

THE MOON'S CHOIR

"The Sacred Bite"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. SILVERPINE LAKE - NIGHT

Moonlight shines through a dark, misty forest. A large lake, known as Silverpine Lake, reflects the Full Moon beautifully. The hauntingly calm scene is disrupted by the frantic <SNAPPING> of branches and <CRUNCHING> of leaves.

JASPER BLAKESLEY (early 40s) runs through the dark woods, holding his six-year old daughter LYRA, while his ten-year old son CAINE runs alongside him.

1 JASPER 1
Stay close to me, Caine!

Something in the woods is pursuing them. Despite the distance between them, the creature barrels towards them as its haphazard footsteps become louder.

Jasper finds a hollowed out tree, and places Lyra and Caine in there to hide. Jasper calms his panicked daughter.

2 JASPER (CONT'D) 2
It's okay, Lyra. It's okay.

3 LYRA 3
W-Where are you going?

4 JASPER 4
Stay in here. Keep each other safe,
okay?

He pulls out a SWORD from his side, bearing the emblem of the GALE GUARD, protectors of the town of Galestone.

Jasper turns and faces the creature that's been pursuing them. From the shadows steps forward a FERAL (werewolf)! Neither makes a move. The Feral stares down Jasper for what feels like an eternity... until it LUNGES!

As Jasper fights off the Feral, Lyra grips her brother tightly. She holds onto his QUIVER of arrows, drawing blood from her hand

5 C A I N E 5
(quietly) Lyra, you're bleeding!

The Feral **<SNIFFS>** the air. Blood. It turns its attention to the hollow tree.

6

JASPER

6

No! Stay on me!

The Feral ignores Jasper and rips away the tree. The kids **<SCREAM>** in terror, as the Feral readies to rip into them. But as it lunges forward, Jasper steps in and takes the full brunt of the attack.

The Feral rips into Jasper, he **<YELLS>** in pain. Caine shakily grabs an arrow from his quiver - the same one covered in Lyra's blood. He aims and releases it at the Feral, but it misses, only narrowly grazing it's exposed bite wound.

But in that moment, the Feral releases Jasper. It glances at its bite wound and runs off into the night. Lyra and Caine rush to their fathers side.

7

CAINE

7

Dad!!

But Lyra has noticed what happened. There's a large bite wound on Jasper's side.

8

LYRA

8

Daddy... you've been bit.

9

CAINE

9

We need to get you back to town!

10

JASPER

10

There's no time for that.

Jasper motions to the Full Moon hanging above them.

11

JASPER (CONT'D)

11

I'll become one of them soon.

Jasper weakly grabs an arrow from Caine's quiver and hands it to his son.

12

JASPER (CONT'D)

12

Caine... My sweet boy. I need you to be brave for me.

13

CAINE

13

No... No, I can't.

14

JASPER

14

I'm so sorry. But we don't have a choice.

Tears well up in Caine's eyes as he readies his bow. Lyra **<QUIETLY SOBS>** behind him.

15 JASPER (CONT'D) 15
I love you both so much.

Caine holds the arrow in place. He freezes. Jasper starts to convulse. He grips the grass below in pain.

16 JASPER (CONT'D) 16
(through gritted teeth) C-Caine...
Now!!

Caine continues to freeze. Jasper <SCREAMS> in pain as he looks at his children with teary, bloodshot eyes.

Suddenly, Lyra rips the bow out of Caine's hands and pulls back. She releases the arrow directly into her father's heart.

Jasper goes still, as the transformation is interrupted. Lyra falls to her knees, <SOBBING> loudly. We stay on her as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. GALESTONE - MARKET STREETS - MORNING

Lyra, now 21 years old, walks through the misty morning streets of Galestone. Her face is stoic and emotionless. She carries with her a heavy sack of metal items that <JANGLE> and <CRASH> into each other.

She hurries past two men, who are standing in front of a sign detailing the Full Moon tonight. They hand out flyers.

17 FLYER MAN 17
Don't get caught off guard tonight!
Educate yourself on what to do
during a Full Moon Feral attack!

The man tries to hand a flyer to Lyra, but she brushes past him.

18 FLYER MAN (CONT'D) 18
Hey, lady! This is important stuff,
we're trying to protect Galestone
here!

19 FLYER MAN 2 19
That's Jasper's daughter. She
already knows.

Lyra continues to walk forward, towards THE GRIZZLED TAP, a local tavern.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE**INT. BLAKESLEY HALL - MORNING**

Within the sturdy walls of Blakesley Hall, the council has gathered around the large oaken table for a meeting. Named in remembrance for their former leader, Jasper, a large portrait of him adorns the walls.

Leading the meeting is the head of the Gale Guard, DUKE SULLIVAN (large, extremely built, 50s).

20	DUKE	20
	As you know, a Feral gains strength during a Full Moon. We lost two citizens in the last year. That's two too many. Our numbers dwindle and their numbers rise.	

Caine, now 25 years old, sits at the table listening intently. He is now a member of the Gale Guard. He sits next to his friend and fellow Guard member MAEVE SULLIVAN (20s, long black hair, pale as a ghost).

21	DUKE (CONT'D)	21
	We don't have the luxury to live within the Halo of the Vale. We don't have their fancy guns and silver bullets. We have to fight <i>harder</i> . The Gale Guard have sworn an oath to protect, and we'll do that tonight. Meeting adjourned.	

