

HI SURF: RESCUE

Written by

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TEASER

FADE IN ON THE OCEAN --

Beneath the surface. The sun's rays pierce through from above -- reef, rock, and sand below. Blue, rolling, alive. It's serene, hypnotic, until --

ON THE SURFACE, a RESCUE SKI -- a Waverunner outfitted with a rescue sled -- slices past. Its WAKE fans out, disturbing the tranquil surface above --

A millisecond behind it, a MASSIVE WAVE passes over. The whole tableau is transformed in to a roiling cauldron of whitewater --

We RISE through this, breaking the surface of the water to reveal --

The Seven-Mile Miracle -- the North Shore of Oahu --

EXT. OCEAN - DAY 1

Pipeline -- surfing's 50-yard line. Mountains and palm trees frame a row of houses strewn along a swath of white sand beach. In the middle of it all, a LIFEGUARD TOWER.

A SERIES OF SHOTS, kinetic, fast, orients us to the chaos --

WAVES -- towering, dangerous -- telephone-pole high and breaking in four feet of water over a slab of sharp volcanic rock --

SURFERS, seventy-five of them (at least), sit shoulder to shoulder in the lineup as a wave stands up on the reef. They battle to be in just the right spot.

DRONE SHOT of a surfer catching the wave -- the margin of error a matter of inches. The surfer CAREENS DOWN THE FACE, fast and steep. He disappears behind the cascading lip of the wave and emerges seconds later, blown out by a cannonball of SPIT --

In the channel, the rescue ski circles --

EXT. BEACH - DAY 1

SURFERS with boards under their arms, butterflies in their stomachs study the lineup nervously.

TOURISTS, SPECTATORS, and PHOTOGRAPHERS line the beach, the action so close that the sand under their feet vibrates with each crashing set, sending all that energy to shore --

(Note: It's Hawaii, and it's the beach. No one's wearing much and everyone's in shape. Small bikinis, surf trunks, abs tanned and toned. If you've skipped the gym or haven't skipped In 'n' Out, you are not here.)

EXT. OCEAN - DAY 1

ANGLE ON the lineup as it shifts to meet an approaching SET OF WAVES. The LIFEGUARDS on the rescue ski hold position in the channel as the surfers scramble towards the horizon to avoid being caught inside --

CUT TO:

EXT. LIFEGUARD TOWER - DAY 1

From the tower, lifeguards LAKA HANO HANO (30, Hawaiian, ripped), WILL READY (32, Australian, more ripped, if that's possible), LIEUTENANT EMILY "EM" WRIGHT (37, haole, more fit than both of them) and a few OTHERS have eagle eyes on the lineup, on high alert. Another set approaches as a few people have inched too close to the shore break. Laka grabs a bullhorn to warn everyone on the beach --

LAKA

Pipeline is not a swimming beach today. There is no swimming here today! Get back up the beach! Keep your kids back!

EXT. LIFEGUARD TOWER - DAY

There's a small MEMORIAL near the spot where the lifeguard trucks are parked -- a makeshift cross draped with flower lei and ribbons. In the center, a photo of a handsome, smiling young KID in a tux. His senior picture. It reads:

"Zion Carvalho, 2006-2023. Forever in our hearts."

A LIFEGUARD TRUCK pulls in. HARLAN "SONNY" JENNINGS (52, Polynesian) gets out. Sonny's graying, but he's still very fit, and very imposing. He stares at the memorial a beat. We don't know why it's so important to him, but we will soon. He approaches the tower. Em nods to him.

EM

Morning cap.

SONNY

How is it?

EM

Chaos.

SONNY

Who else is in the tower?

EM

Laka, Will. Rescue 2's in the water.

Sonny scans the beach, lineup. It looks like an anthill. This is as dangerous as it gets.

TOWER POV -- a wave rears up on the reef, dark, mean -- an Olympic size swimming pool worth of water about to be dumped off a two story building. Everyone holds their breath as a SURFER positions himself, TAKES OFF...

He FALLS. Audible groans and gasps from the gallery on the beach.

Laka and Will lift their binoculars as the rescue ski circles in the channel, waiting for the surfer to come up. Will counts the seconds --

WILL

Three, four, five, six...

The surfer POPS UP out of the water. APPLAUSE on the beach.

IN THE CHANNEL, (38) the LIFEGUARD driving the rescue ski taps his head twice -- "you okay?" The surfer nods, reels in his board, paddles for the channel. He's good.

The wave continues its march towards shore. Em clocks the crowd of spectators on the beach --

EM

(to Laka, Will)

Move everybody back even further.

Laka and Will look to Sonny. Sonny nods. They hop on the ATV, take off down the beach. Em gives Sonny a look. The captain's on scene now. He gets the last word.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

BLAKE, a male tourist in his 30's, stands ankle deep in wet sand, filming the action offshore on his phone -- oblivious to the approaching set --

The powerful whitewater rolls in and KNOCKS Blake off his feet, pulling him out towards a current running just offshore like a river. He tries to stand but stumbles, in the wave's grip. He's panicked --

BLAKE

Help!

Will and Laka arrive on the ATV. Will grabs a rescue tube, JUMPS IN.

He reaches Blake in the current, throws him the tube, reels him in.

Will uses the current to bring them both down the beach to a spot of relative calm. Laka motions to the crowd --

LAKA

Everybody needs to get back, now!

This time they listen. Down the beach, Will helps Blake up on to dry sand. He's drenched. He stumbles for a beat, dazed, catching his breath.

WILL

You good, mate?

BLAKE

Yeah.

(wet, panting)

My phone...?

WILL

(Jesus)

It's gone. Just stay back, alright?

Laka gets back to Will on the ATV just in time see a SURFER take off on another towering wave and SLAM over the shallowest part of the reef. Laka and Will share a look. *Shit.*

EXT. LIFEGUARD TOWER - DAY - SAME

Em and Sonny watch, wait for the surfer to pop up. He doesn't.

SONNY

Go.

Em grabs her fins, sprints to the water's edge. OFFSHORE, the rescue ski moves closer in to the impact zone where the surfer went down. Sonny radios Laka and Will.

SONNY (CONT'D)
Tower 2-6 responding, request
mobile 2 support.

LAKA (ON THE RADIO)
10-4.

Sonny watches as Em and rescue ski triangulate to find the surfer. His heart sinks as he spots yet another SET OF WAVES feathering offshore. The situation is escalating by the second --

SONNY
Damn it.

Sonny takes a deep breath, pulls off his shirt, sprints towards the water --

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Em and the rescue ski reach the surfer. His body is limp, lifeless. Em struggles to pull him on to the rescue sled as the ski driver eyes the approaching set.

SKI DRIVER
Come on, come on!

EM
Go, go!

Em holds the surfer down as the ski driver PUNCHES IT towards shore, barely avoiding the approaching wave --

Sonny puts his fins on as Laka and Will pull up on the ATV --

They jump in, swim to the approaching ski as the ski driver maneuvers as close to shore as possible to make the hand off and avoid getting crushed by the waves --

Sonny, Laka, Em, and Will pull the victim off the jet ski. Still in the dangerous water, Sonny immobilizes the victim's spine while Em, Laka and Will grab his legs and torso, trying to keep his back and neck as straight as possible while fighting the waves and current --

It's a struggle. Sonny strains, breathing heavy as they finally get the surfer to the sand. Em clocks it.

EM (CONT'D)
You good, cap?

Sonny nods, but as they get the surfer up on to dry sand Sonny steps back, doubled over and holding his back.

