

BYRON'S BIRTHDAY

A play

By Carole L. Cooney

Setting: The forest of Mauna Kea; The Sweet Shop; the beach

Characters:

Narrator

Rosabela, a beautiful Hawaiian girl

Byron, a gray sheep

Hawaiian words:

Aloha	ah-low-ha	means hello
A'ole	ah-oh-leh	means no
Hau'oli la hanau	how-o-lee laa haa-now	means Happy Birthday
Lu'au	loo – ow	means a Hawaiian feast
Loco Moco	Loh-coh Moh-coh	means crazy breakfast food
Pipa Kaula	Pee-pah Kow-la	means beef jerky
Mahalo	Mah-ha-low	means Thank you

Narrator: The morning was warm with a gentle breeze. When Rosabela looked up, she saw billowy white clouds floating in a sky of brilliant blue. Rosabela watched Byron graze in the Mauna Kea forest. She was so happy to see her little grey sheep eating heartily on the lush green grass.

Rosabela: Byron. Aloha, Byron. Do you know what today is?

Byron: Baaa, baaa. (Shaking his head) A'ole. No, Rosabela.

Rosabela: Did you forget today is your birthday, Byron! Hau'oli la hanlau! Happy Birthday!

Byron: Baaa, baaa! It's my birthday! Hau'oli la hanlau to me!

Rosabela: Do you know how old you are?

Byron: Baaa, baaa! I'm four years old.

Rosabela: That's right, Byron. We must do something special to celebrate! What would you like to do today?

Byron: Let's have a Lu'au with lots of Loco Moco!

Rosabela: Byron, you know you can't eat that food. The Loco Moco is a special breakfast with a fried egg on top of a hamburger on top of a pile of rice just smothered in brown gravy ! No, no. You will get sick if you eat a Loco Moco!

Byron: Baaa, baaa. I know, I know. Then, how about some Pipa Kaula?

Rosabela: Pipa Kaula is beef jerky and that's NOT for you!

Byron: Can't I have any fun on my birthday? Baaa, baaa. Am I supposed to eat grass all day?

Rosabela: Of course not. I know where we can find a special treat for you. Come, Byron.

Narrator: Rosabela and Byron walked through the forest and came to Rosabela's father's Sweet Shop. Byron's eyes got bigger as he recognized where Rosabela was leading him.

Byron: (very excited) Baaa, baaa! Oh, Rosabela! This is paradise! The Sweet Shop. Can I, can I, can I have a little shave ice?

Rosabela: Of course, Byron. Which flavor would you like?

Byron: Baaa, baaa! Orange shave ice, please!

Narrator: Rosabela's father prepared scoops of orange shave ice for Byron and strawberry shave ice for Rosabela in small flower-shaped treat cups.

Rosabela: Mahalo, Father! Now Byron, let's sit under the palm tree and slurp up our shave ice.

Byron: Baaa, baaa! Mahalo, Rosabela! (slurp, slurp) Yummy! Yummy!

Narrator: When they finished their shave ice, Rosabela led Byron to her house to pick up her paddle board. They ran to the beach and splashed into the waves. Rosabela was teaching Byron how to stand on the paddle board and today was a big test of his skill.

Rosabela: Come on, Byron. Jump onto the board and keep your balance.

Byron: (fearful) Baaa, baaa. A'ole! A'ole! I don't think I can do it!

Rosabela: You can do it! It's your BIRTHDAY! YOU CAN DO IT!

Narrator: Byron took a deep breath, opened his eyes wide, and jumped onto the paddle board. Slowly, he gained his balance, shifting back and forth, then let out a loud shout.

Byron: BAAA, BAAA! I'M SURFING! I'M SURFING! I'M RIDING THE WAVES!

Rosabela: Hooray! Byron, I'm so proud of you. You are the King of the Surf!

Narrator: That night, as Byron lay asleep, he dreamed of his birthday spent with Rosabela.

Byron: (dreaming) Today was my birthday. I had so much fun spending the morning in the cool, green forest eating delicious dewy grass. Then, Rosabela came and told me we would go for a special birthday treat. I was so excited as we walked to her father's Sweet Shop. Shave Ice! Orange shave ice is my very favorite! I was treated to Orange Shave Ice! How delicious! When we finished our treats, we jogged to her house to pick up her paddle board. I knew what that meant! I got scared as we ran on the sand toward the water and splashed into the foamy waves. Rosabela was going to make me jump onto the paddle board. I was really scared. I always miss and fall into the ocean. I always miss! But then Rosabela said it was my birthday and to give it my best try. I suddenly got a lot of courage. I took a deep breath, opened my eyes wide and jumped as high as I could. My hooves landed in the center of the board and I swayed back and forth getting my balance. Suddenly, I realized I could do it. I was riding the waves. Rosabela jumped up and down clapping her hands. She said I was the King of the Surf! That made me so proud of myself. This was the best birthday ever! Mahalo, Rosabela!