As the Gale Guard disperses, Caine runs up to Duke.

22	CAINE	22
	Duke!	

23	DUKE	23
	<SIGH> What is it, Caine?	

24	CAINE	24
	Look, I've really improved my shot lately, and-	

25	DUKE	25
	We've been over this. You're needed on Citizen Safety, not with the Archers.	

26	CAINE	26
	But my father was an archer!	

27 DUKE 27
And you are not your father! Jasper
was ten times the shot you were,
and-

Ashamed, Caine looks away. Duke's expression softens.

28 DUKE (CONT'D) 28
Listen. Ensuring that townsfolk are
safely locked in their houses is
important. It matters, Caine.

29 CAINE 29
Right...

30 DUKE 30
Now, believe it or not, I've got
another bloody meeting to go to.
Counterfeit silver scams are up.
During a Full Moon, can you believe
that?

Duke takes his leave, as Maeve walks up to Caine.

31 MAEVE 31
Scamming townsfolk during a Full
Moon? Who could do such a thing?

32 CAINE 32
I have an idea, and I really hope
I'm wrong.

INT. THE GRIZZLED TAP - MORNING

In the lowly-lit Grizzled Tap tavern, Lyra has set up a side operation in a back corner away from the day drinkers.

A SCRAWNY MAN looks over her wares - counterfeit silver! He picks up a SILVER NECKLACE.

33 SCRAWNY MAN 33
So... this is real silver? I've
been hearing word there's
counterfeit going around.

34 LYRA 34
Anybody who would sell counterfeit
silver doesn't care about this
town.

Reassured, the man looks over the necklace with glee.

35 SCRAWNY MAN 35
And... it'll protect me from
Ferals?

36 LYRA 36
No living creature will want to
touch you.

He pulls out a sack of gold coins.

37 SCRAWNY MAN 37
Is 200 gold enough??

Lyra subtly pulls off a '100 gold' price tag.

38 LYRA 38
Well, that would be a pretty steep
discount, but... what the hell, I
like you.

The man hands Lyra the gold in exchange for the necklace, as
he takes off with gusto.

39 LYRA (CONT'D) 39
Good luck! You're gonna need
it...

Behind the man, another customer waits. A girl with silver
hair, a wolf mask, and a black cloak. This is RILEY WITTE.

40 LYRA (CONT'D) 40
You looking to buy?

Riley says nothing.

41 LYRA (CONT'D) 41
You want to do business, you take
off that wolf mask. A lotta nerve
wearing that around here on the
Full Moon.

42 RILEY 42
Do you wish to be free of the pain
you carry?

43 LYRA 43
Um. What?

44 RILEY 44
I've seen you. That shackled mind
weighs heavy on you. You seek money
to be free of it, but money won't
solve this.

45 LYRA 45
Are you like... looking to get your
ass kicked? Cause I can do that if
you want.

Riley places a stone on the table. It bears a strange symbol.

46 RILEY 46

Come to the clock tower before the
Full Moon rises. You can be healed.

Riley departs, leaving Lyra in awkward silence.

47 LYRA 47
Right. Need a drink after that.

Lyra walks to the bar and flags down the bartender. He knows what she wants, and gives her an ale. As Lyra goes to sip, she's tapped on the shoulder.

48 MUSCULAR WOMAN (O.S.) 48
You Lyra Blakesley?

49 LYRA 49
Yeah, what do you wan-

Before Lyra can turn her head, WHAM! She's punched in the face.

EXT. BLAKESLEY HALL - ARCHERY GROUNDS - MORNING

THUNK! A bullseye! Caine shot an arrow directly into the center of a hay-bale target. Maeve watches on.

50 MAEVE 50
Damn. Someone's been practicing.

51 C A I N E 51
Yeah, not enough. According to
Duke.

52 MAEVE 52
My father is blind to self-
improvement. You make one mistake
and that's it to him.

Caine releases another arrow. THUNK!

53 CAINÉ 53

I need to be on that watch tower tonight. I want to do something that matters. Something that can protect Lyra.

54 MAEVE 54
...Maybe I can talk to my dad. Not
as his daughter, but as head of the
archers. I can pull a few strings.

Maeve plucks her bow string. Caine <CHUCKLES>.

55 CAINE 55
Thank you Maeve. Can I buy you a
drink?

56 MAEVE 56
You damn well better. I'm putting
my job on the line for you.

INT. THE GRIZZLED TAP - LATER

As Caine and Maeve enter the tavern, they're greeted by a
full on bar fight... with Lyra at the center!

57 CAINE 57
Shit.

Pushing through the crowd, Caine makes it to Lyra just as
she's knocked backwards into him. She's drunk.

58 LYRA 58
Heeeeyyyyy Caine! Great timing, can
you hold my stuff?

Lyra shoves her satchel of counterfeit silver into his arms.

59 CAINE 59
Is this... fool's silver?!

60 LYRA 60
Yeah, dealing with a bit of a sales
dispute here. Also, I'm very drunk.

The MUSCULAR WOMAN from earlier grabs Lyra by the scruff of
her coat and pulls her back into the fight.

61 MUSCULAR WOMAN 61
You snake! You swindled my husband
out of our entire life savings!

62 LYRA 62
That's on you for marrying an
idiot. You can do better.

The woman punches Lyra in the face, as blood seeps out of her
nose. The woman throws another punch, as Lyra dodges and
punches her in the stomach. The crowd <CHEERS>.

