

Tangi

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1. INT. WHARENUI MORNING

Mum, a late 40s, early 50s Māori woman is kneeling on a mattress inside the wharenuī she is surrounded by other people all asleep in their beds (marae styles).

Mum carefully looks through her suitcase and removes her outfit of the day and toiletries bag as she does so we hear a voice from off camera.

NIECE
(huskily)
Mōrena Aunty

Mum throws her towel over her shoulder and begins to collect her pile of things smiling.

MUM
Mōrena darling, come for a shower,
while the waters nice and hot

CUT TO:

1A. INT. WHARENUI MORNING

Mum opens the door to the controls room of the marae, she closes it behind her quietly and turns on the light. She looks over the light switch board and traces her fingers over the multiple switches.

MUM
There you are

She switches on the main lights of the wharenuī and swings open the door.

MUM (cont'd)
(loudly and
cheerfully)
Mōrena e te whānau! E oho, e oho,
maranga mai

CUT TO:

1B. EXT. WHARENUI MORNING

Mum exits the side of the wharenuī sliding her feet into some old slides. With one arm holding her shower stuff and the other dipping into a nearby bowl of water, Mum flicks a handful of water over her shoulder and continues to flick down her body in whakanoa.

She walks off screen to the showers.

2. INT. HOMESTEAD MORNING

Kahu, a 17-21 year old Māori boy wipes clean the foggy bathroom mirror. He wipes his face and looks at himself momentarily in the mirror, assessing his tired eyes.

He sees in his reflection an old dressing gown hanging up in the bathroom. Kahu grabs the dressing gown and smells it. He holds the dressing gown up to his face covering it completely and breathes heavily trying not to cry.

Kahu then tries the dressing gown on looking at himself in the mirror.

The door to the bathroom suddenly swings open, giving Kahu a fright.

NAN
(off screen)
Oh shit sorry moko

Kahu quickly takes the dressing gown off.

KAHU
Morning Nan, pēhea tō moe?

Kahu hangs the dressing gown back up.

NAN
How long you gonna be boy? kei te hiamimi au

Kahu bends to pick up his pyjamas that are on the floor of the bathroom.

KAHU
Nah I'm done, all yours

NAN
You got your Papa's dressing gown on eh?

Kahu moves to leave the bathroom.

NAN (cont'd)
You should have it boy, bought it for him and he doesn't even wear it the bugga' cost me bloody \$8 at the hospice. Also where is the old fulla? Has he gone for his morning hikoi without me?

Kahu looks back at Nan.

KAHU
Yeah must of

NAN
Oh alright then, I must've been out
to it, I normally always feel him get
up

Nanny closes the door as Kahu leaves the bathroom.

Kahu walks towards his room before stopping at looking at
Papa's walking stick and sneakers still at the door. He
sighs and leaves the disappearing into his room.

3. INT. WHAREKAI KITCHEN DAY

Jojo, a 19-22 year old Māori boy enters the kitchen and is
immediately given a tea towel by Aunty Maraea a middle aged
50 something year old Māori woman in an apron and home
clothes who is standing at the sink.

AUNTY MARAEA
Here boy

Jojo twists the tea towel and water drips from the rag. He
looks inquiringly back at Aunty Maraea.

JOJO
It's soaking wet

Mum who is also in the kitchen grabs a serving tray off the
stove and places it next to the sink. The tray is dirty and
has lots of cutlery in it. Mum grabs the dish washing liquid
and swirls it around in the tray.

AUNTY MARAEA
Well use those big eyes you've got
and grab another one. Throw that in
the bucket by the door, Aunty
Darling's taking them home for a wash
later on

Jojo looks around trying to find the bucket, he puts the
towel in the bucket and moves off screen.

Aunty Maraea scoffs annoyingly at Jojo.

Mum walks into the kitchen with a fresh tea towel on her shoulder. She stands next to Aunty Maraea at the sink. Mum begins trying to wash the tray and the cutlery inside.

