

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

LEI'D TO REST - A HULA-DUN-IT

Written by

Adam Oster

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adam@fatmogul.com

workshopped at ECCT, ecct.org

workshopped at adam@fatmogul.com

CHARACTERS

RODNEY JOHNSON - Rodney and his wife have thrown their annual neighborhood luau for the past five years and every year he's had to battle the Homeowner's Association over all the details. This year he's decided to throw the party at a local venue instead of their home. He thought this would mean the HOA would keep their noses out of things but Hope Besser still manages to be the bug in his beer. He secretly wants to take over the HOA and change the rules to allow him to decorate his house however he wants. Rodney is a recently retired porn star, who had starred in such great films as "Ocean's 11 Inches" and "A Few Good Men" (no, not that one).

RONDI JOHNSON - Rodney's wife. She lives in a constant state of embarrassment over how tacky Rodney is. She's the one who has been secretly calling the HOA hotline to report Rodney's infractions, hoping he will give in to the rules of the HOA so she can finally live her life in style. She now fears Hope knows she is the one who has been calling the helpline and is concerned Hope will reveal this secret at the party. She served as a fluffer on Rodney's sets, which is how they met. She's eager to use her new career as an Instagram influencer to finally get out of her husband's shadow.

HOPE BESSER - The HOA President. She loves rules and has a rule for everything, such as which way to hang the toilet paper, how to fold towels, and how you should never back into a parking space. She really has it in for Rodney and Rondi, because they seem to be so happy together. After her own marriage ended when her husband left her for her yoga instructor, she's come to the conclusion that it's impossible to be happy and married. Now that she knows Rondi has been calling the HOA hotline about Rodney, she thinks she's found the way to break them up. No one in the neighborhood likes her due to her never ending list of HOA rules, such as how no one can have satellite because they look ugly, or how she has banned yoga because it reminds her of her husband's infidelity.

CHUCK BEGONÉ - A four-time college drop out, now well past his frat boy years, who has never quite left the college lifestyle behind. He moved to the neighborhood on the night of last year's luau, but drank too much at that party to remember much of anything. He's always throwing a party at his own house and tries to convince everyone to come over. If there's anyone Hope hates more than Rodney, it's Chuck. His yard is always covered in beer cans and he tends to be passed out drunk on his front lawn nearly every morning. She's talked to Chuck about it countless times, but because of his drinking, he never seems to remember.

EDITH LANDERS - She knows everything that goes on in the neighborhood and will gossip about it to anyone within ear shot. She holds suspicions that Rondi is the one who has been reporting Rodney. She knows each and every single person Flora has slept with over the past year (and many from before). And she knows Hope's husband left her because her addiction to online auctions was causing them to drown in debt due to her addiction to collecting Precious Moments dolls. Hope has been hounding Edith about her voyeurism and Edith is afraid her favorite pastime is at risk.

GLEN LANDERS - Edith's husband. He's not really interested in any of the happenings around the neighborhood and really wishes his wife would stop talking about them. The two of them bicker nearly constantly. Most of the neighbors aren't fans of Glen because the only time he comes to talk to any of them is when he needs to borrow something. The only thing that ever seems to get him excited is when someone offers him something for free, as he can't turn down a good deal. He works as a traveling makeup salesman.

FLORA HESTER - Her husband, Chester, died a year ago at the previous luau. She's sensitive about it but seems far more interested in landing a new man. The details of Chester's death are still a mystery and Flora believes he was murdered. She also believes the murderer will strike again this very night as part of a very peculiar killing spree involving people wearing ugly Hawaiian shirts. She has been secretly working as a private detective, mostly so she can try to dig up more information on Chester's death.

PREMISE

Tonight is the night of the JOHNSON's annual neighborhood luau, and the whole neighborhood is invited. They've chosen to hold the event at this venue instead of RODNEY's house so RODNEY can do whatever he pleases without incurring the wrath of the Homeowner's Association. Everyone is encouraged to wear their finest island wear and sit back and enjoy the festivities. The room is decked out in the tackiest Tiki decorations possible. On the stage is one table, set center stage, which is where the Big Kahuna will be seated and a podium set stage left for RODNEY to make his announcements from.

