Tasty Crust, working script – rough draft 1/7/2026

Marjorie Morton Kahoʻohanohano – 83
Eugene Kahoʻohanohano - 84

Marjorie and Eugene enter.

EUGENE

We go find one table all the way in the back so we can scope out everybody coming in the door just in case. Ah, I only joking. You giving me the look already and we just had walk inside.

MARJORIE

We know almost everyone in here. That's my cousin's family over there. And that's my son's student over there. And those people over there are smiling at you like they know you.

EUGENE

They must be hoodlums. I only know hoodlums and crooks. That's how when you grow up like me and work your whole career in the police department.

MARJORIE

They're not crooks. They're your friends.

EUGENE

Same thing. You know how Maui was back then.

MARJORIE

You and I grew up so different.

EUGENE

You know, everybody, my friends, they all look at you and they tell me, oh, real nice eh her? I tell them, what are you trying to say? I not nice?

I only joking. You come from good people. Your mother and father were nice. Everybody knew the Morton family from Waiheʻe. And your brothers, Wayne, Bobby, they was good guys, straight guys. Your cousin, though, he was naughty. I not going to lie. He used to come with us and do some things.

MARJORIE

So are we having breakfast or lunch?

EUGENE

I'm having breakfast for lunch. Cannot beat the hotcakes. We used to come Tasty Crust after school from St. Anthony every day.

MARJORIE

How could you afford to eat at a restaurant every day?

EUGENE

We had our ways. How we grew up, if you wanted something, you figured out a way. And I worked odd jobs.

MARJORIE

We were poor but we didn't even know we were poor. We had food that we grew and a roof over our heads and family all around.

EUGENE

For us, the way you survive is you got to be tougher than the next guy, as I was. But you know, all in all, I was not good. I was naughty. What I like, I take. That's all I knew.

MARJORIE

But you're learning.

EUGENE

I am learning. Life gets better. (*He talks to people in the restaurant)* Eh, I know you, yeah? What school you went?

(*person answers*)

Me too. Little while.

(maybe there's a little "what school you went? Me too, but different year" kind of ad lib with the public)

I started off at Saint Anthony.

My father was Hawaiian, Kaho'ohanohano, but Portuguese yeah my mom. So I was baptized Catholic and all that.

St. Anthony's School was very different in our days because the nuns, they were very vicious. Yeah. They had that kind straps. Oh yeah, they tell you put out your hand and they hit you over here. That's true. And the brothers. They used to knock out guys in class, man. And they stay getting communion after they beat the heck out of you. Me, I used to spend a lot of time in the principal's office.

And then about my freshman year, I started to play football at St. Anthony, just like my older brothers, but I always get in trouble, fighting and all that kind of stuff.

My sophomore year, I got kicked out of school for fighting. So my brother Abel, told me, you going to Maui High. Back then, it was H. Poko up country. He sent me all the way up there. For three days I went to that school. But then I had to leave too, because I punched one guy in the nose.

So I came down to Baldwin High. When I walk in the office, the principal tells me, you know, you're running out of schools. But then Shishido, the coach, came inside and he told me, don't get in trouble so I can play football. So then I was at Baldwin. She was there same time.

MARJORIE

I used to walk after school from Baldwin High all the way home to Waiheʻe.

EUGENE

Every day?

MARJORIE

Yes. Every day.

EUGENE

You really like school, eh?

MARJORIE

I loved school.

EUGENE

Yeah, good for you.

MARJORIE

We walked everywhere. Our family only had one car. Every family was like that. And so if you wanted to go somewhere, you walked. If we wanted to come to Iao Theater over here to watch a matinee, we had to walk from our valley. About 30 of us kids would walk. My oldest brother was in charge of all of us. When he spoke, we all listened. We never argued.

On the weekends, my friend and I, we would walk to get mangoes, all the way from Waihee valley to Lahaina. One of my uncles was a ditch man for the plantation, and he lived up in Puʻukoliʻi. So we would walk from Waiheʻe, sometimes through Kahakuloa, sometimes on the pali road. And that's when the road was going like this, you know, all crooked. It took us all day. They had an orchard of Hayden mangoes. So we would pick whatever we wanted, and they would go down to Fleming's Beach, and they would walk home. And we did that pretty often. You know, if one car passed us on the pali, that was amazing. If we walked through Kahakuloa, there was no cars. But it never bothered me to walk home late at night, because nobody would bother you.

