

DOOGIE KEALOHA, M.D.

Written by

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Based on

"DOOGIE HOWSER, M.D."

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&

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EXT. BEACH HAWAII

Cue: Hawaiian music

The HAWAIIAN SUN shines.

YELLOW and ORANGE light glistens across the ocean and sky. We see the SILHOUETTE of TWO SURFERS: LAHELA, 16, and her dad, BENNY. They hold their boards looking out at the surf.

LATER: IN THE WATER, still in SILHOUETTE:

- Benny and Lahela wait on their boards for their wave.
- Benny surfs a wave, with ease and grace.
- Lahela paddles to a wave, gets up, and rides it like a pro. Benny cheers her on, proud.

EXT. BEACH HAWAII - LATER

Benny and Lahela sit on their boards, enjoying the views.

BENNY

(nostalgic)

I can't believe you turn sixteen today. It feels like just yesterday you came into this world and from the moment I saw you I knew you'd have my heart forever.

Then Benny spots a FATHER with his LITTLE GIRL, 4, playing in the sand. She looks at her dad with all love in the world.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Who do those two remind you of?

He looks to see Lahela not paying attention.

LAHELA

Huh?

BENNY

What are you looking at?

Benny looks to see A BUNCH OF HOT SHIRTLESS guys, oil up.

BENNY (CONT'D)

What the--?!

LAHELA

(putting on lipgloss)

Can I drive us home?

BENNY
 (hurts his heart)
 Ugh...

Reluctant but resigned, Benny hands her the keys.

Lahela looks down at the car keys in her hands.

FANTASY: Cue: Rihanna's "SHUT UP AND DRIVE"

- HAWAIIAN ROAD: A RED CONVERTIBLE SPORTS CAR ZOOMS around a corner, cliffs on one side, ocean on the other.

- IN THE CAR: Lahela, in a cute little get up and driving gloves, shifts gears, wind in her hair.

- IN A MUSIC VIDEO VERSION OF A CAR GARAGE: Lahela, and OTHER FEMALE DANCERS, "work" on her sports car, then break into an awesome dance. QUEENS!

- BACK ON THE ROAD: Lahela shifts gears, and SPEEDS past a beautiful Hawaiian landscape. CAR HORN HONKS.

EXT. HAWAIIAN STREET - DAY

FANTASY OVER. In real life Lahela drives the family mini-van. A DMV proctor, LOTO, a big Samoan dude, is in the passenger seat and Benny is in back. She white knuckles the steering wheel, moving so slow, she's made a traffic jam. Cars HONK.

LOTO
 (Hawaiian Pidgin)
 I mean, can probably go *little*
 faster, yeh?

Lahela nods, nervous, and goes barely faster. Benny leans in:

BENNY
 But caution is good, right?

LOTO
 Man, you're not even supposed to be
 here.

Benny leans back as Lahela approaches a stop sign. She looks left, then right. No cars on the horizon. She keeps checking.

LOTO (CONT'D)
 I think you can chance it.

As Lahela, ever so carefully crawls on, Loto glares at her with disbelief. But then Lahela spots something.

HER POV: An accident up ahead: police cruiser, lights flashing, bystanders, a motorcycle lying on the road--

LOTO (CONT'D)

Looks like there's been an accident. Just pull over-- hey!!

LAHELA hits the accelerator and speeds toward the scene.

LOTO (CONT'D)

Oh no, go plenty fast. Slow down, yeah?

BENNY

Lahela!

The car screeches to a halt at the scene. Lahela leaps out.

LOTO (CONT'D)

Hey! Return to the vehicle!

Lahela charges past a POLICE CAR to a MAN, lying in the road.

POLICEMAN #1

Where you going? Get outta here.

But Lahela races past him. Nearby TWO COLLEGE GUYS who had been watching, start filming her on their phones:

COLLEGE GUY #1

Dude, check out this girl!

Lahela arrives at the unconscious body, where the other POLICEMAN kneels. There's blood on the man's head, arm, and his right leg is grotesquely twisted around.

LAHELA

(kneels; checks breath)
Let me see him.

POLICEMAN #2

Get the hell out of here!

As Lahela rapidly checks the victim's pupils, feels for the pulse in his neck, feels the leg and foot--

LAHELA

Possible concussion, fracture...

POLICEMAN #2

(yells to other cop)
Walt! Get her out of here.

Policeman #1 arrives and ushers Lahela away:

POLICEMAN #1

C'mon!!

LAHELA
Get off me!!

POLICEMAN #1
Hey, you wanna go to jail?

Lahela whips out her I.D. and thrusts it in the cop's face.

LAHELA
You'll be going to jail for
criminal negligence!

IN THE BACKGROUND: The College Guys cheer, impressed:

COLLEGE GUY #1
Damn!!

COLLEGE GUY #2
Shorty schooled em!

BACK AT THE SCENE: Lahela continues:

LAHELA
This man has a dislocated fracture
of the femur and he's gonna lose
his leg unless I fix it right away.
Now hold his torso down while I
rotate his leg.