PRE-SHOW

The JOHNSONS will be situated out front and will greet everyone as they come in, although RODNEY will often become distracted and will leave RONDI to work the sign-in table alone. RONDI's trying to get everyone to follow her on Instagram and like her latest post.

Everyone will be greeted warmly with alohas and leis before being directed to their table.

HOPE will be one of the first guests to arrive and will spend her time scolding RODNEY for everything she sees wrong with the party, such as noise levels and items she considers to be appropriated from other cultures, while also simply making suggestions for how she would have done things differently, like placement of place settings and overall seat assignments.

The LANDERS will arrive next and will bicker at each other from the moment they arrive. Bickering over how GLEN isn't dressed for the affair even though EDITH bought him a new

Hawaiian shirt, over how he'd much rather be watching the game at home, how he didn't expect it to be a cash bar, and over how much EDITH wishes GLEN could be friendlier like RODNEY. EDITH will spend a lot of time pointing out members of the audience and telling everyone what she knows about them. Like the guys whose houses she's been seeing FLORA sneak off to late at night when their significant others are away, or the woman she happened to notice biting her toenails during one of her evening walks through the neighborhood or asking people what they think about the guy who goes through three industrial size buckets of ranch dressing a week, which she just happened to notice in his garbage. GLEN will try to stay seated as much as possible, but EDITH will keep pulling him away to go talk to people. He'll make every attempt he can to sneak away to get a drink or sit back at the table.

FLORA will arrive after the LANDERS and will be decked out in her cougar-best, obviously aiming to find a partner for the night. However, she is also obnoxiously focused on people's shirts, especially those wearing Hawaiian shirts, as she fears for their lives. So much so that she will take them aside and have a serious conversation with them about how they should change or maybe even just go shirtless. Her late husband Chester was wearing the ugliest Hawaiian shirt the night he died, and she tried to warn him how terrible of an idea it was and now he's dead.

The LANDERS will have a place in the AUDIENCE to sit. FLORA will mill about the room, not sure where to sit, and often trying to use people's laps as her seat.

NOTE: Since this is a neighborhood event, the CHARACTERS should recognize everyone at the party. They might not know names, but should be able to come up with comments like: "Aren't you the guy who waters his lawn in his underwear?" or "Oh, this is your wife? Who was that I saw you come home with the other night?"

ACT I

Once the GUESTS have arrived, RODNEY and RONDI will go up on stage. RODNEY will work to get the audience's attention.

RODNEY

Aloha!

RODNEY waits for people to respond with "Aloha".

RODNEY (cont'd)

In Hawaii, when someone greets you by saying Aloha, you're supposed to respond with Aloha. So, when I say, Aloha, you say

RODNEY gestures for everyone to respond.

RODNEY (cont'd)

Mahalo! And welcome to the fifth annual Johnson Neighborhood Luau! I can't help noticing a few new faces out there, so for the friends I have yet to make, I'm Rodney Johnson.

RONDI

And I'm Rondi Johnson.

RODNEY AND RONDI

And we're the Johnsons!

RODNEY

It's hard to believe it's been five years since we moved to the neighborhood. Now you all feel like members of our ohana. Our family.

RONDI

Sometimes a little too much like family, right Glen?

GLEN

(to EDITH)

What's that supposed to mean?

EDITH

It means you're a nuisance, Glen. Get over yourself.

RODNEY

I'm sure everyone's wondering why the heck we're having the neighborhood luau so far away from the neighborhood. And the answer is simple--

RONDI

(joking smile)

I was so darn tired of having to clean up after all of you!

RODNEY and RONDI laugh.

RODNEY

She's only kidding.

RONDI

You've never had to clean up one of Glen's beer can pyramids.

GLEN stands up in frustration.

EDITH

Don't be such a baby, Glen. Sit down!

RONDI

(sincere)

Oh, please don't go, Glen. I'm sorry. I take it all back.

RODNEY

Especially my leaf blower.

GLEN

(to EDITH)

I told you I didn't want to come to this stupid thing.

