

PROLOGUE

The lanai of a ranch-style house on the hillside in Kalaheo, Kaua'i, overlooking Po'ipū Bay. Patio furniture. A fire pit. Surfboards. A tiki bar strung with Christmas lights. No electricity – only torchlight.

Musical instruments scattered around, slippahs by the door. Night insects. Torchlight flickers like old memories. Soft ukulele begins.

BLUE sits cross-legged, strumming. Early twenties. Local-born. Easy smile. Boardshorts and a faded T-shirt. Barefoot.

DANNY plays a box drum beside him. Barefoot, loose clothes.

BLUE

(singing)

I SAW IT IN A DREAM
THE LONELY ONES WHO CAN'T FIT IN
THEY SMILED UP AT ME
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES
THEY SMILED UP AT ME
AND THEY CRIED WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT
AND THEY SAID

(chorus)

WE'RE FROM OUTER SPACE
AND DON'T KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE
TAKE US TO A PLACE WHERE WE BELONG
WE MISS OUR FAMILIES
SITTING ON A DISTANT PLANET
TAKE US HOME TO A PLACE WHERE WE BELONG

BLUE continues to strum softly. DANNY moves downstage center, under a warm spotlight.

DANNY

Aloha, everybody. Welcome.

(points to someone)

Ho. Good to see ya.

Come in. Grab one plate. Find one chair.

Make yourselves at home.

No electricity, no problem.

We got torchlight, moonlight, fish on da grill,
pig in da pit, and plenty talk story.

Tonight is special.

First anniversary.

Every year from now on, we gather.

We tell it right.

So young ones know.

So nobody forget.

So fear no come back later wearing one nice shirt

and pretending it never happened.

(softening)

This happened right here on this lanai.

He gestures out over the audience.

Before all that, things were real good.

(beat)

One year ago today, Burnzie messaged me out of nowhere.

Hadn't seen him in over twenty years.

"I have to see you. Today. Cannot wait."

I felt that stillness before the swell.

(glances toward Blue)

Should've poured one more Mai Tai for this story.

(back out to audience)

Eat grinds. Listen. Remember.

This is how it began.

Soft wind chimes tinkle offstage.

LIGHTS: Fade down on the lanai action (no blackout).

SPECIAL on the MUSICIAN(S), who are positioned within sight of the audience.

SLACK KEY GUITAR takes over and plays out the moment.

END PROLOGUE.