
You wanna be pig or sumtin'?!

NEVIN

No!!
I mean...
Why are people...
So STUPID??

MELEKIKEKEKA

Ya, I know!
My whole family stupid!!

NEVIN

Ra-ight?...
And like...
Why we need so many LAWS?!
Everyone break da' rules!...
And then they jus' make more!...
And then...
With so much bool-sheet
Telling us what to do
Or not to do,...
How anyone gonna get
Anything DONE anymore!!...
Let alone get outta' bed in the morning?!

PUPUKA

[Downs her drink.]
Ya, I know!...
But Real World life
Tells ME what to do!!

VICTOR

Know people who can't get outta' bed!
Somethin' wrong with their head!!...

LINDA-LOU

[Laughs somewhat unconvincingly.]
Oh, Wikoli, you're so silly!

NEVIN

Doesn't matter!
What does matter...
'Zat sometimes ya' gotta take
A day to jus' stay home...
And say "fuck you!"
To the world...
Ya know??...

PUPUKA

Ya, I scream: "Fuck off shitheads!!"
Then feel all betta'!!...

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, VICTOR, LINDA-LOU
[All laugh, repeat "Fuck off shitheads!!", laugh more, and drink.]

MELEKIKEKEKA

Haha! I seen yo' gun scream
Lots louda' that!!...

PUPUKA

Ya,... well ya' gots ta take a day off!...

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, VICTOR, LINDA-LOU
[All laugh and drink again.]

NEVIN

What I said!!

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, VICTOR, LINDA-LOU
[All laugh, make various comments, and continue drinking.]

LINDA-LOU

Well I dunno... Isn't that what Sunday's for?...

[All heads (except VICTOR's) turn to look at LINDA-LOU in puzzlement, jaws dropped, eyebrows furled. Slight pause... then VICTOR reaches for the kava coconuts and serves another round for everyone, from the big bowl of kava the BARTENDER had previously set in front of the group...]

VICTOR

A day off?... I never need!
For I love the *hōlua* so, indeed!!
Love kava too, ya' know...
Deep in the ground, it likes to grow...
And when I drink, it connects me
To the hidden World beneath... you see?

MELEKIKEKEKA

[His voice a bit growly, as if clearing phlegm...]
Muhhh...
Is that all you want in life, Victor?...
Kava and *hōlua*?
I mean,...
Why do you love *hōlua* so much??...

VICTOR

I've always loved *hōlua*, I don't know why...
Other than that, I think you pry!

MELEKIKEKEKA

No, no... not prying...
Jus' wanna know
Isn't there somethin' that you miss?
Somethin' you really, really want?!...
Jus' look at that stripper over there...

NEVIN

Stripper??

MELEKIKEKEKA

[Points to the stripper in the Heiau Ho'ona's corner cabaret platform, far upstage, stage-right, removing her clothes.]
She gettin' bare...

NEVIN

She in first place!...

MELEKIKEKEKA

And me?...
I'm gettin' rich!
Can't you see
How I'm in first place?...
What about you, Victor?...
What do you want?

VICTOR

[VICTOR doesn't seem to "want" anything, at least nothing that most humans would consider... His attitude explains why Victor is so casual in everything, why he always seems happy-go-lucky, why others gravitate to him and his simplicity. Yet people also take advantage of VICTOR and what he gives them freely, as if they thought he had no personal interest in, or need for, material things... VICTOR's thoughts are elsewhere, in the beyond, on a grander scale, undoubtedly due to his true genetic heritage...]

I dunno' Mele... not for me to say
What I should have tomorrow... or today!
Sick of society,... always tell me what to do...
Manipulate for *maika'i* others,... never really... help me or you...

LINDA-LOU

What about your team, Victor?
Don't they help you??

VICTOR

[...Long pause, VICTOR sips more kava...]
Yes they do,
My dear Linda-Lou...
And like you say, Mele, I do want be first in somethin'...
First place in *hōlua*... any race... I vow to win!!!

MELEKIKEKEKA

That's the Spirit, Victor!!
You already won in my book!
You love the *hōlua* so.
That's too rare, these days...
We all see you ride your sled...
You one bad mutha'-faka'!

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, LINDA-LOU

[All raise their glasses to Victor (Linda-Lou a bit shyly) and repeat with proud laughter in their voices.]
He one bad mutha'-faka'!

VICTOR

[Sips more kava.]

To be, or not to be bad...
What is the lesson?
I'm happy, I'm sad...
That's never a question.
Why does this world demand
That we show it our hand?

[Sips more kava.]

Some ask me what I do...
Like asking why I live!
Would I need a reason to give?!!
Must I now justify...
The very air I breathe??
The food I eat?
The words I speak???!!
Can't I just BE???!!!!!!...

[VICTOR holds up his empty kava shell and signals for another round from the BARTENDER.]

BARTENDER

[Prepares the coconut shells of kava and then serves this next round to the group.]

He wahahe'e ke kū'ai

PUPUKA, MELEKIKEKEKA, NEVIN, VICTOR, LINDA-LOU

[All laugh heartily and drink and repeat:]

Just BE!!!!

NEVIN

That what John Lennon meant?...
"Let it be"??

PUPUKA

Ya, brah...
You play dat guitah jus' like 'im!

NEVIN

[Blushes, then starts to play a folky, old protest song.]
Ya, huh. Guess I just like to play guitah...

[The conversation becomes more heated...]

[From the front pocket of her utility vest, PUPUKA takes out a small trimmer-scissors and a container of dried Mercenary “bhang”. She opens this container and dumps its green, herbal contents into an empty plate, in front of her on the table. She switches her head-lamp to “ON” and aims its beam onto the plate of bhang. PUPUKA only moves this light away to directly speak to someone at the table, and then immediately returns the beam to her work, after speaking, so she can listen while trimming. As she and everyone continues to drink and talk, she expertly trims leaves away from the bhang flowers, then grinds the flowers and rolls a few cigarettes. The first she puts behind her right ear. The second she lights and begins to smoke, while continuing to roll more bhang-flower cigarettes. These she begins to load into a small cigarette case from her pocket, to save for later.]

MELEKIKEKEKA

Hey, Pupuka, can I hit off that please?

PUPUKA

Oh yeah, bradda, anytime! Here...

[She passes him the lit cigarette and continues to drink and roll more cigarettes.]

MELEKIKEKEKA

[Takes a puff, then exhales slowly, sips from his whiskey...]

Tha’ some good shit ya’ be bringin’ now!

PUPUKA

Ya, you like it, huh? Come over later and I get you some more...

MELEKIKEKEKA

I be there!

[Looks at Victor, holding the cigarette out to him...]

Victor?

VICTOR

Oh, yeah! Mahalo!

You my bro, no lolo...

[Takes a long drag from the cigarette, pauses calmly, then exhales a large plume of smoke...]

Bhang me red, bhang me black

Bhang me in the sack!!

[Everyone at the table laughs, drinks more, say random pleasantries... MELEKIKEKEKA and NEVIN look at each other, smile with raised eyebrows and repeat their usual “Why he talk so funny?!”, then make a toast and drink again... But LINDA-LOU has clearly reached her limit.]

LINDA-LOU

Wikoli Wong!! How can you talk like that??!

Here you are, drinking and smoking and carrying-on!...

[Abruptly gets up from her seat, adjusts her shoulders and tightens her coat, to prepare her exit to the outdoors.]

But you know,... I have to wake up early in the morning

And I'm not wasting any more time here tonight.

I'm going home, so just be quiet

When you get back, okay?

[Exits in a huff.]

VICTOR

[Stands up with arm reached out towards the now-departed LINDA-LOU.]

Linda-Lou, do not fret,

I will prove my valor, you can bet!

[Remains standing a moment, realizes LINDA-LOU has truly left for the night.

Then slowly sits back down, looks at his empty kava bowl, then lifts his arm again to call the BARTENDER for another round.]

PUPUKA

[Approaches closer to the sullen VICTOR...]

Victor... What you plan on doin'?

[She tries to get eye contact, but VICTOR seems pre-occupied...]

MELEKIKEKEKA

He goin' up the *mauna*... Right, Victor?

[Looks at VICTOR, who still seems oblivious...]

Victor?...

VICTOR

[Is it the kava speaking?...]

There's something in the air

A faint breeze, a perfume fair...

You ask what I desire,

Of that question I so tire!

I know I should want, but I don't!

I should yearn, but I won't!!

I feel I'm me,... yet who am I?

What is my life?... Why must I die?

NEVIN

[Rolls his eyes]

Dude, you are too heavy!!

MELEKIKEKEKA

No, he's got a point... Plenty people feel the same.

PUPUKA

A “disalignment” in your inner self...
Victor, you’re not in sync with your Spirit!!!

MELEKIKEKEKA

Victor, we know exactly what you mean!
In fact, we started to notice the same thing
With people who got taken from their homes,
At too early of an age.
We call it “life displacement”.

