

WISHFUL THINKING

KM Ly

Inspired by true events

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1 INT. SMOKE BEDROOM, LAHAINA - DAY 1

Thick smoke floats in the air as a faint CRACKLE of fire grows in the distance. Numerous photo frames are planted on a nightstand, their memories SHROUDED in black smoke hovering above.

Title card: INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

2 INT. KAILEA'S KITCHEN, OAHU - DAY 2

Kailea (30s), a woman of local mixed descent with wavy black hair, opens a cabinet. Front and center is her beloved bag of coffee. She grabs it, along with a grinder, and moves to the island counter.

From the living room TV, the low, urgent tone of the TV newscaster draws her attention. Kailea tears open the bag and begins to pour beans into the grinder.

NEWS ANCHOR ON TV

Breaking news today, Maui is in a state of emergency right now with mandatory evacuation. People in Lahaina are reporting gridlock, desperately trying to evacuate and escape the raging brush fire, even forcing people to jump into the harbor to avoid fast-moving flames. The Coast Guard confirmed it has rescued a dozen people in the water near Lahaina. These videos show balls of flames swallowing Front Street destroying dozens of businesses, homes, and the Lahaina Harbor.

On TV, flames devour Lahaina Harbor. Her hand falters. Coffee beans cascade across the counter, clattering in slow motion.

Kailea stares, stricken, haunted -remembering her first sail into the Lahaina Harbor.

3 EXT. POWERBOAT, LAHAINA HARBOR, OCEAN- DAY (**FLASHBACK 2016**) 3

With wind in her YOUTHFUL black hair, a vibrant Kailea stands on the bow of the POWERBOAT, recording the entrance with her PHONE.

At the helm, the CAPTAIN steers into the slip, Kailea leaps onto the dock, cleating the bow line, while the SAILOR cleats the stern line.

4

INT. POWERBOAT, LAHAINA HARBOR - LATER

4

The Captain and Sailor sling their bags over their shoulders and bid Kailea farewell.

Now alone, Kailea stares at a CONTRACT OF SALE in her hands. Her phone RINGS. She sees the caller ID, and a smile breaks through as she answers.

KAILEA

Hey! So are you on your way to the airport?

NOA (V.O.)

No babe, I can't make it.

KAILEA

What do you mean you can't make it?

NOA (V.O.)

I'm still at the restaurant. We're drowning over here. Someone called in sick, and now we've got three huge parties at once. I can't leave.

KAILEA

But you promised me you'd show me around Maui.

NOA (V.O.)

I know, I know. I'll make it up to you. I'll take you to Mama's Fish House next time.

KAILEA

Next time? But what am I supposed to do now?

NOA (V.O.)

Head to Front St. There's usually a concierge there.

KAILEA

Concierge? On Front St?

NOA (V.O.)

Yeah, they can hook you up with the tour guide.

Kailea furious.

KAILEA

FINE! I'll just go by myself!

She hangs up the phone. Her frustration turns to loneliness.

5 EXT. FRONT STREET, LAHAINA - DAY 5

Kailea walks towards the Old Lahaina sign, scanning for the concierge.

6 EXT. TIKI BOOTH AND CONCIERGE COUNTER - CONTINUOUS 6

An old man ALFIE (77) white-haired and weathered, closed up his tikis booth. He sees Kailea passing by and thinks he sees the ghost of his daughter.

ALFIE

Kiana?

7 EXT. FRONT STREET, LAHAINA - CONTINUOUS 7

Kailea rounds the corner, spotting the pathway back to the tiki booth where the CONCIERGE stands behind the counter.

8 EXT. TIKI BOOTH AND CONCIERGE COUNTER - CONTINUOUS 8

Alfie sees her as she approaches the Concierge.

KAILEA

Excuse me, do you have a tour for the road to Hana?

CONCIERGE

Sure! When do you want to go?

KAILEA

Today.

CONCIERGE

(Shakes his head)

The road to Hana is long and winding. It's an all-day trip. The tour started early morning.

KAILEA

Oh! Um, what about Iao Valley?

CONCIERGE

You just missed the last shuttle.