The woman goes in for a devastating blow, when Caine jumps in to intervene. Several people in the crowd **<BOO>** in disappointment.

63 C A I N E 63
Hold on! Please forgive my sister,
she's... going through some things.

The woman raises an eyebrow.

64 LYRA 64
What are you talking about, I'm not-

65 C A I N E 65
Whatever she charged, I'll pay
back. What was it, 100 gold?

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66                               MUSCULAR WOMAN                                66
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Try 200.
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Caine shoots an angry look at Lyra before pulling out satchel to pay her. Taking the money, the woman spits at Lyra and Caine's feet.

67 MUSCULAR WOMAN (CONT'D) 67

You're everything wrong with this town. Scamming your own neighbors during a Full Moon? It's been downhill since Jasper died.

Lyra's eyes widen as the woman walks away. Lyra pushes Caine aside.

68 LYRA 68
You think I give a single *shit*
about this town? Once I'm out of
here and living in the Halo, the
Ferals can rip you and your dumb
fuck of a husband to shreds for all
I ca-

WHAM! The woman slams her fist into Lyra's face, knocking her out cold.

EXT. GALESTONE - RESIDENTIAL STREETS - DAY

Through the quiet residential streets of Galestone, Caine carries a passed out Lyra on his back through the fog.

69 C A I N E 69

I hope it was worth it. We paid
more in damages to the pub than you
made in your grifts.

70 LYRA 70
(incoherent mumbling)

71 CAINE 71
I'm trying to do what little I can
to protect this town, and you're
over here doing *this*.

72 LYRA 72
(mumbling) Caine... I'm sorry...

73 CAINE 73
You need to find a way to make
honest money. Something that
contributes to-

74 LYRA 74
(slurred speech) I'm sorry... about
dad...

Caine pauses. Tears well up in Lyra's eyes.

75 LYRA (CONT'D) 75
(slurred) I fucked up. I fucked up
so much.

Tears stream down Lyra's face, dripping onto Caine's neck as
he continues walking. His chin quivers, but he keeps it in.

76 CAINE 76
You didn't fuck up.

77 LYRA 77
I did. And I thought maybe I could
save up money. Leave Galestone, and
live in the walls. Anything to get
out of here.

Lyra <SOBS>.

78 LYRA (CONT'D) 78
I'm drowning here, Caine.

79 CAINE 79
I'm the one that put this all on
you. It wasn't your fault.

80 LYRA 80
(slurred) You don't understand.

81 CAINE 81
I understand more than anyone.

Caine continues to carry Lyra through the streets in silence.

82 LYRA 82
(mumbling) I'm sorry...

83 C A I N E 83
You don't need to apologize
anymore. It's okay.

84 LYRA 84
(mumbling) No... I just threw up on
your back.

Eyes widened, Caine picks up the pace to their house.

INT. BLAKESLEY HOUSE - LYRA'S ROOM - LATER

In fresh vomit-free clothes, Caine watches over Lyra, now in bed sleeping off the beatings and brews from earlier. He puts another blanket over his little sister, as he watches over her, concerned.

EXT. BLAKESLEY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

From the foggy street corner, Riley looks towards the Blakesley House, staring intently. She steps into the fog and disappears, enveloped by it.

EXT. SILVERPINE LAKE - UNDERWATER - UNKNOWN

Lyra slowly wakes up, blinking a few times before realizing... she's underwater!! Gasping for air, Lyra swims to the surface.

She's deep in this vast abyss, struggling to make it the top before she drowns. As she reaches the surface, a figure appears to be reaching its hand out to help. But upon coming above water, she's met face to face with... a FERAL!

INT. BLAKESLEY HOUSE - LYRA'S ROOM - EVENING

Lyra jolts awake in a cold sweat. Hours have passed, as the sun begins to set. She grasps her head, which pounds from the drinking and beating earlier.

Noticing a note on her nightstand, she reads it over.

85 LYRA 85
(reading aloud) I'll be at the
western watch tower tonight for the
Full Moon. Stay inside and lock the
doors. Be safe... Caine.

Lyra gets out of bed and heads downstairs.

INT. BLAKESLEY HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Lyra locks up the front door with what seems like an endless line of industrial locks, built to keep any Feral out. She turns and notices the rock that Riley gave her sitting on the table.

Lyra looks it over, and turns her attention to the window. <BONG. BONG. BONG.> The bell in the old clock tower rings throughout Galestone. Lyra looks back at the stone and decides to meet Riley at the clock tower. She grabs the rock... and a dagger sitting on the table.

EXT. GALESTONE - MARKET STREETS - EVENING

As the sun gets dimmer and dimmer, members of the Gale Guard carry torches around town, ensuring that the townsfolk of Galestone have safely locked their doors for the Full Moon.

Lyra stealthily sneaks by a Gale Guard member and continues on her way to the Clock Tower.

INT. CLOCK TOWER - EVENING

Lyra opens the large imposing doors of the Clock Tower. It <CREAKS> open as she walks through, cautiously. Minimal light shines through the dusty rafters.

As Lyra makes her way to the massive clockwork center, she's greeted by a familiar voice.

86	RILEY (O.S.)	86
	Lyra! You're here.	

Riley jumps down from the rafters, meeting Lyra face-to-face. She's still wearing her wolf mask.

87	LYRA	87
	Yeah. Um. Sure.	

88	RILEY	88
	I'm so pleased you've decided to come willingly. We've been waiting for you.	

A look of concern washes over Lyra.

