

Monkeypods

Written by

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EXT. MONKEYPOD TREE - DAY

*Dream sequence:* Silhouette of TWO GIRLS playing in the Monkeypod tree, their voices and laughter echo.

YOUNG ALANA (V.O.)  
When we're here, only happy  
thoughts.

A deep, scratchy voice narrates.

JANE (V.O.)  
Spring of 2003. This dream is  
constantly on my mind, even when  
I'm awake. She is always in my  
thoughts.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Close up on Nalani's eyes (19) as she sleeps. COMMOTION in the background. Her eyes squint open, awakened by arguments outside the door. Zoom out to her sexy, naked body, only a thin white silk sheet partially covering her in bed. She nudges at the person lying next to her.

NALANI  
Can you please shut them up?

The camera hovers over to a shaved-headed person buried in pillows. It lands on the nightstand: close-up on a half-drunk glass of whiskey, a pack of cigarettes, and lines of coke.

Subtle movement under the sheets. A silhouette sits up, reaches for the whiskey; arms covered in tattoos.

The glass SLAMS back down -empty. The hand grabs the cigarette pack. We follow the tattooed arms, as the cigarette pierces between the shadowed lips. Over the shoulder are two teenagers, PUA and KAI, arguing outside the door.

A flame sparks. The cigarette lights up to reveal JANE, resembling G.I. Jane, hence her nickname. Her lips and face are scarred from years of gang fights. A rugged twenty-one-year-old, a Mahu with tales of a rough street life. She inhales the cigarette deeply, rubs her distress eyes, and interrupts the argument.

JANE  
Shut the fuck up!

Kai realizes and rushes over to close the door.

KAI  
Sorry G.I. it won't happen again.

Pua barges in.

PUA  
Please tell me the truth, where was  
he last night?

Jane is annoyed. Kai tries to get Pua out, but she resists.  
Jane jumps over the bed and shoves Pua up against the wall.

JANE  
Shut the fuck up!

Pua is taken aback.

JANE (CONT'D)  
You dare come into my house and  
disrespect me!

Jane let's go. Pua lands on her feet, coughing.

JANE (CONT'D)  
Kai, take care of your girl or I'll  
take care of her for you.

Pua bolts out, scared.

KAI  
Sorry G.

JANE  
You're done with her. Understood?

Kai nods and shuts the door. Jane rubs her bald head and sits  
back on the bed. Nalani's arms wrap around Jane. Jane takes  
another puff.

NALANI  
Ooh! I love it when you talk tough  
like that.

She cuddles up behind Jane, kissing her neck. Jane resists.

JANE  
I'm not in the mood right now.

NALANI  
Aw, we're supposed to be  
celebrating.

Nalani whisper seductively in Jane's ear. Jane gets aroused.

JANE

Stop it, you know I can't resist...

Nalani licks Jane's ear and blows. Jane can't control it anymore -she dives in. They start making out. Jane pauses for a second and snorts a line of coke. Nalani joins.

Ecstasy kicks in and they attack each other. Jane flips her over and goes under as Nalani MOANS and SCREAMS!

EXT. JANE'S APARTMENT - HOURS LATER - DAY

A FLASHY car parked on the street. MANO (21) waits inside. He checks his fancy watch, then spots Jane and Nalani coming out. They kiss passionately.

MANO

Oh man!

Mano covers his face, embarrassed. Jane and Nalani smother each other with kisses. Mano rolls his eyes and honks the horn. Jane smacks Nalani's ass as she struts off. Jane sees Mano and nonchalantly walks over to him. Mano shakes his head.

JANE (CONT'D)

Brah, don't be jealous.

MANO

Jealous? I'm not jealous. It's embarrassing.

Jane gets in the car.

INT. MANO'S CAR - DAY

JANE

What? I got nothing to be ashamed of. Why should you?

Mano drives off.

MANO

It's not about you alright!? It's about my manhood.

JANE

What?

MANO

Dude, when you still dressed like a girl and we hooked up, I was the last guy you with. Now everyone tinks I turned you mahu.

Jane laughs, pulling out her cigarette.

MANO (CONT'D)

Now every girl is afraid to get wit me.

JANE

They're not afraid to get wit chu, they just don't want to.

Jane chortles.

JANE (CONT'D)

Stop being a sensitive bitch, you weren't the last guy I was with.