KAILEA
 (disappointed)
 Okay. I'll just figure something
 out. Thanks.

She walks past the tiki booth and Alfie steps out, in his
 Scottish accent.

ALFIE
 I can take ye to Iao Valley,
 darling.

Kailea studies the strange old man.

KAILEA
 Oh no, that's ok. Thank you.

She politely passes him.

ALFIE
 Kiana--ye remind me of my daughter
 Kiana.

KAILEA
 Sorry, I'm not haole.

ALFIE
 My wife was mixed Hawaiian-Chinese.

KAILEA
 Was?

ALFIE
 Aye, they both passed away a few
 years ago.

KAILEA
 Oh, I'm sorry, my condolences.

ALFIE
 How long are ya here for?

KAILEA
 I fly out in two days.

ALFIE
 Perfect. I'll drive ye to Iao
 Valley today if ye drive me to the
 road to Hana tomorrow.

Kailea hesitates but is cautiously intrigued.

KAILUA
 Mmm... I don't know...

ALFIE

What do ya have to lose? I'm an old frail man who needs a ride along the narrow winding road, while you have the advantage of a free tour guide around this magical island.

Kailea considers.

ALFIE

Look, Pono can vouch for me.
(points at the concierge)
I've been working at this booth a long time now.

CONCIERGE

(confirms)
I vouch for him.

KAILEA

How about we grab coffee first?

ALFIE

Fair enough! Let me grab my things.

Alfie collects his belongings and they start walking off.

ALFIE

How's yer driving?

KAILEA

(excitedly brags)
I'm a great driver. I've driven cross-country in mainland three times, I can drive stick shift and I even have a motorcycle license.

Alfie is impressed as they continue talking along the pavement.

9 EXT. HIGHWAY 3000, MAUI - LATER

9

Drone shot: Kailea sits shotgun in Alfie's car sipping her coffee as Alfie drives along the beautiful coastline of Maui.

10 EXT. IAO VALLEY, MAUI - DAY

10

Kailea, drenched in a bathing suit with a wrapped towel, takes a selfie with the stunning mountain valley backdrop. She climbs the stairs towards Alfie, who is leaning on the railing.

KAILEA

What a magical place. I love it!
Thank you for taking me here.

(beat)

...How long have you lived here?

ALFIE

Way before ye were born, lass.
Fifty years.

KAILEA

Wow, that long and you still have
your accent?

ALFIE

Can't change that if I tried but
now it's mixed in all flavors.

(he chuckles)

And ye were born on Oahu and never
been to Maui?

KAILEA

With a single mom, working three
jobs just to pay the bills, we
never went anywhere. What about
you, what brought you here?

ALFIE

I came here on vacation and fell in
love with the island. Met my
beautiful wife, Leilani. We *had* an
amazing daughter and I never look
back.

KAILEA

May I ask... how they died?

ALFIE

Car accident. The truck was
speeding and swerved into my wife's
car, killing them instantly.

Alfie struggles to hold back his tears.

KAILEA

I'm so sorry to hear that...

(softly)

You know, I lost my father to
cancer when I was just six years
old. I barely remember him.

ALFIE

I'm sorry to hear that too, lass.

They share a quiet moment of grief. Then Alfie makes a request.

ALFIE

There's this beach in Hana. I used to take my family there. Haven't been back in years. I'm too old to drive those long narrow roads now. If you could drive me, it would mean a lot.

KAILEA

I'd be honored.

(Zoom out slowly) as they continue to admire the view.

11 INT. SMOKE BEDROOM, LAHAINA - DAY (**PRESENT DAY**) 11

CRACKLE SOUND of fire and TREMBLING walls in the distance. Thick black smoke seeps across the nightstand. A PHONE BUZZES, then abruptly loses service.

12 INT. KAILEA'S LIVING ROOM, OAHU - (**PRESENT DAY**) 12

Kailea clutches her phone up, pacing back and forth. NOA is on the couch watching the news on TV showing chaos at the airport. Travelers stranded and wearied.

KAILEA

Come on, Alfie! Pick up... Come on!

The call drops. She slams her phone on the couch.

KAILEA

Damn it!

(to her boyfriend)

We need to go to Maui. Now!

