

WIDC MAIN SCENE

By

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from the feature film IIDENT

INT. UNDER - KAHLEN'S HOME - DAY

Beta and Ryan sit on the floor, supplies and maps strewn about them. It is clear they are working on some kind of strategy for when they leave the womb of Under, as the maps show cities and grid patterns that would be out of place here. No map of Under could be considered reliable or accurate.

Ryan arches his back, stretching first his shoulders, then reaching out to touch his toes, clearly stiff from the mark of his recent injuries. He has, however, made a remarkable recovery. Only a few scars remain to provide evidence of the burns that covered most of his body.

Beta leans back from her work, watching him. She is more relaxed than we've ever seen her.

BETA

Stop showing off and get back to work stud muffin.

RYAN

'Stud muffin?' So old fashioned.

They've done this banter a hundred times.

BETA

I like it. From a simpler time.

RYAN

Well, you're going to have to try some new tricks on me now. I'm a new man, all toughened up.

He thumps his chest.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Like jerky.

Beta bats her eyelashes jokingly.

BETA

I think I'm doing just fine.

Ryan doesn't think so.

RYAN

Beta, what will you really do if you ever get your IIDENT back?

BETA

I have to find my father. He - for all he knows, I'm dead. He's my only family, all I've got left.

Ryan is visibly stung by this.

BETA

I didn't mean-

RYAN

So what - you get your IIDENT back and then you just go home? Its going to be that easy to forget huh? Faktory, Under, The Proxies? You could just turn your back on all of it?

On him.

BETA

Ryan, I could never forget. NEVER.

Ryan steels himself to say what he must.

RYAN

I know how important this is to you but, what if you *don't* find it? How long are you going to keep this up? Will you just look forever?

BETA

(whispering)

I have to.

Ryan reaches out and brushes Beta's bangs out of her eyes. He leans in and kisses her gently. As they part, Beta eyes search his face.

BETA

Ryan, don't you want to go home?

RYAN

I- ... this is home now.

Now it is her turn to question him.

BETA

So you're going to become a permanent resident of Under? Watch mules die on the operating table every other week? Run from Proxies and Faktory until they corner and kill you?

RYAN

Maybe that's just what our lives are going to be like.

BETA

No. I have to believe that I can live a normal life. That this running and fighting and just, *surviving* isn't all there is. I don't know what kind of life you might go back to, who you have left, but it HAS to be better than this. Think about it Ryan, a real life. Isn't that worth fighting for?

Ryan knows he can't change her mind and tries a different tactic.

RYAN

So, hypothetically speaking, IF we both get our IIDENTS back, and we're living these 'real lives' you're talking about..

Beta opens her mouth to argue, again.

RYAN

..you'll give me your number?

Beta smiles.

BETA

Very smooth, stud muffin.

RYAN

What can I say - from a simpler time and all, right?

Beta reaches out to place her hand on his.

BETA

WHEN we get our IIDENTS back. When.

RYAN

Yes ma'am.

Suddenly, a low rumble echoes through the tunnel. An explosion. They've been found.

Time to run.