POLICEMAN #2
Wait, what?

LAHELA
There's no pulse behind the ankle,
he's gonna lose the leg to
gangrene!

POLICEMAN #2
I'm not gonna--

LAHELA
Hold him down now!
(to policeman #1)
And you--brace his neck.

They reluctantly obey. Lahela places her left foot on the man's hip and slowly twists his leg, rotating it.

ANGLE ON: College Guys and bystanders react: Ooh, that hurt.

AT THE SCENE: Policeman #1 just looks at Lahela in awe, as we hear the WAIL of an approaching ambulance.

LAHELA (CONT'D)
 (checking ankle)
 Okay, we're getting some
 circulation.
 (to Policeman #2)
 Is he still breathing?
 (off Cop's nod)
 Get me something I can use for a
 splint. Go!

POLICEMAN #1
 Yes, doctor.

He bolts towards his cruiser.

LAHELA
 (calling to him)
 And something we can use to put
 pressure on the wound to stop the
 bleeding.

Then, Lahela gets an idea. She takes her scrunchie hairband
 out of her ponytail and puts it on the man's arm wound, tight
 like a bandage to stop the bleeding. Then:

LAHELA (CONT'D)
 You owe me a scrunchie.

ANGLE ON: Loto, amazed. He turns to Benny:

LOTO
 (in disbelief)
 Who is this kid?

BENNY
 (proud)
 My daughter. The Doctor.

Off Loto, Amazed...

MAIN TITLES: (theme from the original, but played on ukulele)

MONTAGE, including various shots of newspapers and magazine
 articles with pictures of Lahela's success:

-*Honolulu Star Advisor* article titled "Six Year Old Scores
 Perfect on SATS"

- *Time Magazine* article titled "Stanford Graduates Ten Year
 Old Prodigy" with the under heading, "Whiz Kid Breezed
 Through High School in Nine Weeks"

- A *New Yorker* online article with the headline "Girl Genius Graduates Med School at 14" with the under-heading, "Teenage Doctor Can't Buy Beer, Can Prescribe Drugs," Includes picture of graduating class with Lahela in front.

- THIS IS ALL INTERCUT with: HOME VIDEOS of Lahela with her family having a normal up-brining: opening presents at Christmas, playing ball in the yard, etc.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

We start on BEAT UP AIR FORCE ONE'S coming down the hall, among a sea of SENSIBLE ADULT SHOES...

...PAN UP to see it's Lahela, in her white doctor's coat. She's making ROUNDS with DR. ROSENBLATT (the attending physician, 50's) and other RESIDENTS.

The group moves towards MR. LIM, a patient on a bed.

LAHELA

Hello, Mr. Lim, I'm Dr. Kealoha,
I'll be doing your stitches today.

MR. LIM

The hell you will! What is this
some kind of practical joke?

TERESE, the nurse, calms him:

TERESE

She may be sixteen, but she's also
a doctor. You know who she's like?

LAHELA

--Please, Can we not?--

TERESE

Remember "Doogie Howser?" The show
from the 90's? She's a real life
Doogie Howser. That's why we call
her "Doogie."

LAHELA

I'd prefer you didn't--

TERESE

Our very own Doogie Kealoha, M.D.

LAHELA

Mr Lim, if you could hold still--

MR. LIM

You'll be holding still for a lawsuit in Federal court! I don't care what they call you. Only sixteen years old? I'll add a count for infliction of emotional distress.

LAHELA

(stitching away)

I'm sorry you feel this way, sir. I can tell you're an attorney, so you must know there's no duty owed by the hospital with respect to the age of its doctors, nor is there any proximate cause connecting my age to the harm suffered. And even if you could make out a prima facie case of negligence, you do not have diversity of jurisdiction to get this into Federal court. Besides which I'm done.

MR. LIM

You're done?

LAHELA

Seven stitches, nice and neat. Shouldn't be much of a scar.

MR. LIM

(climbs off, checks it)

Oh...

(grudgingly)

I guess if it looks okay... Maybe I won't sue.

LAHELA

Well, if you change your mind, the statute of limitations for malpractice is three years.

MR. LIM

(genuinely impressed)

Thanks Doogie.

INT. HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC CORRIDOR - LATER

Lahela and the others continue rounds. Two residents, NOELANI, a vivacious, island girl and CHARLES, a young gay man from the Midwest, sidle up to Lahela.

NOELANI

Congrats on getting your driver's license this morning.

LAHELA

Thanks. How'd you know?

CHARLES

You haven't seen it? There's a video of you going around where you help a wounded biker, then a big Samoan DMV guy is so impressed, he's practically in tears when he passes you.

(as him, "double rainbow")

So amazing...

CLARA, 40's, the CHIEF OF STAFF approaches.

DR. ROSENBLATT

Good morning, Dr. Hannon.

(to group)

In case any of you have yet to have the privilege, Dr. Hannon, is our Chief of Staff.