EDITH

They're just having fun. Don't be such a spoilsport.

GLEN

I don't have to take this!

RONDI

That's the first time he's ever said that!

GLEN

I'll be in the car if you need me.

GLEN storms toward the door.

RODNEY
Don't leave, Glen. Let me buy you a
drink.

GLEN stops at the door and turns to look at RODNEY.

GLEN
This isn't another one of your jokes,
is it?

RODNEY
Get whatever you want. It's on me.

GLEN smiles wide and heads to the bar to order a drink while
RODNEY continues.

RODNEY (cont'd)
The real story of why we're here
tonight is because we wanted a place
where we could let loose, where we
could decorate how we wanted and--

HOPE arrives on stage and pushes RODNEY out of the way so
she can stand at the podium. RONDI loses interest quickly
and pulls out her phone, striking poses as she takes
selfies.

HOPE
Hi everyone. For those of you I
haven't had the opportunity to meet
yet, I'm your friendly Home Owners
Association president, Hope Besser.
Now, I know some of you
(looks at Rodney
accusingly)
think of me as the neighborhood party
pooper--

RODNEY
You broke up last year's party
entirely!

HOPE
Somebody died, Rodney!

CHUCK enters the room loudly, a case of beer in each hand.

CHUCK
Never fear, never fear, Chuck the
Truck is here with a butt load of
beer!

CHUCK takes out a beer and immediately shotguns it.

CHUCK (cont'd)
(noticing the people
on stage staring at
him)
Why's everything so quiet? Shit,
this better not be another
intervention!

RODNEY
(yelling out to CHUCK)
Excuse me. I'm in the middle of an
announcement.

CHUCK
Gotcha. Hold up.

CHUCK grabs his case and runs to the stage. He arrives next to RODNEY, notices RONDI taking pictures of herself, and checks her out before photobombing a picture. RONDI notices and turns to look at CHUCK.

CHUCK (cont'd)
(to RONDI)
Hey there. You're looking well-
breasted this evening.

RONDI
(disgusted by the
tacky pick-up line)
Oh, God.

CHUCK
That's exactly what you'll be saying
at my place later tonight,
sweetheart.

RODNEY
(stepping between
RONDI and CHUCK)
Hey, if you could--

CHUCK
(extending his hand)
Rod Johnson! It's an honor to meet
you. I'm a huge fan.

RONDI
Of course you are.

CHUCK
(still shaking
RODNEY's hand)
I'm Chuck. Chuck Begoné.

RODNEY
(pulling his hand
from CHUCK's)
Great. Now, if you could take a
seat, we'd love to get things
started.

CHUCK
Sure thing, Hot Rod.

CHUCK takes a seat at the table on stage. RODNEY watches him in frustration before deciding to continue. RONDI is already back on her phone.

RODNEY
(to AUDIENCE)
Who's ready to meet this year's Big
Kahuna?

HOPE
Didn't we discuss how that phrase is
offensive to native Hawaiians?

CHUCK
Don't worry about it, sweetheart.
I've been to the island and said it
like a billion times.

HOPE
Of course you did.

RODNEY
Not only was last year's luau cut
short, but so was the life of our
favorite luau DJ, Chester. So, in
honor of Chester's legacy, we want to
invite his widow to serve as this
year's Big Kahuna. Give a big round
of applause for Flora Hester!

RODNEY leads everyone in applause as FLORA comes to the stage.

RODNEY (cont'd)
Flora, do you have anything you'd
like to say to everyone?

FLORA steps behind the podium.

FLORA

Aloha!

FLORA waits for the audience to reply with Aloha.

FLORA (cont'd)

Mahalo! There wasn't a single thing in this world Chester loved more than these parties, so it's fitting he spent his last day on earth here with all of you. But I'd be remiss if I didn't remind you all that his death remains unsolved. The police may have ruled it a freak accident that Chester was impaled by that ceremonial spear, but there are those of us who believe he was, in fact, murdered. Murdered by a deranged maniac who hates particular sets of floral patterns. I urge all of you to talk to your loved ones about the dangers of wearing Hawaiian shirts and convince them to change. Their shirts. Immediately. If not for their safety, for that of your family. Thank you.