VICTOR

You say “life displacement”?...
That like a bedroom in the basement??

MELEKIKEKEKA

Hahaha, you could say that!
We also found that it disappears
When these people find their original parents and home.
They suddenly remember who they are!...
And then how to live happily again...

PUPUKA

[Lights a new bhang cigarette, speaks while toking.]
Yeah! Too many people
Live in a false “society”...
They brag...
Show-off...
Take selfies...
It’s all the same.
All based in ENVY!!

VICTOR

Envy I do not!
Life is a gift, not to be bought!!
I do NOT want what others have...
What I want is... is...

MELEKIKEKEKA

You should go up the *mauna*, Victor.

VICTOR

Should I?...
What for? And why?...
All I truly know is love for hōlua.
So you all stay, drink kahlua...

NEVIN

[Reaches for another drink.]
I can do this...

VICTOR

[VICTOR abruptly stands up, declares his intention, and drains his last cup of kava]
Now I must go!
To you my friends, a big *mahalo*.

PUPUKA

[Among her many talents, PUPUKA ALIAKAE LILI'UOKALANI lists mentalism. Yet in VICTOR's mind, she sees only thick walls of fog... PUPUKA tries to lure VICTOR to sit back down, subtly positions her body to show more of her cleavage to him, and offers him more of her bhang cigarette...]
What you thinkin', Victor??
I... I... can't read you!...
What you thinkin'??

VICTOR

[Seemingly oblivious to PUPUKA's advances, VICTOR speaks and then exits the main doors of the Heiau Ho'ona, sets off for the Mauna with great determination. Twisted Sister's "I Will Win" plays on the Heiau Ho'ona's music speakers...]
I will return!
My mission, do not spurn...
Soon I will tell
How I broke this spell!!

PUPUKA

[Amazed VICTOR didn't go home with her...]
Why he talk so funny!?

Act 11, Scene 3

In the parking area, a short distance removed from the Heiau Ho'ona, Victor solemnly walks over to his home-made uphill hōlua, a specialized sled made from light-weight aluminum and bearing eighteen small wheels beneath its rafters.

VICTOR

What use to heed the laws,
The random guesses of strangers
That dictate what I should or should not do?
When life with all its flaws,
Its perils, pits and dangers,
Demands I LIVE it, simply TRUE!!

[With these words, VICTOR bridles-up his team of ten massive pit-bulls to his uphill hōlua, jumps on, and sets out up the mauna, to the domains of Kea and Poliahu. The sled should point uphill now. The pit-bulls howl their pleasure and VICTOR joins them in the howling. His mask now resembles a wolf's face, with a very long snout. VICTOR thrills with the feeling of speed and power, going UP the Mauna. The lighting is the dark night, with focus of lights ahead on the road, like tunnel-vision. The scenery flies past, in a stream of darkened greens and black...]

Music plays in the background: Deep Purple's "Highway Star". VICTOR continues to howl with his beasts, laughs with extreme pleasure! Suddenly, as VICTOR nears the Mauna Kea Access Road, KEAKA emerges from a hidden lava tunnel amongst the barren lava fields. She seems to "flow" into the middle of the road in front of VICTOR! He immediately turns his uphill hōlua away from the ghastly sight, but in doing so, he attracts the attention of police at a road-block near the KE KIPI encampment. Two police vehicles speed towards VICTOR and pull him over.]

OFFICER STANTLEY

[Walks over to VICTOR.]

Your eyes look very red. Have you been drinking kava?

VICTOR

[VICTOR's eyes are red naturally, as for all the Dwellers Deep.]

A horrible sight!
Keep it away from the light!
Such gruesome a face...
What curse lies in this place??

SECOND OFFICER

Why he talk so funny??

OFFICER STANTLEY

Ok, get off your *hōlua*.
You stink of kava!!
Where's your insurance and registration?

[Being of Dweller-Deep blood, yet this fact still hidden to him, VICTOR's breath smells like kava naturally! He hands the officer his papers.]

OFFICER STANTLEY

Walk this white line to me for fifteen steps,
Heel-to-toe, heel-to-toe,...
Wid' yo' hand over yo' left eye.

VICTOR

Ahahaha!!! Thou hast verily
Begun to play a GAME with me!
I shall oblige your folly...
So you will see!!...

[Covers his right eye with his left hand.]

SECOND OFFICER

No!!... The otha' eye!!

[Keeping his left hand over his right eye, now VICTOR also covers his left eye with his right hand, crossing his right arm over the left. With arms crossed thus, and both eyes covered, he walks heel-to-toe along the white line to the officer. He does this SCARY FAST! And then stands inches in front of the OFFICER STANTLEY's face, with both eyes still covered, and exhales loudly into STANTLEY's bewildered face. With his wolf mask, VICTOR towers over the puny OFFICERS, quite intimidatingly!]

VICTOR

Hhhhhhhhhhhhhooooooooooooowwwwwwwwwww did I do, officer?

[VICTOR pauses while the officer's eyes bulge, his face reddening instantly and looking like a steam kettle that's ready to blow its whistle very loudly!...]

...Do you have a sister?...

[This question seems non-sequitur, yet VICTOR often converses thus, able to change subjects in a flash. In this case, he thought perhaps the officer had a pretty sibling he might be able to meet and get to know the officer's family better (a typically innocent attitude of VICTOR's)...]

OFFICER STANTLEY

[Explodes!]

You STINK of kava!!!!!!

And why you talk so funny??!?!?!?

VICTOR

[Apparently ignoring the officer's temper tantrum, as if he's used to this kind of intense reaction in people. VICTOR knows he will always get to their better side, eventually!]

Oooo! Mahalo nui loa

I have more... if you're a goa'!

[VICTOR starts to break dance, flips in the air, and performs all sorts of acrobatics.]

[VICTOR's antics attract a crowd of all the POLICE stationed nearby, as well as TOURISTS (who also came to see the KE KIPi encampment), and some members of KE KIPi. The latter send reports to base camp. They do not use wireless devices to communicate, since these can be too-easily tapped-into. Instead, they employ MESSENGERS on scooters. KE KIPi then signal a waiting supply truck to "make a break for it" up the mauna, up to their encampment, with their much-needed supplies, right past the empty POLICE barricade. The POLICE were away from their post for over an hour!]

OFFICER STANTLEY

I have to be honest with you.

That was quite a show

And we're all very impressed.

But if you smell at all of kava,

I have to place you under arrest.

You might be too numb and hurt yourself.

VICTOR

Ho, then mahaloa nui *[sic]*

To you again, Officer Stantley!

Perhaps we should go and imbibe

Some kava together to pass the tide?

SECOND OFFICER

Why you talk so funny?...

[The SECOND OFFICER holds handcuffs out and cuffs VICTOR, then leads him to their car...]

[Lighting dims to reveal a clear, starry night, the celestial sphere visible from Mauna Kea's summit. The stars remain, before the lighting for the next scene slowly fades-in...]

Act III, Scene 1

The Police Station, with grey-black walls and very narrow chambers. However, there's no ceiling, only the night sky of stars above the very tall walls. CHIEF KANAKA operates from behind a bullet-proofed window, as if a projection on a 3-dimensional screen in an aquarium. There's only one, metal stool for Victor. The building is cold. OFFICER STANTLEY directs VICTOR to the stool, for his "interview". VICTOR wears a large, glossy, white mask that looks almost completely blank, except for its huge nose and large, circular, black eyes.

CHIEF KANAKA

[He raises his eyebrows, considers VICTOR's reputation as a famous sledder.]
Wikola Wikola Wong, eh?

VICTOR

Oh! you know my name!
But call me Victor, it's all the same.
My foster parents are Wong
And the story's quite long...

CHIEF KANAKA

Hmmm, maybe skip that for now.
That your home-made uphill *hōlua*, right?

VICTOR

Yes, that and the pit-bulls.
It's them that pulls.

CHIEF KANAKA

I see... Well perhaps you will be of some help to us...
We've been watching you for a while
You have quite a reputation around here!
You and your love of the *hōlua*
And we know about your "interaction" with some of the *Ke Kipi*...
Ah,... but I'm telling you too much...
You look very healthy.
Any special diet?

VICTOR

Lotsa chili peppa' wata'...
But carbs not a lotta'

CHIEF KANAKA

Interesting...

*[CHIEF KANAKA marks down Victor's responses, as they continue the interview.
He seems overly interested in VICTOR's athletic life.]*

Empty everything from your pockets

OFFICER STANTLEY

[Tries unsuccessfully to remove VICTOR's mask.]

Does this thing come off??

VICTOR

What?!... We at a *lā'au māka'i*?...
Could be my mask *haipule*

OFFICER STANTLEY

*[Stands away from VICTOR, in fear of what he might do. Then indicates a
smaller, adjoining room. Here a medic waits to take a sample of VICTOR's
blood.]*

Alright, follow me.

CHIEF KANAKA

[Speaks to the medic.]