The residents stand up taller at seeing the boss.

DR. ROSENBLATT (CONT'D)

She'll be joining our rounds to lend us that critical eye of hers.

CLARA

Yes, without tough feedback how is one to improve?

DR. ROSENBLATT

You hear that residents, you've been warned...

The residents look to each other, worried. She's tough.

CLARA

Dr. Kealoha, a minute?

Lahela looks concerned as the group moves on.

LAHELA

(to: Clara, nervous)

Everything okay?

CLARA

It was until this morning when I checked your social media and found a TikTok of you dancing inappropriately.

LAHELA

Mom!

CLARA

We talked about this.

LAHELA

You should talk to Grandma! She keeps posting pictures on Insta of some hot guy from the olden days who apparently doesn't own a shirt.

CLARA

That's Paul Newman. And I'm not sure she means to post those.

(then)

And you gotta do better on your patient reports. Your last one had a sentence written in the passive voice.

LAHELA

It's meant to be a quick synopsis.

CLARA

There's never an excuse for bad grammar. Besides, you're a sixteen year-old-doctor, everyone is watching, you need to excel.

LAHELA

No, you're watching.

CLARA

Wait, you got a little something--

Clara licks her thumb and moves to rub it on Lahela's face.

LAHELA

Ew, Mom, gross! I gotta go.

Lahela, annoyed starts to move off.

CLARA

(calling after)

Are you hungry? I have some almonds in my desk drawer.

Then Claire turns to see a group of ASIAN WOMEN watching her, waiting to talk to her. Their leader, WENYEE steps forward.

WENYEE

Excuse me, are you Dr. Hannon?

CLARA

Yes, that's me.

The women GASP, excited and say lots of things in CHINESE.

WENYEE

Can we take a picture with you?

They crowd around Clara and Wenyee, a picture taking pro, snaps a selfie stick on to her phone to make it happen.

CLARA

I'm sorry, what is this about?

WENYEE

Your sixteen-year-old daughter is a doctor. You're our hero!

ASIAN WOMAN #1

My twenty-one-year-old son is a doctor, but pft - so what? Disappointment...

ASIAN WOMAN #2

You're like the Super Bowl Champion of Tiger Moms.

WENYEE

But can she also play the piano?

CLARA

Of course she can.

Ooh... the Tiger Moms react, impressed, some bow to Clara to show respect. Lots more said in CHINESE.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Thanks, but sometimes I worry I push her too hard. I mean, we want our children to succeed, but what I really want is for her to be okay. As moms, don't you sometimes worry?

SILENCE. They look back at her with blank expressions.

WENYEE

No, that's white lady stuff.

EXT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - LATER

Lahela exits with her lunch to see Noelani and Charles eating lunch on the grass, in the midst of a juicy story:

NOELANI

...I already invited him back to my apartment, so then I'm like--

LAHELA

Hey guys! Mind if I join you?

Lahela sits and takes out some dried mango.

CHARLES

Oh um...

They both react, they clearly would prefer she not.

LAHELA

Sorry, I don't have to.

NOELANI

Yeah, it's just I was in the middle of this story and you're not of age--
- maybe give us five?

LAHELA

(hurt)

Sure, yeah, no big deal.

Lahela gathers up her stuff, then hears a MOTORCYCLE. They look to see... A HOT GUY pull up. This is DR. JOSH, the hot young doctor Lahela and everyone at the hospital has a crush on. Lahela's jaw drops. Even Noelani and Charles's jaw drops. They are transfixed. In SLOW MO Dr. Josh parks, gets off the bike, puts his hand through his hair, and moves towards them. He's right at Lahela. REGULAR SPEED:

LAHELA (CONT'D)

(panicked, offering it)
Dried mango?

DR. JOSH

I'm good.

Lahela sinks as Dr. Josh continues on.

LAHELA

(so mad at herself)
Dried Mango? C'mon Kealoha, get your head in the game.

NOELANI

(to Charles)

I heard he's having a party
Saturday night. We have to get
invited.

LAHELA

(lost in the fantasy)

Could you imagine going to his
party? He's so cool. I bet nobody
tells him what to do, or how to
be...

CHARLES

Of course not, he's a grown man.

NOELANI

Wait, do you have a crush on Dr.
Josh?

LAHELA

(she clearly does)

No! It's just I find him very
impressive as a professional, and I
appreciate the quality of care he
gives to his patients...

(so dreamy)

...and how he always uses the same
pen, a Pilot G-2 with a .38 tip.

CHARLES

(not cool)

Cool.

Lahela blushes as Noelani and Charles turn away from her.

NOELANI

(whispered)

Anyway, so this guy's in my
apartment, and--

Lahela takes her lunch and crosses off to eat alone.

INT. WILL'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

WILL, 60's, is a good-natured guy who loves classic rock. His
room is decorated with tapestries and tie-dyes. He listens to
Fleetwood Mac's: "GO YOUR OWN WAY" as Lahela enters.

