

RAUMSCHOKOLADE

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EXT. CLIFFSIDE - NIGHT

The trees sway with the gentle lake breeze as KITENA and INTA make their way through the forest to the cliff.

KITENA
(persuading)
Come on Inta, it's right there! THE
SPOT!

INTA
(out of energy)
Dude, my feet are DEAD. Just leave
me here to die.

Kitena shakes his head, stomps his feet to snap her out of it.

KITENA
Uhn-uh! No, common, get up!

INTA
(groans)
Ughhhhhhh. No.

KITENA
Okay, just sit up then.

Inta half-sits, barely making the effort.

KITENA
Alright, now open your hands, wide,
like this.

INTA
(opens her hands)
Ok?

Kitena pulls chocolates from his pocket and places them onto Inta's open hands.

INTA
(shocked & excited)
What? No way! Dude! Raumschokolade!
where did you find them?!

KITENA
(points to the cliff)
There's more at the top of that
cliff. All you have to do is walk a
few more steps.

INTA
No. Nooo. You are doing it again,
you're holding me hostage over sweet
delicious chocolate.

KITENA

If you don't, I am going to eat all of them by myself.

INTA

(sighs)

Fine, fine, give me your hand.

Kitena hauls her up. Together they climb to the cliffside dock above the lake. They drop their rucksacks and sink into the waiting deck chairs.

Kitena gives Inta the other candy he had in his pocket.

INTA

(eating)

Oh my god, I've missed these. Where did you find them? I heard that Ms Bibi closed her shop, like years ago?

KITENA

She did. She gave me these as a "Good-bye" gift and for helping her move out.

INTA

Oh wow, her too, huh?

Kitena pauses for a moment, then nods.

KITENA

(turning to Inta)

Do you remember how you, me, Qori and Goh used to climb over Ms Bibi's backyard wall to sneak in at night and try and steal some?

INTA

(a small laugh slips out)

And she would catch us EVERY time. Dude, you were so fat.

KITENA

(haha)

As if you were any better. Y'could barely run without asking for a break. And besides have you seen my muscles now.

Kitena flexes, proud of himself.

INTA

(teasing)

Mhm, I can see why the Mrs. enjoys having you around.

KITENA
(excited)
y'know those fools, Goh and Qori,
would die to have these right now.
They should have been here!

INTA
They are off-world building
something more grand.

KITENA
(nods)
Hmmm

KITENA grabs two cans from his bag and hands one to Inta.

INTA
Thank you.

KITENA
So, what do you think of THE SPOT?
hmm?

INTA
Raumschokolade, cold beer and a
clear sky where you can see all
stars? Premium Spot!

KITENA
Yeah, but look at the lake, the red
blossoms, You can see the whole
valley from here!

INTA
Yeah, that's cool, but you can also
literally see Milkdromeda from here.

KITENA
(pauses, looks unsure)
Y-yeah... I guess.

INTA
(trying to change the
topic)
So, how are you and the mrs? with
all that's going on?

KITENA
(lays back with his hands
behind his head)
Things are good. They are very good.
Uh we have started a new shop. We
sell fish now.

INTA
Wait, I thought you didn't like
fish?

KITENA
(small pause)
I- I don't like them, but they sell.
So y'know, we sell them.

Inta looks around, spotting the charred remains of a recent fire.

INTA
But for how long? The market will
dry up soon enough.

KITENA
(defensive)
It is not going to dry up in our
lifetime.

INTA
I feel like you are underreacting.
What happens when everyone leaves to
the off-worlds, and you don't have
anyone to sell to?

Kitena doesn't respond.

INTA
Why don't you and your family come
with me.

KITENA
Why don't you stay?

INTA
I don't know why you insist. You
have to trust me in that things will
get easier if you came with me.

KITENA
You don't know that. For all you
know, we could die in the launch to
the station, not even mentioning the
journey after!

INTA
But the chances of that-

KITENA
There's always a chance. You are
just too blind to see that. Why do
you have to leave? You just got
here!

INTA pauses.

Silence lingers between them.

INTA
(turning to Kitená)
Hey, close your eyes.

KITENA
Don't hit me.

INTA
Close your eyes. Give me your hands,
open them wide.

INTA places the Raumschokolade wrapper in his palms. On it, there's a drawing of a ship launching toward the moon.

KITENA
Hmm?

INTA
I love you and I always want the
best for you. But I think we were
all meant to do something more than
just sell fish. You with me.

He stares at the wrapper, uneasy, then places it back into Inta's hand.

KITENA
When she was leaving, Ms Bibi told
me there was place for another
family on her ship.

INTA
Why didn't you go with her?

KITENA
Because I don't want to. I like it
here. Things won't get better, but
they won't be that bad. We'll have a
smaller community, times will be
tough... but I'll still be happy.

INTA
I don't like what you are doing, but
I also hope you didn't bring me out
here to convince me of my decision.

KITENA
No. It's just nice to see you again.

INTA
You too. I missed us.

INTA
Can I have another beer?

Kitena hands her another beer. Above them, columns of strange white plumes begin to unfurl across the distant sky.

INTA
Look, the shuttle plumes!

KITENA
They are beautiful.

They keep their eyes on the plumes.

INTA
(teasing)
As long as I am here, I won't stop trying to convince you.

KITENA
(sips beer)
You can try.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.