AUNTY MARAEA (cont'd)

Leave that my cousin, Jojo will do them

Aunty Maraea who is elbow deep in the sink with her gloves covered in bubbles places some clean cutlery in the cutlery drying holders.

Mum begins drying the cutlery and begins laughing to herself.

MUM

You're too tough on that boy, my poor nephew

AUNTY MARAEA

I dunno about that, sometimes I think his ears are painted on

Mum laughs and puts her arm around Aunty Maraea's waist, placing her head on her shoulder in embrace. Aunty Maraea continues washing the dishes.

AUNTY MARAEA (cont'd)

Awww my cousin, how's my aunty, she alright at home with Kahu? Want me to send Jojo round? Although he won't be much help

Mum leans on the sink and throws her tea towel over her shoulder again. Mum sighs heavily, looking tired and beaten down.

MUM

Nah all good cuz, Mum's alright with Kahu, but yeah she's still a bit confused

AUNTY MARAEA

Awwwww my poor aunt, what have you fullas told her?

Mum begins drying the dishes again.

MUM

When she asks, we just say that he's gone for a long walk

Aunty Maraea stops washing the dishes and looks painfully down at the remaining dishes in the sink. She looks like she's about to cry, wiping her eyes with her glove free arm.

AUNTY MARAEA

How long will that story last?

Mum continues drying avoiding eye contact with Aunty Maraea.

AUNTY MARAEA (cont'd)

Cuz

Just then, Jojo comes back into the kitchen holding a face towel. He stands next to Mum and begins drying the cutlery too.

Aunty Maraea notices and quickly rips the towel out of Jojo's hands fiercely.

AUNTY MARAEA (cont'd)

Etta bei, what are you doing!

Jojo stands looking confused throwing his hands up in the air. Mum begins laughing also drying the utensils

MUM

Oh hika you're funny my Mojo Jojo

Aunty Maraea waves the towel in Jojo's face.

AUNTY MARAEA

Don't mix our kai with your fucking nono. By jengos boy, you're starting to piss me off now

Mum starts laughing and both Jojo and Aunty Maraea join her.

JOJO

(laughing)

I couldn't find anymore clean tea towels so I just grabbed the next best thing. By the way those toilets out there are horrendous

Aunty Maraea scoffs and puts more cutlery into the sink and finishes washing it.

AUNTY MARAEA

Take that out of the kitchen. Also, who's out the front with Papa?

JOJO

Mmmmmmm I dunno

MUM

I think it's Aunty Girl and them.

Mum takes the now clean pot out of the sink, puts it on the bench and begins drying.

JOJO

Nah I think its some lady with a moko that's sitting with him

Aunty Maraea rolls her eyes.

AUNTY MARAEA

Yeah that's Aunty Girl. Well since you're not out the front and being bloody hōhā out the back, go and clean those toilets.

Jojo is sitting on one of the seats behind the women. Mum and Aunty Maraea come to the end of their dishes and begin wiping down the sink/bench. He screws his face up and looks sideways at Aunty Maraea.

Aunty Maraea angrily side eyes Jojo.

AUNTY MARAEA (CONT'D)

Your cousin Kahu isn't here to pick up your slack. Hurry up, or make yourself useful at the house if you're not gonna help out here

Jojo looks hesitant and grabs out his phone, randomly scrolling on it with his eyes fixed to the screen.

JOJO

I don't know, won't that just confuse her?

Mum starts laughing.

MUM

Nan's got dementia, but she'll know who you are Jojo, she's been pretty good when it comes to her moko boys

Jojo scratches his head and shrugs, looking up from his phone.

JOJO

I dunno, what if she asks about Papa? What do I say

Before Aunty Maraea can respond Mum chirps in, standing with her hands on her hips.

MUM
(shakily)
You tell her that he's just gone for
a long walk

Aunty Maraea looks at Mum and then at Jojo. Her stern face has softened.