89 LYRA 89
 'We'? I... I shouldn't have come
 here. This was a mistake.

But as Lyra goes to the clock tower doors, they <SLAM> shut with a cloud of dust kicking up.

90 EDGAR (O.S.) 90
It was no mistake. It's a miracle.

Lyra looks for the source of the voice. Above in the rafters, several other people wearing wolves masks and dark cloaks appear.

91	LYRA	91
	Who are you?	

92 EDGAR 92
You may call me Edgar. I'm a
friend, Lyra.

93 LYRA 93
...And who are they?

Lyra motions to the 8-10 cloaked figures above.

94 EDGAR 94

You have been chosen by The Moon's
Choir. We seek out those in pain,
held down by guilt and shame. We
heal them.

95 LYRA 95
You... heal people? How?

Edgar gives a gentle smile.

EDGAR

Through the sacred bite, my child.

<CLANK... CLANK... CLANK...> The sounds of chains echo throughout the old clock tower. Something walks forward from the shadows, slowly.

Into the light, a massive Feral known as an EXALTED FERAL appears. This large silver-coated Feral towers over a normal one, and is shackled with iron chain and an industrial strength muzzle.

Lyra's heart races as she immediately panics.

97 NO!!! LYRA 97

Two Moon's Choir Acolytes hold the chains to the Exalt as it walks forward to Lyra, slowly and menacingly. Lyra rushes to the door of the clock tower, but it's locked shut. She turns to face the Exalt.

98

EDGAR

98

You see, a Feral feels no shame. No guilt. Only unity and love for their pack. Through the bite of our Exalt, you will receive the healing you so desperately desire.

The Exalt has backed Lyra to a corner. Frozen in fear, Lyra stares into the beasts eyes.

Pitch black. Filled with hate.

The muzzled beast stares her down for what feels like an eternity.

99

EDGAR (CONT'D)

99

Through pain, there is purity.

The Acolytes release the chains, and the Exalts muzzle comes unhinged.

It LUNGES at Lyra, and all goes dark.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. WESTERN WATCH TOWER - EVENING

As the sun sets, Caine and Maeve make their way to the large Western Watch Tower of Galestone. The tall tower stands above large wooden stakes protruding outward.

100	MAEVE	100
	Your vantage point should reach out to Silverpine Lake. You'll be alone, but there's an alarm bell. I'll be able to hear it from the Northern Tower if anything goes wrong.	

Maeve eyes Duke speaking with several other Gale Guard members by the base of the tower.

101 MAEVE (CONT'D) 101
Just... For your sake *and* mine,
don't let anything go wrong.

102 C A I N E 102

Don't worry. I'll make my father
proud tonight.

Maeve gives Caine a pat on the shoulder.

103 MAEVE 103
Shoot sharp, my friend. I'll see
you at dawn.

Maeve departs, as Caine looks onward at the large Western Tower. As he starts up the steps, he's interrupted by Duke.

104 DUKE 104
Don't make me regret this.

Caine turns to face Duke.

105 CAINE 105
Thank you for trusting me, Duke.

106 DUKE 106

Don't be mistaken. I don't. But I
do trust my daughters judgment. Her
shot never falters. Make sure yours
doesn't tonight.

Duke departs, as Caine makes his way up the stairs. He stops and calls out to Duke.

107 CAINÉ 107
I won't hesitate. Not again.

Caine continues up the stairs.

INT. CLOCK TOWER - EVENING

Vision blurred, Lyra slowly comes to. It's unclear how much time has passed, but she's been out of commission for a bit.

Reality sets in, as Lyra feels a sharp pain at her side. Through her POV, she reaches down and feels her side. A large, gaping bite wound aches at her side.

108 LYRA 108
N-No... No, no, no!!

Lyra looks up and sees the Exalted Feral. She jerks back in fear as the beast <ROARS>, but it's yanked back by its chains. It <GROWLS> in anger. Edgar walks forward looking pleased.

109 EDGAR 109
She has been purified!

The Moon's Choir Acolytes <HOWL> in delight, in an almost coordinated chant. Edgar kneels down to Lyra, brushing her loose hair out of her face. Lyra grits her teeth in anger.

110 LYRA 110
Fuck you.

111 EDGAR 111
We understand your confusion. But
you've received a most precious
gift.

He caresses her bite wound. Lyra <YELLS> in pain.

112 EDGAR (CONT'D) 112
When the Full Moon rises tonight,
you will be permanently
transformed. You'll shed your old
life, your old thoughts, your old
shame, and will become anew.

Edgar motions to the Choir members, who have joined him on the ground.

113 EDGAR (CONT'D) 113
A beautiful voice in Our Choir.

Lyra pulls out a concealed dagger and SLASHES Edgar's hand, blood seeping out. The Exalted Feral <SNIFFS> the air and goes into a frenzy. The Choir members struggle to get it under control, yanking the chains with force.

Edgar does not react in anger or pain. He simply licks the blood from his hand.

114	EDGAR (CONT'D)	114
	You will understand in time. We will wait right here with you, until you're ready to surrender your shame.	

As Edgar turns away, Lyra clocks a nearby rope. It's suspending a SANDBAG in the air, directly above one of the Choir members holding the Exalts chain.

She acts quickly, using her dagger to cut the rope. The sandbag DROPS, hitting the Acolyte in the head, breaking his neck and killing him instantly.

With one less Acolyte holding back the Exalt, it uses its strength to overpower the rest, whipping its chains around. Edgar looks on in horror.

115	EDGAR (CONT'D)	115
	E-Exalt, no!!	

Now free, the Exalt lunges at another Acolyte, killing her. In the sheer chaos of the moment, Lyra escapes from the scene. Despite the carnage, Riley spots Lyra leaving.

EXT. CLOCK TOWER - NIGHT

The Exalted Feral climbs up the rafters of the Clock Tower, making its way to the very top overlooking all of Galestone.

The beast <HOWLS> loudly, piercing the silence of the night. Down below on the streets, Duke looks up in horror.

116	DUKE	116
	Bloody hell.	

EXT. WESTERN WALL TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Caine hears the distant howl. He searches around, but sees no sign of its source.

EXT. SILVERPINE LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Deep in the forests surrounding Galestone, near Silverpine Lake, several mangy and malnourished FERALS are prowling. Their ears perk up, as they hear the howl of the Exalt. They **<HOWL>** in response, and run towards Galestone on all fours.

EXT. GALESTONE - BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Night has fallen on Galestone, as Lyra limps as quickly as she can away from the Clock Tower. The streets are quiet.

After putting some distance between herself and the Clock Tower, she collapses in a back alley. Finally getting a chance to survey her bite wound properly, wincing at the sight of it.

117	LYRA	117
	Fuck... Why... Why?!	

Lyra looks up to the night sky. As the clouds separate, the Full Moon becomes visible, shining brightly. She closes her eyes in anticipation, but nothing happens.

118 LYRA (CONT'D) 118
 (to the moon) What's the hold up?!
 JUST TURN ME ALREADY!!

119 RILEY (O.S.) 119
Speaking with the moon, are we?

Riley reveals herself on a nearby awning. She drops down.

120 RILEY (CONT'D) 120
It's okay. I do it too. It connects
us as a pack.

121	LYRA	121
	Get out of here. Now. LEAVE!	

122 RILEY 122
It's curious that you haven't
turned yet. But don't worry, I'm
certain it will come.

Lyra makes a pathetic attempt to attack Riley, but falls back in pain.

123 RILEY (CONT'D) 123
What did it feel like? I want to
know what to expect when my time
comes.

124 LYRA 124
You really believe this shit, don't
you? You think *this* (motions to
bite) is healing?!

125 RILEY 125
Yes. Anything to take away these
thoughts of mine.

Lyra's expression softens a bit.

126 RILEY (CONT'D) 126
Edgar is a kind man. He brought me
into the Choir when I was a child,
and helped me realize how broken I
was. I was given this mask, to
graciously hide my old face.

Riley briefly touches her mask.

127 RILEY (CONT'D) 127
Someday, my face will be of a body
that brings me peace. And so will
yours.

128 LYRA 128
You're insane.

Riley turns with intensity.

129 RILEY 129
You have *no* idea what I've done for
you. I would do *anything* to be
bitten by an Exalt!

Lyra doesn't respond. She waits for Riley to calm down.

130 RILEY (CONT'D) 130
Though... I am displeased by his
actions tonight. Killing our own
and attacking townsfolk is not our
way.

131 LYRA 131
Attacking townsfolk?! That thing is
loose in Galestone?!

132 RILEY 132
He's been ravaging the west side of
town. Very unbecoming of an Exalt.

Lyra powers through her pain and stands up, running as
quickly as she can.

133	LYRA	133
	Caine!	

Riley calls out after her.

134 RILEY 134
I'll be waiting to welcome you as
my kin, Lyra.

EXT. WESTERN WALL TOWER - NIGHT

Caine surveys the forest. <SNAP> the cracking of a branch! He hastily points his arrow at the source - a fox. Caine lowers his bow as it runs off.

Caine <WHISTLES> softly to himself to pass the time.

Off in the distance, faint **<SCREAMS>** can be heard. The ringing of an alarm bell comes from the north side of town.

135 CAINE 135
Maeve...?

The stomping of footsteps on cobblestone overpower the distant bell, as Lyra runs frantically towards Caine.

136 C A I N E !! LYRA 136

Confused, Caine looks over the edge to see Lyra. But their meeting is interrupted, as the Exalted Feral BURSTS out of the rooftop of a nearby building. It **<HOWLS>**.

137 LYRA (CONT'D) 137

LOOK OUT!

Before Caine can react, wild Ferals from the forest rush out of the darkness. They lunge over the wooden stakes. Some are impaled and killed, but others latch onto the watch tower. Their weight is too much, and the watch tower collapses.

EXT. NORTHERN WALL TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Maeve and other Gale Guard members are on the ground, fighting off the wild Ferals. She notices the western watch tower collapse.

138 MAEVE 138
Oh shit. Caine!

EXT. WESTERN WALL TOWER - CONTINUOUS

As the dust settles, Lyra scans the rubble, searching for Caine. Dead Ferals are scattered around. Lyra spots her brother, his leg trapped under a large beam of wood.

139	LYRA	139
	Caine!	

She helps her brother up, but he <GRUNTS> in pain. His leg is very obviously broken.

140 C A I N E 140
M-My leg... I, I think it's broken!

141	LYRA	141
	You think?!	

One of the wild Ferals weakly sits up. It's still alive, and **<GROWLS>** at Lyra and Caine.

