

City of Caves: The White Tiger

by

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THE WHITE TIGER

TEASER

INT. BASMENT POOL. DAY

The pool area is lit by fluorescent tube lights. There are no windows. The walls are painted in bright colours. We hear swimming.

BILLI, an Indian woman in her late twenties, is swimming laps of a short pool in a red bikini; she is alone. 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.

BILLI's P.O.V, she sees: under the water, side of the pool, under the water, side of the pool. Boots walking along the side of the pool.

As the final note of the music plays she pulls herself out of the pool, takes off the MP3 player, and sighs.

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. BILLI kicks out trying to free herself, gripping his forearm for support.

The MAN is a VAMPIRE, he's smiling at her almost gleefully.

VAMPIRE

Didn't your mother tell you never
to go anywhere alone?

His voice is rough.

BILLI suddenly relaxes, causing the vampire to becoming angry and raising Billi up higher trying 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 off the floor 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 have gone.
What clever boys.
You're on your own now.
(Smiles)
Didn't your mother tell you never
to go anywhere alone?

VAMPIRE
More for me then.

Billi rolls her eyes. The vampire snarls showing his 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 decapitates him with a single bite, and the vampire crumbles to dust.

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

BILLI
(Holding bits of bikini)
It's too early for this shit.
God, I hate Mondays.

Billi leaves the pool, the room goes quiet.

END OF TEASER

EXT. NOTTINGHAM TRAIN STATION. DAY

Morning, grey and wet, 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, late thirties, we follow him out of the station. We see his face, he is pale, and has ice blue eyes.

He takes out his phone and looks up an address. We see the word Opium in the search box.

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

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" and Billi exhales deeply;

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER. DAY

BILLI is stood in a large grand, dimly lit room that looks like an empty church, facing a group of oddly dressed men in robes, look frustratedly at her from behind a large stone candle covered alter.

They are staring, trying to make her feel small or to make themselves feel important, it doesn't work. She meets their stares, unimpressed, unmoved.

A large black man Wearing robes suggesting he is a Lion talks at her.

SIMBA

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 by a domestic
female.

The words "domestic female" is said with some distain.

BILLI

Why did you ask me here today?
Surely you knew this wasn't going
to go the way you wanted.
You couldn't tame me at 15, what
hope do you think you have now.
And why do you think Sally trains
me? It's not like you actively
encourage women to better
themselves.
No, you keep them locked up as
your damn slaves, all for the good
of our kind!

An Indian man whose robes declare that he is a Tiger shifts angrily and he address's Billi.

BAGH

You were called here to answer for your continued insubordination, and for neglecting your role as a female. Not to once again draw our attention to your personal beliefs; beliefs we have warned you against in the past.

BILLI

My belief that treating women like cattle is wrong is never going to change; neither is my belief that you're not gods, which we can prove by the way.

It's probably why you don't allow people like Sally and I to have an education, you don't want those below you in the food chain asking uncomfortable questions.

Besides, the fact you pious wankers have your heads so far up your own arses that you're not willing to see the truth, is quite honestly, not my concern.

And as for neglecting my role as a female, well.

Intercut as Billi talks with flashes of silent images...

- Sad young girls in dingy rooms...

BILLI (CONT'D)

You have your whores locked up at the baby factory don't you.

- A young woman, 15/16 years old, leads a man far older than her into a room...

BILLI (CONT'D)

And you remember what happened to the last man who tried it with me don't you?

- A Tiger mauls a man's leg as he screams...

BILLI (CONT'D)

Did he ever walk again?

END FLASHBACK:

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. 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)
 You're in danger.
 She is in danger.
 The White Tiger is in Nottingham.

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

There's 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 on a quiet street, in front of the red door of a Victorian building. The word Opium is written on the red over the door. Jack presses an intercom buzzer.

INTERCOM — FEMALE (O.S)
 Yes

JACK
 I have a meeting with Eldred.

The door opens slowly, from Jacks point of view 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 behind it. The room opens into bar and restaurant with a stone staircase up one wall. Candles burn on each step. It's silent as Jack follows the vampire up the stairs; the sound of her heels and his boots on the bare stone echo through the solemn space.

