**ACT I**   
**Ana decides to abandon her opportunity at a master’s degree in a prestigious program in favor of pursuing an apprentice ship with the elusive Koa. She buys a one-way ticket to Hawaii, the only thing she knows about the artisan (aside from his work) is that he has set up shop there.**

**PROLOGUE**

Ana, age 6 is playing with some clay, besides her mother, who is working the potter’s wheel. After observing how easily her mother, Lucia, creates an elegant piece, young Ana quickly becomes frustrated. Lucia then walks to her daughter’s side and gently holds her hands. “The clay will remember every emotion you put into it Ana, you must be patient and gentle.” Ana begins crying, although she is young, a part of her wishes she could spend more time with her, away from her shop. “I hate the clay! Mommy is always here!” she sobs while rubbing her eyes. Lucia, closes her eyes and hugs her, “Ana, mommy puts all of her love for you in every one of these .They come from my heart, if I am ever away from you, you can always take me with you.”

Ana sniffles a bit, “I wish I could do pretty things like you mommy, do you think I’ll ever be able to?” Lucia hugs her tighter, “I have no doubt that you will. I will always be proud of you.” Ana hears her mother cry. “Mommy why are you crying?” Lucia releases her hold and picks up the piece she was working on. “I’m sorry Anita, some of the dust got in my eyes, come closer I want to show you something.” Hesitantly, Ana pads to her mother’s side, and watches in surprise as Lucia turns her vase into a ball of clay again. She is about to ask why when her mother says, “Never forget, that as long as you are gentle and patient you can make and remake something beautiful”

Ana watches in awe as her mother creates a very different vase from the very same clay. It was the last day she spent time with Lucia at her shop.

**CHAPTER 1   
Ana, now 25, celebrates her successful senior exhibit with her roommate Emilia. She has been a disciplined and successful student. She is graduating with honors and it is almost certain that she will be enrolling in a prestigious ceramics program in La Meridiana in Tuscany. Her life is on track, however, Ana feels empty and aimless. There is a mysterious artisan, only known by the name of “Koa” whose work deeply resonates with the memories that she has of her mother. Emilia, who plans to become an art curator, has information about the elusive artist. She refuses to disclose all of the details in an attempt to prevent Ana from chasing after him. The chapter ends with Ana returning to her late mother’s studio to wait for her acceptance letter.**

“You hit it out of the ball-park again Ana!” Emilia smiles while pouring a liberal amount of wine in her glass. It is a cool night; she hears the wind-chimes twinkling with the breeze. Emilia is her roommate and fellow classmate at the ceramics program in the Chicago Arts Institute. They are fresh from their senior year gallery exposition. “You do realize that you hoarded the awards tonight?” She smiles at that and takes a sip of wine. After four years of toiling she is finally done, she should be getting her reply from La Meridiana in Italy to continue studying her craft in a month or so. However, this does not fill her with excitement, lounging in her apartment, with Emilia, she feels blank and aimless, realizing that she has reached her lifetime goal.

“I think I’m going to be heading back home soon, Emilia.” The anniversary of her mother’s death, soon approaching, she wants to spend time at her mother’s old shop, before moving forward. “I understand, our lease is about to end anyways. I’ll start working soon in the Art Institute as well.” Emilia is smiling impishly, “I am sure one day I will be curating your pieces and selling them.” Ana snorts, “Must you always think of money?” she asks, “Well, someone has to do it for you, Ana, believe me I’ll always keep you on your toes no matter where you go!”

“Emilia, were you able to look into ‘Koa’? Ana asks abruptly, “Wow, you are really obsessed with this guy. Well, he is an absolute enigma; he has never picked up any of his awards in person.” Ana stands up and walks to her room, she comes back with a piece of ceramics, a beautiful plate that has been repaired. The cracks filled with gold. The artist managed to make a broken object into a piece more beautiful than a thousand unbroken ones. “I want to meet this person. More than anything I want to see how they work, how they coil and throw the clay.” Emilia is quiet and she lets out a frustrated sigh  
  
**CHAPTER 2   
Ana goes to her hometown and speaks to her father, Alex, about her future. She expresses that she is not motivated about going to Italy. She shares that she would love to seek out “Koa” and learn from him; however she is worried that it would just be an impulsive and fruitless decision. Her father discusses her mother and her death and lets Ana know that he will always support her. Lucia died of Lymphoma, and her parting wish was that Ana follow her heart. Ana then goes to her mother’s shop and fervently throws some clay to work the wheel. By the time she notices the time it is already sunrise. She goes to bed dreaming of a faceless man with his back to her working on something that she cannot see. The chapter ends with her father waking her up, with a letter from La Meridiana.**