142 LYRA (CONT'D) 142
We need to get out of here. Give me
your arm!

Caine stands up with the help of Lyra. The wild Feral stands and lunges. But SLASH! Duke comes in, slaying the monster!

143	DUKE	143
	Get to safety!	

144 CAINE 144
N-No!! I need to stay and fight!

145 DUKE 145
Not with that leg! Find shelter,
now!

146	LYRA	146
	Listen to the man, Caine!	

Caine reluctantly goes with Lyra, as they both limp past Gale Guard members fighting off the mangy Ferals. Lyra spots The Grizzled Tap, its windows broken open.

147		LYRA (CONT'D)	147
	There!		

INT. THE GRIZZLED TAP - NIGHT

The once lively tavern is now dark and quiet, with only the screams and chaos outside filling in the silence. Lyra brings Caine behind the bar, searching for some alcohol.

She finds a bottle, takes a swig, and then pours some on a cloth.

148 LYRA 148
 Sorry in advance.

149 CAINE 149
 For what-

Lyra places the alcohol cloth to Caine's bloody leg. He
<WINCES> in pain.

150 CAINE (CONT'D) 150
 Son of a bitch!

151 LYRA 151
 I said sorry.

152 CAINE 152
 How did that huge Feral get into
 town? Was I just not paying
 attention? I can't believe I-

Caine stops as he notices Lyra's bite wound.

153 CAINE (CONT'D) 153
 What is that?

Lyra turns away from Caine.

154 CAINE (CONT'D) 154
 Lyra. Tell me.

155 LYRA 155
 I guess it's my punishment for back
 then. I thought I could find a way
 out of this. Be free.

She turns back to Caine with a sad smile.

156 LYRA (CONT'D) 156
 But there's no escape for me. No
 other way.

Caine grabs his sister and holds her close.

157 CAINE 157
 W-We can go find Duke. He'll know
 how to help, he can do something!

158 LYRA 158
 Caine. I need you to promise me
 something.

Caine breaks from his embrace and looks at Lyra.

159	LYRA (CONT'D)	159
	When I turn, promise me you'll put me down. Don't let me be a monster.	

Tears stream down his face. Lyra puts her hand on his cheek, wiping them away.

160 LYRA (CONT'D) 160
I know you can do it.

Caine can't bring himself to answer. He just nods his head.

<SHATTER>! Something has broken into the Grizzled Tap. Lyra and Caine are interrupted as they look above the bar, they see the Exalt fighting with a Gale Guard member. RIP!! The Guard member is killed.

Before he can eat, the Exalt looks up, smelling Caine's blood. Lyra reaches for something to cover up his wound, but accidentally knocks over the bottle of alcohol, with another loud <SHATTER>!

The Exalt is immediately alerted to Lyra and Caine and it lets out a loud **<ROAR>!** Lyra pulls Caine up, and the two make a break for it. They knock down tables and chairs to impede the Exalt, but it simply swipes away the wooden furniture.

161 CAINE 161
We can't get away, it's too fast!

His leg has turned purple from the pressure he's put on it.