Awkward applause.

RODNEY

So, Flora, it's customary for the Big Kahuna and his or her date to sit up here at the head table for the event. Do you have anyone you'd like to invite up here with you?

FLORA

Well, as you know, I haven't dated much since I lost my Chester.

EDITH laughs loudly and then covers her mouth in embarrassment when she realizes she's the only one laughing.

FLORA (cont'd)

(to CHUCK)

What about you? You wouldn't mind sitting next to an old widow, would you?

CHUCK

If by widow, you mean single, then sit that fine ass over here next to good old Chuck the Truck.

FLORA
(handing over her lei
to CHUCK seductively)
I can't help but notice no one's
lei'd you yet.

CHUCK
There are much worse ways to get
lei'd. Much better ones, too, if you
catch my drift.

FLORA sits beside CHUCK.

RODNEY
Looks like it's time to start the
party. Big Kahuna, would you care to
do the honors?

FLORA stands and looks out to the AUDIENCE.

FLORA
As the Big Kahuna, I pronounce this
luau has begun. Aloha!

EVERYONE
Aloha!

RODNEY walks down the front of the stage toward the back of
the audience, looking as though he has something to take
care of. RONDI, still focused on her phone, is approached
by HOPE. EDITH will get up from her chair and find a reason
to stand near them at the foot of the stage so she can
listen in.

HOPE
(fake nice)
Rondi, you look amazing as usual.

RONDI
(without looking up
from her phone)
I do, don't I?

HOPE
(back to bitchy HOPE)
Okay, let's cut the crap. I know
you're the one who's been calling the
HOA hotline about your husband and
his decorations.

RONDI
I don't know what you're talking
about.

HOPE covers RONDI's phone with her hand, lowering it and causing the two to lock eyes.

HOPE

Don't play coy with me. Besides, we both want the same thing. And if you don't want me to tell your husband what I know, I need you to do something for me.

RONDI

You wouldn't!

HOPE

I think we both know I most definitely would.

RONDI

(realizing HOPE means
business)

What do you want?

HOPE

I need you to get rid of all of your husband's decorations. Tonight.

RONDI

I've tried! Why do you think I've been calling the hotline?

HOPE

Come on. Look at you. I'm sure there's something you could do,
(makes lewd gesture
to indicate her
meaning)
or maybe, not do, to make him change his mind.

RONDI

You mean, withhold sex? But that's so tacky!

HOPE

I don't care how you do it. But if I get home tonight and see a single pink flamingo or inflatable Santa left in your yard, I'm telling him everything.

RONDI

But--

HOPE
You've got until the end of tonight!

HOPE walks off stage and EDITH follows her. HOPE notices quickly.

HOPE (cont'd)
(turning to face
EDITH)
Oh look, it's the neighborhood
watchdog.

EDITH
(finds something
nearby to
appreciate, probably
someone's head)
What? Who? Me?

HOPE
Come off it, Edith. I see you in my
bushes more than the bluebirds.

EDITH
(feigning offense)
I'm sure I have no idea what you're
talking about.

HOPE
Right. Well, let's look at it this
way. The next time I see you sifting
through someone's garbage in the
neighborhood, I'm calling the police.

HOPE storms away and EDITH returns her to table.

EDITH
Glen, that woman just threatened me!

GLEN
Yeah?

EDITH
And for no reason whatsoever.

GLEN
(disinterested)
That's terrible.

EDITH
So, what are you going to do about
it?

GLEN

I don't know. Nothing?

EDITH

If you were a good husband, you'd give that woman a piece of your mind.

GLEN

What if I'm only an okay husband?

EDITH

Then you'll support me in doing whatever it is I do to take her down a peg.

GLEN

Do I have to get out of my chair for that?

EDITH

Probably not.

GLEN

Then, baby. I'm your man!

RODNEY appears back on stage.

RODNEY

Aloha!

(waits for response)

It looks like it's time for the salads to be served. Bon Appetit, everyone!