WILL

(hooked up to oxygen, weak
but still smiling)

Hey, Doogie.

LAHELA

I told you, I don't like when
people call me that.

WILL

(playful)

I know, that's why I do it.

He turns up the music, enjoying it.

WILL (CONT'D)

You like this song? Don't say, "no"
or I'll no longer trust anything
you say.

LAHELA

I love this song. My mom's a big
Stevie Nicks fan.

WILL

She's raising you right.

(then)

When I was about your age, I snuck
out to see them live in concert,
first concert I'd ever been to. One
of the best nights of my life...
first time I danced with a woman,
first I time I tried--

(catches himself)

Well, a few other things...

(then)

You never forget a night of
firsts...

Lahela watches him smile, lost in the memories...

LAHELA

I want a night like that.

WILL

You kidding? You're young, your
whole life is going to be nights
like that.

Lahela takes that in, then:

LAHELA

You ready to do this thing?

Will nods as Lahela sets up her phone to film her and Will
for a TikTok. "I'm a Savage" plays. Lahela dances while Will
tries his best to mark the moves from bed.

LAHELA & WILL
 (singing along)
 I'm a savage./ Classy, bougie,
 ratchet. (Yeah)/ Sassy, moody,
 nasty. I'm a savage.

Lahela stops recording.

LAHELA
 You were awesome!

WILL
 Well, I've been practicing. I'm so
 honored you asked me to be in your
 TikTok.

LAHELA
 Come on, you're the coolest guy I
 know.

WILL
 Aw, I'm flattered.

LAHELA
 You shouldn't be. I'm a sixteen
 year old doctor. Your closest
 competition is a girl I met at
 space camp.
 (then, re: monitor)
 And look at that. I got your heart
 rate up, even though someone said
 they couldn't move at all.

WILL
 Damn, you're good.

A team of DOCTORS, including Dr. Rosenblatt and DR. LEE, a
 hot shot heart surgeon enter.

LAHELA
 Will, you're so popular, this whole
 team of doctors wanted to see you.
 (introducing them)
 This is Dr. Lee, he's the heart
 surgeon I told you about. And Dr.
 Yang, Dr. Raymond, and Dr. Turner.

DR. LEE steps forward and studies Will's chart.

DR. LEE
 I hear you're not feeling too well.

WILL
 I'm not.

DR. LEE

Not to worry. We're going to change that and make you feel much better. We might even give you a new heart. What do you say to that?

Will looks to Lahela, scared.

WILL

I worry...

LAHELA

There's risks with any surgery, and given your age, complications to consider, but Dr. Lee is the expert. He's gonna fix you up so we can get a really sick guy in here. Right, Dr. Lee?

DR. LEE

Definitely.

LAHELA

(to Will)

Okay?

WILL

(believes her)

Okay.

INT. DR. ROSENBLATT'S OFFICE - DAY

Lahela pleads to Dr. Rosenblatt as Dr. Lee studies X-rays and lab reports. Dr. Rosenblatt's ASSISTANT is also there.

LAHELA

He's debilitated! His renal functions's decreased! His creatinine is elevated! He can't survive a transplant!

DR. LEE

According to these test results, he most certainly can. He's open to the procedure.

LAHELA

Because of your recommendation. But statistically, he's got a better chance if we just repair the valve.

(pleading)

Dr. Rosenblatt, he's been in failure for a long time.

(MORE)

LAHELA (CONT'D)

Let's get him out of failure. Build him up. Then do the transplant.

DR. LEE

With all due to my learned colleague, I'm the heart specialist.

LAHELA

We know. We've seen the personalized plates on your Porsche.

DR. LEE

I don't need some snot nose kid telling me how to do my job! My recommendation is to do the transplant. Does my call stand or not?

DR. ROSENBLATT

Given the very real possibility that he might not survive either procedure, yes. Your call stands.

LAHELA

You're going to kill him!

DR. ROSENBLATT

Lahela --

Lahela slams out of the office.

EST. LAHELA'S HOUSE - DAY

A vintage bohemian Hawaiian beach house. The palm trees, and gardenias sway in the ocean breeze.

INT. LAHELA'S ROOM - DAY

Lahela sits at her desk near a window as she bullet journals. She illustrates the following with calligraphy and art:

LAHELA (V.O.)

March 1, 2021, my sixteenth birthday. I got my driver's license! Which means tomorrow I'll be behind the wheel on my way to the dance with Walter Camara.

Lahela flips to a page decorated with a school picture of Walter, 16, surfer boy cute...

Suddenly, STEPH DENISCO, 16, leaps in from the window:

STEPH
Happy Birthday!

LAHELA
Jeez, you almost gave me a heart
attack.

STEPH
Sorry, I'm like J-Lo, I like to
make an entrance.

LAHELA
I got my license!

STEPH
I know, I saw the video.
(as the guy)
"So Amazing."

