

## **Flying Solo** (extracts from script)

**Play's intention:** Sema is seeking a new life and a new beginning. There are better opportunities for Sema in NZ, after gaining a Railway apprenticeship in Dunedin. This play also recognises the racial disfunctionality of a 'black' and 'white' person in a relationship back in the 1960's by showing the possibility of a relationship between Sema and Emily. Sema is unable to break free of his cultural expectations and, in the end, doesn't think he should be with a 'pakeha' girl whilst living here. The style is realism.

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### **SCENE 1:**

*Sema is in his bedroom in Tonga, packing his bags for New Zealand. The mood is very quiet and sombre. He is still contemplating in his head whether or not he is making the right decision leaving his family behind. This scene is a moment of thought. Sema holds a photograph of his family to his chest, kneels down and makes a prayer. He then proceeds to read a letter aloud.*

**Sema:** Malo e lei lei to my mother

Writing this is so difficult because I know all you want me to do is stay here with you. But remember this is not a goodbye, but instead a 'see you soon'. This opportunity has come arise and I need to do this not only for myself, but for you. My family. I know this has all happened so quickly but believe me this is the right thing for me to do. We will both be fine during this time apart, even though it will seem incredibly hard at times. We are strong and I know that we can get through this together. I am your son and I will always be here. No amount of time and space can ever change that. Please remember this while I am gone. Ofa Atu, always.

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*Sema stands and looks around his room for the last time. Picks up his bags and walks off stage. In this transition between countries, there will be sad music playing. Reflecting the mood of the scene and saying goodbye to Sema's family.*

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**Meg:** So why the big move to New Zealand?

**Sema:** Well I received an apprenticeship at the Railways here in Dunedin. I hated school back home so I was only really leaving my family behind. It was hard to leave my mum behind, but I decided to take the opportunity and do something for myself.

**Meg:** Wow, that's very brave of you. I don't think I could ever leave to anywhere by myself like that, let alone to another country! And you're only seventeen aren't you?

**Sema:** Just turned. It was hard for me though. I had to think very long and hard before making the move, but I think it was the right decision for me. Not a lot was going for me back home in Tonga.

**Jack:** How long are living with us for?

**Sema:** Could be for a while, depending on whether I can notch up a bit of money or not while I'm here. But for now I'm sorry you're stuck with me!

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**Meg:** Well only in front of mum. She still thinks I'm her wee angel, but if she found out what I've really been up too...

**Sema:** That's hilarious! She does think you are her angel too! She spoke very highly of you to me, I'm disappointed! (Smiles to Emily). But you girls shouldn't worry; I got caught drinking Kava when I was only thirteen back home in Tonga. Mum gave me the jandel for a week!

**Emily:** A week? Ha jeez that is rough!

**Sema:** Rough alright! I couldn't sit down for a while!

**Meg:** Well you don't sound like Mr Perfect then either Sema?

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**Emily:** So I'm not scary then?

**Sema:** Far from it.

*Sema and Emily smile to each other*

**Meg:** Listen to you both! I may as well leave you guys to it!

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**Emily:** What? What do you mean?

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*(Sema starts to get angry)*

**Sema:** It's nothing big. It's just my family really don't approve of interracial relationships or marriages... Sometimes even friendships.

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**Meg:** Wait, what? Really?

**Sema:** Yes really.

**Meg:** So they wouldn't let you date Emily? Or me?

**Sema:** No way. Nobody that is white, or of any other ethnicity, other than Pacific Islander.

**Meg:** Seriously? That's crazy! I've never heard anything like this before!

**Sema:** Tell me about it. But there's nothing I can really do. Some families back at home are so extreme they won't even let their children talk to people of other races and ethnicities. It's just what it's like back home. People aren't really as accepting of others as what they are here.

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**Sema:** I just can't do it. I mean, I could easily see her behind my mother's back, but it just doesn't feel right. If she were to find out, she would be so disappointed in me. She knows that I'm so much better than that.

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