

City of Caves

The White Tiger

By

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CITY OF CAVES

"White Tiger"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. BASEMENT POOL. DAY

We hear the sound of swimming. Billi, an Indian woman in her late twenties, is swimming laps of a short pool in a red bikini; she is the only person there.

There are no windows; the pool area is lit by fluorescent tube lights; the walls are painted in garish bright colours.

Billi's P.O.V, we see: under the water, side of the pool, under the water, side of the pool as she swims "Cello suite number 1 in G Major" is playing through her waterproof MP3 player. As the music starts to reach its crescendo, we see a pair of slightly dirty brown leather boots pacing alongside her.

As the final note of the music is played she pulls herself out of the pool, takes off the MP3 player, pulls her hair into a pony tail, sighs, as a man steps up behind her.

He reaches down with a single hand grabbing her by the throat from behind, lifts her into the air turning her to face him. She holds his forearm for support, and looks utterly terrified. She kicks out trying to free herself, gripping his forearm for support.

The man is a vampire, smiling at her almost gleefully.

VAMPIRE

Didn't your mother tell you it's
dangerous to be alone?
You never know who might be
watching.

His voice is gravelly.

Billi suddenly relaxes, causing the vampire to becoming angry and raising Billi up higher in an attempt to scare her.

BILLI

Didn't yours tell you not to play
with your food?
Look at me...seriously.

Billi speaks with considerable ease even though she is lifted two feet in the air by her neck.

The vampire looks at her angrily. Then without dropping her reels back a little suddenly scared but determined not to lose his meal.

BILLI (CONT'D)
 (Sniffing the air)
 The others who came along for the ride have abandoned you.

BILLI (CONT'D)
 What clever boys.

VAMPIRE
 Well, more for me then.

Billi rolls her eyes. The vampire snarls showing his fully extended canines and drops Billi to the ground.

There is an explosion of snarling teeth and fur. Billi has transformed into a Bengal Tiger.

Fear grips the vampire's features, Billi quickly severs his head from his body.

Billi, instantly back in human form, dashes for the shelter of a large white towel. Once covered she collects the pieces of her ruined bikini.

BILLI
 (Holding bits of bikini)
 I hate Mondays.
 God, it's too early for this shit.
 Billi leaves the pool side, the room goes quiet.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

EXT. NOTTINGHAM TRAIN STATION. DAY

Its morning, we hear muffled announcements and see trains arriving.

A train glides to a halt. We follow a group of people as they disembark, in the centre of the group there is a tall blond/white haired man, JACK, we follow him out of the station. We see his face, he is pale, and has blue eyes.

He stands on the curb and looks around; he inhales deeply through his nose, crosses the road towards the city centre.

He slows, looking interestedly at one of the many bricked off cave entrance's before heading up a large staircase next to the green Nottingham Contemporary gallery and into the Lace Market. He takes out his phone and looks up an address.

We see the word Opium in the search box.

INT. CITY CENTRE APARTMENT. DAY

BILLI is sitting in her towel at a white desk, writing shorthand notes in a red notebook.

Classical music plays quietly in the back ground. She takes a photo of her notes and sends it to a contact in her phone.

She glances at an old entry, we see the word "Council" Billi exhales deeply;

FLASHBACK

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER. DAY

BILLI IS STOOD IN A LARGE GRAND ROOM, IN FRONT OF ODDLY DRESSED MEN, ALL LOOKING CONDESCENDINGLY AT HER FROM BEHIND A LARGE ALTER.

She looks unimpressed.

SIMBA

(Wearing robes making it obvious he is a

LION)

I find your insistence on raising this point time and time again frustrating and insulting. Questioning what is written is sacrilege! As is your insistence on being trained in combat techniques by a domestic female.

The word "domestic" is said with some distain.

BILLI

Look, it's not my fault she's better at it then any tiger that's tried to teach me.

An Indian man whose robes declare that he is a Tiger shifts angrily in his seat, and he address's Billi

BAGH

You were called here today to answer for your continued insubordination, and for your neglect of your role as a female. Not to once again draw our attentions to your personal beliefs, beliefs we have warned you of in the past.