Will and Laka grab the oxygen and back board from the ATV as
Em begins chest compressions --

EM (CONT'D)
One, two, three, four...

WILL
Come on, fight! Breathe!

Sonny watches, in pain --

EM
Five, six, seven, eight...

A crowd of ONLOOKERS has gathered --

LAKA
Stay with us buddy...

EM
Nine, ten, eleven...

The SURFER sputters to life, coughing up salt water, blood,
vomit --

QUICK SHOTS: they place the oxygen mask --

Strap him to the back board --

Carry him up the beach to the waiting ambulance --

Make the hand-off to the arriving EMT's.

The crowd of ONLOOKERS whistles, applauds.

Em looks over as Sonny arrives. Still in pain.

EM (CONT'D)
Cap... go with him.

SONNY
I'm okay.

He takes a step, winces. He wants to tough it out, but --

EM
(the ambulance)
Just get in.

A beat. Sonny limps to the ambulance, climbs in. He sits next
to the EMT as they pump oxygen into the victim, hook him up
to a saline drip. He's young, nineteen maybe.

EMT
Keep him talking.

Sonny looks down at the kid.

SONNY
You're gonna be okay.
(beat)
What's your name?

SURFER
Reef.

SONNY
(of course)
Where you from?

REEF
Fl-Florida.

SONNY
Welcome to the North Shore.

The EMT closes the ambulance doors.

HIGH ANGLE as the lights flash, the siren wails, and the ambulance pulls out of the beach park and on to the narrow ribbon of highway separating mountain and sea. Off this, we --

SMASH TO BLACK.

END TEASER

ACT ONE**INT. SONNY'S HOUSE - DAY 2**

Spam and eggs sizzle in the pan. REVEAL Sonny cooking breakfast, wearing a waist-wrap back brace. His daughter OCEAN (17) enters, backpack on, dressed for school. Ocean's eyes are red and puffy from crying. She doesn't make eye contact with Sonny.

SONNY
Morning. You hungry?

OCEAN
No.

She grabs a banana, disappears back down the hallway. Sonny's wife JARRAH (48, local, nurse's scrubs) appears.

SONNY
She okay?

Jarrah shrugs.

SONNY (CONT'D)
I'll take her to school. Give us a chance to talk.

JARRAH
She doesn't want to talk.

Jarrah pours a cup of coffee.

SONNY
It's fine. I have a doctor's appointment. I'll drop her off on my way.

JARRAH
The therapist Yamane recommended?

Sonny doesn't meet her gaze.

SONNY
No. Just a physical.

JARRAH
(disappointed)
Right.

She grabs a letter from a stack of mail on the counter, hands it to him.

JARRAH (CONT'D)
This came for you.

Sonny looks at it. AARP.

SONNY
You gotta be kidding.

Jarrah smiles. Sonny grabs his keys, walks outside --

EXT. SONNY'S HOUSE - CARPORT - DAY

Sonny gets in to his truck. He starts it up, waits.

Ocean exits the house with her backpack on. She sees Sonny in the truck, grabs her bike.

SONNY
Ocean!

She rides off. Off Sonny --

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY 2

A country doctor's office. Clean, basic. White walls, framed photos of stock Hawaii scenes -- flowers, waterfalls, sunsets.

There's a TV mounted in the corner playing local news -- more dangerous surf. Waves, lifeguards on ATV's, rescue skis --

REPORTER (ON THE TV)
City and County lifeguards performed over 200 rescues this month alone after a series of powerful swells slammed the north and west shores...

Em comes on screen, a chyron below: EMILY WRIGHT, LIEUTENANT, DISTRICT 2. Sonny watches.

EM
We have extremely dangerous conditions right now, even for experienced surfers and swimmers. Read the beach signs. Follow lifeguard instructions. When in doubt, don't go out --

ASSISTANT (O.S.)
Uncle Sonny?

Sonny stands, follows the assistant in --

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY 2

Sonny sits on the examination table while DR. YAMANE (40's) gives him the once over.

DR. YAMANE
Reach both arms above your head.
Really reach.

Sonny does it. Dr. Yamane feels along Sonny's back --

DR. YAMANE (CONT'D)
Little more... touch the ceiling,
reach reach reach --

Sonny reaches until he drops a shoulder, ever so slight, winces. He's trying to hide it, but --

DR. YAMANE (CONT'D)
Looks like there's still some pain
there.

Sonny's quiet. Admitting nothing. Dr. Yamane looks Sonny in the eye.

DR. YAMANE (CONT'D)
I'm gonna tell you the same thing I
would tell you if you were a cop or
a firefighter still working at your
age. You have a physically
demanding job, and you've had more
than your fair share of injuries.
There is an expiration date on
being a heavy water lifeguard --
and you're past it.

Sonny says nothing.

DR. YAMANE (CONT'D)
You're a captain. Why are you
jumping in on rescues?

SONNY
We're short handed.

Dr. Yamane stares at Sonny a beat. Knows this is a losing battle.

DR. YAMANE
You seeing the grief counselor I
referred you to?

SONNY

Not yet.

DR. YAMANE

It's been two months.

Sonny's silent. Dr. Yamane looks at Sonny and exhales, frustrated.

SONNY

We done?

Dr. Yamane nods. Sonny stands, goes. Off Dr. Yamane --

EXT. ALA MOANA BEACH PARK - DAY 2

Bike paths, picnic areas, tennis courts, and pavilions fronting the sand, Diamond Head and the Honolulu skyline in the B.G.

On the beach, a sign posted in the sand reads C&C OCEAN SAFETY - TRAINING.

KAINALU EMERSON (26, Hawaiian), HINA ALEXANDER (25, Hawaiian) and a crop of ten or so LIFEGUARD RECRUITS are lined up at the water's edge. If you thought the people in the teaser were in shape, this is the younger, fitter version. By the end of season one, *Shape Magazine*'ll be running a feature on their workout routines --

Sonny and four other CAPTAINS (black polo shirts) from Oahu's four other Ocean Safety districts stand together, observing the new recruits. They're all men, and Sonny's got at least a decade on them. Em's there too, together with a handful of LIEUTENANTS (white polos). She's the only woman.

KENJI (40), the training officer, addresses the recruits --

KENJI

Four weeks of training comes down to this. 1000 yard run 1000 yard swim in twenty minutes, run swim run, 100 yards each in three minutes, and a 400 yard paddle in four minutes. No breaks.

(beat)

Every lifeguard has to pass this test annually to re-certify. So learn to love it.

Kainalu and Hina share a look. Kainalu smiles. Hina smiles back. A flirty, competitive vibe between them.

KAINALU
 (mouths, silent)
 Good luck.

Hina looks ahead -- confident. Knows she doesn't need it.

KENJI
 Ready --

Kenji hits the stopwatch on his phone.

KENJI (CONT'D)
 Go!

Kainalu, Hina and the rest of the recruits sprint for the water, jump in --

EXT. OCEAN/BEACH - VARIOUS - DAY 2

A SERIES OF SHOTS --

THE SWIM. Kainalu, Hina and the rest of the recruits swim shoulder to shoulder, vying for the lead. Kainalu and Hina pull in front of the pack, Hina with the edge --

THE RUN. Hina reaches the beach first, takes off running in the soft sand. Kainalu is on her heels, the rest of the recruits trailing them by seconds --

Kainalu and Hina are neck in neck, Kainalu pulling ahead of Hina as they round a cone on the sand --

THE PADDLE. The rescue boards are lined up on the beach. Kainalu gets to them first, grabs one and starts paddling. Hina is right on his heels, both still ahead of the pack --

Hina jumps to her knees for a deeper stroke. She pulls ahead, rounds the buoy, then digs deep, going hard back to the beach.