I feel like everyone is listening to us.

EUGENE

That's how Happy Valley was before. Everybody knows everybody's business. And you, you're good to listen to. You speak real well. Proper English and all that. "My friend and I" instead of "us guys." She try teach me, like, "you should use these words." Nah, I would be too hybolic. Nobody would listen to me. Amazing she learned big words living out in the country feeding pigs and chasing chickens.

MARJORIE

There was one Christmas my dad gave me a thesaurus. I thought he gave me the world. We always had a dictionary in the house, but he gave me a thesaurus. I thought I won the lottery.

EUGENE

The only thing my mother gave us was a cast iron frying pan.

I used to sit across from her, so when she washing the dishes, I could see her. My brother David, he would sit on the other side. He no can see her. Tong! That's a hard whack, boy. Cast Iron frying pan no bend, you know.

That's like an attitude adjustment. She was tired talk to us, yelling at us. She figured, you know, one whack—pain motivates you to stop doing what you're doing.
My brother David, he was about 260 pounds, so you got to hit him with something like that. And he said, oh, Ma, that hurt. Yeah, because bleeding your head.

Sorry to tell those kind stories. I know you don't like that kind. Me and her, we grew up just couple miles apart, but different world, I tell you.

MARJORIE
You're talking to the whole restaurant. You should let them eat.

EUGENE
People like hearing stories. That's right, yeah? See? You tell one now. Talk about small kid time.

MARJORIE
Well, my valley was beautiful. It was quiet. It was secluded. It was safe. And when I grew up, you know, everybody knew everybody. And so we were like one big family. During the holidays, we had activities at the park, and the whole community turned out. As kids, we knew that no matter where we were, if an adult spoke to us, there was no question. And to be disrespectful, it would get back to my parents before we got home. So we learned to be respectful and to be mindful of other people's property. And to know that no matter where we were, we were safe.

EUGENE
Compared to you, growing up right over there was like the city. I grew up off Vineyard Street behind Yokouchi Bakery. It was a two-bedroom house for all 10 kids. My brothers were all big, tough guys. They all played football. When you grow up in a family like that, you better not lose fights. We lived there until my brother Anthony died in Korea. The family got $10,000 when he died. My mom took that and bought a house in Happy Valley. I was eight years old when my brother died.

After my brother died, my father had a stroke. My father was a police officer, too. Tough man. But when Anthony died, that just like broke his heart. So I took care of my father when I was eight years old. My mom used to work hard, you know, clean the house and everything, so I used to stay in the bedroom with my father and take care of him because at night, he like go to the bathroom and his legs not strong, so he fall down and I gotta pick him up and everything.
I stayed with him about three years before he passed away.

So yeah, you know the negativity in me was very high. I figured not too much good things going happen to me.

MARJORIE
After you lost your dad, you didn't have the discipline that your older brothers had from him.

EUGENE

That's true.

My older brothers, they were real studious. They all went into the Army. Good soldiers, smart guys. My oldest brother fought three wars: the Second World War, Korea, and Vietnam. He finally got so wounded he had to retire. He came out a colonel. My brother Abel was a captain. My brother Anthony died in combat. My brother Daniel graduated St. Anthony school and went straight into the Marines.

Me, I wasn't disciplined. As soon as I graduated from school, I wanted to sign up. But, you know, when you're rascal - - this girl told me she was pregnant. And when that happens, at that time, the army no take you.

Well, after I got married, then she told me that she wasn't pregnant. But, you know, Catholic boy... And then about five years later, you know, she went around with a lot of guys.
Got divorced.

Finally, I decided I was going to settle down. I became a police officer like my father. I started in to come up the ladder. Eventually, they told me, you go Vice, because you know a lot of crooks. So I went. I enjoyed it. Then they said, we going put you in the metro unit. You know what the metro unit do? They go to all the bars and you break up the fights.

After that, they put me into the intelligence unit. That was organized crime. Mostly you go Honolulu undercover.

And then after that, they put me in SWAT team, so I had to go sniper training and kick in the door. And finally, I was ready for retire. I told them I like go dispatch. When you sign in all the guys you arrest, put em in the cell. Yeah, that was easy. So I was there for one year, no trouble. Finally, I don't come home from work angry.