LAHELA
So now I just need my mom to give
me the keys to the car and tomorrow
night I'll be driving to the dance
with Walter Camara next to me. It's
like--
(re: self)
New woman, who dis?

STEPH
And you're going to finally get
that kiss.

LAHELA
I have to get that kiss. I need my
do-over.

STEPH
Wait, what happened the first time?

LAHELA
Remember? Me and Walter were on the
beach and he was just about to kiss
me and then my dad like totally
killed the moment and interrupted.
Seriously, out of no where he comes
up out of the ocean in his snorkel
mask like, "Lahela, look at the
octopus I caught."
(then)
You know this story.

STEPH

Yeah, I just like hearing it.

LAHELA

So embarrassing. And things are still weird between me and my dad. It's like he wants me to forever be a little four-year-old girl in pigtails.

STEPH

At least you have a dad. Sorry, too dark? Just messing with you. Screw that loser, whoever he is.

LAHELA

I'm going to get that kiss, and it's going to be like the fairy godmother of my very being will hit this magic button inside me, and I will finally come correct, and be the beautiful woman butterfly I'm meant to be.

STEPH

Yes! And like all your other achievements I won't be doing anything impressive, but I'll be there next to you, shouting: "And I'm her best friend!"

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Lahela, KAI, 17, Lahela's hot older brother, and BRIAN PATRICK, 12, her annoying little brother, finish eating dinner with Benny and Clara. Brian Patrick hands her a gift.

BRIAN

Happy Birthday.

KAI

Shoot. It's today?

LAHELA

Don't worry about it.

KAI

Sorry, I've been so busy with tutoring, trying to get my SAT score up above 800. But it's going great. Yesterday I learned... shoot, I forget.

BENNY
It's all good, buddy. Persistence
will win the day.

KAI
Hey, that's one of my vocab words.
It means... Oh no.

Benny gives him a loving pat as Lahela unwraps the present to
reveal...

LAHELA
(confused)
Midnight Musk body spray?

BRIAN PATRICK
Yeah, I figured we could share.
I don't want to brag but puberty's
coming for me. Stuff is happening,
guys. Want to hear more?

EVERYONE
No!

CLARA
And this is from me and daddy.

Clara hands her a gift. She rips it open, and pulls out...

LAHELA
A new computer! Thanks guys.

Benny and the boys start to clear the table and cross off.

LAHELA (CONT'D)
Mom, here's the thing-- tomorrow's
the big dance, and I have this date
with Walter and all, and I was
wondering, can I borrow the car?

CLARA
You just got your license.

LAHELA
Mom, please? I've been looking
forward to this forever.

CLARA
I'm afraid not.

LAHELA
But why?

CLARA

You're still learning. Maybe once you get some more miles under your belt.

Benny, with Kai and Brian Patrick, re-enter from the kitchen with a candle-lit birthday cake singing Happy Birthday. Clara joins in as they put the cake before Lahela.

BENNY

Make a wish.

LAHELA

What's the point? Clara here already said no.

CLARA

I will not be referred to like that.

LAHELA

I'm a doctor. We're colleagues.

CLARA

I'm also your mother.

LAHELA

It's not fair. You trust me with people's lives, but you don't trust me with a car?

CLARA

You've been studying medicine for years, you've been driving for two weeks. You may have been born a genius, but that doesn't mean you can instantly do everything. Some stuff you have to work at, just like the rest of us.

LAHELA

Whatever.

BENNY

Come on, it's your birthday. Don't you want to make a wish, blow out your candles, and steal a little taste of frosting just like you used to when you were little

Frustrated, Lahela crosses out. Clara and Benny look to each other at a loss.

INT. HOSPITAL - NEXT DAY

Lahela, at the NURSES STATION, spots KALEA, a LITTLE GIRL, 6, exiting with her parents.

LAHELA

Bye, Kalea! Remember next time you're at the beach, jellyfish may look pretty but let's not put one on like a bracelet.

Kalea waves her BANDAGED HAND as she exits. Clara approaches and Lahela busies herself with paperwork.

CLARA

Hey, Terese brought in a bunch of papaya from her yard. It's in the break room if you're hungry.

Lahela ignores her and keeps on working.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Or, I was going to go visit dad and get a shave ice, want to come? Or I could bring you back something.

LAHELA

So now we're like chummy work buddies?

CLARA

Excuse me?

LAHELA

Yesterday you were like stern mom and now you're trying to be my cool work friend. You don't get to be all the things.

Lahela crosses off as Clara sighs. A PREGNANT HAWAIIAN WOMAN approaches.

PREGNANT HAWAIIAN WOMAN

Excuse me? You're the Doogie mom, right? Will you rub my pregnant belly so my child can be smart like yours. Ancient Hawaiian superstition.

CLARA

Really? I never heard that one.

PREGNANT HAWAIIAN WOMAN
Yeah, sometimes we just make em up,
but can't hurt.

EXT. QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Clara exits and walks to the sidewalk, then crosses a PEDESTRIAN CROSSING that leads right to a STORE with a sign that reads "Benny's Shave Ice and Florist Shop."