She beats Kainalu, dropping the board on the sand and running to Kenji, who checks her time, fist bumps her as she passes.

KENJI
 Hammer.

Hina smiles. Sonny and Em share a look. Impressed.

Kainalu's on the beach seconds later followed by the rest of the recruits. Everyone's doubled over, gasping for breath. Kenji hits the stopwatch, smiles.

KENJI (CONT'D)
Welcome to Ocean Safety everybody.

A beat. Kenji gives them all a second to catch their breath.
Just a second.

KENJI (CONT'D)
Alright listen up...

Kenji points out Sonny, Em, and the rest of the CAPTAINS and
LIEUTENANTS --

KENJI (CONT'D)
These are the captains and
lieutenants from the five districts
on Oahu. Together they lead the
best ocean rescue teams on planet
earth. You are now part of that.
Lotta tradition, lotta
responsibility. So don't screw it
up.

(beat)
Hina Alexander. Get over here.

Hina stands next to Kenji. Kenji puts his arm around her.

KENJI (CONT'D)
This wahine made the rest of you
look fat and out of shape.
(laughs)
Hina put in for district two, North
Shore, and because she finished
first, that's where she's going.
(to Sonny)
Uncle Sonny, she's all yours.

Sonny nods. Whistles, applause. CLOSE ON Em, applauding the
loudest.

KENJI (CONT'D)
The rest of you will hear from HQ
in a couple days.

More applause. Everybody's stoked. Kainalu approaches Hina,
high fives her.

KAINALU
Thought I had you there for a
second.

HINA
(laughs)
Really? I didn't.

Kainalu laughs too.

KAINALU

You busy this tonight? We should celebrate.

HINA

(smiles, flirty)

Wait, so... that wasn't a one time thing?

Kainalu shrugs, smiles. Hina looks at him for a beat, then:

HINA (CONT'D)

I better rest up before my first day. North Shore, you know...

Kainalu nods. Hina goes. Off Kainalu --

EXT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - DISTRICT 2 - DAY 2

A repurposed old fire house on the highway, with rusted fixtures and peeling paint, all enclosed by a chain-link fence. Out front's the ocean, out back, tropical mountains stretching skyward. Sonny pulls up outside. He steps out of his truck, pulls off his back brace, stashes it.

INT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - DISTRICT 2 - DAY 2 - SAME

The inside's clean, well-maintained. Lockers, a gym, office, conference room, showers. Lifeguard trucks and rescue skis parked in the main bays.

Sonny enters. Em's repacking first aid kits, checking equipment on the truck. She sees Sonny, nods.

EM

Hina Alexander -- not bad, right?

SONNY

Impressed the hell out of me.

EM

We're still going to be two guards short. Chief say anything about more staffing?

SONNY

Hiring freeze is still in place. Only getting Alexander because Phillips retired.

A beat. Em looks Sonny over. He's got the back brace on.

EM
You healing up okay?

SONNY
Yeah. Fine.

She doesn't believe it.

EM
Probably not what you want to hear,
but you and me are up for re-cert.

SONNY
Yep -- not what I want to hear.

EM
Should I schedule us?

SONNY
(beat)
Give me a week or two to train up,
get ready.

Em nods. Sees Sonny's moving slow.

EM
Sure you don't need a little more
time? A month or whatever?

Sonny gives her a look. Doesn't appreciate being coddled.

SONNY
I'm sure.

Sonny walks in to his office. Closes the door. Off Em --

EXT. BEACH/LIFEGUARD TOWER - DAY

Laka pulls a plastic FIRE HELMET from his backpack, sets it on Will's chair. Em watches, shakes her head.

Will pulls up on the ATV and ascends the tower. He spots the helmet, looks at Laka.

WILL
Hilarious.

LAKA
I thought so.

WILL

I get it -- you're pissed.

LAKA

I'm not pissed. I don't blame you for wanting to be a fireman. You're a good cook.

Good natured, but there's an edge to it. Before Will can respond, two kids, NAINOA (14, local) and JOSH (13, haole) approach the tower. They're both carrying dives masks, fins. Josh has a towel, something wrapped in it.

LAKA (CONT'D)

What's up, boys?

NAINOA

Wanna buy a watch? Fifty bucks.

Josh opens the towel he's carrying. There's eight Apple Watches wrapped in it -- different bands, different colors. Laka looks at Em, Will, back at the boys.

LAKA

If you guys are ripping off on our beach I'm gonna slap the dumb out you.

JOSH

We didn't steal them!

NAINOA

We found them in the shore break.

Nainoa smiles, pulls a diamond engagement ring from his pocket.

NAINOA (CONT'D)

Found this, too.

EM

(laughs)
Somebody's bummed.

LAKA

(the watches)
Lemme see those.

Laka inspects the watches. He puts one on.

LAKA (CONT'D)

Alright you guys are done today.
Get out of here. Go home.

JOSH

What?!

Laka glares at them. Josh and Nainoa slink away, dejected.

LAKA

And stay out of the shore break!

WILL

Uncool.

LAKA

You'd know, right?

(off Will's look)

Whatever. I let 'em keep the ring.

Em grabs the keys to the ATV, throws them to him.

EM

You're on patrol. Dick.

Laka goes, admiring his watch as he takes off, leaves Em and Will in the tower.

EM (CONT'D)

You're really serious about this fireman thing.

WILL

They make more money.

(off Em's look)

My daughter's three. She has to get that heart valve stent replaced every year until she stops growing. Laka lives with his grandma.

Will looks away. It's an emotional subject.

EM

Sorry.

Will nods. A beat. He changes the subject.

WILL

Heard Uncle Sonny only took two days off.

EM

Yep.

WILL

That enough time?

EM
 He thinks so.
 (beat)
 How do you tell somebody it's time
 to retire?

WILL
 You don't.

Will gives Em a look. He's noticed.

EM
 Jumping in on that rescue? What was
 that? What's he trying to prove?

WILL
 He thought we needed help.

EM
 Lucky we didn't have to help him.

Will looks away, quiet. He's not touching this. A beat. Em
 shrugs.

EM (CONT'D)
 Whatever -- he still has to re-
 certify.

WILL
 You think he can't?

EM
 (shrugs)
 We'll see.

A set of waves builds on the reef, breaks. SURFERS waiting on
 the beach stand, head for the water. Em clocks it.

EM (CONT'D)
 Here we go.
 (to Will)
 Grab Laka, get the ski in the
 water.

WILL
 Yes ma'am.

Will stands, descends the tower steps towards the ski. Em
 watches the first wave wash high on to the beach, SWAMPING a
 few SUNBATHERS. Young SURFERS from one of the beach houses
 rushing towards the ominous ocean. Today's going to be
 another tough one.

Off Em --

INT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - DISTRICT 2 - MORNING - DAY 3

Sonny runs on the treadmill, dripping sweat. He's got his earbuds in, listening to a podcast.

PODCAST HOST (O.C.)

You are listening to the "Coping with Loss" podcast on the Global Health podcast network. In this first episode...

CLAYTON EMERSON (61, local, pleated slacks, aloha shirt, loafers) wanders in, looks around. No one has ever looked more out of place. Sonny turns off the treadmill.

SONNY

Looking for somebody?

CLAYTON

Captain Jennings. That you?

Sonny nods. Clayton offers his hand. They shake.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

Clayton Emerson.