At least it'll be easy to find a vein!

MEDIC

Must be that low-carb diet...

VICTOR

Ummmmm, thanks??
You through with your pranks?

CHIEF KANAKA

Troublemaker...

MEDIC

*[The medic takes a sample of VICTOR's blood. This immediately breaks out of
the vial and "crawls" away, makes the medic practically jump to the ceiling!]*

What the!!!...

VICTOR

How!! Hast I forgot to mention
My ichor of other dimension?

MEDIC

What??!!
Why you talk so funny?!!
And what WAS that?!!?!

CHIEF KANAKA

Now I've seen it all...
[Takes out a whiskey bottle and pours himself a double.]
You have a girlfriend, Victor?

VICTOR

A girl named Linda-Lou is my friend.
I love her to no end.
But she left me tonight.
I hate it when we fight.

CHIEF KANAKA

She know about your condition?

VICTOR

This secret I do keep
So Linda-Lou may sleep

CHIEF KANAKA

Understand... Can't tell everything to women.

[Inside the office beyond the glass, we now see another officer moving about, filing papers and helping to run the police station. Ironically, it's PUPUKA ALIAKAE LILI'UOKALANI, now in her disguise as a male officer "LUCAS". VICTOR doesn't recognize her.]

CHIEF KANAKA

[Pours another whiskey in a new glass and refills his own.]
You drink?

VICTOR

Only "on occasion"
Could this be one?

["LUCAS" walks out from the office with the drink for VICTOR, who readily accepts it and quaffs it down. The medic goes into CHIEF KANAKA's office and pours himself a triple, downs it in one gulp. CHIEF KANAKA finishes his second and pours himself another.]

CHIEF KANAKA

[The CHIEF hands VICTOR a giant stack of papers to complete.]

Here you go. Fill out these papers by tomorrow.
The penalty for driving an uphill *hōlua*,
After even one sip of *kava*, is severe.
Explain why you need to live.

[VICTOR accepts the stack of papers without a word. Though he usually speaks verbosely, he often chooses to let others do the talking. OFFICER STANTLEY escorts VICTOR from the building, and now they stand outside under the stars. STANTLEY re-enters the station.]

“LUCAS”

You really got them with da’ blood sample, Victor!

VICTOR

[Suddenly recognizes her.]

Aliakae!...

“LUCAS”

Shhhhh!! They don’t know!
No Mercs allowed in police...
So I’m incog...

CHIEF KANAKA

[Walks out to join “LUCAS” and VICTOR.]

I hear you like acrobatics!

[Takes off his glasses and sets them down near the door.]

I got some in me too, ya’ know...

[CHIEF KANAKA tries to act like VICTOR, to impress his girlfriend “LUCAS”. The chief knows PUPUKA’s true identity, because she managed to seduce him into secret sympathy for KE KIPI; but the other officers don’t know. CHIEF KANAKA does a few cartwheels, then some flips. VICTOR watches silently. The chief gets so caught-up in his own acrobatics, he cartwheels offstage, leaving VICTOR alone with PUPUKA.]

“LUCAS”

It was perfect, Victor!
You tricked ‘em good,
And we got the truck through.

VICTOR

The truck?
What a bout of luck!

“LUCAS”

Yep, now we have all the food
And *bhang* and *kava* we need...
At least for the next few weeks.
After Kanaka finished, we go, okay?

CHIEF KANAKA

[CHIEF KANAKA cartwheels back onto the stage and does a few more tricks while the others look on. Then KANAKA stops in front of the other two, a puzzled look on his face. Starts to look all around the area, but misses the spot near the door, where he placed his glasses.]

VICTOR

[Clearly notices KANAKA's glasses near the door.]
Your spectacles, are they lost?
I'll show them to you, free of cost!
[VICTOR points out the chief's glasses.]

CHIEF KANAKA

[With a sour look on his face, retrieves his glasses. Then goes back inside the station and immediately returns with a new document for VICTOR.]
Here's yo' pardon.
Don't say nothin' 'bout it.
You lucky.
Because you on the *hōlua* team...
Have a nice life.
[Goes back into the station.]

PUPUKA

Follow me, Victor!
[She leads VICTOR to a secret tunnel, a lava tube hidden within a large, black lava embankment...]

Act III, Scene 2

The Underground. Members of KE KIPi walk busily around a large underground cave, illuminated with propane torches. The walls are black lava. High-tech control panels line one wall. Next to this, a bay holds an advanced version of papa hōlua, made of highly-polished and reinforced 'Ohia wood. Some KE KIPi wear lab coats and carry clipboards. Others appear dressed in more military fashion. A scant few number of Mercenaries try to stand inconspicuously in random spots, their head-lamps and array of weapons the tell-tale sign of their specialized skills.

PUPUKA ALIAKAE LILI'UOKALANI enters from a side tunnel. She still wears her police uniform, but people recognize her and now call her by her middle name ALIAKAE. VICTOR follows close behind, carefully ducks his head through the entrance, and then shows his utter amazement upon viewing this complex KE KIPi underground base of operations.

MELEKIKEKEKA

[Wears a lab coat now, and walks over from an area filled with control boards and high-tech equipment, where other technicians monitor various screens, dials and controls.]

Victor! So glad you finally made it!

We all saw you at the road-block!

What you did was perfect!

Your distraction made it so our truck got through easy!

Mahalo nui loa loa loa loa!!!!

[Shakes his hand then passes VICTOR a bhang cigarette, then a shell of kava, and finally a lama pa'ipa'i 'ia. As MELEKIKEKEKA talks, other REBELS approach, to include one other MERCENARY.]

VICTOR

[Takes a puff of the cigarette then hands it to ALIAKAE. Accepts the kava in one hand, then holds the lama pa'ipa'i 'ia in the other.]

Aye, I'm here, just as you insisted!

I feel so welcome, see! Double-fisted!!

MELEKIKEKEKA

Jus' don' get all twisted!...

[All laugh, pass the bhang cigarette around...]

Let me explain why we're here.

When some of our members discovered an entry

Into these tunnels that permeate the insides of Mauna Kea,

We met-up with some very special people.

Very ancient people too!

I can't tell you much about them.

Knowledge of the Dwellers Deep must be kept

TOP SECRET for now.

They gave us this place

When they learned we are *Ke Kipi!*

Because they side with us against the government...

Against the "Surface Dwellers" government

And those who would destroy their home...

[Pauses...]

Victor, we need your special help...

See these petroglyphs?

[He directs their attention to a small section of the cavern. Here, ancient Hawaiian petroglyphs indicate a special hōlua next to a tree growing with ferns.]

Even though it's only a partial fragment,

This ancient artwork tells a story.

Do you see the *hōlua*?

VICTOR

[Walks closer to the petroglyph on the cavern wall.]

A *hōlua* such as this...

How could it exist?

ALIAKAE

It looks so streamlined

And... so many rafters!

MELEKIKEKEKA

Correct!

And look at the tree next to it...

[Points to the tree drawn next to the ancient hōlua.]

VICTOR

'*Ohia!* The first to grow

After the lava ceases to flow...

MELEKIKEKEKA

Correct again!

The fern is its companion, as are the *kava* vines...

ALIAKAE

But... what part gone?

MELEKIKEKEKA

That, we dunno'.....
 Could be another *hōlua*?...
 Or,... look here.
 Looks like da' mouth of a lava tube...
 And that *hōlua* clearly aimed straight in it!

VICTOR

The fabled *lava hōlua*!...
 By all the *makua*!!

MELEKIKEKEKA

Yes! Exactly right!
 A very special *lava hōlua*!
 'Cuz the glyph for 'Ohia tells...
 Make *lava hōlua*... out of 'Ohia!...

ALIAKAE

Because 'Ohia knows the lava so well!
 That's why you built the new one from 'Ohia!

MELEKIKEKEKA

Yes, Aliakae.
 'Ohia for strength, durability against lava
 And them fern fronds to give it glide
 Plus kava vines with which to bind...
 And we have the perfect copy
 Of the ancient, fabled *lava hōlua*!

VICTOR

[Starts to eagerly move towards the papa hōlua in the docking bay, next to the control area. Balances his two drinks carefully, then sips at the kava while looking more closely at the reproduced lava sled.]

*This papa hōlua...
 Is also made of 'Ohia?
 So smooth and shines newa',
 It cure my piapia!*

[All laugh, pass the bhang cigarette around again.]

MELEKIKEKEKA

Victor, we need you to ride this new *lava hōlua*.
It's experimental... a prototype,
And we need a test run...

VICTOR

For this, I say okay!
Take it to *kahua*... today!

MELEKIKEKEKA

Haha... No, this one not for outside...
Come over *hea*'...

[MELEKIKEKEKA leads VICTOR and ALIAKAE to the opening of another lava tunnel, in front of the lava hōlua.]

ALIAKAE

Whoa! This tunnel so smooth!!
What make it like that?