Noa turns off the news on TV.

BOYFRIEND

How? All the flights are tied up.

Camera pushes in on Kailea's face -fierce and determined!

KAILEA

We boat there! Call Captain Rick!

13

EXT. HANA HIGHWAY, MAUI - DAWN (**FLASHBACK 2016**)

13

Kailea's YOUTHFUL black hair whips on her face as she drives the coastal highway to Hana.

ALFIE

So what was the reason for yer
boyfriend to bail this trip?

Kailea rolls up the window.

KAILEA

He runs a restaurant in town;
Honolulu. Hard for him to get days
off, even though he promised me
he'd take me around Maui. I guess
someone called in sick again.

Kailea sighs with irritation, then spots Mama's Fish House restaurant as they pass.

KAILEA

Hey! Isn't that the famous Mama's
restaurant in Maui?

ALFIE

Aye.

KAILEA

My boyfriend said it's very nice.
He promised to take me there. Have
you been?

Alfie eyes soften with memory.

ALFIE

We used to go there for my
birthday.

KAILEA

Really? How come you don't go there
anymore?

ALFIE

No one to celebrate with.

KAILEA

Oh, yeah, sorry... I don't remember
ever celebrating my dad's birthday.
(beat, then brighten)
Tell you what -I'll take you on
your birthday one of these days.
When is it?

ALFIE

In April.

KAILEA

It's settled then. Mama's
restaurant for your birthday! Screw
my boyfriend!

They chuckle as the sunrise spills the coastline.

14 INT. ALFIE'S CAR, ROAD TO HANA - DAY 14

Various shots of Kailea and Alfie passing famous landmarks.
Hookipa Beach. Twin Falls. Eucalyptus Rainbow Trees.

15 EXT. BRIDGE, HANAWI FALLS - DAY 15

Drone shot of Alfie's car crossing Hanawi Falls bridge.

16 INT. ALFIE'S CAR, HANAWI FALLS - CONTINUOUS 16

Kailea gasps at the view!

KAILEA

Oh my gawd! We have to stop!

She turns around and CUT TO-

17 EXT. HANAWI FALLS, MAUI - DAY 17

Alfie and Kailea approach the edge of the bridge. A waterfall
cascades into a massive pool below.

KAILEA

Oh wow! It's gorgeous! We have to
swim!

ALFIE

You go on ahead, darling, I'll be
right here.

KAILEA

Okay, see you soon!

She treks down to the pool and effortlessly dives in. Then
she swims beneath the waterfall and invigoratingly screams at
the top of her lungs.

KAILEA

This is amazing! Chehooo!

Alfie chuckles, relishing her enthusiasm.

18 EXT. ROAD TO HANA - DAY 18

Drone shots of the car weaving along the lush coastline.

BEGIN MONTAGE.

19 INT. ALFIE'S CAR, BEAUTIFUL HANA - DAY 19

Kailea grins, driving along the narrow road and emerging at another beautiful scenic coast. She is amazed!

20 EXT. SANDY'S BANANA BREAD STAND - DAY 20

Kailea holds her phone up, bites into fresh banana bread, snapping selfie.

21 EXT. GORGEOUS LOOKOUT - DAY 21

They parked by another gorgeous scenic lookout. Alfie takes photos for Kailea.

22 EXT. TONY'S AND CAROLINE'S FRUIT STAND - DAY 22

TONY and CAROLINE hand Kailea two pineapple drinks. Kailea grabs them and hands one to Alfie. She forces him into a goofy selfie.

Kailea blows kisses to her Instagram followers.

END MONTAGE.

23 EXT. CLIFF OVER KOKI BEACH - LATER 23

Alfie steps to the cliff's edge. The Hawaiian breeze brushes across his face. He sees Koki Beach below and the camera turns over his shoulder. A family is playing on the beach below and he is transported back in time.

24 EXT. KOKI BEACH - DAY (FLASHBACK 1980'S) - DAY 24

YOUNGER ALFIE, buried in sand. His daughter, KIANA, builds sandcastles on his belly, squealing with laughter. His wife, LEILANI, splashes him with water. They collapse into joy. She kisses him as Kiana pounces on his big sandy belly. He cringes and they all laugh together.

