

My Summer in Hawaii: The Summer of the Red Bird

By: Casey Rohrer

Dedicated to my Grandma Rohrer, in honor of her friend Dave.





My magical Hawaiian vacation started August 12, 2018. I woke as ready as I could be at quarter till 6, and waited impatiently for my two carry-ons, or should I say “guests”! Right at 6, Aída and DÍana, my nurses, showed up cheering, “Ready to go! Ready to go!” We all loaded up in my special bus, the magical Casey bus, and it was off to LAX we went. We parked, and went to check in.



Aída and Diana wiggled their way through the crowd to the United Airlines check in. We waited in line and when we were called to the front desk, the “carry-ons” showed the United lady our information. The United employee got our tickets ready and then, so kindly, guided us through security. She walked us right to a

security officer that then patted us down. I felt a little weird but we were cleared and good to go! During our pat down, the announcer had called OUR gate, so two panicked “carry-ons” took off running! I never knew my “carry-ons” could roll so fast, lightening speed.



When we got to the gate we started to get our stuff ready. Aída and Diana transferred me from my wheelchair into my airplane chair. And let me tell you, that chair is really uncomfortable! I knew it was going to be a long plane ride to Hawaií. We were first to board on the airplane. My ladies were going crazy with me trying to get ready for takeoff, and just like that we were up in the air. I tried to watch movies but there weren't any movies that I liked, so it was a really long six hours! I watched the plane fly across the map for six hours straight!! The longest six hours of my life!! Finally, touchdown, we arrived!

Ahhhhh Hawaiï, my happiness.



We were the last to get off the airplane this time, and we were counting down the passengers. It seemed like forever. We hurried off and my Grandma was waiting for us by baggage claim. She was so excited! She gave us all Hawaiïan leis, and welcomed us to Hawaiï. The great summer adventure began! We started our car ride to our first stop, Duke's, the best restaurant in Hawaiï. In the car my Grandma was saying how excited she was to see us but that she was feeling a little sad. She shared with us that her good friend Dave had passed away. I felt so sad for her. This is where the story really begins.



Sighting 1 (The First Encounter):

We finally arrived at Duke's, the best restaurant on the island, and it all began. This little red bird hopped up onto our table and my mind started thinking, that bird, it must be Dave. I just had a strong feeling. I told everyone, but nobody believed me, except grandma. The little bird sat right next to me the entire lunch. I heard Diana go, "Casey thinks that little bird is Dave. No way!" It was like the bird and I were having a staring contest. We just kept looking into each other's eyes. The bird was sending me a message. I was feeling the bird saying, "Casey, it's me, Dave." He was letting me know he was there with us. Then he flew away. Little did I know that the little red bird "Dave" would visit us at least 30 more times that vacation.



Sighting 2 (The River):

That little red bird “Dave” just kept flying in and checking in on us. Later that week we decided to go to the gravesite where Dave was resting. My Grandma wanted to show me where they had spread his ashes. At the gravesite, My Grandma and I were throwing flowers in the river not noticing what (or should I say WHO) was sitting right above us in the tree. It was Dave! My three sentimental ladies all began to cry. I felt like Dave, the little red bird, was sending another message. He was saying, “Thank you for honoring me.”



Later that day we decided to take a great adventure to cheer us all up! We will call it, the adventure of the resort pool. Aída was checking her Facebook and saw that one of her other bosses was staying on the island at a luxury resort. I asked my Grandma if we could go, and she said, "Sure, let Aída check with her boss." Aída checked with her boss, and it was ok to go! So, we planned a pool day. We packed our swim gear, and went off to the resort. Todd and his wife, Amy, were waiting for us. We decided to hit the pools. We headed in and to our surprise there wasn't just one pool, there wasn't just two pools, there were seven different pools!! We just had to go in all of them. We went into the biggest one first. Then, the littler one, then, the littlest one, then, the smaller one, then, the smallest one, then, the tiniest one, and last but not least, the tiniest one. Todd, my new buddy, held me the entire time. It was a wonderful day in paradise. We were all so tired from our day at the resort, Aída and I barely stayed awake for dinner when we returned home.