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 he see's low tables scattered around the room, at a few sit men and women, obviously but discreetly armed, watching his every move. 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. THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP.

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 late-20's, and has very dark eyes.

Eldred 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 puts their hands to their weapon.

ELDRED

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

We see a smug smile pass over Jacks face.

ELDRED (CONT'D)

I'm informed you can help fix the small cat related problem I've been having.

Jack sips his tea.

JACK
 For the right price, old man, I
 can fix anything.

EXT. MARKET SQUARE. DAY

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. He walks away from the statue. As he gets closer to the castle, he sniffs the air curiously and suddenly looks disgusted.

JACK
 A domestic? They're paying me this
 much to take care of a domestic.
 Must I do everything myself.

He turns back towards the market place, he catches a scent on the air.

JACK (CONT'D)
 Tiger...

EXT. MARKET SQUARE. DAY (SAME TIME)

Holding a bright yellow umbrella Billi heads to work. It's quiet; people are rushing to get out of the rain. Billi does not rush. She walks leisurely towards the main entrance of the council house.

EXT. MARKET SQUARE. DAY (SAME TIME)

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

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

INT. OFFICE. DAY

Pale grey daylight is supplemented by ineffective tube lighting. The desks are piled with files and the phones are already ringing continually. A young woman dressed in smart office attire walks over to Billi.

SARAH
 Look at you, it's pouring out
 there and look at you.
 (MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)
 You look like you've just stepped
 out 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
 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 puncture wounds has come up.
 Can you find all the other files
 relating to this?

BILLI
 Oh, ok sure.
 I keep telling them to look for a
 vampire. But they won't have it.

Jon smiles and 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 red haired 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 (SAME TIME)

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

BILLI

Who's the white tiger?

INTERCUT BETWEEN SALLY AND BILLI

SALLY

I'm good thanks for asking. 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 Sal, hi.
This is important.
I got a call this morning from an unknown number, and some shit disguised voice warned me that the white tiger is in Nottingham and that I am in danger.
I mean obviously, I'm terrified..
But who the hell's 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)

Oh, err. 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 sure the council wouldn't put a hit out on you, well, I'm like 75% sure they wouldn't.

BILLI

Very reassuring Sal. Do we still have friends in the council willing to risk everything to warn us, though 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. If it was mum she'd just have called, no need to disguise her voice.

BILLI

(a little distant)

Yeah, she would have.

(brightens up again)

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. I'll make a call, see if I can find anything out. You're right, I am the nice one, I do have a few friends left at the council.

BILLI

Thanks Sal, where are you?
You're not spelunking in your
lunch hour again, 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 Sal.

SALLY

Bye Billi.

Jacks P.O.V he is watching Billi on the phone. She hangs up then stops suddenly, looking around for a moment, feeling watched, 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, catching a scent she turns left and head to a bar across the road. Stopping 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 runs down the wall of the bar; the furniture is black, silver and red, there are padded "bed style" booths littered with cushions and screened by red beaded curtains.

A barman, TOM, wipes down the bar and smiles as he sees Billi enter. Billi sits at a bar stool, 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)
I've found a desideratum... haven't seen one of those since the whole twilight debacle. x

SALLY (TEXT REPLY)
Ha, well keep her safe. Happy hunting xx

Billi's phone beeps again.

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, thought 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.

VAMPIRE (2) (CONT'D)
We don't like your kind in here.

BILLI
That's good to know.
(BEAT)
(MORE)

BILLI (CONT'D)
 Who's the girl? How long does she
 have left?

VAMPIRE (2)
 She's calls herself Joanne, I call
 her dinner.

He grins as he speaks showing off his distended canines.

VAMPIRE (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 suddenly 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 are ok. No change here.

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, gathers herself)
No, they'll be deep in the caves now.
And we should 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, looking angry. 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 you never know, 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 a certain amount of 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.
The White Tiger.

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 for ruining your hunt.

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?

Billi seems 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

(looks disapproving)

Yes, a rather bloody one, you can't be ok with that.

JACK

(gives some impression that he doesn't care)

Look I really didn't think you'd mind.

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 wildly at her.