MARJORIE

Discipline in my family was my father's whistle. My dad would stand on the porch and whistle, and no matter where you are in the valley, in five minutes, you better be home. And so we'd be down at the river. We'd be up in the mountains, and you'd hear him whistle, and you'd come running.
We learned to work hard in the loʻi and in our yard. We never questioned it.
Not to put my cousins down, but there is a difference with city cousins and country cousins. Every summer, my cousins from Oʻahu would be sent to our home. And we had like 30 kids that came. And they don't know how to work in the taro patch. It shocked me. Like, get up, you gotta go work. They think they can sleep late. So it was a rude awakening, but after a while, the older ones learned. But every year ,there's younger ones and they really don't know how to work on a farm. Yeah. So I said, do you want to eat? You better work.

EUGENE

These people over there, look. They're looking at you and they're looking at me and they all want to know THE STORY.

MARJORIE

Which story?

EUGENE

The one how you and me got together late in life. We went Baldwin High School together, you know. But in school, she didn't really look at me. We had a class together. I don't like to even mention it.

MARJORIE

It was chorus.

EUGENE

Yeah, singing. And I had sore throat every day. I told the teacher I can't sing. So he put me in a room with my guitar. He told me, no make trouble, you get an A. And that's where I stayed. The whole time I had a sore throat. But I got an A.

Then all those years later, you know, we had our class reunion.

Her, of course, she always working. Serving the food. Everybody's still partying but she's working. So I tell, who's that? She walking back to the kitchen, carrying all the things. So I stand up in front of her, you like dance? And you should see her eyes -- like one deer when you shine the light. She just look at me, she don't say nothing. I tell, you gonna get tired holding that thing here.

So she had mumble something. I never really understand what she said, then she walked right into the kitchen.

So I go to the door. I lean on the door. I tell her, excuse me, I never hear what you said. You said yes or no?

Then all her friends, they looking because, you know, I making trouble. So she said, okay, yes.

I tell her, I'll wait out here. So if you don't come out, I'm coming back again.

So she came outside.

You know, I'm just dancing. She was quiet. She was so, so shy. She's too fragile. I gotta be nice. But that was the start.

Sometimes my friends come see me, sometimes she look at me, she goes, you're all gangsters, aren't you? Of course, they're gentleman now. They talk nicely in front of your mother. They better.

MARJORIE

That's right. They'd better.

EUGENE

But I guess we used to be gangsters in a way. Every town in Maui had a gang. We were Happy Valley gang. The Paia gang, they had good boxers. Kihei. Upcountry, they had gang, but they ride motorcycles and all that.

MARJORIE

We didn't have a gang.

EUGENE

Who?

MARJORIE

Waihee didn't have a gang.

EUGENE

Well, but your cousin, he no was very nice too, you know. I'm going to be honest. You know which one I mean. He used to come to Tasty Crust too. I saw him over there. You see, when you go to Tasty Crust, all the gangs go inside there. Paia over there, Kihei that side, Puunene over there. Everybody give everybody stink eye. Yeah, just like that! You eating your hotcakes but you're looking all around. So when you go to the bathroom, make sure you get a couple of guys with you or you gonna get jumped in there. It was survival of the fittest. It was good fun, though.

When had the fair, all the gangs would meet there too. We used to mostly go in the back where they get all the animals. That's where the fights used to be. Nobody else would go in there. Nobody would break up the fight.

If you knew where to go, you could find the action. Sheik's. Hale Lava. You go in the back of the big parking lot nobody watching.
Any place on Maui you could go. Kihei guys no like fight in Kihei, so they used to go Ma'alaea. The restaurant wasn't opened that late. We used to meet back there. The cops don't go over there to check. Now it's condos.

I'll try to put it this way. Like, we had different factions. You stay in your lane, and you do everything straight, and you don't try to take anything from my side, it's going be nice. You try to take anything, you're at war.

Of course, I retired now. I don't do that. I only tell stories now.

MARJORIE

We all had our different kinds of fun. Ours was very respectful.

EUGENE

You know, you talk about respect. We had respect, too, you know. If the guy neva do nothing, he's honest, he get one family, nobody bother that kind guys. Why go bother them because they're working honestly. They taking care their families. Nobody used to really go after that kind of honest guys.

But if you're making money and you're not paying into the source, you're going to get a phone call or somebody will come talk to you.

MARJORIE

We all grew up with the idea, "Don't shame the name." And that meant a lot to us, you know. To never do anything to bring shame to the family or the community.
Everybody was auntie and uncle. And it wasn't unusual to have children or kids that didn't belong to my family, my immediate family, be there for lunch, for supper. Whoever was in the yard playing, my mom fed everybody.