AUNTY MARAEA
C'mon then, you can take the car,
just make sure your back before
dinner

Jojo grabs some keys that are sitting on the bench. He picks up the face towel from earlier and before Aunty Maraea can stop him, he throws it into the tea towel bucket.

AUNTY MARAEA (cont'd)
No Not in there fuck sakes

Mum starts laughing. She grabs her vape out of her pocket and holds it up.

MUM
C'mon my cousin, let's go for a smoke

Aunty Maraea grabs the face towel out of the bucket as the two leave the kitchen.

4. INT. HOMESTEAD LOUNGE - DAY

An old home phone that is attached to the wall rings

Nan is sitting in an armchair in the lounge. She is surfing the TV channels smacking the remote with her hand. She looks around and struggles to stand up from her chair.

NAN
I'll get it

Kahu comes rushing into screen holding a basket of washing.

KAHU
All good, I'm already here
Kia ora, Kahu speaking...Oh kia ora
Aunty

We can hear a muffled cry coming from the other end of the line. Kahu places the basket by his feet and leans against the wall, twiddling the phone line around his finger.

KAHU (cont'd)

Aww I know my aunty, bit of a shock yeah. Yeah we're all good here, Nan's well, me and her are just here at the house

Nan sneakily moves closer to where Kahu is on the phone. She is concentrating, trying to listen in to the conversation.

Kahu lowers his voice

KAHU (cont'd)

Yeah, we'll see how we go but at this stage we're keeping her here

Nan looks confused, she looks back to her empty chair, with Papa's empty chair next to it.

KAHU (cont'd)

Alright, well I'll let Mum know, love you my Aunty, thank you for the call, we'll talk later

Nan rushes back to her chair so Kahu doesn't catch her listening.

Kahu comes into the lounge carrying the washing basket.

Nan resumes surfing the TV channels.

NAN

Who was that boy?

Kahu grabs the TV guide from on top of his washing basket and hands it to Nan.

KAHU

Oh just Aunty Sally and them

Nan looks confused.

NAN

Who died?

Kahu looks shocked.

KAHU

Uhhh what?!

Nan narrows her stare.

NAN
Well Sally only calls when someone's
died

Kahu leans against the wall, still holding the basket.

KAHU
Oh nah, she just wanted to see how
you were, that's all

Nan looks Kahu up and down. She can tell he's lying but she doesn't question him further. She looks back at the TV.

NAN
Ok, she doesn't wanna ask about her
uncle then, actually where is Papa, I
haven't seen him all morning

Kahu looks frantic, Nan is still looking at the TV and so Kahu tries to slip out of the room. He laughs nervously.

KAHU
Uhhh he's ummm gone for a walk

Kahu leaves the lounge and Nan looks to the direction he left. She looks at Papa's empty chair and feels the seat, noticing it's cold. She narrows her eyes confusingly. In shot we can still see Papa's walking shoes and walking stick by the door.

5. EXT. JOJO'S CAR - DAY

Jojo is driving in his truck, he puffs on his vape as he passes the urupā where a group of men are standing next to a pile of dirt whilst actively digging a hole. He sighs heavily and continues driving past.

CUT TO:

5A. EXT. HOMESTEAD - DAY

Jojo knocks on the front door of the homestead.

CUT TO:

NAN

Naww look at my boys, sorry I mean
men. Making me look tiny, like a
little old lady

Kahu and Jojo both hug their Nan lovingly laughing into her
shoulders.

Kahu motions to Jojo to leave the room and as Nan sits back
down at the table, Jojo and Kahu move to leave.

KAHU

Just gonna show Jojo something Nan,
call out if you need us

Nan nods, adding another spoonful of sugar to her tea.

Kahu and Jojo leave the room.

