

**THE QUEEN**

Written by

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Based on true events.

SLOW DOLLY IN to this spacious, sunlit room adorned with floral arrangements reflecting the richness of Hawai'i: orchids, violets, chrysanthemums, and geraniums.

A single bed is tucked in one corner. The furniture includes a sofa, a small square table, one common chair, a bureau, and a chiffonier. Large windows allow ample daylight and a view of the veranda overlooking the palace lawn.

SUPER: *January 24, 1895*

Near a window, QUEEN LILI'UOKALANI (57), sits upright on a chaise. Her regal demeanor remains intact despite her current predicament.

She HUMS a melody in the KEY OF C and notates the corresponding notes on a SHEET OF WRITING-PAPER with a LEAD PENCIL. The paper, marked with a hand-drawn staff, is inscribed with "Aloha 'Oe".

Suddenly, Lili'uokalani's gaze is drawn outside where an O'ahu 'Ō'ō bird -- long thought extinct -- sips nectar from a flower just beyond the veranda. The Queen watches with a mixture of pride and envy.

EVELINE "KITTY" WILSON (40s), the Queen's devoted lady-in-waiting, approaches.

KITTIE

Your Majesty, is there a cause for concern?

LILI'UOKALANI

Like a true Hawaiian, flowers are necessary for their very life.

KITTIE

Pardon, Your Majesty?

Lili'uokalani reflects on this for a moment.

At that instant, the 'Ō'ō flies away, spooked by the sound of a HAWAIIAN ROYAL GUARD marching past the veranda. The ECHO of the guard's footsteps serves as a stark reminder of the Queen's confinement, dampening her mood.

A KNOCK on the door interrupts her thoughts. Two additional GUARDS -- one Hawaiian, one haole -- posted at the entrance open the double doors, admitting three gentlemen:

C.B. WILSON (45), a short-fused "yes-man"; SANFORD B. DOLE (50), a cool-handed master of relations; and ALFRED S. HARTWELL (59), a lawyer with a conscience.

LILI'UOKALANI

Mr. Dole, to what do I owe this unwelcome intrusion?

WILSON

Your Majesty, you ought to address him as President Dole.

LILI'UOKALANI

President to which nation?

WILSON

You know well which--the newfound Republic of Hawaii.

LILI'UOKALANI

I'm unfamiliar with this sovereign. From whence did it come?

WILSON

You are well aware--

DOLE

--C.B., don't be so easily baited. This woman is merely toying with your temper.

The Queen offers a faint smile.

WILSON

(curtly)

My dear.

KITTIE

Husband.

Kittie nods in acknowledgment.

DOLE

Lydia, as you are aware, you stand accused of treason against the Republic of Hawaii and face the death penalty. We are here formally procure your abdication.

Dole SNAPS his fingers, prompting Hartwell, who had been lingering near the exit, to step forward with a DOCUMENT.

LILI'UOKALANI  
Oh, Alfred, you too have allied  
with these revolutionaries?

HARTWELL  
Indeed, Your Majesty.

LILI'UOKALANI  
I am grieved to see you this day.

HARTWELL  
...Indeed, Your Majesty.

Hartwell retreats to his hideaway.

LILI'UOKALANI  
The idea of abdication never  
originated with me. I know nothing  
of this transaction.

DOLE  
Regardless of its origins, you are  
to sign this document and  
relinquish your title.

LILI'UOKALANI  
Mr. Dole--

WILSON  
--President Dole.

Dole gestures for Wilson to stand down.

LILI'UOKALANI  
Mr. Dole, it has been over two  
years since your P.G.'s,  
masquerading under the guise of the  
United States government, stripped  
me of my rightful throne. As you  
can observe, I am a prisoner in my  
own palace, under guard by your  
private militia. How can I  
surrender what your new regime  
claims is not mine to relinquish?

DOLE  
The people still heed your voice.

LILI'UOKALANI  
How so? I am confined to my  
quarters, permitted to see only a  
select few.

DOLE

Do not feign ignorance. Your loyalists rebel in the streets and in their hearts.

LILI'UOKALANI

Oh, you poor soul. Blind to the obvious.

DOLE

What obvious?

LILI'UOKALANI

You lay claim to what is not yours, rid the people of their right to vote, and expect compliance and gratitude. Such greed will be your undoing. A nation cannot prosper under the grasp of the avaricious few. Even now, the economy collapses under your rule.

