

# ALOHA NUI

By  
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## CAST

RALPH  
PELE  
MARY

## Notes-

PELE is an elemental, fiery, dignified, primal, playful aspect of deity. Associated with volcanoes and fire, she also stirs passions. Her larger dramatic actions should be done in tandem with sounds such as waves crashing or the roar of a great wind. Pele is in constant dancing motion, often singing a wordless, haunting song under the dialogue.

### Sunrise

RALPH stands on the ledge of a volcanic cliff over the ocean. He intends suicide.

PELE, beneath the ledge, greets the sunrise with song and dance. We hear ocean waves.

### PELE

(Singing a siren song, using the words-)

Aloha Nui.

### Ralph

The sunrise. To end with the new. It feels as if everything I've ever done was just preparation for this moment.  
(pause)

I hear you. I've come back. I'm here. I'm ready.

PELE is pleased to see Ralph. PELE dances among the waves and rocks.

ENTER MARY with bag containing gin bottle, glass, flowers, & leaves.

RALPH gets ready to jump.

PELE lifts arms to receive Ralph

### Mary

Excuse me.

PELE stops singing.  
Both turn to look at Mary.  
The ocean sound stops.

Mary (cont)

Is this going to take long?  
(realizes what Ralph is doing)  
Oh. Oh. Are you all right?

Ralph

Please go away.

Mary

I can't, I've come especially from Seattle to this place.

Ralph

Go somewhere else.

Mary

I can't go somewhere else.

Ralph

I can't either.

Mary

It was the perfect place. I searched all over the island and this was the perfect place, with the cliffs above and the sea below, like being caught, suspended between them.

PELE sings again.

Ralph

Please go away.  
(Turns back to the ocean.)

Mary

You don't understand. My flight back leaves in just a few hours.  
(Takes her rock out of her bag.)  
I brought my rock back. It's bad luck to take rocks from the island, did you know that?

RALPH laughs bitterly.  
PELE laughs wickedly.

Mary (cont)

I didn't know. All these awful things started happening.

Ralph

God.

PELE beckons again. Ralph prepares himself again to leap.

Mary

And of course the volcanic rock is linked to Pele because she's the volcano Goddess, so naturally things having to do with heat and destruction...unexpected, strange things happen when you take the rocks away.

Ralph

Do you see how inviting the water is?

Mary

Why are you here? This is a very dangerous place.

(beat)

Come see what I brought.

(Takes his hand and pulls him away just in time, as)

PELE washes over the cliff like  
a massive wave, just misses Ralph

Ralph

I took some rocks from 'this' place. A suitcase full.

Mary

Oh my God.

Ralph

My wife thought it would be so cool to have them in the charcoal grill. Real Hawaiiin rocks in the grill, how thrilling for all our friends.

PELE climbs up to move around  
them. She's angry.

Mary

You poor thing.

(sets out altar things, scarf, flowers, gin.)

Ralph

What's all this stuff? Gin?

Mary

Gin is Pele's drink. Evidently.

Ralph

Why?

Mary

Well, I have no idea. I had no idea you aren't supposed to take rocks from Hawaii. I collect special rocks from wherever I travel. And as far as I know, I haven't offended any ancient deities from other countries.

PELE sniffs at Mary disdainfully

Mary (cont)

So how was I to know? I saw a book yesterday in Honolulu all about this very thing, people taking rocks and awful things happening to them. People from all over the world return the rocks when they find out. The only thing you can do is bring them back- or mail them.. Did you know Honolulu has one guy in the post office whose only job is to receive the rocks everyone mails back, then once a week he takes them in his pickup back to the lava fields?

Ralph

So why didn't you just mail them?

Mary

You have no idea how bad things were getting. I wanted to be sure I was doing this right. This is serious. I wanted to come back myself and set things right.

(beat. She's losing Ralph.)

Give me a hand?

RALPH pulls her up.

Mary (cont)

So, did something happen to you?

Ralph

Something? Yeah. Something happened all right.

Mary

Please tell me.

Ralph

Why? What do you care? I wish you'd go away and let me...finish.

Mary

Tell me. Listen, tell me, and then if you want me to go, I will.

Ralph

(struggles with decision, gives in)

The air conditioner went out the first day we got back- this is Texas, right, August. So I phoned a repair man, Jose□, good old Jose□, who happened to see my wife putting hamburgers on the grill, and she told him the rocks were from Hawaii, and he told her about the curse, but she laughed. She doesn't believe that kind of thing.

PELE finds this amusing. She investigates the altar.

Mary

Do you?

Ralph

I guess I do now.

PELE entices him back towards the cliff.

Mary

Here, can you help me? Please help me. Maybe it will change your luck.