6. EXT. SMOKERS BENCH - DAY

Mum and Aunty Maraea are sitting on the smokers bench each
with a cigarette in their hands. They look tired and
overworked

Mum puts the ciggie in her mouth and takes a big puff.

Aunty Maraea flicks her ciggie ash into an old tin can by
their feet.

AUNTY MARAEA

Those ones from Whatatutu are
supposed to be coming through today,
what do we tell them about Aunty?

Mum flicks her ciggie.

MUM

Tell them what you want, I don't
really give a fuck what they think

AUNTY MARAEA

Yeah neither cuz, but you know,
they're coming to tautoko her, you
know those older ones will be wanting
to see her, they're mates

There's a silence between them.

MUM

It's the best thing for her to stay at home. Kahu's got her, she would just spend the whole time confused about what's happening and we'd be watching her learn about Dad over and over again. It's too cruel

Mum takes a big toke of her ciggie and exhales.

MUM (cont'd)

She's better at home, you should've seen her the other morning, pouri cuz, just pouri

Aunty Maraea looks at Mum concerned, but stern.

AUNTY MARAEA

And what about you cuz? What about Kahu? You fullas are too busy running around after all of us, have you actually had time to mourn your dad, is Kahu gonna have the opportunity to come and see his Papa before we put him in that ground?

Mum shakes her head, burrowing it into her hand.

AUNTY MARAEA (cont'd)

Cause that's not fair, let him come and be by his Papa. Let him grieve. He needs to and so do you and so does Aunty

Aunty Maraea stubs out her smoke throwing the butt into the can. She looks at her cousin and pulls Mum close to her.

Mum leans into her still holding her smoke away from Aunty Maraea.

AUNTY MARAEA (cont'd)

We've got you my cuz, but let those ones at home come. They need to. My uncle would've wanted his whānau here with him. It's not tika that you's aren't

7. INT. HOMESTEAD HALLWAY - DAY

Kahu and Jojo are in the hallway. Jojo is looking at the family photos that are decorating the walls.

Kahu is pulling a photo frame down from the wall. He pauses and looks at the photo. Jojo peers over his shoulder.

JOJO

Fuck he's young there

Kahu wipes the photo with his sleeve.

KAHU

Yooo, this was when he was based at Waipawa station. I think Nan actually took this. She used to be pretty into photography back in the day, that's why there's so many photos of Papa everywhere

Jojo takes the photo from Kahu and chuckles to himself.

JOJO

Wish I had a missus that took mean photos of me. Do you want me to take these with me when I head back to the marae?

Kahu is grabbing another photo down from the wall.

KAHU

Oh yup if you want cuz. I was just taking them down cause that's what Nan usually does when other people pass. They graduate to the dead peoples wall in the lounge

Jojo leans against the wall still looking at the photo.

JOJO

Oh yeah we do that too, but seems pretty early for all that? He's only just bloody died

Kahu places his photo in a still full washing basket by his feet and grabs another photo from the wall.

KAHU

Which one do you reckon they'll use for his service sheet?

Jojo holds up the photo he's holding and compares it to the one Kahu is now holding.

JOJO

The one they've got at the marae by his casket is pretty nice, I reckon that one

Kahu looks surprised.

KAHU
Which one is that?

Jojo remembers that Kahu still hasn't been to the marae and looks regretful of what he's just said.

JOJO
It's that one of him and Nan at the park, the one under the tree

Kahu puts his photo and Jojo's photo in the basket, and moves into his bedroom.

KAHU
Yeah I took that one, weird that Mum would use that one considering the other person in that picture is still alive - not that she treats her like that

Jojo slumps down on the bed as Kahu stacks the photos together to move aside elsewhere.

JOJO
Yeah everyone has been asking about Nan, has she asked about Papa at all? I'm scared she's gonna ask me

KAHU
Yeah, she has, it's fucked up oi. I literally just tell her he's gone for a walk. She usually forgets and asks me again an hour later anyway

Jojo picks up the photo that's on the top of the pile.