DOLE

You know nothing.

LILI'UOKALANI

I know this much: the hearts of my people will never yield to those who place gold above ka 'āina. I know that without the annexation you so desperately seek, your so-called Republic will crumble, leaving your precious sugar plantations penniless. And I know that President Cleveland has ordered you to surrender your false title and restore the monarchy. Mark my words, Mr. Dole--by the very laws your own missionary party imposed upon my late brother, King Kālakaua, you stand guilty of sedition, and it is only through my pardon can you hope to escape the gallows.

Dole flinches to Wilson.

WILSON

You are kept from news beyond these walls. How could you possibly know such things?

Wilson looks to his wife for answers. She shakes her head, uncertain.

WILSON (CONT'D)  
Where is your source?!

The Queen merely shrugs, finding satisfaction in the situation.

GUARD #1, the Hawaiian guard stationed at the door, lifts his chin high ... proud of his Queen's bravado.

Wilson paces the room, rifling through the Queen's PAPERS and BOOKS. Finding nothing, his gaze falls upon the FLOWERS on the table, wrapped in paper.

Hidden within these assorted papers are sheets of NEWSPAPER. Wilson holds the papers high, as if to demand an explanation from Kittie.

WILSON (CONT'D)  
Excuse us.

Wilson leads Kittie to the adjoining boudoir for a private conversation, their voices raised in hushed tones.

WILSON (CONT'D)  
You are responsible for all that enters this room.

KITTIE  
I know my duties, Charles.

WILSON  
Then how did this oversight occur?!  
When were these brought to you?

KITTIE  
Just this morning.

WILSON  
By whom?

KITTIE  
...By Johnny.

WILSON  
Johnny--our Johnny?

KITTIE  
Yes.

WILSON  
Confounded boy. I shall deal with him. Ensure this does not recur.

KITTIE

Yes. I apologize.

They return to the main room.

LILI'UOKALANI

If you require privacy, I shall gladly take my leave.

WILSON

President Dole, I am losing my patience.

DOLE

Lydia, this farce ends here. I am the government, and I alone dictate the course of events. Sign this document, or you will be executed.

LILI'UOKALANI

And thus reveals your blindness, Mr. Dole. You understand not the spirit of the Hawaiian people. I have no anxiety for myself, nor dread death. I will not sign.

DOLE

Greed may be my downfall, but pride will be yours.

LILI'UOKALANI

Proceed. Make me a martyr if you will.

Dole begins to *LAUGH*, realizing the deadlock.

DOLE

If it is games you desire, games we shall have. LORRIN!

The doors opens to reveal LORRIN A. THURSTON (37) -- best described as nothing but a hungry wolf ... Hungry for power and respect.

He enters escorting the feeble JOSEPH HELELUHE (40).

Joseph is naked; hands shackled. His face and body are tattered with grime and bruises. Dried blood sticks to his lips and left brow. Thurston drops Joseph onto his knees.

Horried, Lili'uokalani quickly drapes a SHAW from off her bureau around Joseph.

LILI'UOKALANI

How could you be so callous? Have you no sense of decency?

JOSEPH

My Queen...

LILI'UOKALANI

Oh, Joseph. What cruelty have they inflicted upon you?

(to her guests)

This man is Joseph Heleluhe, the property manager of Washington Place. He is no politician nor rebel. There is no justification for such treatment.

THURSTON

He is charged with treason.

LILI'UOKALANI

Mr. Hartwell, will you stand for this?

Hartwell can't bare to witness the scene before him.

THURSTON

He and five others have been condemned.

LILI'UOKALANI

On what grounds?

THURSTON

A cache of arms was discovered on your property.

LILI'UOKALANI

I know nothing of such arms!

THURSTON

Nevertheless, they are condemned to death. Alongside you. Unless...

DOLE

Unless, you sign the abdication.

LILI'UOKALANI

This brutality, it solves nothing.

THURSTON

It secures progress--one where we stand to prosper.

LILI'UOKALANI

You speak of progress, but all I see is devastation. You, your fathers, your grandfathers dismantle our culture, our way of life... for what? Wealth?

THURSTON

Wealth is a reward for those who shape the future. Now, sign.

LILI'UOKALANI

And if I refuse?

THURSTON

Your refusal will seal their fate.

The gravity of the situation settles over the room. The Queen examines her next move with careful approach.

Impatient, Wilson cues his wife.