**CHAPTER 3   
Ana is accepted to the program. She however leaves the letter on her night table. Listlessly, she looks up her future school online and despite its history and amazing teachers she finds herself just going through the motions of sending emails and confirming her enrollment. She impulsively calls Emilia, however she receives no answer. She decides to research some more on ‘Koa’ but comes up with the same leads; however, surprisingly there is an exhibit which features some of his pieces in her hometown. She sends an email to Emilia, expressing some of her thoughts about ‘Koa’ and mentions the dreams she has been having.**

**CHAPTER 5  
Ana goes to the gallery with the intention of finding out more and of course looking at the pieces. Once there she is taken away by the artist’s work and speaks with the gallery owner. The owner is enigmatic, he is an old man, the only thing he discloses is that he has contact with the person that handles ‘Koa’s’ business and he knows that the artisan is a man. She goes home, filled with inspiration and creates a beautiful piece. She dreams once more of the faceless man, this time he is with her in bed, caressing her, she feels like she is being molded like clay. She wakes up to her cellphone ringing.**

**CHAPTER 6**   
**Ana wakes up with a start and groggily answers the call. It’s Emilia, letting her know that she got her email and apologizing for holding out information on Koa. She tells her that she has been very busy with her new job and that she has decided to pursue further studies to become an art curator. Ana asks about Koa, Emilia says she managed to find out where Koa has set up shop. She makes Ana promise to think things through before leaving everything behind. Ana fervently tells her that she feels that in order to fully evolve as a potter she needs to meet him. She also confides that the dreams that she has been having feel like a sign. Emilia tells Ana that Koa has set up shop in Hawaii and that he moves between two islands, Ni’ihau and Kaua’i. Ana asks Emilia how she got this information, her friend tells her that she was able to persuade Koa’s agent to go out for drinks about four months ago and has kept in touch with him. Ana is flabbergasted. She hangs up with Emilia and decides to go throw some clay on the wheel to process the information, all the while thinking about her feelings regarding Koa’s work and the possibility of becoming his apprentice. Her heart speeds up at the thought. She has made her decision. The chapter ends with Ana telling her father her plans and sending an email to La Meridiana to cancel her enrollment.**   
 **CHAPTER 7   
A month has passed, Ana has been carefully planning her journey. Emilia has reluctantly given out more information, “You are a force of nature, but remember that I’m here to keep you on your toes.” She replies when Ana demands all of the details. Ana has been able to sell her best pieces from her senior exhibition and the ones she has been creating at her mother’s shop. She is now at the airport waiting to leave with just enough money to secure modest lodgings and with at least two confirmed exhibits. She has decided that she will become Koa’s apprentice. While waiting to board, she opens her dream journal, and closes her eyes. She has been dreaming of Koa, has been feeling his touch every night, while she feels a bit ashamed about having these thoughts, she desperately wants to put a face on her faceless man.**

**ACT II  
After struggling to survive in Kaua’i Ana meets Koa by chance and spends the night with him without realizing his identity. They get along well due to their interest in ceramics and enjoy a heated affair for three weeks. Unbeknownst to Koa, she snaps a photo a shares it with Emilia. They are having breakfast when Ana receives an email from Emilia informing Ana that her new “friend” is Koa. Ana impulsively demands to become his apprentice, after a fight, he agrees but treats her coldly from then on.**

**CHAPTER 8   
Ana has been waitressing for nearly a month. She is making ends meet but struggling to do so. Without a kiln or a wheel, and no idea where to get materials, she begins to doubt herself. However one of her regulars, Eames, a “Haole” (Caucasian non-islander), that has lived on the island for 30 years grows interested in her story. He owns a pottery studio and offers her a job there, she happily accepts. She quits that same night and goes for some drinks, with renewed courage, “If I can be in front of wheel, everything else will sort itself out!” Ana is sitting at the bar when she grows interested in a handsome islander that sits next to her; she notices that he brings his own ceramic cup to have his drink poured in. He is speaking to the bartender and she overhears the man “I did this one today, what do you think?” Tipsy, Ana can’t help but join the conversation, “I know you didn’t ask me, but I like it. I also do pottery.” The man is taken aback, but after sharing a bit of details about their craft, he buys her a drink. After a lot of flirting, the man finally introduces himself as Aiden. They go back to Ana’s place and have sex. Ana keeps thinking about her dreams.**