MANO

Really!?

JANE

You were the only guy.

Jane chuckles.

MANO

Is that supposed to make me feel better?

JANE

It should! I wasn't even attracted to you but I still put out for you.

MANO

Fuck you... Dude, seriously man, can you and Nalani just cool it, at least till I can get my mojo back?

JANE

All right man, anything for you.

MANO

Thanks, man!

JANE

You know who actually turned me gay?

MANO

Who?

JANE

Your mamma.

Jane laughs facetiously. Mano shoves her. She shoves back.

JANE (CONT'D)

Seriously man, let's go take care  
of business!

They're both pump up, blast some cool BEATS and head onto HI-93 east.

EXT. SKETCHY NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Jane and Mano's car cruises slowly down the streets, scoping the territory. They pass the HOSTESS BAR.

MANO

There it is. That's where they hang  
out. We better make sure they don't  
see us, Kekoa might be in there.

Mano turns into the alley, parks, and watches the back door.

MANO (CONT'D)

Nothing unusual here.

Jane spots a girl rushing inside who shockingly looks familiar.

JANE

Dude, wait! We gotta go in!

MANO

What!? Are you outta your mind!?

JANE

There's a girl...

MANO

Girl!? Man, no girl is worth gett'n  
killed for. An you know you got to  
pay those bitches just to sit wit'  
chu. Fuck that! Besides don't you  
got enough shit with your girl?

JANE

It's not like that! I know her.  
I've been wondering what happened  
to her. It'll only be a second.

MANO

You're crazy, man! You-

Before Mano can finish, Jane is already out the door.

MANO (CONT'D)

Man! Why do you always do that!?

Mano involuntarily follows suit.

INT. HOSTESS BAR - DAY

Jane and Mano slip through the back door. The hallway is confined and dark. Cheap TECHNO MUSIC pumps through the walls. They pass the bathrooms: the women's door is CLOSED, the men's reeks, with a DRUNKEN MAN missing the toilet.

The hallway opens to a smoky, dim room. Disco ball lights swirl over. A few daytime DRUNKS chatting with HOSTESS GIRLS. At the end of the bar sits a man in a military uniform, NAVY, (30) sipping scotch and watching GEORGE W. BUSH announces the WAR ON IRAQ. Jane searches for her friend while Mano scouts the room.

MANO

Luckily they're not here.

JANE

Not yet.

Over Jane's shoulder, the girl comes out of the bathroom, straightens herself up. MAMASAN (60s) storms past Jane and Mano towards the girl, yelling.

MAMASAN

You are late again!

Jane turns to watch as Mamasan lectures the girl, whose back is turned.

MAMASAN (CONT'D)

If it weren't for my boys, I  
would've fired you.

Jane walks over to the bar to catch a better glimpse, Mano follows. They sit on the stool.

Mamasan finishes arguing and heads back towards the counter. The girl turns towards Mamasan to reveal, it is ALANA (22) the most beautiful Goddess.

JANE

It's her!

ALANA  
(to Mamasan)  
You know I have a damn good reason  
for being late!

Mamasan turns back to Alana.

MAMASAN  
Stop giving me your child excuse  
nonsense, I'm tired of it! Why  
don't you be a hostess like the  
rest of the girls? You can have  
your own schedule, come and go as  
you please, you make good money!

ALANA  
You know Tony wouldn't allow that.  
He'll hurt anyone that touches me!  
Don't you think I need the money  
too!? Why don't you talk to them?

Mamasan thinks for a second.

MAMASAN  
Okay, let me see what I can do. We  
can make lots of money together...  
In the meantime, speaking of a  
potential customer...

She signals towards Navy, who sits alone sipping his scotch.  
He sees Alana looking over and waves to her.

MAMASAN (CONT'D)  
He's been wait'n for you long time.

ALANA  
Thanks. I'll take care of him.

MAMASAN  
If you were a hostess girl, you'd  
take care of him better... But for  
now, go take care of his drinks.

Alana goes behind the bar. Jane buries her face. Mano  
continues fixating on Alana. Before she gets to Navy, she  
stops in front of them.

ALANA  
What can I get you two?

MANO  
I would like some of those fine  
Heinies of yours if you don't mind!

Alana is not amused. She opens a bottle of Heineken and hands it to him. She looks over at Jane. Jane barely opens up.

JANE

Um... another heinie. I -I meant  
another Heineken is fine, thanks.

Alana doesn't notice Jane, she's more concerned with Navy. She pops open a bottle, sets it, and heads on over to Navy. Jane quickly chugs the beer down. A HOSTESS GIRL comes over and starts flirting with Mano. He brushes her off.

MANO

Not now bitch! I'm not paying \$20  
fo yo fake-ass drinks!

The Hostess Girl evil-eye him and goes over to Jane. Jane immediately waves her off.

JANE

Oh, no. No thanks.

The girl rebuffs and leaves. Mano continues scanning Alana.

MANO

(to Jane)

That girl looks familiar.

JANE

That's because it's Alana.

Mano thinks for a second.

MANO

Wait, that's Alana from our church?  
Damn! She's gotten hotter! Dude, I  
use to have a big crush on her.  
Masturbate to her an everything!

JANE

Shut the fuck up! That's my friend!

MANO

Oh yeah, didn't you two hang out or  
summin? What ever happened to her?

JANE

I don't know, she just disappeared.

MANO

Didn't that happen around the same  
time Father McKenna got  
transferred?

JANE  
Could be coincidence.

MANO  
Dude! Why don't you go over there  
and talk to her?

JANE  
No way man!

MANO  
Then what the fuck are we doing  
here?

JANE  
I just wanted to make sure it's  
her.

MANO  
Don't you wanna know what happened  
to her?

JANE  
Yeah, but... I don't want her to  
see me like this.

MANO  
Like what, a mahu!? Who gives a  
fuck! We didn't come in here and  
risk gettin' our ass kicked for  
nuttin!

Mano gets up and is about to head over when Jane stops him.

JANE  
What are you doing?

MANO  
It's our fucking friend!

JANE  
She's my friend, not yours!

MANO  
Hey! I talk to her too! Mostly in  
my dreams, but- who gives a fuck,  
we're already here, the least you  
can do is say hi, and get her  
number for me.

JANE  
Dude! Do you remember where we are?  
This is not the place or time! They  
can be here any minute now!

MANO  
You're telling me? I was the one  
that told you that earlier!

Mano stops -looks up in shock! Kekoa, Tony, and the gang enter.

MANO  
Holy shit!

He ducks behind Jane.

MANO (CONT'D)  
They're here!

Jane looks over her shoulder -sees them- immediately turns back. She slams a twenty-dollar bill on the counter.

JANE  
Let's get out of here.

Jane glances at Alana and notices Mano chugging down his beer.

JANE (CONT'D)  
What are you doing? Let's go!

Jane tugs his shirt and drags him off. They scurry down the hallway and exit the back door. Kekoa and the gang head into their office. Alana sees Tony passing but continues her conversation with Navy.

ALANA  
When are you leaving?

NAVY  
I'm being deployed tomorrow night  
and... there's a good chance I  
might never come back!

ALANA  
Don't be dramatic. You'll be back.

NAVY  
I don't think so. I'd like to see  
you before I leave.

ALANA  
Sure, stop by before you go  
tomorrow.

NAVY

No, that's not what I meant. I might die over there! This might be the last time I'll see you again.

ALANA

Oh, you're being overly dramatic. You'll be fine.

Alana picks up a towel and starts wiping the counter.

NAVY

No! I'm serious Lorena. I'm gonna die over there!

Navy gently puts his hand over her hand. Alana stops wiping.

NAVY (CONT'D)

I really want to see you.

He softly squeezes her hand.

ALANA

Oh Navy, I can't.

She hears the gang coming out and pulls back her hand.

ALANA (CONT'D)

I gotta go. I can't do that but if you want to see me for the last time, I'll be here tomorrow.

She smiles and walks away.

NAVY

One thousand dollars!

Alana freezes.

NAVY (CONT'D)

Just one night and I'll never bother you again.

Alana hesitates, she sees Tony coming out with a smile. She smiles back and spearheads toward him.

EXT. PARKING LOT ALLEY - DAY

Jane and Mano sprint to the car. Jane stops by the door. Mano gets in, turns on the engine. He sees Jane standing there.

MANO

What are you doing? Get in the car!

JANE

You go ahead. There's something I have to do.

MANO

What the fuck!?