JOJO
What actually happened the other night cuz, did she see him pass or nah

Kahu sits down on the bed and sighs, his gaze is focused on his feet.

KAHU
It was horrible

CUT TO:

7B. INT. NAN AND PAPA'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING
(Flashback)

The camera imitates Kahu's POV following behind Mum as she hurriedly rushes into the bedroom.

KAHU

(V.O)

It was early in the morning and we
woke up cause we could hear Nan
yelling

NAN

(O.S sobbing)

KAHU

(tearily)

She was just wailing oi, like
straight up crying so hard

Nan is kneeling next to Papa who is still laying in bed. We don't see his face but his body is limp and lifeless. Nan is crying touching his face repeatedly.

KAHU (cont'd)

When we realized he was dead, Mum
didn't even cry, she just told me to
take Nan into the lounge

Mum is beckoning for Kahu to help his Nan.

Kahu enters the scene from behind the camera and tries to help his Nan up.

KAHU (cont'd)

(V.O)

But like she would not leave him aye,
like I literally had to drag her away
which didn't feel right cuz, it was
one of the hardest things I've had to
do

Nan pushes Kahu away, crying and continuing to touch Papa.

CUT TO:

7C. INT. NANNY AND PAPA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kahu and Jojo are laying on the bed with Kahu holding up a photo of a baby with Papa.

Jojo reaches into his pocket and pulls a vape out. He takes a big puff blowing the smoke up into the bedroom air.

Kahu looks at Jojo with a side eye glance.

 JOJO
 (coughing)
 Fuck sorry cuz

He tries to fan the smoke away. Kahu reaches for the vape himself, taking a puff and also blowing it in the room.

 JOJO (cont'd)
 That's fucked up. Aunty Kimi just
 said she found him the next morning,
 not Nan

 KAHU
 Nah yeah, I don't think I'll ever
 forget her cries man

Jojo looks at Kahu and sits up on the bed.

 JOJO
 I think we should take Nan to see him

 KAHU
 What like secretly?

Kahu now follows suit, sitting up on the bed.

 JOJO
 Yeah, what's your Mum gonna do?

 KAHU
 Uhhhh fucking kill us

 JOJO
 But it's fucked up that she's here,
 it doesn't feel tika. She'll be
 alright cuz cause we'll all be there
 to help

Kahu gets up off the bed , throwing the vape at Jojo and grabbing a couple photos before walking toward his wardrobe door and opening it.

 KAHU
 (sighs)
 I'll talk to Mum about it, but I
 guarantee the answer will be no

Jojo takes another puff of his vape.

JOJO

Fine, but when you're not looking I'm
gonna kidnap her, chuck her in the
back of my ute

Kahu laughs, putting the photos in the very back of the wardrobe, hiding them from sight.

KAHU

Not if I tell her the little Mojo
Jojo she loves smokes lolly air
inside her house

Jojo smiles taking another puff.

Kahu grabs the photos left on the bed and puts them into the wardrobe before pausing on the last photo. A photo of him with Papa's arm around his shoulders, they are both laughing in the image. Kahu frowns solemnly before putting the photo in the wardrobe and closing the door.

8. INT. MARAE DINING HALL

Mum and Aunty Maraea are sitting at a table in the wharekai looking at a laptop.

AUNTY MARAEA

Well what was Uncle's favourite
colour? Blue?

Mum takes a sip of her tea.

MUM

Hmmmm I'd say orange and black

AUNTY MARAEA

(surprised)
orange and black, what the hell

Mum starts laughing.

MUM

Yeah Waiapu colours girl

AUNTY MARAEA

(laughingly)
Ohhhhh how could we ever forget

The two turn their heads to the side inspecting the laptop.

MUM

Nah that looks ugly, let's try blue

AUNTY MARAEA

And photos? What photos we got

Mum pulls out her phone and begins scrolling on it frantically.