KITTIE

Your Majesty, sometimes the hardest choices are not made out of weakness, but out of an understanding of greater consequences.

LILI'UOKALANI

And you too Kittie, you would betray me?

KITTIE

I have a duty to my country, and my family.

JOSEPH

Do not... sign, Your Majesty. We will... endure.

THURSTON

Endure? Look at him. This is what endurance looks like.

LILI'UOKALANI

Endurance is not for you to mock, Mr. Thurston. It is found in the silent strength to bear pain with honor and grace, as this man does. Your lack of compassion only reveals the weakness of your own spirit.

(redirecting)

(MORE)

LILI'UOKALANI (CONT'D)

My dear Joseph, I cannot bear the thought of you suffering any longer on my account.

THURSTON

Sign the document and he lives. Refuse, and all those with love and loyalty to the Hawaiian Kingdom will perish. The choice is plain.

JOSEPH

We stand with you, Your Majesty.

LILI'UOKALANI

And what of your lives? Your families? Should I condemn all of you for the sake of my own pride?

Tears trace down the cheeks of Guard #1.

DOLE

For the sake to prevent further bloodshed, Lydia. Please sign, and we can begin to rebuild.

Queen Lili'uokalani sinks into her chair at the table.

Dole places the document of abdication before her. She gazes at it somberly.

LILI'UOKALANI

For myself, I know I would rather choose death. Yet a stream of blood is ready to flow unless it is stayed by my pen.

DOLE

(placing the pen before her)

To a new beginning...

LILI'UOKALANI

You have forced my hand.

(checkmate)

How would you have my signature?

Dole looks to Thurston.

THURSTON

Uh--

HARTWELL

--Sign it, Lili'uokalani Dominis.

The Queen's eyebrows knit together in confusion. This address strikes her as odd.

LILI'UOKALANI

Forgive me, how do you wish for me to sign?

HARTWELL

Lili'uokalani Dominis. Thus, the world will perceive your submission to the Republic of Hawaii.

Thurston nods in smug accomplishment. An evil sneer stuck to his face.

LILI'UOKALANI

Very well.

Lili'uokalani signs the form, "*Lili'uokalani Dominis*".

DOLE

You have made the right decision.  
The matter is now resolved.

The men begin to gather their belongings. Lili'uokalani approaches Joseph, kneeling beside him.

LILI'UOKALANI

This is not the end. Hawai'i will endure beyond this moment.

THURSTON

History favors those who bring order and progress, not the remnants of old traditions.

Thurston hoists Joseph to his feet and leads him out of the room.

Hartwell remains, approaching the Queen with tears welling in his eyes.

HARTWELL

Your Majesty, please do not hold me accountable for the events of this day.

LILI'UOKALANI

Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono.  
(translation: *The sovereignty of the kingdom continues because we are righteous.*)

Hartwell nods in understanding.

LILI'UOKALANI (CONT'D)  
Alfred?

HARTWELL  
Yes, Your Majesty?

Lili'uokalani steps closer, her volume softening.

LILI'UOKALANI  
There is not, and never was, within  
the range of my knowledge, any such  
a person legally known as  
Lili'uokalani Dominis.

HARTWELL  
(knowingly)  
Indeed, Your Majesty?

LILI'UOKALANI  
I am much less grieved to see you  
this day.

Hartwell forces a smile through his tears. Lili'uokalani  
returns a gentle grin.

As Hartwell departs, Kittie steps forward.

KITTIE  
Those are but crocodile tears, my  
Queen.

LILI'UOKALANI  
One learns, Mrs. Wilson, when the  
winds change, how quickly friends  
can become strangers.

Lili'uokalani settles back onto the chaise and gazes out the  
window. A soft, faint chorus of "Aloha 'Oe" begins to play.

FADE TO BLACK.

*SUPER: Queen Lili'uokalani was the last sovereign of the  
Kingdom of Hawai'i.*

*SUPER: U.S. President Grover Cleveland condemned the  
overthrow as an act of war by unauthorized U.S.  
representatives and demanded the Queen's restoration, which  
Sanford B. Dole vehemently refused.*

*SUPER: In 1898, under President William McKinley, the U.S.  
annexed Hawai'i and appointed Dole as the first governor of  
the Territory of Hawaii.*

*SUPER: On the 100th anniversary of the overthrow, the U.S. Congress passed the Apology Resolution, signed by President Bill Clinton, formally acknowledging and apologizing for America's role in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.*

THE END