SONNY

I know. I've seen your campaign posters.

Clayton looks around at the place. Rust. Water damage. Windward Oahu patina. He clocks the skis on a trailer. Reef scars, duct taped seat.

CLAYTON

You're working with some old equipment.

SONNY

I am. Thin on personnel, too.

CLAYTON

(beat, smiles)

I have a son who just finished his Ocean Safety training. Kainalu Emerson.

SONNY

(surprised)

Okay. Great.

CLAYTON

(smiles)

I'd rather he stayed in college.

(MORE)

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

However, he had his heart set on working on the North Shore. He finished second in his class yesterday. I was hoping you could give him a chance up here.

SONNY

Kainalu?

Clayton nods. Sonny considers Clayton for a moment, then:

SONNY (CONT'D)

First in class gets to pick their assignment.

CLAYTON

(beat)

Mayor hasn't been sending enough funding your way, I take it.

SONNY

No. He hasn't.

CLAYTON

Good thing he's term limited.

They stare at each other a beat.

SONNY

I'll see what I can do.

Clayton flashes Sonny a politician's smile.

CLAYTON

I'd appreciate that.

Clayton and Sonny shake again. Clayton looks around. The trucks, the skis, the old repurposed fire station --

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

I'm glad I came to see you. We need to do better out here. Clearly.

Clayton goes. Off Sonny --

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. LIFEGUARD TOWER - DAY**

Sunny, light trade winds, small waves -- a perfect beach day. A reminder the North Shore can go from fearsome to fun and back again. In the tower, Will studies his fire science manual. Laka's messing with his Apple Watch.

WILL

You get that thing to work yet?

LAKA

No.

A WOMAN (28) in a Brazilian bikini, pareau wrap saunters to the tower. Everybody stares. Especially Laka.

WILL

All you.

Laka heads out, leans on the railing, smiles at the woman.

LAKA

Morning. Can I help you?

BIKINI WOMAN

I think so.

She hands him a hotel card key.

BIKINI WOMAN (CONT'D)

Room and cell number's on the back.

She turns, walks away. Laka watches for a beat, checks the number on the card key. Will doesn't even look up.

WILL

Don't do it, mate.

She walks to the water's edge and takes off the pareau, brushes sand off of her. Knows Laka's watching.

LAKA

(to Will)

This job is wasted on you. You got the accent and everything.

(picks up the binoculars)

Oh. My. God.

The woman splashes in the water a bit, jumps in. Laka puts down the binoculars, looks at Will.

LAKA (CONT'D)

I'm in love.

She dives in -- and comes up SCREAMING. Laka puts the binoculars up again. She's freaking out, slapping her legs, her ass --

BIKINI WOMAN

Something's biting me! Oh my God!

Will laughs.

WILL

Duty calls.

Laka gets on the ATV, races down the beach to her --

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The woman is out of the water now, still freaking out.

BIKINI WOMAN

It's burning it's burning Oh my God
why won't it stop...

LAKA

Just breathe okay? Let me take a
look...

Laka inspects the woman's leg, ass, as she whimpers in pain --

LAKA (CONT'D)

Ah - jellyfish sting. Not the bad
kind -- you're gonna be okay.

BIKINI WOMAN

Oh God! No! You have to help me! I
can't get stung! I have a bee
allergy!

LAKA

You're gonna be fine. Just
breathe...

The woman plops down in the sand, starting to hyperventilate.

BIKINI WOMAN

Call an ambulance. Please.

Laka looks at her, frustrated, then looks up to the tower.
Will laughs, gives him the thumbs up. Laka grabs the radio.

LAKA
Request EMS support.

WILL (ON THE RADIO)
10-4. Mate -- she's a keeper.

Off Laka --

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

A working class Hawaii neighborhood. Chain link fences, lifted trucks, plantation-style homes. Hina walks out to her car, a rusty old Sentra. She's in her lifeguard uniform.

As she throws her bag in the back, her phone rings. She answers.

HINA
Hello?... This is Hina.
(listens, darkening)
Um, okay... Yeah. Fine.

She hangs up, pissed. She gets in the car, slams the door, peels away --

EXT. PARKING LOT/LIFEGUARD TOWER - WEST SIDE - DAY

A cracked asphalt parking lot with brown grass across from a strip mall, all fronting a white sand beach with electric blue water. A HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT down a ways.

Hina blazes in to the parking lot, parks. She's late, and she's pissed. ROB (30, Hawaiian) and MIKEY (32, haole), the two lifeguards in the tower, look at her like she's an idiot.

ROB
You know we start at eight thirty, right?

HINA
I was supposed to work District 2 today. I was stuck in traffic for an hour.

Rob and Mikey share a look.

MIKEY
Whatever.
(the parking lot)
Park somewhere you can see your car. Lotta break-ins around here.

Hina's frustrated, angry -- knows she got screwed. Off Hina --

EXT. BEACH PARK - PARKING LOT - DAY - LATER

An ambulance has arrived, and Laka and Will look on as bikini woman, wrapped in her pareau, is given oxygen, loaded on to a wheeled stretcher by two EMT's.

One of the EMTs, JENN LAMONDE (28, athletic, surfer) catches Laka's eye. He's never seen her before.

JENN

Man o' war get her?

WILL

Yeah. Thinks she's allergic.
Elevated heart rate, mild
arrhythmia, trouble breathing, some
swelling. We gave her oxygen, cold
compress.

JENN

When I was a kid they said you were
supposed to pee on it.

WILL

(to Laka)

Maybe later, right? If you're in to
that sort of thing.

Laka shoots Will a look, then turns to Jenn.

LAKA

(re: Will)

Don't listen to him. He's descended
from convicts. You new?

JENN

From Kauai. I came to Oahu last
year, trying to get in to med
school. I was driving out to the
North Shore to surf, figured I
might as well work out here too.

KYLE (30), the other EMT, appears --

EMT

We're ready.

JENN

See you guys around, right?

LAKA
 We should grab a beer sometime.
 Since we're, you know...
 colleagues.

Jenn gives Laka an awkward smile.

JENN
 Yeah. Okay.

She gets in the ambulance. Laka's smitten. Will cracks up.

WILL
 Colleagues?

LAKA
 Shut up.

He waves at Jenn as the ambulance pulls away --

LAKA (CONT'D)
 Wow. Now I'm really in love.

Off Laka --

EXT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - DISTRICT 2 - DAY

A \$60,000 cement gray Tacoma -- 2022, lift kit, off-road package, the works, pulls in parks. Kainalu gets out, looks around, enters --

INT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - DISTRICT 2 - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Inside, Kainalu takes the place in. He walks to a cork board covered with newspaper clippings of rescues, Polaroids of LIFEGUARDS going back to the 70's. A wall of legends. Sonny exits his office.

SONNY
 Kainalu Emerson?

KAINALU
 (smiles)
 That's me.

Sonny extends his hand. They shake.

SONNY
 Captain Jennings. Come on in.

Kainalu follows Sonny in to the office. They sit.

SONNY (CONT'D)
Welcome to District 2.

KAINALU
Thanks. I'm excited. North Shore's
where the action is, right?

Sonny stares at Kainalu a beat. Continues.

SONNY
District boundaries are Kualoa to
the east and Kaena Point to the
west, which makes us the largest
district on the island in terms of
coastline, and the most remote.
We're short staffed and we have
towers on less than a quarter of
our beaches. Winter we got big
surf, contests, all that stuff.
Summer used to be our slow season,
not any more.

KAINALU
Awesome. I'm ready for it.