INT. BENNY'S SHAVE ICE/FLORIST SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

It's bohemian and beachy, with cozy places to hang. DOCTORS AND NURSES relax on their breaks, eating lunch and shave ice.

The store is also filled with beautiful Hawaiian flowers displayed in bulk, in arrangements, and in leis. (NOTE: often Hawaiian businesses optimize their storefronts like this, by using the space for multiple purposes.) Clara enters.

BENNY

Hey honey, how's it going?

Clara lets out a big sigh and Benny moves to her. They sit.

CLARA

I feel like a fraud. Everyone acts like I have it all figured out, but I don't. I just want Lahela to be okay. But I don't know if she's okay, she completely shuts me out.

BENNY

Me too.

CLARA

It's been so long since I felt connected to her.
(so touched)
Remember that day at the beach?

POP TO:

TIK TOK VIDEO: Lahela and Clara at the beach do the TikTok dance to "I got plans for me and you." Clara, way too excited to be included, misses her cue, and comes in too early.

BACK TO SCENE:

CLARA (CONT'D)

I know, I came in too early.

BENNY
You wanted it so bad.

CLARA
(devastated)
She hasn't asked me to be in a
TikTok since.
(then)
I want to be her friend, but I also
want to make sure she's pushing
herself and reaching her potential.
It's like I can't win.

Benny takes this in, then:

BENNY
You need to get in the ocean.

CLARA
What?

BENNY
Just go.

CLARA
I can't. I have work.

BENNY
If you went in the ocean right now
I guarantee you, when you came out
you would feel so much better.

CLARA
It's 2:30. I run a hospital.

BENNY
Then you should at least take a
nap. Any good employer would
understand that. I know I do. I
mean look at Zander.

Benny motions to ZANDER, his employee asleep in a corner.

CLARA
No, do you know what I need?
Honestly, it's for you to get more
involved with this stuff.

BENNY
No, no, no, no no. Look what
happened the last time I tried
that. You're the one that made me
go check on her when she was on
that date.

(MORE)

BENNY (CONT'D)

I interrupted her first kiss and it's been weird between us ever since.

CLARA

I told you to just go to the beach to check on her. You're the one who got stressed out, went into the ocean, and somehow caught an octopus.

BENNY

Fair. I shouldn't have caught the octopus, but he swam by and my island instincts kicked in. Besides, I thought she'd be excited. She used to love when I caught octopus. We'd do it together. I just want her to be that same little girl.

CLARA

But she's not. You need to accept she's growing up.

Benny gets up and starts to cross out.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

BENNY

I need to get in the ocean.

CLARA

Seriously, now?

BENNY

Yeah. Want to come.

CLARA

No.

BENNY

Alright. Love you. See you later.

He kisses her and heads out.

CLARA

What about your store?

(calling after)

Should I wake up Zander?

INT. NURSE'S STATION - LATER

Lahela does paper work. Across the way Noelani and Charles are huddled, talking.

CHARLES

Dr. Josh has invited everyone to his party Saturday night but us.

Charles looks to see Lahela listening. He forces a smile. Lahela, embarrassed, looks away.

NOELANI

(whispered)

What are we going to do? His shift ends at five.

Dr. Josh rounds a corner and comes towards them.

CHARLES

You know what, screw this.

Charles builds up his nerve and goes to Dr. Josh:

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Hey, why haven't you invited me to your party Saturday night?

DR. JOSH

What? You're invited.

CHARLES

I am?

DR. JOSH

Of course you are!

NOELANI

(hopeful)

Am I?

DR. JOSH

Yeah, sorry, I didn't say anything because I thought it was understood. Everyone's invited.

Lahela perks up, hopeful:

LAHELA

Even me?

Everyone laughs at Lahela. She reacts, miffed.

DR. JOSH
 (laughing)
 Oh my god, could you imagine?

CHARLES
 Good one, Lahela.

NOELANI
 You're so cute. I can't even...

DR JOSH
 Lahela, I wish I could invite you,
 but you know--

LAHELA
 Yeah, no, it's cool. Of course. I
 was joking. All good.

Clara rounds a corner and sees Lahela is distraught.

CLARA
 Honey, you okay?

LAHELA
 I'm fine.

Lahela blows past Clara, then a nurse approaches:

NURSE
 Will's ready to see you.

Lahela gives her a polite nod, then she takes a breath,
 composes herself, and crosses off to be a professional.

INT. WILL'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Will listens to Fleetwood Mac as Lahela enters.

LAHELA
 Hey, Will. How are you?

WILL
 What's wrong?

LAHELA
 Nothing.

He turns off the music and looks to her.

LAHELA (CONT'D)
 (re: chart)
 Blood pressure looks good...
 (MORE)

LAHELA (CONT'D)
 (off his stare)
 What? There's nothing.

WILL
 (studies her, then)
 It's your mom? Your friends?
 A boy...?
 (then)
 Aw man, it's all of it, isn't it?