MELEKIKEKEKA

Actually, we're not sure...
But it's smooth like glass for miles!
We tried to see as much as we could
But the tunnel goes too far...
Maybe to the center of *Ao*!

VICTOR

To the center of *Ao*!?...
Or maybe a passage too narrow!

MELEKIKEKEKA

We don't know, and the Dwellers won't tell us.
They've only shown themselves once since they gave us this place.
They want us to help them
To fight the telescope people
Who try to drill into their homes inside the *Mauna*.
They prefer to stay hidden, and can you blame them?
Us "Surface Dwellers" are the reason they went underground
Thousands of years ago!

ALIAKAE

They don't tell you anything about this passage?

MELEKIKEKEKA

No. Nothing except that
Only an expert at *hōlua*
Can go into the tunnel...

VICTOR

'Tis I, the *hōlua* expert!!
Except I usually ride ABOVE the dirt!

[All laugh, pass the bhang cigarette around. VICTOR empties his kava, asks for another, sips at the strong lama pa'ipa'i 'ia...]

MELEKIKEKEKA

Wikola, we're gonna give you this camera...
[Hands VICTOR a helmet with GoPro attached.]
It's got a Wifi, so we can watch what you watch, from here.
[Points to the control area, with all its screens and gadgets.]

VICTOR

Get... get me another shell...
Look like it gonna' be Hell!

ALIAKAE

You might be right, Victor!
Hell with fire, under the Ao,
You be all alone there,
Just you and Lono...
[Lights a new bhang cigarette.]

MELEKIKEKEKA

This is your "flight suit", Victor.
It should keep you safe.
We tested it at Halema'uma'u...

VICTOR

[VICTOR quickly downs his fresh kava shell and the last of his mixed drink, takes a puff of the bhang, and dons the protective suit and helmet. Then he makes a sign over his chest, presses the GoPro's record button, and jumps onto the lava hōlua head-first as always. VICTOR pushes his way to the gaping mouth of the glass-smooth lava tube. With these next words, he and his hōlua glide into the tunnel, and disappear into the depths of Ao!]

Fabled lava he'e *hōlua*!
To Hell in a wormhole *kahua*!!

[Everyone in the control room falls silent. You could hear a pin drop, it's so tense. Then a blurring picture comes into view on a few of the screens, and people breathe a sigh of relief. VICTOR appears to be flying headfirst down the lava tunnel, into the depths of the Earth, at an unimaginable speed. It almost looks like Space Travel!]

ALIAKAE and MELEKIKEKEKA

[ALIAKAE and MELEKIKEKEKA look at each other, do a double-take towards the tunnel, look back at each other, and both say...]

Why he talk so funny?!!

[Lights go down, except for a reddish glow. Whooshing sounds, as of a great, hot wind, fill the eerie silence...]

Act III, Scene 3

VICTOR rides the lava sled through tunnel walls of black obsidian. It resembles the luge, except VICTOR always rides head-first. From his helmet-cam, the video feed looks to the KE KIPi like an endless water park “free-fall tube”, with only scant light reflecting silver and white from the smooth tunnel walls, flying past at inconceivable speed.

ALIAKE and MELEKIKEKEKA communicate with VICTOR via his in-helmet intercom. We hear their voices, but do not see them now.

VICTOR wears a Mask of Obsidian, pure black with silver reflective edges. The flying descent downward in the lava tunnel continues for the longest twenty minutes VICTOR has ever experienced. A giant digital clock quickly counts-down the time in high-speed, so the audience can feel its passing. We hear loud music all around, very dark music, a deep pounding that wants to leap out of existence yet cannot!

ALIAKAE

[Over the intercom speaker...]

Victor!! How are you feeling?!

VICTOR

This ride is like no other!

So fast,... where my mother?!

MELEKIKEKEKA

[Over the intercom speaker...]

Stay calm, Victor!

Dwellers said it safe

But only for an expert like you.

You can do this!

Stay on the horse!!

Ride it out!!!

ALIAKAE

[Over the intercom speaker...]

Yes, Victor! Ride it out!!!

VICTOR

Seems to have no end!...
So many twist and bend...
My heart, it races!...
Hard to breathe, in places...

*[Begins to go limp, presumably passing out from the endless weightless falling.
Then immediately shakes himself awake again.]*

MELEKIKEKEKA

[Over the intercom speaker...]

Stay with it, Victor!
You can do this!!...

[The view and video-feed begin to change, very subtly at first. Miniscule sparkles of rainbow-luminescent color begin to reflect from the tunnel walls. They pulsate and grow larger, until the walls beam with a rainbow light streaming past VICTOR. It resembles a "light-speed" passage.

Then the light becomes amazingly bright, as VICTOR's lava hōlua ejects from the end of the lava tunnel... into a seemingly empty space.]

VICTOR

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!!!!
It's THE EEEEEEEEEEEEEENNNNNDDDDDDDD!...

MELEKIKEKEKA

[Over the intercom speaker...]

Open your eyes, Victor!

VICTOR

|||||... |||||...
WHA???

[VICTOR sees a Sacred Hidden City beneath him, in the mega-giant cave at the end of the lava tunnel. This space could fit three Tokyos, and he flies down towards it like a falling star, holding onto his hōlua for dear life...]

Also beneath him, a dark shape coalesces. Like a black cloud of mist, it rises up towards him. Oceans of red and orange lava fill the landscape below, bridged by a complex system of hardened black lava ramparts. This is the DWELLERS DEEP'S Underground World, within the bowels of Mauna Kea.]

KEAKA

[Flies up towards VICTOR, on the giant Dragon's wings that sprout from her latissimus dorsi. She leads a multitude of LĀ'MEA, a swarm of Winged LĀ'MEA come to greet their prophesied return-visitor.]

My hero of the *hōlua*!
I'm here to catch you!!!

VICTOR

[Completely exhausted and suddenly under a severe panic attack at seeing the horror of KEAKA once again, VICTOR faints and loses hold of his sled.]
ooooooooooooooooooooooooohh...

KEAKA

[Catches VICTOR in her arms, while the other LĀ'MEA grab the lava hōlua.]
Home we go!!
[KEAKA leads the horde of Flying LĀ'MEA back to their lair...]

Act IV, Scene 1

SETTING: KEAKA's Lair, a very warm section of the Underground World... The walls glow bright crimson-red from the glow of a multitude of lava pools, where the LĀ'MEA live. Most of the LĀ'MEA now sink down into their respective lava pools, to recharge themselves after their swift flight upwards.

Hardened lava formations create shelves and ledges, where some of the LĀ'MEA recline or busy themselves with Enchanted Crystal works.

Near KEAKA, VICTOR sleeps on a raised lava bed, his now-naked-again body covered with black silk. He wears a Red Mask, one which greatly resembles the lava contortions of KEAKA's own visage, except for the Red Mask's very prominent nose.

VICTOR

[Begins to move his feet and hands, then sits straight up in a sudden panic!]
HŌLUA!!!!

[He turns his head and now recognizes KEAKA!! VICTOR jumps to his feet and makes to run away, but stops dead in his tracks, when he sees the lava all around...]

KEAKA

'Ano'i hero of the hōlua!
Please do not scare!!
I will not harm you.
I am here for you.
I am Keaka.

[She walks towards Victor, her arms outstretched like flowing lava octopus arms.]

VICTOR

[Moves as far away from Keaka as possible, without falling backwards into a pit of lava.]

STOP THERE!!
You are no maiden fair!!
A hideous creature!
I don't sign-up for this feature!!
I...
I...

KEAKA

[Moves slowly like an Enchantress, cautiously, closer to VICTOR. She looks very deeply into his eyes, her own like swirling whirlpools of flaming lava. VICTOR becomes frozen in her hypnotic stare. KEAKA realizes the extent of VICTOR's horror, so she shape-shifts into a beautiful maiden, beautiful except for the unchanged deformity of her wasted nose... KEAKA's words seem to hiss and envelope VICTOR, like the steam which rises from within the mauna...]

Does my form not suit you better now,
 'Ano'i hero of the *hōlua*?...
 Come, let me stand close to you...
 I have something you must hear!...
 Do you think Wikoli
 Be your true name?
 For decades, the Elders
 Have spoken of you...
 Foretold your return...
 Yet only 'Ailā'au
 Can tell you
 Your true name
 Your true identity...
 And why it is
 That you love
 The *hōlua* so...

VICTOR

[Frozen in the lava vampire's clutches, can barely move his mouth. Yet remembers the name of 'AILĀ'AU, from the deepest recesses of his brain...]

'Ailā'au??...
 ...How?...

KEAKA

[Appears to "flow" in her movements, right up close to VICTOR now. She holds her lithe body a fraction of a millimeter away from his tensed, muscular mass. As KEAKA carefully removes VICTOR's Red Mask, she sees how beautiful he is underneath. Finally revealed, his true nose appears normal-sized. She moves her dreadful face even closer to his, then calmly touches her forehead to VICTOR's.]