Sonny looks at Kainalu a beat.

SONNY
I wanted to meet you before you got
assigned, even though you come...
highly recommended.

KAINALU
You mean my dad's Clayton Emerson.

Kid's not shy.

KAINALU (CONT'D)
He's my adopted dad, actually. My
real dad was a lifeguard out here
back in the day. Mike DeLima.

Sonny stares at Kainalu. Poker face.

KAINALU (CONT'D)
Did you know him?

SONNY
(beat)
Heard the name.

Another beat. Sonny gathers himself. He reaches for a folder,
pulls out a map of District 2 -- towers, response locations.

SONNY (CONT'D)
Study the response locations and
I'll get you assigned to a tower.

KAINALU
(stands, looks around)
Stoked. Thanks, uncle.

SONNY
Captain.

KAINALU
(smiles)
Right.

Kainalu nods at a framed photograph on Sonny's desk --
Sonny's daughter Ocean and Zion, the kid from the memorial in
the teaser. Zion's sweaty and triumphant in his football
uniform, Ocean hugging him, beaming.

KAINALU (CONT'D)
Those your kids?

SONNY
My daughter. And my nephew.

KAINALU
He play for Kahuku?

SONNY
(beat)
Used to.

Kainalu senses Sonny's discomfort. He stands.

KAINALU
Well thanks again. See you
tomorrow.

Kainalu goes. Off Sonny, we --

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - DISTRICT 2 - DAY 4**

Sonny's just broken the news about Kainalu to Em. She's pissed.

EM

I thought we held the line on who gets to work the North Shore. We want the best. Hina Alexander won her class, she's a woman, and you're passing her over.

Sonny listens. Know Em's got a right to be angry. But --

SONNY

I made my decision.

EM

We were excited about her. What changed?

Sonny looks Em in the eye. Knows she's not gonna like this.

SONNY

His dad is Clayton Emerson.

EM

(beat)

The guy running for mayor?

SONNY

The guy who's going to be the next mayor.

Em stares at Sonny. Can't believe what she's hearing.

SONNY (CONT'D)

We need more towers. We need more guards. We need new equipment. Kainalu's father can make that happen.

EM

Wow. So that's the game we're playing now.

Sonny looks Em in the eye.

SONNY

It's not a game. It's an island,
and it's who you know. Same as it's
always been.

Sonny walks away. Off Em --

INT. LEI LEI'S - BAR - EVENING

A locals bar adjacent to a golf course near Turtle Bay.
Iconic surf photos, surfboards decorate the walls. Lifeguard
hangout.

The owner, IAN (54, aloha shirt) delivers a round to Laka,
Will, Em. Ian nods at Will.

IAN

On him.

They toast, drink. Laka looks at Will.

LAKA

Mahalos my braddah.

WILL

Wow. We friends again?

LAKA

Depends. You still taking the fire
test?

WILL

Yep.

LAKA

(the drinks)

Then you better keep 'em coming.

(to Em)

Heard we're getting a new guy.

EM

Yep. Political hire. Cap thinks
it's gonna solve all our problems.

LAKA

What's his story?

EM

Mayor's kid or something.

LAKA

Great.

LAKA (CONT'D)

(to Will)

Kiss the mayor's kid's ass you'll
get a job on the fire department
guaranteed.

The BIKINI WOMAN with the jellyfish allergy and a couple of
her FRIENDS walk in. Laka pounds his beer, sets the empty
glass down.

LAKA (CONT'D)

Team -- it's been fun.

Will and Em watch Laka stand, approach the women. Em looks at
Will, takes a swig of her beer.

EM

You're a patient man.

WILL

(smiles, drinks)

Me and Laka sit in a six-by-six
tower together all day. We gotta
get along.

(beat)

At least you're not mad at me.

EM

Of course not. I've seen you naked.

Will laughs.

WILL

That's another reason to join the
fire department. My wife hates that
we we work together.

EM

Really? Still?

WILL

(shrugs)

She knows it was years ago. We got
kids, you've been married, divorced
-- she still can't get past it.

EM

Bummer.

(smiles, sips her beer)

You gonna tell her we had drinks
after work?

A beat. Laka's escorting the women to a table. Will grins.

WILL

Hell, no.

Em smiles back. They clink glasses, drink. Off them --

EXT. BEACHES - VARIOUS - MORNING

A SERIES OF SHOTS -- Will puts out the rescue boards, driving the beach on the ATV, posting signs. HAZARDOUS SURF. DANGEROUS SHORE BREAK. NO SWIMMING. The waves are back. Off this --

EXT. LIFEGUARD TOWER - DAY

Laka's wrapped up in the pareau we recognize as belonging to bikini girl. He's sipping Pedialyte, looking hammered. Will returns, climbs the steps in to the tower.

WILL

You look rested.

LAKA

Brah -- why did you keep sending me shots last night.

WILL

Experiment. You start dancing after four, drooling after six. Don't think your lady friend minded.

LAKA

No. She didn't.

WILL

(laughs)

You even remember her name?

LAKA

(thinks)

It'll come to me.

Em pulls up in the lifeguard truck, Kainalu in the passenger seat. They get out, approach the tower. Kainalu's decked out head to toe in lifeguard gear -- clean, crisp, new. Em introduces Kainalu. Clearly not happy about it.

EM

Will, Laka, this is Kainalu Emerson. He's assigned out here now.

WILL
Good to meet you.

Laka looks Kainalu over, nods. His head's pounding.

WILL (CONT'D)
Don't mind him. Can't take his
medicine.

LAKA
(to Kainalu)
I'm hungover. He's just being nice
because you're the mayor's kid and
he wants to be a fireman.

Kainalu takes this in, trying to roll with it all. Smiles at
Laka.

KAINALU
My dad's still on the city council -
- mayor election's a month away.
(beat)
You should vote for him.

LAKA
I'm Hawaiian -- I don't vote.

KAINALU
(okay)
I'm Hawaiian too. You should still
vote.

Will laughs. He likes this kid.

LAKA
(beat, sips his Pedialyte)
You better be good.

Off Kainalu --

EXT. KEIKI BEACH - DAY

A hundred yard wide white sand beach with a thundering shore
break -- and no lifeguard tower.

BODYBOARDERS throw themselves in to waves thicker than they
are tall and breaking in an inch of water. BEACHGOERS tan,
watch the ocean, ooh and ahh when someone gets fantastically
barreled or brutally tossed --

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Just outside the surf line the water is deep and calm, gin clear over an undulating white sand bottom. Nainoa and Josh are wearing their masks, fins -- scouring for treasure.

Josh spots a GLINT OF GOLD in the sand and dives. He reaches for it. It's a GOLD CHAIN.

He surfaces and holds it up, WHISTLES to Nainoa. Nainoa gives him a thumbs up, gestures towards shore. They're going to move closer --

Josh and Nainoa move towards the shore break zone. They scour the sand, dodging waves, moving closer to the danger zone, totally distracted --

Josh spots something on the bottom, dives to investigate --

It's an Apple Watch, rolling in the sand closer in to the surf zone. Josh grabs it before a wave pulls it away.

As surfaces to inspect it, he barely gets a breath as a wave CRASHES on him, slamming him on to the sand, folding his body in an unnatural angle --

An electric shock of pain goes up his spine. He's frozen, can't feel anything. Off this --

EXT. LIFEGUARD TOWER - DAY

Will and Em listen to Laka giving Kainalu shit. His hangover is wearing off and he's having fun. It's good-natured... but still.

