

SONG OF FINCH

by

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SONG OF FINCH

FADE IN:

INT. - POOR WOMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: 1817 - County Antrim, Ireland.

A middle-aged poor woman is taking care of her ill young son. The son starts coughing terribly. The woman brings some hot soup to him quickly and carefully, trying not to spill it.

POOR WOMAN

Shh! Shh!

The boy continues coughing. He breathes in heavily.

POOR WOMAN (CONT'D)

(whispering)

This should do the trick.

The boy coughs again violently. The woman sets the bowl of soup down on the bed and tries to prompt his head up. She feels his forehead with the back of her hand.

POOR BOY

(softly)

Mum...

The woman brushes her son's hair out of his face.

POOR WOMAN

Shh!

The woman holds her son's hand. The boy coughs again. The woman looks panicked at her son's hand. She rolls up his sleeves and finds terrible blistering sores on his arms, seemingly ready to burst. The boy starts coughing uncontrollably.

The woman moans. She gets up from the bed, accidentally knocking the soup on the floor. The bowl breaks. The boy cringes in pain and his eyes roll upwards.

EXT. - TOWN SQUARE - MORNING

Soldiers are piling up dead bodies in the corner of a wall. A line of diseased people are being escorted by the soldiers to stand against the wall. A crowd gathers.

GOVERNOR DARIN is standing by the gallows in the center of the square. He pulls out a letter and begins to read it to the townspeople.

GOVERNOR DARIN
 (reading)
 "People of Ireland!"

The line of diseased people moves forward towards the gallows.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
 (continuing to read)
 "...a disease has erupted amongst us..."

CUT TO:

INT. - TOWN HOUSES - NIGHT

GOVERNOR DARIN (V.O.)
 "...every home is to be searched and inspected..."

Governor Darin and his men barge into a family's home. They inspect the people for disease. Governor Darin nods to one of his men to search the bedroom. A woman tries to block the door. The soldier moves her away.

GOVERNOR DARIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 "...if any man, woman, or child is found ill...they face quarantine...pale, bleeding, blistered...they face the gallows..."

Moments later he drags out a young woman, pale and ill, with blisters covering her arms. The young woman is crying, too weak to stand on her own.

A man tries to plead with Governor Darin. Governor Darin and his men leave.

GOVERNOR DARIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 "...to ensure that this disease is contained, we must eliminate any possibility of its contamination."

CUT TO:

EXT. - TOWN SQUARE - MORNING

Governor Darin peers up from reading the letter.

GOVERNOR DARIN
 "...Signed, George III, King of England."

It is a cold morning. A man ringing a bell is yelling.

Governor Darin folds up the letter and steps down from the gallows.

A young man is motioned to the gallows. The executioner pulls down a rope. The young man starts struggling.

YOUNG MAN

(panicked)

No! No! Please!

The executioner gives the man a glare and sits the young man down in the chair. The young man continues to plead. The executioner pours hot tar all over his body.

The young man screams, as the crowd starts to chant "feathers" three times. A young woman from the crowd looks disturbed and sneaks away.

The young woman starts to walk quickly and quietly from the scene, turning her head around to see the execution again. She turns down an alleyway.

Governor Darin stares at her as she walks by. She gives an awkward smile and quickens her pace. Governor Darin follows after her.

EXT. - ALLEYWAY - MORNING

GOVERNOR DARIN

Disturbed, Miss?

Governor Darin grabs her wrist.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

Not good enough to answer my question?

YOUNG WOMAN

Get your hands off me!

GOVERNOR DARIN

(whispers)

Says the shepherd to the King...

Governor Darin pushes the young lady against the wall.

Governor Darin tries to kiss the young woman's neck. She slaps him across the face and tries to run. He shoves her against the wall again.

The young woman screams. Governor Darin runs his hand along her thigh. The young woman screams again.

FATHER JOHN walks by. Governor Darin brushes back his hair.

The young woman is lying on the floor. Governor Darin walks past Father John.

FATHER JOHN

(angry)
Darin!

GOVERNOR DARIN

That woman's ill, bleeding.

FATHER JOHN

How could you!

GOVERNOR DARIN

(calmly)
I won't have disease spread in this town any further.

FATHER JOHN

No, Darin!

Governor Darin continues to walk towards his coach.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Don't touch her! You may catch something.

Governor Darin snaps his fingers. Two guards walk directly to the woman. Father John tries to back them away. The young woman pleads. The guards brush past him and drag the young woman towards the town square.

Governor Darin steps into the coach and rides off.

Elegant horses are pulling a coach in front of the gallows.

A blacksmith, GABRIEL FINCH, watches the coach intently.

Governor Darin steps out and motions to the executioner. The executioner looks up. The two guards bring the young woman up to the gallows. The executioner nods. Governor Darin nods back.

Gabriel lingers behind the crowd, where Governor Darin is watching. He is posted up along a wall.

GABRIEL

End this execution, Darin.

Governor Darin looks at Gabriel coldly.

GOVERNOR DARIN

She's diseased, young man.

GABRIEL

She was infected.

Governor Darin massages his wrists as he approaches Gabriel.

GOVERNOR DARIN

You better watch yourself, beggar.

GABRIEL

I have no reason to fear trial.

GOVERNOR DARIN

You will.

GABRIEL

Stay away from my wife.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Luck is fond of you, Boy. I'm still waiting on my horse shoes.

GABRIEL

I may forget my trade.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Then you may not be so lucky.

GABRIEL

Do not approach her again.

GOVERNOR DARIN

I should think you would take care not to leave her on her own.

Gabriel grabs Governor Darin by the collar of his shirt. Governor Darin grabs Gabriel's hand on his shirt. Gabriel notices the jewels in his rings shine, stained with blood.

GABRIEL

The graveyard will be your next bedpost.

Governor Darin smiles. Two guards stare at Gabriel holding him. Gabriel looks over at the guards, then back at Governor Darin.

GOVERNOR DARIN

I'll want those shoes.

Gabriel lets Governor Darin go. Governor Darin nods to the guards and turns back around to watch the execution.

The young woman is released. She runs into Gabriel's arms. Gabriel puts his hand on the woman's shoulder tightly and walks her away from the executions.

Governor Darin watches them go. He looks up to the executioner.

The executioner ties a rope around a diseased woman's head. The young woman cries. The executioner pulls the lever, and the young woman hangs dead on the rope. The crowd cheers.

INT. BLACKSMITH'S SHED - DAY

Catherine, a young wealthy woman, slowly opens the shed door. Hammering is heard far off in the distance. A glow from a fire is seen on her face. The shed is dusty and dark, except for faded light shining through the windows. Echoes of the fire crackling and the hammering intensify as Catherine walks into the shed.

CATHERINE

Good morning, Mr. Finch.

She stops, standing behind the blacksmith, Gabriel Finch, who is hard at work hammering a blade which is still burning red from heat. He pauses to reply.

GABRIEL

It is a good morning, isn't it?

CATHERINE

I would say so.

Gabriel starts hammering at the blade again.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Here are the spirits you asked for. The Governor asked that I bring it to you first thing. He also would like to know if his horse's shoes are ready?

Gabriel pauses again.

GABRIEL

Would he now?

CATHERINE

Yes. Hence, the supply you see in my hands.

Gabriel takes a bottle from the case Catherine is holding and examines it. He smashes it against the ground.

GABRIEL

Tell your master three hooves have been made to stir jealousy in even Apollo himself.

Gabriel points towards the wall.

CATHERINE

Three?

GABRIEL

The fourth piece will be bargained for more than cheap wine.

CATHERINE

He is a wealthy man, Mr. Finch. He could go to anyone else.

GABRIEL

But he came to me.

CATHERINE

He knows you're better than anyone else.

Gabriel stands up abruptly, face-to-face with Catherine. He steps on the broken glass, obviously grinding it into the ground with the heel of his boot.

GABRIEL

So why lower my worth to please his price?

CATHERINE

I'm simply his messenger. Your problem resides with him.

GABRIEL

Wealthy man or not, I won't be made a fool.

CATHERINE

Gabriel, you know you're barely living. You're just as hungry as the rest of those.... Those of your...

GABRIEL

Say it.

CATHERINE

Status.

GABRIEL

Wrong. I live easy, I just don't sleep on a full stomach.

CATHERINE

Yet you ask for a way to make you fall asleep.

GABRIEL

I ask for a drink to make me feel rich! To help me forget for a few hours that the wealthy laugh at my expense!

(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I am not desperate for pity, and I am in no hurry to accept injustice.

Gabriel sits back down and continues hammering.

Catherine begins to walk away, then stops short, turning her face sideways. The light reflects half of her face.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Tell him I want money. A pound for every shoe.

Catherine turns quickly around towards Gabriel. She clenches the case of liquor tightly to her stomach.

CATHERINE

A pound!

GABRIEL

To lessen the burden in his pockets. I'll have it no other way.

CATHERINE

And what if he refuses?

Gabriel plunges hot iron into a bucket of water. The steam sizzles and vapor rises in the air.

GABRIEL

Then I'll have extra iron to burn.

Catherine opens the door.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Leave his offer here. Tell him I consider it a token for my time he's wasted.

Catherine hesitates, then walks over and sets the case of liquor down next to Gabriel.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

People are not born to be subject to each other.

CATHERINE

Aren't they?

Gabriel turns to look at Catherine.

GABRIEL

I see no shackles on my wrists.

CATHERINE

Then you have become blind.

GABRIEL
I have become deceived.

Catherine takes notice of the burning iron on the table.

CATHERINE
What a beautiful blade.

Gabriel picks the blade up to present it to Catherine. The jewels on the blade reflect a red-white light on her face.

GABRIEL
Gorgeously smooth, crafted deadly.

CATHERINE
It's too small to be a sword.

GABRIEL
It's not meant to be a sword.

CATHERINE
A knife then?

GABRIEL
Close.

CATHERINE
It's a dagger.

GABRIEL
Precisely.

CATHERINE
Intricately crafted.

GABRIEL
The best steel I could bargain for. The finest stones I could...
(grins)
Salvage.

CATHERINE
Salvage?

GABRIEL
Let's just say it's best to wonder not of their origins.

CATHERINE
Jewels? For a dagger?

GABRIEL
Needs a handle.

CATHERINE
Your creativity is bold.

Gabriel sets the blade down on the table. He turns and gives Catherine a quick smile.

GABRIEL
So are your statements, Madame.

Gabriel turns back to his work.

CATHERINE
I only speak what I observe.

Gabriel gets up and sits on top of the table. He puts one leg up on the bench, leaning his elbow on his knee.

GABRIEL
Then let me ask you this. Ever desire what you could not have?

CATHERINE
Of course.

GABRIEL
Know what I desire, then?

CATHERINE
Wealth? Glory?

Gabriel stands up. He sets the hammer down on the table, wipes the sweat from his brow, and walks towards Catherine.

GABRIEL
(smirks)
Wealth is for the weak. Glory lasts for but a moment.

CATHERINE
So what do you long for?

GABRIEL
A fighting chance.

CATHERINE
Then pardon my assumption. Your heart is more noble than mine.

Gabriel sits back down at the table.

GABRIEL
That is hardly true. And what do you desire? Serving a man beneath you, but secretly dripping in luxury?

Catherine lifts her gold necklace on her neck and stares at it.

Gabriel notices Catherine's necklace has a red ruby in it. Catherine looks at him curiously as he stares intently at the jewel.

CATHERINE

Something wrong?

Gabriel snaps out of his trance.

GABRIEL

No. Nothing. Your necklace is...familiar.

CATHERINE

Red ruby. Traded in England. A personal gift from Governor Darin. To show his appreciation.

GABRIEL

A gift...

Gabriel holds his dagger up and observes it.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Pure silver. The handle will be embedded with diamonds, rubies.

CATHERINE

Luxury, Mr. Finch?

GABRIEL

(smiles)
Gifts, Madame.

Catherine sees papers on the table Gabriel is working at. They show drawings of the dagger grotesquely designed with a skull at the end of the handle.

CATHERINE

Your drawings show an interesting choice of style, too.

GABRIEL

It is my style that keeps me well-known.

CATHERINE

Who is it for?

Gabriel runs his fingers over the blade.

GABRIEL

For many.

CATHERINE

You are extraordinary at your work. That metal is fit for a king.

GABRIEL

There's a reason for everything.

A horse WHINNIES outside the shed. A clock strikes upon the hour from far away CHIMING.

CATHERINE

I must go. Time waits for no one, and I have duties to attend.

GABRIEL

Then it's best I don't keep you.

CATHERINE

You're right. I mean about the offer. You deserve your worth. Richer the man, worse the heart.

GABRIEL

You should be going. The rich aren't quite the morning people.

CATHERINE

One last thing?

Gabriel hits the blade one last time with the hammer. The red glow on it cools.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

What made you hate the hand that feeds so much?

Gabriel lifts up the blade, twirling it in his hand.

GABRIEL

Seeing how dirty it is.

CATHERINE

Then I pray yours forever remain clean.

Gabriel turns to her.

GABRIEL

(smiles)

Let's hope not.

The clock CHIMES again. Catherine leaves. Gabriel opens a bottle of wine and stands up from his chair. Once more the clock CHIMES.