BILLI

Well, my belief we're not gods, just relics, is not only true, but can be proved. The fact that you pious wankers have your heads so far up your own arses that you're not willing to see the truth is not my concern. And as for neglecting my role as a female, well, I will take up that mantle as soon as you admit our heritage. Until then I will continue to keep my city safe from the evil we drew into this world.

CUT

INT. CITY CENTRE APARTMENT. DAY

Billi is pulled back to reality by her phone beeping.

She looks at her messages and sees a shocked cat emoji.

She smile's but does not reply. She turns to a large map of Nottingham and places a red sticker over her apartment block, the map is covered in little dots of various colours.

She dresses smartly for work, finishing with a lanyard.

We see the words Coroner's Office printed on it.

Her phone rings as she is about to leave, she looks at the number, its showing as unknown. She answers

UNKNOWN MALE VOICE (O.S)
(digitally disguised
voice)
(MORE)

UNKNOWN MALE VOICE (O.S) (CONT'D)
 You're in danger, she is in danger.
 The White Tiger is in Nottingham.

BILLI
 Who is this? Where did you get my
 number?
 Hello!

There is no response and the phone line goes dead. We hear the dial tone as Billi stares at her phone.

BILLI (CONT'D)
 What the f...

CUT

EXT. THE LACE MARKET. DAY

Jack is standing in front of a red door on a Victorian building, the street is quiet.

The word Opium is adorned in red over the door.

Jack presses an intercom buzzer, speaking with an Eastern European accent.

INTERCOM - FEMALE (O.S)
 Yes

JACK
 I have a meeting with Eldred.

The door opens slowly, it looks like no one has opened it.

INT. FOYER OF BAR. DAY

Jack enters, the door closes behind him and we see a female vampire emerge from the shadows.

The room opens into bar and restaurant with a stone staircase.

It's silent as Jack follows the vampire up the stairs; the sound of her heels and his boots on the bare stone echoing as they go.

Candles burn on each step.

INT. LOFT BAR. DAY

The room is lit by hundreds of candles, large red paper lanterns hang low from the ceiling, heavy deep red curtains block all natural light. Cello music plays softly.

Jacks P.O.V we see low tables scattered around the room, at a few sit men and women, obviously but discreetly armed, watching him. In the corner a terrified young woman is playing the cello, watched by a small group of vampires.

Jacks focuses on the girl; we hear her heart beating fast.

A plush grey sofa runs along the length of the back wall. In the centre of this behind a low black lacquered table, on which stands a pot of tea and two white china cups, sits a beautiful man in a smart suit. ELDRED

Jack walks up confidently and sits on the low bench opposite the man in the suit. He looks in his mid-forties, dark hair and very dark eyes, he is clean shaven.

He looks at Jack with some curiosity, and raises an eyebrow.

Eldred silently pours Jack a cup of tea and slides it across the table, as Jack lean in to accept it every vampire in the room, apart from Eldred put their hands to their weapons.

ELDRED

You must excuse them, the thought of meeting the white tiger has them on edge.

We see a smug smile pass over Jacks face

ELDRED (CONT'D)

I'm told you can help me fix the small cat related problem I've been having

Jack sips his tea

JACK

For the right price, I can help you fix anything.

FADE

EXT. NOTTINGHAM CITY CENTRE. DAY

Holding a bright yellow umbrella Billi heads out.

It's quiet; people are rushing to get to work and out of the rain. The area is pedestrianized, there is little noise besides the rain.

Billi does not rush. She walks down the side of the large council house and towards the main entrance.

EXT. MARKET SQUARE. DAY (SAME TIME)

It is raining; Jack is leaning against a large white stone statue of a lion.

He pulls out his phone and we see a map on his screen.

As he walks away from the council house.

As he gets close to the castle, he sniffs curiously the air and suddenly looks disgusted.

JACK

A domestic? They're not paying me this much to take care of a domestic. Must I do everything myself.

He walks back towards the market place.

As Jack reaches the market place he catches a scent on the air.

JACK (CONT'D)

Tiger...