LAKA

So let me see if I got all this --
you got beat in training by a girl,
this is your first day as a
lifeguard, and you get assigned to
the North Shore.

(beat, to Em)

It does pay to know people.

Kainalu's pissed, but takes it. Laka's just getting started.

LAKA (CONT'D)

Lemme guess... Punahou.

Punahou's the fancy private school. Where Obama went.

KAINALU

Yep. Buff and Blue, 2018.

LAKA
Rich kid. How'd I know.

KAINALU
Where'd you grad?

LAKA
Roosevelt.

Public school -- one of the rough ones.

KAINALU
Right on. We should have a spelling
contest.

Will laughs -- Kainalu gives as good as he gets. Laka looks
pissed. Before he can respond, a call comes in through the
tower RADIO --

DISPATCH (ON THE RADIO)
Swimmer in distress near Keiki
Beach... nearby towers and mobile
units please respond --

The tower springs in to action. Kainalu gets a shot of
adrenaline. This is happening. Laka turns to him as they
start for the ATV, rescue ski --

LAKA
You ready?

Off this --

EXT. BEACH PARK - DAY

A grassy beach park on the north east side, typical million
dollar views. Sonny and JIMMY (40, haole), the captain from
District 3, are parked next to each other, leaning against
their lifeguard trucks. TOURISTS in the parking lot gawk,
take pictures. Sonny and Jimmy are talking shop.

SONNY
You get your budget requests in?

JIMMY
Nah. Waste of time.

SONNY
It's not. You gotta keep asking or
they'll just take more stuff away.
We need more towers, more guards.

Jimmy sighs. He hates this shit.

JIMMY

Okay, so I get it in. Then what?

SONNY

Goes to the mayor's office, and with luck, in to his budget. Then to the city council for a vote. You go talk it up at the council meeting. Make 'em say no to your face.

Jimmy looks pained.

JIMMY

I swear to God I'd rather swim with tiger sharks than speak in public.

A lifted truck driving down the highway approaches, BASS pounding. Sonny and Jimmy watch. Sonny spots his daughter Ocean and another GIRL her age sitting in the back, passing a vape pen. The DRIVER and PASSENGER are tattooed, local, early 20's.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

There goes somebody's daughter.

SONNY

(a beat)

Yeah. Mine.

Jimmy makes a face. *Ouch*. Sonny looks pained. Jimmy clocks it.

JIMMY

She holding up okay?

SONNY

No idea. She won't talk to me.

JIMMY

What about you? You holding up okay?

Before Sonny can answer, a call comes over his RADIO --

DISPATCH (ON THE RADIO)

Swimmers in distress near Keiki Beach, nearby towers and mobile units please respond --

Sonny and Jimmy share a look. Sonny gets in his truck, flips the lights on. As he drives away --

SONNY

Get your budget in. We don't ask,
they're never gonna get us what we
need.

Sonny drives away. Off Jimmy --

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Em, Will and Kainalu launch the rescue ski as Laka straps the backboard to the ATV. Kainalu's confused -- where are they going?

KAINALU

Where's Keiki Beach?

LAKA

Five hundred yards west.

KAINALU

Five hundred yards?

LAKA

Yeah. We're the closest tower.

Kainalu jumps on with Laka. They take off down the beach --

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Nainoa has pulled Josh out beyond the waves. They're in rough, deep water, the current pulling them towards the jagged rocks --

Nainoa floats on his back, his arm looped underneath Josh's shoulder and across his chest. He's struggling to keep them both above water --

JOSH

I can't feel my legs.

NAINOA

Just try and float, okay?

They both look desperate, scared --

JOSH

I don't wanna die...

NAINOA

Just hold on. The lifeguards are coming...

In the distance, Nainoa can see Laka and Kainalu on the ATV, Em and Will on the ski, blasting towards them through the surf.

The lifeguards are coming --

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. BEACH/OCEAN - DAY**

HIGH ANGLE on Laka and Kainalu approaching on the ATV, Em and Will on the rescue ski as Nainoa and Josh float beyond the surf line. On shore, a crowd of ONLOOKERS gathers --

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Laka and Kainalu stop. Laka grabs his fins, heads for the water's edge.

LAKA

Call it in then get down there!

Laka runs off. Kainalu grabs the radio, nervous. First time he's ever done this for real --

KAINALU

(in to the radio)

Tower 2-6, Mobile 2 request EMT support, response location...

Kainalu looks around, unsure. Did he learn the locations like Sonny told him to?

KAINALU (CONT'D)

247-C.

He puts the radio away and grabs his fins, runs after Laka --

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Em and Will reach Nainoa and Josh in the water first on the rescue ski. Will has his fins on, jumps in to the water. Will relieves Nainoa, takes hold of Josh --

WILL

Can you swim to the ski?

NAINOA

(nods)

He can't feel his legs!

Em circles the ski close. Nainoa climbs on, helps pull Josh on the sled as Will keeps Josh's spine as straight and immobilized as possible amidst the pounding surf --

WILL
 (to Nainoa)
 You're gonna help me hold him
 still, okay?

Nainoa nods. Em sees they're ready, fires up the ski to bring them somewhere where they can make a safe hand off. Laka approaches, paddling towards them on a rescue board --

EXT./INT. LIFEGUARD TRUCK - DAY

Lights flashing, Sonny plows through traffic towards the rescue location as cars pull over for him. He sees the AMBULANCE pass -- going the other direction.

SONNY
 What the hell?

Sonny pulls over, makes a U-turn to follow --

EXT. OCEAN/BEACH - DAY

Em's timing the sets, idling the ski just off the beach. Nainoa swims himself in while Laka and Will paddle Josh toward the beach. Kainalu swims out to them.

They fight the breaking waves in, timing the sets to bring Josh to the beach as safely as they can while keeping his back and neck immobilized. It's difficult, but they finally get him there --

ON THE BEACH, Will and Laka strap Josh to the board, talk to keep him alert. A crowd of ONLOOKERS has gathered, phones out, filming it all --

WILL
 What month is it, mate?

JOSH
 I'm not sure, I --

Em beaches the ski, joins them --

WILL
 What's your birthday?

JOSH
 January 11th.

WILL
 There we go.

LAKA

You're doing great, okay?

The lifeguards are visibly moved. They know this kid. They look towards the beach access -- no EMT's. Em looks to Laka.

EM

You called it in, right?

Laka nods to Kainalu.

KAINALU

I did. 247-C.

Em looks down. *Fuck*. Laka's in disbelief.

LAKA

That's a hundred yards away, my guy.

The three experienced guards share a look.

WILL

(ties the last strap)

We're carrying him! Let's go!

They pick Josh up, start to carry him down the beach -- step after brutal step in the deep, soft sand. Nainoa follows in back, ONLOOKERS with their phones behind him --

EXT. BEACH ACCESS - DAY

Jenn and her partner Kyle grab the gurney from the ambulance and run down the beach access in time to see Will, Laka, Em, and Kainalu RUNNING through the deep sand with Josh strapped to the board. Em yells to the EMT's --

EM

Conscious, elevated heartbeat,
spinal collar.

Jenn and Kyle take over, load Josh on to the stretcher.

LAKA

(to Josh)

You're gonna be okay, you hear me?

Laka looks at Jenn. She won't look him in the eye. The lifeguards are exhausted, out of breath.

Jenn and her partner push the gurney back up the beach access to the ambulance as Sonny arrives. Sonny sees his team doubled over, struggling for breath.

SONNY
What the hell happened?