Gabriel climbs up a ladder to a window on the second story and peers out of it. He takes a sip of liquor, sees Catherine ride away on her horse, and a church's bells sway and RING. He observes the city start to rise for a new day.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Rise 'n shine, day dreamers.

Gabriel glides one of his hands along his neck. He sees adults working and children playing in the streets. Gabriel notices a dove fly to the corner of the shed's rooftop.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(laughs)

"Barely awake on their feet...until the dove coos her cries."

Gabriel picks up a leather-bound book next to him. He pulls a feathered pen out from his boot and licks the tip of it. He observes an orange sunrise starting to dawn.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Here comes the break through the sky."

Gabriel peers out the window again and begins to write in the book.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Suddenly all are more alive."

Gabriel starts to write in his book again.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Even in a dusty shed where I slave all day, and the fire melts my thoughts away..."

Gabriel closes the book and holds it on his lap. He goes down the stairs to the second story. He looks intently at the melted iron burning and weapons he's been working on.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"I can say....this is home to me."

Gabriel stares at the fire CRACKLING. He sets the book down next to him. A light chant of "Ireland" echoes twice. He peers out the window again.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Waiting out the length of their lives."

Gabriel grabs the book and jumps down to the first floor. He kicks up a pail with his foot and hangs it on the wall. He bursts open the shed doors.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Too weak to leave where they hide."

Gabriel sees a man selling food to a wealthy woman. Gabriel licks the tip of his pen and begins to write. He tucks the book inside his shirt. He smiles at the man and snatches an apple from the cart -- unnoticed -- with his hand behind his back. He starts walking down the street and passes the church.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Not carefree to ask who's to blame?
Disguised in all of their shame. Where
their hands toil in grime. Where luck and
fate intertwine. Unsure of sacrifice.
Praying on Love's hopes each night."

Gabriel pauses and writes a little on his arm. A wealthy man yells from inside a coach at Gabriel to get out of the street. Gabriel jumps back to avoid getting run over.

WEALTHY MAN

(laughing)

Watch your step!

Gabriel faces the man with a sinister grin as he drives by.

GABRIEL

(whispers)

With pleasure, my Liege.

Gabriel bites into the apple, drops it, runs and grabs onto the back of the coach.

The coach hits a bump in the road and Gabriel hits the back of the coach in an attempt to hold on. A woman inside screams.

WEALTHY MAN

Get off this coach, Beggar!

GABRIEL

(mockingly)

No thank you, Sir!

The man pulls out a small pistol from his coat pocket. The woman grabs hold of the man's arm, screaming.

WEALTHY MAN

Have it your way!

Gabriel peers ahead of the coach and grins. The coach driver turns to see the commotion.

Gabriel notices another coach about to collide into the one he is riding. Gabriel hops off the coach. He watches the two coaches crash into each other.

He is still reciting poetry.

GABRIEL

"Untamed by a love to be who I am. Disaster strikes right where I stand. Enriched from the cards dealt to my hand. Play this game for me!"

Gabriel walks away from the scene in front of the church again. Snow starts to lightly fall. He examines the statues outside the church.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Poverty strikes! Keep rolling the dice! Mistakes that are made don't have to be paid! Ireland! Says who? Says I! Ireland! I've dressed up my pride! Leather boots made of ivory! Blood jewels of fine cutlery! Nothing! All of it's worth nothing! Only warmth of a body is what kept my heart beating. What I know to be true! That these circles keep spinning. Day dawns, dusk starts breathing....Ireland!"

Gabriel walks inside the corridors. He stares at the painted ceiling above him, mesmerized by its detailed beauty.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"There has to be something better to implore! I will have it! Curve my back no more! I won't take this!"

Gabriel looks at his reflection in a stained glass window.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"A promise is meant to be kept. Must I swear on graves unsaved? Vengeance on the "up"-class world will be made!"

Gabriel stands outside the church. A harsh wind blows. He sees a child asleep on a dog in the alley across the street.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Vengeance and riots! Rebels ought to try it!"

The wealthy woman who was buying food earlier walks by Gabriel with a basket hanging on her arms, laughing with a friend. She flips a coin to Gabriel and whispers to her friend as they walk by.

Gabriel pulls a loaf of bread from the basket as she passes. He walks across the street and slips the bread loosely inside the sleeping boy's coat. The dog wakes up and starts to growl as Gabriel begins to leave.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

"Fair will happen someday!"

The boy slowly wakes up. Gabriel plays with the coin in his hand, then puts it in the half-sleeping boy's hand. Gabriel walks away from the alley towards the shed.

EXT. A BRIDGE OVER AN ICY RIVER - DAY

Catherine gets off her horse. She strokes the horse's neck gently, putting her cheek against the horse's nose. A light rustle behind the trees is heard.

CATHERINE

(nervous)

Hello? Is anyone out there?

Catherine walks the horse along the bridge. She looks up at the falling snow. The horse snorts. Cold air blows out of its nose. The horse's hooves are heard lightly walking on the bridge. The reins jingly slightly.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Hello?

Catherine's hands brush off the snow on the rail. It falls to the ground in a wave. She starts playing with her necklace, then stops, staring at it.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Messenger or slave? Is it not just the same?

Catherine yanks off her necklace. A gentle wind blows her hair across her face.

Catherine leans over the edge and drops the necklace into the water. She watches the necklace sink. She stares at her reflection in the water. The trees blow silently in the wind.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Nothing but a ghost finding its mirror.

Governor Darin rides silently up behind her.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Hello.

Catherine turns around from the ledge, startled. She backs up against the rail.

CATHERINE
Governor Darin!

Governor Darin dismounts his horse.

GOVERNOR DARIN
What had the good blacksmith to say?

CATHERINE
He refused. I left the offer there.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Catherine, Catherine, Catherine.

Governor Darin grabs her by the arms. He leans into her face. Catherine tries to back her face away from his.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
That's not up to you! Have you forgotten our bargain so soon?

CATHERINE
No.

Governor Darin lets go of her. Catherine stands up straight. He pulls out a pearl necklace and ties it around Catherine's neck. He circles behind her and whispers into her ear.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Don't disobey me again.

INT. BLACKSMITH'S SHED - NIGHT

Gabriel places the last diamond into his dagger's handle. He gets up and walks over to a stack of hay and sits down, leaning the back of his head against a post. He begins to polish the blade with a cloth.

Voices of a man yelling and a woman crying are heard nearby. The door to the shed opens. A wealthy man, OLIVER CARRIGAN, walks in.

GABRIEL
(impatiently)
Good evening, Sir.

Oliver looks around the shed curiously inspecting. He walks with his hands behind his back. He wipes dust off one of the shed's posts, looks at it, and cleans off the dust by rubbing his fingers together. He approaches Gabriel, inattentively, still observing the shed.

OLIVER
 Good evening....not a lively place in here,
 is it?

GABRIEL
 To the untrained eye.

OLIVER
 (absently)
 What? Oh. Where are my manners? Mr. Oliver
 Carrigan.

Oliver holds out his hand. Gabriel continues to polish the
 blade. His eyes are focused on Oliver's face.

OLIVER (CONT'D)
 Well, then....

Oliver stares at the dagger in Gabriel's hands, then turns
 his attention to observing the shed once again.

GABRIEL
 Was there something I can do for you?

OLIVER
 I'm told you are the best blacksmith in
 town?

GABRIEL
 You've been told correct.

OLIVER
 Been told your work is "blessed by God,"
 actually.

Gabriel stares at the blade, still polishing it.

GABRIEL
 (smirks)
 Is that what they say, now?

OLIVER
 They have a fondness for your work,
 Sir....Sir....

GABRIEL
 Gabriel Finch. What else do they say?

OLIVER
 That you're a rude but charming man.

GABRIEL
 (sneers)
 Hypocrisy is delightful.

Oliver walks over to the table and sees the drawings. He starts to look through them. He glides his hand over the picture of the dagger and lifts up a piece of metal.

Gabriel walks over to him, wiping his hands on the cloth. The metal on his boots clink, keeping rhythm with his steps.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I rather you do not touch my materials,
Sir.

Oliver pauses to look at Gabriel, then puts the metal down.

OLIVER

As you wish. I did not come here to fiddle
with your little toys, Mr. Finch.

GABRIEL

(annoyed)

I'm a very busy man, Mr. Carrigan.

Oliver re-buttons one of his cuffs, still looking at Gabriel.

OLIVER

See....I need some cuffs fixed.

GABRIEL

Cuffs? You're mistaking me for a tailor.

OLIVER

Without explaining too much, I need prison-
like cuffs.

GABRIEL

My time is growing shorter.

The shed door swings open. A short, eerie-looking man, OSWALD, comes in. He pushes an African American woman, EVELYN, in front of him.

OLIVER

(hostile)

I told you to wait outside.

Oswald yanks on chains tied around Evelyn's wrists. Oliver motions with his hands to introduce Oswald.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Mr. Finch, Mr. Oswald. He works for me.

OSWALD

She ain't behaving, Mr. Carrigan.

OLIVER
 (menacingly grins)
 Mr. Finch, this is Miss Evelyn.

Evelyn spits at Oliver. Oliver slaps her across the face.

OSWALD
 Told you she was misbehavin'.

OLIVER
 (laughs)
 I'd be better off if she was quarantined!

Oswald gives a slight grin and laugh. Gabriel runs the blade of the dagger gently along his hand, staring deathly at Oliver and Oswald laughing. Oliver grabs the chains from Oswald in a serious manner.

OLIVER (CONT'D)
 Leave her here and wait outside!

Oswald bows to Oliver and sulks out the door.

OLIVER (CONT'D)
 This one, here, she's wild! Too time consuming. As soon as I'm finished she's for the square to deal with.

Oliver turns towards Gabriel and yanks Evelyn closer. He tries to fondle her and she pulls away.

OLIVER (CONT'D)
 As I was saying, I need those cuffs.

EVELYN
 You disgusting piece of....

Oliver slaps Evelyn across the mouth. She falls to the floor, holding her face.

GABRIEL
 (angry)
 Enough.

Oliver laughs and pats Gabriel on the shoulder.

Evelyn looks up at Gabriel.

OLIVER
 My boy, you have to handle slaves properly.

Oliver yanks on the chains on Evelyn's wrists. He gets close to Gabriel and turns him to face Evelyn.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Like dogs. They need to be trained. Need to watch their manners.

Gabriel removes Oliver's arm from around his shoulder.

GABRIEL

Maybe you should watch yours.

OLIVER

(angry)

The cuffs, Mr. Finch.

GABRIEL

You mean shackles.

OLIVER

Shackles then! You know what they are!

GABRIEL

And you should know it's against the law, unless requested by high authority, to make them.

OLIVER

Don't fool yourself, Mr. Finch. We both know law means nothing to a man of your situation.

GABRIEL

I'm fresh out of iron, Mr. Carrigan.

OLIVER

(hostile)

Then use your finest rope!

Gabriel stacks his papers on the table neatly together.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Our town has turned into a sewer! Filthy...diseased rats! Do you not understand?

GABRIEL

I understand. I just didn't know they spoke to me.

Oliver looks at Gabriel with repulsiveness.

OLIVER

Did I forget to mention who was among the first "gathering" this morning?

(MORE)

OLIVER (CONT'D)

It's a good thing you're immune to what your wife was so...subject to.

Gabriel stops shuffling the papers, frozen by the words Oliver has just spoken. He turns around to Oliver. Oliver takes a step back defensively.

GABRIEL

Let me put it another way. I don't work for an untrained man.

Evelyn starts to cry. Her lip is bleeding.

OLIVER

More rotten fuel for the fire! Quit your crying, Slave!

Oliver raises his hand. Evelyn raises her arms in defense and cries.

Gabriel clenches his dagger, grabs Mr. Carrigan by the shoulder and shoves his back onto the table.

GABRIEL

(smiles)

Mr. Carrigan, do you see this dagger?

Oliver looks at Gabriel full of fear. Gabriel twirls the dagger in his hand and stares at it.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

It's beautiful, really. Made from poor hands, shines like royalty. Do you know why its covered in jewels?

Oliver starts to squirm. Gabriel pins him down again.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

No? Do you know why there's a skull carved on it, too?

(laughs)

You see, I believe everything, and everyone has a purpose. These here diamonds, they represent the wealthy. These rubies, they represent the bloodshed dealt to poverty. And this skull? That's death staring you in the face!

Oliver tries to shove Gabriel off. Gabriel shoves him onto the table harder. He points the tip of the blade to Oliver's neck, then waves the dagger back, thinking.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I've been tormented by this....riddle. It bids to be asked, and perhaps you'll have a chance to answer. If life is just a game, Nature lays the rules, and people are the pawns, who determines the winner?

Oliver stops struggling. Gabriel stabs the blade into Oliver's stomach. Oliver screams.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

No answer? I'll give you a hint.

Gabriel leans into Oliver's face.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(whispers)

I do!

Gabriel thrusts the dagger deeper into Oliver's stomach, twists it, and pulls it out. Oliver dies. Evelyn scoots back on the floor.

A light RATTLE of chains by the door is heard.

Gabriel looks up at the shed entrance. Oswald tries to stop the rattling of the chains hanging on the wall. He looks at Gabriel, terrified, and runs out the door.

EVELYN

You must stop him!

Gabriel lifts Evelyn to her feet. He walks over to the fire with an iron rod and places it halfway in the furnace.

GABRIEL

He's but the smallest of your worries.

EVELYN

But of yours? Sir?

GABRIEL

Gabriel, Ma'am.

EVELYN

Gabriel.

Gabriel slightly touches the tip of the rod while walking back towards the table and Evelyn.

GABRIEL

Miss Evelyn, correct?

EVELYN
I prefer "Eve," Sir.

He puts her wrists down on the table and slams the rod upon the chains. The chains break.

GABRIEL
Eve, then. Go to your family or friends or wherever is home. Do not stay in this damn forsaken town.

Evelyn puts her hands on Gabriel's face.

EVELYN
You are a kind man, Mr. Gabriel. May God bless you.

Gabriel grabs her hands.

GABRIEL
(whispering)
He already has, Ma'am. Go!

Evelyn runs out the door.

Horses and other commotion of people panicked are heard outside the shed.

Gabriel runs over and bolts the door shut. He drags Oliver's body to the furnace and throws the corpse into the flames. He stares at the flames intently. He drops the iron rod to the floor.

Gabriel peaks through a crack in the wall. He sees Oswald talking to people and pointing towards the shed.

Gabriel hurries to the table and slips his dagger in its holder along his belt. He moves a painting lying on the floor against the back wall and slips out the shed from behind a broken piece of wood.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Gabriel is asleep inside the church lying on one of the benches. A priest, FATHER JOHN, is sitting two rows behind Gabriel, reading the bible.

Gabriel starts snoring. Father John looks up from his book. Everything is silent for a moment. Father John continues reading.

Light SNORING distracts Father John again. He looks up. SNORING is heard again. He walks up the aisle, sees Gabriel sleeping, and takes a seat next to him.

Gabriel snores louder. Father John grunts under his breath. Gabriel continues to snore. Father John grunts louder. Gabriel kicks him. Father John, appalled, gets up and slaps the bible on Gabriel's leg. Gabriel wakes up, startled, and falls off the bench. He slowly lifts himself up off the floor.

GABRIEL

(mumbling)

Who in hell?

FATHER JOHN

Ahem....

GABRIEL

Father John! Good morning to you. It is morning?

Father John nods.

FATHER JOHN

May I ask what you're doing here, Young Man?

GABRIEL

I rather not say.

FATHER JOHN

Remember, there will be no lying in the House of God. And this wood is not meant to be a bed.

GABRIEL

Which is why I rather not say.

Father John puts a hand on Gabriel's shoulder and leads him to the front row. They take a seat on the bench.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I have done something terrible.

FATHER JOHN

So?

GABRIEL

So? Aren't you supposed to make me confess to you? Nod in disapproval? Cross your chest?

FATHER JOHN

You are not the only person who's done something wrong, dear boy.

Father John nods his head to the side. There is a man sitting a row next to them praying.

GABRIEL

A man of your religion should not sit so close to me.

FATHER JOHN

If I am true to my beliefs, I should not care where I sit. Judgment is left to Him.

Father John points above him. Gabriel looks up.

GABRIEL

But you should. You found me on false pretenses.

FATHER JOHN

Did I?

GABRIEL

What I've committed is worse than you're probably thinking.

FATHER JOHN

And you're here to repent your sin?

GABRIEL

Not at all, which makes my being here that much worse, and I've used your church in my crime.

FATHER JOHN

I see.

GABRIEL

Would you like a confession?

FATHER JOHN

I would not. Perhaps you would.

Gabriel takes a deep breath.

GABRIEL

I have killed a man.

The man praying looks over, stops praying, and leaves. Father John watches the man leave, then stares ahead of him.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I should not have told you.

FATHER JOHN

Why is that? I am not here to judge.

GABRIEL

But you are. That's alright. I don't regret my actions.

FATHER JOHN

Some deeds are meant to be pondered, Boy. And not all wrongdoings are necessarily wrong.

GABRIEL

Father John?

FATHER JOHN

Do you think I've been holy my whole life?

GABRIEL

Well, it's assumed....death is not on your hands. Is it?

FATHER JOHN

I may not have murdered someone, but not every man is pure.

Father John gets up and walks down a hall. Gabriel follows.

Father John looks at Gabriel. Gabriel stares at him with curiosity.

FATHER JOHN (CONT'D)

I spent many years of my life, and much money, on loose women.

GABRIEL

You? A whore-handling man?

FATHER JOHN

Keep quiet!

Gabriel shakes his head, smiling.

FATHER JOHN (CONT'D)

Your God-rotten mouth is mighty talkative now, huh?

GABRIEL

(smiles)

Father John! Using the Lord's name in vain?

Father John holds his head.

FATHER JOHN

(mutters)

Unbelievable.

GABRIEL
Is that really "priest-talk?"

Father John looks at Gabriel.

FATHER JOHN
A little louder, and you'll see.

Gabriel puts his hand in his pockets and looks ahead of him.

GABRIEL
(smiles)
Don't worry. I'm not here to judge.

FATHER JOHN
Very funny.

Gabriel laughs again.

FATHER JOHN (CONT'D)
I'm sure you'll find it funnier when I tell
you I was married at the time.

GABRIEL
Then you committed adultery?

FATHER JOHN
And my wife left me. I lost more than I
thought I was gaining. The truth is, I've
done wrong, too. Fooling around, lying. She
never came back.

Father John and Gabriel stop. Father John takes out keys and
unlocks a door to his room. Father John enters and sits down
in his chair by his desk.

FATHER JOHN (CONT'D)
Doors are made to enter or exit. Not linger
between.

Gabriel enters. Father John clears his throat and nods to the
door.

Gabriel closes the door. Father John stretches out his hand.

FATHER JOHN (CONT'D)
Please.

Gabriel sits down comfortably.

FATHER JOHN (CONT'D)
Now, tell me. Is there anything else you
would like to discuss?

GABRIEL
Why are you doing this?

FATHER JOHN
Doing what?

GABRIEL
Talking to me this way? I don't know many men of the church who make personal conversation with criminals.

FATHER JOHN
Because you need unburdening. I can see it in the way you walk, how you speak. What you've done.

GABRIEL
I'm afraid you're mistaken.

FATHER JOHN
Maybe. And if I'm not?

GABRIEL
I keep my thoughts to myself. My actions speak loud enough.

FATHER JOHN
In killing a man? What should the world...what should we assume then?

GABRIEL
That the man deserved what he got.

FATHER JOHN
And that was your decision to claim?

GABRIEL
Indeed it was. If you'll pardon me, I think I've overstayed my welcome.

FATHER JOHN
I assume I won't be seeing you again?

GABRIEL
I'm afraid not. Good day.

Gabriel gets out of the chair and walks towards the door.

FATHER JOHN
Anger is like poison. Do not let it corrupt you.

Gabriel looks up to Father John, breathing heavily.

GABRIEL

Religion is informal. Do not let it motivate you.

FATHER JOHN

I am sorry for your wife.

GABRIEL

Be sorry for those you know.

FATHER JOHN

I did know her. More than you could even conjure, dear boy.

GABRIEL

Did you help her?

FATHER JOHN

There was nothing that could be done. Not at times like these, people like this.

GABRIEL

That's a lie!

FATHER JOHN

Believe me, my son! If there was a way out of the fire, surely I would have jumped.

Gabriel jumps out of his seat.

GABRIEL

(shouts)

No more lies!

FATHER JOHN

I know very little.

Gabriel slams his hands on the desk.

GABRIEL

Then let me inform you!

Father John scoots his chair back.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

She was murdered!

FATHER JOHN

Pray for her.

GABRIEL

Prayers will help no one.

FATHER JOHN

She prayed for you.

Gabriel stares at Father John.

GABRIEL

They threw her away and didn't care.

FATHER JOHN

She was a lost cause.

GABRIEL

Left her to die! Alone without a chance!

FATHER JOHN

A choice was made!

GABRIEL

Well, that's more than she ever had in the matter, isn't it?

FATHER JOHN

I trust you can find your way out.

GABRIEL

That's it?

Father John ignores Gabriel. Gabriel angrily walks over to the door.

FATHER JOHN

Gabriel! Remember, this place is always here for you.

GABRIEL

I need no forgiveness.

FATHER JOHN

That's not the point.

GABRIEL

My wife believed God would save her, but she despised the church. Now I can see why.

Gabriel storms out the door.

EXT. HALL OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - DAY

Gabriel is leaning underneath one of the stone arches. A priest walks by him. Gabriel nods.

A voice starts calling Gabriel's name. Gabriel opens his eyes. CAHAL DREARY, prison guard and Gabriel's friend, runs up to Gabriel out of breath.

GABRIEL
What a pleasant surprise.

CAHAL
They're looking for you.

GABRIEL
(serious)
Details would be nice, friend.

CAHAL
Soldiers are swarming the streets. Governor
Darin issued a warrant for your arrest.

The same priest walks by. Gabriel nods again to him. Gabriel
turns Cahal by the shoulders to face him.

CAHAL (CONT'D)
I ran as soon as I heard.

GABRIEL
So you have come to turn me in?

CAHAL
I will not arrest a friend.

GABRIEL
Do you know why they are after me?

CAHAL
I do not wish to know.

GABRIEL
But did you hear?

CAHAL
They called you a murderer.

GABRIEL
(laughs)
Murderer!

CAHAL
(relieved)
So it's not true? Oh, thank God. You can
explain yourself. It will be cleared by
morning.

Gabriel holds his head.

CAHAL (CONT'D)
Oh, thank you, God. I knew it couldn't be
true.

Gabriel pulls out the dagger, stained with blood. He moves his hand along the blade. Cahal takes notice.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

Is that...

GABRIEL

How it happened? Yes.

CAHAL

I wish you hadn't told me.

GABRIEL

I didn't tell you anything.

CAHAL

But the blood....

GABRIEL

You saw nothing of it. Heard nothing of me.

Gabriel tries to wipe the blood off with his shirt.

CAHAL

Dare I wonder why, Gabriel?

GABRIEL

You dare not to. Or take me in now.

CAHAL

That I dare not do.

GABRIEL

Thank you for the warning.

Gabriel grabs a cloak hanging on Cahal's arm and quickly slips it over him. He puts the hood up.

CAHAL

Where are you going?

GABRIEL

Where any wanted man would first run to.

CAHAL

Where's that?

GABRIEL

Somewhere safe.

Two guards run past the church. Gabriel backs up against the wall.

CAHAL
I'll keep an ear out. Lead them astray.

GABRIEL
I'll see you soon, dear friend.

CAHAL
No questions asked.

Gabriel puts his hood up.

GABRIEL
No answers given.

Gabriel runs down the street.

INT. CAHAL'S HOUSE - DAY

Cahal's wife, Mona DREARY, is cleaning dishes. Cahal walks over to his wife.

There is a loud KNOCK at the door. Cahal kisses Mona on the cheek, and walks over to answer it. He opens the door. Keira, Catherine's sister, is standing in front of him.

MONA
Who is it?

CAHAL
A friend.

Cahal nudges Keira outside, standing between the door.

CAHAL (CONT'D)
I'll only be a moment.

Mona continues cleaning. Cahal closes the door. Keira is standing in front of him. She pulls crinkled papers out of her blouse and begins unfolding them.

KEIRA
You can handle the signatures alright?

CAHAL
Without a doubt.

Keira hands the papers over to Cahal. Cahal starts reading them.

CAHAL (CONT'D)
You're a little early.

KEIRA

My fiancé is rather close friends with Governor Darin. He asked me to have lunch with them. You can see why I was inclined to refuse.

Cahal folds the papers and slips them into his pocket.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

You know something don't you?

Cahal takes the folded papers out and refolds them.

CAHAL

Nothing you don't already know, I'm sure.

KEIRA

I rather be sure myself. What do you know?

CAHAL

Will what I tell you suffice?

Keira crosses her arms.

KEIRA

I guess we'll see.

Cahal puts the papers back in his pocket, looking up at Keira.

CAHAL

What I will tell you.

Cahal puts his hands in his pockets.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

Governor Darin has close ties within the prison nowadays.

Keira looks stupefied.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

(calm)

He has asked us to hunt down a particular man.

KEIRA

And here I was worried about him detecting fraud! He's in contact with the actual place of scandal?

CAHAL

He came to us for help. He won't be involved any deeper than this.

KEIRA

That's right. Just catch the man, then it's done.

CAHAL

Where does Edward think you are now?

KEIRA

He thinks I'm helping my mother with something. Do you have a lead on this man Governor Darin is after?

Cahal turns his face away from Keira's.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Cahal?

Cahal ignores her. Keira pulls him down to her level by his shirt.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

You trust me?

Cahal moves her hands off of him slowly.

CAHAL

(sighs)

Yes, but you are not the only one I keep my word to.

Keira looks down.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

Why are you so fixed on turning in one man when we release imprisoned men by the dozen?

Keira stares at Cahal blankly.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

What is it you are not telling?

KEIRA

Those men are innocent.

CAHAL

Keira! In our line of work, secrets are deadly.

KEIRA

It's not a secret. Being engaged to Edward just changes everything. If I were caught as a fraud, a jail breaker, a criminal myself, he would never look at me the same.

CAHAL
So your fear is selfish.

KEIRA
No! I would never let that come before
doing what's right. I just love him so
much, I second guess my actions.

Mona opens the door. She dries a spoon with her apron.

MONA
Cahal, breakfast is ready. Who's your
friend?

KEIRA
Keira. Pleasure to meet you.

CAHAL
She was delivering news from the governor.

Mona faces Keira.

MONA
Care for some breakfast?

CAHAL
I don't think she wants any....

Keira turns to Cahal, then back to Mona.

KEIRA
Actually, I should be going.

Mona leans against the door frame.

MONA
I'm sure your mother would understand.

KEIRA
(smiles)
Breakfast would be lovely.

Cahal and Keira follow Mona inside.

INT. CAHAL'S HOUSE - DAY

MONA
Please, sit.

Cahal and Keira sit at the table. Mona brings an extra plate
and silverware for Keira and sits down.

MONA (CONT'D)
So, Miss Keira, how do you know my husband?

KEIRA

Through my fiancé. He assists with the government.

MONA

Still, I don't see how you mingle amongst the likes of a prison guard.

Mona looks up at Cahal with a half-smile and plays with her fork, scraping the food around on her plate. Cahal eats quietly.

KEIRA

I'm good with medicine. Apothecary, so to speak. I came by to drop off some medicine.

MONA

So. It is like some sort of underground hospital?

KEIRA

If it were a crime, I would not speak so freely.

MONA

Miss Keira, you are quite generous. Do you not ask for something in return?

KEIRA

They pay me enough.

MONA

Barely, am I not mistaken?

KEIRA

My fiancé is a wealthy man. My parents are wealthy people.

MONA

So why trudge down in our streets? Your dress will get dirty.

Mona takes a sip from her cup. Keira gives Cahal a quiet glance, then looks back at Mona.

KEIRA

Then you heard our conversation?

MONA

Only part of it. Your fiancé doesn't need to know.

Keira wipes her mouth and folds her napkin back on her lap. Cahal stares at Keira and Mona with his fork halfway in his mouth.

KEIRA

Exactly how much did you hear?

MONA

Enough to know you're in no rush to help your mother.

KEIRA

But obviously you were in a rush to pry in matters that are none of your concern.

CAHAL

Ladies....

MONA

Just pleasant conversation, Cahal. It's my pleasure to entertain your friend.

CAHAL

Pleasure is surprisingly painful.

MONA

As you well know.

Mona turns to Keira.

MONA (CONT'D)

When my husband consorts with another woman....

KEIRA

(with deep sarcasm)

Well, we can't hide anything from you! After all, I am engaged. Why wouldn't I want to ruin that?

MONA

Let's hear it.

KEIRA

I'm sure you'd tell it better.

CAHAL

Is this really pleasant conversation?

MONA

Pardon my curiosity.

KEIRA

Oh, that's not the issue. Do not dare threaten me with my own affairs.

MONA

Threaten you?

KEIRA

Is there another explanation, or do you have no manners?

Mona clinches her knife.

Cahal shoves a big bite of food in his mouth.

Cahal chokes on his food. Mona glares at him. Keira scoots her chair back and gets up from the table.

MONA

Leaving so soon?

KEIRA

(sarcastically)

Unfortunately. There's another married man I must attend to.

Keira leaves, slamming the door.

Cahal watches Keira leave through the window. Mona follows and stands behind him.

MONA

Can you believe that woman?

CAHAL

Depends upon the truth being told...

MONA

I do not find this amusing.

CAHAL

(smiles)

Really? I seem to be laughing.

MONA

What is wrong with you? Have you no regard for the way she spoke to me?

CAHAL

She spoke just fine.

MONA

Defend me a little!

CAHAL
 You seem to handle situations perfectly.
 Irrationality and all.

MONA
 (hysterical)
 You're in love with her, aren't you?

CAHAL
 What?

MONA
 It's true!

CAHAL
 What in God's name are you talking about?

MONA
 Just tell me the truth!

CAHAL
 What is wrong with you?

Cahal turns and grabs Mona by the arm.

MONA
 Don't lie to me, Cahal!

CAHAL
 What have I ever done to warrant such
 distrust?

Mona starts crying.

MONA
 Because!

CAHAL
 Well!?

MONA
 I... I know what it is to... To desire...
 To find comfort with another...

She looks up at him piteously, hoping for forgiveness but
 fearing the worst.

Cahal sees a belt on the floor by the door. He walks over and
 picks it up.

Cahal looks at Mona coldly. Mona tries wiping the tears from
 her eyes but she can't stop crying.

CAHAL

When?

Mona turns her face away from him.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

(snaps)

When!?

MONA

I don't remember!

CAHAL

Don't give me that.

MONA

It was a mistake!

CAHAL

And you thought I would do the same.

MONA

To get back at me.

CAHAL

To spite you!

MONA

I thought you knew in secret!

Cahal swipes his hand along the counter out of anger and shatters a glass on the floor.

CAHAL

I knew nothing. You betrayed yourself.

Cahal grabs his coat off the back of his chair.

MONA

I love you. I do.

Mona grabs his arm. Cahal shoves her off.

MONA (CONT'D)

(crying)

Where are you going? Cahal, please....

CAHAL

I cannot look upon you just now.

(sneers)

But don't worry. I won't stray. It is not in my nature. Not like some.

Cahal walks out of the house, leaving the door open. Mona sits down in a chair and buries her face in her hands.

EXT. GARDEN OUTSIDE A CASTLE - DAY

A black velvet coach pulls up in front of a large garden stretching out to a huge castle. The door opens. Keira steps out of the coach. She walks to the old coachman, HENRY, and hands him a small bag of money.

KEIRA

Thank you, Henry.

Henry puts the money in his coat pocket and politely tips his hat to Keira.

Keira smiles. She walks towards the garden. Henry leads the coach away in a slow trot. The sky turns gray. A light wind blows. Keira continues to walk down the garden. The statues outlining the path stare back at her.

A loud NEIGH echoes behind Keira. She turns around and sees nothing. She continues to walk. Suddenly, Keira feels someone's hands covering her eyes. She screams and turns around.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

(startled)

Edward!

EDWARD

(laughs)

Didn't mean to startle you.

Keira hits his chest playfully.

KEIRA

Not at all.

EDWARD CULLINGTON, Keira's fiancé, kisses her. A voice is heard from behind him.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Surely you are going to introduce me,
Edward?

Governor Darin appears behind Edward.

EDWARD

Of course! Governor Darin, meet Miss Keira,
my beautiful fiancée.

GOVERNOR DARIN

She is lovely.

KEIRA

Hello, Sir.

GOVERNOR DARIN

I'm so sorry we missed your company at luncheon today.

KEIRA

Yes, well, my mother can be demanding.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Perhaps another time.

KEIRA

But of course.

EDWARD

What are you doing out here?

GOVERNOR DARIN

If a woman wants to relax, Edward, by all means let her.

KEIRA

I needed some fresh air.

Edward looks up at the sky. A light drizzle begins to fall.

EDWARD

Well, let's go inside. The weather doesn't look so bright.

Governor Darin looks up at the sky.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Not in the least.

Edward covers Keira from the rain as the three of them run towards the castle.

INT. CASTLE - DAY

Keira, Edward, and Governor Darin hurry into the castle. They are standing by the door, dripping wet. The three of them are laughing, trying to dry their clothes.

Governor Darin steps outside. Edward and Keira are still laughing. Keira's mother, LÉANNE, greets them.

KEIRA

(giggling)

Hello, Mother!

LÉANNE

(scolding)

You children are a handful.

EDWARD

Hello, Ma'am!

LÉANNE

Edward, you're going to catch a cold. The both of you.

Leanne walks away. Edward wrings out his shirt. Governor Darin steps back inside.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Storm's getting worse.

Leanne comes back.

LÉANNE

I've laid out dry clothes on your bed. Edward, there's a guest room in the right wing.

EDWARD

Thank you.

LÉANNE

Governor Darin! What a surprise!

GOVERNOR DARIN

Good afternoon, Ma'am. No need to bother with me, I won't be staying long.

LÉANNE

Nonsense. You're drenched to the bone.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Very well.

Keira wrings out her hair.

KEIRA

I'll go change.

EDWARD

I'll follow you up.

Keira and Edward walk upstairs. Leanne watches them go.

LÉANNE

Right wing!

GOVERNOR DARIN
Wonderful pair, those two.

LÉANNE
(smiles)
She is very happy but not as happy as I. I was hoping royal blood would run strong in this family.

Laughter is heard upstairs. Governor Darin looks up the empty staircase.

GOVERNOR DARIN
It's quite like an acrobatic entertainment up there.

The teapot whistles. Leanne points to a room behind her.

LÉANNE
Parlor is that way, Sir.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Thank you.

Leanne leaves. Governor Darin walks towards the parlor. He hears Keira coming downstairs and turns to greet her. Keira is trying to adjust her corset to breathe better, not noticing Governor Darin is in the hall. She walks into him.

KEIRA
(startled)
Oh! Governor Darin! I'm sorry.

GOVERNOR DARIN
(smiling)
Need some help, Miss?

Keira finishes knotting a bow with the lace she was tying.

KEIRA
(uncomfortable)
No, thank you.

Governor Darin stares at her.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
Did Edward come down yet?

GOVERNOR DARIN
Not yet.

KEIRA
Maybe I should check on him.

Keira turns up the stairs. Governor Darin gently takes hold of her elbow. Keira turns around.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Your mother mentioned the dining room?

Keira nods towards the hall.

KEIRA
Down that hall.

GOVERNOR DARIN
(grins)
Actually, I was hoping you'd keep me company? I lack conversation with your mother. I'm sure Edward will be down in a moment.

Keira looks at Governor Darin's hand on her elbow. He lets go and takes a step down the stairs.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
(bows)
After you.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Keira and Governor Darin are sitting across from each other. She stares down with her hands in her lap. Governor Darin leans back with his legs crossed and stares at Keira. The room is dead silent.

GOVERNOR DARIN
You're awfully quiet.

Keira looks up.

KEIRA
I could say the same about you.

GOVERNOR DARIN
(smirks)
You just did.

Edward walks into the room, adjusting his shirt's lapel.

EDWARD
Rather silent, are we?

GOVERNOR DARIN
Most accurately stated. We were just discussing that.

Keira scoots over for Edward. Edward takes a seat next to her. She gives Governor Darin a quick smile.

KEIRA
It was hardly a discussion.

GOVERNOR DARIN
So that it was.

EDWARD
You two act like strangers.

KEIRA
Because we are.

GOVERNOR DARIN
You mean were.

Leanne comes in carrying a tray with hot tea. She sets the tray down and takes a seat. Edward leans over and eagerly starts pouring tea into the cups.

Keira and Governor Darin both lean forward at the same time and take a cup. Edward takes a sip of tea.

EDWARD
Did you ladies accomplish everything?

KEIRA
What?

EDWARD
You and your mother....

Leanne looks at Edward.

LÉANNE
Are you feeling well?

Edward turns to Keira, then back to Leanne.

EDWARD
Keira said you two had preparation to do....about the wedding.

LÉANNE
I've been alone all day.

Edward and Leanne curiously stare at Keira, waiting for a reply. Governor Darin stares at her and sips his tea.

KEIRA
I actually met with Catherine earlier.

Governor Darin stops drinking and raises his head intrigued.

LÉANNE
Are you still helping her?

KEIRA
Stop disapproving.

LÉANNE
A fine woman should not be working such a
dirty job.

KEIRA
She's sick, Mother.

LÉANNE
Foolish child.

KEIRA
You drove her away.

LÉANNE
Royalty is a privilege.

KEIRA
By what means?

LÉANNE
Watch your tongue, before you end up like
her.

KEIRA
All the people you meet, all the stories
you hear.

LÉANNE
All the disease they spread! Their
desperate cries for attention.

KEIRA
People, Mother. No different than you.

LÉANNE
I will not lose another daughter.

KEIRA
No. You'll just throw another away.

Leanne leaves the room. Keira drinks her tea, then sets her
cup down on the table.

EDWARD
I'll go see to her.

Edward gets up.

KEIRA
Not a privilege at all!

EDWARD
We weren't all born with gold to fritter
away.

Keira smiles at him. Edward goes into the other room.

GOVERNOR DARIN
I must say I am a bit surprised.

KEIRA
What are you talking about?

GOVERNOR DARIN
What you say contradicts how you dress.
Among other things.

Governor Darin sips his tea again.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
Terribly kind of you, pouring your heart
out for them.

KEIRA
They need help.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Without question.

KEIRA
(defensive)
What does that mean?

GOVERNOR DARIN
(smiles)
It means I agree.

Governor Darin puts his cup down on the table and walks out
of the room.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
It was a pleasure meeting you.

Governor Darin walks out the door. The door SLAMS.

KEIRA
(under her breath)
Hardly.

EXT. PRISON GROUNDS - DAY

Gabriel is standing with his back against the wall on the side of the prison. His face is well-hidden by the cloak he is wearing.

Two GUARDS are standing at the prison entrance. Gabriel moves closer to hear them.

