

The Mystery of the Kalākaua Diamond

It was April 2026, and my family went to O‘ahu, Hawaii, for spring break. We had not taken a vacation in over two years, and it was the first big trip for my nine-month old baby brother, Sesh.

For the first two days we visited many beaches. I saw sea turtles, colorful fish, and even a shy Hawaiian monk seal. The trip was fun, but I was hoping for an adventure.

The next morning as we were walking outside, someone gave us a pamphlet. It read,

“A grand celebration honoring King Kalākaua.”

Celebrating the 190th anniversary of his birth

Location: ‘Iolani Palace, Honolulu, Hawaii

Date/Time: April 15, 10am-4pm

Everyone is welcome to join this grand celebration and view the magnificent royal treasures. Enjoy the live music and exciting performances. Delicious Hawaiian food and desserts will be provided.

We drove to the palace right away. The grounds were crowded with dancers, magicians, clowns, stilt walkers, and even a living statue painted completely in metallic gold.

Inside, we entered a room filled with royal treasures. I saw King Kalākaua’s crown, a butterfly brooch, a tiger-claw necklace, and the most amazing treasure of all, the Kalākaua Diamond, a huge 13.88-carat pendant.

Suddenly, we heard a loud explosion.

People screamed and rushed toward the exit. Police soon discovered that the explosion was only a recording played through a speaker. Then someone shouted, “The diamond is missing!”

The police locked the palace doors and began questioning everyone including my parents.

Then I noticed Sesh was missing from his stroller.

I spotted a half-open door and slipped out to search for him. Near the jewel room, I found his pacifier. Inside, Sesh was crawling beside the empty diamond display.

“There you are!” I whispered.

Then I noticed something strange, a tiny red mark on the display handle. Beside it, a window stood open, and a glittery silver thread got caught on the frame.

Outside, I saw a clown with a red nose and silver costume rushing towards his car. I told a police officer. He stopped the clown, but the clown had been performing onstage for the past hour in front of many people. It was the wrong suspect.

Suddenly, Sesh disappeared again. I found him crawling nearby. I picked him up and noticed that his hands were covered with gold paint.

I remembered the living statue.

The officer and I hurried over. I noticed patches of gold paint missing from the statue's hands and pants. That was how Sesh had gotten paint on his hands!

The officer searched the statue performer and felt something hard inside his pocket. He pulled it out. It was the Kalākaua Diamond!

The golden statue man was the thief!

The police thanked me for helping solve the mystery. Mom and dad hugged me proudly. I had wanted an adventure in O'ahu, but I never imagined I would solve a royal mystery, with a little help from Sesh.