Let me remove the mask...
 Be still...
 Ahhhhh...
 I see you now...
 You've grown to be
 So beautiful...

VICTOR

[Feels the warmth of KEAKA's lava-skin, feels the electricity of her Spirit, feels the magnetic pull of her immortalized body in his loins.]

Ooooouuuu... you are so hot!!

I could melt on the spot!!

KEAKA

Then do it now 'Ano'i!

KEAKA & VICTOR

[Both VICTOR's and KEAKA's lips open to greet each other very deeply, and as their tongues intertwine and pull their mouths together, their noses collide. Except being a LĀ'MEA, there's no nose on KEAKA's face, and Victor's nose sinks deeply into KEAKA's lava-burned, empty nose socket. Their bodies become perfectly still, completely peaceful, completely content in simply holding together this unexpected Union. Their combined energies rise like electric wildfire, twisting upwards with bright, electric-blue lightning. Then they sink down together, bodies completely intertwined, into KEAKA's lava pool. Her body completely envelopes VICTOR in its protective power. He instinctively curls into the fetal position... like a baby returned to its warm womb. KEAKA's LĀ'MEA flesh shivers with love.

Now KEAKA and VICTOR speak in unison, a deep, breathless, steamy whisper, released together as a completed, single organism for the first time.]

Ho'onipo...

Act IV, Scene 2

SETTING: 'AILĀ'AU's parlor room. Warriors of Kū eerily stand in the background, dark, silhouetted shapes of giant humanoids with six arms, each holding a weapon or shield of various, lethal types. Seven Elders sit with 'AILĀ'AU at the circular table. A fountain of lava calmly flows in the center of the table, in eight cardinal directions.

ELDER #1

The Ancestral Spirits of the Dead have spoken.
It is Time.

KEAKA

[Flows into the room, followed by VICTOR, who wears no mask now. KEAKA's appearance remains as in the previous scene.]

Finally!

Here is your Victor...

VICTOR

'Ailā'au? Are you the god?
Nice clothes! Nice bod!!

'AILĀ'AU

Silence! "Victor" of the Surface Dwellers...
You seem so casual, like one of the fellas.
But now you must learn the Truth
Of your True Name, and your Birth.

VICTOR

I have a true name?

[Scratches his chin, eyes pointed upwards, seemingly unaffected.]
Thought they're all the same...

ELDER #2

Yes, "Victor", you have a name
Known only to us.
We play no game,...
Do not fuss.
Your Father will tell you...

VICTOR

My Father???...
He in Kona, don't bother.

ELDER #3

Were you not adopted?...
[Pauses, as a blank look crosses VICTOR's face...]
Your True Father stands before you!

VICTOR

Here, in this World beneath the ground?...
My True Father to be found??...
[Pauses...]
In my youth and throughout life,
Others constantly caused me strife.
Envious of me, when at school
Had to dumb myself down, jus' to be "cool".
In Sports, I got lazy, lost motivation
Slept-in past noon and drank with devotion!
I slaved for others to be respected,
And never achieved what I expected.
[Pauses...]
Except with the *hōlua*, the lava sled...
That caused in others only dread.

ELDER #4

We see exactly your struggle...
Born different
From the Surface Dwellers.
You know this Truth.

VICTOR

Yes, for when *hōlua* showed me my talent
I began to wonder how I got this bent.
Re-developed my mind,
Healed my body with medicine kind.
'Twas easy to change my future,
While most viewed me as a freak of nature.

ELDER #5

Victor, you are no freak.
Please, continue to speak.

VICTOR

My adoptive parents tried to keep it hidden
When they saw how my *hōlua* ridden.
Like “super” powers they didn’t get...
But stop me, I didn’t let!

ELDER #6

There’s Irony in “freedom” which never feels free,
Until we remember True Identity.

VICTOR

Never did I yearn for love,
Nor feel inadequate or ugly, below or above...
All I felt was very lonely amongst the Surface Dwellers,
People who seemed so superficial for fellers...
I asked myself why...

KEAKA

[Breaks-in on VICTOR’s soliloquizing.]
I too, was so very lonely!

VICTOR

[With KEAKA, he speaks more intimately.]
’Tis best to be alone, or with everyone!
But never allege to any single party
Lest betrayal rear its ugly head once again!
However...
It’s ok for you to stay with me now,
After all the times you took me by surprise!
Most fiery of *Lā’mea* women, because you are truly exceptional...
But no doubt, you will soon tire of my companionship
After being with me, just like all the others
Who came before you...

KEAKA

Victor! I will never tire!!!!
I am *Lā’mea* vampire!!

ELDER #7

Your Father is ‘Ailā’au.

VICTOR

[Completely astounded.]
What?! The Forest-Eater God of Fire???
To what conditions must I now aspire??!

‘AILĀ‘AU

[Stands and addresses his son.]

Your True Name is:
Kaiapuni hā hāluahō kūakuamanamakanaponohīmeni
But Kaleo and I used to call you
Hīmeni...

VICTOR

Hīmeni!!
I remember now!
But so much still blank...

‘AILĀ‘AU

[Goes to hug his son.]

Give it time my son...
[Pauses, looks VICTOR deep in the eyes...]
By the way, that stuff you was sayin’ earlier...
Dat some crazy shit!
[Regally walks back and sits down again.]
Now listen to me...
Let’s get you up to speed...

Long ago, our human race spread
From Continent to Continent.
Descendants of Jacob, Noah, even Adam,
We fully populated Ao...
To its very brim...

The World was different...
Volcanoes much more active.
And Ao trembled often...

At that time,
My own Father taught me
To harness Energies
Others could not...
And so they sought
My help often.

But, one horrid day,
A Cosmic Catastrophe
Struck Ao by surprise.
The result?
Many parts of the Continents sank
Below the Great Waters...

'AILĀ'AU (Cont'd)

Those of us trapped alive deep under,
 Learned to live in the Beneath.
 And as we survived,
 We changed...

Dweller-Deep blood is unique
 Each cell can become
 A fully-grown creature
 With similar genetics to the OG
 Y'know,...
 The fast and easy way to clone!!!
 We've been doing it for millennia!!!!

Though each may only become a familiar
 To the OG
 Each responds still
 To the OG
 Familiar and OG share
 A unique Psychic Connection,
 As if a single individual...

Their forms can be unpredictable
 And all, so Fantastic!!!!...
 Any kind of creature you could imagine...
 But always different,...
 Depending on When
 The dauntless Blood Cell
 Broke free
 From the OG's body...

Blood samples can be very dangerous!
 Can create colonies of familiars,
 Enough creatures to populate the World!!

Yet only the ones that the OG reacts with
 Survive,...
 Like having pets...

Unless the OG imbues a Familiar with
 "Purpose" Mana, and
 Gives them a Soul...
 In which case...
 They may become Independent Beings,
 While always in perfect allegiance to the OG.

‘AILĀ‘AU (Cont’d)

Together, All Creatures create the Tree of Life
Its Roots are The Past
Its Branches The Future.

That is the
Only Being Immortal,
Life Itself.
Something nobody comprehends
Why or how Life came to be.
By the Sun God Kāne...

[The red-orange glow of the cavern fades into bright yellow, then curtain...]

Act V, Scene 1

This scene intentionally left open-ended, to provide each theater to interpret and improvise...

Back at the gym...

VICTOR returns to the Surface to continue his Hawai'i National Hōlua team training for the 2020 Olympics. His discovery of True Identity and his birthplace in the Underground World feels like a dream that surfaced from the Ocean and became an Island. He is the son of the God of Fire, and he now has the protection, love and companionship of the LĀ'MEA — what he unknowingly wanted but always feared, for lack of understanding...

Before entering the gym, VICTOR encounters MELEKIKEKEKA, who rides a bicycle...

MELEKIKEKEKA

Glad to see you're still alive!

VICTOR

[At first doesn't recognize his friend...]

Likewise!

[Now remembers...]

Oh, Mele! Sorry... I didn't recognize...

MELEKIKEKEKA

I bet!!

You been outta' touch

Almost a month now Victor!

We thought we had

A dead body on our hands!

VICTOR

Yeah, I should tell you the full story

Not now though, kinda' in a hurry...

MELEKIKEKEKA

Alright brudda'...
You take it easy.
But we want a full report soon!...
See you later at the *Heiau*?

VICTOR

Sounds good.
Now I workout like I should...

[VICTOR enters the gym. Here he becomes like a super-star. Lifting weights is so natural and fun for VICTOR. He starts drumming, dancing and singing; and others join in. It gets ridiculous!]

FLASH!! absurd scene of a large group of naked, frenzied, drooling, howling, and very horny women ATHLETES chasing after VICTOR. VICTOR is naked too, except for his "Big Hawaiian" mask, with the big nose.

ABSURD scene, where all the ATHLETES start to dance in the weight-training room. Turns into a musical bit, like in HAIRSPRAY or any other cheesy musical. A disco ball begins to turn and illuminate the gym room with patterns of ANIMALS?? DOLPHINS HAVING SEX???

