

KATOKO: THE BANHAMMER

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EXT. PANEL BLOCK DISTRICT - NIGHT

Rows of dense housing blocks.

Neon advertisements flicker.

Trash moves through the street.

Distant screams echo.

Two massive chicken legs stand between the buildings.

Above them, a giant wooden bar-house glows in pink neon.

A sign reads:

BAR BABA YAGA

Additional neon signs flash:

FREE WI-FI  
LIVE MUSIC  
OPEN TILL DAWN

Laughter, clinking glasses, and live guitar music come from inside.

Strange silhouettes move behind the windows.

Stairs lead up to the entrance.

INT. BAR BABA YAGA - NIGHT

A large tavern filled with smoke and dim light. Neon signs blink on the walls. Cobwebs hang in the corners.

A small stage stands empty with a microphone, a piano, two large bass speakers, and red curtains behind it.

Bogeys, demons, and strange creatures sit at tables. Some talk. Others drink green liquids. Others look at their phones.

The entrance doors swing open.

BUSTAN enters. A tall scarecrow wearing a golden chain.

He stops near the entrance and strikes a pose, waiting.

No one reacts.

Bustan blinks. His expression goes blank for a moment, then he recovers.

He notices TORBALAN behind the bar, slowly polishing glasses.

BUSTAN  
(big grin, pointing)  
Torbalan! My man... how are you?

Bustan drops onto a barstool. Straw falls from his body.

BUSTAN  
Give me a lemonade to quench my  
thirst!

TORBALAN  
(grumbling, bored)  
Mmm...

Torbalan pours lemonade into a glass and slides it across the bar.

Bustan takes the glass and drinks.

BUSTAN  
(starting to pester Torbalan)  
You know, brother...  
(MORE)

(CONT'D)

this bar is a real oasis in this  
blown-out district.  
(starts heavy monologue)  
Great place to meet friends...  
(pauses, thinks)  
And speaking of friends... right  
here, in this very place, I met the  
legendary Katoko. It has been  
exactly two weeks since that  
thrilling moment.

Bustan looks upward, lost in thought.

Torbalan keeps polishing the same glass.

BUSTAN  
(continuing)  
Katoko is a real friend. The only  
one who truly digs me... well,  
besides you of course.

Torbalan frowns.

BUSTAN  
By the way, did I ever tell you I'm  
not a real scarecrow, but a spirit  
in a scarecrow's body?

TORBALAN  
(furious)  
I know!

Torbalan turns his back to him.

BUSTAN  
(excited)  
Wait, let me rap for you, my newest  
lyrics I wrote today...

Behind Bustan, a quiet sipping sound.

Bustan stops and turns.

KATOKO sits in a shadowy booth, drinking orange juice through  
a straw. An open laptop sits in front of him.

Bustan smiles widely and walks over with his glass.

BUSTAN  
(happy)  
Katoko... my man!  
(sits next to Katoko)  
You know... I was just talking  
about you.

KATOKO  
(laconic, dark voice)  
I know.

Bustan holds his lemonade, trying to appear important.

A small spider drops down from the ceiling and hangs in front of Bustan's face.

SPIDER  
(flat, dry voice)  
Dude... are you gonna drink that?

BUSTAN  
(awkward, looks at his glass)  
Uh... I guess not...

SPIDER  
(nods)  
Cool, bro.

The spider lowers itself onto the glass and starts drinking.

Bustan watches in confusion.

INT. BAR BABA YAGA - NIGHT

The music stops.

The stage stands quiet.

A STRANGE BOGEY steps onto the stage. He is cross-eyed, with white hair and long arms.

He stands at the microphone.

BOGEY  
(flat, like a master of ceremonies)  
Ladies and gentlemen... shadows and  
demons...  
Bar Baba Yaga presents... the only  
reason we stay quiet for five  
minutes...  
Deeemyyy!

The Bogey sits at the piano.

He plays the first notes.

A blue flame appears on stage.

DEMY appears within it.

She takes the microphone.

She begins to sing.

The audience turns toward the stage.

No one speaks.

Bustan nods to the rhythm and raises his chain.

BUSTAN  
(to Katoko, excited)  
Bro, you hear that? She's the next  
star! Our star!

Katoko continues working on his laptop and drinking juice.

KATOKO  
(dry, typing)  
Uh-huh.

Demy raises her tone.

A troll near the stage leans forward.

A flame sparks from Demy's mouth.