**CHAPTER 9   
They spend the weekend together, discussing glazes at length. On Sunday, they are both very invested in the process of using them and creating their own glazes. They discuss that the glossy look is what separates ceramics from everything else. The feeling that it can break, gives the pieces more value. Ana says she prefers enamel, since it is more durable and confesses that she does not do well with her pieces breaking. Aiden explains that he finds that broken pieces, when repaired, are incredibly more beautiful than whole ones. Over glasses of wine, with the breeze coming from the windows and the wind chimes lulling them, Ana shyly kisses Aiden, once more. He says, “I can’t offer you much more than this.” Ana laughs, “I’m not expecting more, we both like clay, and I like you.”**

*Overglaze colors are low-temperature glazes that give ceramics a more decorative, glassy look. A piece is fired first, this initial firing being called the glost firing, then the overglaze decoration is applied, and it is fired again. Once the piece is fired and comes out of the kiln, its texture becomes smoother because of the glaze.*

**CHAPTER 10   
On Monday Aiden parts ways with Ana, she tells him where she will be working, she notices that Aiden is taken aback. “Do you know Eames?” She asks. Aiden quickly denies it, he kisses her and wishes her a good day. They agree to meet for dinner during the afternoon. Ana goes to work and is realizes that for the first since she came to the islands, she is happy. She greets Eames and he quickly shows her his work and tell her that she will be taking care of workshops that are organized for tourists. She spends her first day shadowing him and at the end of the day she asks permission to use the wheel. Eames happily agrees, when Ana starts throwing they clay, he is impressed. Ana thinks of Aiden whilst making a sake cup she plans to gift him. The chapter ends with Ana meeting Aiden for dinner; they go back to her place and have sex once more.**

**CHAPTER 11**

**They have established a routine; Ana hesitates to call it dating, since she is still obsessed with finding Koa. They meet through the week after work, Ana realizes that aside from their shared interest with pottery, she really knows next to nothing about Aiden. She decides to try to get to know him better. Aiden invites her to go hiking and camp along the Royal Coconut Coast. Ana is taken aback by the beauty of the island, “You haven’t been here? What have you done all this time?” He teases her. Once they have set up camp Aiden suggests they go horse riding. Ana tells him she is scared of riding and horses; Aiden make her ride with him. Feeling the wind on her face, hugging Aiden, Ana realizes that she is laughing. After having dinner they retire to their campsite, they lay together watching the stars and drinking wine. “So tell me more about you, I know that you need a permit to camp here.” Aiden laughs, “It’s nothing special, and I’m nothing special really.” Ana sighs, “you are really not going to tell me anything else?” Aiden says “I have been obsessed with ceramics as far as I remember; I have lived on the islands my whole life. I have never felt the need to visit other places.” Ana notices that Aiden is subdued; she grabs his hand and kisses him. “It’s okay. I can be patient.” They have sex under the moonlight by the sea.**

**CHAPTER 12   
Ana wakes up early, she was dreaming once more, she realizes that Aiden is naked, next to her fast asleep and feels guilty about dreaming with the faceless man. The sun is just rising and the moment is so beautiful that Ana grabs her phone to take a picture of Aiden asleep. They go back to town. Aiden gets a call, “I’ll be right over.” He apologizes for cutting their time short; he needs to take care of some business. “I’ll see you next week, we can have breakfast!” Ana goes back to her place alone. She decides to take the time to email Emilia. She tells her that she has made a new friend, that they have been together a few times already and that he has shown her around the island.**

**CHAPTER 13  
Ana doesn’t hear back from Aiden. She has been happy at work, she finishes the sake cup. She takes particular care to select a glaze that matches Aiden. Eames is very taken with the piece; she gives Ana de keys to the shop and tells her she can come at any time. Ana goes home and finds Aiden waiting for her at her doorstep. She smiles and waves. Aiden hugs her. “I’ve missed you.” Ana opens the door and they go in. They make a quiet dinner, pasta, it begins to rain. Ana gives Aiden the sake cup, “It’s beautiful. I’m not sure I can accept it.” Ana kisses him, “I did it just for you, no one else can have it. If you don’t take it, it’ll go to waste.” Aiden says and to Ana’s surprise, she notices his eyes are glistening. That night they fall asleep together, it’s the first night that Ana does not dream with the faceless man in months.**