BILLI

Oh, so that's why you're here, well I'm not most women sweetheart. don't you know what happened to the last man who tried that?

(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 share confused
whispers.

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.
I do admire you're work, removing
so many vampires it honorable
really, but it's just vampires are
hardly difficult to kill now, are
they.

Billi closes her eyes; we hear her breathing start to slow
and calm. When she open's 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.
I thought you might understand,
this is for the future of our
kind, a new start away from the
council.

BILLI

You thought I'd approve of my own death at the hands of my own kind, while he's working for my enemy? No matter how I feel about the council, killing another cat is just not right, that said, 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. You do realise that will have little effect don't you, or do they really not teach the women anything?

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, we should be working together.

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 and white table cloths 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.

Unable to resist the vampires attack Jack's body, shoving each other out of the way to try to get to the bleeding body.

Billi moves behind the bar, removes her clothing, folding them into her bag, and turns into the tiger.

She pounces on a vampire, some try to draw weapons, others try to leave. Now frantic with fear. But in their panic, they cannot unlock the door.

Billi pounces again, lunging into a group vampires.

A vampire pulls out a copper blade and stabs Billi in the shoulder breaking the knife into the wound.

As each vampire is killed small piles of dust appear and then are blown quickly away.

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

Billi returns to the bar and changes back into her human form, wincing at the cut on her shoulder, she cannot reach the knife still lodged into the wound.

She dresses carefully before heading for the door.

Her foot steps are all we hear as she makes her way past Jacks body, avoiding the blood smeared across 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.

INT. LARGE WHITE BATHROOM. NIGHT (LATER)

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're 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!

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

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

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.

INT. OPIUM BAR. DAY

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

Jacks body is no longer there, only the single terrified female vampire who Billi allowed to live. 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. 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!

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's scent has been found at the tiger's apartment block.

Eldred talks almost to himself.

ELDRED (CONT'D)

I assumed they knew of each other's existence, how could they not, but their kind are rarely friends.
Mind you females of any kind are not usually allowed out.
So, it would seem these two women could be more than just rouge cats.

Looking at one of the suited men, he grins.

ELDRED (CONT'D)

If they're vexing the council I may find it difficult to harm them.
The enemy of my enemy...

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

ELDRED (CONT'D)
Get this cleaned up!

INT. BILLI'S APARTMENT. DAY

Sun pours into the minimalist apartment. 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, I 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 then 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,
I'm just 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.
I'm just tired of everyone telling
me what I should be doing.
Or generally trying to kill me.
(sighs)
God, I just didn't want to ever be
in that position again.
Him or me.
Sal, I was scared. And I had to
kill another tiger. I just...

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.

BILLI (CONT'D)
Honestly Sal. I don't know what
I'd do without you.

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR. DAY

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

He knocks.

INT. BILLI'S APARTMENT. DAY

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

BILLI
Expecting visitors?
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. She sees a man waiting.

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR. DAY

Billi opens the door and stands blocking the entrance.

BILLI
Can I help you constable?

Billi puts a little too much emphasis on the pronunciation...
cunt-stable...

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.

BILLI
Oh, well that's much better.

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?

DC PRATT

It did surprise them a little, not that you killed him, 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. 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

So why are you here?
You're not scared of the vermin, are you?

Billi lets 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'm just doing what I need to; to keep a friend safe.

BILLI

Safe, how new are you?
You could kill them all, well enough of them to keep this friend 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. The cats gone anyway, I can't smell her anymore.

DC Pratt leaves in a hurry, Billi peers inside the house at Sally, who's tail is poking out from under the sofa. She stares at George as realisation dawns.

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 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.

INT. BILLI'S APARTMENT. DAY

Billi leans on the door and looks at Sally, who 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 is angry.

GEORGE
He had a family!

ELDRED
He talked too much.
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 as smug vampires move in closer, trying to surround him.

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

GEORGE
How do you know?

ELDRED
It would seem the good detective
overheard some conversation.
I'll ask again, what did you tell
her?

GEORGE

Billi? I didn't tell her anything.
But if you continue to go after
that cat, she will find you, and
she will kill you all.

George is grabbed by two vampires, they pin his arms behind him and he struggles to free himself.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

She told me something though.