The troll stops reacting.

Applause and laughter break out among the crowd.

Bustan jumps in place and talks to himself.

The audience keeps watching Demy.

Katoko stays in the booth, focused on his laptop and juice.

INT. BAR BABA YAGA - KATOKO'S BOOTH

Demy sings on stage.

Torbalan approaches and stands over Bustan.

TORBALAN  
(dark)  
Two coins.

BUSTAN  
(shocked)  
But... you never ask Katoko for  
money!

Bustan reaches into his pocket, takes out two coins, and gives them to Torbalan.

Torbalan leaves.

Katoko keeps typing on his keyboard.

KATOKO  
(dry)  
The Real Baba Yaga freed me from  
payment. In return I delete nasty  
comments from the bar's groups and  
keep the five-star rating.

BUSTAN  
(wide-eyed)  
What groups?!

KATOKO  
Google. TripAdvisor. One troll  
wrote that it smells like two-month-  
old socks.  
(pause, hits Enter)  
Now it says it smells like morning  
dew.

INT. PANEL BLOCK APARTMENT - NIGHT

A troll with greasy hair and a tracksuit sits in front of a  
computer in a rundown apartment.

The monitor turns off.

TROLL  
(confused)  
Did my router blow up again?

INT. BAR BABA YAGA - KATOKO'S BOOTH

Katoko drinks juice through a straw. A self-satisfied smile.

INT. BAR BABA YAGA - STAGE

Demy finishes her song.

Demons applaud. Some release fire upward. Others remain still.

Demy leaves the stage and joins Katoko and Bustan.

DEMY  
(bright)  
How are you guys?

KATOKO  
(eyes on laptop, raises a hand)  
Hello, Demy!

BUSTAN  
(excited)  
That was an awesome performance,  
Demy! You really need to think  
about that feature I offered you.

DEMY  
(deep sarcasm)  
I told you, I will not sing in a  
track that goes - "Look at my  
money... Uh-uh!"

Katoko receives a video call on his laptop.

He accepts the call.

An OLD LADY with gray skin appears on the screen. She looks distressed.

OLD LADY  
(anxious)  
Katoko, please! These trolls won't  
leave me alone! Please save me from  
them!  
I can't take it anymore!

KATOKO  
(ready to assist)  
No problem, madam! Just let me hear  
the sound of my PayPal account.

OLD LADY  
No problem at all. I'll send you  
the money, just get rid of this  
plague!

The call ends.

Katoko's account balance updates on the screen.

He opens a new window.

He types code.

He presses Enter.

A system message appears:

User profile deleted.

KATOKO  
Looks like a few trolls are out of  
work tonight.

INT. UNDERNET CLUB "VIRTUAL WORLD" - NIGHT

The entrance is shaped like a giant mouth.

Inside, rows of enchanted computers fill the space.

Green light comes from the screens.

Trolls, goblins, and shadowy figures sit, talk, play, and type.

Multiple screens display messages:

"#Blocked"  
"Connection Lost"  
"Banned"

Several goblins react angrily.

SHIBY DAK  
(shouts, angry)  
What the hell? I was just writing a  
hate comment to some grandma.

KEKE RIU  
(slaps the table like a pirate)  
Not fair! We're internet trolls,  
after all!

VIRUS  
(jumps, eyes glowing with  
excitement)  
Relax, brothers! I've got a genius  
plan! I'll unleash a new super-  
virus - wipe them all out!

Virus presses a button.

Pop-up ads for weight-loss tea appear on the screens.

Everyone looks at him.

KOKAR JA  
(hissing, raising fists)  
Idiot! That's an ad, not a virus!  
Katoko banned us again...

SHIBY DAK  
(furious)  
That little parasite... how long  
will we let him keep kicking us?

LIL BIZKY  
(whining in the corner)  
Can we just go home? I don't want  
to die again because of you guys...

The group argues loudly.

Shiby Dak climbs onto a chair.

SHIBY DAK  
(yelling)  
Enough! If we don't stop Katoko,  
we'll all be a joke!

KOKAR JA  
(ironically)  
Uh, we've already been a joke for a  
long time...

Silence follows.

Everyone turns toward Keke Riu.

KEKE RIU  
(theatrical, with a sinister grin)  
We know what must be done...

The group reacts in agreement.

LIL BIZKY  
(confused)  
What must be done?

The group reacts with frustration.

