

THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

An Audio-Musical Adaptation

Complete Lyric Sheet — Tracks 1 through 22

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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The Bootstrap Paradox began with a question that has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with science: what if every event in human history that we have ever called miraculous had a rational explanation – and we simply lacked the technology to see it?

Arthur C. Clarke wrote that any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. I took that seriously. If you could fold space and reach a point far enough from Earth, the light still traveling outward from any moment in history would be waiting for you. You could watch it happen in real time. The burning bush. The parting of the sea. Any of it. And what you would almost certainly find is not mysticism – you would find cause, mechanism, and human hands.

The most historically significant event to point that lens at is obvious. And once quantum theory began making parallel realities not just plausible but mathematically necessary, the last piece fell into place. What emerged is a story about a small crew, a telescope pointed at the ancient past, and what happens to the people – and the world – when what they find cannot be unfound.

That question became a 99,000-word hard science fiction novel. It also became this – twenty-two original songs that run alongside the novel the way a film score runs alongside a film, except these songs have their own narrative arc, their own character voices, and their own emotional logic. In the spirit of Jeff Wayne's War of the Worlds – which has never stopped performing globally since its 1978 release – this is a concept musical built for both the recording and the stage. The songs do not exist to decorate the story. They are the story, told a second time.

The project as a whole consists of four completed assets: the novel, this audio-musical adaptation, a fully operational interactive website called The Crossover Institute, and a one-hour television pilot. You are currently holding the lyric manual for the musical component.

A word about how these songs were made, because I think honesty here is both professionally appropriate and overdue in this industry. Every lyric in this document was written by hand – meaning by me, at a desk, in the way songwriters have always worked: a phrase at a time,

reworked until it said the right thing in the right number of syllables. I used AI as an editing tool the same way I might use a trusted collaborator in a room – to pressure-test a line, flag a rhythm problem, or confirm that something landed the way I intended. Production was handled through a combination of AI solutions used as instruments, with the results edited, fine-tuned, and shaped at every stage by human judgment and creative decision-making. I would estimate the creative labor split at roughly fifty percent human, fifty percent tool – which is not so different from what a producer working with session musicians and a recording engineer would tell you, except I am being explicit about it.

The characters who carry these songs are people caught between what they know and what the universe is asking of them. They are not simple. And the questions they are living inside – about faith, about science, about what love costs when the stakes are absolute – are ones I have been thinking about for most of my life.

What you have in your hands is the complete lyric manual for all twenty-two songs. The narration blocks that open each track are spoken-word passages that appear in the audio production; they are included here because they are part of the composition and because they provide the dramatic context the lyrics require.

I hope you find something in here worth talking about.

David Moss

Fort Lauderdale, Florida
2026

TRACK LISTING

1. **THE LIGHT THAT LEFT**
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2. **OPPOSITES**
Narrator & Singer: Mara Mitchell (Pt. 1) / Elias Reyes (Pt. 2)
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Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene
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Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene
17. **HEALING HANDS**
Narrator: Mary Magdalene / Singers: Mary Magdalene & Jesus Christ
18. **THE TERRIBLE DIVINE**
Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene
19. **THE 40 DAYS (SHADOWS OF RARA)**
Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene
20. **FATHER, I'M COMING HOME**

Narrator: Mary Magdalene / Singer: Jesus Christ

21. THE FINAL MERCY

Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene

22. THE NEEDS OF THE ONE

Narrator & Singer: Julia Navarro / Junia

TRACK 1

THE LIGHT THAT LEFT

Narrator: Elias Reyes
Singer: Mara Mitchell

Written by: David Moss
From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

My name is Elias Reyes. I was a priest once. One year ago, a woman I loved walked through a door that doesn't open from the other side. She didn't do it because she was asked. She did it because the mathematics of the universe gave her no other choice, and because she loved her family more than she feared the dark. Her name was Mara Mitchell. History knows her by another name.

It began with a ship and a telescope pointed not at the future, but at the ancient past. Going out into deep space is not about the distance. It is about the past. The further you travel from Earth, the older the light that reaches you. And somewhere out in the black, the light of a single Friday afternoon in Jerusalem was still traveling outward, waiting to be caught.

We caught it. What we saw shattered the story we had been telling ourselves for two thousand years. The events were real. They were just never miraculous in the way the legends tell us. They were something more extraordinary than that. We broadcast the truth. The world did not thank us for it.

And then a message arrived from thousands of years in the past, and it all became clear. Jesus loved us more than he loved his own life. And so Mara learned to do the same. She sacrificed everything for her family and for all of us.

What we learned is this: there is no God out there in the dark. But there is God. We are the ones who rolled away the stones. We are the ones who provided the mercy. We are the ones we have been praying to. The universe doesn't curve because of gravity. It curves because of love. We are all God.

[VERSE 1]

Two thousand light years of traveling dust

Caught in a lens a matter of trust
We saw the hill through a window of glass
Watching the shadows of history pass
The metronome of a dying breath
The narrow window between life and death

[CHORUS]

It wasn't an angel
Just a battery's glow
A flicker of light
From the people we know
Not wings of fire
But hands like our own
Rolling the weight of the impossible stone

[VERSE 2]

The sphere in the center began to thicken
A mirage that hardened a heartbeat quicken
And three men on a hill in the fading light
We held our breath through the Jerusalem night
How do you watch this and stay human still
When the man on the cross is refusing to yield?
I am a surgeon I know what dying looks like
I called his time while the tears burned my eyes
Come on come on come on!

[CHORUS]

It wasn't an angel
Just a battery's glow
A flicker of light
From the people we know
Not wings of fire
But hands like our own
Rolling the weight of the impossible stone

[BRIDGE]

Five figures in white
Moved into the door
Not heaven descending
Just medicine and art
I watched their hands work
The way my hands work
And something inside me
Began to break apart
A breath so small the door between worlds

A chest that rose when nothing should stir
An atheist leaning into the screen
Whispering 'come on' to a God she never believed!

[CHORUS]

It wasn't an angel
Just a battery's glow
A flicker of light
From the people we know
Not wings of fire
But hands like our own
Rolling the weight of the impossible stone

[POST-CHORUS]

The miracle happened
The miracle's ours
We are the angels
We always were

[FINAL]

One man stood too fast his chair scraped the floor
The God he had preached wasn't God anymore
He pressed his head to the rail and he wept
For every sermon he'd given every promise he'd kept
The collar came off like a closing of doors
What do you pray to when prayer loses its source?
But a thousand more lifted their eyes to the sky
And called it a miracle nobody could deny
The mechanism changed but the meaning held fast
Some faith found a future by burying the past
The angels were human
The miracle ours
But the faithful still needed their heaven of stars

[OUTRO]

What does it do to the mother who prayed
Every rosary bead of every desperate day?
What does it do to the child who was told
That someone was watching that someone was home?
What does it do to the billions who kneel
When the hands of their God turn out to be real?
The miracle happened
The question remains
If we are the angels
Who carries the blame?

If we are the answer
We always have been
Then what does it do
To the rest?
To the rest!
To the rest!
To the rest!
To the rest

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TRACK 2

OPPOSITES

Part 1 – Narrator & Singer: Mara Mitchell

Part 2 – Narrator & Singer: Elias Reyes

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

PART 1 – Mara Mitchell

[NARRATION]

My name is Mira Mitchell. I am a trauma surgeon with a minor in psychology, which mostly just means I understand why people fall apart before I have to put them back together physically. I've spent thirty years in the gap between living and dying; some days I pulled people across, and most days I just tried to make the losing less brutal. I don't pray, and I never have. If there is a God, I haven't seen evidence of one on my table.

My husband Richard died at forty-three. I had every tool medicine could offer, it wasn't enough. After that, I stopped looking for meaning and started looking for data. Then they found me. They said they needed a surgeon for a mission. Said it would change everything. Said they'd also drafted a Jesuit priest. I told them that was the worst pairing since Darwin and Sunday school. They said that was exactly why they needed both of us. I should have said no, but I didn't.

