

## ***Wishlist scenes Norway\****

### ***The Search for the Authentic Holiday***

*\*Disclaimer: This document consists of dream scenes that I would like to keep in the back of my mind during shooting. However, this document will only serve as something that we can hold onto. Reality will surprise us either way. Expect the unexpected ☺*

#### ***Location #1 – Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock)***

*It is early in the morning. We see a shot of a beautiful, serene fjord. The deep blue Lysefjord is curving into the distance, between the subtle greens and greys of the rolling mountains on either side of it. Birds are chirping, as if they are trying to wake up the sleeping mountains. The sun is rising behind the mountains. The sunlight reveals a small platform, located in between the mountains. This platform is also well known as the Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock) The Preikestolen looks a little bit like a throne, watching over the Norwegian fjord. The Preikestolen is waking up in solitude, accompanied by the chirping birds, a subtle cold breeze, and the morning sky with an orange-red glow. When the sunlight falls on the plateau, it also sheds light on a crack in the rock.*

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*We cut to an empty parking lot at the foot of the mountain. It is still a bit dark and the mist is hovering in the air. Off-screen, we hear the sound of a car. Slowly, a van enters the frame. The van stops in one of the marked parking spaces. The sound of an opening side door. A few hikers, ultimately dressed for the occasion, step out of the car. They open the trunk of the van and collect their trekking poles and hiking shoes. We hear the voice of a guide, whispering information about the expected conditions and some information about the trail. He emphasizes the importance of safety. Everybody has to follow the trail. All the hikers nod. They start their hike and leave the frame.*

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*We cut back to the plateau. Still serene and peaceful. After a few minutes, we hear the off-screen sounds of people talking. The same hikers who just parked the van, enter the frame again. The guide is still up front, preparing the hikers for what they are about to experience. The hikers look exhausted: a woman bends over to catch some breath. But she doesn't get much time to rest. The sun shows itself as it climbs over the mountain ridges. It bathes them in the warmth of light.*

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*One hour later. We cut back to the parking lot. More vehicles have been parked in the parking lot. We hear the sounds of children crying, people talking, and a grinding sound coming from the brakes. The visitor's target group has changed. There are no longer only hikers or adventure seekers here, but also families, dogs, etc. We cut to another angle. We see an arm barrier at the entrance of the parking lot. A long queue of vehicles has been formed behind the arm barrier. People are impatiently waiting, with their arms out of the car window. We see many different vehicle registration plates: apparently, people worldwide are waiting to park their cars here.*

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*We cut back to the top. The plateau is full of people. People dangle with their legs over the edge of a cliff, doing photoshoots. Children, dogs, hikers, older people. Everybody is gathering to capture the panoramic view. Some girls do yoga exercises, others are recording a TikTok video. We only hear sounds caused by human beings. The sound of the chirping birds is gone with the wind.*

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*Cut to: wide angle shot from the crack in the middle of the plateau. We see a half-meter-wide gap within the cliff and a lot of feet stepping over the gap.*

*Wide shot from the side of the cliff. We see people dangling their legs over the edge of the cliff, lying on their stomachs, and carefully looking over the edge, in order to make a selfie.*

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*We cut to the trail. We see hundreds of people hiking toward the plateau. Not all visitors come well-prepared. People with short summer dresses and slippers try to get a grip. The rocks are quite slippery. A mass amount of people causes challenges because some hikers enjoy a casual bucket list hike, while some hard-core athletes try to get to the top in record time. A constant stream of people. Sometimes people take a small break halfway, to drink some water and get some rest. We see a young woman spraining her ankle on a slippery rock and an older gentleman struggling to continue the hike. A dog poops on the side of the trail.*

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*A few hours later. The evening falls. The plateau slowly gets empty again. The crowds leave the frame. The peace slowly returns. The sound of the birds becomes louder. We finally get to enjoy the tranquility of the mountain again. The last rays of the sun hit the walls. A plastic bag is blowing in the wind, leaving its traces. It furnishes evidence, a souvenir. The crack in the middle of the platform becomes visible again. The Preikestolen has fallen victim to its popularity.*

## **LOCATION #2 KJERAGBOLTEN (POTENTIAL OPENING SCENE)**

*A round stone block wedged solidly in the crevice of the Kjerag Mountain. One thousand meters below, the sapphire Norwegian Lysefjord ambled along, unperturbed by its familiar steep and impressive confines on either side. At first, this mountain looks rather untrodden. You can hear the sound of the wind blowing through the valley. It is quiet. Waves of grass are dancing in the wind. From afar, you can hear the sound of sheep's bells, adding up to the idyllic atmosphere. Suddenly, we see a leg coming from behind the two rockfaces. A man reveals himself. He carefully steps on the egg-shaped boulder. Step by step, he slowly shuffles toward the middle of the stone. The man looks frightened. His legs are shaking. Off-screen, we hear the sound of the camera shutter. The man strikes a few poses while trying to not lose his balance. He screams in excitement. His scream echoes through the valley. The scene feels as if we just witnessed a special, rare moment of someone conquering his biggest fear.*