Em looks at Kainalu, then to Sonny. Off Em, we --

INT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - DISTRICT 2 - DAY

OPEN ON a TIKTOK VIDEO -- Em, Will, Laka, Kainalu running Nainoa up the beach. REVEAL Em showing Sonny the video on her phone. Sonny watches, quiet. Em's pissed.

EM
I won't read you the comments. But they're not good.

SONNY
It'll blow over.

Em puts her phone away, looks Sonny in the eye.

EM
He didn't know the response locations.

SONNY
Why didn't Laka call it in himself?

EM
He assumed the guy sitting next to him in the tower knew how to do his job!

SONNY
When it's your turn to be captain you can do it your way. Until then, we're doing it mine.

EM
My turn? When's that gonna be?

SONNY
What?

A beat. Em looks Sonny in the eye.

EM
You're a legend, okay? You've saved hundreds of lives. You've got nothing to prove. To anyone.
(beat)
Zion's accident was not your fault. There is nothing you could have done to prevent it.

Sonny stares at Em a long beat. Now it's his turn to be pissed.

SONNY

Are we getting it all out? Okay.
Let's get it all out.

(beat)

I'm still on the job because I don't see anybody ready to step up and take my place. That includes you.

Em's stung. Sonny's not done.

SONNY (CONT'D)

You ever think you're so concerned with becoming captain you forgot what the actual job is?

(beat)

It's not about me, and it's not about you. It's about saving lives. And doing what's best for this crew.

EM

Is that what you think you're doing?

Sonny looks Em in the eye. Not going to let a lieutenant talk to him that way.

SONNY

Careful, Em.

A long beat.

EM

We all loved your nephew, cap. Zion was a great kid. But if his death is still bugging you, get some help. Talk to somebody. Don't play hero and endanger us all.

Em goes. Off Sonny --

INT. KAHUKU HOSPITAL - DAY

The elevator door opens, revealing Laka, Will, and Laka's grandmother, TUTU (83, Hawaiian). Laka and Will are carrying lei. Laka leans over to Tutu, kisses her cheek.

LAKA
Keoki picking you up after your
appointment?

TUTU
Yeah. The yard better be clean when
I get home, hear me?

Laka nods. Tutu goes.

WILL
Who's Keoki?

LAKA
Her boyfriend.

WILL
Your grandma has a boyfriend?

LAKA
Yeah. I can hear them going at it
every night.

Will and Laka walks to the nurses' station. Jarrah's there.
Laka and Will go to her, kiss her on the cheek.

LAKA (CONT'D)
Hi Auntie.

WILL
We just wanted to check on the kid,
see how's he doing.

Jarrah looks around. She seems nervous.

JARRAH
He's stable. They're waiting for a
specialist to come from Honolulu.

LAKA
That's good, right?

JARRAH
(the lei)
I'll take those. You guys should
go.

A door from one of the hospital rooms opens and KYLE (50,
haole) exits. Josh's dad. Jarrah gives Laka and Will a look.
Here we go. Kyle spots Will and Laka, approaches.

KYLE
What the hell are you doing here?

Laka's taken aback. Will hands Kyle the lei.

WILL
Just wanted to bring these by, see
how he's holding up.

KYLE
(pissed)
Holding up? My son could be
paralyzed from the neck down.

LAKA
We did everything we could.

KYLE
Not what I'm hearing.

LAKA
(in disbelief)
What?

Jarraah steps in. Looks Kyle in the eye.

JARRAH
Braddah, this isn't the time or the
place.
(to Will and Laka)
Go.

A beat. Kyle gathers himself. Gives Laka and Will one last
look.

KYLE
This isn't over.

Kyle walks back in to the hospital room. Laka and Will look
at Jarraah, shocked, then go. Off them --

EXT. HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Laka and Will walk to Laka's truck. Somber.

JENN (O.C.)
Hey!

Laka and Will turn, see Jenn. Still in her EMT uniform.

JENN (CONT'D)
What happened?

LAKA
(beat)
Not in the mood right now.

JENN

Not in the mood? Who called that
in?

Laka stares at her, pissed.

LAKA

(to Jenn)

You telling me how to do my job?

(beat)

We know that kid. So back off.

JENN

People were filming. It's all over
social media. We're not taking the
fall for responding to the wrong
location.

WILL

Nobody's asking you to.

Laka's done. Snapping.

LAKA

What, you think you can do my job?
Why? 'Cause you 'surf?'

Will grabs Laka's shoulder, leads him towards the truck --

WILL

Take a breath. We're not doing
this.

Laka glares at Jenn, takes a breath. He and Will get in the
truck. Laka starts it up, peels out of the parking lot. Off
Jenn --

EXT. OCEAN/BEACH - EVENING

Sunset. Em runs the beach, earbuds in, her feet sinking in to
the soft sand. She drops at intervals to do push ups,
burpees, lunges. A machine.

As Em approaches the closed-up tower, she spots someone
sitting on the sand. It's her ex-husband JASON (37, dad bod
handsome). He's bouncing a six month old BABY BOY on his lap.
Jason spots Em as she approaches. Tries not to look
uncomfortable.

JASON

Hey.

EM
 (removes her earbuds)
 Hey.

An awkward beat.

EM (CONT'D)
 (the baby)
 Who's this?

JASON
 Toa.
 (to Toa)
 Say hi, buddy.

Toa stares. Jason smiles.

JASON (CONT'D)
 He likes you.
 (beat)
 Saw you on the news the other day.
 You looked good.
 (beat)
 Thought you'd have made captain by
 now.

EM
 No.

JASON
 Not for lack of trying, I see.
 (grabs his waist)
 Me? I'm lucky to get three hours
 sleep a night. And Goldfish
 crackers. Dude.

EM
 (smiles, looks him over)
 The dad thing suits you.

A beat. Jason looks Em in the eye.

JASON
 You had your chance. You said no.
 Many times.

EM
 Jason. Stop.

JASON
 We could have made some beautiful
 babies.

A beat. Em just stares. Not going to take the bait.

JASON (CONT'D)

Sorry.

EM

It's okay.

JASON

(beat, changes the
subject)

They're doing a fundraiser for
Will's daughter's heart surgeries
at the elementary school. You
should come.

EM

I'll try.

Jason lifts Toa, stands.

JASON

I should get this guy home. He's
less cute when he's hungry.

Jason looks her over a beat, then:

JASON (CONT'D)

Good to see you, Em.

Em watches Jason carry Toa up towards the parking lot, put
him in a bike seat. They ride off.

A beat. Em looks back down the beach, puts her earbuds back
in. She starts to jog, then run. Fast. Off her, we --

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**EXT. VARIOUS - DAY**

Morning on the North Shore. A SERIES OF SHOTS --

TOURISTS line up for coffee, selfies at the SUNRISE SHACK --

A TRASH TRUCK roars and clangs down a narrow street --

SURF KIDS ride the bike path to school --

A LIFEGUARD paddles the rescue board out to a SWIMMER who's out of breath, struggling in the current, brings him back in to shore. All in a day's work --

INT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - DISTRICT 2 - EVENING

End of the day. Kainalu's washing down the rescue ski, flushing the engine. Will and Laka close up their lockers, leave. Sonny sits at his desk doing paperwork, reading glasses on. Em appears at his office door.

EM

You wanted to see me, cap?

SONNY

Yeah. Come in.

She does. Sonny's office phone RINGS. He answers.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Captain Jennings.

(beat)

Chief Hall. What's up?

Em stares at Sonny as Sonny holds the phone to his ear. The look on his face says it all -- this is not a pleasant phone call.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Yeah. I've seen the videos.