JANE

I gotta take care of something.  
Just go -I'll be fine! I'll meet up with you at 8 Fat later.

MANO

Are you serious?

JANE

Yes! Just go!

MANO

Alright man, just be careful  
alright? I'll see you later.

They do their personalized homeboy handshake and Mano peels off. Jane watches him leave, then carefully slips back towards the bar.

EXT. FRONT BUILDING - NIGHT

Jane stands across the street in the dark corner, incognito, watching the Hostess Bar door. Drunken MEN, all breeds, casually stream out. Suddenly the gang comes out. Jane melts herself in the shadow. She sees Alana rushing out, talks to Tony, then rushes back inside. Tony gets in the car with the rest of the gang.

Jane takes the last drag of her cigarette, paces back and forth, glancing at the door. She flicks her cigarette and decides to cross the street. Alana suddenly comes out and hurries away. Jane halts and follows her.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Alana's heels CLANK hurriedly. Jane cautiously catches up. Alana turns a corner. Jane does the same.

EXT. SLEEZY APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alana stops at an old, dirty apartment. Jane sees Alana going towards the door. Alana preps herself and KNOCKS. Jane hides behind a building and peeks as the door opens. It's Navy. He invites her in; the door closes behind them.

Jane watches the window as the light goes dim. She lights up her cigarette and waits. After a moment she hears a SMASH. The light flickers. Jane rushes to the door. She hears Alana screaming.

ALANA (O.S.)  
Stop! What are you doing?

NAVY (O.S.)  
If I'm going to pay for you, I'm  
gonna do things my way!

Jane presses her ear to the door. Cross over..

ROOM - NIGHT

Navy throws a pile of cash at Alana.

NAVY  
Here's your fucking money. You  
think I want it to end like this? I  
could've loved you, Lorena! I would  
have given you everything but  
you... You'd rather be a whore!

He smacks her.

ALANA  
Stop! I don't want to do this  
anymore.

NAVY  
Shut the fuck up, bitch!

He turns her around and yanks her dress up. Alana fights back.

ALANA  
No--no! Stop!

EXT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jane rattles the doorknob but it would not open, then she rams the door several times until it barges open.

INT. APARTMENT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alana and Navy turn toward the door. Jane darts in and punches Navy hard in the face, and he blacks out.

Alana stands stunned and rattled. Jane goes over to her.

JANE  
Lana, are you okay?

Alana stares at Jane, bewildered.

ALANA  
How do you know my real name?

JANE  
It's me Jane, your best friend from church.

Alana studies her face.

ALANA  
Jane? Is that really you? You look so different. What are you doing here?

JANE  
I was at the hostess bar and I followed you.

ALANA  
You followed me here? But how?

Alana is still in shock.

JANE  
I was at the bar and I recognized you. I wanted to see how you doing?

Alana glances down at Navy.

ALANA  
You saved me from this asshole.

Alana kicks Navy as he slowly regains consciousness.

JANE  
We better get out of here before he wakes up.

Jane pulls her back. Alana straightens herself up, scoops up most of the cash, and gives Navy one last kick before they dash out.

EXT. EMPTY STREET - NIGHT

Jane and Alana run as fast as they could on the empty street, laughing and screaming just like they were kids.

Time seems to slow down for a minute. It feels like a past dream, nothing can go wrong.

ALANA

Hey, do you remember that Monkeypod tree we always climbed up to?

JANE

Yes.

ALANA

Let's go up there again.

They start running faster as the camera speeds up to the Monkeypod tree.

EXT. MONKEYPOD TREE - NIGHT

Jane and Alana climb up and sit at their usual spot, silhouettes against the stars over the ocean horizon.

ALANA

Remember, only happy thoughts when we're up here.

Alana launches into her reimagined adventure stories, animated and full of wonder. Jane follows closely, listening, smiling as they sit here under the full moon.

JANE (V.O.)

We were back in time again, in that moment where we were kids, before society took away our innocence. Why she disappeared all these years doesn't matter to me anymore. She is here now. I wanted to wrap my arms around her and tell her I love her -but I can't. That love is mine and only mine. If I scream it out at the top of my lungs, it won't be mine anymore; it'll be an empty echo. If I keep it to myself, it stays mine forever.

They sit together, virtuously, looking out into the horizon.