162 LYRA 162
We can't. But *I* can.

Lyra pushes Caine aside gently.

```
163                CAINE                                163
What are you doing?!
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164 LYRA 164
Remember your promise.

Lyra grabs a bottle and tosses it at the Exalt's head.

165 LYRA (CONT'D) 165
Take the bait, you ugly son of a
bitch!

Infuriated, the Exalt sets its sights on Lyra and Lyra alone. It chases her out of the tavern, leaving Caine alone.

166 CAINÉ 166
LYRA!!

EXT. GALESTONE - MARKET STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Lyra runs through the devastated streets of Galestone. The Exalt chases her, its imposing size destroying anything in its path.

As she puts some distance between herself and the Exalt, her head begins to pound.

167 LYRA 167
AH!

She collapses to her knees behind a flower cart in Market Square. She looks up at the Full Moon. It's brighter than ever. Almost as if it's calling to her. She's finally turning.

168 LYRA (CONT'D) 168
Not now, not now!!

Lyra begins to convulse, as her bones shift around under her skin. The pain is unbelievable.

As her skeleton reforms, her skin begins to burn. Thousands of hairs burst forward from her at lightning speed.

Her hands and feet extend, ripping apart her shoes. Long sharp nails rip out of her skin in a bloody display. She can no longer react to the pain, as she lays there, comatose.

Her skeleton SNAPS one last time, as her face contorts and reforms to the face of a monster - a FERAL! As the excruciating pain finally comes to an end, Lyra collapses.

EXT. THE GRIZZLED TAP - NIGHT

Caine tumbles his way out of the Grizzled Tap, limping along the side of a building.

He steps on his broken leg wrong, and tumbles... but is caught by Maeve!

169 MAEVE 169
Caine!! What happened to you?

170 CAINÉ 170
Lyra... I need to find Lyra!

171 MAEVE 171
Your leg... holy shit, we need to
get you to a medic.

172 CAINE 172
NO! S-She's gonna die! She's gonna
die!!

Caine powers through the pain and continues limping.

173 MAEVE 173
Caine, stop!!

EXT. GALESTONE - MARKET STREETS - LATER

Lyra, now fully transformed into a Feral with oak brown Fur and wearing the tattered remains of her cloak, slowly sits up, examining her newly padded hands.

174 LYRA (V.O.) 174
No...

She spots a puddle and catches her reflection - horrified at her new form. Tears well up in her eyes before it hits her.

175 LYRA (V.O.) 175
How...? How am I...? Am I
thinking?!

Lyra struggles to stand up, unused to her hind-legs.

176 LYRA (V.O.) 176
I shouldn't be able to think.
Ferals *can't* think! A-Are they
sentient? Would Dad have been
sentient?!

But she can't balance, and she falls once again.

177 LYRA (V.O.) 177
Did I kill him for nothing!?

<SCREEEEEECH!> A piercing loud noise cuts through Lyra's ears, almost like that of a dog whistle. It's unbearable, she writhes in pain from the sound of it. She looks over the flower cart, and spots the Exalt, pained by the noise too.

It searches for the source before honing in on the Clock Tower. It runs off. Lyra struggles to stand up, gaining her balance. She follows after it, determined for answers.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CLOCK TOWER - LATER

The large doors of the Clock Tower burst open, as a figure walks in. Immediately, chains fly out from the rafters, apprehending the figure. As it's pulled into the light, it's revealed to be the Exalted Feral.

The Exalt thrashes around violently, but with multiple Acolytes holding the chains down, it's subdued. Edgar appears, walking forward to the Exalt. He removes a WHISTLE from his mouth.

178 EDGAR 178
You've given into your shame, High
Exalt. The Hound Master will not be
pleased.

The Exalt **<SNARLS>** at Edgar, trying to break free.

179 EDGAR (CONT'D) 179
But We forgive you. After all,
healing is always possible. Our
newest member of the pack shows
that.

Edgar motions to the door, revealing Lyra. She holds her bloody bite wound as she carefully walks forward.

180 EDGAR (CONT'D) 180
Acolytes, ready your chains. Our
new member may attack out of
confusion.

Amongst the Acolytes, Riley readies a chain to leash Lyra. But Lyra doesn't attack. She merely walks forward, trembling.

The Acolytes lower their chains in confusion.

181 ACOLYTES 181
What's she doing?/Why isn't she
attacking?/I don't understand.

Lyra stops and begins to **<GROWL>**. But unlike a normal Feral, hers comes out as a garbled mess. Almost as if she's trying to speak.

182 RILEY 182
Master Crowe, is she trying to
speak?

183 EDGAR 183
No. No, that's...

Edgar steps forward cautiously, observing Lyra. Her eyes are full of life, confusion, and questions. He realizes she's sentient.

184 EDGAR (CONT'D) 184
Impossible.

Lyra and Edgar stare at each other as he processes.

185 EDGAR (CONT'D) 185
She must be resisting healing. Her guilt is more intense than We had thought.

Edgar turns his attention to the Exalt.

186 EDGAR (CONT'D) 186
But... a second blessing should do it.

Edgar walks behind the Exalt and pulls out a WHIP. He whips the Exalt from behind. It rages. He whips once more, and holds its head to look directly at Lyra.

Edgar nods at the Acolytes to release the chains. Hesitantly, the Acolytes slowly release the chains, as the Exalt lunges at Lyra. She SLASHES back at the beast, her claws now unleashed. But the Exalt is too much for her to fight off for long, even in her new form. She's pinned to the ground.

The Exalt snaps its mighty jaws at Lyra. She uses all of her strength to push the beast away, but she's only able to keep it a few inches from her face. As she pushes, her bloody hand makes contact with the Exalt's bite wound.

All of a sudden, the Exalt stops attacking. As Lyra looks into its eyes, she no longer sees the pitch black eyes of a beast, but rather the eyes of a human.

187 EXALT 187
What... did you do...?

Lyra understands his words, though the humans do not.

The Exalt lets up on Lyra and stands up. The Acolytes let loose the chains, confused about what's happening. There are <WHISPERS> amongst the crowd. The Exalt turns to Edgar in anger.

188 EXALT (CONT'D) 188
What did you do to me?!

Looking into the eyes of the Exalt, Edgar realizes he's not looking at a mindless beast anymore. The Exalt **<YELLS>** in anger, and rushes towards Edgar. His claws ready to rip into Edgar's flesh.

Edgar panics and pulls out a PISTOL. With a pull of the trigger, a SILVER BULLET shoots through the Exalt's head, shooting him dead.

Silence. Nobody says a word. Lyra, Edgar, Riley, the Acolytes. They all stare at the dead Exalt in silence. But commotion outside wells up. People have started to gather.