Lahela can't help but smile.

WILL (CONT'D)
 I knew it!

They share a moment.

WILL (CONT'D)
 Here, I got just the thing. For
 you.

Will hands her the Fleetwood Mac cd for Rumours.

LAHELA
 No, I couldn't, I-

WILL
 Take it. My garbage son-in-law got
 it for me for Christmas. Come on,
 buddy. I got Rumours.
 (then)
 It's a CD. You know what that is?

LAHELA
 Of course. I have an old boom box
 somewhere.

WILL
 Perfect, you can dig it out and put
 this on whenever you need a little
 pick me up. Trust me it helps.

Lahela receives that.

WILL (CONT'D)
 So when do I get my new heart?

LAHELA
 Hard to say. It could be today,
 tomorrow, next week. Depends on
 when they get one.

Will looks away, his eyes get wet. Lahela can tell he's scared. She takes his hand.

LAHELA (CONT'D)
Hey... it's okay.

WILL
Will you be there when I get it?

LAHELA
Absolutely. They'll call me. No matter what. No matter when. I will be there.

WILL
Promise.

LAHELA
Promise.

INT. LAHELA'S ROOM - THAT EVENING

CUE: Billie Eilish's "Bad Guy" MONTAGE: getting ready for the dance:

- BATHROOM: Lahela, just out of the shower, combs her wet hair, steam everywhere. She poses in the mirror making "duck lips," then can't help but giggle.

- HALLWAY: door flies open, revealing Lahela in a pink robe. She poses, then starts a "cool girl" strut towards her room.

- BEDROOM: Lahela removes this evening's attire from the closet: a pink dress, perfect for a school dance.

- LATER: Lahela, now dressed, pulls a shoebox from under her bed, she opens it and pulls out a new pair of pink Air Force One high tops. She inspects the shoes. Awesome.

- Lahela, now with cool sneakers on, stands in front of the mirror. Steely-eyed, she looks left. Looks right. Looks in the mirror. Gives her body a little shake to loosen up. She hikes up what she considers her chest, smooths her dress skirt, and takes a deep breath. END MONTAGE.

Steph, dressed for the dance, climbs in through the window.

STEPH
Okay, word on the street is Walter Camara is going to kiss you during the first slow song of the dance.
(MORE)

STEPH (CONT'D)

So as long as your dad can stop
Hawaiian-ing all over the place,
you should be good to go.

DOORBELL. They look to each other, excited.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Lahela, looking radiant, stands at the top of the steps.

She looks down to see WALTER, in a nice shirt, holding
flowers. He talks to her parents.

Clara looks up and spots Lahela. Her daughter's beauty takes
her breath away. She taps Benny, and he looks up to see her.

As Lahela makes her way down the stairs, Walter moves to her.

WALTER

You look beautiful.

He puts the lei on her and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

LAHELA

Thanks.

From outside, they hear:

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

(Hawaiian Pidgin)

Oh da pretty!

They all look to each other, confused.

CLARA

Who was that?

WALTER

(head slumped)

I think I know.

They look to a window where WALTER'S AUNTIES, a group of big-
hearted and big-boned women, hold up their phones filming.

AUNTIE #1

Aloha! We're Walter's Aunties. His
mommy had to work tonight so we
promised get plenty picture.

AUNTIE #2

But Walter no like us embarrass
him, so we try stay outside.

BENNY
What?! Get in here.

Benny moves to the door, opens it, and they start filing in:

AUNTIE #1
Thanks, eh!

Benny watches as more and more HAWAIIAN FAMILY enters.

BENNY
Come on. There's room for
everyone... in theory.

EXT. PORCH - LATER

Lahela and Walter stand frozen in a prom pose for pictures:

LAHELA
Can we go now?

THEIR POV: GIANT CROWD of folks taking pictures: Clara,
Benny, Brian Patrick, Walter's family, neighbors, etc.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

It's mid-dance. Happy TEENAGERS dance with abandon. Lahela
and Walter dance and then it switches to a slow song. They
look to each other, then they come together and dance,
swaying back and forth. He smiles at her.

WALTER
Thanks for coming with me tonight.
This is my first dance, with like a
date.

LAHELA
Me too.
(then, fondly)
It's a night of firsts...

They look into each other's eyes. This is the moment. She
swallows, then tilts her head back to make eye contact. He
smiles. She leans towards him, closing her eyes when...

BEEP. Her phone vibrates, killing the mood.

LAHELA (CONT'D)
Sorry...
(re: phone)
It's the hospital. I gotta call in.

WALTER
(sadly)
Right now?

LAHELA
(even sadder)
I'm sorry.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Lahela blows out of the elevator, rushing toward Will's room.

INT. WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lahela sticks her head in. Will's bed is empty.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

As Lahela rushes out of the room, hits the EXIT DOOR running and pushes into...

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Taking two stairs at a time, toward...

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Lahela enters from the stairwell, bolts toward the Operating Rooms, past--

NURSE
Dr. Lee's been looking for you.

INT. DOCTOR'S BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

Lahela blows in and spots DR. LEE slumped on a bench, defeated. His stethoscope hangs from his neck.

LAHELA
What happened?

DR. LEE
He was asleep in his bed when he suddenly started to fibrillate. We worked on him for over an hour. He was just too debilitated...

Lahela tears up, turns away, kicks an open locker door shut in frustration. Seeing her passion for her patient makes Dr. Lee realize she's a real doctor just like him.

DR. LEE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, Dr. Kealoha. I guess
there just wasn't anything either
one of us could have done.

Lahela nods to him, with a shared mutual respect.

INT. LAHELA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lahela lies on her bed, in the dark, staring at the ceiling. THE DOOR opens, revealing CLARA. Lahela turns to the wall. Clara moves to the bed, sits down.

CLARA
I heard what happened. I'm sorry.

LAHELA
I promised him he'd be okay. I said
I would be there.

CLARA
The first time I lost a patient, I
cried like a baby. As you get
older, you learn to handle it.

LAHELA
I don't want to handle it...

CLARA
It's part of the job.

LAHELA
Why can't I just be a normal kid?

CLARA
Because you're not a normal kid,
you're also a doctor.
(then)
Trust me, I know how hard it is to
be two things. I'm a doctor, but
I'm also a mom. When I was younger
whenever I was at work I felt like
I was missing out on things with
you and your brother, and when I
was home, I worried I wasn't giving
enough to my career. But in the
end, doing both has made my life so
much fuller. You just have to find
the balance.

(MORE)

CLARA (CONT'D)

It's not easy, but both can be a gift.

(then)

Like how I'd like to be both a mom and a colleague to you.

Clara looks to Lahela hoping this has comforted her, instead:

LAHELA

Can I just be alone for a minute?

Lahela rolls over to face the wall.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - NEXT DAY

CUE: "DEEP END" by Birdy.

Kai, Steph, Brian Patrick and other NEIGHBOR KIDS play a game of FRISBEE, laughing and having fun, carefree. Lahela watches them as she gets on her bike to head to work.

Music continues through the following MONTAGE:

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER THAT DAY

Lahela walks the hall, past TWO NURSES:

NURSE #1

So excited for Dr. Josh's party!

NURSE #2

Let's meet for a drink first.

Lahela moves past them, not part of the fun.

INT. WILL'S ROOM - (LATER)

Lahela leans in the doorway and watches as an ORDERLY takes down Will's tapestries and tie-dies.

EXT. HAWAIIAN STREET - (DUSK)

Lahela rides her bike home, all alone.

EXT. HAWAIIAN BEACH - (DUSK)

Lahela goes to the beach, sits down in the sand, and looks out at the ocean.

INT. LAHELA HOUSE FRONT PORCH - SAME

Benny and Clara sit on the porch, tense:

CLARA

I'm worried about her. I just want to know she's okay.

BENNY

Me too. I hate feeling like I'm not part of her life.

CLARA

Maybe we just need to accept that she's growing up and things won't ever be the same.

Benny exhales, gets up, and starts to cross out.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Where you going?

BENNY

The ocean.

CLARA

Wait, I'm coming.

Clara follows after him.

EXT. BEACH HAWAII - MAGIC HOUR

Lahela sits on the beach and then she sees Walter, with his surfboard, coming in from the water.

LAHELA

Walter, hey!

Lahela moves towards him.

WALTER

Lahela! Howzit.

LAHELA

I'm so sorry I had to leave the dance.

WALTER

That's okay. I know you had to run off and save lives. How'd it go?

Lahela shakes her head.

WALTER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. You okay?

Lahela starts to cry. It all comes out. Walter hugs her, comforting her. Then she looks in his eyes... She kisses him.

Just at that moment Benny and Clara come upon the beach and see them kissing. They stop. They see Walter be sweet to Lahela, comforting her. They see the biggest smile from Lahela they haven't seen in so long. Clara and Benny look to each other, touched.

They watch as Lahela and Walter sit down together on the beach. They can't hear what they are saying, but we can tell they are engaged and interested in each other and connecting.

For Benny it's bittersweet. He sees the joy on his daughter's face, but he's not the one providing it. But, he's happy, she's happy. He looks to Clara, tears of joy in her eyes:

CLARA
She's okay.

Benny nods. She is.

INT. LAHELA'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Lahela writes in her journal, in calligraphy and art:

LAHELA (V.O.)
Kissed my first boy and lost my
first patient. Life will never be
the same. Will was right. I'm never
going to forget these firsts...

She plugs in her old boom box, puts in the Rumours cd, and hits play. Cue: Fleetwood Mac's "GO YOUR OWN WAY." We pull out her window... PAST THE SWAYING PALM TREES...over the PRETTY HAWAIIAN NIGHT SKY...to a FULL MOON.

FADE TO BLACK.