Ralph

Nothing will change my luck.

Mary

I have this friend who knew about the 'problem'. My friend, she's into.... Well, she's a witch. She saw my rock, I mean I showed it to her, it was on my altar... does that sound weird to you?

Ralph

Altars go way back. Gin I'm not so sure about.

Mary

Yes, I know, but sometimes people have strange ideas about... Want me to go on?

Ralph

Yeah, go on.

Mary

And she told me to send this rock back right away, but I didn't want to. None of my other rocks had done bad things.

(Picks up rock.)

It's so beautiful, the volcanic rock right from the source. Fire's molten passion is contained in the rock. Do you feel it?

(an embarrassed pause)

But then...

Ralph

Then?

PELE's pull is strong.

Mary

It still sounds kind of silly. It was a series of little things at first. A candle on my altar caught the cloth behind it on fire. I put it out okay, but... then I burned myself really badly in the oven when.... I was clumsy I guess... here-

(shows the scar on her hand.)

PELE kisses the air behind  
Ralph's head, then

RALPH kisses Mary's scar.

PELE reacts with pleasure.

Mary

Why did you do that?

Ralph

I don't know.

Mary

(pause)

So I brought all the things my friend, my witch friend, told me to bring. Ti leaves, flowers, and good gin. Would you please hold the rock? I'm not quite sure how to do this.

(hands Ralph the stone.)

MARY pours a glass of gin.

Ralph

Do you really believe...?

PELE drinks the gin.

Mary

Why are you here?

Ralph

The short answer? My house suddenly caught on fire in the middle of the night. If the alarm hadn't sounded..... The house didn't burn down, but it might as well have.

(beat)

And my wife was not in the bed.

Mary

I'm sorry?

Ralph

She'd snuck out. In the confusion of the moment, I didn't realize, until it was all over, I just couldn't find her, it was all crazy.... Until the fire trucks had left and up pulls Happy Jose's Heating and H-air Conditioning van to let her h-off.

PELE roars with laughter

Mary

That is so tragic.

Ralph

Her face- I mean she was worried about sneaking back in, and her house had burned down.

MARY and RALPH  
break into laughter.

Ralph

(It hits him.)

I loved her.

Mary

I've never loved anyone that much, that I could...

(notices empty glass)

Oh, I should have said, you're not supposed to drink the gin yourself.

PELE starts to unite them in a  
sensual dance.

Ralph

I didn't.

Ralph and Mary get caught up  
in the dance, swaying subtly, connecting.

Mary

That's strange.

(breaks the spell. Pours another glass)

Okay, I'll try to do this right.

(lifts flowers and leaves.)

Grandmother Pele, tutu Pele, please accept these gifts. See, I've returned the rock which in my ignorance I took, but here it is, back to the exact same place, more or less, I took it... from...but here it is. Mahalo, Pele.

PELE drinks gin

Ralph

(doing his best)

Mahalo Pele. And we hope you have no hard feelings, because we never meant... to offend.

Ralph ceremoniously lifts the  
rock, then places it where MARY  
indicates. PELE receives it in her  
hand, then sets it down.

MARY begins to pack things away.

Ralph (cont)

Is that it?

(moves back towards the cliff edge.)

Mary

Did you bring your rocks back?

Ralph

I couldn't. My wife took them when she ran off with Jose.

Mary

You came back to offer yourself instead

PELE sings her siren song.  
The ocean waves sound.

Ralph

I kept having this dream- no, more like a vision. I'd see this place- right here, just like it is today, with the hazy sky over the incredible blue of the ocean, and the black volcanic cliffs- it pulled at me, almost physically, like wanting, like aching to be with a lover. The sea stretching to the horizon like a road to eternity. Nothing else mattered. It wouldn't go away, this vision. The worse things got, the stronger the pull became, and the fewer things were in my life to hold me in one place, until there was no reason not to come.

(Pause)

Ralph (cont)

There is a call with the vision that I hear. Listen. Can you hear it?

Mary

Yes, I hear it.

(Pause)

I hear it.

MARY joins RALPH on the cliff.

Ralph

I'm scared.

Mary

I'm lonely. I've been lonely for so many years. I've been waiting for a long time. Is there something we should do before....

They grasp hands, preparing to jump

PELE pushes them back with a huge wave. They stand like newborns, seeing the situation differently, gazing at each other. PELE puts leis around their necks.

Mary

What's your name?

Ralph

Ralph.

I'm Mary.

(pause)

You didn't really drink the gin, did you?

Mary

PELE dances to bring them together

You tell me.

Ralph

They kiss. as PELE sings-

Aloha nui.

PELE

PELE dances an energetic  
dance of rejoicing as

the lights fade

END