KEKE RIU  
(convincing)  
We'll crush Katoko! He'll never ban  
us again, in this life or the next!

LIL BIZKY  
(still confused)  
But... how?

No one responds.

An at-sign with a flaming tail passes through the room.

KEKE RIU  
(almost furious)  
We'll hold a secret meeting in  
Block 4's basement and summon the  
one we do not name.

LIL BIZKY  
(to himself)  
I knew I shouldn't have hung out  
with these guys.

INT. BLOCK 4 BASEMENT - NIGHT

A basement lined with shelves of pickled vegetable jars.

Old political slogans are painted on the walls.

Goblins stand in a circle in the center of the room.

They shout over each other, cursing and repeating Katoko's name.

KEKE RIU  
(waving arms like a pirate)  
That runt! Shame on our guild! I'll  
make him drown in the sea of  
oblivion!

SHIBY DAK  
(slams keyboard)  
Every time - ban! Every time -  
humiliation! If he shuts down my  
account one more time, I'll delete  
myself!

VIRUS  
(nervous but eager)  
Calm down! I've got an idea -  
better than anything before! This  
time I won't screw it up...

Virus holds an old laptop connected by wires to a jar of pickles.

The laptop screen flickers.

KOKAR JA stands aside with arms crossed, LIL BIZKY watching beside him.

LIL BIZKY  
(dumb question)  
Is that some kind of virtual pickle  
jar?

VIRUS  
(snaps)  
I'm making final updates before  
opening the space, idiot...

Keke Riu slaps Virus on the back and steps forward.

Virus stops talking.

KEKE RIU  
(finally, quiet but firm)  
Let's begin the ritual!

The group falls silent.

Shiby Dak draws symbols on the floor with chalk.

Keke Riu lights candles.

Laptop screens flicker.

The lights go out.

Red light flashes in the basement.

The goblins join hands.

ALL  
(monotone)  
Juan, Juan, Juan...

A figure forms in the darkness.

JUAN EL CHUPACABRA appears.

The goblins freeze in place.

JUAN  
(raging, yelling)  
Who dares summon me right now?  
(MORE)

(CONT'D)

I was watching The Bold and the Beautiful! Ridge was proposing to Brooke for the twenty-eighth time!

The goblins look at each other.

Keke Riu steps forward.

KEKE RIU  
(frightened)  
Forgive us, Mr. Chupacabra! We didn't mean to bother you, but we have a problem with a kuker...

JUAN  
(surprised)  
A kuker? I hate kukers!  
(looks around angrily)  
And I hate you too, get out of here!

The goblins press back against the walls.

Only Kokar Ja and Bizky remain in front.

Juan points at them.

JUAN  
(points)  
You two!

BIZKY  
(confused)  
Who, us?

JUAN  
(angry)  
Do you see any other idiots?

BIZKY  
Well, I only see Kokar Ja and you...

Kokar Ja glares at Bizky.

JUAN  
(screaming)  
AAAAAAHHHHH! Come with me, you  
idiots. Take me to the kuker!

Juan moves toward the exit.

The goblins step aside.

Kokar Ja and Bizky look at each other, then follow him.

EXT. BAR BABA YAGA - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The door opens.

Katoko steps outside.

Bustan follows him.

They move down the stairs in front of the bar.

BUSTAN  
You know what, Katoko, bro? Today I  
came up with a super genius rap  
verse.  
It's gonna be a hit. You gotta help  
me record a demo.

KATOKO  
(trying to cut him off)  
Do I look like a hip-hop producer?

BUSTAN  
(thinking)  
No, but you've got that super  
powerful laptop... with it, you're  
basically the boss of a music  
label...  
(scratches his belly)  
Listen to a bit, you'll love it!  
(MORE)

(CONT'D)

(gets hyped)  
Look at my money, I'm the king of  
the block,  
witches fly around, I wipe them  
with a mop...

KATOKO  
(staring ahead)  
Yeah, that's really a hit... In the  
gallows district, they'll be  
jumping off their chairs.

They reach the alley in front of the bar.

EXT. PEDESTRIAN ALLEY - NIGHT

Katoko and Bustan walk down the alley.

Graffiti covers the walls.

Broken lamps hang overhead.

Cables stretch between buildings.

Neon signs read:

"FREE WI-FI"  
"SOULS - BUY 1, GET 1 FREE"

Bustan continues rapping and gesturing.

Katoko walks ahead, drinking juice through a straw.

The alley grows quiet.