MUM

I've got that one in there with Mum in it too, but I don't think I've got any nice ones of him by himself, every photo he's scowling at the camera

AUNTY MARAEA

What about that nice one of him that Aunty took when they were younger

MUM

Oh yeah the one in the hall at home?

AUNTY MARAEA

Yeah that one, that'll look nice there

Mum takes another sip of tea.

MUM

Yup that'll do, I'll ring the boys and see if Jojo can bring it back with him.

Mum dials on her phone and holds it up to her ear

9. INT. NAN'S AND PAPA'S ROOM - DAY

Kahu's phone rings on the bedside table. We see Kahu rush to answer it, holding it up to his ear.

KAHU

Mum... yup all good here, Jojo's here you alright?...Which photo?...Oh yup, ok...yup I'll give it to him now... ok do you wanna talk to Nan?

KAHU (cont'd)

(yelling)

Nan!

Kahu paces around the house, but Nan is nowhere to be seen.

KAHU (cont'd)

Nan!

Jojo comes in the house too, looking into the remaining rooms. Nan is nowhere to be seen.

KAHU (cont'd)

Fuck...I don't know where she is...
we're looking for her...no she was
just at the table like two minutes
ago...Nanny!

Jojo comes back into shot, Kahu is still on the phone with Mum.

JOJO

The front door is open cuz, I think
she's gone for a walk

Kahu runs to the front door. He notices the walking stick is gone and Papa's shoes are strewn messily in the doorway. Kahu sighs heavily.

KAHU

I know where she's gone

Kahu holds the phone back up to his ear.

KAHU (cont'd)

Mum, meet me down at the park. I need
you for this

10. EXT. PUBLIC GARDEN DAY

Nan is sitting on a park bench overlooking a garden. She is still in her slippers.

She has her eyes closed, taking in the sun. She is holding Papa's walking stick stroking it tenderly.

Kahu and Mum walk into shot. Their arms are linked. Mum's eyes are fixed on the ground and Kahu smiles at Nan. Both sit on either side of Nan.

Mum puts her arm around the back of Nan and Kahu puts his hand over Nan's.

MUM

Mum

Nan opens her eyes and smiles looking at the two of them sitting there.

Nan looks forward breathing in a deep breath and exhaling.

NAN
He's gone isn't he

Kahu looks at Mum who looks like she's about to cry.

Kahu rubs Nans hands and Mum leans into her covering her face with Nan's shoulder.

NAN (cont'd)
I could feel it all this morning. And when you told me he'd gone for a walk, I thought I'd try and find him but when I got here I remembered. I remembered that morning. How long has it been?

Kahu looks forward, following Nan's eye line.

Nan looks at Kahu as he continues to look forward.

KAHU
He went two mornings ago. He'd been in the hospital with a chest infection the last week. We didn't know he was going to go, he just slipped away

Nan nods slowly.

NAN
(tearfully)
Was he in pain?

Mum wipes her eyes and looks at Nan.

MUM
He went peacefully, in his sleep. We were all there, you were too. You found him, he just didn't wake up. I'm sorry Mum, I'm so sorry

Nan looks down and begins to weep softly.

The three sit in silence for awhile on the park bench.

NAN
Take me to him, I want to see my darling

11. INT. WHARENUI DAY

Nan, Kahu and Mum are taking their shoes off at the front of the wharenuui.

Nan leans on the door frame of the wharenuui.

We can hear wailing and crying from the inside.

Mum takes a tissue out of the sleeve of her jumper.

Kahu puts his arm around his Mum and stands behind Nan.

Nan takes a deep breath in and looks up, her lips are trembling. She begins to cry.

Nan looks back at Kahu and puts her hand out to him, he takes her hand and is pulled forward.

Nan then reaches her other hand behind for Mum and pulls her forward, the three walk into the marae.

As they walk inside we hear Nan and Mum begin to wail.

THE SCREEN FADES TO BLACK