189 EDGAR 189
Acolytes, disperse.

Nobody moves.

190	EDGAR (CONT'D)	190
	NOW!!	

Edgar and the Acolytes all vanish into the darkness of the Clock Tower, leaving behind Lyra and the dead Exalt. Riley goes to leave, but turns and takes one last look at Lyra... before vanishing as well.

EXT. CLOCK TOWER - NIGHT

The streets of Galestone are silent now. The invading Wild Ferals have all been slain or ran off, and their bodies line the streets, alongside several dead citizens.

After the loud gunshot, Duke, Maeve, and other members of the Gale Guard have arrived outside the Clock Tower to investigate.

191 DUKE 191

Be prepared for whatever comes out
of that tower.

Maeve draws her bow, aiming at the door. The halls inside are dark, but the sounds of padded feet on a wooden floor can be heard, getting louder and louder.

<TAP. TAP. TAP. TAP.>

From the shadows, the Feral Lyra appears before them. Maeve lowers her bow.

192	MAEVE	192
	Oh God. It's... Lyra.	

Caine hastily pushes through the crowd. Despite his leg, he powers through to the front. He catches sight of Lyra, wearing her tattered cloak.

193 DUKE 193
I'm sorry, Caine.

Spotting Caine, Lyra tries to speak.

194 LYRA 194
Caine... Caine, it's me!

But in the crowds POV, all they hear are the <GROWLS> of a monster. Misty-eyed, Maeve raises her bow at Lyra. But Caine extends his arm, lowering it.

195 MAEVE 195
Caine, don't.

196 C A I N E 196
I promised her.

Caine raises his bow. Ready to fulfill his promise, he aims directly at Lyra. She stares back in disbelief, as she stands up fully, her imposing stature hanging over the crowd.

197 LYRA 197

NO, WAIT!

Once again, cutting to their POV, all they hear is an angry **<ROAR>**. Caine releases his bow, as an arrow flies directly into Lyra's shoulder. She looks down at the arrow, gritting her teeth with adrenaline.

Lyra grabs the arrow and RIPS it out! She charges towards the crowd, as the Gale Guard braces themselves. But instead, she jumps over the crowd, clearing them and running towards the woods.

198 DUKE 198
Do not let her leave town! Put her
soul to rest!

Duke and the Gale Guard charge after Lyra, as Caine stares unmoving at the spot he shot the arrow. Maeve stays behind with her dear friend.

EXT. SILVERPINE LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Lyra runs out of Galestone and into the forest on all fours. She dodges the barrage of arrows being shot at her by the Gale Guard.

She runs, and runs, until... she trips! She falls directly into Silverpine Lake and goes deep underwater. She struggles to swim towards the surface, but as she reaches it, she's met with... her own face. She's shocked and lets out her air in a <YELP>. She passes out and sinks...

INT. BLAKESLEY HOUSE - FOYER - MORNING

The following morning, Maeve arrives at Lyra and Caine's house. Finding the front door ajar, she lets herself in.

199 MAEVE 199
Caine...? Are you in here?

The house is a mess. Clothes and food are strewn about chaotically. Caine enters the room, hastily packing a bag. He doesn't acknowledge Maeve.

200 MAEVE (CONT'D) 200
You're going after her, aren't you?

201 CAINE 201
It's as I said last night. I made a promise.

Caine continues packing, but Maeve observes his bag.

202 MAEVE 202
You think that's enough food for the journey back too?

Caine stops and makes eye contact with Maeve. They both look at each other, and it's immediately clear he's not planning a trip back.

203 CAINE 203
Let me go, Maeve.

204 MAEVE 204
Only if you let me come with you.

205 CAINE 205
Absolutely not. This is mine to do.

206 MAEVE 206
You would be right by my side if the roles were reversed. I'm coming.

207 CAINE 207
Who will lead the Archers?

208 MAEVE 208
Blake's been eyeing my role for
years. I'll let him have a taste
for a few weeks.

209 CAINE 209
...I won't stop you.

210 MAEVE 210
And I won't stop you.

Caine nods at his friend. He grabs his bag and his quiver.

EXT. SILVERPINE LAKE - MORNING

It's unclear how much time has passed. On an unknown shore,
Lyra washes up. Still a Feral, she slowly opens her eyes. She
looks at her padded hands. It wasn't a dream.

211 LYRA 211
I guess it was real.

She closes her eyes again, unmoving. A CROW flies down and
pecks at Lyra's feet.

212 LYRA (CONT'D) 212
Leave me here to rot. You won't
wait long.

But her sulking is interrupted by a fierce instinct.
Everything turns red through her POV as her ear perks up.

213 LYRA (CONT'D) 213
What... What the hell?! Not more
wolf shit...

She looks for the source of whatever is calling out to her.
Her sights settle on the Halo of the Vale, the massive silver
wall the looms over the kingdom, protecting the capital city.
It's sitting far far off in the distance.

214 LYRA (CONT'D) 214
Is this... Ow! Is this some kind of
instinct? Why? Why are you pulling
me towards the Halo of all places?

She looks it up and down.

215 LYRA (CONT'D) 215
I can't make it in. Not anymore.

But the burning instinct is too much for her to ignore. She
needs to follow it, or she'll drive herself crazy.

216 LYRA (CONT'D) 216
Something in there's calling to me.
But I can't go. Can I?

She looks to the Crow. It <CAWS>, as if saying "I dunno" before flying away. She looks towards the direction of Galestone. Lyra stands up, readying to run towards the Halo.

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217                LYRA (CONT'D)                217
                No other way.

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Lyra takes off on all fours, running towards the Halo of the Vale.

INT. CHOIR HALL - DAY

Within the ornate, gorgeous cathedral of the Moon's Choir, stained glass windows adorn the walls of the sprawling hallway. They depict various events of Feral history.

Riley wanders through the hallway, but stops before a corner. She overhears a private conversation between Edgar and another high-ranking DEACON.

218 DEACON 218
Are you certain?

219 EDGAR 219

We saw it with Our own eyes.
Whatever she is, her blood released
our control on the Exalt.

220 DEACON 220
Then she must be snuffed out.

221 EDGAR 221
Yes. His vision is not to be
compromised.

Riley leaves.

INT. CHOIR HALL - RILEY'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Riley enters her quarters and sits in front of a mirror. She stares back at herself through her wolf mask, before slowly reaching up and removing it.

Riley's face is revealed for the first time. She touches her cheek, almost not recognizing herself. She places the mask in a drawer and closes it.

THE END