**The talent show**

The weekend of the talent show is finally here. Sally's school has a fundraiser-carnival every year, with special events, picnics, activity booths, and of course the talent show. The weather is a little cooler, but with the humidity it will get uncomfortable. There are isolated thunderstorms in the area that may cause a cloud or two to drift through the sky.

The back of the school has a soccer pitch, baseball and softball diamonds, and at the end of the property it opens up into the local park. The park has a water fountain that is really one of the new fangled "squirt up from the flat sidewalk" types. Little kids and toddlers absolutely love to chase the water jets and get totally wet. The rest of the park has a few stands of trees but there is mostly just grass.

As the families of the Tahitian dancers arrive in their cars, they see that the stage is set up on the border between the school and the park. Some trailers and tents are in this same area as they deliver supplies to the carnival booths that are in the process of setting up. A bit farther along, next to a collection of picnic tables, the gourmet food trucks are getting parked and loaded with groceries.

As Sally, Lisa, and Becky get out of their cars, they are told to scatter, find the administrator desk, then report right back to the cars. That done, they come back to collect the costumes out of the car trunks and go sign in for the talent show. By this time the activity booths that do not need constant supervision are running. Eddie spies a water barrel with a series of squirt-guns in various sizes setting on a table. His eyes light up, begs $5 for entrance tickets from his father, and then he is off on his own adventure. Daddy sighs and thinks "I know where HE's gonna be all day!"

Sally, her friends, and the family crew of older sibling helpers locate the change tent so the dancers can start suiting up. Lisa's big sister Gail is in the crew and had the foresight to bring some roll-on costume glue. Sally is the first to step into her skirt and be ready for the accessories, so with a little extra time on her hands she notices the glue stick on the table. Picking up the object and reading the label, she asks:

[Sally] Hey Gail, whats this glue stuff for?

[Gail] You rub the stick on your skin and tack the hair down. When you move as you dance, it should keep the hair from flying all over the place. This stuff is used by movie stars as they walk the red carpet to keep slinky dresses from slipping into a wardrobe malfunction. Try to only use it in the most important places or the hair will look kinda painted on, unnatural.

Sally dabs a little on her finger and checks the stickiness by giving a light touch to her wig hair. With a wild guess as to how much to use, she rubs the stick on a narrow band of her breasts, adjusts the wig, and then plants the hair into the glue. She twirled around a couple of times to check what the hair does and is satisfied with the results. Sally turns to Becky and offers the glue stick. Becky brushes the hair back off her chest, accepts the glue bottle, and reads the instructions. She was all set and positioned to run the stick down the first breast when her cultural pride kicked in.

[Becky] Wait a minute. Using this glue is like half way to a coconut bra! This isn't a lesson in how to live the American culture in a faraway land. This is a Tahitian dance, not the Twist in a grass skirt. I'm gonna skip this. Lisa, you want the glue?

Lisa is the least adventurous of the three, so she accepts the pass from Becky. After Lisa applies the glue to her nipple areas and fixes her hair, the support crew gets busy adding the ankle and armbands, jewelry and headdress to the dancers. The girls feel like stars as the helpers fuss over them, touching up makeup, adjusting accessories, blotting up sweat.

One of the talent show workers comes up to the tent and calls through the canvas "Tahitian Dance, you're on in five minutes." Now the excitement really starts to build in the girls. A last quick check shows everything ready so they duck through the tent flap and file off toward the stage. As the three girls come out they see Alicia and her band entering another tent dressing room in preparation for their part in the show.

[Sally] Hi Alicia, hi Tina. Wow! Your group has grown! How many are you now?

[Alicia] Hi you guys. Yeah, we picked up a few for our dance. We have four girls and 3 boys.

[Sally] Are you nervous? I'm getting butterflies. Will you have the same costume you used to practice with us?

[Tina] Well, practicing in a backyard is one thing. Going in front of a big crowd is something else. Now I'm getting scared. We brought a few backup bras in case some of us chicken out. I see you glued your wig to the important parts.