Jacks P.O.V we focus on a yellow umbrella climbing the stairs into the council house.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oh, Ms Choudhry I believe, you're the trouble maker, I might have known.

INT. OFFICE. DAY

Pale grey daylight is supplemented by ineffective tube yellow lighting. The desks are piled in files and the phones are already ringing incessantly.

A young woman dressed in smart office attire walks over to Billi

SARAH

Look at you, it's raining out there
and look at you. You look like
you've just stepped out of your
front door.

BILLI

(smiles)

Well I pretty much have, plus I
have the trusty yellow umbrella.

(she places a hand onto
Sarah's arm)

Don't suppose I could get a cuppa
could I?

SARAH

(SMILES)

Course, milk no sugar right.

BILLI

Thanks, you're a star

Sarah leaves and an older man enters.

JON

You'll have her fetching lunch for
you soon.

BILLI

Well that's what assistants are
for.

JON

True, but you're both department
assistants... she's not yours.

He smiles and hands her a file.

JON (CONT'D)

The police think they're looking at
a serial murderer. Another of the
strange puncture wounds has come
up. Can you find all the other
files belonging to this?

BILLI

Oh, ok

I keep telling them to look for a
vampire. But they won't have it.

Jon leaves the room, and Billi starts to move files around on
her desk, Sarah puts a cup of tea in front of her and sits
back at her desk.

INT. CAVE. DAY

A beautiful woman is walking casually through a dimly lit sandstone cave. The loose stone and sand crunch slightly beneath her feet.

She comes to a heavy wooden doorway and presses her ear up against it before sniffing the air around it.

She looks content that she is alone. And moves to open the door.

We hear a buzzing; the woman looks confused for a second before rolling her eyes and digging a mobile phone out of her pocket.

SALLY

Billi, hi

EXT. LACE MARKET. DAY

We hear footsteps on paving stones; Billi is walking through the back streets towards a large church carrying her lunch. She is on the phone.

BILLI

Who's the white tiger?

INTERCUT BETWEEN SALLY AND BILLI

SALLY

Yeah, I'm good thanks, how are you?
Hold on a mo. My signals a bit shit here.

Sally begins to walk away from the door towards the caves entrance

BILLI

Jesus, sorry, hi Sal. This is important.
I got a call this morning from an unknown number, and a disguised voice said, the white tiger is in Nottingham and that I am in danger. I mean obviously, I am terrified... but who the hell is the white tiger?

SALLY

Who called?

BILLI

An unknown number. How should I know, that was all they said, when I asked who was calling they just hung up.

SALLY

The white tiger, hold on let me have a look

Sally uses her phone to access some files and reads them quickly.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Erm. Oh, ok. He's an assassin. But why would you be in danger from an assassin? I mean he's one of us so he shouldn't be looking to hurt us. But you know, I guess we're no longer "one of them", though I'm pretty sure the council wouldn't put a hit out on you over a little disagreement about our heritage. Well, I'm like 75% sure they wouldn't.

BILLI

Very reassuring Sal. Do we still have friends in the council willing to risk being shunned to warn us, though even if it was someone from the council they'd have called you not me. I mean, you're the nice one.

SALLY

(laughs)

I have no idea honey, even my family have stopped talking to me, honestly, it's ridiculous

BILLI

It's politics, of course it's ridiculous! OK so I'll be on the lookout for "the white tiger". Should be easy to spot him.

SALLY

Yeah, if he's got any sense he'll be the one running from you.

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)
 I'll make a call, see if I can find anything out. Because you're right, I am the nice one, I do have a few contacts left at the council.

BILLI

THANKS SAL,
 Where are you? You're not spelunking in your lunch hour, are you.

SALLY
 What after you explicitly told me not to?
 Why would I be down in the caves in the day time, when all the vampires are here...
 No, obviously not.

BILLI
 Just be careful

SALLY
 Bye Billi

Jacks P.O.V we are watching Billi on the phone. She hangs up then stops suddenly, looking around for a moment before moving on.