25 EXT. CLIFF OVER KOKI BEACH - CONTINUOUS (2016)

25

Old Alfie joins in on the laughter, eyes glistening. Then Kailea steps in beside him.

KAILEA

Wow! What a beautiful beach.

Alfie concurs. The camera turns over their shoulder and the beach is EMPTY.

26 EXT. KOKI BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

26

Kailea squats down on the sandy beach, watching Alfie from afar. He's carrying a POUCH towards the rocky shore.

Alfie steps over a few rocks and settles on a big sturdy one, looming over as he reminisces. He reaches inside his pouch, pulls out TWO URNS, and becomes emotional.

From afar, Kailea watches as he scatters their ashes into sea. His grief overwhelms him and collapses in sobs.

Kailea rushes over to console him.

KAILEA

Hey, are you okay?

Alfie steadies himself, wiping his tears.

ALFIE

Aye. I'll be fine. Thank you.

KAILEA

(softly)

It's going to be alright.

They stand in solace for a moment.

ALFIE

You know, you remind me so much of my daughter. The way you look, the way you act, the way you dive into life.

KAILEA

I'm sure she got it from you.

ALFIE

Oh no, she got it from her mum. I wish I'd been more adventurous. But I was too scared of living, too scared of heights.

(MORE)

ALFIE (CONT'D)

They both love going on adventurous hikes, rock climbing, and cliff jumping but I--

KAILEA

(interrupts)

Wait, you'd never cliff jump before?

Alfie shakes his head.

KAILEA

You've lived in Maui for fifty years and you never jump once? No way!

ALFIE

Never. Always used my work as an excuse. Now it's too late.

KAILEA

Oh no, no, no. It's never too late.

Kailea pulls Alfie offscreen.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. WAILUA IKI FALL - DAY

27

Close-up on Alfie, frozen, sweating, and tense.

KAILEA (O.S.)

Come on Alfie, you can do it!

Alfie shakes his head.

Kailea is standing beside him at the cliff edge.

KAILEA

It's not that high and the water's calm, nothing to worry about. Don't think --just jump.

Alfie stiffens up, he peeks down, terrified.

KAILEA

Don't look down. Look straight ahead.

(extends her arm)

Don't think, just do it!

Kailea takes his hand and relaxes him.

KAILEA
 Don't think, just jump! I'll be
 right here with you. We'll jump
 together, okay?

He nods his head.

KAILEA
 On three. One... two... three!

And they JUMP! They splash into the pool. Kailea's head pops
 up, scanning for Alfie. He emerges, gasping for air in
 wonderment. He did it!

KAILEA
 You did it! You did it!

She swims over to congratulate him.

ALFIE
 I can't believe I did it!

They celebrate like champions.

ALFIE/KAILEA
 Woohoo! We did it! Cheehooooo!

ECHOES bounces off the cliff... then it is revealed, the drop
 is barely three feet.

28 EXT. COAST HIGHWAY TOWARDS THE AIRPORT - DAY 28

Breathtaking view drapes down on them as they drive back.

29 EXT. KAPALUA AIRPORT, MAUI - DUSK 29

Kailea drives up past the Kapalua Airport sign and parks in
 front of the terminal. She pops open the trunk and retrieves
 her LUGGAGE. Alfie gets out of the car and approaches her,
 eyes shining.

ALFIE
 Thank you for a wonderful time. I
 felt like I was with Kiana and
 Leilani again. Their spirit lives
 in you. Now I have peace.

KAILEA
 You made it wonderful for me too. I
 had an amazing time. I'm so glad we
 met. Thank you.

ALFIE
You're welcome back here anytime.

KAILEA
(smirking)
I don't know, *maybe*.

He nods solemnly. She gives him a huge farewell hug.

KAILEA
(whispers in his ears)
I'll see you on your birthday.

She extends her arms, winks at him, and takes off.

30 INT. SMOKING BEDROOM, LAHAINA - NIGHT (**PRESENT DAY**) 30

The SOUND of walls TREMBLING and fire CRACKLING intensifies. Thick black smoke fills the room.