SALAD BREAK

The salads are served. During this period, GLEN and EDITH will be seated at their table, EDITH will excitedly tell GLEN and everyone at their table what she heard when she was listening in to RONDI and HOPE's conversation and will tell them what she thinks that means for RODNEY and RONDI. GLEN will try to convince her to quit talking about it and when that fails, he will go to a different table to attempt to hide from her.

RODNEY and RONDI will go from table to table checking in to make sure everyone is okay, followed closely behind by HOPE.

FLORA and CHUCK will be incredibly flirtatious with each other but will make a few trips between their table on stage and the bar, while FLORA will feel the need to play up her role as Big Kahuna and continue to warn people of the dangers of their shirts.

CHUCK will try to compete with people on drinking and invite them over to his place for the after party.

During this period the CAST will also be handing out tokens for the limbo, choosing some people from the audience to join in the fun during ACT II.

ACT II

RODNEY, RONDI, and although unmasked for, HOPE, arrive on stage. FLORA and CHUCK will be seated at the BIG KAHUNA table and the LANDERS will be seated at their table.

RODNEY

Aloha!

(waits for response)

I hope you didn't stuff yourselves too much, because now it's time for my favorite event of the night: The Limbo!

HOPE

I'd like to remind you that the Limbo is a cultural appropriation of an ancient African funeral ritual.

RONDI

And aren't we all a little too old for the Limbo? Are we going roller-skating in the 1980s?

RODNEY

Are you two serious? Everyone loves the Limbo! Besides, the winner gets a free drink. Who can turn that down?

GLEN jumps to his feet and heads toward the game. As RODNEY, RONDI, and HOPE set up the Limbo. RONDI isn't very helpful as she's still glued to her phone, while HOPE is over focused on things like making sure the bar is level and measuring the height to ensure it's up to her code.

EDITH

Where are you going?

GLEN

I'm going to limbo.

EDITH

You said your doctor told you weren't allowed to bend your back anymore.

GLEN
What? No, that's ridiculous.

EDITH
(suggestively)
So, we can do that thing I like
again?

GLEN stares at EDITH, realizing he got caught in his lie.

GLEN
I'll, uh, have to call my doctor and
get back to you on that.

GLEN moves quickly to join the limbo group.

CHUCK
(to FLORA as he
stands)
Are you coming?

FLORA
(with a wink)
Not yet, cutie. But I hope you know
the buttons to push to make that
happen.

CHUCK pauses and then gives a big smile before laughing.

CHUCK
Come on, baby, let's get you bent
over under that stick.

CHUCK finds GLEN at the limbo area.

CHUCK (cont'd)
Glen! I didn't know you were going
to be here!

GLEN
Chuck the Truck!

The two embrace in a big hug.

EDITH
(following behind
GLEN)
How do you two know each other?

GLEN
Chuck the Truck? We hang out all the
time.

CHUCK

Oh, yeah, you totally forgot your underwear at my house last night.

EDITH

Your underwear?

GLEN

It's not weird or anything, Edith. The boys were feeling a little warm and I took off a layer so they could air out.

EDITH

At Chuck's house?

GLEN

Yeah, Chuck the Truck!

EDITH

Whom you've never once mentioned before?

GLEN

I was just talking about him yesterday.

EDITH

You most definitely were not!

GLEN

Sure. I told you I was going to be out late.

EDITH

You said you needed to stay late at work.

GLEN

Well, yeah, and then I stopped by Chuck's on the way home. He was throwing a party.

HOPE

Was that what that was? It looked to me like it was just the two of you listening to Free Bird at full volume again.

FLORA

(sidling up to CHUCK)

A party at your house? Why wasn't I invited?

CHUCK

Everyone's always invited. Why do you think I've got the free drinks sign out on my lawn?

HOPE

I want to remind you that you promised you'd take that sign down.

CHUCK

I said I'd take it down as soon as I run out of free drinks. Which never happens at Casa del Chuck.

RODNEY

Alright, everything is all set up now. For those of you out there who were given a token, now's the time to come up, so you can get down.