Sonny motions for Em to sit. She does.

SONNY (CONT'D)

EMS got called to the wrong location.

(beat)

Yes sir. I know exactly how it looks.

Sonny listens a beat. He looks at Em, then --

SONNY (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
I called it in.

Em can't believe it. Sonny avoids her gaze as he holds the phone to his ear, listens.

SONNY (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
I'll make a full report.
(beat, listens)
Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.

Sonny hangs up the phone. Looks at Em. He looks tired.

EM
That the chief?

SONNY
Yeah.

EM
He pissed?

SONNY
Yeah.
(beat)
But... he approved funding for a
new tower and two new skis.

EM
What?

SONNY
He's no fool. He knows who the next
mayor's gonna be.

Em digests this. Sonny's gamble worked.

SONNY (CONT'D)
He also approved an additional
hire. I requested Hina Alexander.
(beat)
I wanted to tell you in person.

Em's taken aback. Not what she expected to hear. She covers.

EM
Great. Let me know when she starts,
I'll get her set up.

SONNY
I think she'd appreciate that.

Kainalu appears in the door.

KAINALU
All pau, cap.

SONNY
Okay. See you tomorrow.

Kainalu nods at Em, goes. A beat, then:

EM
How long you gonna cover for him?

Sonny stares at Em.

SONNY
As long as it gets us the things we
need to save lives. I'm sure if you
were captain, you'd do the same.

A beat. Sonny lets that sink in. Em nods at the photo of
Ocean and Zion on Sonny's desk.

EM
Family okay?

SONNY
Not really.

A long beat.

SONNY (CONT'D)
They blame me, you know.
(stares at the photo)
That kid idolized me. Ate up every
story I told him. Diving the deep
caves, night surfing Waimea. His
mom told me to knock it off -- he's
gonna try it himself and get hurt.
(beat)
But I guess I ate it up, too.

Sonny stares off, silent. A long beat, then Em stands.

EM
I scheduled our re-cert. Tuesday
morning, eight o' clock.

SONNY
Great. See you then.

Em goes. Off Sonny --

EXT. BEACH PARK/LIFEGUARD TOWER - DAY

Kainalu sits in the tower alone, looking over the crowded beach. Laka and Will trade off doing pull-ups, burpees, box jumps on a cooler in front of the tower in the sand.

Em pulls in to the lot in the lifeguard truck, parks. She and Hina get out, approach the tower. Kainalu sees her. *Shit.*

Em and Hina approach --

EM

Guys, this is Hina, newest member of our team. This is Laka, Will.

Laka and Will shake hands with Hina.

WILL

Good to have you on.

LAKA

Where you from?

HINA

(smiles)

Right down the road.

LAKA

Grad Kahuku?

HINA

Yep.

LAKA

I forgive you.

Laughs. Em nods to Kainalu in the tower. Kainalu and Hina make eye contact for the first time.

EM

Hina Alexander, Kainalu Emerson.

Hina nods at Kainalu. Doesn't smile.

HINA

We've met.

A guy wearing a neck brace approaches the tower. It's Reef, the surfer kid from Florida we saw rescued in the teaser. He's with his family -- mom LINDA, dad TREY, teenage SISTER. The mom has a handful of flower LEI. The dad's carrying a stack of PLATE LUNCHESES. He hands them to Laka.

TREY
For you guys.

WILL
Wow. You didn't have to do that.

LAKA
But we're glad you did.

Laughs. Linda puts lei around Will, Em, and Laka's necks.
Kainalu watches from the tower.

LINDA
Can we get a picture with you all?

Reef stands next to Laka, Will, Em. Trey looks at Kainalu,
Hina.

TREY
Come on. Everybody.

Kainalu hesitates, but gets in. So does Hina. Kainalu looks
uncomfortable being in the picture, Hina looks uncomfortable
standing next to him.

Linda and Trey aim their phones, Linda tearing up as she
takes the picture. Trey too --

LINDA
(hugging them all)
Thank you.

Reef shakes the lifeguards' hands one last time. He and his
family go. Laka hands Kainalu a plate.

LAKA
They brought for you too, brah.

Laka, Em, and Will head back to the tower. Kainalu turns to
Hina.

KAINALU
It's good to see you.

Hina looks Kainalu in the eye. Cold.

HINA
Just to be clear -- we're not
friends.

Hina follows Em, Will, Laka to the tower. Off Kainalu --

EXT. ALA MOANA BEACH PARK - MORNING

It's early -- the sun not quite poking over Diamond Head. Sonny and Em stand on the beach with Kenji. Em looks ready. Sonny's wearing his faded old lifeguard trunks. Ready or not, he's doing this.

KENJI

So you both know the drill.

Sonny and Em nod.

KENJI (CONT'D)

I'll let you guys slide on the run swim run if you want. Let the thousand yards count.

Sonny and Em share a look. Does Sonny want that?

SONNY

No.

Em looks at Kenji, shrugs.

KENJI

Shoots. I offered.

(beat)

Ready?

Sonny nods. Em too. Kenji hits the stopwatch on his phone.

KENJI (CONT'D)

Go.

A SERIES OF SHOTS mirroring our recruits in ACT ONE -- but this time it's Sonny and Em. Running, swimming, paddling, competing against the clock and each other as Kenji mans the stopwatch --

Sonny pushes hard to keep up with Em, but she pulls ahead a little bit more on each challenge.

The sun crests over Diamond Head. Em paddles the rescue board to shore, drops it, runs to Kenji's side. He shows her the time.

Em nods, breathing heavy, keeping an eye on Kenji's stopwatch as Sonny paddles hard towards them. There are only a few seconds left for Sonny to make it to shore --

Sonny scrapes, reaches shore, throws the board down on the beach, limps across the finish line gasping for breath.

Kenji hits the stopwatch. He shows it to Sonny. One second to spare. Kenji smiles.

KENJI (CONT'D)
Still the boss, brah.

They shake. Em looks at Sonny a beat, high fives him.

EM
Nice job, cap.

SONNY
Thanks.
(deep breaths)
See that new swell on the charts?

EM
Yeah.

SONNY
Run the skis, make sure we're
ready.

Em nods. Sonny looks at her a beat then grabs his towel, goes. Kenji looks at Em. He shrugs, smiles.

Em watches Sonny get in his truck, drive away. Off Em --

EXT. BEACH PARK - EVENING

End of the day. Sonny gets out of his truck. He has a fresh flower lei draped around his neck.

Sonny walks to Zion's memorial. He dusts it off, removes the dead, wilted lei. Replaces it with the one around his neck. He stares at the photo a beat, then gathers himself, walks back to his truck.

There's a shiny new sedan parked next to him. Looks like a rental. A HAOLE GUY wearing slacks, shoes, aloha shirt gets out. He looks at Sonny, smiles.

HAOLE GUY
Harlan Jennings?

Sonny's taken aback. How does this guy know his name?

SONNY
Yeah. Why?

He hands Sonny an envelope.

HAOLE GUY

Mr. Jennings, these are court
papers, and you are hereby served.
Have a nice day.

He walks away. Sonny opens the envelope, reads. *Shit. SHIT.*

Will approaches, done with his shift. He takes one look at
Sonny, can tell something ain't right.

WILL

You good, cap?

Sonny looks at the papers, then at Will, dumbfounded.

SONNY

That kid we pulled out of the water
at Keiki? The family is suing us.

(looks back to the papers)

Me, Em, the chief, the
department... everybody.

Off Sonny, we --

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE