

## Hawaii – The Invisible Birds

CAST: 3 (any gender; strongly encourage poc for this play)

Maui (any gender\_ ageless because they are a god

Kaiko (male or female) 18;

Nalu (male or female) 15;

SETTING: A Hawaiian island; today

SYNOPSIS: Everyone can hear birds sing but only Maui can see them. Kaiko and Nalu want to change that.

TAGS: Fantasy, natural world

*(LIGHTS UP on MAUI standing – by the sea watching his beloved birds. KAIKO And NALU are nearby doing some mundane chores: prepping food, whatever works for you. There are bird sounds. Lovely ones.)*

MAUI

Do you hear him? The yellow tailed-one with the red stripes? His sweet song is matched by his stunning beauty.

KAIKO

How would we know? We can't see him.

NALU

It would be lovely if you could make it so we could see them... Hint hint.

MAUI

It's not a good idea. Be grateful that you can hear the birdsong. Oh – that speckled gray one does shimmer! One forgets that even a gray-colored bird has its own brand of beauty.

KAIKO

Do you like to taunt us every morning with your invisible birds?

MAUI

A god must have some fun.

NALU

I want to be a god. Can you make me a god?

MAUI

You must be a god from birth. Sorry. Not sorry. Oh the scarlet plumes in that one! I just love all the colors in Birdland.

KAIKO

You're making this up. I don't believe there are any birds out there.

MAUI

Listen.

*(We hear a birdsong.)*

Maui never lies. They're everywhere in Hawaii.

NALU

It's not fair! We have to work all day and you just get to play with invisible birds.

MAUI

You think the life of a god is easy? All I hear is, "Maui, make it rain." Later, "Maui, stop the rain." Remember when the humans all banded together and said, "Maui, we love the sun. Let the sun shine 24 hours a day." It took some doing to make that happen. Moon wasn't happy with being displaced and Sun quite frankly wanted a rest. And what was my reward? The humans complained. After all, I did for them! "Maui, we can't sleep with the sun always shining." "Maui, the sun is drying up our crops." And so I had to go back and undo everything that had taken me days to do. I don't mind. I'm a good god who listens to the people. But don't tell me how easy everything is for me. You don't know the half of it. (Beat.) Oh my! You have to admire the orange wings!

KAIKO

You're a mean-spirited god, Maui. You just like to taunt us.

MAUI

I'm a nice god. A loving god. It's just ...

NALU

You want to keep the birds all to yourself and not share them.

MAUI

No. That's not it.

KAIKO

It makes you feel special to see things that we cannot.

MAUI

I will admit, seeing what you cannot does give me a tingle. But. No. That's not it. (Beat.) I worry about them. As long as they are invisible, nobody can hurt them. Nobody can catch them. Nobody can throw rocks at them.

NALU

We would never do that.

MAUI

People do strange things.

KAIKO

But as long as they are invisible, nobody can admire them. Nobody can feed them. Nobody can help them if they are in distress.

MAUI

It's a toss-up. On the one hand, they are safe. On the other hand, they cannot fully participate in the world. If I make them visible, will you promise to respect them, care for them and let them go about their day without hoards of people with binoculars watching their every move?

NALU and KAIKO

Yes!

*(MAUI does "something" to make the birds visible. Birdsongs are heard. NALU and KAIKO stand in awe.)*

NALU

They're more...

KAIKO

Beautiful...

NALU

More...

KAIKO

Charming...

NALU

More...

KAIKO

Graceful in flight.

NALU

More everything.

MAUI

They are, aren't they?

*(The three of them stand in awe as the lights fade to black. The birdsong can continue.)*

END OF PLAY