Cheesy lyrics and cheesy CHORUS, all about how VICTOR is so strong and smart and how everyone envies him and has made his life very lonely and what's he gonna do? ATHLETES dance with their weight machines, praising them like lovers, wiping them down like they had feelings, very attentive to them. They also dance with or to their reflections, pursing their lips in the mirror, and blowing kisses at themselves...]

Act V, Scene 2

After the workout, and being chased around town, VICTOR finds LINDA-LOU at the nail salon. They hail a Lyft to get home. VICTOR hasn't yet told LINDA-LOU about KEAKA... LINDA-LOU rides with him for the last time.

LINDA-LOU

What's wrong Victor?
Why so down?

VICTOR

[Hiding the truth... VICTOR is very down, depressed about how he was too exhausted to do all his usual jumping jacks in front of the ladies.]
Oh, you know my dear...
Those women who chase me fill me with fear...

LINDA-LOU

Still?
Don't they know
They'll never compare to me?

[The Lyft arrives, a fancy convertible van with its top down, so the audience can see and hear what transpires within. LINDA-LOU and VICTOR get in. GREENLANTERN and CAPTAIN DREADBEARD make room for them. In actuality, VICTOR is the only one who sees GREENLANTERN and CAPTAIN DREADBEARD.]

GREENLANTERN

[Opens a tin of tiny, emerald-green, home-made LSD pearls, of various sizes ranging from one to three millimeters in diameter. GREENLANTERN flamboyantly pops three of them into his mouth, then offers the tin to the group.]
Anyone else?...

[VICTOR hesitates upon seeing them, then does a double-take, and his eyes grow wide with hope.]

CAPTAIN DREADBEARD

[Cameo appearance, in VICTOR's shared Lyft...]

Oh, ho-ho-ho!

I don't usually indulge...

But you worked so hard on those, Fūrelise!

And they look so potent...

I would love to partake!

[Accepts the tin, eagerly pops a handful into his mouth, and then passes the tin to VICTOR.]

VICTOR

[Takes one too, acting like it were a gumdrop.]

Mahalo...

LINDA-LOU

[Seated next to VICTOR, LINDA-LOU does a double-take now, when she sees how VICTOR grins so, an ear-to-ear grin, seemingly content from now on with anything that might happen.]

Victor!

Who are you talking to?!?...

[They continue to drive, as lights dim then change to psychedelic, kaleidoscopic colors. Now complete focus on DREADBEARD and GREENLANTERN, as the scenery enlarges to make it appear they've shrunk down to insect size. The two psychonauts begin running across the seat like it were their giant playground, laughing and carrying-on like complete idiots, then disappear in a blink, who knows where?!... Next, the colored lights fade out, as normal lights fade back in...]

VICTOR

[Explains to LINDA-LOU and the DRIVER...]

My imaginary friend...

Pops in an out on occasion...

Especially when I need his help...

A rare treat he brought the Captain with him...

Must be something of great import

Brewing in the Universe...

[LINDA-LOU appears extremely irritated now, even angry at VICTOR, while he sits there, dopily looking out the window at the greenery and geology along this curvy Hawaiian road.]

After this turning point, VICTOR has been “illuminated” by his friend GREENLANTERN. He receives a past Vision from his childhood, and it appears like a thought-bubble, projected in the background:

‘Ailā’au vehemently forbade Victor to spend all his time riding the hōlua, instead of attending lessons in forest burning. Still a child, Victor escaped from the Underground World on his hōlua, down Mauna Kea. Racing towards the Ocean, at a speed greater than he had ever known before, he then crashed, and lost all memory of the incident and his life before... Until now.

Act V, Scene 3

The Olympics at Mount Fuji, Mauna FUJI, also called Mauna Puki. Welcome to the Kōk'io Olimpika...

Japan joined the Hawai'i Nation Coalition during World War, along with Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, Baja California, The Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, parts of China along the Pacific Coast, Korea, and parts of Russia along the Pacific Coast.

For the Olympics, Victor wears a mask with a giant grimace, but this will change.

[VICTOR meets again with KEAKA before the Olympics... She urges him on... They must keep it secret, that VICTOR is a Dweller-Deep, genetically different, and superior in many ways, from the Surface-Dwellers who also compete. He must pretend to be as naive as he was, before the discovery of his True Self and the Vision of the accident...]

VICTOR rides a super-sleek, metal-alloy hōlua, amazingly fast! The crowd cheers. He easily wins, arriving at the finish line almost twice as fast as his competition. The crowd cheers ecstatically!!...

Many of VICTOR's KE KIPI friends attend...]

CHORUS of REBELS

Victor, Victor!
Always craved that Gold Medal in Life!!
Something that only he
Might possess!!!
A Crown of Victory!!!!

After which, perhaps rest?
Perhaps live Happy,
Forever content,
That he was the Only Number One...
For his Number One
Achievement in Life!

CHORUS of REBELS (Cont'd)

We want it Too!!
We want OUR Number One!
But how will we be Free?
FOR even Five minutes?...
To do as we please?????

[While standing on the Olympic Hōlua Podium, the BRONZE and SILVER MEDALISTS become literally like chickens, clucking and squawking about how VICTOR cheated with some kind of genetic modifications they don't understand. The SILVER MEDALIST starts crying and giving VICTOR dirty looks.]

SILVER MEDALIST

You took some kinda' steroids!
I'm sure!!

BRONZE MEDALIST

Check his blood!!
Must be impure!

VICTOR

[VICTOR thinks about how he's always given in to others, been the nice guy, yet has so much Native power in him and knows he's the best at hōlua ever! He fills with rage that anyone would deprive him of what is rightfully his, symbolic of Hawaiian people or any Native peoples being oppressed by aliens who took the Natives' homes from them.]

What?! You FAKA's!!!
You 'tink you can take this from ME?!?!
WHHHAAAT?!!!!!
Like you would steal
The homes from a Native people...
I WIN!!!
FAIR AN' SQUARE!!!!!!!

CHORUS

Winner, winner,
Not a sinner,
Nor prisoner.
Love has set him free,
While Mauna Kea opens wide
To welcome new Life into her Bosom

*[Suddenly, we hear a voice that resounds in VICTOR's head:
"E wehe i ka umauma i ākea"]*

As VICTOR looks upwards, his chest swells large, his arms held upwards as in supplication. The lights become very hot, bright, white light. Everyone on stage should appear blinded by this sudden brilliance, and also stare up to the center point above Victor. In the next instant, bright red explodes as if a volcanic eruption, with patterned gobos to add oranges and yellows in flame and lava patterns. VICTOR lowers his gaze and peers at the SILVER MEDALIST, who cowers from his stare. Then VICTOR turns to glare at the BRONZE MEDALIST, who also balls himself up in fear. A strobe light CAPTURES THE MOVEMENT IN SLOW MOTION, as the colored lights fade out so that in this next second, only the strobes create a horrific image of VICTOR's face changing.]

VICTOR

Ancestral Spirits of the Dead!...
Ancient North Wolf-star Sirius...
'Aumākua Black and Red!...
Hear me now, as I am furious!!
End this charade, such parody of Life!
By my words, so terminate all strife!!!

[Instantly the stage goes completely black. The ANCESTRAL SPIRITS have answered VICTOR's call. We immediately hear two short, consecutive screams from the podium, agonized terror truncated to haunting silence, each in mid scream.]

Now the light returns slowly, a warm, yellow-orange tone, as of sunrise. VICTOR crouches more like an animal than man, much like a ferocious tiger on its pedestal at a circus show. He now wears a different mask, all black, except for large, white spider-like eyes, a blood red tongue three feet long and as thick as a leg, and fifty-six gleaming-silver-white, razor-sharp and viciously long, canine teeth.]

JUDGE

[Having a panic attack, appears extremely nervous, can barely stand and wants to run away as fast as possible. Shouts into his microphone:]

WINNER WINNER!!!

VICTOR VICTOR!!

[The JUDGE runs up to VICTOR, appears very confused for a moment as can't find a way to hang the medal over VICTOR's huge mask, then simply and quickly hangs the gold medal from the mask's huge tongue. Then he moves away from him as fast as possible..]

VICTOR

[Stands more erect now. He takes the medal from his mask and lets out a big, loud burp.]

Nah, jus' kiddin'!

I want sumtin' betta' for dinn-dinn!

[His burp causes an explosion of gas on stage, to hide the SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALISTS climbing back onto their podium spots. When the smoke clears, we see them, miraculously returned to the podium. Their clothes should appear torn or melted by stomach acid, their hair slimed with green goo, their expressions one of terror and astonishment and gratitude for being alive. They look at VICTOR as he speaks.]

VICTOR

[Now for the first time "in public" without his mask! He casually takes the gold medal and puts it around his neck, as if it were a necklace he wears every day.]