GUARD #1

Any word yet on the bloody murderer?

GUARD #2

(grins)

Bloody's a sure way to describe it.

GUARD #1

Quit tryin' to being smart. Did you hear anything?

GUARD #2

To be honest, I've been too bored standing post to give a rat's ass.

GUARD #1

Well ya better start caring or he'll have your head.

GUARD #2

The governor? He's easy to fool.

Guard #1 looks to make sure no one is around.

GUARD #1

Not him! The convict! There's a killer on the loose, and you best be watchin' your back.

Guard #2 yawns.

GUARD #2

You're just wanting to put a scare in me. He's no more than an ordinary runaway, playing cat and mouse.

GUARD #1

But who's the cat and who's the mouse?

GUARD #2

(suddenly worried)

What have you heard?

EXT. - MARKETPLACE - DAY

Two young women are waiting outside a bakery to purchase bread.

FIRST WOMAN
He's clever, they say. Knows all the tricks
of the trade.

SECOND WOMAN
Poor soul, is he not?

FIRST WOMAN
Very poor indeed.

SECOND WOMAN
Because his wife left him when he came back
from war.

FIRST WOMAN
She left him and this town infamous.

SECOND WOMAN
Fame is still fame.

The baker hands the first woman a loaf of bread. She drops a few coins into his hand and turns towards the second woman standing next to her with a basket of food in her arm.

FIRST WOMAN
I've been told this man's not just an
ordinary man. A legendary vagabond he is.
Runaway from three countries.

SECOND WOMAN
I heard it was five!

INT. - TAVERN - DAY

A bartender slides a mug of beer to a gruff, muscular young man.

BARTENDER
Only three. The other two didn't even know
he was there.

YOUNG MAN
Really?

The young man begins to chug down his beer.

BARTENDER
Best believe nothing less.

The young man slides the mug back to the bartender. The bartender wipes the side of the mug and pours another round of beer for the young man.

YOUNG MAN

I'll believe it when I see it.

BARTENDER

I should hope not.

The bartender slides the mug back to the young man. The young man begins to drink down his second round of beer.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

This man ain't no ordinary killer.
Slaughters every man, woman, and child in
his path.

The young man looks at the bartender, still holding the mug to his lips. The bartender raises an eyebrow and grins, satisfied with his customer's reaction to the story.

EXT. - PRISON GROUNDS - DAY

GUARD #2

After robbing them! He's a thief, too! I
heard he stole a city blind!

GUARD #1

Not only was the city blind....he was also.

Gabriel mouths the story to himself in disbelief.

GUARD #2

Impossible!

GUARD #1

Handcuffed and cloth tied around his eyes!
He escaped and fought off a hundred men!

GUARD #2

After they broke his leg in the fight!

GUARD #1

Limped over miles of sinking snow!

GUARD #2

In the middle of a blizzard!

Gabriel rolls his eyes.

GUARD #1

And so he did!

GUARD #2

I knew it!

Governor Darin rides up to them on a white horse.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Knew what, gentlemen?

GUARD #2

Wh-what? What was that?

GOVERNOR DARIN

Knew what? Your story? I'm listening.

GUARD #2

Ohhhh....well, our story about a....dog.

Guard #2 looks down at his guard dog sleeping with a bone between its paws.

GUARD #2 (CONT'D)

A dog with a savage appetite. Starved for days!

Guard #1 nudges Guard #2.

GUARD #1

(whispering)

Not so easy to fool now, eh?

Governor Darin faces Guard #1.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Was there something you wanted to say, Sir?

Governor Darin gracefully gets off his horse, and walks up to the guards with his hands behind his back.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

Or is there something you're both guilty of hiding?

GUARD #1

Aw, rubbish! We weren't hiding anything! Just passing on what we've heard about the killer.

Guard #1 puts his hand on the governor's shoulder. The governor looks at him to remove his hand. The guard quickly removes his hand and pulls on the collar of his shirt.

GUARD #1 (CONT'D)

Harmless story telling, really.

GUARD #2
Would you like to hear it?

Guard #1 elbows Guard #2. Governor Darin rubs his eyes in annoyance.

GOVERNOR DARIN
(murmurs)
God, grant me patience.

GUARD #1
The truth is, Sir, we heard he's a well-known blood spiller.

GUARD #2
Escaped a hundred men blindfolded, too!

GOVERNOR DARIN
Well if that's not the most ridiculous piece of gossip I've ever heard!

GUARD #2
But it's true, Sir!

GOVERNOR DARIN
None of it's true, you idiot!

Gabriel clasps his hands in a grateful manner and shakes his head.

GUARD #1
We also heard he's a very hateful man.

GUARD #2
And very anti-social.

Gabriel, still hiding around the corner of the building, motions to protest, but then nods in agreement with what the guards have just said.

Governor Darin mounts his horse.

GOVERNOR DARIN
I suggest instead of talking about the man, you find him. It's a shame he hasn't killed you both already.

Governor Darin rides away.

GUARD #2
It's your fault.

Guard #1 hits Guard #2. Gabriel pulls out a flask of wine to drink, and spills some. He tries drying it off his clothes, and sneezes.

GUARD #1
You hear something?

Guard #2 raises his shoulders.

The guard dog starts sniffing around in front of him, gets up, and sniffs around the corner of the prison.

Gabriel tries to shoo the dog away. The dog keeps staring at him, wagging its tail.

Gabriel tries to shoo the dog away again. The dog starts barking.

GABRIEL
(whispering)
Shhhh! Shhhh!

The dog keeps barking and tugs at Gabriel's cloak.

Gabriel, trying to get the dog off, comes out from around the corner accidentally.

GUARD #1
Hey, you!

The dog lets go. Gabriel gives the dog an angry look, and turns around to the guards.

GABRIEL
Ah! Gentlemen!

GUARD #1
What were you doing there?

GABRIEL
Gentlemen, I'm a poor man. What wouldn't I be doing there?

The guards look at each other debating the question. The dog sits down by them, staring at Gabriel, wagging its tail. Gabriel sneers at the dog.

GUARD #1
I'm sorry but you can't be here.

The dog pulls on Gabriel's boot. Gabriel tries to kick him off. Guard #1 looks at Gabriel in disgust.

GUARD #1 (CONT'D)

(mumbles)

Doing God knows what.

Gabriel grits his teeth at Guard #1. The dog sits back down.

GUARD #2

We're looking for a runaway convict.

Guard #1 smacks Guard #2.

GABRIEL

Really? I assume you have no indications of his whereabouts?

GUARD #1

Actually....no. We don't. Why so curious?

GABRIEL

Well, if he's loose out on the streets, I have a right to know, yes?

GUARD #1

Fair enough.

GUARD #2

Smart, too. He's a killer with no heart.

GABRIEL

(smiles)

Is he now?

GUARD #2

His soul's as empty as can be.

GABRIEL

How interesting.

GUARD #1

Sorry to waste your time, but we're going to have to ask you to leave.

GABRIEL

Then I'll leave you two fine gents alone. Your dog takes a liking to my wine.

GUARD #2

Sorry about that, Sir. He's not quite trained yet, but has a nose that can smell for miles.

Gabriel flinches as the dog comes closer.

GABRIEL

I see.

GUARD #2

Gonna help us catch this killer playing games with us.

GABRIEL

No need to worry. I'll be going.

Gabriel turns to walk away, then turns back.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

But isn't it true that games of cat and mouse are quite the fun?

The guards turn quickly to each other. Gabriel pulls his hood down further.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Of course there is a rub: Who's to say who's the cat and who's the mouse? Good luck to you both.

The guards again turn sharply to each other. Gabriel disappears. The guards turn back and see a body slip into the shadows across the street.

INT. CAHAL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cahal walks into his house. He flips on the light.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Good evening, Mr. Dreary.

Governor Darin is standing in front of Cahal. Two guards are standing next to him, one holding Mona with his hand over her mouth. Mona is crying.

CAHAL

What's the meaning of this!?

GOVERNOR DARIN

Your wife informed me of a little visit you had earlier. A guest. About the prisons. About the blood-thirsty man I seek.

CAHAL

I've heard naught of whom you speak.

Governor Darin nods to the guard holding Mona. He lets go of her mouth.

MONA
(still sobbing)
I didn't know!

GOVERNOR DARIN
There's nothing left to hide!

CAHAL
Tell your men to unhand her.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Where is he?

CAHAL
I know nothing of this!

GOVERNOR DARIN
Guard!

The guard holding Mona pulls out a knife. Cahal runs over to her.

CAHAL
No!

The other guard hits Cahal in the head knocking him to the floor. Governor Darin bends down to Cahal.

GOVERNOR DARIN
(calm)
Where is he?

CAHAL
Can't you solve this riddle on your own?

Governor Darin gets up and brushes his hands.

GOVERNOR DARIN
What a shame. I was hoping this wouldn't be so difficult.

Governor Darin pulls out a small pistol.

MONA
No! No! Stop! I heard the man was looking for a place to hide.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Where?

Cahal tries to get up but falls down.

MONA

(crying)

I don't know. Just don't harm my husband.
Please!

GOVERNOR DARIN

Many thanks. You're honesty is very
refreshing, good woman.

Cahal looks up to them, having trouble breathing. He manages to sit half his body up against the wall. Governor Darin looks down towering over Cahal.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

A shame such honesty can but save your own
life.

Governor Darin aims his pistol at Cahal and shoots. The bullet hits Cahal in the chest.

MONA

(screams)

No!

The guard lets Mona go. She runs over to Cahal. Governor Darin and his men leave. Cahal's eyes close and Mona holds his head to her chest, sobbing.

INT. - CHURCH - NIGHT

Gabriel is sound asleep in a room along one of the church corridors. His face is dimly lit by a candle flickering. He starts to move in his sleep, distressed. He kicks around the covers to reposition his body, and relaxes.

A light breeze blows in from the window and chills Gabriel. Gabriel pulls the blankets over him tighter. The wind blows harsher and the candle blows out. Gabriel abruptly sits up in bed.

GABRIEL

(breathing heavily)

Ahh!!

Gabriel lights the candle again and slowly lies back down, pulling the sheets higher on him. After a few moments, he slowly and quietly dozes back off to sleep.

The door to Gabriel's room slowly creaks open. Gabriel opens his eyes and stares at the door. He feels the wind blow again, sees the candle flicker, and pulls the blanket up tighter, noticing the door creak open slightly back and forth from the wind.

Gabriel starts to close his eyes again, but sees the door creak further open.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Who's there!?

The room is silent. Gabriel quickly sits up and closes the window. He lays his head back down on the pillow, stares once more at the door and the candle flickering less, then closes his eyes and sleeps.

The door CREAKS again. Gabriel is fast asleep. Suddenly, a hand covers Gabriel's mouth and another pair of hands restrains his arms. Gabriel opens his eyes wide, struggling to scream.

The two men lift Gabriel to his feet, holding him tightly, and escort him out of the room harshly.

INT. - CHURCH FOYER - NIGHT

Governor Darin watches the two men drag Gabriel outside, struggling. His hands are positioned authoritatively behind his back as he watches Gabriel be led away.

Father John comes running out of the corridors of his own room to see what the commotion is all about.

FATHER JOHN

What is the meaning of this!?

GOVERNOR DARIN

Go back to bed, Father John. This does not concern you.

Father John watches the two men drag Gabriel past him.

FATHER JOHN

(whispers)

Gabriel...

Gabriel manages to shout out to Father John before one of the men muffles his voice again with his hand.

GABRIEL

Father!

GOVERNOR DARIN

A pity he can't cry, "Sanctuary!"

FATHER JOHN

(harshly)

That young man obtained sanctuary long before you met him.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Do you think I know not the strictures?

FATHER JOHN

He is to be handled by no man in the House of God, for his sins he repents.

GOVERNOR DARIN

I don't hear any prayer....any, whisper of repentance.

Gabriel struggles and screams out. The men hassle him towards outside the church.

GABRIEL

Sanctuary!

FATHER JOHN

There! There! I demand you release this boy!

GOVERNOR DARIN

I'm disinclined to honor that demand.

FATHER JOHN

How dare you mock the church!?

One of the men tries to cover Gabriel's mouth again with his hand.

GABRIEL

Sanctuary! For all God's grace, sanctuary!

FATHER JOHN

Release him!

Gabriel and the men barely exit the doors of the church.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Seems his foot has stepped out of bounds.

Governor Darin leaves. Father John runs to the door, watching Gabriel struggle, still trying to fight off the men and break loose of their restraint on him.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Gabriel is sitting quietly in his cell staring at the lock. His hands are cuffed behind his back. A finch flies upon the window sill and starts to whistle. Gabriel whistles back. The bird whistles again. Gabriel whistles back again.

Suddenly, the door creaks open. A guard enters, followed by Governor Darin.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Well, well. Look what the rats dragged in.

Gabriel smiles, shaking his head. Governor Darin leans against the bars to Gabriel's cell.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

I have to admit, I am bowled over. The chase. The deceit. The wit!

Governor Darin cocks his head.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

Good show!

Gabriel jumps up and slams his body against the iron bars. Governor Darin jumps back, startled. Gabriel smiles triumphantly. Governor Darin slicks back his hair, fixes his shirt, and steps face-to-face with Gabriel.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Animal.