INT. CAVE. DAY

Sally pushes hard against the wooden door, it opens slowly to reveal a large room, Sally takes out a torch and shines it along the walls, there is nothing there, until she brings the beam of the torch over a small door at the far end of the cave, slowly and cautiously she moves across the room, her footsteps make no sound now. She crouches down to the door and pushes it open a fraction, sniffing the air.

Carefully she pushes it all the way open and shines in her torch

SALLY
 Jackpot

She crawls into the room and the door shuts.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM'S LACE MARKET. NIGHT

A cold night.

We hear the rhythmic beat of music coming from the various bars; the streets are bathed in a patch work light. Traffic continues to rumble by.

Standing on the cross roads of 3 streets, Billi looks at the bars, before crossing the road to a bar called Image.

INT. IMAGE BAR. NIGHT

Billi enters the bar; it's dark, there are a handful of customers drinking. The barman is preoccupied with a brash girl ordering drinks. The music is loud and monotonous. Billi walks unnoticed behind the bar and into the back room.

INT. BACK ROOM OF BAR AND BASEMENTS. NIGHT

There are wire shelving wracks filled haphazardly with crisp boxes and bottles of spirits.

Billi walks down a set of stairs caved into the stone, she does not turn on any lights. The basement is a cave carved into the sandstone and is empty apart a well in the very centre, Billi walks over to the well and peers in.

Billi's P.O.V it's empty

Her footsteps make a slight crunch on the bare sandstone floor as she walks, this is the only sound we hear.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM'S LACE MARKET. NIGHT

Billi looks at a Hotel, she sniffs the air. This causes her to turn left and head to a bar across the road.

She stops suddenly in the middle of the road and sniffs the air again, she keeps looking around.

Billi's P.O.V each sound can be pinpointed. We hear people talking mixed with music and people eating and laughing in the various bars, we are looking from side to side, taking in as many sights and sounds as we can.

A tram driver's bell snaps Billi back to reality, and she hurries into the bar.

Across the street, we watch Billi descend the stairs into Tantra.

INT. BASEMENT BAR. NIGHT

The bar is long, and runs down the wall of the bar; the furniture is black, silver and red, along one wall there are padded booths with no chairs or tables, littered with cushions and screened by red beaded curtains.

Music is playing and the lighting is low and red.

A barman, TOM, wipes down the bar and smiles as he sees Billi enter. Billi sits at a barstool, turning it to face the people drinking.

Billi's P.O.V looking at the beaded booths we take in all the customers, we come to the silhouette of five people sitting and lying around. Billi focuses her attention on this group and we hear a distinct sound, a single heartbeat.

A drink is placed onto the bar next to her; she didn't order it. She swivels the chair back to face the bar.

BILLI

Thanks, Tom

The barman smiles and moves down the bar to serve new customers.

Billi sips her drink and watches the shadows moving behind the curtain.

As she watches them she looks surprised. She gets out her phone.

BILLI (TEXTING) (CONT'D)

I've found a desideratum... haven't seen one of those since the whole twilight episode. X

SALLY (TEXT REPLY)

Ha, well keep her safe. Happy hunting xx

SALLY (TEXT REPLY) (CONT'D)

Oh, and the W.T is not working for the council, they haven't heard from him in over 6 months, though he'd been killed. xx

Billi reads interestedly and then puts her phone in her bag.

A dark-haired vampire swaggers confidently across to her.

BILLI

What an idiot...

VAMPIRE (2)

I tasted your stench as soon as you came in.

When he speaks, his tone is calm.

VAMP (2)

We don't like your kind

BILLI

That's good to know.

BEAT

Who's the girl? How long does she have left?

VAMP (2)

She's calls herself Joanne, I call her dinner.

He grins as he speaks showing off his distended canines

VAMP (2) (CONT'D)

You're interesting though; a cat, that much is obvious. What kind I wonder...not your typical domestic, no, maybe something cute, like a Lynx.

BILLI

I'm Indian genius, take a guess.

Billi leans in closer and almost whispers

BILLI (CONT'D)

Better still why don't you take me somewhere private and see for yourself.

Billi sits bolt upright as a break in the music causes the bar to fall silent, in that moment we see the hairs on the back of her neck stand on end and a look of shock and fear grip her features.