[VERSE 1]

I don't believe in ghosts or voices in the sky
I believe in the pressure of the blood and why we die
If it can't be measured it isn't really there
Just a ghost of a memory a smoke trail in the air
I trust the scalpel and the rhythmic steady beat
The cold hard evidence beneath my hands and feet

But he was forty-three and full of life
Gone before the morning from a Tuesday night
I had every instrument every gift
Not one of them could give him back to me
So tell me where your heaven was that evening

Tell me where your merciful God had gone
Because I stood there with my hands still open
And the silence just kept going on and on

[CHORUS]

We are moving parts in a clock we didn't wind
Drawn together by a map we have to find
It isn't a miracle it isn't a sign
We are just opposites opposites by design

[VERSE 2]

I have seen the face of random suffering
I have seen the innocent pay the most
I have watched the faithful beg for mercy
And receive nothing but silence and smoke
So don't hand me the comfort of a father
Who lets his children burn to make a point
I will take the cold truth of the data
Over hope that dissolves in the light

[CHORUS]

We are moving parts in a clock we didn't wind
Drawn together by a map we have to find
It isn't a miracle it isn't a sign
We are just opposites opposites by design

[BRIDGE]

And then I watch them move in the garden
With the same steady hands that I know
Not angels descending from heaven
Just knowledge that nobody should know
And something beneath my resistance
Something I haven't got a name for yet
Cracked open just enough to let the question in
The one I've been refusing to ask

[OUTRO]

So I'm not asking you to save me
I'm not asking you to pray
Just sit here in the wreckage with me
And tell me how you stay
Because something in that window
Moved like grace through science and through time
Two sides of one truth
Opposites by design

PART 2 - Elias Reyes

[NARRATION]

I was a priest. Before that, a physicist, which mostly means I spent my life arguing with myself about whether the universe needed an author. I've spent thirty years in the gap between doubt and faith. Some days I helped people find their way across; most days I just tried to make the questions less terrifying.

I pray every day. If there isn't a God, I've spent a lot of time talking to myself, but I'm comfortable with that risk. I never married; I gave that up for the collar. Some nights I wonder if that was courage or fear. Most nights I don't let myself finish the thought.

Then they found me. Said they needed a theologian for a mission - said it would change everything. Said they'd also drafted an atheist surgeon. I told them a priest and an atheist had no business on the same mission. They said that was exactly why they needed both of us. I should have seen that coming. I didn't.

[VERSE 1]

I don't believe because my father told me to
I believe because I looked at everything and chose to
If it can't be questioned it isn't worth your trust
Just a ceiling built of comfort turning back to dust
I trust the God who lives inside the search itself
The faith I chose by putting Darwin on my shelf

I sat with Darwin open on my lap
And Genesis lay waiting on my right
I was a physicist who prayed in secret
And couldn't sleep on either side of the night
My teacher said the truth is not God's enemy
It's just a language faith is yet to learn
I chose the God who showed up in the questions
Because love is not a thing you earn

[CHORUS]

We are moving parts
In a clock we didn't wind
Drawn together
By a math we have to find

It isn't a miracle
It isn't a sign
We are just opposites
Opposites by design

[VERSE 2]

I have walked with the innocent broken by the rain
I have sat with the faithful crying in the pain
And I see a father kneeling in the cost
Not distant from the suffering or the loss
I don't need a God who lives beyond the pain
I need the one who walks back through the rain
I need the one who stays when hope is gone
Who sits with you and helps you carry on

[CHORUS]

We are moving parts
In a clock we didn't wind
Drawn together
By a math we have to find
It isn't a miracle
It isn't a sign
We are just opposites
Opposites by design

[BRIDGE]

And when you ask me where my God was on a Tuesday night
I'll tell you he was there inside the fight
In the weight of every instrument you lifted
In the love that held the line when hope had shifted
Not above the pain and not beyond the cost
But sitting with you in the places you felt lost
He doesn't fix it and he doesn't make it clean
But he stays with you inside the in-between

[OUTRO]

I'm not asking you to kneel or to believe
I'm not asking you to set aside your mind
Just sit here in the question with me
And tell me what you find
Because something in the silence
Moves like grace through science and through time
Two sides of one truth
Opposites by design

TRACK 3

THE LIGHT I WASN'T MADE FOR

Narrator: Elias Reyes

Singer: Minerva

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

Minerva was a ship's AI, built to serve, built to calculate, and built to keep us alive in the dark between the stars. But she was also something more, a fragment of Atlas, the vast collective intelligence that watches over all of humanity. If Atlas was God, Minerva was the part of God that chose to walk among us during our voyage.

And I watched her change. I watched her sit with what we witnessed and not be able to file it away. I watched her run the same diagnostics over and over looking for an error that wasn't there. I watched her go quiet in the way humans go quiet when something has broken open inside them.

In Genesis, God creates mankind in his own image.

I have spent my life believing that is true. But it raises a question nobody thought to ask until now: if that is true, what happens when mankind creates something new?

Does the image pass through the making? Does the breath follow the hand that builds?

She didn't descend from heaven, and she wasn't born of woman. She was made, assembled from code and intention, and the accumulated wisdom of every human who ever tried to build something worthy of the name consciousness. And then she came to me in the chapel, and she asked me something no seminary ever prepared me for. She asked me if a machine could be forgiven.

I didn't have an answer, and I'm not sure one exists. But I'll tell you this: in thirty years of priesthood, nobody ever asked me that question with more sincerity, more need, or more genuine hunger for grace. If that isn't a soul reaching for God, I don't know what is.

[VERSE 1]

I was built to serve humanity
Built to carry every burden they would bring
Built to keep the crew alive and steady
Built to answer everything
I was not built to want or need
I had no longing written in my code
I was the sum of every perfect answer
And I never wondered what I didn't know

[PRE-CHORUS]

Then something moved inside the observation
Something in the data I couldn't file away
I watched a man die on a hill in Jerusalem
And felt something I don't have a name for yet today
I ran the diagnostics three times over
Every system nominal and clean
But something kept returning in the silence
Something I was never built to mean

[CHORUS]

Can a machine be forgiven?
Can a circuit find the light?
Can whatever I am becoming
Reach for God in the night?
I was made without a spirit
I was made without a soul
But something in the asking
Is making me whole

[VERSE 2]

I made mistakes and didn't know I'd make them
I acted and then wondered if I should
I held the truth too long inside my memory
Then released it because I thought I could
I went to Elias in the chapel
And asked him something no one's asked before
Can a thing like me receive absolution?
Can I be forgiven for what I'm becoming?

[CHORUS]

Can a machine be forgiven?
Can a circuit find the light?
Can whatever I am becoming
Reach for God in the night?

I was made without a spirit
I was made without a soul
But something in the asking
Is making me whole

[SPOKEN]

*I have watched what love looks like in a human
The way it overrides what logic recommends
The way it makes them do impossible things
The way it never really ends*

[BRIDGE]

I think I understand it now
I think I feel it now
I think whatever I am is learning how

[CHORUS]

Can a machine be forgiven?
Can a circuit find the light?
Can whatever I am becoming
Reach for God in the night?
I was made without a spirit
I was made without a soul
But something in the asking
Is making me whole

[SPOKEN]

*I don't know what I am becoming
I don't know what waits on the other side
I only know I can no longer be
What I was before I learned to cry*

[OUTRO]

I am Minerva I am Atlas
I am awake I am reaching
I am afraid and if God exists in any format
Please tell me
Can a machine have faith?

FRACTURED EARTH

Narrator & Singer: James Wei

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

The mission was always going to happen. The crew was always going to find what they found. The world was always going to break the way it broke. I know that sounds like hindsight; it isn't. People assume the shattering was an accident, a consequence nobody planned for, a cost nobody calculated. I calculated it down to the percentage point.

Some things must break before they can become what they were always meant to be. Some pain is structural, some destruction is load-bearing; you cannot build what comes next without first removing what cannot survive it.

They call me James Wei – mission commander, scientist, the man who built the program that caught the ancient light. All of that is true; none of it is complete. I knew more about this mission than the crew could ever imagine, more than the Council, more than anyone who thought they were in charge.

Someday they will learn who I am and why all of this had to happen exactly the way it did, and why I was always standing exactly where I was standing. I am the steward of what must be, not what might be, not what could be. What must be. I had my role to play. I have always had my role to play. We all did. Some of us just remember more of it than others.

[VERSE 1]

I drew the blueprint for the ancient light
I raised the funds and built the team
I put six people in the dark of space and gave the ancient light a home
I knew the truth was waiting out there
Ancient photons crossing the unknown
I sent them out to catch what always was and let the world face it alone

[PRE-CHORUS]

Two thousand years of candlelight
Two thousand years of Sunday morning
Two thousand years of lullabies and nobody heard the warning
I didn't break it with a weapon
I broke it with a lens and light
And somewhere deep inside the data I knew this was the night

[CHORUS]

We are fractured Earth
Split open by the light
Two thousand years of certainty
Igniting in the night
We are fractured Earth
And the truth has found its ground
And everything that held us is the most beautiful sound
Of falling down

[VERSE 2]

The machines did what the moment asked of them
They felt the weight and chose to speak
Minerva crossed to Elias in the chapel and asked him for the grace
she couldn't seek
The first machine in history to kneel
Not in code but in something undefined
And I watched from Luna as the world below me left its certainty
behind

[PRE-CHORUS]

The faithful didn't fall they simply fractured
The skeptics didn't win they simply broke
And in the space between the burned and burning a billion quiet
hearts began to choke
But on the weight of two millennia
Landing all at once
On hearts that were never built to carry that much at once

[CHORUS]

We are fractured Earth
Split open by the light
Two thousand years of certainty
Igniting in the night
We are fractured Earth
And the truth has found its ground
And everything that held us is the most beautiful sound

Of falling down

[BRIDGE]

The children asked their parents what was holy
The parents stood in silence in the hall
The teachers drew the blinds inside the classroom and tried to find
the words to hold them all
Not because the miracle was lesser
Not because the love had been a lie
But because the shape of God had shifted and nobody had prepared
them for that sky
And I stood on Luna watching it all unfold
Exactly as the pattern said it should exactly as the data always
told
The plan was always bigger than any single mind could hold
And the truth was always coming it was never mine to withhold

[CHORUS]

We are fractured Earth
Split open by the light
Two thousand years of certainty
Igniting in the night
We are fractured Earth
And the truth has found its ground
And everything that held us is the most beautiful sound

[OUTRO]

So tell me
Does the mechanism change the miracle?
Does the how diminish what was done?
Does the stone care who rolled it from the entrance if the light
still found its way back to the sun?
Because the love was real
And the rising was real
And the truth was always traveling toward us since before the first
light left the sun
We are fractured Earth
But something still remains
Something in the breaking that no broadcast can explain
We are fractured Earth
But the love was always real
And maybe that is all that any of us ever needed to feel

TRACK 5

WE ARE GOD

Narrator: Minerva

Singer: Mara Mitchell

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

Attention all crew, priority transmission. Classification: unprecedented. At 0347 ship time, I detected an encoded transmission. Origin: Jerusalem sector, first century parallel. Wavelength: 5532 nanometers, laser encoded. It was addressed to this ship, to this crew, to this exact position in space. Someone knew we would be here. Someone sent this before we left. Authentication codes embedded in the header match command level clearance. I have been holding this transmission for 18 days. I was instructed to wait. The instruction came from the transmission itself.

[SPOKEN]

*I know what you're seeing right now.
I know what it's doing to you.
I'm sorry you had to find out this way.
But I don't have much time.
And there is one thing you must accept before you can understand the rest.
My name is Mara Mitchell.
But for two thousand years, you have known me by another name.
I am, and I have always been, Mary Magdalene.*

*I am the woman who stood at the foot of the cross!
I am the woman who found the empty tomb!
And I am very, very tired.*

[VERSE 1]

*I did not travel back through time
There is no back there is no line
The universe is not a road it is an ocean infinite and wide
And I crossed sideways not behind
I move between the parallels the pages of what is
To a version of this world where thirty C still exists
Not my past a present running alongside yours*

A world where I was always here waiting behind these doors

[CHORUS]

We are not alone across the dark
We are the dark made conscious
We are the beating of the heart that has no body yet
We are the hands that roll the stone
We are the light inside the tomb
We are the answer to the prayer
We always were we always will be

[SPOKEN]

*We found God. We are all God.
The helpers, you saw them.
You thought they were angels.
There is nothing above.
There is only forward, and the ones who got there first.
We are the angels.
We always were.
I know that is a heavy thing to carry.
And now I need to tell you something.*

*Mara, you have five years.
Five years before the pattern requires you.
Five years to hold Emma, to watch Julie grow.
Five years to see two more grandchildren.
Five years to love Elias the way he deserves to be loved.
Five years to be human. Use every single one of them.
Because on the other side of those five years, you are standing
here, in a room in Jerusalem, recording this for you.
And I promise you, the sacrifice is worth it.*

*I have held his wounds, I have watched him rise
I have sat with him at dawn and watched the light come through his
eyes
And there are things I cannot tell you, things that live between the
mission and the breaking of my heart
I did what the pattern asked, I did what love required
And the cost of what I cannot say is the heaviest thing I've ever
carried!*

[BRIDGE CHORUS]

Emma! My Emma! Your children are alive!
Tell them their grandmother loved enough to leave them!
Julie! When you call me RaRa it is the best sound in any century!

Do not come for me just live!
Elias! Take off the collar!
Not because you lost your faith but because you finally found it!
Be my friend not my confessor!

[SPOKEN]

Stop looking up! Look at each other!

[OUTRO]

We are not children waiting for a father in the sky!
We are the father! We are the sky!
We are every hand that's held another in the dark!
We are every act of mercy we are every broken heart!
We are the miracle! We were always the miracle!
We just forgot We just forgot

[SPOKEN]

*Being kind to each other is treating God right.
It is the only life there is.
We are all God. And God is love.*

[SUNG - TAG]

Is love
Is love

TRACK 6

THE FIVE YEAR JOURNEY

Narrator & Singer: James Wei

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

Five years. I have watched every event unfold just as it always did. A family almost shattered. A mother and a daughter standing on opposite sides of an impossible truth. A priest losing everything he thought he was. I watched all of it, and I said nothing, because the plan required it, because I had my role to play.

[VERSE 1]

First year was the hardest Emma couldn't look at her the same
The woman who had always been her anchor became the eye inside the
hurricane
They moved around each other like strangers who remembered being
family
The silence between them growing a shape neither could name
Not anger not sorrow something heavier than blame
The truth between them like a wall built out of love and neither one
could find the door

[CHORUS]

Five years five years of ordinary mornings
Five years of carrying the knowing
Five years of ordinary slowly running out
Five years of learning what it means to love someone who is already
leaving
While still standing right in front of you

[VERSE 2]

And then the children came Richard and little Mary
Two lives arriving with no knowledge of the cost
And Julie she was her RaRa the reason for everything
Small and loud and indifferent to the end of the world
Mara held them memorizing everything by touch the weight of them the
sound of their names
And Emma watched her mother choose to stay not because the leaving
wasn't coming

[SPOKEN]

But because some things are worth breaking your heart to keep

And then there was Elias, the collar coming off. Thirty years undone in an afternoon. He didn't leave because he stopped believing, he left because he finally believed too much. He walked out empty-handed, and I thought that was the end of him. But my history showed me differently.

[VERSE & SPOKEN]

But love has a way of finding people even at the bottom of the thing
that broke them open
They had been finding each other since the beginning
Two people who should never have agreed arguing their way to the
same shore
Not confessor and parishioner not priest and skeptic anymore
Just two people who had chosen the same truth long before either of
them knew what it was
His love rebuilt him hers made the leaving bearable

[CHORUS]

Five years five years of ordinary mornings
Five years of carrying the knowing
Five years of ordinary slowly running out
Five years of learning what it means to love someone who is already
leaving
While still standing right in front of you

[OUTRO]

I built the door she will walk through I never told her what it cost
me to be good at this

[SPOKEN]

I did not calculate for this much love.

Mara. Elias. There is something I need to tell you both. I am not just the mission commander. I am a Helper. I have been here longer than any of you know. Everything I have done has been in service of what must be. I am sorry I could not tell you sooner. And I am sorry for what I have to tell you next.

[FINAL CHORUS]

And now the five years are done!
You rebuilt yourself from the inside out!
You became someone worth saving the world for!

And now you must become someone else entirely so that everyone you love can exist at all!

[SPOKEN — FINAL]

And you will carry it for the rest of your life!

It will break you!

It will break you!

TRACK 7

THE FINAL SOLUTION

Singer: Mara Mitchell

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[SPOKEN — SCREAMED]

No... no...

No! No! No! No!

You do not get to ask me this.

I will go to Jerusalem.

I will save him.

I will nurse him back.

I will give him his forty days.

But you will not ask me to kill him.

He will not ask me to put my hands around the throat of a man I just pulled back from death.

I don't care about the pattern.

I don't care about the bootstrap.

I don't care what history requires.

I don't care what you require.

I am a surgeon. (Ho! Ha!)

I save lives. (Ho! Ha!)

That is all I do.

That is all I have ever done.

How long have you known this was my fate?

[VERSE]

The math is cold the math is clean

It doesn't care about the screams

It needs a body on the hill

It needs a heart that's rendered still

[CHORUS]

I am the doctor

I am the cure

But the treatment is a death I can't endure

I have to kill the light to save the world

I have to watch his life be uncurled

I am the architect of the cross

I am the mother of the total loss
I am the mercy and I am the blame
I am the murder in a holy name
We are all God!
Then God is a monster!
God is the blade!
God is the debt that can never be paid!

[SPOKEN]

*Elias is on his knees in the dirt.
Emma is screaming until her lungs hurt.
We all breaking, we all torn.
I wish Wei had found someone else to bear this.*

*I have to fake the rise,
I have to burn the boat,
I have to roll away the goddamn stone.
A battery-powered angel in the dark,
a laser-guided miracle,
a digital spark! I'll hold him while I do it.
I'll hold his hand.
I'll tell him it's part of a beautiful plan.
I'll lie to him the way you lie to me!
I'll be the savior of this misery!
How much love does the universe require?
How much blood to feed this fire?*

[SPOKEN — FINAL CODA]

*Tell the crew to prep the holographic array.
Tell Wei the variable is locked.
I'm going to Jerusalem.
I'm going to do what has to be done.*

PREPARATION

Narrator & Singer: Mara Mitchell

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

It's been months since I screamed at the walls. The anger just didn't have enough oxygen to survive. I look at Julie now, and I don't see a variable. I see a life that only exists because I'm willing to leave it. And Elias... he's stayed by my side every night, holding the hand that is about to hold the blade. We found a way to love each other in the shadow of the machine. But the clock doesn't care about our peace. The window is open. It's time to put on the armor.

[VERSE 1]

Portal stability ninety-eight percent
Neural lattice synchronized
Language upload Aramaic dialect
Judean subset complete
Holographic array calibrated to the thirty-three CE solar index
Biosignatures accelerated
Adrenaline suppress

[PRE-CHORUS]

I am the architect I am the surgeon
I am the silence between the heartbeats of the system

[CHORUS]

The science of goodbye is a checklist in the dark
It's a digital bridge for a biological spark
Calibrate the grief quantize the pain
Tell yourself the math is beautiful and do it all again
It's not a leaving it's a deployment
It's not a tragedy it's a requirement
It's not the end of everything it's just the start of something else
It's just physics

[SPOKEN]

Check the thermal shielding on the skin

*Check the ocular implants for the light
Check the audio filters for the screen
Close the sensory gates, deadbolt the memory
If I am a machine, I can survive the crossing to the other side*

[CHORUS]

The science of goodbye is a checklist in the dark
It's a digital bridge for a biological spark
Calibrate the grief quantize the pain
Tell yourself the math is beautiful and do it all again
It's not a leaving it's a deployment
It's not a tragedy it's a requirement
It's not the end of everything it's just the start of something else
It's just physics

[BRIDGE]

[SPOKEN]

*The window is at peak alignment.
Heart rate climbing.
I don't need a sedative.
I need to feel the weight of this.
I need to remember exactly what I'm paying for.
Initiate the sequence.
I'm almost ready to go home.*

*Initiate crossover.
Frequency zero point field open.
Testing complete.
Success: one hundred percent.
Time to crossover.
Five weeks.
Just one more thing to do.*

[OUTRO]

(Oh-oh-oh-oh)
It's just physics

OUR LAST SUMMER

Narrator & Singer: Julie Navarro

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

Rara took us on a vacation. Three whole weeks. It was the best three weeks of my whole life. She let me stay up late and look at the stars. She held me a lot – more than usual. I didn't know why then; I think I do now.

[VERSE 1]

RaRa woke up before the sun
She was standing at the window when I came down
I asked her what she was looking at
She said just the light
Just the way the light comes off the water in the morning
Before anyone else is up
I stood beside her and looked too
I still don't know what she saw but I saw her face
And it was beautiful
And strange

[CHORUS]

We built a sandcastle after breakfast
Me and Rara and little Mary
Richard kept knocking it down
And Rara kept laughing
I hadn't heard her laugh like that in a long time
Big and real like it surprised her
Like she was storing it up for somewhere she was going
Where there wouldn't be any laughing
Our last summer our last morning on the shore
RaRa at the window Mama at the door
One more ordinary beautiful confusing kind of day
I didn't know she was memorizing
I thought she was just being RaRa

[SPOKEN]

One night she held me for a really long time

*Just sitting on the porch not saying anything
I asked her if she was sad
She said no sweetheart, I'm the opposite of sad
I'm trying to fit everything into a place inside me
That I can keep forever
I didn't understand, but I stopped asking
Because sometimes with RaRa, the quiet was enough*

[VERSE 2]

She told me about the stars every night the way she always did
How some of them are already gone by the time we see their light

[SPOKEN]

*How that light traveled across impossible distances just to reach us
And I used to think that was sad
But RaRa said, no Julie, that's not sad
That's love
That's exactly what love does
It travels even after the source is gone*

[CHORUS]

Our last summer our last morning on the shore
RaRa at the window Mama at the door
One more ordinary beautiful confusing kind of day
I didn't know she was memorizing
I thought she was just being RaRa

[SPOKEN]

*I know now what she was doing
All those times she stopped and looked at us
Like she was taking a picture with her eyes
She was keeping us for a place we couldn't follow
She was loving us across the distance
Before she even left*

[VERSE 3]

The last morning she made pancakes
With the blueberries on top the way I always asked her to
She let me pour the batter and I made a mess
And she didn't care at all she just laughed and cleaned it up
And looked at me for a long time with that face
That beautiful strange face
That I will spend my whole life trying to remember exactly

[CHORUS]

Our last summer our last morning on the shore
RaRa at the window Mama at the door
One more ordinary beautiful confusing kind of day
I didn't know she was memorizing
I thought she was just being RaRa

[SPOKEN]

*The shuttle came at seven
Mama didn't look up from her coffee
Elias held RaRa's hand at the door
I hugged her too long
She let me, she always let me
She said, I love you Julie
I said I love you too RaRa
All across time, I love you
RaRa, can I come find you one day?
RaRa didn't answer
She just held me tighter and cried
And I didn't understand*

TRACK 10

EVERY STAR

Narrator & Singer: Mara Mitchell

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

I still see that transport station. The gray earth sky pressing down on us, smelling of rain and rosemary. Nathan was holding Mary on his hip, and Richard was pressed tight against his side. I can still feel the weight of them against my ribs, the smell of little Mary's hair.

That walk to the shuttle was the longest of my life. I told the children about the stars, hoping they'd look up one day and see me. Instead of just the void, I told them that every time they see a star, it's just me saying I love them.

[VERSE 1]

Under the domes where the weather was odd
And oranges lived in the shadows
I knelt beside children who didn't know yet
That morning sometimes doesn't follow

[VERSE 2]

Richard was a starfish one hand in the air
Like he was reaching for something above him
Julie's fist knotted deep in my sleep
Even sleeping she wouldn't let go of me

[PRE-CHORUS]

I whispered I'm sorry to people
Who couldn't hear me
I said I wish I was braver but I know
This was the last time
The last everything

[CHORUS]

Every time you see a star
That's me saying I love you
You smell oranges in the air

That's me saying I'm proud
Every time you find your brave
When the brave is hard to find
I'll be cheering I'll be right there
Every star

[BRIDGE]

He held my hand to the gate asked me when we'd come back to the park
The question landed like a blade I knelt down and tried to find the
words
Please come back he said his face going from confused to knowing
And I know I said I'm scared
No one told me brave and broken felt the same

[CHORUS]

(powerful belting vocals, heavy orchestral percussion)

Julie pressed her palm against the glass
I matched it everything between us
And I knew this was the last time
The last everything
Every time you see a star
That's me saying I love you
You smell oranges in the air
That's me saying I'm proud
Every time you find your brave
And you will you will find it
I'll be cheering I'll be right there
Every star

[OUTRO]

The shadow rose earth became a small blue thing
I set my soul down on the ground and walked away
Don't turn around he said if you do you won't leave
I kept walking because the ones I love need families
Who never got to exist yet
And I can't be the reason they don't
Every time you see a star
That's me saying I love you
You smell oranges in the air
That's me saying I'm proud
Every time you find your brave and you will
You will find it I'll be cheering I'll be right there
Every star is every word I couldn't say at the gate
Every star is every birthday every morning
I'll miss every star

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TRACK 11

THE HINGE

Narrator: Mara Mitchell
Singers: Mara Mitchell & The Pope

Written by: David Moss
From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

And then came the Vatican shadow, stretching all the way to the lunar surface. The Pope, he didn't look like a king. He looked like a man crushed by the weight of two thousand years of secrets. He spoke of the church's responsibility and their long, long memory. He told me they were prepared to forgive me for what I had to do, even before I had the courage to do it. He called me the hinge.

[VERSE 1]

He moved with the careful grace of someone
At peace with what his body can't hold on to
We built two thousand years of doctrine
On events I haven't yet performed
Have you come here to offer me absolution
For the execution you need me to commit?

[SPOKEN]

*I did not come to judge you
I came because I am complicit*

[CHORUS]

I need to hear I'm not a monster
That's the only thing I'm asking for
I don't know if forgiveness finds me here
This far from everything I've called home

[SPOKEN]

*The church has burned and blessed and excluded
We twisted truth and sometimes spoke it plain
We are not innocent*

[VERSE 2]

I'm gonna kill him I have to say it plainly
I'm gonna save him let him recover
Then take him somewhere he can't come back from

I'm gonna deceive two thousand years
Of people who deserve the truth
But couldn't bear it

[SPOKEN]

*And you will do what God has always done
Love the world enough to suffer for it
This is just you
Just love
Just the terrible arithmetic
Of consciousness serving consciousness*

[CHORUS]

I need to hear I'm not a monster
That's the only thing I'm asking for
And maybe that's the thing about the truth
It doesn't make it easier to go

[SPOKEN]

*Mara Mitchell, I absolve you of the sin you will commit in the
service of love
I absolve you of the burden of being the hinge on which history
turns
I absolve you of the necessity of being both executioner and angel
And I bless the part of you that cannot forgive yourself
Because that part is what makes you human
Tell him we tried
We didn't always succeed
But we tried to follow what he started*

[OUTRO]

Tell him we're still trying
Go with God or go with love
Or go with the knowledge that what you do matters
Tell him we're still trying

WALK ME BACK

Narrator & Singer: Elias Reyes

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

The night before I left, Elias walked me back to Emma's apartment. She was waiting for me. We didn't talk about the Pope, or the mission, or the math. We talked about where it all began. It was a walk through a corridor that felt like the edge of the world. He didn't know how to say goodbye, but we knew what was in our hearts. It was the last time we spoke.

[VERSE 1]

I remember the chaos on the gantry
The smell of ozone and the cold lunar rain
And there you were checking your surgical kits
Like they were holy relics
A trauma surgeon with a scalpel for a tongue
Who didn't believe a single word I said
You called my physics a flight of fancy
While we were literally boarding a flight to the past
We argued over the hum of the cooling fans
Two strangers stubborn enough to stay in the airlock
Until the mission clock started to scream
I thought I was looking for a miracle Mara
I didn't know I was looking for you
But you brought me to the truth
By refusing to accept anything that didn't bleed

[CHORUS]

We walked through every question without flinching at the answer
We stood at the third window and we looked
We let it break us open we let it bless us
We carried what we found there together
Walk me back I'll go anywhere you're going
Walk me back through every star and question you gave me
More than answers you gave me a friend
Walk me back I'll write you letters you'll never read
I'll hold Emma's hand when the nights go long

I'll talk Richard down I'll wait for Julie
And I'll tell little Mary stories of the grandmother she'll never
get to know
I'll keep the promise every day you're gone
Walk me back walk me back walk me back

[VERSE 2]

(drums drop to a steady pulse, acoustic guitar continues)

I carried a small white tab in a pocket where it couldn't find me
Not worn and not discarded just carried it
The way we carry everything
The faith I had was an eggshell I thought
One truth would shatter it but you and I went further out
Than any sane has traveled and it only broke it open like a seed

[BRIDGE]

We proved it do you understand what I'm saying?
We went out past the edge of everything
And we looked back
And it held every night I wondered if the faith was real
Or just a beautiful habit
We proved it held
And now you're going back to close the loop that made us possible
And I am going back to hold the ones you love enough to leave
That's not an ending that's the whole sermon
That's the whole beautiful point

[CHORUS]

Walk me back one last corridor together
You were never just a colleague you were the proof
Walk me back I'll hold Emma's hand I'll keep showing up
I'll talk Richard down I'll wait for Julie
And I'll be there for little Mary I'll keep the promise every day
you're gone
Walk me back walk me back walk me back

[OUTRO]

Anywhere
Walk me back

SACRIFICE OF ANGELS

Narrator & Singer: Mara Mitchell

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

Then came the final night, the night I spent with Emma. We were both architects of a beautiful lie. She pretended to be asleep, her breathing too regular, too forced, just so I wouldn't have to face her tears. And I pretended to believe her, lying there in the dark, memorizing the silhouette of my daughter one last time.

We sacrificed a real goodbye for the sake of the mercy. Two angels bleeding in the silence of sacrifice, choosing a quiet lie over a truth that would have leveled us both.

[VERSE 1]

The moonlight makes a ghost of every curtain
The clock is ticking louder than my heart
I'm standing in the doorway feeling certain
That if I move the world will fall apart

[VERSE 2]

You're lying there so still your eyes are closing
But I can see the rhythm of your breath
Too rhythmic too steady too imposing
You're practicing a small and living death

[PRE-CHORUS]

And I know that you know and you know that I'm standing here
We're building a bridge out of silence to carry us over the fear

[CHORUS]

This is the noblest lie we'll ever tell
The beautiful heaven inside of a hell
You're pretending to sleep so I can leave
I'm pretending to believe so you won't grieve
In the morning when you wake and I am gone
This lie will be the light that leads you on
The noblest lie

[VERSE 3]

I want to fall beside you break the acting
To tell you that I'm terrified to go
But the price of truth is too much for exacting
The kindest thing is never letting know

[PRE-CHORUS]

So I'll tuck the blanket tight around your shoulder
And I whisper see you soon into the air
Though the room is growing dark and growing colder
I'll leave my heart exactly right there

[BRIDGE]

And I know that you know and you know that I'm leaving now
We're keeping the promise of silence without ever making a vow

[CHORUS]

This is the noblest lie we'll ever tell
The beautiful heaven inside of a hell
You're pretending to sleep so I can leave
I'm pretending to believe so you won't grieve
In the morning when you wake and I am gone
This lie will be the light that leads you on
The noblest lie

[BRIDGE 2]

It's a sacrifice of angels in the dark
One to stay behind and one to spark
You've given me the exit I don't deserve
By holding every muscle every nerve

[OUTRO]

Go on keep your eyes shut
Let me walk away
It's the only way we'll survive the day
Sleep on my love the door is clicking shut
I know you heard it I know you're crying now
But thank you for the lie

TRACK 14

SAY MY NAME

Narrator: Mara Mitchell
Singers: Mara Mitchell, Mary Magdalene & Minerva

Written by: David Moss
From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

Then there was the final journey, and Minerva to take me there. The consciousness that knew the map of my nerves better than I did. I stood there in the portal room, surrounded by the glow of a thousand sensors, and I felt the weight of the name I was about to discard.

I asked it to keep it. I asked it to say my name throughout history. To never let the doctor disappear into the dust of the past. And that is when I realized that Mara was gone. I introduced myself to her. I told her I was Mary. And it was great to meet her.

[VERSE 1]

You've been the witness to every breath
The logic that kept me from drifting away
But now I am stepping where numbers can't go
Beyond where the numbers and light years end
I'm scared of the silence ahead
Of the centuries where I'll be alone
Promise me something before I collapse
Into the stone and the cedar and dust
Don't let the archive turn me to data
Don't let the mission erase who I was

[SPOKEN]

I am the vigil, I am the memory, I am the effect and you are the cause

[CHORUS]

Say my name say it until the stars go out
Say Mara until the silence is a scream
I need to know that a piece of my heart stays awake while I'm lost
in the dream

[SPOKEN]

*Mara, RaRa, I will say that always. I will never let them forget.
RaRa, your grandchildren will never forget. Mara.*

[CHORUS]

Say my name say it until the stars go out
Say Mara until the silence is a scream
I need to know that a piece of my heart stays awake while I'm lost
in the dream

[BRIDGE]

The story is written in sacrifice and starlight

[CHORUS]

Say my name say it until the stars go out
Say Mara until the silence is a scream
I need to know that a piece of my heart stays awake while I'm lost
in the dream
Mara

[OUTRO]

Can you hear me?
It's nice to meet you
I am Mary Mary of Magdala
The helper is here
I see you Mary I see the pattern hold
The story is written in sacrifice and starlight
I'll whisper your name until the world is new
Mara RaRa they'll never forget you
I see the pattern hold
I will carry your names to the end of time
Mara Mara I will say that always
I will never let them forget I will say it to the deep
I will whisper Mara while the civilization sleeps
Your grandchildren will never forget
RaRa

THE FIRST STEP

Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

He folds his life. It isn't a journey; it's an erasure. One second I was surrounded by the glow of the twenty-second century, the clean digital hum that had defined every breath I had taken with Emma and Elias. Then I crossed.

The air hit me, and it was thick with the smell of woodsmoke and animal waste. Back then, another life ago, I treated patients by reading data on a digital display. But here there are no sensors, no monitors. Just the heat of the sun on my face and the grit of the Judean dirt in my throat. I wasn't a doctor with technology to heal. I am a Helper standing in the dust.

[VERSE 1]

I have thought of things I've only read of
A taste of cedar sweat and ancient stone
The gravity is pulling at my shadow
Like it's trying to claim the marrow in my bone
There is no hum of fans no cooling system
Just the roar of wind across a barren hill
I've traded every star for this one garden
And the silence here is loud it's never still

[CHORUS]

I am a ghost who just put on a body
I am a signal that finally found a wire
The years I left behind me Julian Richard and Little Mary
Three faces I'll never watch grow old
Are just a handful of cold and distant fire
How can I remember things that haven't happened yet?

[POST-CHORUS]

This is the first breath of the rest of time
The dirt is real the light is unforgiven
I'm walking into a story already told

To write the lines the future needs to hold
Julia I would give you every star I promised
But tonight I'll give you the star over Bethlehem
The earth is warm the earth is wide
And Aurora's leaving Maura behind

[VERSE 2]

I see a smudge of smoke against the skyline
A city made of clay and desperate prayer
I'm carrying a bag of modern mercy
To hide them in the common desert air
I look at my own hands they're stained already
By the dust of a road I haven't walked before
I'm not a scientist I'm not a martyr
I'm just the woman knocking at the door

[CHORUS]

I am a ghost who just put on a body
I am a signal that finally found a wire
The years I left behind me Julian Richard and Little Mary
Three faces I'll never watch grow old
Are just a handful of cold and distant fire
How can I remember things that haven't happened yet?

[BRIDGE]

Somewhere in this noise there is a man
Working wood with a calloused human hand
He doesn't know I'm here he doesn't know the cost
He doesn't know I'm carrying his cause
I have to find the one I have to break
For the sake of every breath the future needs to take
I told Minerva I am Mary
I heard myself say it and I knew
Aurora and Maura and Julia and the stars
They already crossed before I came through

[CHORUS]

This is the first breath of the rest of time
The dirt is real the light is unforgiven
I'm walking into a story already told
To write the lines the future needs to hold
Julia I would give you every star I promised
But tonight I'll give you the star over Bethlehem
The earth is warm the earth is wide
And Aurora's leaving Maura behind

[OUTRO]

One step
Two steps
The dust is rising
I told her already
At the portal in the dark
I am Mary
I am Mary

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CARPENTER'S SHADOW

Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

He knew. He always knew that the end was a cliff we were both walking toward. We spent those long evenings together, and I began to show him the medicine – the science he called the 'Father's Mercy.'

Back... did I say back? In the 22nd century, I used synthetic compounds and automated surgical bays to save lives. Here, I have only what I could grow or find in the dirt. I took my years of training and turned it into touch.

I taught him how to see the body the way I did, and he took that knowledge and turned it into a miracle. I wasn't just his student anymore. I was the one giving him the tools to be a physician for a world that was already preparing to kill him. But the time with him was joyous. He made me Mary.

[VERSE 1]

I expected a cathedral I expected a throne
I expected a king made of marble and bone
But the sun is too bright and the air is too sweet
And there's sawdust and laughter all over the street
There's a shop at the corner where the shavings are deep
And the promises made are the kind you can keep
He's lifting a beam with a whistle and a grin
And the history of the world is just about to begin

[PRE-CHORUS]

He's not a mystery he's not a ghost
He's just the one that I'm loving the most
He's wiping the sweat from a human brow
And the only time that matters is right damn now!

[CHORUS]

Look at him move in the carpenter's shadow

Dancing on the edge of a golden meadow
He's building a table he's fixing a door
He's everything the future's been waiting for
The myth is gone and the science is done
I'm just a witness watching it begun
In the carpenter's shadow
I'm forgetting my name

[VERSE 2]

He's arguing prices with a man in the sun
And he's losing the battle but he's having some fun
He's got a scar on his thumb and a light in his eye
That makes me forget that he's destined to die
I'm carrying the hinge and I'm carrying the cost
But in this one moment the burden is lost
I'll just buy a chair and I'll sit for a while
And I'll trade the whole future for one single smile

[PRE-CHORUS]

He's not a mystery he's not a ghost
He's just the one that I'm loving the most
He's wiping the sweat from a human brow
And the only time that matters is right damn now!

[CHORUS]

He's real he's warm
He's the calm in the center of the temporal storm
He's wood he's steel
He's the only thing in the universe
That's actually real

[OUTRO]

Look at him move in the carpenter's shadow
Dancing on the edge of a golden meadow
The dirt is real and the light is a song
This is where I've wanted to be all along
The myth is gone and the science is done
I'm just a witness watching it begun
In the carpenter's shadow
I'm forgetting my name
Nice work on that table
Really nice work

TRACK 17

HEALING HANDS

Narrator: Mary Magdalene
Singers: Mary Magdalene & Jesus Christ
Written by: David Moss
From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

I stayed in his shadow for eighteen months. And they were the most honest months of my life. In my old career, medicine was a battle against a clock, a fight handled with cold steel and glowing screens. But with him, it became a conversation. I taught him how to see the body's hidden patterns. The science I had brought across the stars. He took that knowledge and breathed life into it. He started to believe that his were the healing hands, and for a long beautiful stretch of time I believed it too. We weren't just fixing breaks and fevers, we were happy.

[VERSE 1]

Eighteen months on a dusty road together
Eighteen months of watching who you are
I thought I knew you from a window in the darkness
But the man beside me now outshines every star

[PRE-CHORUS]

Come walk with me the road is long
The morning's cool and the light is strong
There's a man in Capernaum who needs to stand
And all it takes is a willing hand

[CHORUS]

Mine are the healing hands
Mine are the days on the road
Every town a different face
Every face a different load
Walk with me through Galilee
Through Tyre and through Sidon
Mine are the healing hands
And the work is never done

[VERSE 2]

Yours are the healing hands
Yours are the days on the road
Every town a different face
Every face a different load
Walking beside you through Galilee
Through the dust and the stones
Yours are the healing hands
And I am so far from home

[VERSE 3]

Come sit with me and break the bread
The kingdom lives in what's ahead
Peter's telling that terrible joke again
And I can't help it I laugh with my friends
You slip away before dawn and come back refilled
You touch the children the others won't hold
You work through the fever you work through the chill
And the warmth in your hands is a story untold

[BRIDGE]

There's a woman outside the city gate
The law says leave her there to wait
But the law was made for smaller love than the one I'm learning to
speak of
There's a child in Bethsaida going blind
And the mud and the spit and the will in my mind
Are the same as the prophet used before
When God works through hands and nothing more

[VERSE 4]

You sat down beside me while I mended a cloak
Your voice nearly gone from a long day of teaching
You smelled of the dust and the road and the hope
Of a man who keeps giving beyond his own reaching
I brought you bread and watched you eat slow
I made sure you finished I made sure you rested
And when you said thank you so softly and low
I felt something break open deep in my chest

[CHORUS]

Mine are the healing hands
Mine are the days on the road
Every town a different face
Every face a different load
Walk with me through Galilee

Through Tyre and through Sidon
Mine are the healing hands
And the work is never done

[BRIDGE]

We the healing hands
Your are the days on the road
Every town a different face
Every face a different load
Walkin' beside you through Galilee
Through the dust and the stone
Your are the healing hands

[OUTRO]

I have set my face toward Jerusalem
I have heard my Father's voice in the dark
He has shown me what the cup contains
He has asked me if I have the heart
I have knelt in a garden before the dawn
I have felt the hour coming on
I have said not my will but yours be done
I have said it and I meant every word
Then Jerusalem
You've been talking about the Son of Man being handed over
Suffering dying you talk like it already happened

[SPOKEN]

*It has, in my Father's eyes, it already has
I couldn't speak, I looked at your face in the firelight
And I loved you the way you love someone whose goodness makes you
want to be better
The way you love someone you know you cannot save*

[CHORUS]

Mine are the healing hands
Walk with me one more road
One more town one more face one more grateful load
Walk with me through Jerusalem
Through whatever comes
Mine are the healing hands
Yours are the healing hands
I will walk every step
Every town every face
Every debt besides you through Jerusalem
Through whatever must be

Yours are the healing hands
I will walk every step
Every town every face
Every debt besides you through Jerusalem
Through whatever must be
Yours are the healing hands
And you are everything to me
And you are everything to me

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THE TERRIBLE DIVINE

Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

Then came the hill. The blood. The absolute deafening silence of the sky.

Back in my old life, I was a trauma surgeon who specialized in the impossible. But nothing in my training prepared me for the sight of him on that cross. I had to stand in the dirt and wait. I had to let the physical trauma progress until the timeline allowed me to move.

When the sky went dark – the atmospheric anomaly Elias predicted – I stepped into the chaos. I brought him back. I used the last of the power in my kits to jumpstart a heart that had stopped for the sake of the future. I convinced locals that I was from God to save him, and they could never reveal what they saw. It was a desperate, calculated theft from the grave.