On the nightstand, the smoke momentarily clears, revealing various photos of Alfie celebrating birthdays at Mama's Fish House --some with his family, others with Kailea marking his 78th, 79th, 80th birthday, and beyond.

Alfie's trembling hand snatches two photos, one of his family and one of Kailea. He stumbles out the door and into the hallway, coughing as his shadow disappears into the swirling smoke. SOUND of walls crumbles down. (Camera tumbles to the ground) Black out!

31 EXT. SAIL BOAT, LAHAINA OCEAN - DAY 31

Close-up on hull slicing through the waves.

32 INT. SAIL BOAT, LAHAINA OCEAN - DAY (PRESENT DAY) 32

The boat sails towards Lahaina Harbor. As they draw near, passengers stare in disbelief.

The captain on the helm calls out Kailea who is below deck.

CAPTAIN
Kailea, we're here.

Kailea races up the companionway and turns towards land. Over the bow: devastation! Lahaina is in ruins. Ash, smoke, collapsed structures, and water cannons spray in vain. Kailea grips onto Noa who is by the bow. Their faces shock, grief, and disbelief. The historic town of Lahaina is completely gone. Kailea cries for the people of Maui.

33 EXT. SAIL BOAT, POHAKU OCEAN - DAY 33

Drone shot: Sailboat sails near Pohaku Beach where a human chain of volunteers passes supplies inland and a JET SKI assists.

34 EXT. POHAKU KAA NAPALI, OCEAN - DAY (PRESENT DAY) 34

Kailea signals the jet ski to her. The rider pulls up to the sailboat.

KAILEA
Do you know where the victim
shelter is?

He gestures for her to hop on. She does.

The jet ski weaves past the human train. He lets her off in the shallows.

KAILEA
Thank you!

She hurries towards a woman, LAN, passing supplies.

KAILEA
Excuse me. Where is the victim
shelter?

LAN
It's up there by S-Turns.

Kailea looks towards land but is confused about S-Turns.

Lan shoves a case of spam to Kailea.

LAN
Here, take this with you.

Kailea takes the case of spam and strides up to shore.

35 EXT. POHAKU PARK S-TURNS, SIDE BEACH - DAY 35

A man, MIKE, on the beach pavement paces with his phone in the air, then screams into the phone.

MIKE
We need insulin, baby formula,
first aid kit, and oxygen.
(searches for signal)
Help! It is bad!
(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

Everything is totally gone. I think
a thousand people are missing!

Mike loses signal.

MIKE

Hello? Hello! Goddamn it!!!

He calms himself. Kailea rushes up towards him.

KAILEA

Excuse me, I'm looking for an old
man with white hair and beard,
named Alfie. Have you seen him?

MIKE

I don't know, check with the nurses
in the white truck.

36 EXT. POHAKU BEACH, S-TURN PARKING LOT - DAY

36

The lot overflows with displaced families. Some cry, cough,
clutch each other. Others cook, organize, pass out aid, etc.

Kailea weaves through the crowd. She spots a man with white
hair near the medic. Runs to him—

KAILEA

Alfie!

The exhausted man turns, it's not Alfie.

She scans the park and calls again.

KAILEA

Alfie! Alfie?

Across the parking lot, a weary figure under a towel stares
at his two precious possessions. He stirs as he hears his
name and emerges from his towel to reveal it's Alfie. He sees
a woman with wavy black hair and cries out...

ALFIE

Kai?

Kailea spins around, stunned.

KAILEA

Alfie! You're alive!

She drops the spam and rushes towards him.

ALFIE
Kailea! My darling Kai!

With heartfelt relief, Alfie runs towards Kailea and they embrace wholeheartedly.

Everyone witnessed another reunion. Some clap, some smile, and some just go on their business.

FADE OUT.

MEMORANDUM

A photo of the REAL Alfie appears.

Title card:

In loving memory of Alfred R. Rawlings

April 7, 1939 - August 8, 2023

And dedicated to all the victims of the Maui fire, including Alfie.

(List all the 102 victims of the Maui fire, including Alfie.)

DISSOLVE TO:

Title card:

WISHFUL THINKING