The vampire is staring at Jack walking down the stairs, the vampire walks backwards towards the others in his booth, knocking the drinks out of a woman's hand.

Billi slowly gets to her feet; we can hear her heart beating a little too fast, she closes her eyes takes a deep breath and her heartbeat slows.

Billi turns and comes face to face with a strikingly handsome man.

BILLI (CONT'D)
 (To herself)
 Shit

They stare at each other for a moment until panic breaks out around them.

Billi looks down and touches herself, making Jack laugh.

Smoke billows out of the booth where the vampires were sitting, leaving the girl looking confused; the fire alarm starts to go off.

JACK
 You're alright...

He smiles at Billi and puts a hand on her shoulder; she looks surprised that he has touched her.

JACK (CONT'D)
 They went that way, should we follow?

BILLI
 (Pause)
 No, they'll be off into some cave system now. And we have to be seen to leave through the main door

The barman comes over

TOM
 Come on Billi, we need to be outside.
 Now.

The three of them leave.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM'S LACE MARKET. NIGHT

Billi pushes Jack up the street away from the crowd.

We hear sirens in the distance.

BILLI
 Who the hell are you?
 What are you doing in my city?

She punctuates her words with a push further away from the crowd outside the bar

BILLI (CONT'D)
 I lost four vampires tonight!

Jack almost laughs.

Firmly but gently Jack holds Billi's arms to her sides and walks her across the road into the shadow of another building.

JACK

Oh, they'll be back.
And if word spreads that there's a
male tiger in town, you could be
vampire free for thee, maybe even
four days.

He let's go of Billi's arms, Billi growls a little

JACK (CONT'D)

I'm Jack, I'm not here to take your
city.
I'd heard about your quarrels with
the council, as someone who also
thinks the council lacks vision I
thought I should introduce myself.
You sounded interesting, you remind
me of my younger self, so much
potential.

BILLI

You don't know anything about me.
The council thought you were dead
by the way, they'll want to speak
to you.

JACK

You know who I am?

BILLI

Yes, of course.

Jack looks happy with this

JACK

I didn't think you were on speaking
terms with those... pious wankers,
that's what you called them wasn't
it?
Come on I'll buy you a drink, it's
the least I can do.

Jack guides her down a side street and into a Chinese restaurant and bar called Opium.

INT. CHINESE BAR. NIGHT

It's dimly lit, there are black, gold and red lacquered partitions and plush red and gold seats around tables of white linen, a black lacquered bar, more red and gold furnishings and large red paper lanterns hang low from the high ceilings.

We hear quiet conversations and oriental style music playing softly in the background.

Jack enters first and smiles at the seated guests, closely followed by an irritated looking Billi.

BILLI

(Slightly hushed voice)

You took a stupid risk just to introduce yourself, cornering me like that.

I'm young, this is still my first life, you're lucky that I'm able to control myself.

What if I'd changed?

She is anxious, obviously frustrated, talking in an angry whisper she keeps looking agitatedly at the people in the bar.

JACK

There's a protocol in place for that

BILLI

Yes, a rather bloody one.

JACK

Look I think I've caused more grief than I thought I would.

It's just; well, I've spent time with other tigers before, and to be honest, most women don't mind my company.

Billi is on edge, we see the hairs on the back of her neck stand on end again.

She shivers and rubs her temples as if fighting off a headache. Jack starts smiling almost laughing at her.

BILLI

Yeah, well I'm not most women sweetheart.

BEAT

What are you so happy about?

There is a snarl in Billi's voice. The bar has fallen silent.

We hear a door lock behind them; Billi turns her head a little towards the sound but does not take her eyes off Jack.

JACK

Oh, nothing much, I just enjoy it
when things go my way.

Billi finally looks at the people in the restaurant, they all have glasses filled with something dark red and as we listen we can only hear two heart beats hers and his...

BILLI

Shit

When she looks up Jack has stopped smiling and is standing with his arms in an open gesture

JACK

Indeed,
These, are my clients.

The vampires smile at Billi, but some look confused.