Sighting 3 (The Dinner Date):

Back at my Grandma's house, we were having a late night dinner, my Grandma had misplaced her kindle and was checking the coffee table. All of a sudden she said, "Who touched my sea glass? It is in the shape of a heart!" My ladies both said, "What!?! No, we didn't touch it. We were gone ALL day!" And then, we all gasped. The three of them looked at me and said, "Casey?!?! No, just kidding." We all looked at each other and said, "DAVE!" I knew he was sending another message. This time he was saying, "I am still here. Right here with you, always."

That night I lay in bed expecting the bathroom light to flicker like at a haunted hotel, but it never did. I laid there all night just wondering when

would I see “Dave” next. The anticipation kept me awake for what seemed like hours.

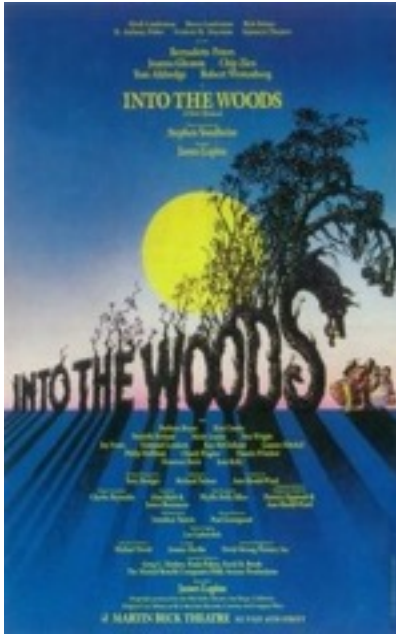
I finally fell asleep.



Sighting 4 (Dreamy Ice Cream):

The next day my Grandma had treated everyone to the best Hawaiian ice cream, just let me tell you, it was delicious! But as we were eating, who lands right beside me, that little red bird, Dave! He said, “Hey everybody, just wanted to hang out with you. Do you mind sharing with me some of that sweet Hawaiian ice cream?” Ok, ok, I know, well if that bird could talk that is

what I am sure he would have asked us. We went on eating our ice cream in the cheerful company of our dear friend “Dave.”



On to our final adventure, Grandma behind the wheel, and what to my wondering eyes did I see!?! A sign, a sign from Dave, it was a sign for the Children's Theatre! They were showcasing the play, Into The Woods! I had no idea what it was about but you know me, I LOOOVE the theatre! I told everybody about it. Diana got all excited and told us that was one of her favorite shows! So we go back home, my Grandma looks it up, and they were all sold out! But, if nobody shows up, you could get their ticket! So off we went to this old steel warehouse an hour early. My Grandma went to the box office to double check if they were all sold out, and to my luck, they had one extra ticket! She took it! She ran back to the car, and told us. We told stories under the bright Hawaiian sky to pass the time. Cars started parking next to us. We started thinking this one could not possibly

happen. My Grandma went back, and what happened? We got two more tickets! Diana and I ran for our lives with excitement. Lights, camera, action! We awaited the actors to take stage. Diana and I were sitting under these really hot lights, getting our sweat on. I started getting sick so we quickly had to leave. We were devastated we missed the play. It was a sad night for all of us, not only because of the play, but also because our trip was wrapping up.



At this point I was SURE that all my “carry-ons” were now convinced and believed that Dave was with us. That little red bird continued on stopping by to see us throughout our trip. I thought to myself, he sure must have been a special friend to my Grandma, and now to me. Now everybody knew the story of our forever friend, Dave, that little red bird.

The End.



Grandma, I really enjoyed writing this story for you. I believe that everybody comes back to us as something, maybe an animal, or a bird, or maybe, even a person. I liked knowing Dave was still right there flying around us, our little red bird.

Love,

Casey

P.S. To my "Carry-ons" and Grandma, thank you for the wonderful
adventure.