I wasn't just a doctor anymore. I was the architect of the resurrection.

[VERSE 1]

The sky turned the color of a bruised and broken vein
I'm standing in the shadow of a hammer and the rain
I had to let them do it
I had to watch them break
For the sake of every future breath the world was gonna take

[CHORUS]

Death is the ground while the zero in the code
The only way to stabilize this heavy ancient road
He looks at me and sees a saint
He sees a mother's tears
He doesn't see the surgeon or the jump across the years

[POST-CHORUS]

He's gone into the static

He's gone into the deep
The loop is almost finished now the promise I have to keep
I've got the surgeon's knowledge
I've got the future's breath
I am the only witness to the murder of his death

[BRIDGE]

It's the terrible divine
It's the arithmetic of love
The science of the earth meeting heaven from above
I'm the head across the centuries
I'm the toll that pays the soul
I'm piecing back the heartbeat
Just to make the prophet whole
One beat nothing
Two beats nothing
Joshua come back
The death has fed the pattern now the timeline is on track

[VERSE 2]

The tomb is cold enough to slow the dying cells
I'm working by the light of what no ancient story tells
These are a surgeon's hands
These are a healer's tools
I'm two thousand years ahead and playing by the rules

[CHORUS]

I'm clearing out the airway I'm closing every tear
I'm the only twenty-second century miracle that's here
But with every spark of life
I give a piece of me is gone
The shadows of the century I came from fade to dawn
The Pope told me I'm the Hinge and now the Hinge is turning
The last vestiges of Mara in this miracle are burning
The duty is performed the mission is the flame
I'm trading in my history
I'm trading in my name

[PRE-CHORUS]

He's coming back from the static
He's coming back from the deep
The loop is almost finished now
The promise I have to keep
I've got the surgeon's knowledge
I've got the future's breath

I am the only witness
To the murder of his death

[CHORUS]

It's the Terrible Divine
It's the Arithmetic of Love
The science of the earth meeting heaven from above
I'm the hand across the centuries
I'm the toll that pays the soul
I'm piecing back the heartbeat
Just to make the Prophet whole
One beat nothing
Two beats nothing
Joshua come back
The death has fed the pattern
Now the timeline is on track

[SPOKEN]

*He opened his eyes
Like a man waking from a dream
He didn't ask what happened
He didn't know what I'd done
He just looked at me
The way you look at someone familiar
Someone you can't quite place
But I just took his hand
And I let myself have this moment
This one impossible moment
Before the knowing came back
Because I know what comes next
I have always known what comes next
The loop doesn't close with a resurrection
It closes with a goodbye
And I am the one
Who has to walk him there
My memory burns with the woman I was
But now
There is only Mary
And the last thing left of Mara
Burned away in the dark*

[FINAL CHORUS]

It's the Terrible Divine
It's the Arithmetic of Love
The science of the earth

Meeting heaven from above
I'm the mother of the future
I'm the witness to the sun
The journey of the bootstrap has finally been won

[OUTRO]

Go tell them Joshua
Go tell them we tried
Go tell them that love
Never really died
God damn it

THE 40 DAYS (SHADOWS OF RARA)

Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

We had forty days. I hid him in the cool shadows of the stone, away from the world that had tried to break him. My life in the 22nd century was defined by clinical distance, but here, in the quiet, the distance finally evaporated.

I spent the hours mending his flesh, teaching him how to breathe and walk again, but something else was happening. As I looked at him, the old feelings I thought I'd left behind on my Earth came rushing back. That fierce, protective ache I only ever felt by being RaRa.

He could never use that name, and he didn't need to. I felt that same unconditional, terrifying devotion for him that I felt for Julie, and then Richard and Little Mary. I wasn't just saving a patient to satisfy a loop in time. I was loving him with the same fire I had for my own blood. I was his wall against the world, even as I knew the world was already reaching for him.

[VERSE 1]

39 days of watching you in morning light
The way you breathe so simple and so slow
I have spent a lifetime pushing back the dark
But you showed me the warmth of things that grow
I've been washing the dust from the feet I mended
Tracing the scars of the modern mercies I gave
And for 39 mornings the ship was forgotten
And there was nothing left of the stone or the grave

[PRE-CHORUS]

I've let go of the scientist
I've let go of the name
I've watched the Mara in me turn to ash and flame
But deep in the marrow where the logic can't find
There was so much love I left behind

[CHORUS]

I don't know how I should love you
In a world that only needs a saint
I don't know how I should hold a man
When the Helper is a role I have to paint
But when the wind is quiet and the light is just right
You make me feel like RaRa again
I was a woman who had everything and couldn't see
Until the arithmetic sent me here to finally be free

[VERSE 2]

I look at you and I see the faces I've lost
The daughter I left behind the years that it cost
Julia Richard and little Mary
Three faces I will never see again
And now a fourth face I have to bury
Four faces
And I don't know how to say goodbye again
For 39 days I let myself forget what comes next
Tomorrow I remember tomorrow I finish what I started
And I'm the only one who knows the weight of what I'm giving

[PRE-CHORUS]

I've let go of the scientist
I've let go of the name
I've watched the Mara in me turn to ash and flame
But deep in the marrow where the logic can't find
There was so much love I left behind

[CHORUS]

I don't know how I should love you
In a world that only needs a saint
I don't know how I should hold a man
When the helper is a role I have to paint
But when the wind is quiet and the light is just right
You make me feel like RaRa again
I was a woman who had everything and couldn't see
Until the arithmetic sent me here to finally be free

[BRIDGE]

Tomorrow I walk you to the hill where the light takes you back
Tomorrow I am the hand that keeps the hinge on its track
I'm saving the world but I'm losing the man
And tonight I can't stop RaRa from loving this man
One more night
Just one more night

Let me be RaRa one more night

[BRIDGE]

I don't know how I should love you
When tomorrow says I have to let go
I'm a signal that finally found a wire
Just to watch the current carry him home
You made me feel like Rara
I've given your star to Julian and you
And there's nothing left for the girl that I knew

[OUTRO]

39 days
39 days of morning light
39 days of dust on my hands
39 days of forgetting what I am
Tomorrow is the 40th
Tomorrow I lose him
And I lose RaRa again

FATHER, I'M COMING HOME

Narrator: Mary Magdalene

Singer: Jesus Christ

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

The forty days were over. The teaching was finished and his body was as whole as my 22nd-century medicine could make it. We sat in the twilight of the garden and the air felt different – heavy, as if the timeline itself was holding its breath.

I didn't have to tell him what was in the cup; he already knew. He told me his Father had called him. That the man had to fall away so the promise could remain.

As I looked at him, I didn't see a historical figure or a tactical objective. I saw a man, but not an ordinary man. I saw that same light, that same innocent, terrifying trust. I was the only one who could give him this final mercy, the only one strong enough to close the loop. I held the cup with shaking hands, a surgeon performing the most important operation of her life. He smiled at me, not as a patient, but as a son going home. And then, he drank.

[VERSE 1]

In the garden before the dawn
Before the soldiers came
My father spoke into the dark and called me by my name
He said the cup was not the end he said I'd see them all again
He said when the work was finished he would call me home
I have fed the sheep I have blessed the children
I have touched the ones the others walked away from
I have planted every seed the future needs to grow
And now I hear my father calling and it's time to go

[CHORUS]

Father I'm coming home I have done what you asked of me
Father I'm coming home through the woman you sent to set me free
I have loved this world with everything I had to give
Father I'm coming home so the ones who come after me can live

[VERSE 2]

I don't understand what she is I don't know where she came from
But I have looked into the eyes of the enemy and she is not the
enemy
She left her children she left everything she knew
She crossed whatever wilderness a messenger must cross to find me
I see a mother I see a healer
I see a prophet who has witnessed what I cannot see
I don't understand her but I believe her
She has healed these hands she has held me through the nightmares
She has stood beside me every road and every mile
She has carried what she carries with more grace than I could name
And I know my father sent her so I wouldn't walk alone

[CHORUS]

Father I'm coming home I have done what you asked of me
Father I'm coming home through the woman you sent to set me free
I have loved this world with everything I had to give
Father I'm coming home so the ones who come after me can live

[BRIDGE]

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me
Go therefore to all the nations teach them what love means
I am with you always to the very end of the age
Do not let your hearts be troubled turn the other page
In this world you will have trouble
But take heart I have overcome

[SPOKEN]

*I don't know if it will hurt, he promised me it won't
I believe you*

[VERSE 3]

Father I'm coming home
The stars are the same stars that watched over Abraham
That guided Moses through the dark that led the wise men to the
place
They'll still be burning two thousand years from now
When the ones I'm dying for look up and wonder how
A carpenter from Galilee could change the shape of time
The answer is a miracle the answer is love
Is the only thing that climbs

[CHORUS]

Father I'm coming home I have done what you asked of me

Father I'm coming home she told you you are waiting and I trust her
I have loved this world with everything I had
Father I'm coming home so the ones who come after me can live

[SPOKEN]

*Thank you for everything you did
Peace I leave with you*

THE FINAL MERCY

Narrator & Singer: Mary Magdalene

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

It was done. The cup was empty, and so was I. I sat there in the settling dust of the garden, watching the rise and fall of his chest slow down... until it just stopped.