[Sally] Yeah. Lisa and I did, but Becky is going whole hog for the island culture. (Becky flicks her hair around to emphasize the lack of glue). Well, we gotta go now. See you after the show!

The girls continue on and see that the school principal is waiting for them at the stage platform steps. When he sees the costumes his eyes get big and he lets a soft "Whoa!" escape. Not quite regaining his composure he almost stutters "You all sure you want to do this?"

With assurances all around he leads them behind a curtain and up onto the stage.

[Principal] (quietly) The EmCee is doing your intro right now. When the curtain goes up, start your act.

Very shortly after the principal withdraws, Becky quietly whispers to Lisa "He must not have seen Alicia's costume yet. That will really freak him out."

As Becky and her little troupe take their places, the stage curtain parts. Since this venue is not staffed by professionals it takes about 30 seconds for the music to cue up and start playing. The three girls use that time to search the crowd for their family members. Becky is the first to spot a friendly face, Grams, then she sees the rest of her family sitting in adjacent seats.

Sally sees Penny first, as she is jumping up and down on a chair and her mother is trying to get her down. Jane is out there waving with a big smile and two thumbs up.

As the music starts, Lisa finally spots her family way in the back. Then the attention of the girls focuses on each other allowing them to sync up to the dance they have practiced so many times. At first there was the usual light chattering in the spectators as they talk and gossip amongst themselves. Apart from the wildly gyrating hips the dance is not that "active", so it takes almost a minute before some of the audience notice that the dancers are not wearing the expected tried and true full "hula" costume that Americans have come to expect. This was replaced by a growing silence as the people out in the chairs were trying to understand what their eyeballs were seeing. As it became clear that wig bras were the only tops on these three girls there were a few gasps that were loud enough for Sally to hear.

Sally's dance moves are not demanding, so she put her brain on auto-pilot and took time to look out into the crowd. There are quite a few cell-phones getting used as cameras, along with normal photography equipment. Since so many were still getting their gear set up, Sally figured that nobody really cared about Tahitian dancing ... until now. "So they were thinking … We'll blow this off and wait for the good stuff." she thought. "Hah! They missed a lot of our dance.  Serves them right."

Sally picks out one man at the edge of the crowd, looking bored, scanning through the program guide. He finally looks at the stage, does a double take, and quickly brings out a video camera to start shooting. A woman, Sally figures her to be his wife, pushes his arm down to stop him from recording. But they still stay and watch the performance. Sally grins and giggles as she imagines that the woman had just now told him "See it live. You are NOT gonna fap to that on a computer screen."

The dance has a lot of hip rotation and wiggles, but since there is no jumping around, it takes nearly to mid dance before Becky does a turn-around and the wig hair finally slides sideways off her breasts. She feels this, and is very proud about keeping her hands away and not breaking the rhythm of steps for the dance.

By the end of the dance, Becky's hair hides nothing. In the audience, some sections are applauding wildly and the girls notice that other sections are sitting on their hands. Becky takes this personally and thinks her part in the show was a flop. It is a big surprise when the EmCee invites them to do an encore in about an hour when the regular part of the show is done.

Next up is a singer from 8th grade. This gives the dance troupe time to exit the stage and go into the audience to sit with family. As the singer gets into her music the girls are surprised at how good she is. None have seen her in school. When Becky asks Grams about her, the program guide says she is from the Arts Magnet School. Everyone in the group agrees that the extra voice training is paying off.

After the singer is done the girls hears a familiar tune, the music that played in Sally's back yard as Alicia and her friend practiced. As the stage curtain parts, the Reed Dancers are getting into position. Off to the side the principal is staring blankly, having forgotten to get off the stage. As the dance starts he snaps back to life and quickly exits. Lisa remarks that all the Reed girls have gone native by not wearing bras. "With tight curly hair they don't even have an option for long hair wigs."

The same section of audience that gave the Tahitian dancers an enthusiastic applause is also loudly cheering this dance group. The scattered families that sat on their hands after Becky and Sally's performance are starting to get up and leave. Becky says "They didn't cheer for us and they are not cheering now. Its not the dance they don't like."