With a growl and a lot of effort, George partially transforms.

His strength increases and he attacks the nearest vampire throwing him into a door breaking it, the others try to stop him, and pulling a heavy splinter of wood from the shattered door, George kills them.

The rest back away and form a protective line in front of Eldred, who seems amused. George bolts out of 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. The cat meows.

BILLI

Look, sometimes I like to wear
this, it reminds me of who I am.
(more meowing from the
bag)
Oh, shut up.
Come on, stay in the bag.

She carries on walking up a side street towards the castle she begins to talk to the bag.

BILLI (CONT'D)

Where is it again?

There's a more meowing from the bag.

BILLI (CONT'D)

No need to be like that, I've not
been for a while.

They turn into a gated Victorian estate; large brick houses line the streets. Billi walks down a line of 3 storey

houses and she sees a man leaning against the door Sally's 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? She's not home, 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

I'm George, I worked with Sally. You know, before the whole...

He mimes howling at the moon.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Thing... She's my friend, well she was, when I came back from my last holiday 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 unconvinced.

BILLI

What about the vamps? Why were you helping them?

GEORGE

What, I wasn't. Not really. I'd been using the caves, someplace safe to hide on a full moon, I came around one morning to find a gang of vampires had me cornered. They told me things I didn't understand, scared me, used me. It's how I found out about the White Tiger. I knew I had to tell you.

Suddenly Sally, still a cat, jumps out of the bag and runs around the back of the house. George looks surprised.

After a few moments, the front door opens and there's Sally, human again, in a 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.

INT. SALLY'S HALLWAY. DAY

Billi walks in ahead of George.

The hallway is light and airy, with original tiling and balustrades. There are ancient cat related artifacts on top of a large wooden sideboard. Georges eyes light up.

GEORGE
Those are original.

SALLY
Yes, and that's only some of what
I own.

Billi walks past and into the kitchen.

INT. SALLY'S KITCHEN. DAY

Billi, arms folded.

BILLI
So, you know each other then?

SALLY
Yeah, we both work at the castle,
well, George is on sick leave.
(to George)
Everyone thinks you have cancer.

GEORGE
Well I could hardly have told them
the truth.

SALLY
Tell me then, all I know is, you
went trekking around Scotland, and
came back a wolf.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. SCOTTISH FOREST. NIGHT

George is sat outside a tent. The area around him is bathed in the light from his campfire. We can hear the gentle sounds of the forest settling. There's a rustling in the trees behind George, he turns to the sound.

A BADGER walks into the campsite. George smiles, and sits quietly watching him. More rustling comes from the tree line.

GEORGE

You got some friends joining you?

The badger looks towards the rustling and runs to the cover of the trees. The rustling gets closer, and closer. It stops close to where George is sat.

We see the hairs begin to stand up on the back of Georges neck.

There is only silence now. The noise of the forest has gone. George begins to look scared. A twig snaps gently behind him.

He turns and comes face to face with a huge grey wolf. The wolf bares its teeth, and pounces.

END OF FLASH BACK:

INT. SALLY'S KITCHEN. DAY (SAME TIME)

Billi and Sally are looking at George who is absentmindedly rubbing a scar on his right arm.

GEORGE

I was treated at the hospital for a dog bite, they didn't believe it was a wolf. They asked me if I had a picture of it. Like I was going to take a photo mid attack.

SALLY

It must have been terrifying.

George just nods.

BILLI

Fascinating.
But what I really want to know,
is, what have you been doing?

Billi points at Sally, who is putting on the kettle.

SALLY
Me? Nothing.

BILLI
No, I suppose they just sent a
bloody tiger after you for shits
and giggles then?

Sally just smiles and shrugs.

BILLI (CONT'D)
It's not a bloody joke Sal. He
could have killed you!
He could have killed me.

GEORGE
She's been raiding hidden
libraries.
Eldred has thousands of books. Old
books. Books about cats and
vampires, I was forbidden from
looking in them.
But you were getting close, too
close to something. Though I don't
know what.

George stops, both the women are staring at him, like
they've seen a ghost.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
What?
Why are you looking at me like
that?

SALLY
I'm sorry.
Did you say Eldred?

END