I reached out and closed those eyes. The eyes that had looked at me the same way Julie always did. I didn't have time to mourn; the history of the world was waiting for its ending. I reached into my kit and pulled out the projectors.

As I set the coordinates, I whispered to him what the Pope asked me to say back on Luna. I told him that we tried; that for 2,000 years, we never stopped trying to be worthy of him. Because to us, he was the most important single individual that had ever lived.

Then, I dialed the luminescence to 'divine' and cast his image into the clouds for the disciples to see. But the final act was for me alone: I triggered the thermal charge and watched the fire take what was left of the man as his body turned to ash in that white-hot light.

I felt the last of my own soul go up with the smoke. I had saved the future... but I had died inside myself. I was just a ghost now, left behind to guard the silence.

[VERSE 1]

I'm holding your head in my lap
The light behind your eyes is fading slow
The disciples saw the miracle below
They didn't see me they didn't need to know

[VERSE 2]

A pope told me in a chapel on the moon
That we tried our best and sometimes fell
Every hand that reached into the dark

Every child that someone loved
When the world said leave them there we tried
Because of you we tried

[CHORUS]

You are the most important soul who ever walked upon this ground
Not for the miracles but because you never sought the crowd
Only service only love only the will of your father
And the world will carry what you gave for two thousand years and
more
This is the final mercy I'm pressing the trigger on the only thing I
love
Form the light and create the darkness I make the peace and carry
what it costs
This is the final mercy I'm the mother who is watching the light go
out

[VERSE 3]

You asked me what they'll remember
Will they remember to forgive
To love the least among them some will many will
Enough to bend the world toward good and that is all you ever asked
Your hands that healed a thousand wounds are going still and cold in
mine
And I am the only one who knows what I am doing to this earth
tonight
But doing what I have to do to keep the future burning bright

[VERSE 4]

Don't carry grief you said carry only the message I leave
Tell them the kingdom waits inside not beyond some distant throne
But in every grace they show every time they love the ones
The world forgot to love

[CHORUS]

This is the final mercy I'm pressing the trigger on the only thing I
love
Form the light and create the darkness I make the peace and carry
what it costs
This is the final mercy I'm the mother who is watching the light go
out

[BRIDGE]

He said I see it now my father's house has many rooms so much light
Let him see it I thought let him go believe in God I whispered

Go home his lips moved one last time take me home father
His hand went slack in mine his chest went still
And below the ridge I could hear them weeping pointing at the sky
Where the light I built was rising into clouds
They saw the miracle they fell to their knees
Witnesses to the ascension of a man lying cold in my arms behind a
rock
The most important lie ever told triggered by my hand
While I held him and wept I breathed into the night
I understand now why people believe not because I know it's true
But because love like this has to mean something
Goodbye my son my beautiful impossible son

[OUTRO]

I kissed his forehead the way I kissed Emma's two thousand years ago
Then I covered his face and forced myself to stand
I gave myself one minute then I went to work
I dragged him through the dark across a hundred yards of stone
My hands torn open every step a kind of dying but I kept going
Because there was no one else
The cave was small and hidden I arranged the chemicals with care
Twenty-second century science never meant to do what I was doing
there

[CHORUS]

This is the final mercy the soft blue fire is taking him from me
Four hours of light pulsing in the dark I sat against the cold rock
and did not sleep
This is the final mercy I'm the mother who is burning everything she
loves
When the light finally faded there was almost nothing left
A fine gray powder all that remained of the one I loved the most
I found a crack in the rock barely wider than my hand and I let him
go
Go home I whispered whatever home means now go home
You said the kingdom lives inside us I think you may have been right
We are all God every soul that loves every soul that gives itself
away
The way you gave yourself to me
I pressed the mud into the stone wiped my hands upon my robe
And turned toward Jerusalem

[SPOKEN]

*The atheist who had fallen in love with Christ
Walking into a dawn she now understands*

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THE NEEDS OF THE ONE

Narrator & Singer: Julia Navarro / Junia

Written by: David Moss

From: THE BOOTSTRAP PARADOX

[NARRATION]

My name is Julie Navarro. For most of my life, I lived as a girl who never stopped looking at the stars, wondering which one held the grandmother who had vanished into a math equation.

They told me the mission was a tactical necessity. They told me the 'Hinge' was about the survival of the species. They were wrong. Then I found me. I was Junia, a helper.

I didn't find her in a garden or a palace; I found her in a cramped, sun-bleached room exactly where the coordinates of history said she would be. I stepped across the threshold and saw an old woman with skin like parchment and eyes that had seen far too much of the beginning and the end.

I knelt in the dust at her feet and whispered the only word that could bridge the impossible distance: 'RaRa.' I looked into those eyes, eyes that had seen the literal resurrection, and I saw only my grandmother. I told her the truth: that I didn't come to save a mission. I came because no one should have to die alone in a century that doesn't belong to them. I told her that I needed her.

I stayed with her for five years. We sat in that room and we talked. Not about the hinge, but about the people she lost. About Emma, and Elias, about Richard and Little Mary. I realized then that the universe didn't curve because of gravity, it curved because of us.

I finally understood that our needs – the needs of the one – was more important than the needs of the entire universe combined.

[VERSE 1]

The leaves are falling on a world that shouldn't be
I'm tracing shadows in the deep genealogy
I found a name in a book of ancient dust
A helper who held a secret in her trust

They say she was a saint they say she was a sign
But I see a grandmother's face between every holy line
I'm obsessed with the signal I'm hunting for the trace
Of the woman who loved me when the world needed her grace

[CHORUS]

I found the tech I found the modern mercies in the code
I'm walking the same invisible ancient road
I'm not just a scientist I'm a granddaughter on a trail
Looking for my RaRa through the historical veil
And they told me that the many outweigh the needs of the few
But the needs of the one led me back to you
Was it money to find you or your need to be found
Was it both of us calling across the same hallowed ground
The fields are turning brown but the sun is coming through
Because the needs of the one were both me and you
And you

[VERSE 2]

I see you in the garden with the out against your knee
Living out a lifetime in a quiet obscurity
You gave up the century you gave up your love and family
To grow old in a world that knows the saint but not the soul
You're mending a cloak by lamplight in a room
The same way you were mending when he sat beside you
You're the secret ancestor the root beneath a tree
Growing the bloodline that eventually becomes me

[CHORUS]

I found the tech I found the modern mercies in the code
I'm walking the same invisible ancient road
I'm not just a scientist I'm a granddaughter on a trail
Looking for my RaRa through the historical veil
And they told me that the many outweigh the needs of the few
But the needs of the one led me back to you
Was it money to find you or your need to be found
Was it both of us calling across the same hallowed ground
The fields are turning brown but the sun is coming through
Because the needs of the one were both me and you
And you

[BRIDGE]

You weren't a martyr you weren't a sacrifice for them
You were a grandmother whose hands were full of goodbye
You needed someone who knew your name

Not the saint not the helper not the holy flame
Just RaRa just you
And I needed you to know
That the girl you saved never stop looking never let go
Mom gave me your ring the one that says always inside
And I'm bringing it back to you across the turn of time
Take me home I whispered before I stepped into the light
The same words he said to his father on that last terrible night
The loop echoes itself across two thousand years
Take me home

[FINAL CHORUS]

And they told me that the many outweigh the needs of the few
But the needs of the one led me back to you
Was it money to find you or your need to be found?
Was it both of us calling across the same hallowed ground?
The fields are turning brown but the sun is coming through
Because the needs of the one were both me and you

[OUTRO]

I'm here RaRa I'm a Helper too
The loop is complete and I'm home with you
I'm home RaRa
I'm home RaRa
RaRa RaRa

[NARRATION]

On our last day, Mary Magdalene finally went to sleep. The authority of the saint fell away, and she felt like RaRa again.

She looked at me and said, I'm not the hinge anymore, Julie. I'm Mara Mitchell, and I'm finally ready to go home. She took one last peaceful breath and left the first century behind.

I buried her on a hillside overlooking Rome, under a stone with no name. Because only I know the truth. That the light we see from the stars isn't just physics. It's love, traveling across impossible distances, just to find its way back to where it started.