

MAURI MAHI, MAURI ORA

BY KATE PARIS

Scene: The students are gathered backstage. Everyone is nervous apart from **AMANDA**, who's consulting her clipboard. **KYLA** is stretching. **TE AHU** is memorising his cue cards. **HOKI** is holding his rabbit. **MISTY** is sulking. **TUCK** is looking at his tablet.

TE AHU (quietly, to himself). Mauri mahi, mauri ora. Mauri mahi, mauri ora. Mauri –

KYLA (to **AMANDA**). How long now?

AMANDA (shrugging). I don't know.

KYLA. Well can you check, please? I need to be warmed up.

AMANDA (looking off-stage). Not long.

TE AHU (checking his cue cards). Kia kaha e hoa mā.

HOKI (pointing to his make-up). Misty, is my face smudged? It feels smudged.

MISTY. It's hard to tell.

HOKI. This stuff is itchy as!

MISTY. Your face is ugly as.

HOKI. You can talk.

TUCK (scrolling anxiously on his tablet). Actually, can no one talk? I'm trying to think.

HOKI. Don't think. Just do – like me.

TE AHU (bossily). Kia tau. Did you not hear the man? Tuck's trying to think.

AMANDA. I agree. You're all too noisy.

TUCK (starting to panic). I can't find it. It's gone, gone, gone!

AMANDA. Can't find what? What's gone?

TUCK (holding up his tablet). My slide show. It's gone.

TE AHU. You had it just before.

TUCK. That was before.

HOKI (suddenly worried). What if he does a poo?

AMANDA (confused). Who?

HOKI (scornfully). Who do you think? Honestly!

TUCK. Can you just all stop talking? This is serious.



AMANDA. What's serious?

TUCK (*scrolling faster and faster*). I can't find my thing.

AMANDA. You all need to be responsible for your stuff.

HOKI. Yes, Mum.

TUCK. My slide show!

HOKI. Just make it up.

TUCK. What? Not possible. Can I swap places with you and Kyla? I need more time.

AMANDA (*holding out her clipboard*). You can swap with me.

TUCK. No way. Your job sucks.

AMANDA. Well for starters, it wouldn't suck if you'd shush.

TE AHU. All of you shush. (*He holds up his cue cards.*) Some people are trying to concentrate.

HOKI (*looking at his rabbit*). Uh-oh.

MISTY. Uh-oh what?

HOKI. He's twitching. You know what that means, right? We have a situation.

MISTY. Have we got time to go outside?

TUCK. What? No way! You won't come back ...

KYLA (*anxiously*). Now I need to go to the wharepaku, and I don't have time!

AMANDA. Just wait.

HOKI (*holding out the rabbit*). Misty, can you take him for a bit?

MISTY. Yeah, right!

HOKI. Amanda?

AMANDA (*fake sneezing*). No. I'm allergic.

ALL. Ewww. Sneezing!

KYLA. Use your elbow.

TE AHU. Horoia ō ringaringa.

TUCK. Here.

He passes AMANDA some hand sanitiser.

KYLA (*jiggling on the spot*). I'm sick of this. And I really need to go. Now.

AMANDA (*shaking her head*). It's almost time.

TE AHU. How long? I can't remember a thing!

AMANDA (*looking up at the ceiling*). Like, two minutes.

HOKI (*relieved*). He's stopped twitching.

TUCK (*still scrolling and freaking out*). Can someone please, please help?

HOKI (*impatiently*). Look in your recents. Give it here.

He trades the rabbit for the tablet.

TUCK. Don't mess it up.

HOKI (*offended*). Do I look like a guy who'd mess it up?

ALL. Yes!

TE AHU (*clutching his chest in fake pain*). Ouch. Heart attack. Gotta go ...

AMANDA. Look, you guys just need to calm down and sort yourselves out.

(She consults her clipboard.) Kyla, are you ready? You're on.

KYLA (*outraged*). But I really need to pee.

AMANDA. Tough luck. Go. Now!

KYLA takes a deep breath and exits.

AMANDA (*reading her clipboard*). Excellent. Tick! We're on schedule.



MISTY (*looking off-stage*). It seems really quiet out there. It's kind of weird.

AMANDA. I wish it was quiet back here.

HOKI (*handing the tablet back to TUCK, who swaps it for the rabbit*). Sorted.

TUCK. Thanks, bro.

HOKI (*taking a bow*). No problem. It was in your recents.