JACK (CONT'D)

They've asked me to have a little
chat with you. See if I can't stop
you getting in their way.
While I do admire what you're doing
here, removing vampires from the
city, it's just that vampires are
hardly difficult to kill, are they.

Billi closes her eyes again; we hear her breathing start to slow and calm.

When she opens her eyes her new expression causes a brief look of doubt to cross Jack's face.

Billi walks around the room, from table to table playing with cutlery, picking up a fork here replacing it there, discretely picking up a knife.

BILLI

Right, so that's why you've turned
on your own kind is it?
You need a bigger challenge.

JACK

Well that certainly keeps it
interesting, but they also pay
rather well.

BILLI

What if I was to kill you?
How quickly would they be able to
find someone else willing to face
me?

Billi is right in front of him now.

JACK

Well, I rather think you don't know
how to do that. Which is why there
is a knife pressed over my heart.
Really? You do realise that will
have little effect.

Billi is holding a knife over Jack's heart, he moves closer
to her causing the tip to rip through his shirt and push into
his flesh enough to make him bleed a little; causing the
closest vampires shift uneasily.

Billi stands firm.

BILLI

Perhaps not, but it will certainly
sting.
Don't make me do this Jack.
I don't want to kill a tiger.

Jack laughs and then snarls, he begins to transform, but
showing off, making it take longer than necessary.

Before Jack can react Billi's jaw transforms into her tiger
form, and she rips into Jack's throat spraying the startled
vampires in Jack's blood.

His body stands motionless before collapsing into a bloody
heap at Billi's feet

BILLI (CONT'D)

He's all yours.

The vampires attack Jack's body, Billi shelters behind the
bar, undresses and turns into the tiger.

She pounces on a vampire, as they try to draw weapons, Billi
pounces again, lunging at a group of vampires.

A vampire stabs Billi on the shoulder with a copper blade.

Soon there is a single female vampire standing in the centre
of the room, she looks terrified, Billi allows her to run
away.

Billi goes back behind the bar changes back into her human form wincing at the cut on her shoulder, there's something lodged in it that she cannot reach. She puts her clothes on and leaves.

Her foot steps are all we hear as she makes her way out avoiding the blood on the floor.

INT. LARGE WHITE BATHROOM. NIGHT

Billi is looking at herself in the mirror and sends a text.

She looks detached. She turns on the shower and gets in fully dressed, sits on the floor under the water hugs her knees and begins to cry.

The water starts to run red. The sound of the shower echoes around the tiled room.

Billi's phone begins to ring and ring and ring.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

We hear banging in the distance, someone is trying to get into the house, suddenly a redheaded woman of a similar age to Billi bursts into the bathroom.

SALLY

Oh Christ. Bill what happened?
Where are you hurt?
Come on kiddo, tell me.

Sally takes off her shoes and jacket and climbs under the water with Billi.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Jesus! It's freezing!

She turns the temperature up before physically pulling Billi's face to hers.

Sally spots the cut on Billi's shoulder, she sees the copper glinting in the light and quickly pulls it out.

Sally hugs Billi tightly and puts her forehead onto Billi's. We hear purring and Billi seems to relax a little. Sally takes Billi's out of the water. Grabbing them both towels and wrapping Billi tightly. The shower is still echoing around the room.

BILLI
I had to kill him.
What choice did I have?

SALLY
Ok honey, you're not making much
sense. Who did you kill?

Billi looks up at Sally like she is seeing her for the first time.

BILLI
The white tiger, I had to kill the
white tiger.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. OPIUM BAR. DAY

Eldred stands surveying the mess in the weak light from the paper lanterns.

Jacks body is no longer there, only the single terrified female vampire who had been let go. She is standing in the centre of the blood stain, looking at her feet. The room is silent. Eldred is flanked by smartly dressed vampires.

ELDRED
Tell me again, why did he bring her
here?

Eldred walks to the bar and pours a drink.

SOPHIA
He told her he'd been asked to take
care of her. That she'd been
causing a stir, and they were going
to have a little chat.

BEAT
But she didn't smell right. She
didn't smell like the cat in the
caves.