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*A few hours later. Same shot. Just another person in the frame, standing on the boulder. Striking a pose. The sounds of shuttering cameras. As the person steps off the boulder, another person enters the frame and crawls out on it. Apparently, the scene we witnessed before, wasn't a so-called 'one in a million moments', but rather a famous tourist attraction.*

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*Cut to: a long queue has been formed on a very narrow path, behind the rockface. More than twenty people are impatiently waiting, just half a meter separated from the abyss. They are standing with their backs against the rock. The access to the Kjerag boulder is around the small ledge. This seems to be the hardest part for all the people who want to take the opportunity to make a photo of themselves on the rock. Defying the small ledge demands more courage than standing on the boulder itself. Some people use the attached rope for assistance.*

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*We cut back to the rock. The photo shoot continues. People step on the rock with their national flag, as if they are conquering the moon. Some people even take their bikes with them. The photo shoots are becoming this repetitive movement: same rock, new challenger.*

### **LOCATION #3 NORTH CAPE – MIDNIGHT SUN**

*The northernmost point on the European mainland is also known as the North Cape. It is located approximately 2000 km from the North Pole on a 307-meter high cliff, that plunges into the deep blue sea. It is truly a magical place, for all kinds of species. Thousands of puffins, gannets, and cormorants congregate on the cliff. You can hear the sounds of the birds, alternated by the sounds of big waves crashing against the cliffs. The outermost reach of Europe marks a finish to any journey: it feels like you've arrived at the end of the world. This place breathes both melancholy and spirituality. While the sun slowly goes down, a few hikers enjoy the view on the platform. It is almost 11 PM and it is quiet. We see the silhouettes of the hikers against the lowering red sun.*

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*Cut to: an empty field, next to the plateau. We hear the sounds of buses. The NORTH CAPE EXPRESS enters the frame. The bus makes a loud sound as it stops at the bus stop. The noise can be heard all over the place. A second bus follows. It stops right next to the North Cape Express. A third bus follows, a fourth, fifth.... Before we know it, the whole parking lot is full of touring buses. Their doors open. Hundreds of people step out of the bus. The place is teeming. Everybody walks in the same direction.*

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*Cut back to the plateau. The plateau is chock-full of people. It's like an ant colony taking over the North Cape. The place got suddenly transformed in less than a minute. Meanwhile, the Midnight Sun hovers on the horizon. The sun dips into the sea. It leaves a golden glow in the air.*

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*Cut to: The iconic globe. Whilst the sun slowly touches the ocean, the people on the platform are busy picturing themselves with the iconic globe.*

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*Cut back to the bus stop. The bus drivers are impatiently waiting in their driver's seat. They look bored. The destination sign still displays the end destination.*

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*Cut to the plateau. We see the silhouettes of tourists and their cameras, with their backs turned toward us. They only experience the Midnight Sun through the viewfinders of their cameras and iPhones.*

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*Meanwhile, the camera is positioned outside a densely-populated café, next to the souvenir shop. An old German couple sit together by the window in the café at a long table. The midnight sun reflects in the window. The couple is quiet. They both look outside, holding their disposable coffee cups. The steam from the hot coffee forms a mini cloud right in front of them before it is suspended in the air. The woman takes a sip. She softly blows into the cup, trying to cool it down. She takes another zip. The couple remains quiet. The man still gazes at the Midnight Sun, his eyes filled with melancholy as if he realizes that life is passing too fast. The silence between them doesn't seem to matter. Suddenly, she interrupts the moment of silence: "dein kaffee wird kalt". The man nods. She repeats: "dein kaffee wird kalt". The man finally takes a zip. **(this scene will probably be staged)***

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*Cut back to the plateau: the people on the plateau start to put on their backpacks. They make their last picture. The guide holds a red umbrella and waves with it. People gather behind him. They all head in the same direction and leave the frame.*

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*Cut back to the bus stop: everyone is back on the bus. The bus drivers start the engine. The sign changes the destination displayed: NEXT STOP: HONNINGSVÅG*

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*Cut back to the plateau: The North Cape is empty again. The sunset is interrupted by the dawn, and the sun begins to rise again. The days here are never-ending, just like the view.*

#### **LOCATION #4 – HONNINGSVÅG INTERBELLUM SCENE**

*The camera is positioned on top of a mountain, tilted downward: as if the mountain is looking down at everything that's underneath him. The mountain feels superior from this higher-angle point of view. It is pointed toward Honingsvåg: the northernmost city in mainland Norway. The town is not big. It is dotted with quaint colorful houses that overlook the peaceful bay of the Barents sea. A few sailboats are tied to the dock. A small fishing boat sails past the pier into the harbor, followed by gulls circling in the sky. Some reindeer are grazing downhill. Suddenly, we hear the loud sound of a ship horn. The reindeer leaves, and the seagulls fly away. The massive cruise ship Mein Schiff 1 enters the frame. It is larger than the port itself.*

#### **LOCATION #5 – SAMI VILLAGE**

*(This scene needs further research). I would like to film a scene in a traditional Sami Village, where tourists make selfies with the indigenous people of Lapland and try to infiltrate into their lives by trying on their traditional clothes, feeding reindeer, and learning Joik for 15 minutes, before leaving again.*