Sally says "Must be our native costume. Half of everyone ever born has breasts. What is their problem?"

The Reed Dance goes flawlessly, which was not a surprise to the three girls, and was followed up with a big round of applause. The Reed troupe left the stage, put bikini tops on, and went into the audience to sit with family and watch the rest of the show. The remaining lineup was a karate demonstration, another singer, and a magician. Then the planned show was over. The Emcee called out for the Tahitian dancers to come back to the stage and requested a short encore. This was met with wild approval by the audience. Becky was feeling the heat by this time so as she reached the top of the stage stairs she dropped her wig to the side. Sally's glue was washed away by the sweat but she was unfazed and just lets the hair go. Lisa's hair was still stuck, mostly, but the glue was rapidly losing its grip.

The girls danced a short 2 minute segment and took a few bows. The Emcee came up and announced that they would share the talent show trophy prizes with the lovely and talented singer. As the stage was emptying, a woman sitting next to Gramma leaned over and asked "Do you think the dances in this show were appropriate?"

Granny scowled and said "Hell no its not appropriate! Damn kids and their flexible spines! Reminding me how old I am." She made a big show of grimacing, reaching behind to massage her back, struggling to get her old decrepit body (HA!) out of the chair. And with that she took her leave to claim a lunch picnic table in the shade of some big trees.

When the girls were off the stage and back on the ground, Lisa mentioned going to her family to grab her regular clothes and change. Becky promptly piped up with "Change? What for? Those clothes are too hot. Besides, I think we're allowed to be like this all day. Let's take advantage." Becky reached back onto the stage and grabbed her wig, putting it on her head in a haphazard position, strictly as an easy way to keep from losing it. Lisa's hair has finally come completely loose and all three are making no effort to use the hair for modesty.

Sally sees little sister Penny break away from her mother and walk over to the squirt-gun battle station area. She pays for a ticket and selects a water gun. There are a few boys hanging around since this station is where the recharge water barrel is located. Penny picks a few squirt fights and gets her shirt very wet. She does the smart thing and off the shirt comes, tossing it toward her mom. A few minutes her pants are soaked so off they go. After a clumsy slide through some mud her panties have to come off. Soon after she is naked and she charges after some boys, ready for revenge.

Sally and her two friends take a tour of the carnival area, remarking on the booths they want to see again. Many eyes are following them with pleasant surprise at the topless costume. As they look over the kiddie rides Becky decides that she is hungry so they amble out to the food trucks. The carnival organizers have done an excellent job of soliciting a wide variety of quality food vendors. In addition to hot dogs, hamburgers, and garlic fries, there are booths and trucks with cuisine from around the world.

As they each decide what part of the world they want to sample, Sally sees a streak of odd color in the corner of her eyes. Its Penny. She has a happy grin, shrieking a war cry, a water-pump-gun at the ready, dripping wet and sprinting nude after Eddie and another boy. Sally now notices that a few under-10yo kids have also taken off all their clothes, some with squirt-guns, the rest chasing the water jets at the fountain.

The three girls now have rumbling tummys but realize that since the grass skirts have no pockets, they have no money. While discussing how they can quickly find one of their parents, Becky sees 4 boys from school: "Oh look, there's Andy. HI ANDY!"

Sally gasps in fright, "Becky! What are you doing? They're not anonymous strangers! Those boys know us! They go to school with us! And we are, you know ..."

Becky: "Yeah! Isn't it great? You're hungry right? We don't have pockets for money and our parents are somewhere in the crowd. I'm going to get them to buy us lunch."

Sally is skeptical, not realizing the psychological power 3 topless girls have over very young men. As Becky gets the attention of the boys and calls them over, the other two do a half-hearted hand-bra when as the guys get closer.

Becky "invites" the boys to buy lunch for the group, and they object, not having grown into the understanding of exactly what a treat it is to be around Tahitian dancers in their native costumes. So they complain, and ask "Why should we buy your food?"