Gabriel stretches his neck.

GABRIEL

(whispers)

I learned from the finest.

Governor Darin sneers. The guard takes out his keys, and begins to open the cell door. Governor Darin stops him and stares coldly at Gabriel.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(smiles)

Guard, we're finished. The filth in here is too much.

Governor Darin and the guard walk away. Gabriel slams against the bars again as the door closes.

After a moment, a candle inside the cell starts to flicker. Gabriel is looking down, his face half-lit by the moonlight, half covered in darkness. He whistles. The finch flies back to the window sill and whistles back.

GABRIEL

(singing)

Whistle.

The finch whistles.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
Whistle white whistles.

The finch whistles.

Gabriel looks up at the finch.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
*Whistle white whistles where the wind dies
 within.*

Gabriel smiles at the finch.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
Whistle your tune.

The finch flaps its wings. Gabriel stares at the bird.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 I know. It's unpleasant in here.

The finch hops on the sill. Gabriel perks up. He slips his arms from behind his back under his legs in front of him. He pulls out a file from inside his boot.

Gabriel starts sawing away at one of the bars. The finch flaps its wings again.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
*Fly away. Not so easy when your wings are
 frayed*

Gabriel's hand slips and he cuts his arm with the file.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (screams)
 Ahhhh!

Gabriel staggers backwards, then continues sawing.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
*Playing cat and mouse all day. Predator or
 prey. Choose your weapon and thus be saved.*

Gabriel leans against the bars tired. He looks up at the finch.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 I wish I had your wings.

The finch whistles. Gabriel looks at his arm. There is blood on his shirt. He glances up at the bird then paces the cell, tearing his sleeve.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 Cahal once spoke of a woman he works with.

Gabriel finishes tearing off a thin piece of the sleeve. He hits his arm accidentally.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (cries out)
 Ahh! Free people from this bloody hell!

Gabriel writes the words "CELL 4 WINDOW 12" in blood. He sits up and takes a deep breath.

Gabriel stretches out his arm, raises his finger, and whistles. The finch flies over and perches itself on his finger. Gabriel strokes the bird, then ties the piece of cloth around the bird's leg.

Gabriel elevates the bird. The bird flies away. Gabriel sinks down to the floor.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
Whistle.

Gabriel whistles.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
 (singing)
Whistle white whistles.

Gabriel gets up and paces facing the window.

Gabriel turns his head towards the candle flickering. He walks over to the candle. He starts dripping hot wax on his hands, burning himself.

Keys JINGLE by the door. Gabriel slips his hands under his legs back behind his back. He starts silently wiggling his hands out of the cuffs.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Keira is wiping down the counter. Catherine serves drinks to customers and leans over on the bar.

CATHERINE
 Are you all right?

KEIRA

Are you?

Catherine coughs twice, and holds her chance, taking a moment to catch her breath.

CATHERINE

Better now.

Keira shakes her head. She continues to wipe down the counter instead of looking at Catherine. Catherine lifts Keira's chin up to look at her in the face.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

I keep no secrets from you.

Keira smiles and nods, wiping a tear away from her eye. The door to the tavern opens. Mona comes in, crying.

KEIRA

What is that woman doing here?

Catherine turns around, coughing violently and stumbles feeling weak. Keira begins to help her, but Catherine motions her to let her sit herself down. Mona comes up to the counter.

MONA

(sobbing)

Cahal has been shot!

KEIRA

(shocked)

What!?

Mona dries her eyes.

MONA

My husband. Help him, please.

KEIRA

Where is he?

EXT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Keira and Catherine follow Mona outside. Cahal is sitting on the ground against the steps.

KEIRA

Bring him inside.

Catherine and Mona help lift him inside. Keira watches them in, then hears a WHISTLE behind her. She turns around and sees the finch on a tree.

Keira watches the bird stare at her, takes a step back in sudden discomfort, and goes inside.

INT. - TAVERN - NIGHT

Keira walks over to the counter Catherine is standing behind.

KEIRA
Where's Cahal?

CATHERINE
Upstairs. Lying down. What's wrong?

Keira hurries upstairs.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
Keira!

Catherine follows after Keira.

INT. TAVERN UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Keira and Catherine open the door and walk in. Mona is sitting next to Cahal staring at him.

KEIRA
Is he awake yet?

CATHERINE
I don't know. I left him to rest.

MONA
Will he be alright?

KEIRA
Yes. May I have a moment?

Mona looks at Cahal, then back at Keira.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
Please.

Mona gets up and walks towards the door. Catherine leads her out, staring back at Keira. Keira nods to her to close the door. Catherine closes the door quietly.

Cahal moans. Keira sits next to him.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
Cahal? Can you hear me?

Cahal grunts and tries to sit up. Keira props up his pillow.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Cahal?

Cahal opens his eyes slowly. Keira holds her arm and shivers slightly.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Are you feeling better?

CAHAL

I am. Thank you. Are you alright?

KEIRA

I have a dark feeling. Something seems perilously wrong.

CAHAL

You are correct.

Keira looks at Cahal puzzled. Cahal props himself up again, in pain.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

(grunts)

I'm afraid my incident is nothing compared to the danger in store for my friend.

KEIRA

Cahal, please no more puzzles.

Cahal looks at Keira and painfully pulls a note out from his back pocket. He hands it over to Keira.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

It's damp...the ink is...

Keira tries to take the note from Cahal, but Cahal keeps a strong grip on it.

CAHAL

Promise to lend me your ears, not questions.

Keira swallows hard and nods to Cahal. Cahal lets go of the note and gives it to Keira.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

(out of breath)

All you need to know. In case I were to be caught, something left for the revolution...that he was so ready to make.

KEIRA

So the note....what does it mean?

Cahal laughs and tries to sit up again in pain.

CAHAL
What you don't read will not hurt you.

KEIRA
Wait, what's that?

CAHAL
(moans)
What?

Keira reads the note closer. Cahal tries to sit up again.

KEIRA
"G. F."? Initials?

Cahal stops trying to sit up.

CAHAL
(serious)
Go to the prison. Now.

KEIRA
What?

CAHAL
I know the man. He's innocent. Well, more innocent than what they'll make him. Go! Now!

KEIRA
But the note? What does it mean?

CAHAL
I don't know! But if it's who I think, he is in grave danger. You must go now.

Keira gets up and slips the note into her blouse.

KEIRA
What else should I know of him?

CAHAL
Nothing.

Keira reaches the door.

CAHAL (CONT'D)
But....

Keira turns around.

CAHAL (CONT'D)

If you cross paths with Governor Darin, do not let him know you spoke with me.

KEIRA

Why?

Cahal's eyes close.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Cahal?

Cahal takes a deep breath. Keira glances once more at him and goes downstairs, shutting the door behind her. Catherine notices Keira come downstairs in a hurry.

CATHERINE

Is everything alright?

KEIRA

Let him rest upstairs. Watch the bar. I'll be back shortly.

CATHERINE

Keira!

KEIRA

Stay here!

Keira leaves the tavern.

EXT. PRISON GROUNDS - NIGHT

Keira walks, staring at the prison building. Two guards, HARPER and SMITTY, are standing post at the prison entrance. Governor Darin is talking with them.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(whispering)

He is not to be visited. Shoot any man who tries.

KEIRA

Pardon me?

GOVERNOR DARIN

(snaps)

What?

Governor Darin turns around abruptly at Keira.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

(smiles)
Miss Keira! Wh-why-what brings you here
this evening?

KEIRA

Emmm....

Keira pauses, remembering what Cahal told her.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(politely)
Are you lost? Shall I have someone escort
you home?

KEIRA

No! I mean, no, thank you. Edward....have
you seen him? I thought he might be with
you.

GOVERNOR DARIN

With me?

KEIRA

He is head of your council, is he not?

GOVERNOR DARIN

(nervous)
Right. Right.

Keira smiles guiltily at him.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

How did you know where I was?

KEIRA

I made a guess. A lucky one I suppose.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(suspicious)
Quite lucky.

Governor Darin turns back to the guards.

KEIRA

I was also curious....

Governor Darin turns coolly back to Keira.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

For news of any recent prisoner...

GOVERNOR DARIN

You are curious tonight, aren't you?

KEIRA

I am merely trying to remain safe. Haven't caught the murderer yet?

GOVERNOR DARIN

I am proud to say he is now behind bars.

Keira peers suspiciously into the prison.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

....why so interested?

KEIRA

Rumors said it to be so. Is he heavily guarded?

(coquettishly)

One can hardly sleep at night for worrying...

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

Gabriel is sitting at his cell. A jail keeper comes over to him and begins to unlock the cell.

JAIL KEEPER

(laughs domineeringly)

Dinner time.

Gabriel smirks at him.

EXT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before.

GOVERNOR DARIN

He is heavily guarded, Miss. You can rest your fair head easy tonight.

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before.

The jail keeper sets the food down next to Gabriel. Gabriel slips his arms under his legs in front of him quietly. The jail keeper looks over. Gabriel grins at him.

JAIL KEEPER

(laughs)

Filthy dog. Enjoy your last meal!

The jail keeper drops the fork and bends down to pick it up. He turns around startled. Gabriel is towering over him.

EXT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before.

KEIRA
Just two guards will do?

GOVERNOR DARIN
If not, four certainly will.

Governor Darin looks at Keira suspiciously.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
You're looking at two of them now.

Governor Darin turns to them.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
Harper! Where is he?

HARPER
Smitty said he had to.... uhm.... pee....
relieve himself, Sir.

GOVERNOR DARIN
(aggravated)
The second is busy. The third unfortunately
is sick, which is why I'm here.

The fourth guard, SIDNEY, comes walking outside.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
Why aren't you in there!?

Sidney stares blankly with food in his mouth.

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before.

The jail keeper tries to run around Gabriel. Gabriel cuts him off.

JAIL KEEPER
No!

Gabriel starts strangling him from behind with the chains on his wrists. Gabriel drops the jail keeper dead on the ground.

SMITTY walks inside the cell Keira, buttoning his pants and looks up. He sees Gabriel step outside the cell. Sidney enters. They run over to Gabriel. Gabriel paces himself.

EXT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Night shifts can be horribly frustrating.

Keira looks panicky around the exterior of the prison walls.

KEIRA
(innocently)
I suppose your men are tired?

GOVERNOR DARIN
No, Miss Keira. You are safe.

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before.

The guards grab Gabriel by the arms. Gabriel struggles, then slips his hands out of the cuffs, hitting both guards in the face. He looks up at the light shining through the window.

Smitty gets up and swings at him. Gabriel ducks and pulls out his dagger. Sidney gets up. Gabriel stabs him from below. Gabriel gets up and grabs Smitty by the throat. Smitty tries to free himself.

EXT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before.

KEIRA
(panicked)
What time is it?

Governor Darin looks at his watch.

GOVERNOR DARIN
Miss Keira, are you alright?

Smitty comes scrambling outside out of breath.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
Why aren't you watching the prisoner!?

SMITTY
(breathless)
He's escaped....Sir. In there....

Governor Darin, Harper, and Smitty run inside. The clock strikes midnight and RINGS. Keira looks towards the clock and follows after them inside the prison.

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before. Gabriel stares at the window.

Voices SHOUT beyond the door. Gabriel sees shadows running down the hall. He jumps at the window ledge.

Governor Darin, Harper, Smitty, and Keira run in and see the cell is empty, except for the jail keeper's body and Sidney's body lying outside the cell. Then they see Gabriel jump out the window. They run outside.

EXT. PRISON - NIGHT

As before. Governor Darin grabs Smitty by the collar.

GOVERNOR DARIN

I told you to watch him! Watch him! Is that so hard to do!?

Governor Darin lets go and grabs Keira by the shoulders.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

Go home, now.

Keira nods and runs down the street.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

Gabriel runs, panicked, in the streets. He bumps into people and keeps turning behind him. Gabriel sees Governor Darin far behind him, followed by half a dozen guards.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(shouts)

There he is! Get him!

Gabriel pushes through the crowd of people. Governor Darin and his men try to catch up. Gabriel runs down an alleyway. Oswald walks by the alleyway and spots Gabriel. Gabriel grins and grabs Oswald, covering his mouth.

GABRIEL

Ah! So we meet again. Look what chaos you've caused!

Gabriel shoves Oswald against the wall and pulls out his dagger.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

You seem scared, Mr. Oswald. But why of me? I just want to play!

Oswald tries to scream but can't.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I'll give you the chance to scream. Make our game an equal level. Are you ready?

Gabriel lets go of Oswald's mouth. Oswald screams. Gabriel covers his mouth again.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Too slow! And don't tell me this ain't fair, because this is more than you deserve!

Governor Darin's voice is heard from far away. Gabriel looks around to see if he's being followed.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

But let me ask you one question?

Gabriel laughs and pushes Oswald harder against the wall.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Does Death play fair?

Gabriel slices Oswald's throat. Governor Darin and his guards spot Gabriel and chase after him. Gabriel runs down the alley out of sight. He turns the corner, scales the side of a building and stoops over its rooftop, watching Governor Darin lead his men in the chase. He jumps to the next rooftop.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Stop! Thief! Look at the name they call me.