In the future, you might consider
Words of respect to be much kinder,
And save us time, not waste
Choose your words in good taste...
For having had you in my belly
I'd say bitter words make bitter jelly!

[Weighted pause: both SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALISTS completely change their emotion, as if woken from a dream! They turn to look at the audience with amazement, then blink their eyes. Then they look at each other with puzzlement on their faces, then look at VICTOR for a few moments to absorb the fact they can finally see his face, then look back at each other, with eyebrows furled, mouths agape.]

BOTH SILVER & BRONZE MEDALISTS

[To each other, loudly and with emphasis:]

Why he TALK SO FUNNY??!

Act V, Scene 4

Water appears in Halema'uma'u Crater, because Pele's sister the Ocean pushes up against her. (Water table rising in Kilauea caldera, 6 inches per day growth...) VICTOR and KEAKA make their new home here. VICTOR grows 'Ohia and employs controlled fires to keep their home pristine. He works in the forest, managing the 'āina, has learned to use fire so well, more controlled and focused than his violent father, It has become a form of art.

VICTOR cultivates 'Ohia trees to produce the ideal wood for making the fabled lava hōlua.

The home boasts a beautiful yard, with chickens running all over the place. KEAKA makes a hobby of killing chickens and then transforming them into all sorts of practical household items, let alone gourmet meals!! She also has a personal lava pit there.

Since the Olympics, an agreement between DWELLERS DEEP and SURFACE DWELLERS has made the world safe for the DWELLERS-DEEP to dwell on the surface again, and be accepted by the other SURFACE DWELLERS, at least for those who choose to do so.

Their children NOA and LAKA constantly play outside and do outside chores they enjoy. NOA tends huge bonfires, while LAKA loves to climb trees and work in their heights with a chainsaw.

VICTOR comes home from a day of riding hōlua, teaching he'e hōlua, and making 'Ohia papa hōlua.

VICTOR

[Wears no mask, only a "traditional Hawaiian" loincloth of red, orange and black, the colors of lava. Speaks as if singing, true to his nickname Himeni...]

I appreciate this life,
My children and my wife
The beaches and the sand
The water, air and land...
For what would I BE...
Without?
Just and Empty Soul...
No doubt!!

VICTOR (Cont'd)

Winner I am,
And win I do!
Because
I am me
Who else would I be?
Or not be?...
Don't you see?
I win because I remain myself
In every situation
And I have the Passion to Cultivate...
And I love to cultivate my passion for hōlua!...
Literally,...
With 'Ohia...

Now we both Surface Dwellers and Dwellers Deep
We learn to manage the land
And we go inside the *mauna* when we can...

[Walks past his kids, on way to the kitchen. They do a double-take and then look at each other with big grins on their faces.]

NOA & LAKA

Why he talk so funny?!?
Hahahahaha

KEAKA

[Sings contentedly to herself in the kitchen area, a hut with open doors and windows, through which the cool breeze may pass freely. She "plays" with the dead bodies of several chickens, gutting them, cutting them into pieces, making food...]

O Kona kai opua i ka la'i
O pua hinano i ka malie

VICTOR

[Walks into the kitchen.]

Aloha 'Ano'i,
What for dinna'?

KEAKA

[Surrealistically, KEAKA cuts the head off a live chicken while she answers VICTOR.]

Oh, you know, the usual!

[She slips and accidentally cuts off her own head...]

[Pause as VICTOR despairs.]

VICTOR

Oh, calamity of calamities!!
This the story my entire life!
Never have I felt
Satisfaction or fulfillment
Of being happy with what I have...
When taken from me,
It sadly becomes what I had...
But no longer have!

My poor, sweet *Lā'mea*
How sorry I am
To have run from you for so long
Only to find your Love
And then lose it forever!!

[But then, as her lava-blood erupts from her neck, light pours out of every lava-red fissure in the cracked skin covering KEAKA's entire body.

To achieve this effect:

Use a black face-mask, to hide the actor's face after "decapitation", and a fake head with a light inside, that floats eerily in the air and still talks!!!! for the "decapitated" head

a body suit or body paint with reflective "fissures" to resemble glowing cracks in lava. The color and brightness of these fissures can change and flow according to lights shined on these reflective "fissures".

This Light completely fills the room, and becomes so bright as to almost blind the audience! It surrounds VICTOR, soothes him, lifts him high into the air...]

VICTOR

[Smiling]

We'll try call from the other side!

[Finally, both KEAKA and VICTOR completely fade into this Light, VICTOR with a huge, ear-to-ear grin on his face! The children begin to cry and wave at their vanishing parents...]

NOA

Aloha ae papa!!

LAKA

Aloha ae mama!!

NOA

We'll be good!

LAKA

Love you!

[Pause... Then light-hearted laughter, as VICTOR and KEAKA magically reappear, KEAKA's head magically back on her body, like nothing ever happened!...]

KEAKA

We love you too!!

What?! Disappear on you champs?

We's just kidding around, silly kids mine!...

[Rubs their heads, then looks in their eyes and gets serious.]

I can't die!

I'm *Lā'mea*, remember?

[The two parents laugh, while their kids look down-struck.]

VICTOR

You're a good guy, Noa

You're a good guy too, Laka

NOA

But... You are also a good guy, Winner!!

[They all laugh together...]

Act V, Scene 5

Same as Sun and Moon, Kāne and Hina, VICTOR and KEAKA fly through the sky on VICTOR'S newest creation, a flying, two-seater, crystal hōlua. They both wear garments in the Ancient style, similar to 'AILĀ'AU and KALEOPATARA's, except theirs are completely white, as if bleached from thousands of years of Sunshine, KEAKA's seemingly glowing with a pulsation.

KEAKA, her skin now smooth and silvery and her nose restored, has become the silver Moon goddess. Behind her, the Moon beams down nearest to her. VICTOR radiates Light and appears as the Sun. KEAKA brings this same Light out from VICTOR, and when it reflects from her, she becomes like the Moon. They fly through a night sky of Stars on a hōlua made of magik diamond.

KALEOPATARA and 'AILĀ'AU stand on a lava ledge atop Mauna Kea, admiring and gracefully waving to them, to give their full blessing.

KALEOPATARA

[Each phase of the Moon reveals itself, overhead in the background, progressively, as KALEOPATARA speaks its name in Hawaiian. With each word she speaks, the Moon changes phase, and a new sacred animal or 'Aumākua becomes visible, semi-translucent creatures of light, all of them willfully pulling together, to fly VICTOR and KEAKA's diamond-crystal hōlua across the Star-lit heavens...]

Hilo!
 Hoaka!
 Kū Kahi!
 Kū Lua!
 Kū Kolu!
 Kū Pau!
 'Ole Kū Kahi!
 'Ole Kū Lua!
 'Ole Kū Kolu!
 'Ole Pau!
 Huna!
 Mōhalu!

KALEOPATARA (Cont'd)

Hua!
Akua!
Hoku!
Māhealani!
Kulu!
Lā'au Kū Kahi!
Lā'au Kuū Lua!
Lā'au Pau!
'Ole Kū Kahi!
'Ole Kū Lua!
'Ole Pau!
Kāloa Kū Kahi!
Kāloa Kū Lua!
Kāloa Pau!
Kāne!
Lono!
Mauli!
Muku!

KEAKA

[Embraces VICTOR next to her, and asks casually...]
Where we going, Hīmeni?

VICTOR

[Triumphantly raises both arms upwards...]
Wherever we want!!

[The Light from Victor causes all forms of Life to spring forth, plants and animals of the Earth. The audience sees this in the background projections. When VICTOR's Light reflects from KEAKA, KEAKA's Moonlight brings all forms of Life in the Oceans, Lunar Rays that penetrate the Water at Night. In every direction that she turns, this brings about swarms of teeming Life below the Water in the Oceans, ever-changing, rapidly trans-mutating, shape-shifting forms of all colors and dimensions imaginable, a World so complex, unknown to mankind in its full, infinite breadth, all forms of Sealife, from the smallest plankton and plants and corals and sponges, to the moving schools of fish, and octopi... all of them moving in swirling, hypnotic motion, just like KEAKA herself, also causing all swirling motions of the Oceans, from the ebbs and flows of her lava-born magnetism...]

‘AILĀ‘AU

By the Sun God Kāne!...

Kaiapunihāhāluahōkūakuamanamakanaponohīmeni

and Keaka Zaliya Kelekina...

Like the Stars in the Sky!!

[Triumphant dance music plays in the background, as VICTOR and KEAKA soar the Heavens and visit Ancestral Spirits of the Dead in their Celestial Sphere.]

CHORUS

E wehe

i ka umauma

i ākea!!!!

THE END?...