Becky: "Because, our table is over there", pointing in the direction of the table Grams has staked out, "and there aren't any empty spots." To emphasize the choice the boys must make, she reaches up behind her head and flips the wig's long hair down her back, "Buy us lunch and you can sit with us at those tables in the shade, instead of on the ground in the sun."

Becky says: "You can sit with us at those tables in the shade ..."

Evan hears: "You can eat lunch with 3 topless girls ..."

Becky says: "... instead of on the ground in the sun."

Evan hears: "... or you can waste your lunchtime sitting in the dirt with boys."

Evan instantly recognizes the benefits offered for such a low fee and quickly says "Oh hell, I'm in." before the other boys have finished understanding what Becky really meant. With this signal of getting a quick meal, Sally and Lisa gradually stop hiding their breasts, slowly dropping the hand bras.

The girls move back and forth between the food trucks, sometimes sniffing the fragrance of exotic spices, trying to decide which meal to select. With the breasts of three classmates in full view the boys have forgotten if they are hungry or not. Their attention is nowhere near their stomachs, although they do their best to be looking elsewhere when one of the girls glances their way. Finally the selections are made and the boys pool their money. Lisa sees David squirm as he fishes through his pockets, digging as deep as he can. He does manage to contribute his share, but Lisa sees that he orders for himself only a small bag of chips.

When everybody is ready, the boys and girls, pick up their food packages and they walk over to the table that Becky's Gram has reserved. David tosses his bag of chips on the table and thumps down on the bench, looking a little grumpy. Lisa, always a schemer, thinks about David's situation, puzzling out what would make her sullen in his place, and finally figures out his problem. She gets up, moves her food to his side of the table and sits back down beside him, saying "I can't eat all these sticks of chicken satay. Can you help me?"

This brings the spirits of David booming way up. Naturally after the first bite or two of food the kids start yacking, and the talk quickly turns to the dance. All the boys say the dance was very good, where did you learn to do that? how long did it take to practice? and more blah blah blah. Finally one gets the nerve to start down the path of questions all the boys really want answered. Andy says "We really like the costumes, well Chip wasn't so sure at first, but we managed to convince him!"

With this, Chip sputters "What? Didn't like? When did I say that? I like the costume, really. Really!"

As Andy breaks out in a fit of laughter, it becomes obvious he was just kidding. "Gotcha! But really, where do they come from?"

Lisa says Becky's Gram made them, except for the wigs. Sally added she started with bark right from a tree. Gram just sat there with a proud smile, absorbing the compliments. Chip says "I am just asking, not complaining or anything, but Tahitian dance costumes usually involve coconuts. Why aren't you all wearing any?"

Becky sets them straight with "Those aren't from our culture. That's from Hawai'i, and even then the Western invaders brought it with them. Coconut bras. How lame is that concept? It's sad. Hard to think of a culture more pimped out and destroyed by tourism than that of Hawai'i."

Sally gives a practical explanation of "Besides, its too hot to wear anything we don't really HAVE to."

The boys all agree with that sentiment and immediately take off their T-shirts. Lisa tells the boys "If you are going to dress like that, sit up straight and don't slouch." She puts one hand on the small of David's back, the other near his collarbone, and with gentle pressure guides him to straighten up.

Becky says "Like this", laughing as she exaggerates the posture with her back straight and stiff, thrusting her breasts out. She takes the wig off, stiffly and formally turning to Grams to hand it over.

Sally smilingly exclaims, "I see the problem! You guys don't have the right kind of equipment on your chest to remind you to sit correctly."

The other two girls mimic Becky's move, with stiff ramrod upright backs, also taking off their wigs and handing them to Grams for safe keeping. Lisa is somewhat exalted by the feeling of air movement over her bare torso. Even with the sticky heat, it feels much better that having to cover up with a shirt. "I can see why you boys like to run around without shirts. This feels mighty nice." The boys all quickly agree and voice their sorrow that girls don't have more opportunities to dress more freely. Especially Chip, not wanting to give his mates any chance to "convince" him.