Governor Darin stops and looks up. He spots Gabriel.

Governor Darin motions his men to follow him. Gabriel jumps up, and runs to the edge of the roof and jumps to the next house's roof.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Stop! Thief! Can't a person get a break?

Governor Darin enters onto the rooftop. Gabriel turns around from the other roof, and slides off of it. Governor Darin peers over the edge. Gabriel salutes him and runs.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Would you love a thief rather than a faker? The one whose deeds you know, or the one hiding behind a mask?

Gabriel hides behind a man preaching the public. Governor Darin and his men run by. Gabriel runs the other way and bumps into a woman. The woman jumps back. Gabriel apologizes, running backwards.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Right and left, out on the street, better watch out for the knife in their hands! At least I don't linger behind a mask.

Gabriel stops in his tracks. Governor Darin is in front of him.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Stop!

Gabriel turns and runs. Governor Darin and his men follow in pursuit.

GABRIEL

Stop! Thief! Look at the sky they curse me! Look at the gallows waiting ahead!

Gabriel dodges being hit by a horse pulling a carriage. He runs into the church. A priest nods to him as he passes. Governor Darin with his men, armed, is stopped by the priest. Gabriel walks down the aisle inside the church.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Singing out for mercy! If only Heaven could rain down.

Gabriel stands in the middle of the aisle, then walks away and enters onto the roof. He sits back against a statue.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Dear, God! Let them lose me! Tomorrow I'm fair game! That's all I ask! For another day!

Gabriel stands up and looks out at the people in the streets.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

You don't know what I've seen, what has happened, and the world is cruel!

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Keira and Catherine are sitting by the fireplace drinking. There are several other people in the room sleeping soundly.

The door to the tavern opens. Gabriel comes staggering in, his face hidden by his cloak. He's holding his arm. Keira and Catherine immediately turn to face him. Keira gets up and leads him to sit down by the fire. Catherine gets up to get him a drink.

KEIRA

Sir, are you alright?

Gabriel sits down obviously in pain.

GABRIEL

(gruff)

I'm fine, Ma'am. Thank you.

Catherine comes over with a hot drink in her hands and offers it to Gabriel. Gabriel takes the drink kindly.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Thank you.

CATHERINE

(to Keira)

I'll go check upstairs.

Keira nods to her. Catherine goes upstairs.

KEIRA

Is there anything else you need?

GABRIEL

No, thank you. This will do.

KEIRA

Your arm! You're bleeding.

GABRIEL

Nothing so bad.

KEIRA

I'll go get--

GABRIEL

I'm fine. Really.

KEIRA

(quietly)

You're.... you're the man from the prison.

GABRIEL

(smiles)

And you're the woman who decoyed my escape.

KEIRA

Not on purpose, I can assure you. But I was trying to help. Your note was quite clever.

GABRIEL

Was it? Took you awhile to figure it out.

KEIRA

It would have helped if you said "GUARDS" instead of "CELL".

GABRIEL

(laughs)
I digress.

Keira laughs. Catherine comes downstairs distraught. She whispers in Keira's ears. Keira's eyes start to tear. Catherine goes back upstairs.

Gabriel turns his cup upside down to get the last drop. Keira gets up and takes the cup over to the bar. Gabriel follows her. Keira pours him another drink. Gabriel sits at the edge of the bar.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Good thing Cahal's clever. I was losing hope.

Keira hands him the cup. Gabriel drinks.

KEIRA

You knew Cahal well?

GABRIEL

Very well, actually. He and I--

Gabriel puts the drink down slowly.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Wait. What do you mean "knew"?

KEIRA

He's been shot. He's upstairs, dying. No more medicine. Just cloth, cloth and bandages. You can't say anything!

GABRIEL

What!?

KEIRA

We hide certain people up there. Innocent but have been treated otherwise. People like you!

GABRIEL

Who? Who shot him?

Governor Darin's voice is heard outside. Keira and Gabriel look at the shadows through the window.

KEIRA

Quick! Hide!

GABRIEL

But shot?

KEIRA

Say nothing!

Keira pulls Gabriel down behind the bar. The tavern door opens. Governor Darin walks in.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Governor Darin!

Governor Darin stops scanning the inside of the tavern and walks up to Keira in front of the counter.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Good evening, Miss Keira. I'm sorry to disturb you so late, but I've ordered every place in this town to be searched. That man's somewhere.

KEIRA

I can assure you he hasn't come here.

Catherine comes downstairs. Governor Darin smiles. Catherine looks horrified.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Catherine? What's wrong?

Catherine stares at Governor Darin.

CATHERINE

(to Keira)

I need to speak with you.

KEIRA

Catherine?

Catherine faces Keira.

CATHERINE

(hisses under her breath)

At the minute! Now!

Governor Darin leans against the bar.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Perhaps you can help us, Catherine. It is Catherine, right? I'm looking for a runaway convict. You see him?

Catherine shakes her head. Edward walks into the tavern.

KEIRA

Edward?

EDWARD

(smiles)

I thought you might be here.

Governor Darin stops leaning on the counter.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Maybe my men should have a look upstairs.

KEIRA

No!

GOVERNOR DARIN

No?

CATHERINE

There's no need. And guests are sleeping.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Oh, but I think there is a need.

Governor Darin walks over to the stairs.

Gabriel jumps up from behind the counter.

GABRIEL

Stop!

Governor Darin turns around and pulls out a gun. Gabriel grabs Keira and pulls out his dagger. Keira grabs his arm with both hands.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Don't shoot!

EDWARD

No!

Gabriel nods to Edward.

GABRIEL

Smart man.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Well, it's a pleasure you've decided to stop hiding, Mr. Finch!

GABRIEL

Who's hiding from whom?

KEIRA

Why must you do this thing?

GABRIEL

You really think I can let him take me again?

Governor Darin steps closer. Gabriel points his knife at him and tightens his arm around Keira's neck.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Don't, Governor!

GOVERNOR DARIN

You think I care if I shoot her? I'll still get you!

EDWARD

Darin, stop!

GABRIEL

Now, let's examine that, shall we! You'll shoot her, and I'll slice your throat before you can aim another shot.

Gabriel points his knife at Edward, smiling. Catherine staggers back on the stairs. Governor Darin turns to her, then quickly back at Gabriel.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

You ought listen to this man. What's your name?

EDWARD

Edward!

GABRIEL

A nice name. You're a wise man! Now! Governor Darin! I'm going to walk out of here no chains attached in about two seconds. Shall we start?

Governor Darin positions his pistol.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

One!

Governor Darin lowers his arm. Edward grabs the gun.

EDWARD

No!

GABRIEL

Two!

The gun goes off with a BANG. A glass on the shelf SHATTERS. Catherine screams. The door behind the counter swings closed.

Governor Darin slams his fist down on the bar on broken glass. Edward and Catherine run over to the door. Catherine cries. Edward holds her.

Governor Darin's fist is bleeding. He looks at his hand, glass slivers shimmering all over it, then looks at Edward.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(softly)

Interfere like that again, Mr. Cullington,
and the next shot is for you.

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

Gabriel is dragging Keira by the wrist down to the docks. It is pitch black except for the lighthouse and a couple of ships shining their light out at sea.

KEIRA

(struggling)

Have you lost your good sense entirely?
This is mad!

Gabriel pulls her harder.

GABRIEL

Hold your tongue, Girl, lest you push my
temper.

A CAPTAIN tying up his boat sees Gabriel coming.

CAPTAIN

Pardon me, Sir!

Gabriel brushes past him.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Sir! There's no sailing out tonight. Sea's
too harsh.

Gabriel points his dagger at the captain. The captain steps back. Gabriel unties one of the boats and pulls Keira inside.

GABRIEL

Start rowing!

KEIRA

No!

Gabriel jabs the dagger into the boat angrily.

GABRIEL

Now!

The captain slowly steps back. Keira starts rowing.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Captain, I'd keep quiet if I were you.

The captain turns and runs. Gabriel shakes his head.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(laughs)

They never listen, do they?

Keira keeps rowing. Gabriel plays with his dagger. The sun starts to rise. They are alone far out at sea.

KEIRA

There's a tension growing, and the water's rising. I see a killer before my eyes, and I fear his future crime.

Gabriel looks up at Keira, holding the dagger tight in his hand. Keira stares at him, still rowing.

GABRIEL

Precious angel, I won't harm you. Do you think you know me so well?

KEIRA

Sir, your heart is enraged. Even the sea turns to hide.

Gabriel leans in towards Keira, pointing the dagger behind him. He clenches his fists. He leans back and looks out to sea with despair.

GABRIEL

Darling, don't! Don't tempt me with my hate. Nothing you can say, nothing you can do, would ever cure the poison within. But there is more to my character than society might suspect.

KEIRA

You don't know what you do or who you are. You run, not living, not dying. If it would help, I would pray for you, but I fear you are lost.

Gabriel slams the dagger into the bench. Keira looks down. He lifts her face up, forcing her to look at him.

GABRIEL

I never asked you to pray! You can never understand my deeds or my thoughts.

Gabriel holds his head in agony.

KEIRA
Our path is leading towards the flames!
Don't you hear the calling?

Keira stops rowing. Gabriel picks up the oars angrily and starts rowing himself.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
Your paddle strikes down harder!

GABRIEL
Don't!

KEIRA
Will we capsize?

GABRIEL
No!

Keira peers over the edge.

KEIRA
Do terrible sea creatures infest this
fleet?

Gabriel looks up at the sky, closing his eyes.

GABRIEL
God, please help me!

KEIRA
Man or foaming rage? Which cold shall I
face?

Gabriel stops rowing. He leans his elbow on his knee. He starts playing with his dagger again, making notches in the wood.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
They're going to come for you.

GABRIEL
Who? A pompous fool and his goons? Let
them. But I do admit that one gentleman was
smarter than he looked.

KEIRA
Edward. My fiancé.

GABRIEL

Your fiancé? Now that is of interest. You have a keen eye. He shall no doubt buy you the world.

KEIRA

(appalled)

That's not why I pledge my troth. I love him.

GABRIEL

Then why must you boast of your wealth at every turn?

KEIRA

How dare you? After trying to save you, you kidnap me! You hold me at sword's point!

GABRIEL

Dagger.

KEIRA

Dagger! You aren't thankful for my hospitality, you have no regard for me trying to hide you. You think I enjoy crusading around with a blood-thirsty, self-loathing, dirty....scoundrel!

GABRIEL

And there you have it! You think you are better than I because you help the poor and wrongly accused according to your whim?

KEIRA

I never said such a thing.

GABRIEL

You take them in and think it your good deed for that day! You adore every moment of this madness! You are sick with the pleasure of finding yourself ensnared in a trap!

KEIRA

What is this gibberish you speak?

GABRIEL

You play the wounded maiden, seeking a dear bloody Romeo to spirit you away, thus leaving Satan's little bastard behind to go back from where he came!

KEIRA

He won't rest until he finds me.

GABRIEL

So be it.

KEIRA

Why must this be the state of things?

GABRIEL

I cannot answer why.

KEIRA

You hate without reason, with no true cause of honor.

GABRIEL

You know nothing of my reasoning, of what has given me cause for such hate as this.

Gabriel looks up at Keira. She stares at him. Gabriel jabs the dagger into the wooden seat one more time.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Shall I tell you a tale of my wife? Shall I give you the story of her death?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Gabriel is kneeling by his sick wife's bedside. A doctor comes in. He examines Gabriel's wife. She looks terribly ill.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

She fell gravely ill one night. I didn't know the malady. A doctor arrived in no great hurry.

The doctor talks to Gabriel a few feet away from the bed. Gabriel tries to bargain with him. The doctor shakes his head in disapproval. Gabriel grabs the doctor and slams his head against a mirror, then falls in his arms crying. The doctor pulls him off and walks out the door.

GABRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Her illness was quite curable, he assured me. But alas, I had no gold for medicine. No offering for the doctor God. I begged, pleaded like a man without shame but that he would heal her. I vowed to pay him somehow, on my life, on my honor.

KEIRA

(softly)

What did he do?

GABRIEL

Nothing. The promises of a man delirious with worry meant nothing to him. He left, leaving her to die.

Gabriel's wife calls him. He walks over to her smiling. She smiles at him. He kisses her forehead. She feels the side of his face. Gabriel holds her hand against his cheek. She closes her eyes. Her hand falls. Gabriel tries to wake her up. She doesn't move. He holds her, crying.

GABRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

My wife knew she would die but still, there was hope in her eyes, hope as she looked up at me. Yet there was nothing I could do. She suffered so. The pain beyond endurance. I should have stopped that hell, it's true, made her misery end. Yet I could not. I could not let such life slip from this Earth. Slip away from me. She endured the agony. Dying in my arms, hours later, perhaps even days, I don't know, leaving me alone.

INT. DOCK - NIGHT

As before.

GABRIEL

I thought if I prayed long enough, stayed by her side long enough, she'd come back to me. She died that night, and so did I.

Gabriel picks up the oars and continues rowing. Keira looks at him with empathy.

INT. CELLAR OF EDWARD'S HOME - DAY

It is dark and gloomy. Edward is pacing the room. Governor Darin watches him.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Will you hold still? It's hard enough dwelling on how that fiend slipped away without you making matters worse. I was so near to apprehending him, to ending this madness!