ELDRED
Then why didn't anyone tell him
that!

In anger Eldred throws the now empty glass at her feet, causing her to wince and jump. But she says nothing.

ELDRED (CONT'D)

Why did he have to be so stupid, I wasn't paying him to look for a threat, I was paying him to deal with one.
Is a damned domestic too problematic for a male tiger!

Eldred's phone beeps, taking a deep breath he pauses to look at his phone, he's receives a text, he reads it, then talks to one of the smartly dressed vampires behind him.

ELDRED (CONT'D)

It seems that the cat may be visiting the tiger, if this spy has followed the correct scent. I assumed they knew of each other's existence, but their kind are rarely friends.
This could complicate matters.

Looking at the mess in the room, before turning and storming out

ELDRED (CONT'D)

Get this cleaned up!

INT. BILLI'S APARTMENT. DAY

Sally hands Billi a large cup of coffee in a white mug, Billi takes it without a word

SALLY

Why don't you come to the house for a few days? I don't think I should leave you alone.
I called your boss and said you'd be off ill for a while.

Sally walks to the fridge and opens it, looking for something to feed to Billi, but she refuses

SALLY (CONT'D)

You've got to eat something kiddo

BILLI

(snaps)

How can I eat after what I've done!

Sally tenses, growls and seems to disappear, we see her clothing in a pile on the floor and a large long haired black and white cat climbs out of the centre of them, hisses at Billi and runs under the sofa.

BILLI (CONT'D)
(Sighs)
Shit, Sally.
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to shout,
it's just that I'm angry

The cat hisses again and Billi walks over to the charcoal grey sofa, and slowly sits cross legged on the floor in front of it.

BILLY
I know, I know, it's not your fault
that I'm mad.
I guess I'm just sick of everyone
telling me what I should be doing.
Or generally trying to kill me.

The cat comes out from under the sofa and sits on Billi's lap and purrs.

BILLI
Does this mean I'm forgiven?

She picks up the cat and gently rubs her face on hers.

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR. DAY

A man is standing in the hallway, looking at the number on the door, he seems hesitant to knock.

He knocks.

INT. BILLI'S APARTMENT. DAY

Billy looks confused and Sally, still a cat, cocks her head to one side.

BILLI
I'm not expecting visitors, so you
stay as you are.
I'm starting to think this town is
no longer a safe place to be a cat.

Billi goes over to her door and looks through the peep hole,
Peep hole POV, a man is looking right back at her

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR. DAY

Billi opens the door and stands blocking the man's way

BILLI

Can I help you officer?

The man DC PRATT, seems to remember that he has a job to do and stands up straight.

DC PRATT

That's detective Pratt to you, detective, see, no uniform.

BILLI

Well no, apart from your terrible dress sense.

(BEAT)

Did they tell you if you covered yourself in that terrible after shave I wouldn't be able to smell them?

Trust me, nothing stinks quite like a vampire.

Are they upset I killed their hit man?

DI PRATT

It did surprise them a little, not that you killed him, but rather that he tried to kill you. Is your friend in? I was told she was here.

BILLI

My friend?

Sally's curiosity gets the better of her and she walks out of the door, rubbing herself on Billi's ankles. DC Pratt takes out his phone and casually takes a photo of Sally's cat form. Sally darts back into the house

DC PRATT

Perfect.

Billi grabs DC Pratt by the wrist, squeezing him hard, he is obviously in pain. But Billi does not let go.

There's a ding as an elevator arrives at the end of the long corridor, the doors open and a scent hits Billi making her recoil a little, but she does not let go of DC Pratts wrist.

A man in his thirties, GEORGE, steps out of the lift and looks at Billi

BILLI

This your police dog? A werewolf, very progressive.

DC Pratt looks at George with some horror

GEORGE

He didn't know what I am, let him go, he's only here because he's scared.

BILLI

And why are you here? Can't be scared of the vermin, can you?

Billi let's go of DC Pratts wrist much to his relief, he drops the phone and she stamps on it. George bends down and picks up the pieces pushing them back into DC Pratts hands.

GEORGE

I suppose I am. Just trying to keep a friend safe. She means a lot to me.