David looks over the food plate that Becky is eating. It is so unfamiliar and looks unappetizing. He asks Becky "Are you eating Polynesian food? In my neighborhood, there are Chinese restaurants advertising 'Polynesian' cuisine. Having never been to Polynesia, I have no idea what this is. However, people tell me that real Hawaiian food is pretty gross stuff - steamed pork parts and mashed taro root (poi). Is it true that poi can be used as a substitute for library paste?" (Becky punches him in the arm) This got a good laugh out of everyone, including Grams.

As the group were finishing their lunch meal, Penny hustled over to the table still naked, set down her water gun, and started snacking on some leftover chips. Grams saw this and gave her some money, telling her to go get some real food from the trucks. When she returns, Sally smells sunscreen on Penny and asks where she got it.

[Penny] "Oh, there's a spot near the main entrance with some man running a sun-screen spray squirter. Its real fast and you can get everything covered."

[Grams] Penny, do you know where Eddie is?

[Penny] (giggling) He's hiding from me. He doesn't want to get soaked again.

[Grams] Alright, but the tables here are base. No squirting when you are in range. If you see Eddie, tell him to come get lunch.

The big boys and girls leave the table heading for the sun-screen spray as Penny starts wolfing down her lunch. When Penny is done and gone, Eddie shows up with another boy, both dripping wet. Grams makes sure they both get some food, as it looks like they have had a busy day playing water war. Grams asks who the friend is and Eddie replies that he is Kevin, an online buddy that plays networked video games.

After a few minutes a woman approaches, calling Kevin's name. "Kevin, come away from that table right now!" And to Grams she scolds "I don't want my son anywhere near that immoral disgusting display put on by those three hussies in their outrageous costumes."

Grams says "Eddie plays video games with your son. I've seen those games. You are disturbed that some young boys and girls had a pleasant lunchtime conversation, and yet allow your son to play violent, murderous video games with spraying blood and gore in high definition slow motion?"

The interloper barked "YOU LEAVE MY SON OUT OF THIS!"

Gram calmly replied "But here you are sticking your face into what my girls do."

As the other woman storms off, Grams comments to Eddie "As you grow older and become interested in politics, remember. No matter what pretext they wrap around it, its all about controlling access to breeding females. Heh, maybe nudity interferes with the murderous vigor her culture needs in order to put its stamp across the world".

Eddie has no idea what she means, but he files it away for future contemplation.  After eating, Eddie thanks Grams for the food and puts the all the table trash into a rubbish barrel, then goes back to the water-war.

Sally's group of boys and girls wander across the festival, going in the general direction of the sun-screen booth. They pass a few clusters of acquaintances and schoolmates, all have the look of complete surprise. Becky has no problem chatting them all up, boys or girls, even though she is topless. Sally and Lisa start to become a little defensive going against the grain of American modesty. They finally bump into a small group of boys and girls that are mildly hostile to the idea of bare breasts in public. Becky gently stamps down the disapproval from a girl and tells her, "You look like you are overheating. Can we take you to the fountains to cool off? Its really too hot today to be dressed like you are." With this signal from mother nature, Sally and Lisa relax and accept the sanity of their current costume. Becky leads the heat stressed girl and her group on a side trip to the water fountains, with one of her friends on each side just in case she stumbles.

At the fountain, Becky tells her "Most of the heat from your body is given off through your head. Next comes your arms. Get your hands and arms wet and cool in the fountain, then splash some water on your face and hair. Since the park is letting little tots play here, you don't have to be careful about keeping this water out of your eyes and ears. Its safe and clean."

When the girl is recovered enough to be left with her friends, the gang resumes their march to the sun-spray. As the booth comes into view, Sally sees that the Reed dancers are just finishing up getting coated with sun screen. All Reed girls are picking up their bras, preparing to put them back on. She says "Hi Alicia, we don't need to do that. We can go native!"

Alicia and Tina look at each other, smile, and drop their tops into their swag bags. The biggest girl thinks about this for a few seconds, then continues to wiggle her way into the bra, "That's fine for you smaller ladies, but gravity is not my friend."