Edward stops pacing.

EDWARD

He was mine! Don't you understand? I should have stopped him. I let him take her without a fight!

GOVERNOR DARIN

You should have let me shoot him where he stood.

EDWARD

You would have shot her!

GOVERNOR DARIN

Instead you let him go!

EDWARD

No! I don't take the blame, you coward.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Coward?

EDWARD

You didn't have the stomach to kill him while he was caught. His escape is on your head.

GOVERNOR DARIN

What do you propose to do?

EDWARD

Find him.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(sarcastically)

Really? I hadn't thought of such a thing!

EDWARD

Put an end to his game.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Once again, what do you propose?

EDWARD

The floors have yet to be painted red enough. Take matters into my own accord. Allow no mercy and no mistakes. Something you and your men were incapable of doing.

Edward starts to pace again. He stops. Clears off a desk with his arm. He grabs paper and a pen. He starts writing.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

How do we go about killing a man? There has to be plot! A demand! Scribble ideas you don't understand. How to catch prey, in the palm of your hands.

Edward crinkles up the paper, and turns to Governor Darin.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

He's a man! A madman! Everybody's come to this! What a joke and a fiend! Whip him down on his knees! Let him try his pleads!

Edward walks over to a window and wipes the cobwebs away. He looks outside.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

First he choked his captor, then he ruined my life! Now nowhere to find him, fleeing from my grasp! Licking his lips in blood. An idea!

Edward turns around. He starts digging around in his bookcase. He pulls out a knife from inside a book.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I've just had a revelation! A murderer can only run so far. Time's not wasted inside these walls. Is it too late for the fate that I have in store!

Edward heads upstairs. Governor Darin follows him. Edward walks into his study. He puts the knife on the desk and dismantles a sword. He sheaths the sword along his belt. He opens a drawer to his desk and holsters a gun.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I'll cut his wrist, I'll rope his throat, I'll gut his life out! Through all the twists and turns inside my head, that boy's good enough as dead! The sleepless nights and taunting light of day! Mark my word, death in vain, will make that monster pay!

Edward walks out to his stable, followed by Governor Darin. Edward lights a lantern and starts harnessing his horse.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Guards can play the chase, I'll hold the ace in my hands. Until the candle dies, I'll plot out his demise!

Edward walks the horse out of the stable. It's raining hard.

Governor Darin mounts his horse. Edward mounts his horse.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Barbarous! That devil precarious! Comes my misdeed, he will not succeed!

They ride off.

INT. AILLWEE CAVES, COUNTY CLARE - DAY

Gabriel helps Keira climb into the cave. Gabriel starts walking deeper into the cave, observing its structure.

KEIRA

Is this where I am to die?

GABRIEL

If I wanted to kill you the deed would already be done.

KEIRA

Then you have no reason to keep me here.

Gabriel turns around and grabs Keira by the arm.

GABRIEL

(angry)

So why must you follow me?!

Gabriel walks away from her further into the cave. Keira walks the other way.

EXT. AILLWEE CAVES - DAY

Keira pushes out the boat. She hears Gabriel scream inside the cave. She picks up the oars, stops, and looks back.

INT. AILLWEE CAVES - DAY

Gabriel is sitting on a rock, cradling himself, crying. Gabriel looks up and sees Keira staring at him.

GABRIEL

Get out of here.

Keira stares at him, fearfully.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

(screams)

Go!

Keira sits down next to Gabriel.

KEIRA

I believe in the goodness. I believe in sanctuary. Cry sanctuary! Yes, I believe in what you cannot see. Come with me.

GABRIEL

This is how we live.

KEIRA

How we live.

Shouts are heard inside the cave. Gabriel grabs Keira and holds the dagger to her throat. Edward appears.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Edward!

Edward pulls out his gun.

EDWARD

Let her go!

KEIRA

(pleading)
Edward, please!

GABRIEL

I can't do it!

Gabriel holds Keira tighter.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

This is how we must live? Doomed by
bloodshed and cries!

KEIRA

Cry sanctuary! Don't falter now.

GABRIEL

I'll watch it all die!

Keira clenches onto Gabriel's arm tighter.

KEIRA

Please, Gabriel, let me go.

GABRIEL

My freedom is all I have. I won't lose it!

KEIRA

It's yours! You don't need me anymore!

GABRIEL

You don't get it! You are my freedom! The
only way out of here alive!

Governor Darin enters.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Shoot him, Edward. Kill that murderer where
he stands!

GABRIEL
It all comes down to false facts!

KEIRA
You killed Mr. Carrigan.

GABRIEL
He killed himself! Deserved everything I gave him.

EDWARD
And the guards, too?

GABRIEL
They all deserve to die! Don't you people ever open up your eyes? Inhumanity comes with a price!

KEIRA
You killed Cahal.

GABRIEL
(shocked)
What?

GOVERNOR DARIN
You were born to burn in Hell, and you'll die burning in Hell!

EDWARD
(to Gabriel)
He would have given his life for you, but you took it by force. You betrayed him.

GABRIEL
No. No! The only betrayal is the person standing behind you!

Gabriel pockets his dagger and pulls out a gun. He aims it at Governor Darin. Edward turns around, confused. Governor Darin has a gun pointed at Edward.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Tell them the truth!

GOVERNOR DARIN
I will kill him!

GABRIEL
Kill him or do not. Whichever may happen, you shall die here, now, and we shall meet one another again in the Hell of which you speak.

GOVERNOR DARIN

This is not...to murder me...it cannot change what must happen to you. It can only make the situation worse.

GABRIEL

Worse than what?

GOVERNOR DARIN

(desperate)

You will undoubtedly be tortured! Drawn! Quartered for your crime!

GABRIEL

If you seek to live, you must seek confession.

GOVERNOR DARIN

There is no priest here...

GABRIEL

Say your sins to us here. Seek exoneration. Or Earthly life ends now for us both.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(panicked)

I did do it, I confess before you now!

GABRIEL

You did what?!

GOVERNOR DARIN

(deep breath)

I shot Cahal...for helping you in your flight...and I did but hold Miss Catherine in bond, forcing her to bring in prisoners lest she leave her wealth behind, Keira.

KEIRA

What?

GOVERNOR DARIN

Oh, she wanted to tell you. Thought she could save you from the bargain she made with me. But you are guilty as well.

EDWARD

You wouldn't. They just wanted to help those people.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Those people don't deserve to live, and neither do the ones who help them.

EDWARD

I won't let you!

GOVERNOR DARIN

If you stand against it, you are disobedient to the law, and by law you'll die and suffer with them, and all the other scum of the earth!

Governor Darin smiles at Gabriel.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

Did you really think you would win?

GABRIEL

Your secret is not safe, Darin.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Oh, but it is. Human beings are faulty. They haul their martyrs up in chains, and applaud their fall!

GABRIEL

I'm not guilty!

GOVERNOR DARIN

After all you tried to do! So easy to put you in the gallows. Your wife helped, too.

GABRIEL

You're lying.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Oh, Gabriel. Can you not see what is right in front of you?! The night your wife died, who was to blame? Me? I'm not so clean in the eyes of our citizens for no reason.

GABRIEL

She wouldn't believe you.

GOVERNOR DARIN

No. Almost, though. Until she got too smart. What one hears can be more dangerous than what one does, don't you agree?

Governor Darin pushes Edward forward in front of him, pointing the gun at his head.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

Losing is an impossible conception to me.

GABRIEL

You assaulted her.

GOVERNOR DARIN

I did.

GABRIEL

Raped her senseless!

GOVERNOR DARIN

'Tis but truth.

GABRIEL

The doctor knew! My wife knew!

GOVERNOR DARIN

Wrong! Recall a young lady named Catherine? Business with me is more than successful, but intertwined with you? Now that's just perfect deceit. She was beautiful, for a night, but not the target.

GABRIEL

No...

GOVERNOR DARIN

Suspicious of a woman. How...heart-sickening it was to tell your wife you've lost interest.

GABRIEL

No more games, Darin.

GOVERNOR DARIN

(angry)

It is no game! Damn doctor! Even money couldn't keep his mouth shut!

GABRIEL

Why didn't she tell me...

GOVERNOR DARIN

(thinking to himself)

I didn't understand. All my days, praised. Yet she wouldn't come to me. If I wasn't good enough in this life, she wasn't good enough to live it.

GABRIEL

Father John...

GOVERNOR DARIN

Protected her? That old...fool! Saw the whole scheme from start to finish. Too hard to dispose of a man of God, Gabriel.

GABRIEL

Tell me it isn't true! On your life!

GOVERNOR DARIN

Impossible to do. Your wife was mine, betrayal bittersweet. The only chair keeping your head out of the rope.

GABRIEL

You took her from me...

GOVERNOR DARIN

Ignorance! I wanted to save her.

GABRIEL

No more lies!

GOVERNOR DARIN

I did! I loved her, you idiot! Every time I saw her, and she chose this!? You!?

Governor Darin licks his lips and lowers the pistol.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)

She fell short of our bargain. Father John...thought the church could overpower me? Beauty wasted on blind faith!

GABRIEL

I'm innocent...for her, I've always been innocent.

GOVERNOR DARIN

Not you! Her! It was always her!

GABRIEL

You prayed for my disappearance.

GOVERNOR DARIN

She would hear no such thing of it. This...epidemic...it was so preventable for her. I couldn't stomach her decision.

GABRIEL

So it was me?

GOVERNOR DARIN

To remove you! To have her. But I couldn't bear the thought. Not only of public disapproval, but the empty reward.

Governor Darin clicks the pistol, preparing to shoot.

GOVERNOR DARIN (CONT'D)
See the truth! You're alone, Gabriel!

GABRIEL
No...

GOVERNOR DARIN
You'll always be alone.

GABRIEL
No!

Gabriel shoots the gun. Governor Darin falls on his knees and drops to the floor, dead. Gabriel points the gun at Edward. Edward drops his gun.

EDWARD
Gabriel, please! You know what it's like to lose a wife! Don't make me suffer the same.

GABRIEL
(cries)
Why! Why? I just want to be free! From this...

Gabriel grabs Keira tighter, sobbing.

EDWARD
But she's not going to save you.

Gabriel stops crying. His hand shakes still holding the gun. He lets Keira go. She drops to the floor by his feet. Gabriel points the gun to his head.

GABRIEL
You're right. Freedom's is but a fanciful notion. Only I can save myself now.

KEIRA
(screams)
No!

Gabriel shoots the gun. He falls to the floor. Keira sobs. Edward runs over and holds her. She buries her face in his chest.

EXT. GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, COUNTY ANTRIM - DAY

It is a bright and sunny day. There is an ocean breeze. Keira stands on the volcano looking out at the sea. Edward walks up behind her, holding flowers.

EDWARD

It's a shame he had to die in such a terrible way. His suffering and pain seemed his only friend. Freedom felt too far.

KEIRA

Perhaps now he is free.

Edward hands her the flowers. Keira sets them next to the dagger, planted in the ground.

A finch flies by Keira and Edward. They watch it leave.

INT. - MARKETPLACE - DAY

The finch perches itself on the rooftop overlooking the poor boy from the alley and his dog working hard in a pottery store.

The boy struggles to pick up a huge box and cautiously walk it into the store. The dog follows on the boy's heels and causes the boy to lose concentration. The boy trips and drops the box. Broken pottery spills out of the box along the floor.

The STORE OWNER grabs the boy by the scruff of his neck onto his feet, holding a half empty bottle of liquor in the other hand. He points to a corner of the store.

The boy scrambles, backing away from the store owner.

STORE OWNER

Little fool! You ain't no manners!

POOR BOY

I'm sorry, Sir! I'll be more careful!

STORE OWNER

Be damned if you aren't!

The store owner throws the bottle in his hand at the boy's shoulder.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)

Get back to work!

The boy starts to pick up the broken glass. The store owner kicks him in the ribs. The boy falls, and after a moment gets back up, his hands bleeding from being cut with the glass.

The store owner loosens his belt, ready to whip the young boy, then stumbles. He holds his head and sets the belt down on the counter.

The boy notices a small coin purse on the belt loop. He looks at the store owner walk away, then hurriedly and quietly slip the coin purse off the belt and pocket it.

The boy steps outside the store and washes his hands off in a muddy puddle. The dog follows him outside. The boy notices the finch on the rooftop stare at him and pauses cleaning his hands.

The store owner yells from inside the store. A loud CRASH is heard from inside the store. The boy looks worried and hides behind the corner of the store.

The store owner comes out, and sees the boy peer his face around the corner. The boy starts running away.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)

(yells)

Boy! Get back here!

The store owner starts running after the boy.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)

(screams)

Thief! Dirty little thief!

The store owner hurls another bottle at the boy and misses him. The boy and the dog run far off in the distance.

EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

Keira and Edward walk away from the volcano. Close on dagger and flowers. The finch flies by and lands on the dagger. The poor boy walks over with his dog. The finch flies onto the boy's shoulder.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

"Untamed by a love to be who I am. Life is, after all, just a game, a chase of cat and mouse."

The boy picks up the dagger and holds it.

GABRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And who's to say who's the cat, and who's the mouse?

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END