RODNEY will badger the chosen audience members to join in the fun, aided by the CAST members who helped pick people.

RODNEY (cont'd)

The rules are simple and can be explained by this quick little joke. A limbo champion walks into a bar. He was immediately disqualified.

RONDI

(groans)

Do you really have to tell that joke every year?

RODNEY

Alright everyone, it's time to Limbo.
(to person in sound booth)
DJ, let's get that song rolling!

The limbo begins. CHUCK and GLEN are having a great time together, to the point where they are completely ignoring FLORA and EDITH. There is a lot of interaction like congratulatory butt slaps between the two of them. EDITH keeps asking everyone if they knew about CHUCK and GLEN and is confused as to how she could have missed it. RONDI will be in charge of moving the limbo stick down and will be on her phone the whole time, scoffing at the people who have chosen to get involved. HOPE will decide to help and will try to remind RONDI of their arrangement. RODNEY will make sure that RONDI and HOPE see him having the greatest time of his life, as he feels hurt by their earlier comments. FLORA, noticing CHUCK's attention has been turned to GLEN, will try to seduce other people in the Limbo line.

When the limbo is over, RODNEY will take the winner to center stage, along with FLORA.

RODNEY (cont'd)
We have a winner! Everyone give a big round of applause to the most flexible member of our neighborhood!

CHUCK
I'll show you the most flexible member of our neighborhood.

FLORA
I prefer my members less flexible than you might think.

RODNEY
(to WINNER)
The Big Kahuna has your prize.

FLORA will hand the winner a drink coupon and shake their hand and the winner will be sent back to their seat.

GLEN is still standing on stage, looking thoroughly disappointed. EDITH heads back to the stage when she realizes GLEN isn't coming back to the table.

CHUCK
(wraps his arm around GLEN)
What's got you down, buddy?

GLEN
Aw, it's nothing, Chuck the Truck.

CHUCK
Come on, Glenny-boy. You know you can tell ol' Chuck anything.

GLEN
Well, it's just that I was really hoping I could win one of those free drinks.

CHUCK
Aw, pal, don't worry, you know I've always got you covered.

CHUCK offers GLEN a beer from his personal case and the two of them sit down to drink, taking over FLORA's seat. FLORA stands awkwardly nearby, and she and EDITH give perplexed looks to CHUCK and GLEN as they try to figure out their relationship.

RODNEY

(to RONDI and HOPE)

See, I told you everybody loves the limbo. Heck, even Glen got involved and he doesn't do anything.

GLEN

He's right!

HOPE

That doesn't make it any less of an attack on the traditions of a foreign community.

RONDI

Not to mention how tacky it is.

RODNEY

I don't get it, Rondi. You used to love these luaus.

RONDI

Sure, like, back in 2018 when they were trendy.

CHUCK

I think these things are still bangin', Rod. Could use a few more chicks though. Maybe next year we should throw a toga party!

GLEN AND CHUCK

Toga! Toga! Toga!

EDITH

(to CHUCK)

How have I never heard of you before?

GLEN

Because you never listen to me.

EDITH

You never say anything!

CHUCK stands to address EDITH.

CHUCK

Edith, sweetheart, you just don't know Glen like I do. The guy's an onion. You have to peel off a few layers to find the real man inside.

EDITH

I've been married to this man for fourteen years. I think I know more than enough about his layers.

FLORA

I could remove a few layers, if you'd like, Chuck.

RODNEY

Come on, everyone. This is supposed to be a special night. One for the neighborhood to get together, not for us to fight.

RONDI

(looking up from her phone to direct her anger at RODNEY))

Oh yeah, sure. We wouldn't want anyone to ruin your precious party, would we?

RODNEY

What are you talking about?

RONDI

I'm talking about how there isn't a single thing in this world more important to you than these stupid parties.

RODNEY

But you love these parties.

RONDI

I've been telling you for years how much I loathe them, and every year you go ahead and do them anyways.

RODNEY

I thought you were joking.

HOPE

It's just like a man to think everyone wants what he wants.

RONDI AND RODNEY

Stay out of this, Hope!

HOPE

Well, I never.