Each girl in Sally's group takes a turn in the spray area, reaches up to hold the hair away from the spray, then twirls around a few times until the coverage is complete. Then its the boys turn, which was not nearly so entertaining to the operator as the girls. As the group drifts back into the carnival, several college age girls take their turns to get topless for the sun spray and do not dress up again.

Leaving the sun spray, the Tahitian and Reed groups wander aimlessly through the carnival checking out the game booths. The carnival is put on with a core of professional traveling entertainers and roustabouts, with some elaborate activities. The first stop is at a target practice spot. The kids line up to shoot a B-B gun at paper targets. This booth is run by a professional from the carnival company, who is VERY happy to see kids. Its a low paying job but the group is large enough that he can afford to let the topless girls have some extra free shots at the targets. He takes great delight in the pleasure of the visual bonanza that is presented.

The kids pay for several turns at the guns, thinking that experience will improve their scores, but all they get (well, due to the joy of the carney man, all the girls get) are some large stuffed fluffy animals. The group moves on to the booth in the next slot. Its a ring toss, and since it is a simple easy game the staff is made up of school parent volunteers. The reaction inside the booth to the half dressed girls is "Oh wow! Are you sure you can do that?"

Sally says "We've been like this half the day and nobody has told us its a problem."

"Ok. I don't want the police storming through here wrecking everyone's fun. Were you part of the talent show? I heard about that. Native indeed, sorry I missed it. Here are your rings, hook a blue bottle for the biggest prize."

The boys are tasked with carrying more big fluffy stuffed animals as the girls get lucky with the rings. As the group slowly walks over to the next attraction Lisa sees a small group of boys that seem to be shadowing them. She nonchalantly guides her group into the house of mirrors action theater. The real reason Lisa has for going in there is to spend so much time that the shadows get bored and go away. On the other hand, theres gobs of fun to be had with all the mirrors, taking wrong turns, going in circles, and getting lost. Her determination to stay within the mirrors outlasts the enthusiasm of her friends, so they finally have to drag her out the door. Lisa is relieved that the shadows have moved on.

The day goes on with the group meandering randomly from one booth to another. Along the way they must have bumped into nearly everyone in their grade (it is a school carnival after all). Sally and Lisa can't quite stop tensing up as they talk to friends they meet along the way. Becky takes it all in stride, thinking as she meets her other girlfriends how lucky she is to be topless in this heat, and how uncomfortable the other side looks. If the friend gets too uptight about the dancer's attire, Becky mentions that no matter how light and airy an outfit seems in an air conditioned store, ANY clothing at all will make the hot sticky air worse.

As they drift along a row of booths Sally sees the college girls that got topless at the sun-spray, and notes that they have not put their shirts back on but are using those shirts to dress up a big stuffed animal. They are talking with park officials and a bunch of upset adults. Sally says to her group "Hey guys, what's up over there?"

Just then the two topless ladies break away leaving the upset adults in an animated argument with the park workers. As the ladies pass Sally she gives them a small wave and a smile. When the ladies smile back Sally asks what the disturbance is all about.

"That bunch over there got upset that we were topless. We saw you on stage and heard about the 'true to culture' thing. We are from Germany and in our culture this is how we go to the park on hot days. Then at the sun-spray we saw your group with no tops, so we did the same."

Lisa piped up with "They bought that Germany angle?"

"Well, we talked in a fake German accent ... did you ever watch the old TV show 'Hogans Heroes'? We talked like that sargent fellow. They were still going to throw us out but then we showed the park guys our German passports. Then it was all cool. We are glad to see the USA is finally joining the rest of the civilized world. We'll spread the word back in Europe."

The group had time for a last ride on the Ferris Wheel before the carnival closed down. The good news was that the school year was almost over. The bad news for Eddie was that his low grades mandated some weeks of summer school.

On the first weekend after the regular school classes ended, Sally's young cousin Ellen came to visit for the summer. She is the same age as Penny and they get along famously.