**CHAPTER 14**

**Aiden wakes Ana up, she smells pancakes, he kisses her and notices a tray with breakfast. She blushes, Aiden laughs at her and returns to the kitchen. In that moment Ana receives an email from Emilia. “Sorry for the late reply, I really had to work Johnny up for him to confirm something very important: Your new “friend” is Koa.” Aiden walks in with juice. “Ana, what’s wrong?” Ana looks at him, takes the juice from him and drinks it. She seriously says, “You are the reason I came here. Please let me be your apprentice.” Aiden is stunned. “I have to leave.” Ana grabs his arm. “I will not accept no for an answer Aiden.” Aiden frowns, quickly becoming angry, “You were never supposed to know that. I was happy to part ways with Koa, if it was with you.” Ana is confused, “How can you say that? I don’t care about how old you are, or your past, I only want to learn from you!” Aiden forcefully removes Ana’s grip from his arm. “Have it your way, but you will only address me as Koa from now on and forget everything that has happened before.” He leaves, Ana is shocked. She has the urge to cry, but decides against it. “No time for tears.” She repeats her mother’s motto.**

**ACT III**

**Her apprenticeship with Koa is complicated due to her feelings for him and Koa’s change in personality. She is met with disdain at every attempt for intimacy. As her final lesson Ana has to break and repair one of her pieces using Koa’s technique, Kintsugi. Ana is successful and decides to leave; she gifts Koa the piece, and explains her mother’s art and her inspiration to seek him out. Koa, in shock, reveals that Lucia was once his teacher. He begs her to stay, explaining his reasoning for shunning her. They begin a tentative relationship, and soon bits of Koa’s past are explained. He wants to take her to Ni’ahu, to his home. After two months, Ana wakes up to a fight in the living room. Later that day Koa tells her his real name, they have sex and he says that he loves her. The next morning Ana realizes that he is missing, there is a box with a letter a necklace made of Lei shells, with a note written in Ni’iahu dialect, the only words in English are, “My time with you was short, if you ever find me again, I’m sure we will not part.”**

**CHAPTER 15  
Ana contacts Emilia. “He accepted me. Who is Johnny?” Emilia explains that it’s Koa’s agent. Apparently he has been Koa’s childhood only childhood friend. “He hates me now, but I’ve gotten what I wanted.” Emilia laughs, “Remember what your mother used to say?” Ana sighs, “Patience is the only necessary thing to create something beautiful.” Ana doesn’t ask for more information. She has decided that she will not falter. She will learn everything about Koa. He looks for Ana at work, Eames raises an eyebrow but does not comment when Ana asks if it is okay to have her friend help her practice. When they are alone Koa says, “I’m not your friend, I am your teacher.” He ignores Ana’s stunned look and begins throwing clay on the wheel. “Watch closely, you are to try your best to recreate this carving technique.” She ends having to begin the piece anew at least five different times. Koa is ruthless with his critique and very strict about the way the wheel is used. “You need to have more courage. Be more decisive and bend the clay to your will.” Exhausted Ana, tries to grab his hand, after the lesson. Koa yanks it away and without a word leaves.**

**CHAPTER 16  
Their previously easygoing routine is replaced with a cold, pragmatic and strict teacher student dynamic. Ana is frustrated, there is no trace of Aiden in this man, she thinks. Koa is working her to the bone, and for that she is thankful. She has been learning, however enduring the strain on their relationship is very taxing. She attempts to persuade him to drink sake, one night after the lessons, to her surprise he accepts. They drink on the veranda in quiet, “You truly are talented.” Koa says, breaking the silence. “Thank you.” Her heart is beating, she keeps thinking about the last night they spent together. “Aiden, do I really have to forget?” He looks at her with sad eyes and gently caresses her cheek. “I’m afraid this is all I can give you.” He downs his sake, “Thank you Ana.” He gets up and leaves. Ana realizes she is crying. That night, after 2 months of working hard, she decided to leave as soon as she has learned everything.**

**CHAPTER 17   
On the third month of her apprenticeship, she finally learns kintsugi. It is Koa’s trademark technique. “Scars should be worn proudly.” Koa says, “By repairing broken pieces by filling the cracks with gold and silver, we make the pieces more refined.” Ana nervously eyes the gold slab on the table. “You will use this month to fix one of your most precious pieces. This is my final lesson to you” Ana objects, “I don’t want to break anything.” Koa looks at her testily, “Then you will never learn this technique and our arrangement is automatically over.” Ana lowers her head. “Depending on how you object cracks, we will decide how to use the gold, resin and lacquer.” Ana goes home, and looks around her apartment at the different pieces she has accumulated over her stay. In the end, however, she takes out her most precious piece, she carried it with her to the university and now to the island. It’s a simple round egg, decorated with China painting technique. Her mother left it as a gift for her eighteenth birthday. She breaks it.**

