

The Jungle Book

Kaa, the Rock Python, is stretched out on a warm ledge in the afternoon sun.

Ikki, the porcupine, enters and slowly moves this way and that, nibbling at plants and tree-bark.

Kaa watches her for a while, unnoticed.

Kaa I could eat you if I wanted to.

Ikki stops momentarily, looks up and sees Kaa, then ignores him and carries on nibbling.

Kaa Your quills make you presumptuous.

Ikki stops and looks at him for a moment, then speaks bluntly and without fear.

Ikki I don't know what that means.

Ikki turns away and continues nibbling.

Kaa I'm not saying I'd enjoy eating you. And quite frankly it would barely be worth the effort. But if I wanted to, I could.

Ikki I'll keep it in mind.

He continues, unbothered.

Kaa (*shocked*) The cheek! The bare-faced cheek!

(*to himself/audience*) I think it's time to teach this prickly little porcupine a prickly little lesson.

(*calling over*) Oh porcupine.

Ikki ignores him.

Kaa (*calling again more forcefully*) Oh porcupine!

Finally the porcupine turns to look at Kaa, who is staring fixedly at him as music starts.

Kaa Aha! I've got you now.