MISTY. It's a miracle. Hoki actually did something useful for a change.

HOKI. You know who could do with changing?

AMANDA. No fighting. I already told you.

TE AHU. Nāna anō tōna mate i kimi.

MISTY. Huh?

TE AHU. Nothing.

AMANDA (*looking off-stage*). Are you ready, Te Ahu? This is Kyla's last bit.

Then you're up.

TE AHU (*reluctantly*). Aē. Kua tīneinei au.

KYLA enters, looking puffed and very upset.

KYLA. That was awful. No one clapped.

AMANDA. You were great. Te Ahu, what are you waiting for? Go.

TE AHU (*stalling*). Ināianeī tonu?

AMANDA. Yes. Ināianeī tonu. Just go already!

TE AHU exits.

KYLA (*starting to cry*). I can't believe they didn't clap. Why didn't they clap?

MISTY. Don't cry. You're awesome.

HOKI (*to KYLA*). Do you want to hold Rāpeti?

TUCK. If they didn't like you, then they're going to hate me.

AMANDA. Look. No one hates anyone. They're just very quiet. Get it together.

KYLA (*still crying*). I'm the only one who does have it together.

AMANDA (*looking at her watch*). Te Ahu's halfway through. Hoki and Misty, are you guys ready?

MISTY. Ready as I'll ever be.

HOKI. Don't forget to hold the hat properly this time.

MISTY. Got it.

HOKI. That's what you said last time.

AMANDA. The rabbit? Ready?

MISTY (*holding Rāpeti up to AMANDA*). Actually, I think he needs to –

AMANDA (*interrupting*). No time. Here comes Te Ahu.

TE AHU enters. **HOKI** gives him a high-five. **HOKI** exits, followed by a reluctant **MISTY**.

TE AHU. Well. That was truly awful.

KYLA (*cheering up*). No claps?

TE AHU. Not a sound. I don't think they understood a word.

KYLA. Could you see Whaea?

TE AHU. I couldn't see a thing. The lights were too bright.

KYLA. I'm never, ever doing this again. Like ever.

TE AHU. Me either. I sucked.

TUCK (*trying to leave*). Right. I'm off.

AMANDA (*pulling TUCK back*). No. You're not.



TE AHU. At least it'll be over soon.

AMANDA (*looking off-stage*). Well, take a deep breath because here they come.

(*She looks confused.*) Something's wrong. Quick, Tuck. Ready?

TUCK. No.

AMANDA. Tough.

She gives TUCK a little push, and he stumbles off-stage. MISTY and HOKI pass him as they enter. They look shocked. Rāpeti has gone.

TE AHU. What happened?

HOKI. Rāpeti gapped it.

MISTY (*doubtfully*). I'm sure he'll come back.

HOKI. Not if he knows what's good for him.

TE AHU. He didn't ...

AMANDA. Oh, no! He didn't?

HOKI. Nah, he didn't. But Misty ...

MISTY (*insulted*). What? I definitely didn't!

HOKI. No one laughed. You didn't hold the hat right.

MISTY (*outraged*). I didn't need to hold the hat right because there was no rabbit to disappear!

AMANDA. Just calm down, everyone. I have something to tell you. But let's wait for Tuck. He's nearly done.

KYLA. We're all done.

HOKI (*anxiously*). I need to find Rāpeti.

AMANDA. He'll be in the hall. No one's going anywhere, including your rabbit.

Be patient.

MISTY. Easy for you to say.

KYLA. Yeah. Your life isn't over.

AMANDA. Neither is yours. Here comes Tuck.

TUCK enters, looking gloomy.

TUCK. That was terrible. No one clapped for me, either. Not even the teachers, and they clap anything.

AMANDA. There's a good reason for that.

KYLA. Yeah. Because we all sucked.

AMANDA. No.

TE AHU. Because they sucked? Worst audience ever?

AMANDA. No.

MISTY. Because they're scared of rabbits?

AMANDA. No. The reason they were so quiet is because nobody was there.

HOKI. What?

AMANDA. There was no audience. This was your dress rehearsal. Surprise!

KYLA. Why didn't you tell us?

MISTY. And if no one was there, why did you make us wait at the beginning?

AMANDA. I was making your experience realistic. There are always delays.

Don't blame me – this was Whaea's idea. See you tomorrow for real.

The others look shocked. AMANDA grins and walks off.



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by Kate Paris

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