**CHAPTER 18   
Ana brings all of the pieces she manages to pick up. Koa observes the remains and begins explaining. Ana starts to work, first affixing all the pieces with strips of masking tape. The process is excruciatingly slow. “Remember you will be granting this piece another life. Be patient.” Koa says, gentle for once. She works through the next weeks planning the best way to use the resin and gold to fill the cracks and make it round while at the same time enhancing every break. The product is beautiful, discreet gold lines hold together the egg. She feels like it represents the embodiment of strength. Koa congratulates her, “Ana,” he says in awe, “you have exceeded all of my expectations.” Ana smiles and sighs. “I will be leaving shortly. I want you to have this.” She explains, “My mother was my first teacher, she passed away when I was very young, and left this for me. It is my most precious memento from her.” Koa is stunned. “What was your mother’s name?” Ana answers, puzzled, “Lucia, Lucia Moore.” Koa sits down, “She was my teacher as well.”**

**CHAPTER 19  
Koa goes back with Ana to her place, “I was born in unfortunate circumstances. An unwanted child from a very powerful man in Ni’ihau” Ana is in shock, she knows of the ‘Forbidden isle’. Only relatives and guests from the Robinson family are invited in, it was once a sugarcane plantation and currently is home to a US Navy Missile Testing Facility. “I grew up mostly in Kaua’i my mother was shunned from the main family, she was just the lover, however, my father accepted his responsibility.” Ana is quiet, she does not want to miss a single detail. “He made sure I had the best education, my own mother passed away when I was three. She never could recover from her heartbreak, is what I have been told, I can hardly remember her. I was introduced to Lucia by one of my tutors who noticed my interest in pottery. I was six years old; your mother was thirty. She saved me from the depths of my sadness, she taught me how to love my materials, and my pieces. She made me look all around me for once in my life.” Ana begins crying. “I came here, looking for you, because all of your pieces made me feel the same longing and happiness that my mother showed me.” Koa grabs her hand, “I don’t know if you can, but forgive me, please. I did not want to chain you to my life.” Ana hugs him, “Aiden or Koa, to me you are the same person, the one that made understand the meaning of letting go and starting anew.” Koa kisses her, “Someday, we will go to Ni’iahu, Ana.” They have sex and hold each other through the night, on the balcony of Ana’s apartment, facing the sea.**

**CHAPTER 20**

**Two months have passed; Ana and Koa are trying to settle into a normal relationship. Ana emails back and forth with Emilia, who apparently has been spending a suspicious amount of time with Johnny. Emilia confirms the information, joking that a nine year age difference isn’t that unheard of. Ana is content, Koa sometimes helps out at Eames’ shop, together they donated an amount of pieces to be sold, Eames refuses to keep all of the earnings and instead asks that they take over more workshops in exchange. Koa finally takes Ana to his home in Kaua’i. She is taken aback by how beautiful the house is. His residence and studio sits next to a private beach, with long open hallways and veranda’s very much in the style of traditional Japanese architecture. “My mother was half Japanese, I believe this house was how my father tried to apologize to her.” They work together on the wheel, eventually ignoring altogether in favor of each other’s bodies.**

**CHAPTER 21**

**The next day, Ana is woken up by a fight, she hears someone say, “Koa, you need to go back. The main house is deciding!” he hears Koa frustrated, “I know Johnny! Now go, I’ll attend to these matters later!” She hears the main door open, “You can’t ignore this anymore! Your time is up!” Ana decides not to push Koa for answers and pretends to be asleep until he comes looking for her. That night Koa tells her, “My real name is Aiden, but I have chosen ‘Koa’ to live my life on my own terms. It means fighter.” Ana says, “It’s beautiful.” Koa looks at her earnestly, “Ana, I love you.” They kiss passionately and have sex. Ana wakes up the next morning, alone. She feels awful and runs to Koa’s shop, to look for him. Instead of his naked silhouette, next to the wheel she finds a box, repaired using Kintsugi, she opens it and finds a beautiful necklace done in Lei shells. Ana knows the painstaking process to craft a piece of Lei shells. With growing foreboding she notices a small piece of folded paper. It’s a letter, in Koa’s handwriting. It reads:**E ka wai huna ho‘i a ka pāo‘o  
‘O ka wai kaulana a nā kūpuna      
E ka nalu ha‘i mai a‘o ‘Ōhi‘a  
Me nā ‘ulu hua noho i ka hāpapa  
Aia ia Kūhaimoana ka‘u aloha  
Me ka paepae kapu a Hi‘iaka  
**“My time with you was short, if you ever find me again, I’m sure we will not part.”**

**Ana stays still reading the letter, and then breaks out laughing. “I have found you once, I’ll be damned if I don’t find you again and make you apologize!”**