BILLI

Safe, you could kill them all, well enough of them to keep her safe.

Even without the moon you have more power than they can handle.

George looks surprised. Then turns to DC Pratt

GEORGE

Go, tell him what you've seen, now. The cats gone anyway, I can't smell her anymore.

DC Pratt leaves in a hurry, Billi looks into the house at Sally, who's tail is poking out from under the sofa.

She stares at George as realisation dawns.

DC Pratt is nowhere to be seen.

BILLI

It was you, you called me..

GEORGE

Look, I can't stay long, they'll get suspicious. Just get her out of here. Keep her safe. She's getting too close.

BILLI

Too close to what? Who are you?

GEORGE

Just a friend that's all. Promise
me you'll keep her safe.

BILLI

Well obviously.

George nods and runs off down the corridor, he makes a call
as he goes.

GEORGE

She's gone into one of the caves,
it's too small, I've lost her.

Billi shuts the door slowly.

INT. BILLI'S APARTMENT. DAY

Billi leans on the door and looks at sally, Sally runs into
Billi's bedroom. She returns to the doorway in human form
wearing a white bathrobe.

SALLY

Is everything you own
monochromatic?

Billi is still staring at Sally

BILLI

What have you been doing?

INT. CANDLE LIT CAVE. DAY

Eldred is draining the blood from a man, we can only see him
from behind.

George enters, his boots heavy on the stone floor as the man
slides to the floor, its DC Pratt. George looks upset.

GEORGE

He had a family!

ELDRED

He talked too much, and ate too
much salt.
I thanked him for his efforts of
course.
And now we know what we are looking
for, a long haired black and white
cat, Norwegian Forrest I imagine.
But then, I think you knew that
already didn't you.

George looks around him as the smartly dressed vampires move in closer, trying to surround him.

ELDRED (CONT'D)
What did you tell her?

GEORGE
I didn't tell her anything. But if you continue to go after the cat she will find you. Billi will kill you all!

George is grabbed by a couple of vampires, they pin his arms behind him and he struggles to try to free himself.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
She did tell me something though, something that you failed to mention.

With a growl and a lot of effort, George partially transforms, his strength increased he attacks the nearest vampires and kills three of them.

The rest back away and George bolts for the door.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM CITY STREETS. DAY

Billi is walking through town, she has a large cotton tiger print scarf wrapped around her neck and shoulders and a pair of tiger striped trainers.

She has a large bag over her shoulder, we can just see the black and white face of a cat peeking out of the top, Billi gently pushes her back inside,

BILLI
Come on, stay in the bag.

She carries on walking up a side street towards the castle, as there are fewer people she begins to talk to the bag.

BILLI (CONT'D)
Where is it again?

There's a muffled meowing from the bag.

BILLI (CONT'D)
No need to be like that, I've not been here for a while.

They turn into a gated Victorian estate; large brick houses line the streets.

Billi walks along a line of 3 storey houses until she sees a man leaning against the door of a house. Its George and his clothes looked ripped and dusty.

Billi tenses, George stands and looks at her

GEORGE

You were right, I could kill them easily, I didn't realise. Where's Sally? Is she ok?

Billi studies him for a moment

BILLI

How do you know where she lives, how do you know her name, who the hell are you!

GEORGE

My names George, I worked with Sally. You know, before the whole,

He mimes howling at the moon

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Thing...
She's my friend, and when I came back I guess I smelled different and she sort of backed away from me.
I didn't know what it was, at first.

Billi still looks stern

BILLI

What about the vamps?

GEORGE

I'd been using the caves as a place to hide on a full moon, I came around one day to find a gang of vampires had me cornered. They told me things, scared me, used me. That's how I found out about the White Tiger. I knew I had to tell you.

Suddenly Sally jumps out of the bag and runs around the back of the house.

After a few minutes the front door opens and there's Sally, human again, dressed in a green dress. Billi and George both look at her in awe, she's beautiful.

SALLY

Why don't we continue this
conversation inside, with a cup of
tea, like normal people?

Billi and George exchange looks and enter the house.

END