EUGENE

If I knew that, I would have gone your mother's house. We was always hungry, us football boys. Nah, your family, they were all good people. Mine too, but different. We had hardships. I grew up rough. I just talk, tell whatever. All true, but sometimes not so nice. Tell you what, I going launch into one story, and if I go too far, pull me back.

You know, my best, best friend before was this guy, Kepa Kahoekapu. He was from Happy Valley. His mom was Kalehuawehe. Kind of remind me of you over there. Big guy, but you know, he had bad eyesight. Every time when get trouble, he like jump inside. But he cannot see the punch coming. Pretty soon, there's all lumps all over him. I tell him, no, no, no. You sit down.

So then, he get one baseball bat. He swinging, but he no can see for hit. He hit the wrong guys plenty times because he cannot see good.

When you're friends, sometimes you got to knock 'em out for try save them, you know.

That's a good story, eh? No?

MARJORIE

I remember we left keys in the car with no worry that anyone would steal it. We left the door to our house wide open. Our family from Lahaina used to come and if we're not home, they go in, they eat, they leave a note, clean up, and they go home And, you know, it was nothing. It was like, oh, we had visitors. But now you can't do that. They'll shoot you.
I think that's what we've lost. We've lost the trust.

EUGENE

In Happy Valley at the time, was all friends and relatives: The Kalehuawehes, the Kainas, the Kuloloios, Rodrigues. We all used to be together.
When we used to come through Wailuku, we used the trails and the alleyways. If you go on the street they can catch you. The trails are all gone now. The alleyways are gone. We used to run through there. It's a gated community now.Yeah, they blocked off everything. You get caught over there.

Those were the good days. We had fun. See, should have come to Wailuku from Waihe'e. No more action down there.

MARJORIE

Had plenty action.

EUGENE

Yeah, feed pigs. Catch 'opae. Work taro patch. That's too much work.

MARJORIE

Life was good when I was young.

EUGENE

Yeah. It was. It was fun. Learn how to use brass knuckles and pocket knife.

MARJORIE

You're only telling stories about trouble and fighting.

EUGENE

That was the most fun I had growing up.

MARJORIE

Can't you tell a story about something nice?

EUGENE

Okay. For you, I tell a nice story.

Jesse Kuhaulua, who became the famous sumo wrestler in Japan, Takamiyama, before all that, he was a kid growing up in Happy Valley just like us. Nicest guy. Big body, big heart.

So one time, Jesse Kuhaulua, he was running across the street, and a car hit him square. The car was dent, yeah? But Jesse stood up and he walked away. He was running across the road with all the kids, go get candy, and he was the slowest one. He ran across, boom. He's a big boy, but very gentle. He was real nice. He always was. Soft-hearted him. Just like me.

You folks watching her face, yeah? You looking to see if she give me the look. Here's my secret. I make her happy. She only give me that kind stink look once in a while. That's okay. I can handle. Most of the time, I pass inspection.

MARJORIE

I worry about my grandchildren today. I pray a lot. Maui has changed. But what I see, what I look forward for Maui to be is not to go back to be exactly like it used to be before, because that's impossible. But for Maui to, how do I put this? For the people in Maui to understand that this is where we live. And we should really malama. Not only the land, but the people around us. You know, one of the things I see is, and we talk about it a lot, is a lot of the people don't live here. They own here, but they don't live here. And when they own here and they rent it out or lease it out or whatever, they don't pay taxes. So they're not supporting Maui because whatever they pay into their own state. But I don't think they, whatever they make here, that goes into the community or to Maui. I may be wrong, but that's my feelings. That they don't live here, so they don't know. They don't know Maui, really. It's just a piece of property that they own. And that's sad. And not everybody, but a lot of them, yeah. And they don't understand our culture.

EUGENE

It's little bit both ways, yeah? You have to fight to survive, but the real fight is to take care of the land and the people. The good way. That's right, yeah?

MARJORIE

You getting there.

EUGENE

I know. The whip you get is helping, right?

MARJORIE

You said I was shy.

EUGENE

You nice, but you tough too. But that's how we grew up. Good stuff and bad stuff. Stuff to remember and stuff to leave behind in the past. And life gets better.

MARJORIE

Yes, it does.

End scene.