DICTIONARY

Ao = the Earth

ho'okamani = to act the hypocrite, to act falsely

hua = testicles

'ola = truth, true

lā'au kāhea = a type of faith healing, of broken or crushed bones or sprains. *Lit.* "calling medicine"

ohiohi = to grow vigorously, flourish, esp. of plants

pueo = owl

hōlua = sled

papa hōlua = wooden sled

he'e hōlua = sled surfing

makalapua = beautiful, to blossom forth

kahua hōlua = a man-made sled course

He wahahe'e ke kū'ai = "To buy is to lie", similar to "Buyers are liars"

lama pa'ipa'i 'ia = mixed drink, highball

makua = parent, elder

piapia = eye boogers

lā'au māka'i = police club

haipule = Religious

'ano'i = beloved

ho'onipo = to make love

noa = freed of taboo, released from restrictions

He Ali'i ka āina, he kauwā ke kanaka = The Ruler is the Land, the servant is man

E wehe i ka umauma i ākea = Open up the chest so it may be spacious

Characters (expanded)

‘Ailā‘au, the OG “Forest Eater”, god of fire and destruction, part of the force of creation. ‘Ailā‘au built up the islands. He is the most ancient in Hawai‘i. He speaks lyrically like Victor. ‘Ailā‘au fathered Victor with a Dweller-Deep, but Victor so far mostly resembles a human. Victor’s other genetics haven’t yet triggered, since he lived most his youth with Surface Dwellers. As a young child, he ran away from home. ‘Ailā‘au forbade Victor to spend all his time riding the *hōlua*, instead of attending lessons in forest burning. Victor escaped on a *hōlua* down Mauna Kea.

Kaleopatara (*Samoan for “Cleopatra”*), ‘Ailā‘au’s spouse and mother of Victor. Born a Dweller-Deep centuries ago, when Kaleopatara married ‘Ailā‘au, she became like an immortal.

Poliahu, white-robed goddess of Mauna Kea

Pelehonuamea, “the one who devours”, a younger lava goddess, immigrant to the land created by ‘Ailā‘au. She’s hot-tempered, very unpredictable, tempestuous and reckless. “Pele” likes to go on random “powa treeps”, which makes it very hard on everyone. ‘Ailā‘au doesn’t obliterate her, but lets her dwell in the South, because he finds her amusing. Still, to him, she’s “...Jus’ a skankee littah beetch who tries to be like me all da time! She on a ‘nuda powa’ treep!!”

Victor / Kaiapunihāhāluahōkūakuamanamakanaponohīmeni (environment + manta ray + star + god + divine power + gift + good + to sing), the youngest child of ‘Ailā‘au, expert at *hōlua* and member of the Hawai‘i National *Hōlua* team. Hawaiian-Asian Surface Dwellers adopt him and give him the name Wikoli Wikoli Wong. But his friends call him by his preferred name: Victor. Victor has a full head of bushy hair, like an afro or long dreadlocks. He wears his beard thick and bushy-long. He’s a strong, free, Hawaiian man who glows with vitality. In all his scenes, Victor appears naked, with huge, sculpted muscles bulging, except for a large (wooden, leather, or cloth), ceremonial Hawai‘ian mask, a different one for each scene, to reflect his main emotions in that scene. We never get to see his real face, until near the end... Victor should always speak in lyrical verses, seemingly the only one doing so, other than ‘Ailā‘au and the CHORUS.

Hawai‘i National *Hōlua* team

Keaka Zaliya Kelekina - *Lā‘mea* and lover of Victor

Keaka ("the shadow, essence") + Zaliya (form of Zariyah: “blooming flower; God has favored”; with its letter Z, this implies of foreign or more ancient origin...) + Kelekina (“Celestine”)

Noa and Laka, children of Victor and Keaka.

Dwellers-Deep, once human many millennia ago, the Dwellers-Deep came from Ancient Egyptian-Polynesians who evolved to live underground. They did this even before the great Lemurian Continent sank into the Pacific Ocean, so that 'Ailā'au could use his power to recreate the world again. Since they live mostly below ground now, Dwellers-Deep tend to have an earthy, "root"-y smell to them, especially their breath, which people often confuse for the smell of *kava*.

Elders, the most ancient Dwellers within Mauna Kea, part of the original inhabitants that 'Ailā'au protected. The Elders spend most of the time meditating, chanting, casting spells, creating art, or exercising. They speak very seldom, unless purposefully chit-chatting to sharpen their social skills and gain information. The Elders use Words of Power.

Lā'mea, immortalized Dwellers-Deep who worship Pelehonuamea. Also known as "lava vampires". From them, we learn the price of immortality, and how it preys on others. Shape-shifters, their true form resembles lava more than humans. To "live", the Lā'mea must prey on the weak. Much feared and oft disliked, the Lā'mea try to be nice, try to make "friends" with other Dwellers-Deep and the Elders. The Warriors of Kū usually want nothing to do with Lā'mea.

Warriors of Ku, a very vengeful race that evolved to protect all Dwellers-Deep, including the Elders and even the Lā'mea if required. Warriors of Kū are 6-armed, with fanged teeth and poisonous breath. They don't get along well with any other races, especially the Surface Dwellers. The Warriors tend to be bullies, so nobody likes them much. Why they group together, and like to drink an excess of *kava*, which hopefully prevents them from getting violent with each other.

Ancestral Spirits of the Dead

rarely called upon, usually only in case of emergency, and only if you're nice to them and lucky to gain their attention

much feared, because so powerful!

though have no substance on Earth

Exist like the strands of silver-white hair on Poliahu's head, in the Celestial Sphere, as the Stars.

Surface Dwellers, Terrans without knowledge of the
a term given to humans by the Dwellers-Deep

Linda-Lou Jones, Victor's girlfriend and a cheerleader.

Ke Kipi / The Rebels, Hawaiians who rebel against Western rule. They live in stealth by necessity, often outside the oppressive “laws” of the corrupt Surface Dweller government. Many of The Rebels have lost their homes or other valuable property to a greedy, unfair system of “justice”, one which they never chose and which was illegally placed upon them. Like Native Americans on the Continent of America, some *Ke Kipi* are victims with nothing left to lose. Oft-considered insane or suicidal, *Ke Kipi* will make any sacrifice needed to protect what they have, or reclaim what was taken from them. *Ke Kipi* has currently formed an impenetrable campsite at the Mauna Kea Access Road.

Melekikekeka, a member of *Ke Kipi*

The Mercenaries, a subset of the *Ke Kipi*. Most Mercenaries sport a light-weight head-lamp wherever they go. They wear utility-type of clothing practical for camouflage and/or carrying weapons anywhere on their bodies. The Mercenaries, technically insane and frequently suicidal, are the most extreme of The Rebels. They literally victimize themselves to imbue their Spirit with power for battle, as a sort of sacred “sacrifice” to ‘Ailā‘au. The Mercenaries believe in a return to the old days, ruled over by the Ancient Ones, when The Dwellers-Deep and the Surface Dwellers lived together in Harmony. The Warriors of Kū admire the Mercenaries and sometimes side with them.

Caleb Kealohilani, a Mercenary. The name *Caleb* means “one faithful as a dog”, while *Kealohilani* means “the Shine of the Heaven”.

Pupuka Aliakae Lili’uokalani a.k.a. “Lucas”, a female Mercenary who cross-dresses and joins the police force, to subvert local government from within. For *Ke Kipi*, she goes by her middle name Aliakae, but often uses her first name Pupuka while amongst other Surface Dwellers. In the police force, her false name is Lucas. Pupuka (“ugly”) + Aliakae (“Protector”) + Lili’uokalani (“scorching pain of the heaven”)

Slackers, Terrans persecuted so many times by other Surface Dwellers, who severely envied the Slackers’ once-upon-a-time successes. Slackers have lost the will to succeed in anything.

Nevin, a Slacker and friend to the Rebels.

Bartender, a “priest” of the *Heiau Ho’ona*.

Stripper, a “nun” of the *Heiau Ho’ona*.

Officer Stantley, a police officer.

Police, Surface Dwellers who become distracted by Victor’s antics.

Tourists, Surface Dwellers who gather at the base of Mauna Kea to watch Victor break-dance in front of the police.

Messengers, members of *Ke Kipi* who ride scooters.

Chief Kanaka, the police chief.

Driver, a Lyft driver.

Captain Dreadbeard, a Time-traveling space bandit of the Ancient Kthulhu Order.

Greenlantern Fūrelise, Captain Dreadbeard's red-haired friend, a trickster and best friend to people in need of cheering-up.

Athletes, Surface Dwellers who work-out in the weight-training room.

Silver & Bronze Medalists, *hōlua* racers who lost to Victor.

Judge, a judge at the Tokyo Olympics.

ADDENDUM

“Just to give some context and meaning of *Mauna a Wakea* to the Hawaiian people, Mauna kea is considered a sacred *piko*, or spiritual center and divine energetic portal of light. The mountain in its entirety is a body of ancient knowledge and a traditional gateway to the celestial realms.” - <https://m.facebook.com/notes/stella-caban/ku-kiai-mauna-protect-mauna-kea/10152422802319646/>