Footsteps and voices approach from deeper in the alley.

Animal-like growls follow.

BUSTAN  
(startled, pretending to be brave)  
Yo, man... must be my fan club.

KATOKO  
(dry)  
I'll believe it when I see it.

KOKAR JA and BIZKY step out from the shadows.

They move forward reluctantly.

JUAN appears behind them.

A few goblins nearby run away.

JUAN  
(rough, to Katoko)  
Hey, runt. You the one pulling the  
plugs on trolls in the network?

KATOKO  
(sips juice, indifferent)  
I've pulled many plugs, but this is  
the first time I get scolded by a  
lizard.

Bustan steps between them.

He freezes.

BUSTAN  
(to Katoko)  
Bro, this is heating up. Let's  
bail!  
(suddenly screams)  
Heeeelp!

KATOKO  
(snaps, yells at Bustan)  
Don't say that woooord!

INT. DVORTAKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A panel-block apartment with bare walls.

Curtains hang on the windows.

Paintings hang on the walls.

The room is lit only by the television.

On the screen, *The Bold and the Beautiful*. Ridge proposes to Brooke for the twenty-eighth time.

DVORTAKY sits in an armchair with his feet on a stool.

A zombie rat runs across the floor, takes a slice of pizza, and stops near the television.

Brooke says "yes."

The rat looks at the screen and disappears into a hole in the wall.

A scream comes from outside.

VOICE FROM THE STREET  
(loud shout)  
Heelp!

Dvortaky reacts.

DVORTAKY  
(in a cartoonish voice)  
Someone's calling for help!

He jumps up.

His back cracks.

He grabs it.

DVORTAKY  
(heroic)  
Time to help... but first, gotta pop  
my back...

EXT. PEDESTRIAN ALLEY - NIGHT

Katoko and Bustan face Juan, Kokar Ja, and Bizky.

Dvortaky swings in on a rope.

DVORTAKY  
(screaming heroically)  
I don't scroll, I soar!

Dvortaky swings past Juan and hits a wall.

He falls into bushes.

Everyone looks at the bushes.

They turn back to each other.

KATOKO  
(angry at Bustan)  
Don't ever say the word..  
(whispers)  
Help...

JUAN  
(to Katoko)  
Hey, I'm still here!

KATOKO  
(sarcastic)  
Was hoping you wouldn't say that... I  
was about to leave.

JUAN  
(irritated)  
You little know-it-all. I missed my  
show because of you...

DVORTAKY  
(from the bushes)  
Brooke said yes...

Juan turns to Kokar Ja and Bizky.

JUAN  
(shouting)  
Grab that pest... and the straw idiot  
too!

Kokar Ja and Bizky hesitate, then move toward Katoko and  
Bustan.

Katoko hits the back of his backpack.

A shuriken shaped like a hashtag extends.

Katoko grabs it and throws it at Bizky.

It hits Bizky in the face.

Text appears above him: #WEAK.

Bizky stops moving.

BUSTAN  
(amazed)  
Where'd you get that?

Katoko throws another hashtag at Kokar Ja.

Text appears above him: #CatLover.

Kokar Ja turns and runs after a stray cat.

Juan shouts and moves forward.

Katoko throws another hashtag at Juan.

Juan shouts back.

The hashtag breaks apart.

Katoko smirks.

KATOKO  
(to Bustan)  
Run!

Katoko and Bustan run down the alley.

Juan follows them.

They enter a park.

Juan follows.

A neon sign at the entrance reads:

Warning - Sleeping Monster

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Katoko and Bustan run through the park.

Juan follows close behind.

Neon lamps break as he advances.

Their noise wakes SPASKA THE MONSTER. She is massive, green, and winged. Clearly irritated.

Juan roars.

KATOKO  
(dry, whispering)  
Here, silence is kept. Otherwise,  
Spaska does not forgive.

JUAN  
(confused)  
Spaska?

Fire bursts from Spaska's mouth and blocks Juan's path.

Juan turns and runs.

Spaska follows him.

Katoko and Bustan stop.

They watch Juan flee.

They turn and continue walking.

BUSTAN  
(back in good spirits)  
Bro, listen! I'll rap you the rest  
of my new track...  
(gesturing)  
I am great, but this world won't  
take me,  
I'm too good, no one's got the guts  
to face me...

KATOKO  
(bored)  
Brooooo!

They walk away through the park.

JUAN's shouts echo in the distance.